

University of Melbourne Student Union
Annual General meeting
Agenda
12:45pm, 23rd of May 2017
Location: North Court, Union House, University of Melbourne

Summary		
President	Submitted	Page 2
General Secretary	Submitted	Page 5
Activities	Submitted	Page 8
Clubs & Societies	Submitted	Page 10
Creative Arts	Submitted	Page 14
Disabilities	Submitted	Page 16
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted	Page 18
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted	Page 22
Environment	Submitted	Page 32
Indigenous	Submitted	Page 39
Media	Submitted	Page 41
People of Colour	Submitted	Page 44
Queer	Submitted	Page 48
Welfare	Submitted	Page 53
Women's	Submitted	Page 56
Burnley	Submitted	Page 58
Victorian College of the Arts	Submitted	Page 60

President Yan Zhuang

Summerfest

There were a lot of changes to our orientation events this year. The 'Nice to Meet You Guide', our annual UMSU guide, was revamped this year to become the 'UMSU Guide to Universe'. The new guide has a friendlier and much more approachable feel to it. This was the first year we ran 'Summerfest', a two week orientation festival which replaced our traditional O-week, and overall I would say the two week festival was a success. This is also the first year we ran Union House Sleep Over, modelled off the old all night parties UMSU used to throw in the days before VSU, and a great alternative for students who don't know about, can't afford or don't want to attend traditional club run O-camps. Union House Sleep Over was a great way to introduce new students to UMSU, and a great success. Kudos to the Activities Department for spearheading the event!

Volunteering

UMSU launched its volunteering drive at the end of January, consisting of a new page on the UMSU website which brings together different volunteering activities conducted through departments, and online promotion of volunteering opportunities. The webpage gives students a single point of access to explore all the ways they can get involved, and will hopefully provide exposure to departments who do not have as big a media presence. I also worked with departments to improve their volunteering programs, and worked with departments to create volunteering opportunities who had not had any before.

National Day of Action/Budget

I applaud the Education Public Department and all those involved in the ongoing campaign around the Federal Budget. UMSU has come out in strong opposition to the federal budget, and the education and welfare measures that will negatively impact students. I have written a media statement in response to the budget, appeared on Radio Fodder, and participated in an NUS organized speakout. UMSU will continue to campaign against the budget and work to ensure that the rights of students will not be infringed upon.

Respect Week

Alongside our Women's Department, I coordinated UMSU events for the University's Respect Week, which will be held on 8-12 May. UMSU participated in the Respect Week Social – a BBQ and stalls on South Lawn, occurring on Wednesday 10th. UMSU departments in attendance were: Women's, People of Color, Welfare, Advocacy and Legal, and UMSU International. We also ran the following workshops: How Privilege Manifests in Tutorials (Education), a student led forum about the experiences of international students, and specifically international students of colour (People of Colour), a screening of The Hunting Ground (Women's) and the Eurovision Spectacular (C&S + Queer). Kudos to all departments involved!

Student Precinct

I've been sitting on the Student Precinct Working Group, and have been working to ensure that the needs of students are prioritized in the creation of the new Precinct. While UMSU's position has consistently been that we would like to be located in the ERC, it has been sufficiently made clear to us that this is not going to happen, and that we are to be placed in Alice Hoy. Because of this, I have concentrated my efforts in ensuring that nothing that currently exists in Union House will be missing from the new precinct.

I've tried to help as much as possible avenues of student engagement in the process – the main example of this would be the quantitative survey that was done to gather student opinion at the beginning of the year, which ended up garnering 800+ responses.

I've been vocal in ensuring the space usage does not dictate programming – for example, that the existence of quiet spaces, or study spaces, does not limit our ability to put on loud events. This is to ensure that the precinct will be first and foremost a hub for student life on campus.

Outreach

At the beginning of the year, Yasmine and myself were interviewed by De Minimis, the Law School magazine, about our plan to engage with Law Students and students south of Grattan.

I was invited to sit as a panel member for GATEWAY's 'So you want to be a leader program', a workshop offered to year 6 children to explore leadership potential. This is something a number of past UMSU presidents participated in. I spoke about what UMSU does and the importance of unions, and about my own leadership experience, and it was overall a very rewarding experience (the kids were adorable). I've tried very hard this year to establish a good working relationship between UMSU and UMSU International – I would say that this has been largely successful. We are in discussions around running some campaigns together – around work rights and international student transport concessions, and I am hoping that these will come into fruition in semester 2.

I have also had contact with Meld Magazine, an international student magazine/organization who ran an international students work rights campaign in conjunction with the Victorian Government in the first half of the year. I am hoping that we'll be able to partner with them in doing some work rights workshops on campus, as well cross promotion on our social media channels.

NUS

I attended the National Union of Students' President's Summit from 23-25 January 2017, which was a great opportunity to hear about NUS' plans and priorities for the year. One of the things I've been trying to do this year is set clear guidelines for UMSU's interactions with NUS, and I've done this through being a member of the NUS working group this year. I've spearheaded the drafting of a KPI document to determine and guide UMSU's relationship with the NUS, as well as set guidelines for how we determine affiliation fee amounts. The draft of this has been preliminarily approved by the working group – I am now waiting on the final copy to be circulated to the group, where it will hopefully be approved, before going to Student's Council.

Cadmus

I have been working with the Education Academic Department to coordinate UMSU's response to Cadmus. This has involved raising it at a number of forums with the

University – Elected Reps and Academic Board – disseminating information to students to keep them up to date, and talking to students who are currently in Cadmus trial subjects. We are currently waiting on the results from this semester's round of trials, to see where to go from here.

Weekly South Lawn Stalls

An initiative I've started up recently is weekly UMSU stalls on South Lawn, as a way of engaging more students and raising the profile of UMSU. These have been happening on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 12-2pm. Each department has the opportunity to claim a week, and are able to do whatever they want with their allocated time. Some of these stalls have had great engagement, however, these have mostly occurred when the departments in question have been handing out free stuff. I am reviewing whether we want to continue this initiative in Semester 2.

Media presence

I've been trying to maintain a consistent media presence, by publishing media releases on a regular basis to keep students in the loop of activities UMSU is undertaking, changes within the University that might impact the student experience, and UMSU's reaction to government proposals. Topics have ranged from the release of the UA Sexual Assault Survey, FlexAP, UMSU's Response to the Federal Budget, and more. So far, I've released twelve or thirteen, which evens out to about one every two weeks. I've appeared on ABC Radio and have been quoted in the Age, Farrago and The Citizen.

General Secretary Yasmine Luu

Summerfest

Summerfest was, in my opinion, a huge success. Evolving from the old school O'week, Summerfest was two weeks of uni fun under the sun, showcasing the best of UMSU, clubs and volunteering programs. UMSU had a huge presence all over campus for those two weeks and really started the year with a bang.

Volunteering Expo

I was directly involved in coordinating the Volunteering Expo, which was held on the Friday of the first week of Summerfest. The expo's purpose was to show students all the volunteering opportunities that were up for offer through UMSU's main volunteering programs, Community Service clubs and student run initiatives.

The Volunteering Expo was well attended for the last day of Week 0 and all of the attending stall holders said they had a lot of interest.

Uni-Verse Trivia

This was seen as a necessity by those who drove the Summerfest process, since it did not fit directly with any department, I decided to do this myself. Office Bearers were encouraged to sit on tables with students and help them with the trivia, that was both general knowledge and UMSU/University related. The event was successful and many students got to know OB's and find out some cool info about UMSU and the University.

UMSU's Guide to the Uni-Verse

The Guide to the Uni-Verse was the creation of the Communications division and was an incredibly useful booklet for people to have in their first week of uni. Filled with heaps of information, it encouraged students to get the most out of their UMSU experience.

Sleepover

During the UMSU Sleepover, I was in charge of doing a Scavenger Hunt that promoted UMSU. The sleepover in general was an amazing success and the scavenger hunt was fun for everyone that participated and was able to teach people about some of UMSU's services in the process.

Harm Reduction

In 2016, Students' Council passed a motion that endorsed Harm Reduction principles and proposed the creation of a drug testing kit program at UMSU. Due to some significant road blocks, it hasn't gotten off the ground. A working group made up of some relevant students and staff members have come together 3 times and discussed, at length, a proposal to the University. Obviously, this is a process we want to get right from the start and that is why it is a slow process. We are currently in the stages of writing a holistic Harm Reduction policy for all of UMSU.

Book Co-Op

Students' Council endorsed the initial proposal I put forward about the Book Co-Op. This had recommendations to allow myself in consultation with relevant stakeholders to create an operational framework for the Book Co-Op as an UMSU volunteer program. The Book Co-Op is a useful service for students and is a service that is a huge necessity for UMSU's service portfolio. The program will hopefully get off the ground next semester.

Working Groups

A huge part of the General Secretary's role is to conduct Working Groups for particular constitutional, regulatory or policy aspects of UMSU. I have run quite a few this year and have gone quite well. See below a more detailed overview.

Ethical Sponsorship

This working group has met every 2 weeks of semester to discuss an UMSU sponsorship policy with an ethical lens. The policy has been created and is being reviewed by the UMSU legal department. This will then be taken to Students' Council for their endorsement. In the meantime, we will be discussing a sponsorship policy for clubs.

Constitution, Regulation and Policy

I am currently writing out a document that details everything that has been discussed in this working group. There will be some big changes that will have to be endorsed by Council before they're taken to an SGM.

The main items for discussion have been; the Education department, Reporting mechanisms, Affirmative Action, the Victorian College of the Arts and the changes now that MUSUL does not exist.

Website Updates

I have cleaned up the secretary page of the website and it now has easy links to all of the responsibilities of the secretary. I have also asked all departments to include a link to their committee page on their home page. This allows students to know where the direction of the department is coming from.

Students' Council

The General Secretary's core function is to oversee Students' Council. As of the AGM we have had 9 Councils with 3 being inquorate. Overall, I'd say Council has been successful, passing the UMSU 2017 budget in the second meeting of Council, also passing some important motions for the betterment of the student experience. Students' Council documentation does take up a significant portion of the Secretary's time and, unfortunately, I have not been able to achieve everything I've wanted to do in the first half of the year.

Future Plans

South of Grattan street event

In the second Constitution, Regulation and Policy Working Group, there was discussions on a policy or regulation produced to make departments hold events at satellite campuses and to have an event South of Grattan. As this regulation couldn't be instilled this year without the proper budgetary planning,

I flagged whether a Whole of Union event to be held on University Square was a reasonable alternative. This seemed to garner support from the working group and I have looked into the costs and risks of an event of this nature. After speaking with the Communications department, we have set a date for the 31st of August 2017, which is the Thursday of Week 6. I imagine the event would target Commerce, Education, Dental, Physio, Medical and Law students. Departments would be invited to have a stall or space to get engagement, as well as inviting food trucks and other relevant entities to participate, namely UMSU International and the GSA. This event would try to counteract the notion that UMSU is only for Parkville students... and only Parkville Students North of Grattan.

Sex & Intimacy Week

This week, previously known as Rad Sex and Consent Week, will be held in the 2nd week of semester 2. It is an important week and has been a key part of the UMSU calendar for many years. The week will focus on consent, safe sex, relationship advice and a lot more. This year, we hope for it to be a whole of union event, getting all departments involved.

Activities

Jacinta Cooper & Lydia Paevere

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

Union House Sleepover

The sleepover was a very collaborative event between many UMSU departments held on Friday of week 0. It was predominantly organised by the Activities department but Secretariat, Welfare, Education, Media, Disabilities, Creative Arts, Environments, Queer and Clubs and Societies all held activities with in the event and People of Colour, Women's and Indigenous were all there to help out on the night as well as a massive effort from Entertainment.

The night seemed to be a huge success. It was a sell out with 600+ people attending as well as 50+ volunteers over the night. It was fully accessible to all students, including those under the age of 18 and was aimed to help familiarise students with UMSU, Union House and all the facilities we have to offer. The night began with a BBQ dinner in West Court before students moved to the Grand Buffet hall where drinks were served and Clara Cupcakes performed a comedy routine before Bare Back Titty Squad performed. Following these acts, the whole of Union House was opened to Students to roam around and attend any activity that took their fancy. Highlights of the night from students were the band, Silent Roaming disco, terrarium making and Slizzardfest.

The only negative we had for the night was we needed more food for the Students after the BBQ, especially as it got later into the night. There was vending machines accessible throughout the building but free snacks would have been well received. Our hope for next year is that the event is held again, and instead of using the Grand Buffet Hall for the band and the comedy act, the stage can be set up in North Court. This is for two reasons, one so that more Students can attend (Grand Buffet Hall has a strict capacity) and so the whole night isn't located inside. This event is one that could facilitate up to 2000 students and hopefully it keeps getting bigger and more successful each year, whilst still engaging all departments and including more clubs. We would also recommend utilising more small rooms for sleeping, and even providing mattresses for student's if the budget allows for this, the Grand Buffet Hall was used but was large and cold and still lit all night which made things less comfortable for students as opposed to those that were in training rooms.

Inflatables Day

To carry on the Summerfest vibe, Communications encouraged us to hold our own small carnival day one lunch time and that fit into the schedule Monday of week 1. We had Zorb Soccer, Mechanical Surf Board and a blow up water slide all free for students and the day was quite popular thanks to the nice weather.

Start of Uni Party

SoUP was the second biggest even for the semester with 550+ students attending the night. It was located on concrete lawns so the Shimmerlands infrastructure could be utilised but the space was so large unfortunately we could not use the decking for

the bar, and had that located next to the stage instead. The space could have fit many more people but with the combination of having the Sleepover only 5 days earlier and the event being moved forward a week there was not enough time for advertising and ticket sales. Glow furniture was hired to give feature to the space as well as places for guests to sit and lots of lighting was used to really dress up the surrounding areas.

St Patricks' Day Trivia

Trivia was changed from its traditional Wednesday timeslot to Friday as we wanted to have it on St Patricks' Day so we could have a theme for the night. The night had over 200 guests and was in North Court which meant there was a great atmosphere. As we were outside we had a food truck come and cater for the night instead of the usual pizza and students seemed to love it and it catered to all dietary requirements.

Cocktail Party

Cocktail party is one of the more intimate events run by the department. This year we hired out Miss Collins for the event and negotiated a great package deal with them. Each guest received two cocktails worth \$20 each on arrival and there were canapés served all night, with a minimum of 5 per guest and everyone that attended had a great night.

Week 10 Trivia

Held during the week of Eurovision, this was a very popular trivia even though it wasn't marketed as a Eurovision party. We had 23 tables booked in and catered the night with free pizza in the Grand Buffet Hall. Having the night inside meant it was very loud and there was a lot of energy in the room.

Food Truck Festival

On the last day of the semester we hope to have a couple of food trucks on Concrete lawns for students' to purchase from. This will be accompanied by the Science Students' Society BBQ so there will be free food and drink options also available for those who do not wish to pay. We hope to eventually make this more of a festival but are starting small to see how well it is received by the students. In the future we would love to subsidise this but have not yet figured out how to do this fairly. Hopefully this is just a nice last day of semester event for students to take a few hours out of their study to de stress and have some great food.

Clubs & Societies

Kayley Cuzzubbo & Gulsara Kaplun

Summerfest & Welcome Back

The UMSU orientation period underwent a rebrand in 2017, from 'O-Week' to 'Summerfest'. The time frame was also extended, with Summerfest branded events running all the way through to the end of the first week of semester one classes in order to engage more returning students, who would have otherwise not attended orientation events.

Part of the University of Melbourne's agreement with an external company, Shadow Electric, meant that UMSU was allowed access to events infrastructure leftover from the Shimmerlands festival, including two stages and a decking area on Concrete Lawns. Though the C&S Department didn't utilise these resources, this may be something to investigate in the case that a similar agreement is reached for the 2018 orientation period.

UMSU Carnival Day

The UMSU Carnival Day (not to be confused with the Clubs Carnival) took place on the 21st of February, the Tuesday of Summerfest. C&S office bearers and volunteers from the committee handed out the 2017 Clubs Guides as well as branded silicone cardholders (to give students a place to keep all of their many club membership cards!).

For the first time, the C&S marquee featured a small number of newly affiliated clubs who were allocated a table and chairs and ran sign-up stalls with some sort of display or giveaway. The feedback received was very positive, with one club receiving almost 100 signups over the course of the day. Hosting new clubs in the carnival day stall seems like a great way to not only promote the C&S department (by increasing engagement in our marquee), but also to set up an avenue for brand new clubs to build their initial membership base. We are looking at the possibility of running a similar system at the semester two orientation ('Winterfest')

Clubs Expo

The Clubs Expo days were held on the 22nd and 23rd of February, the Wednesday and Thursday of Summerfest. There were issues on the Wednesday with a small number of clubs hosting sponsor organisations and recruiting in such a way that other stallholders were disrupted, which resulted in several clubs being disciplined. These issues were all but resolved by the Thursday, following an additional email communication that strongly and explicitly stated the consequences of such behaviour.

Union House Sleepover

The Union House Sleepover is a brand new event for 2017, coordinated by the UMSU Activities Department. It took place on the 24th of February, the Friday of Summerfest, and ran until the morning of the 25th. A number of clubs provided various 'activations' for the event, such as movie screenings; workshops; and food

and beverages for event attendees. The clubs-run all-night games room was particularly popular, and spent most of the night packed to capacity.

Attendance at various events through the night was inconsistent, and it seemed that events that were even slightly out of the way of the main party would suffer from low-attendance. In future years, it should be a priority for clubs events to be coordinated in such a way that they are well-integrated into the venue, rather than being on the peripheries, in order to ensure high engagement.

Key Activities

Clubs Bazaar

The C&S Department booked the tables on the ground floor of Union House for the first two weeks and allocated them to clubs internally, rather than the usual infodesk booking system. The purpose was to give students another chance to sign up for clubs which they may have missed during the club expo. The hope to manually allocating the clubs was to increase the diversity of clubs who took advantage of the ground floor tables. It's unclear whether this was achieved, and we will possibly trial a different system in semester two.

Clubs Carnival

Clubs Carnival was held on the 30th of March, the Thursday of week 5, and ended up being one of the biggest Carnivals yet! The feedback from previous years indicated that students felt bored waiting in lines for the more popular stalls, so we introduced roving entertainers, in the form of face painters, balloon artists and a roving photographer with props. These changes were well received, but the high cost of the balloon artists (hired externally) may not be as cost-effective as the other options.

Eurovision Spectacular

Another new event for 2017 is the UMSU Eurovision Spectacular, which will take place on the 12th of May, the Friday of week 10. The event had to be moved to the student bar from the Grand Buffet Hall in an effort to reduce costs following the C&S Committees vote to withdraw financial support. The department is still running the event with the Queer department but will not contribute any further funding. A committee meeting was held after the first day of ticket sales where the number of sold tickets was significantly lower than expected. The decision was based on concern that not enough tickets would be sold to support such a large scale event. Respect week will now be covering the catering.

Semester Two Planning

Winterfest

The mid-year orientation period is traditionally smaller than the start of year intake, so we are planning a scaled-down version of both a carnival day and a mini-clubs expo.

Rad Sex and Consent Week

Rad Sex and Consent Week will take place in the second week of semester two. The C&S department is still in the early stages of planning what involvement, if any, we will have.

Administration

Venue Management

Sudden staffing shortages in Venue Management have meant that there is a significant backlog in bookings for events. The C&S Committee has kept this in mind when processing grants, and has been giving clubs the opportunity to provide evidence of room booking or grounds bookings at later dates than they would have normally accepted. We have been in communication with Venue Management directly to ensure that bookings that specify in their header that they are for an AGM or SGM are processed more quickly.

Clubs Guide

The 2017 Clubs Guide had extremely high levels of participation, with every club(!) submitting at least a description and contact details, and almost all clubs submitting logos. The high engagement may be a result of us switching submission platforms from Google Forms to Typeform, which allows for file uploads within the same window and is more optimised for smartphones.

Food Options

We are a few weeks behind schedule in launching a list of catering options for clubs that are within the \$5 per attendee budget for a function grant. We are in the process of contacting vendors on campus to arrange this, and will likely include off-campus options after the initial launch.

Exec Wiki

The C&S department has essentially compiled all the information about “how to club” and put in one place online. The wiki will be an on going work in progress project. Currently there is just basic information on there. As the year progresses we will update and add more information. However there is still a lot of information available so we recommend looking through the wiki to answer your club related questions.

BranchOut with UMSU

The BranchOut initiative involved clubs signing up to engage more with relevant UMSU departments to increase collaboration within the union. The feedback received from UMSU office bearers has been that response rates on communications sent through this network has been fairly low, and many have stopped sending callouts to their associated clubs. The C&S department will be examining whether it is worth trying to increase responsiveness and engagement, or whether it would be best to wind up the program.

Policy

Sponsorship

We have received legal advice from the UMSU legal department, and are working to solidify our sponsorship policy in a way that protects clubs from exploitation by external companies and minimises conflicts of interest. We have taken steps to collect and note existing sponsorship relationships, but will have a more explicit policy document implemented in the near future.

1st Year Faculty Camps

The University of Melbourne launched a pilot program whereby first year faculty camps would be attended by ‘wellbeing advisors’, graduate students who would be

paid by the University to provide additional welfare support to campers and camp leaders. While the C&S department complied with the University's directions, we expressed at every stage that we did not believe this to be an appropriate role for the University to take within a student club-run, and expressed significant concerns about the level of training that these advisors would receive as well as the lack of definition about the scope, powers and necessity of the role.

Our priorities were firstly to ensure that this program did not result in any detriment to the welfare of students attending these camps and secondly to minimise disruption to the running of the camps (which was difficult, considering the extremely short notice that was supplied to both the department and the individual clubs). We received assurances from the University that any decisions to be made about 2018 faculty camps would be made by the end of semester one 2017, and we will be following this up in the coming weeks and communicating the outcomes to the relevant clubs

Creative Arts

Harriet Wallace-Mead & Sara Laurena

Creative Arts Community at MU

This year being a Mudfest year we have aimed to continue holding entry level arts events for students, as well as introduce events targeted at specific arts practises, in order to connect student artists across disciplines to the wider Creative Arts Community.

Events

The **Pot Luck Open Mic** night event is a new initiative inspired by the lack of opportunity for student musicians to present their work to an audience (outside of the Tuesday Bands and Bevs). This event is open to all students to present work of any discipline, and so far we have seen original songs, stand-up comedy, poetry, script readings and acapella works. The evening runs in three sections; **You Do You** – open mic style ‘get up and present!’, **PLOM Jam** – musicians attempt to jam with new people, and **Showing Off Your PLOM!** – a segment wherein students may apply to present a new work with the opportunity to receive feedback afterwards. This event has been very successful so far, feedback being that several individuals who have performed have since made connections with theatre or music groups at the University, or have successfully been accepted into Mudfest 2017.

Talking Out of Your Arts is a post-show Q&A event designed as an opportunity for students to speak to their work and in turn open up a dialogue between community and artist of creative processes, and how we respond to the works we attend. This year ToOYA has been running for Visual Arts exhibits as well as a post theatre show Q&A, and has been overall very successful. We have held 3 post-theatre-show Q and A’s, and 1 art crit style feedback session in the GPG.

The **Life Drawing** and **Botanic Drawing** events have been incredibly successful, having had to create waiting lists for students interested in getting involved. These events are entry level, inclusive and open to all students.

Creative Arts Collective is a regular event creating a welcoming environment for students to do craft, chat, study and simply connect with other people in a relaxed environment. We have regular students who attend, and others who drop in and out - but overall we’ve found a happy group of individuals every week up in the Arts Lab. Our **Arts Grants** are increasingly popular; we have found the quality of applications rising, showing a vested interest in engaging in sustainable and accessible arts practises by students - which we are here to encourage. The Grant process has shown its value to student artists in its existence as a means of their creative development.

MUDFEST 2017

Mudfest is back! The largest student run festival of entirely MU student art will occur this August 21st – 26th. This year Mudfest will host over 60 new works by students, and will include events, workshops, Q&A panels and guest speakers as a part of its interdisciplinary program.

Our holistic festival theme ‘HATCH’ asks students to respond to the socio-political climate of an ‘increasingly frightening world’, with the works being cultivated with the

aim of provoking both artistic and conscious growth.

We have implemented recommendations from the last Creative Arts officers in structuring a Mudfest Production Team, creating an opportunity for students to be paid and mentored through the creative and logistical processes of building a festival from scratch!

In our capacity as the Artistic Directors of the festival, we are excited to be managing such a wonderful team of VCA and MU students at both undergrad and post grad level. Our team so far consist of: a Production Manager, a Deputy Production Manager, two Access Managers, a Marketing & Publicity Manager, and four Creative Producers for the Music, Film, Performing and Visual Arts programs within the festival.

The festival Hub will be actualised in the Student Bar on Level 1 in Union House, where we hope our Cabaret Lounge and pop up events will have a steady stream of student engagement. Additionally, the festival will be taking over Union House for this week – so keep your eyes open for details on the Program Launch on July 25th! This year the focuses have been on bringing new students into the creative arts fold through events like our open mic, life and botanic drawing, and collective, as well as cultivating and prompting the existing community to reflect and challenge themselves, through T00YA, the arts grant process, and Mudfest. We are very excited to see what the rest of the year holds, and to continue refining our events and programs.

Disabilities

Alston Chu & Cassandra Prigg

-Report 1-

Key Activities

Preparations for O-week are continuing. O-week represents an important opportunity for us to build a strong collective to guide and attend the actions of the department. Correspondence with various parts of the university and relevant organisations is being maintained. These connections will prove themselves to be important resources for both our ability to refer students to appropriate services, as well as for our ability to apply pressure in campaigns.

Expenditures

No more than 500 dollars was spent on various activity materials to be made generally available in the office as well as for use in events. These include board games, dot to dot booklets, and colouring booklets. As the booklets may be photocopied for repeated use, these form a bank of assets that will help improve the mental states of students well into the future.

Actions

Our committee meeting on the 27th should see the passage of an itemised department budget, as well as discuss the placement and content of our first campaign.

-Report 2-

Key Activities

In the previous weeks we have been setting up relations with a number of people in SEDS, chancellery, and counselling.

Regular events are nearly fully organised, with final details to be set for anxiety support group and collective. Work is still underway to set up sexual assault support group and Auslan classes.

Similarly, Summerfest events are almost completely finalised - with final details on craft and other activities within the rest space still to be set.

We have discussed a number of office assets to provide a number of minor services to students, as well as making the office a more comfortable place to discuss issues with the office bearers.

Progress on Actions

As expected, our committee passed an itemised budget, which differs from our initial submission to the whole of union budget memorandum in response to feedback from various sources. Because of these differences, the budget passed is reproduced below.

Stationery: \$100

Telephone: \$100

Photocopying: \$325

Projects & Events: \$13,900

Campaigns: \$8,075

Grants: \$5,000

Assets: \$2,500

Total: \$30,000

Regarding campaigns, our committee has provided the following recommendation:

That the disabilities committee recommends that the Education Public and Welfare departments work with the Disabilities department on a campaign around Centrelink issues in conjunction with the NUS campaign.

-Report 3-

We have been continuing to run regular weekly events including anxiety support group, disabilities collective, Auslan classes and Rowdy screenings. We are meeting with the University clinic to discuss their transition to Stop 1 and keep up the pressure to improve access to counselling and psychological services, which many students have been telling us is inadequate. We hope to work with the clinic to change this and ensure that funding is sufficient now and into the future. We have been making plans for a forum on accessibility and ableism in education to be held next week as part of Radical Education Week. We have also been talking to students about the accessibility of public transport. We hope to work with the Fares Fair campaign run by the GSA as well as community initiatives such as the badge project "Ask me for a seat". Physical accessibility on campus is continuing to be an issue especially with ongoing renovations and construction work. Students are finding it difficult to adjust to the continually changing physical environment in Parkville in particular.

-Report 4-

We have begun preliminary publicity efforts intending to ramp up for the start of the next semester. We will be in consultation with SEDS, CAPS, and the host program in order to lay foundational work towards ongoing streams with which students may become engaged with the department. There has already been an increase in the rate at which students contact the department.

While we were unable to organise a workshop on behalf of the department for Radical Education Week, we expect that those enquiries may precipitate into an event at a later date. Apart from this, the first meeting to discuss the centrelink campaign has been held, producing a broad overview of the ways in which students may be affected.

We have been pleased with the quality, content, and materials of the Auslan classes. This year's Vicdeaf course has brought more particular explanation of certain aspects of the language, evolution in vocabulary, and sturdier booklets. There has been significant interest in classes for the coming semester.

Finally, Network Disabled has started running again on Radio Fodder at 1pm on Fridays.

Education (Academic Affairs) Roger Samuel & Caley Mcpherson

Academic Skills and Careers Services changes

At the beginning of our term the University surprised us with a complete restructure of Student Success, particularly the Careers and Academic Skills Departments. We met with the University and the new head of Student Success to argue for the interest of students and staff alike. The proposed changes to the Academic Skills service have been resolved, with the same level of support remaining available to students. The Careers service is underwnt a complete restructure, and we have been in touch regarding future plans and changes, along with the President, General Secretary and Education (Public) department. In discussions about a new way of running the careers department we stressed the importance of one to one services, and that work experience opportunities should ideally contribute to course credit, be paid or ideally both.

Summerfest activities

With Education (Public), we ran a number of events for the orientation period, including a silent roaming disco; a visit to the Potter Museum; a ‘Human Library’ opportunity to hear and share academic experience and advice, amongst others. We also compiled a new Education Guide, with information about the department, student concerns and ways to get involved. Tote bags for our stall included promotional merchandise and a printed version of the both the Counter Course Handbook and the Education Guide.

The Counter Course Handbook

The Counter Course Handbook in 2017 will be published in two forms; print and online via our new website. The online version includes every undergraduate subject at the university, and allows students to submit their reviews in real time and give their subjects a star rating. Once it’s done, it will be less work for future OBs and there will be much more content than in the print version.

It has been a massive job entering every undergraduate subject into the system, but we are almost done, and will soon be promoting it on social media and getting reviews with the help of our network of student societies and faculty clubs.

The printed edition remained similar to years past, and was printed in time for Summerfest. We have been encouraging subject review submissions, via our Facebook page and reaching out through clubs. We encourage all students to submit a review of their favourite/most hated subjects, to build a strong resource helping all students in the future.

SRN

We have had an excellent group of Student Representatives this year, they’ve been very engaged and often bringing new issues to our attention. Early in the year we had an informative Governance training session to teach all of our new members about the structure of the University, and their role in representing students. SRN members have been submitting reports from their various committees via an online form, that we have also made available to UMSU’s Advocacy service. We’ve had monthly

meetings with all of our SRN members and have focused on the specific issues at the time, and how to approach them on committees.

As hoped, we have been able to expand the SRN this year by securing new student spots on working groups and University committees, and achieving more UMSU positions on existing Committees. This has been a huge positive for students; it's always better to have more students in the discussions that impact their studies.

Academic Board External Review

Yan and Roger met with Academic Board external reviewers on the 28th April. We expressed areas of improvement for Governance on Academic Board and its committees, and also provided a list of best practice initiatives for facilitating student representation on University committees, and for clarifying the major organisational structures and their jurisdictions. We looking forward to our recommendations being reflected in the final recommendations from the review

Tent on South Lawn

We had a very successful tent on South Lawn at lunchtime on Thursday the 6th of April. We gave away the remaining showbags from Summerfest and chatted to students about their studies and academic issues. People were really interested to read the Counter Course Handbooks and to hear that there were student representatives taking their issues to the University. We also had a number of people come to us with issues that we either referred to Advocacy, or actioned ourselves on their behalf.

Constitutional working group

At the constitutional working group we discussed potential changes to the way that the two offices (Academic Affairs and Public Affairs) in the Education Department work together, most likely codifying the situation as it stands. We got in contact with previous Education Academic Officers to investigate how the offices have worked together in the past.

Regular meeting with Advocacy

We have been meeting with Advocacy every two weeks to ensure the coordination of efforts between Advocacy and Education Academic, particularly in terms of our communication with the University. This has been a great way to work on issues that are in the grey area between Advocacy and Education (Academic). As an example, we are about to begin looking at the processes in Course Unsatisfactory Progress Committees (CUPC), alongside volunteers from Advocacy in order to see what improvements might be needed.

Exploring ways to improve the learning experience through working groups

The Education (Academic) office believes that students are best helped not only through immediate and reactive measures, but by working towards a better future for learning at the University of Melbourne. We have engaged with a number of projects and working groups, often through existing committees, to support this aim and ensure that the student perspective is represented in all discussions of the future. These groups include:

Assessment feedback working group (TALQAC)

Co-chaired by Wendy Haslem and Caley, this group is examining what constitutes good, constructive assessment and exam feedback looks like, looking specifically at

the challenges of large class sizes, and how it can be promoted throughout the university.

Student disengagement working group (TALQAC)

Chaired by Robyn Woodward-Kron, this group is working towards increasing student engagement with their subjects, academic staff, and campus.

Assessments working group (APC)

This is a group investigating issues around timing of assessment, peer assessment, marking class participation, group and syndicate assessments, flexible assessment options, and marking rubrics.

We will be contributing to these groups not just in our capacity as members, but through surveying broader student views and holding focus groups.

FlexAp

The release of the first four FlexAp green papers earlier this year prompted us to reach out to students and seek their feedback to inform the recommendations we send on to Chancellery. We held two FlexAp-focussed General Education Forums on the 27th of April and the 4th of May, each one focussing on two of the green papers and going through the recommendations in detail. Along with the GSA, we have had some excellent student representatives sitting on each of the FlexAp workstreams. We also have ongoing lines for student consultation, such as a google form survey, up and active. We attended the university's FlexAp Forum and posed a number of questions to workstream leaders. We have contacted the relevant Education Officers from all of the Victorian Universities that currently have a preference based timetabling systems, and have received a replies from two of the Education Officers, who believe that the preference based timetabling system is more equitable and results in less clashes and issues than the first come first served system.

Cadmus

When we first became aware at the start of the year that Cadmus would be trialled again on students, we were concerned. We compiled a list of concerns and questions based on our own research and understanding and student feedback, sourced through a live survey available to all students undertaking the trial which was promoted to students via their LMS, emails from their course coordinator, and in-person visits to their lectures/labs. We contacted and spoke with all of the course coordinators with subjects in the trial and some tutors. For the wider student body, we held a General Education Forum focussing on Cadmus, providing a synopsis of the situation and an opportunity for students to have their say and have their issues taken to Chancellery and Cadmus developers by us. We shared our concerns with relevant Chancellery figures in multiple private meetings, Elected Representatives meetings and via email, and received confirmation that if the decision to implement Cadmus permanently is made, student representatives will be involved in the process. We also met with Herk Kailis, one of the software developers, to ask our more technical questions around access software and accessibility. Roger and Yan spoke on Cadmus to the Academic Board and directed specific questions to the Provost, asking for a guarantee of no Cadmus implementation without policy and consultation done in conjunction with Academic Board and students. We achieved a guarantee that we will be receiving the results of the current Cadmus trials, which will put us in a much stronger position to understand the student experience of the

Cadmus software. We also received in principle support for a greater role for Academic Board and UMSU representatives in the Cadmus process if a decision is made to start using Cadmus in other subjects.

We have met with members of Academic Board such as the President Nils Olekhans, Deputy President Pip Nicholson, Parshia Stecum, Associate Dean of Arts (Teaching and Learning), Robyn Sloggett & Justin Zobel. In the last Elected Representatives meeting with Chancellery, we managed to receive in principle support that if Cadmus were to be used beyond the trial form, a body would be created with student involvement to create policy to govern how the software could be used.

Password-protected lecture recordings

This is a policy idea we have been working on for most of the year. If a student in a subject that is exempt from recording lectures has accessibility requirements and cannot attend lectures, they could potentially receive a password so that they are able to watch the lectures online. We have investigated the practical issues around passwords and lecture capture, and the technical side is entirely feasible. We have spoken about this idea in TALQAC, APC and ACCC and had originally planned to pursue it in a proposed APC-TALQAC working group, but received welcome news in ACCC on May 4th that a smaller group of academics are discussing our proposal and will be ready to formally talk logistics with us in the next Elected Representatives meeting. An article on this will be forthcoming in Farrago.

Cancellation of the Associate Degree in Urban Horticulture, Burnley campus

Students from the Burnley Student Association in conjunction with the Education (Academic) office made a submission to the Academic Programs Committee (APC) which Caley spoke to. We also requested that, due to ongoing confusion around the roles of the APC and Academic Board, the discussion of the teach-out plan for the degree be postponed until the following meeting, however this was rejected by the APC and the teach-out plan was approved, for final approval of the Academic Board. In the subsequent Academic Board meeting, Yan spoke to the Burnley Student Association's submission.

Stress Less Week

We will be holding a movie night for Stress Less Week in conjunction with the Welfare department on Thursday the 25th of May. 'Inside Out' (2015) will be the movie screened, accompanied by gourmet hot chocolate, handmade care packages, and a therapy dog roaming the theatre.

Education (Public Affairs) Sinead Manning

ONGOING

Policy Engagement Program (PEP)

The Policy Engagement Program (PEP) has been successfully initiated. We met with Stephanie DiBattista (volunteering) and Paul Hornsby and Phoebe Churches (advocacy) in December and January to work out the best way to mobilise and train our volunteers in their chosen pursuits.

The structure of the program is for volunteers to be organised into equity, access, and quality streams. Within each stream, volunteers are empowered to run campaigns around their chosen topics and help out the Education Public department when needed. We are also providing ongoing training in campaigning, media strategy, higher education policy and so forth.

Whilst we initially planned to have rolling applications, we were inundated with responses, so are processing applications in stages (semester 1 and semester 2). The first interview process was held from mid-March to early-April. This was a learning curve, and we hope to improve in our semester 2 intake.

The PEP Training Day occurred in early April, volunteers received some general information about the program and the UMSU advocacy service, as well as volunteering rights and responsibilities. Lizzie Nicholson then took everyone through a campaign organising and media training. Training went really well, and everyone is enthusiastic to get started. The meeting schedule has since been released to volunteers, who are all part of an active Facebook group.

In our collective meetings, we have discussed things broadly and in small stream-based groups.

Access: The access stream intend to run an outreach campaign for a new program supporting low SES secondary school students. This will be in the vein of the In2Science program. Whilst not targeted at the current student population, this campaign is working towards greater diversity in future university intakes. Further, it is important for current university students to continually lobby for a high quality of, and access to, tertiary education.

Equity: Equity volunteers are working on a proposal for a printing credit to be granted to students as part of their enrolment in a subject. They are campaigning for the university to begin a semester long trial, perhaps in a Bachelor of Design subject.

Quality: The quality stream are discussing the procedures and implementation of policies around the Student Experience Survey, as well as tutor training resources.

PEP volunteers will also be instrumental in our response to the budget - including the postcard and online campaign - as well as the UMSU submission into the Senate Inquiry into Birmingham's Reforms.

I've written an Operating Framework for the PEP program and hope to enshrine it as a role of the Education Public Department in the UMSU Constitution.

Education Committee

Education Committee meetings have been a wild ride. They often begin with robust ideological debate, followed by passing the motions with little discussion. The notice and agenda of meetings has not always been sent in a timely manner. Whilst committee has been able to bring items to us, I think there is significant room for improvement in the way Education Committee is run, and the training provided to committee members as to the rights and responsibilities.

How Privilege Manifests in Tutorials

In late March, I held a student-led discussion examining the ways in which privilege and unconscious bias influence behaviour in tutorials. The response to this event was fantastic, and we have subsequently held two workshops (one including staff) and established a Facebook group. From these workshops I have been focusing on actionable outcomes.

One of these has been the ongoing creation of Discrimination Reporting for the UMSU Website. This work has been done in conjunction with the General Secretary, People of Colour, Indigenous, and Queer Departments. At this stage, it looks like every department page will have a link to the Advocacy service webform and an alternative anonymous form if students are uncomfortable with pursuing their grievance through advocacy. Any matters reported through the non-Advocacy form will be dealt with by Officer Bearers, but with reference to Advocacy if anything is unclear or any questions arise. This increases the ways in which students can report their experience(s) to their union, thus enabling student representatives to be evermore representative!

We are also considering producing a document around the suggestions raised in our workshops for tutors. This will potentially become a campaign around mandatory - or better regulated - tutor training (particularly regarding cultural awareness). However, at the moment, I am collecting the notes and suggestions from each of the workshops to present as an UMSU report.

Service Related Fees and Charges

I made a submission into the Academic Services review into service-related fees and charges on the 8th March. We look forward to ongoing participation in the consultation progress, and I am sitting on the University Services' Student Advisory Group going forward.

Yasmine and I have met with Paul Rekaris (Academic Services) multiple times to discuss the University's progress with the review and the ways in which students are being consulted. We are hopefully launching an awareness campaign in the coming weeks.

My.Unimelb Sanctions & More

I have prepared a document for Fiona Downie at Stop 1 about the way in which academic sanctions appear on students' my.unimelb pages. Currently, sanctions are unremovable red notifications next to 'My Alerts'. We would like there to be more supportive services included

on the front page for students with sanctions (such as SUAS and Academic Skills), and the ability to change the colour or move the sanction notification once it has been clicked and acted upon. The sanctions in their current state reinforce what students have done wrong in the past, rather than encourage or support them to do better going forward.

Yasmine and I have since met with Sebastian Cortes (Student Services). Sebastian is interested in pursuing a close working relationship with UMSU as he works on changing the interface and usability of the my.unimelb student portal. We are currently working on the appearance of academic sanctions on the my.unimelb homepage and the integration of targeted support services for at risk students. Our goal is to have a my.unimelb page that encourages and supports students throughout their studies. We are in the process of circulating a survey regarding the my.unimelb page.

Faculty Clubs Network

We have been working with the Clubs & Societies Department since December to establish a Faculty Education Network. Aspects of this filter through the C&S Branch Out program, where clubs can sign up to be involved in the Education Department's events and opportunities.

I have established a Facebook group for Education Officers on faculty clubs. This is a space for education reps to a) communicate with one another, b) communicate with the Education OBs regarding education-themed events we can help with or faculty-specific education issues, and c) allow us to provide information regarding our events and campaigns to the education officers.

I am currently planning the first meeting in which the Education Officers will provide an introduction to UMSU for the faculty club Education Officers. This program will hopefully expand in the second half of 2017.

Young Workers Centre

Daniel did a lot of the initial work with the Young Worker's Centre, and started to establish a Student Workers' Collective on campus. He has since resigned, but I'm hopeful to reconnect with the Young Workers Centre to have their involvement in the Students' Rights at Work Collective. This coincides with the penalty rates campaign being run through the Welfare Department.

Victorian Education Action Network (VEAN) Meetings

Unfortunately, I've only been able to attend one VEAN meeting. It was not unproductive, although in subsequent meetings the minutes have often included blatant lies about UMSU and our relationship with the NUS. I hope to be able to attend future meetings to ensure this does not continue.

General Education Forums

These are monthly events for the Education Officers and our volunteers (PEP and SRN members) to present work to a larger portion of the student body. However, the recent forums have been dominated by Cadmus and the FlexAP green papers. Further details of these forums are included in the monthly summaries below.

EdPub@Pub

We've held three EdPub@Pub events so far. The event is well-attended and students are required to respond to a simple question before accessing the bar tab. This has allowed us to gain some important pre-budget feedback (most students wrote "I'm worried") and post-budget concerns ("I'm angry"). The feedback gained at these pub nights, and the ability to casually interact with students in an informal setting informs the approach to campaigns and issues taken by the Education Department.

University Services Student Advisory Group

The second meeting of this SAG has only recently been called. The first discussed enrolment, Stop 1 functionality, the Sustainability Plan for 2017-2020, and the restructure of Student Success. The SAG is a forum for students to raise concerns with the University and hear about upcoming plans and developments. There has been some concern that this undermines or duplicates the role of UMSU, however we are not going to oppose any of the means by which the University connects with students. The integration of UMSU services and volunteering programs with those run by University Services is an ongoing issue.

DECEMBER

Academic Skills/Careers Restructure

Prior to taking office, we met with Guido Ernst and Anna Bailey (alongside Ed Ac, Gen Sec, and President). The meeting was to discuss the proposed restructure of the Academic Skills program. Despite Tom Crowley speaking to Academic Board in early December and an UMSU presence at an NTEU protest and promotion of their petition, we were unable to have influence over the process of change. However, we have had multiple meetings with Maddy McMaster (head of Student Success) and are providing input into the operation of the restructure.

It would have been good to be more on top of this issue during late November/early December last year, but tensions in handover made this difficult. As a general comment, I think the lapse between Office Bearer years creates some huge issues for UMSU, allowing for exploitation as things fall through the gap.

UMSU's main concern with the finalised plan is the changes in the Careers department. With the restructure, the existing role of Careers Consultant has been made redundant, and services will instead be provided by advisors with lower level qualifications. Sinead wrote a statement on behalf of the President for Farrago regarding changes to the Careers department.

National Union of Students: National Conference (12th-16th December, 2016)

I attended the NUS National Conference (NatCon) as a University of Melbourne delegate. I wrote an extensive report on my experience that was submitted to Students' Council and is available via the UMSU website. Suffice to say, it was a deeply disturbing experience. The processes of the conference were a sickening display of virtue-signalling with no real outcome except one predetermined via factional deals. As a result of this, I set up an NUS Working Group as a subsidiary of Students' Council, to evaluate our on-going relationship with the organisation. Students' Council has also ratified a recommendation to lobby the

NUS to film future NatCons. (Please note, this is not a reflection on National Student Unionism, but rather the opaque and exclusionary processes of the NUS specifically.)

Elected Representatives Meeting: Sue Elliott

In mid-December, the President, General Secretary, Education (Academic), and Education (Public) OBs met with Deputy Provost Sue Elliott (who has since resigned). This was a general meeting to broadly discuss our respective agendas for 2017. The closure of MUSUL, and the changes to the role of UMSU General Manager were discussed, as were the upcoming infrastructure changes (particularly the Melbourne Metro, Student Precinct, and Science Buildings).

From this, a number of Student Representative meetings have been set up, dealing with: Higher Education Policy; Major Projects (infrastructure); and Asialink & Diplomacy. These meetings will take place in late January 2017. There will also be ongoing elected reps meeting throughout 2017.

Sue Elliott highlighted several areas the university is keen to improve regarding students. These included improving orientation, issues around international student rights, increasing the friendships/relationships between local and international students, increasing English language support for both local and international students, and the peer support program (part of Academic Skills).

JANUARY

Student Success

Student Success is the centralised program encompassing Academic Skills, Careers, and Global Mobility. It has been restructured into the Stop 1 framework.

We met with Maddy McMaster for the first time in mid-January to discuss the direction of Student Success, focusing on Careers. Whilst there may be a reduction in one-on-one careers counselling, it will still be available. Student Success will be focusing on small groups and the creation of networks and experiences to improve employability. We raised concerns about the potential loss of expertise and specialisation in the new model, as well as accessibility for financially disadvantaged students and the support offered to international students. The latter of these issues is being followed up by Yan and Sander Bredal (President, UMSU International) with Guido Ernst.

Elected Reps Meeting: Higher Education Policy (25th January)

We met with Dr Gwilym Croucher on the 25th January to discuss Higher Education Policy. This meeting was invaluable. Dr Croucher spoke on student fees, the HECS-HELP system, equity, diversity (both in intake and institutions), and research. This discussion included reference to maintaining an awareness of the context of advocating for higher education. In particular, the importance of primary and secondary education to maintaining the high quality of higher education as well as increasing the diversity of the student population. There are broader questions about what the student body currently looks like, and what we want it to look like in the future. The gross inequity between international and local students was also touched on.

We've since discussed PEP and our campaign goals with Dr Croucher and are receiving support from the Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

Elected Reps Meeting: Asialink Diplomacy (25th February)

On the 25th January, we met with Erin Watson Lynn, Director of Asialink Diplomacy, for an elected representatives forum. We discussed the work of Asialink, and how the organisation could be incorporated into UMSU events. Erin also spoke briefly about her role with the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education, as well as provided advice on how to effectively lobby government and other important stakeholders.

FEBRUARY

Destination Melbourne Presentation (1st February)

I presented a brief overview of UMSU and the education department at Destination Melbourne. This was an overview into the department, as well as my own experience with UMSU.

Summerfest (21st February-3rd March)

The Education Department ran a Carnival Day stall including free totes bags featuring artwork by Sarah Adkins and Orlando Mee. The bags included badges, magnets, an Education Empowers guidebook, a counter-course taster handbook, and magnetic calendars. We also had a chill out space with couches, and were able to spend time talking to students about what our department does. It has been wonderful to see the students we met during this day at education and UMSU events.

During the first week, I was also available at the Volunteering Expo (24th February) to talk to students about getting involved with the Education Department via PEP. On the evening of the 24th, we held a Silent Disco walking tour as part of the UMSU Sleepover. This was hugely successful. There was a high level of student engagement, and we have seen students who participated in the Silent Disco at other Education Department and UMSU events. We hope the walking tour helped students feel comfortable with being in Union House and introduced them to the student union in a fun and engaging way.

In the second week of Summerfest, we took students to the exhibition "Don't be too Polite: Posters and Activism" at the Potter Museum on campus. This included a presentation by curators and provided students with an insight into the many ways in which they can be an activist. We provided the Young Workers Centre with a stall on South Lawn during the Inflatables Day. The first Human Library (organised by Ed Ac) and EdPub@Pub were also held to coincide with Summerfest.

Elected Reps General Meeting (17th February)

We met with Richard James and Liz Capp to discuss some student concerns. The flagged issues were changes to the System Garden, sexual assault on campus survey results, and Cadmus trials. These issues will be followed up through subsequent and more targeted meetings.

Elected Reps Meeting: Major Projects (17th February)

We met with senior staff and stakeholders to discuss the upcoming major projects at the University. These projects include the student precinct, student accommodation, metro tunnel, and bioscience program (including changes to System Garden).

MARCH

Student Success Restructure

In early March, we met with Maddy McMaster to further discuss the new Student Success structure. The University has been relatively open with UMSU in relation to the process of developing and we are continuing to ensure restructuring changes to not negatively impact student's access to tailored academic and careers related advice.

What's in the Box? Competition

We began this competition for a student to develop education themed artworks for the GPG Project Spaces in Union House during Summerfest. This was won by Nishka Pinto, whose artworks were on display throughout April.

NUS: National Day of Action (22nd March)

The UMSU Education Department held a panel discussion, featuring Gwilym Croucher (Centre for the Study of Higher Education) and Paul Kniest (NTEU), which will discuss equity and access to higher education. This was a fantastic discussion - We particularly liked the question of who is the political constituency for higher education (and ways to reach out to embed universities within the community) and the acknowledgement of the structural barriers to university access.

This panel will be followed by the rally, after which students are invited to Shanghai Dumplings for a debrief. Unfortunately, there was confusion about plans and the UniMelb contingent was not as well-promoted as it could have been. The dumplings event was subsequently cancelled, as UniMelb attendees returned to Union House to join the tail end of the letter-writing event.

However, the Access NDA event - which occurred in Union House at the time of the rally - was a success. Students made toasties and drank tea, whilst writing letters to Senator Birmingham about their experiences with access and equity in higher education. Following the discussion, I ran a letter writing session with toasties, tea, and talk in Union House. This was to increase access to the NDA by allowing students uncomfortable with marching to still participate. This event was very successful, and it was interesting to hear the different reasons students avoided public rallies. In particular, the group expressed anxiety around groups of men and perceived aggression in the protest context. Protest accessibility is a key issue for activists moving forward, and UMSU Education will continue advocating for accessible and inclusive protests.

Education Forum: Cadmus (30th March)

The forum was a success with high attendance from a diverse range of students. In order to make the forum accessible, the event was filmed but we have had difficulty transcribing it and making it accessible to all students.

Clubs Carnival (30th March)

We held education themed tarot card readings at the Clubs Carnival to promote UMSU Education and its services. These proved hugely popular. We had a large line, and everyone who accessed a reading signed up to our mailing list. It was great to provide students with a different way to meet the Education Officers and hear about the department and UMSU generally.

Arts Faculty Board

Sinead attended a meeting of the Arts Faculty Board in her role as an SRN member. She has extensive notes, which will be circulated through the SRN group. There is some follow up work to be done regarding whether UMSU could play a role in some ongoing arts faculty reviews.

APRIL

Elected Representatives General Meeting (7th April)

In this meeting, we touched base with Chancellery about Cadmus, harm reduction, the sexual assault survey and consent modules, transport concessions, the breadth working group, and some other issues.

I reiterated concerns about the incorporation of assistive technologies (page readers, screen adjustors, specialised keyboards etc.) into Cadmus and received the answer that the developers were working to industry standards, but had not yet worked these options into the software. The University is considering the current trial (which focuses on functionality) the last one, and it seems absurd that testing the functionality of assistive technologies is not a priority. This lack of consideration for differently abled students was reiterated at a Staff FlexAP forum where, when asked, two of the chairs of FlexAP workstreams considered accessibility for differently abled students a case-by-case issue (thus, they did not embed it in their recommendations or discuss it at length in the workstream). This is deeply concerning.

Resignation of Daniel Lopez (12th April)

My co-Office Bearer, Daniel Lopez, resigned due to personal reasons on the 12th April. His valuable contributions to the department, especially his work around Students' Rights at Work and the Penalty Rates campaign, will not be forgotten. Daniel worked amazingly hard, often in the office before 8am and after 7pm. He is an incredible person, and I wish him all the best in the future.

Education Forum: FlexAP Green Papers (27th April & 4th May)

These forums were an opportunity to discuss the FlexAP Green Papers. They were not as well attended as the Cadmus forum, but included good discussion and contributions from attendees.

I would like to highlight the release of the FlexAP Green Papers, and encourage all students to read them (find them at provost.unimelb.edu.au/FlexAP).

MAY

Federal Budget 2017-18

UMSU Education is disgusted by the proposed changes to higher education. In particular, the 2.5% funding cut, 7.5% fee increase, lowering of the HECS-HELP repayment threshold, disadvantage to students from New Zealand, and the Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching. I don't want to brief you on the budget here, but there are multiple posts on the UMSU Education Facebook page including links to a petition, debt calculator, and the UniMelb Contingent to the NUS Rally.

Unfortunately, I was incredibly unwell from the 8th-13th May. But was able to organise for Yan to speak at the post-budget Speak Out on the 11th May. I coordinated the UniMelb contingent to the Melbourne student protest against the budget, as well as the BBQ during the pre-rally Speak-Out (at which I spoke in my role as Education Officer). The protest was well-attended and has been quite well-reported. It is important to keep building on this issue. Students are powerful together, and the government needs to know it is not sustainable to continually hack away at higher education.

My future plans include holding multiple phone bank events, in which students will be able to call cross-bench Senators and implore them to oppose the higher education proposals. I am also releasing an online and postcard campaign over the next week. This will involve PEP volunteers, and provide valuable insight into student opinions on the higher education proposals. Following the gathering of this information, I will be making a submission into the Senate Inquiry into Birmingham's Reforms.

UMSU Education will also fully support NUS actions and protests against the higher education proposals.

University FlexAP Forum

The University held a staff forum for the FlexAP in early May. The chair of each workstream that has released a completed green paper (Physical Infrastructure, Virtual Infrastructure, Large Undergraduate Subjects, Timetabling) gave an overview of their process and recommendations. The Curriculum Structure and Approach, Curriculum Sharing, and Semester Structure workstreams intend to release their green papers in the next four weeks. The Academic Workforce green paper will not release its own green paper until the recommendations of the other seven workstreams have been put forward.

The recommendations discussed at the forum were well-considered and I am cautiously optimistic about the first four green papers. However, as mentioned above, there were some issues in the ensuing discussion where it seemed the physical infrastructure and timetabling workstreams had not considered disability access in their work. These issues will continue on an individual basis, which is a shame considering the potential for accessibility to be embedded in the workstream recommendations.

Radical Education Week (1st-5th May)

My radical education week events went well. At the Lost Subjects workshop, we brainstormed the ways in which student activists can preserve memory and pass on knowledge. Since the introduction of the Melbourne Model, the University has seen a fast turnover of undergraduate students. This has damaged the ability of student activists to pass on knowledge of campaigns. Things which were once abhorrent (the introduction of the

Melbourne Model) are now accepted. We workshopped ways to ensure student activism has a long memory, and the ways we could act or change our own practices to facilitate this.

My other session, a second How Privilege Manifests in Tutorials workshop, was well-attended. We discussed some of the strategies for balancing privilege and disadvantage in tutorials, focusing on practical steps for both staff and students to take. Some highlights included: exploring rotating roles in tutorial settings; normalising acknowledgments of country and asking pronouns in ice-breakers; tutors asking questions and then giving students a minute of silence to write down possible answers before bringing it back to a group discussion; negotiating the space of the tutorial in the first meeting, emphasising learning together as a group and peer based interactions; increasing tutor training, particularly around cultural awareness and support services; reinforcing and crediting when someone who is less privileged than you puts forward an idea; being aware of how everyone has the chance to participate in group work; and generally considering your personal responsibility when it comes to issues of privilege.

Respect Week (8th-12th May)

During Respect Week, UMSU Education held another How Privilege Manifests in Tutorials event for both staff and students. This event went well, and we will be following up on attendees and creating accessible notes for members of all education collectives and groups. Thank you to Ella Shi for hosting.

National Volunteer Week (8th May-12th May)

Our volunteer week event went well, it's exciting to have the V Hive open. Thank you to Yasmine Luu for hosting this event.

Stress Less Week (22nd-26th May)

We are hosting a movie screening on the 25th May of *Inside Out*, complete with decadent hot chocolate and care packages for Stress Less Week.

Environment
Lizzie Nicholson & Kate Denver-Stevenson

REGULAR EVENTS

Play With Your Food

Our fortnightly play with your food dinners have been going well with a steady number of students coming along to cook and eat together, many students coming back for every event. This semester we have been working with the Melbourne Activist Catering Collective to offer students more variety in what they learn to cook. We have also had more of a focus on using local more sustainable produce and bulk goods to reduce the amount of packaging and waste produced during the event. We also give our thanks to the Melbourne University Food Co-op for letting us use their kitchen again this semester, it is especially nice now that it is getting towards winter to be inside and not out in North Court.

Green Screen

This Semester we held documentary and film screenings every second Tuesday. The films were screened in collaboration with a range of university groups, with a focus on environmental and broader social issues.

Semester 1	Group	Movie
Week 1	Enviro Collective	FernGully: The Last Rainforest
Week 3	Lockout Lockheed	The Shadow World
Week 5	No Waste Yes Party Melbourne and the Melbourne University Community Garden	FoodWasteMovie
Week 7	Greens on Campus	Sacred Water: Standing Rock
Week 9	Radical Education Week	Street Politics 101
Week 11	Australian Youth Climate Coalition	Guarding the Galilee

Enviro Weekly: Radio Show

Lizzie and Kate had grand schemes of having a weekly radio and podcast program that would discuss political activism with interesting people from the University and around Melbourne. It would inform our listeners of the intersectionality of problems

facing people across the globe, and how activists can create the change needed to stave off the worst effects of climate change, colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism.

However as semester has progressed, we've begun to realise that we might have bitten off a bit more than we can chew. We have managed to record something almost every week, but with varying quality. We're taking the show back to the drawing board and will be back with something fresh next semester.

Fortnightly BBQs

For the first time in quite a few years, the Environment department has decided to go down the road of so many other clubs and departments, to conquer the final frontier. The North court BBQ.

With the exception of being rained out, we held a delicious vegan BBQ (like fried veggie breakfast style w/ kale and scrambled tofu etc) every even Monday. Two times the BBQ was in collaboration with Fossil Free.

CAMPAIGNS, COLLECTIVES and GROUPS

Lockout Lockheed

This semester a new campaign began. A campaign to protest the partnership between the University of Melbourne and Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons manufacturer. The group began a petition, social media presence and held two info sessions. Members of the group have tried to arrange meetings with the Dean of Engineering, James McCluskie and other key University stakeholders to no avail.

We have held stalls at the Melbourne Farmer's Market, and knocked on the doors of many staff members to build awareness in our community that the partnership exists, and that we will not stand for it.

During Radical Education Week we staged a 'die-in,' a theatrical performance out the front of Raymond Priestley. The group also stormed the University's Graduate Expo Research Information Session with a 9m banner and a slew of strong messages condemning the University for providing research opportunities to graduates that will funnel some of engineering's brightest students into a career propped up by the military industrial complex.

Fossil Free

Fossil free has entered their fourth year of campaigning for the University to divest from fossil fuels. Despite our best efforts targeting the sustainability plan process as an avenue for meaningful divestment, the University has pushed aside the question of divestment yet again and are apparently going to spend this year figuring out a sustainable investments framework though we are yet to see any evidence that work on this framework has started. In response to the University's continued inaction, fossil free have spent the semester exposing the greenwashing nature of the sustainability plan including a fun week 6 action based around a literal green washing machine. We have plans for more escalatory action next semester in response to the lack of transparency about the sustainable investments framework.

Environment Collective

At our annual fossil free strategy session in February, a group of keen members came up with an exciting new direction to breath life back into the slightly neglected enviro collective. As a result of this new enthusiasm, we have had regular collective meetings throughout semester to bring together different parts of the collective and funnel new members into our groups that need people. With a number of new members coming into our community through these meetings, the plan has been relatively on track. We are still figuring out as a group exactly how to exist and do things together, when there are already so many other things to get involved in, but events like radical education week and the GECO road trip (see below) seemed instrumental in bringing back a much needed sense of community into the collective.

Bike Co-op

This is the most successful the bike co-op has ever been. Each week we help around eight people with problems on their bike, help with building a bike, or any kind of bike maintenance stuff. This might not sound like a lot, but we only have a 3 hour window (extended from 2 to 3 hours at the start of semester) and one paid and qualified mechanic. The co-op has exponentially grown in the last 18 months, and while we've been employing a mechanic for longer hours to keep up with demand, we have also run out of funds for the co-op more quickly than expected. To address this issue we plan on approaching Student's council for funding from the whole of union budget, and Sustainable Campus who have assisted the bike co-op with funding in the past.

While we want to be realistic with our expenditure, it's also really important that the co-op receives this support at the moment, so that it can develop into a sustainable venture in the future. The most important expense at the moment is employing a mechanic with the skills needed to be passed onto volunteers, so that they can safely and accurately help people with their bikes.

So far this year, in addition to Tuesday breakfasts 10-1pm, we were also opening the space regularly on Mondays and Thursdays. For the end of semester, we are opening by appointment.

The Co-op is entirely run by volunteers with the exception of Kate and the Tuesday breakfast mechanic. We are in the process of turning the Co-op into a volunteer program of UMSU for a range of reasons including so that it may receive the support it needs now and in the future, as well as making more sense from a finance and organisational point of view. Formalising the volunteer roles will mean security for the Co-op, as dedicated people will have the time and space to give the co-op the attention it deserves.

The Bike Co-op has attended many events around campus this semester including the SummerFest carnival day, the volunteering expo and radical education week. We held a pop up in Week 10 at the volunteering hub, which attracted a new crowd to both the co-op, and the volunteering space. Members of the bike co-op attended both the ride to uni breakfasts, held quarterly by sustainable campus. We offered our tools and services to people who attended, and let them know about the Co-op. The University continues to invite us to participate in its functions, the co-op also features

in the 2016 Sustainability Report.

We are currently planning winter holiday workshops with the Bike Shed at CERES, as well as workshops held in the co-op to skill up volunteers ready for next semester. There is an obvious gap in skill between volunteers and the mechanic, so having more confident and trained volunteers is going to greatly improve the experience of volunteers at the co-op.

Melbourne University Community Garden

The community garden continues to grow ;) holding weekly workshops on a variety of topics throughout semester 1. They also rehomed the stagnant worm farm from Union House with permission from the previous parents.

Welfare Party

Our lovely collective decided at the beginning of the year that we all needed to look after each other more, so we're now regularly meeting to talk about that. So far we've implemented a buddy system so everyone in the collective old or new can get a buddy to check in with if they want to. The welfare group has also organised a two day conflict resolution training open to all of UMSU to work on creating a culture within the union that is proactive about potential conflicts.

Mentoring Group

As a result of some intense self reflection at the end of 2016, a group of mainly Fossil Free-ers have formed to focus on how the collective can help support and empower students to become amazing activists and organisers on campus. The main role of the group is to identify knowledge gaps within our community and organise trainings to meet those needs. So far this year, we have run trainings on facilitation, non-violent direct action and social media skills. As a part of this mission, Lizzie also helped with the volunteer training for the education department's new policy education program by facilitating workshops on campaign strategy and talking to the media.

Ethical Sponsorship Working Group

At the end of 2016, Kate and Lizzie proposed a motion to council about the ethics of who UMSU was accepting as sponsors for big events like Summerfest. We were successful in banning the big 4 banks from attending Summerfest due to their investments in fossil fuels. Following on from that success, the ethical sponsorship working group was formed to explore the question more broadly. The group met fortnightly during the semester, chaired by UMSU's wonderful general secretary Yasmine Luu, and have created an ethical sponsorship policy that will soon go to student's council for approval.

National Union of Students Working Group

Ty Martin.

LIAISING WITH THE UNIVERSITY

Sustainability Advocates Forum

Continues to be mostly a waste of all advocates time and energy, and discourages students and staff from being the very necessary change makers in our University community.

With the launch of the Green Impact Program (a program bought by the UK's NUS) it is hoped the University's self described 'sustainability advocates' will be supported and encouraged with their endeavours to see less wasted resources, more renewable energy, and less fossil fuel investment in the University community.

Sustainability Executive & The Sustainability Plan

Our thoughts on the plan are as follows.

Despite the year long process of "consultation", valuable ideas from staff to increase sustainability on campus are already beginning to fall by the wayside. The release of the Sustainability Plan has been pushed back from its original release date in September 2016 to now, a time when many academic staff and students are off campus over summer and unable to provide consultation. We call on the University administration to seriously reconsider how they communicate and engage with their staff on the ground, in order to ensure their commitment to sustainable governance practices.

The development of the Sustainability Plan was largely facilitated by the Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility (ACCSR), whose previous clients include Glencore Coal Assets Australia (Australia's largest coal producer), and the Western Australian Department of Mines and Petroleum. Their influence can be seen throughout the report, where targets have been manipulated using a variety of different baselines and past reductions to justify weaker targets. Throughout the plan, the University uses the achievements of student led campaigns as evidence of their own accomplishments, while many of their commitments remain vague. Some aspects of the plan are completely lacking any measurable targets. These ambiguities must be addressed before we can be satisfied that the Plan properly covers all relevant areas.

The investments portion of the plan commits to developing a sustainable investments framework by the end of 2017, but with no assurance this will lead to meaningful divestment from fossil fuel companies. The plan also emphasises engagement with fossil fuel industries as a meaningful way to take action on climate change featuring heavily the opinions of university council member and ex-fossil fuel executive Robin Batterham.

UMSU sees engagement with fossil fuel companies as unacceptable. Stimulating the industry to undergo the fundamental and urgent changes necessary to mitigate the worst effects of climate change through shareholder engagement is extremely unlikely, especially for investors like the University of Melbourne with a relatively small fund. Given the incredibly tight timeframe we have to stop the worst impacts of climate change, and the clear recalcitrance of the fossil fuel industry in shifting to

renewables, divestment from the Carbon Underground 200 should have been in the plan.

Since the Plan's release in January, the sustainability executive has only been able to meet once. Does that seem like the executive are taking the implementation of the plan seriously? To us, the answer is no.

Student Precinct Activation Working Group

Kate and Lizzie have both been invited to sit on this working group, but due to prior commitments, are yet to attend. We think we've only missed one meeting so far.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ASEN Training Camp

We took around ten collective members to the Australian Student Environment Network's annual training camp in January. This was a chance for them and us to meet other rad students across the country doing rad stuff. Kate and Lizzie ran a campaign strategy workshop at the camp which was pretty well attended but the real highlights of training camp are always the food and getting to spend time out in the bush with wonderful people.

Fossil Free Convergence

A carload of people from fossil free took themselves off to spend a weekend in the Blue Mountains with other fossil free groups from around Australia and New Zealand. We spent the weekend both participating and facilitating trainings on a whole range of exciting things. One of the most important moments of the weekend was probably collective member and fossil free mu convenor Lucy Turton's moving speech in one of the morning plenaries which was an insightful reflection of the ups and downs of the last year in fossil free. Credit should also go to collective member Jesse Kalic who worked her butt off as one of the two conference organisers and pulled together a thought provoking and empowering experience for everyone involved.

GECO Roadtrip

Lizzie went with around 20 collective members to help the Goongerah Environment Centre survey for threatened species in areas of East Gippsland's old growth forests over the mid-semester break. All of the forest that we visited were either scheduled for logging, or had been logged, by VicForests and for many of the students on the trip this was really the first time they'd been confronted with the reality of mass environmental destruction. We went with a bunch of other ASEN students from Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT. Some of the group managed to find 13 Greater Gliders within a kilometer, which is enough for the state government to consider a special protection zone for the area.

Radical Education Week

Radical Education Week, held last year at Sydney University, is a week dedicated to the idea that the University's system is not the only way, and perhaps not even the best way that knowledge can be shared. It critiques the corporatisation of the

University which results in a lower quality of education, and points to alternative, collaborative ways in which students can teach each other.

This year, in conjunction with other UMSU departments and students from RMIT, Monash Clayton and Melbourne University we held over 30 workshops across Melbourne on a range of topics, taught by students, to students.

Here at Melbourne University, we set up a marquee on south lawn, known as the 'rad ed hub' where we held over 25 workshops over the 4 days. There was an average attendance of 6-15 people at each workshop. Thankyou to all the students who were eager to share their knowledge, and those who came to learn, it really was beautiful. This was the first time something like this has happened at Victorian universities in recent student memory, and it'd be great to see it back next year.

The marquee on South Lawn created an open and inviting space, which meant we were able to engage with a lot of passer bys. Thanks to the Food Co-op for putting on delicious meals every lunch time and snacks galore, and AVmelbourne for the audio visual set up (especially at the after party/divestment the musical extravaganza)

Collaboration with students from Monash and RMIT was one of the best things about Rad Ed Week. We streamed workshops held at different campuses online, and at the closing party students from other campuses came to celebrate and watch 'Divestment the Musical'.

We've learned a few lessons from putting this event on, and will be writing up a handover document for the next people to tackle Rad Ed Week.

Students of Sustainability Conference

At the time of writing, we are six weeks away from the best conference in Australia, Students of Sustainability, this year hosted by the Australian Student Environment Network in so-called Newcastle. We are hoping to send as many students as possible, and have set aside a large portion of our budget to make the cost of attending more accessible.

Indigenous Wunambi Connor & Marley Holloway-Clarke

As this year's Indigenous Officer's we aim to build upon many of the programs established by past Indigenous Office-Bearers and create more opportunities for students within our collective to succeed in their studies, careers, culture and personal lives. With semester 1 coming to an end we take this time to recap on what has been achieved so far this year and look forward to planning for semester 2 and into the future.

Arts Grants and Engagement

The artists grants were established by previous office-bearers to support the works of students without having to be burdened with costs such as resources, registration fees and costs associated with developing and having pieces on exhibition. In addition to this we are working with various departments across the university to display the works of students throughout the campus; This will take place in semester two with the Outdoor Gallery Project and the Ground Floor Mural in Union House.

Under Bunjil

Under Bunjil continues to grow in its third year with a new head editor and team to create, support, assist in telling the stories of Indigenous students. Serena Thompson has worked tirelessly to develop this very unique publication into a platform addressing the wide range of voices and talents of students.

Biggest Blackest Show

This year the Biggest Blackest show on Radio Fodder has evolved with two of our very own students taking over as hosts, following in the footsteps of what has traditionally been something run by office-bearers. Hosts Mark Nannup and Melinda Phillips have brought a new energy to the program establishing regular segments, engaging with key issues and increasing the overall number of listeners.

Special Projects and Events

As we continue to work more and more with our collective we are developing new programs, activities and events that focus on supporting students and their ambitions in a safe and healthy environment.

Orientation, Learning and Training

Each semester we aim to engage new and returning students in a way that welcomes them to the campus and sets them up to do their very best. We

have ensured that study resources are made available to students, that opportunities are available to further their skills, namely through a workplace learning and training program being developed for semester 2 as well as trialling a new study program throughout SWOTVAC that will work in addition to the support of Murrup Barak (with the potential for a similar style program to be run regularly in semester 2). In addition to this we are aiming to have resources for non-indigenous students to learn and engage with us and for other departments to conduct all work in an informed and culturally safe manner.

Social Calendar

The most popular of our programs, our social calendar has allowed us to provide a relaxed environment for recreational and social activities where students can interact and network. So far we have hosted two parties, the Welcome Back BBQ and Black Out Party, and a trivia night, with additional activities, like Koori-oke and Ten Pin Bowling taking place in semester two. To complement this a more casual social program will run regularly in semester two, with movie nights and regular outings.

Sports Grants and Engagement

Regular exercise continues to have positive benefits, particularly in on mental health and studying. In 2017 we have worked to further last year's programs will increasing the access and engagement across all year levels. We have also invested in sporting equipment available to students for regular use and supporting current sporting programs.

On-Campus Sporting Program

In semester 1 we have entered three teams into the MU Sport On-Campus Sporting Program, including two netball teams and one basketball team. As we plan for semester 2, we will continue to offer this program and aim to establish an after hours opportunity to engage in physical activity, such as Zumba.

Indigenous UniGames

As we send a team to Indigenous UniGames for the seventh year in a row we are positive that this will continue to be a key activity within the Indigenous Department. Students from our collective have stepped up once again to ensure the success of players both on the sporting field and off.

Media

Mary Ntalianis, Alexandra Alvaro, Amie Green & James Macaronas

MEDIA DEPARTMENT

Media Department Team: By December 20, the Media Officer had taken on a team of 160 volunteers between Farrago Magazine, Radio Fodder and Farrago Video (40 subeditors, 40 graphics contributors, 10 columnists, 20 campus reporters, 7 social media officers, 3 web officers, 10 video producers and 30 radio presenters). This team was selected from over 250 applicants.

In January, the Media Officers trained all of their volunteers over four training days. The Media Department also began accepting applications for Edition One of Farrago. The Radio Fodder team was also given specific radio training.

Summerfest: The Media Department held an Information Stall, a Radio Fodder Listening Party and a Zine Making table on Carnival Day.

In addition, the Farrago Edition One Launch Party was held on Tuesday 21 February (Carnival Day) at Tsubu Bar with a \$500 Bar Tab

The Media Department held a stall at the VCA on the Wednesday and Thursday of O-week.

New Conference: On January 30 and 31, the Media Officers attended the NEWS Student Media Conference held by Express Media and RMIT University with a group of twelve subeditors.

FARRAGO MAGAZINE

Farrago Edition One: The Media Officers opened Edition One submissions on December 8 and closed submissions on January 8. The Media Department printed 4500 copies of Edition One which arrived on Friday 17 February. Edition One printing cost the Media Department \$12,380. The Farrago Edition One Launch Party was held on 21 February at Tsubu Bar with a \$500 Bar Tab.

Farrago Edition Two: The Media Officers opened Edition Two submissions on January 16 and closed submissions on February 12

The Media Department printed 5000 copies of Edition Two which arrived on Friday 17 February.

Edition Two printing cost the Media Department \$12,850. The Farrago Edition Two Launch Party was held on Thursday March 30 at Tsubu Bar with a \$500 Bar Tab.

Farrago Edition Three: The Media Officers opened Edition Three submissions on February 20 and closed submissions on March 26. The Media Department printed 3000 copies of Edition Three which arrived on Friday 17 February.

Edition Two printing cost the Media Department \$11,790

The Farrago Edition Two Launch Party was held on Thursday May 11 at Tsubu Bar with a \$500 Bar Tab.

Farrago Edition Four: Farrago Edition Four submissions closed on Sunday April 30. Edition Four will most likely be sent to print by Monday May 29. The Edition Four Launch Party will be held at Tsubu Bar on Thursday June 8 and will have a \$500 Bar Tab.

Natcon Coverage: From December 15-16, the Media Department covered the National Conference of the National Union of Students (Natcon) via a live blog on the Farrago Magazine website.

Canberra Lock-up: Farrago Magazine and Radio Fodder applied for eight places between them in the Federal Budget coverage. Unfortunately, student media organizations including Farrago, Honi Soit, Woroni and Syn Radio were denied access to the federal budget lock-up in Canberra. The Media Officers contributed to and signed an open letter to the government published on Honi Soit which was published last Monday night <http://honisoit.com/2017/05/an-open-letter-students-locked-out-of-budget-lock-up/>.

Farrago Website: The Farrago website (farragomagazine.com) was moved to a new server in late February to solve technical issues we were experiencing from the back end of the website. The Media Department launched the new Farrago website at the Edition Three Launch Party on Thursday May 11. An Honoraria of \$1,000 was passed at council to pay the web designers.

RADIO FODDER

Radio Fodder Technical Infrastructure : In February, the Radio Fodder technical infrastructure was updated with assistance from AV Melbourne.

Radio Fodder Budget Special: The Media Department engaged a team of thirteen people to help us run our budget coverage. Radio Fodder held it's annual Budget Special on the evening of Tuesday May 9.

ABOVE WATER

Above Water is the annual creative writing anthology co-produced by the Media Department and the Creative Arts Department. Above Water is a competition and the winners (written and graphic) and the runners up (written) receive a cash prize. The Media Department and the Creative Arts Department judge the submissions and choose the ones that are published in the anthology. Following this three judges from the literary community decide which of these submissions should receive prizes. This process is blinded so none of the judges are made aware of who created the work they are judging.

The Media Department, Creative Arts Department and Above Water's Editorial Assistant, Harry Baker, opened Above Water submissions on Monday May 1 at 9am. Submissions will be closed on June 16 at 5pm. The Departments are planning to launch Above Water during Mudfest 2017. The winners of the competition will be announced at this Launch Party.

WORDPLAY

Wordplay #01: Wordplay #01 was held on March 1 on the concrete lawns. There were 12 student performers at this Wordplay. Pizza and wine was provided for the attendees coming to \$250.

Wordplay #02: Wordplay #01 was held on April 11 in Joe Nap A. There were 18 student performers at this Wordplay. Pizza and wine was provided for the attendees coming to \$250.

People of Colour Ella Shi & Hannan Al Daqqa

1. SET UP

- Official department Facebook page and Instagram account set up. This has allowed us to share information about events. The response has been strong and we have a consistent following.
- In conjunction with the UMSU communications team we produced a department logo.
- Launched volunteer sign up form, received 78 responses.
- Policy for collective (weekly meetings and Facebook group) written addressing posting, discussion guidelines, acceptable behaviour. (Included at end of report).

2. SUMMERFEST

- **Carnival Day Stall**

Our Carnival Day Stall was very successful and we had a strong, positive response. We distributed 800 tote bags and served around 700 soft serve green tea ice creams. We also had great feedback for our sticker designs. Through the stall, we were able to share information about our department and reach out to new and some existing students.

We were particularly pleased with the tote bags, designed by Zoe Wong.

- **Piñata Picnic**

The piñata picnic was a relaxed event that allowed existing members of the collective to come together again, and meet new students.

- **Life of Pi screening**

We had a good turnout for our screening. This event in particular drew strong volunteer involvement and it was great to see students get on board with the department.

3. REGULAR EVENTS

- **People of Colour collective**

We have held collective every week with the exception of week 8 as it fell on ANZAC day. Attendance has been consistent, and our expenditure is on track. Holding collective on alternating days every second week has been hugely successful as we've seen different students attending. We're glad we've been able to reach a wider demographic and will continue with this schedule next semester. We held a badge making session during one collective meeting and it was an incredible popular activity. We're looking to do more similar activities in the future.

- **Race and Diaspora Reading Group**

We've held three sessions so far, with the fourth and final one for the semester upcoming. The topics have included multiculturalism, feminism, and race and the media. Overall this has been successful with insightful, thought provoking and challenging discussions. However, attendance has fluctuated throughout the semester. We aim to continue in semester two and will look at increasing promotion so more students are aware of this event.

4. DIVERSITY WEEK

- **Collaboration with Faculty of Arts for Diversity Week**

We met with Amelia Terry, Students Diversity Officer from the Arts Faculty on the 12th Jan to discuss plans for 'Diversity Week'. This was event the university ran alongside the Cultural Diversity Week organised by the Victorian Multicultural Commission. We agreed our internal week would address all forms of 'diversity' beyond just culture. We successfully submitted a grant application and received \$10 000 in funding. In addition to our events (detailed below), this grant allowed us to fund approximately 13 clubs and organisations to hold their own workshops and events.

- **Representation in the arts and media panel**

This event was jointly organised by the Womens and Queer departments, however we suggested a speaker, Trung Le. The event had a strong turn out and proved to be valuable to the university community.

- **QandA Panel – Path to Justice**

Panellists included Rabia Siddique, an influential Australian criminal and human rights lawyer, Dr. Lauren Rosewarne from the University of Melbourne Arts Faculty, and David Nyoul Vincent and refugee rights advocate and community leader, and Jad and Paris from Indigenous collective. The panel was led by Yan Zhuang. The discussion was fascinating and incredibly thought provoking. We had very positive feedback from all who attended.

- **Wall Mural**

An interactive art campaign was launched in collaboration with UMSU Arts Officer, Alice Mathieu and Melbourne University Student and artist April J Y Kim. Entitled 'They Called Me ____', April created a mural based on student responses of their childhood 'nicknames' in languages other than English. The aim was to challenge perceptions of language and preconceived notions of racism.

5. RESPECT WEEK

- **International Student Discussion Panel**

As part of Respect Week, we held an International Student Discussion Panel, where three panellists discussed their experiences as international students of colour in Melbourne and at university. This event was very well attended, with approximately fifteen audience members including representatives from UMSU International and university staff. The discussion was very insightful and the panellists expressed interest in participating in similar events in the future. We've written up an outline of the discussion and hopefully this can be used as a basis to create tangible changes. Afterwards, we were also contacted by Esther Manning, an engagement officer from university academic services who wanted to get in touch with the panellists and work with us to organise a couple of mid-year orientation events.

- **South Lawn Stall**

We held a stall on South Lawn where students could make badges and talk to us about the People of Colour department. This was really successful and the response we got from students was very positive. Badge making has been a really popular activity and we definitely want to hold future events like this.

6. STRESS LESS WEEK

- **Dear White People screening**

We've organised a screening of Dear White People during Stress Less Week (week 12) at the Rowden White. Hopefully it will be a relaxing and fun way to end the semester.

7. CAMPAIGNS

- **Prayer Room**

We've been in touch with the Islamic society regarding establishing a prayer room in Union House. We've written up a list of requirements and we're in discussion with UMSU staff, as well as Lizzie Nicholson who is liaising with the university regarding the new student precinct.

- **Representatives at protests**

We represented the department at protests supporting refugee rights and university fee increases.

- **Anti-Racism Posters**

An incident occurred earlier in the year when Neo-Nazi posters were found around university. This received relatively wide media attention, and we worked in conjunction with the President of UMSU to release a statement condemning the posters and outlining UMSU's response. During the second Students' Council, a motion was passed directing the People of Colour Office bearers to produce counter anti-racism posters, to be put up around campus by the 20th Dec 2016, with \$1000 allocated to the task from the whole of union budget line. We created three designs and printed a total of 74 A0 size posters. The total cost was \$927, below the allocated budget. The first 50 were put up by the specified date, and we've kept back 24 to go up for semester two.

- **City of Melbourne Homelessness Ban**

Assisted Yan Zhuang with the submission for the City of Melbourne for the Homelessness Ban.

8. OTHER EVENTS

- **NGV Art Book Fair**

Six of us represented the People of Colour department at the National Gallery of Victoria on the 19th of March as part of the Melbourne Book Fair, where we spoke about a book about the late artist Gordon Bennett. We had an extremely informative and important discussion surrounding ideas of identity politics and racism in Australia, and got positive feedback from the event organizers, as well as Gordon Bennett's wife who was present. We're really pleased the NGV reached out to us for this opportunity.

POSTING AND DISCUSSION POLICY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOUR COLLECTIVE

- Do not make assumptions about other people's cultural and personal background. This includes assumptions made on the basis of someone's appearance or name.
- Do not assume you know the details about anyone else's experiences of racism.
- Do assume that everyone is here in good faith.

- Do not assume we all have the same level of background knowledge. Try to clarify when someone makes a mistake. However, do not assume that it is the responsibility of others to educate you or police your language.
- If sharing content with confronting images of violence, remove link preview from the post so it's just the URL.
- Use trigger warnings or content warnings if your post involves mentions of death, suicide, sexual assault, self-harm, eating disorders or contains racist slurs or graphic violence.
- Before you share a post, please consider: is this post raising awareness, promoting discussion or is it unnecessarily circulating more hate and racism?
- Avoid using racial slurs, including in the context of discussion.
- Sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, Islamophobia and any other form of bullying will not be tolerated.

Queer Blake Atmaja & Evelyn Lesh

Blake Atmaja's Report

The Queer Department has had triumphs and setbacks this year – we've started new events and had speakers from all walks of life, but also have had issues internally and generating interest in some of our weekly activities. Queer Lunch has and always will be great however.

Key Activities

SUMMERFEST

This year saw the shift of Orientation Week from a large-scale week to a two-week sprawl. Queer was approached by Comms to go all out for our events, which eventually led to our showing of the movie 'Priscilla'. While we didn't have as much of a turn out for the karaoke event (in part due to the nature of the event being quite public in Concrete Lawns), the turn out for the showing was quite large with about 50-60 people coming, both in groups and as individual attendees - we had a large core of the queer student group, as well as university staff. Through AV and collaboration with the Activities office bearers we were able to utilise the light-up furniture and equipment left after the **Sleepover** event to give attendees a space to relax and create an atmosphere that fit well to the night - through our committee we have been able to reimburse part of this for the Activities office bearers and would love to work more with them in the future. Through Comms we also booked a food truck for the event (Dos Diablos), and this unsurprisingly turned out to be a hit with the attendees - the tab budget that we applied for (\$880) was able to see everyone through dinner and a great deal extra in snacks, with only the last 5 or so orders needing to be paid. Activities utilised Dos Diablos for their St. Patrick's Day trivia through word of mouth, so this collaboration between our departments is really looking wonderful. I was personally extremely happy with the event as a whole, and the feedback we received indicated this was felt across all attendees. Budget-wise the event was more of a hit than I expected, but as I wanted to have a large event to kick off Queer's year, I thought it appropriate. As part of Summerfest, I also had an order of Queer-branded pencils made through the Comms department. Initially I had asked for the standard tote bags, but was persuaded to go a different avenue as Comms worried there would be too much of the same thing. This worked wonderfully – we've had very positive engagement with students and staff who've commented that the pencils are useful, and I've hoarded enough of them to keep us through Winterfest and the end of the year.

COLLECTIVES + QUEER LUNCH

We have been able to continue the Queer Department's collective event schedule, albeit at a reduced amount. Queer People of Colour has struggled to attain a significant attendance over the semester, but I am committed to seeing it through the year as the discussions I've had with students in it have been engaging – many are so intersectional in their identity they find it hard to relate to those around them, which is enough for me to see it through. We also introduced a new collective

(Women Loving Women) into the existing schedule of Trans* and QPOC and they seem to be progressing quite well. Queer Lunches have been very well attended throughout the semester – I've been buying vegetarian sushi to go along the pizza every week so we have a bit more diversity in food groups and nutrition – though budget wise they will need extra money to continue as they do. We've been exceeding the budgeted amount per week for the last few weeks, and I don't see a way we can minimize it without minimizing food for attendees.

COMING OUT SUPPORT GROUP

We were approached by the students running the Coming Out Support Group, who asked for more of a collaborative interest and funding for their regular event. We passed \$900 for them out of our Grants Budget to see them through the year, and I've also set them up on our UMSU page and poster materials to brand them with the Queer Department and provide more promotion for them. They've been well attended through the semester, and Ada has been a great contact throughout. Going forward I'd like to introduce more support networks and collectives into the calendar, so everyone can find a way to engage with us.

DIVERSITY WEEK

Through departmental discussions, we were able to coordinate a panel for Diversity Week in association with the Womens Department. I was initially quite interested in having a panel run independently by the Queer Department with a wide range of speakers but due to our limited budget I was convinced to scale back - in retrospect, this has proven to be a much better idea. We arranged for keynote panellist (Faustina Agolley) and two other speakers, one nominated by the POC office bearers (Trung Le) and the other through Women's, with a focused dialogue on the culture and representation of diverse peoples in the arts. Faustina was wonderful throughout, as were the other speakers, and all helped to set me back on track when I rambled. In our collaborative efforts, POC booked the space and negotiated with Comms regarding times and fees, Women's managed AV + food for the event with both costs and set up provided under them, and Queer arranged Faustina and managed the event as a whole.

Following on, the discussion went well. Attendance was notable; we filled the allocated seats we had provided and more, with the audience extremely engaged with the discussion and panelists, responding and providing questions to bounce off. Faustina was a delight, and I believe that having an intersectional speaker who was motivated really helped bolster the event. I only heard good things following on from the event, with both the choice of food and speakers praised - I look forward to working with both Women's and POC in the future if this is the results collaboration can provide.

EUROVISION

This semester, Queer worked with the Clubs and Societies office to create an intersectional event at the end of Week 10, being the 'Eurovision Spectacular Costume Party'. Gulsara and I coordinated with Tony Ennis and university staff to finalise the underground car park space for the event. We also approached the University to have the event as part of the Week 10 Respect Week, possibly as the

closing party to the week. I also believed it would be a great way of opening the Queer Department to the student population as a whole, as everyone would benefit from the event – people could make friends, find out more about what the Queer Department runs etc. Initial planning of the event had it at 700 people in the Underground Car Park – in retrospect, we should have recognised this as an issue earlier as it affected us exponentially during all negotiations. We had quite positive engagement from all the staff and students we talked to, as well as the clubs that were providing support for the event. In terms of ticketing, we had meetings with the European clubs on campus and had chats with UMSU International to bolster their involvement in the event. European clubs were down to pre-sell tickets at a discounted price, as well as serve their clubs national foods earlier in the night to make it more of a night market alongside the Eurovision music and screening before the actual dancing begins. The clubs were very on board due to potential promotion, and most of them were happy to provide either food or some form of entertainment during the night.

The management of the event went downhill quite a bit from there. Due to the stagnation of response from the university regarding the venue, we couldn't promote the event early, as well as our stubbornness in having that venue for both posterity and hype amongst the student cohort. Historically that space has been off-limits to students, so the hype if we had gotten it would have been enormous. Due in part to our stagnation, we've had several issues arise from this event. The Clubs and Societies committee has decided to cast no further funding to the event, due in part to the early low tickets sales - they were keen to assist in volunteering time in advertising to their connected clubs and have been nothing but wonderful. I don't blame them in any way for the decision they've made - I would want no department to lose money on an event, and I believe they made the right choice. Souvenir glasses + DJ + extraneous costs have already passed, and they're honouring those costs in their budget. To combat this hit to funding, I followed up with the university staff involved in Respect Week, as the event had now wholly been passed onto me and the Queer Department. Respect Week's budget was also quite small and seemed to be willing in funding some non-operational costs - we got a yes in funding the catering for the event, which was wonderful. The event was now being primarily handled by me, with Tony (Entertainment) + Comms + Fiona + Clubs + Goldie as the best support network, and again, I really want to thank everyone and all the office bearers who helped making this event strongly inter-departmental.

We moved down our plan from the car park to Grand Buffet Hall, then again due to restricted funding to the Student Bar. No costs are incurred for either the Hall or the Bar – Tony and I agreed however that the Bar space was ideal rather than a large open space. I've approached other departments to have costs related to this event divided (we're still working out how much AV and ticket sales will be) and had written a motion to Student's Council that effectively underwrote it, but Council was inoperative, so Queer is now facing the brunt of the event's cost. **Perseverance** was keen as the afterparty - they have a 90's music night which happens on the same day as Eurovision and were very happy to accommodate us. We only had a few attendees of the event go to the afterparty, I believe mostly due to the location being a while from campus, so next time I'll investigate venues closer.

In all however, I was happy with the event. I was looking to have more collaboration

and introduce the University of Melbourne student population to the Queer Department and those that use it, and hopefully facilitate new friendships and promote the services we provide. In that, I would say it was a great success. We had about 100-120 people attend – it was intended to be a larger scale event, but from those that attended I received only positive feedback. Many of them were delighted that such an event could exist in the UMSU calendar, and I hope that I've started a new tradition.

Evelyn Lesh's Report

This semester has seen gradual progress in the Queer Department's aims, including more support and new events, which should continue more consistently into semester 2. Due to severe difficulties with mental illness that escalated at the beginning of my term as Queer Officer, I have not yet been able to focus on some of the larger projects I envisioned, but in general, the feedback I have received suggests that people are happy with the current activities of the department, relative to previous years.

Queer Space

One of my major aims for this year has been to improve the furnishings and amenities in the queer space, and make it more useful overall to students. This includes desperately-needed cleaning or replacement of a lot of very old features of the room, which have been neglected in recent years. The continuation of this project will depend in part on the remaining budget towards the end of the year. So far, however, I have received very positive feedback on the overall atmosphere of the Queer Space, improvements to beverage supplies, and the renewed efforts to look after the room.

Queer Lunch

We have been running our free lunch event every week, with improvements in the quality and variety of food compared to 2016. These are among our best-attended events, and provide an opportunity to engage with much of our community, seek feedback, answer questions, and keep everyone informed about the rest of our events and department activities.

Queer Games

I have initiated a new weekly event, both to provide more opportunities for queer students to socialise, and to improve our engagement with other parts of the union and university. With the help of gaming clubs on campus, we have video games and board games in the Queer Space every Thursday, with no cost to the department (other than time spent hosting).

Queer Collectives

The department hosts three weekly autonomous collectives: for trans students, queer people of colour, and (newly added this semester) queer women. These run at the fairly low cost of providing snacks to attendees, and provide opportunities for people to discuss the issues affecting them as members of a marginalised group.

Coming Out Support Group

The Queer Department is now providing funding and cross-promotion for the Coming Out Support Group that runs weekly near campus. I also attended as a guest

speaker on the theme of trans coming out experiences. It seems to be to our mutual benefit that we connect with each other more consistently, rather than running independently as in the past.

Transgender education and support

I am slowly investigating possible approaches to tackling transphobia on campus, particularly the many reports of incidents involving lecturers and tutors. A Transgender 101 workshop I held as part of Radical Education Week was well-received, and should guide future efforts in this area.

Queer Collaborations

We sought Whole of Union funding to assist more students in attending the Queer Collaborations conference at the University of Wollongong this July. While no students from our collective attended in 2015, and only the queer officers and one other student in 2016, we now have a contingent totalling 14 people, and are almost exactly matching our budgeted goals for this event. Queer Collaborations provides a key opportunity for networking and building skills and knowledge that we can bring back to the community here.

Major Events

Although my focus has been primarily on the week-to-week activities of the department and community support/engagement/advice,, I have also talked to many queer students about the kinds of events they want to see, either that have been run in the past but disappeared recently, or that would be entirely new. At the moment, we are preparing our End of Semester 1 party in a few days, and WinterFest events including speed friending, a tea party, and movie night.

Constitutional and Electoral Changes

In general, I have seen little need for changes in how the Queer Department fits into UMSU as a whole, as the reforms by previous office bearers have largely been appropriate. I am currently investigating whether changes to the wording of affirmative action clauses would be warranted, but so far, consultation has been met with very neutral responses from the relevant groups of students. I intended to push for a more obvious change to the irregular voting rules for Queer autonomous positions, but since everyone seems to be in agreement on that, not much of a push will be required.

Welfare

Ryan Davey & Teresa Gornall

Welfare Handbook

In January, we began preparations for the department's welfare guide. The booklet contains information on the various services we run, including fitness classes, collective and free breakfasts. It also covers services offered by other departments within the university, such as Counselling and Psychological services. Once we had gathered the required information, we printed 3000 copies which we have used as our main talking point at several events this year, primarily Summerfest. We have also distributed several boxes to VCA and Burnley campuses. At this point in the year, we have only 500 copies of the guide left. We may look at re-printing some in preparation for Winterfest.

Summerfest

Summerfest was a huge fortnight for the Welfare Department. Planning began in January, and ran all the way up to the week before Summerfest began. During week 0 we ran a BBQ, an information stall during the services carnival, a film night during the sleepover, and the Welfare Angels. During week 1, we ran the bargain market and found our feet with breakfasts and regular events.

Breakfast Bar and Thursday Cooked Breakfasts

Although there were some issues at the start of semester, scheduling for the breakfast bar and cooked breakfasts have been running smoothly, and there are a core group of committed volunteers who we are able to rely upon for the events. Numbers at cooked breakfasts have steadily increased over the semester, and the breakfast bar has consistently floated between 30-40 people per day. We're now looking to spend a bit more money to expand what's available at the breakfast bar and to make the Thursday breakfasts run a bit longer as we have plenty of money left.

Regular Events

All of the regular classes have been booked in to the Union House training rooms throughout this semester; running every night from Monday-Thursday during semester. Yoga, Zumba and self-defence have all been constantly well attended, while meditation has struggled at times. However, this was easily fixed with a bit of additional promotion. Self-defence costs were slightly higher than we were expecting, but the Women's Department offered to cover the remaining costs. We will be reviewing whether or not to continue the self-defence for semester 2 as it would require additional funds outside what was budgeted.

Volunteering

This year, we have attempted to change how the Welfare Department structures its volunteering. In January, we set out to make our intake a bit more professional, in terms of adding interviews and volunteer agreements. Following this, they were let into the volunteering Facebook group.

We've continued to receive considerable interest in the volunteering network and are still getting signups on a consistent basis. Our main issue has been ensuring that our volunteers turn up to their assigned shifts. As it gets to the busier time of semester it is understandable that students are becoming busier, so we are trying to encourage them to let us know ahead of time if they are unable to turn up. As we have such a large volunteer base, it has also been a matter of discerning who the reliable volunteers are. We plan on being stricter taking attendance going forward, and start rewarding those who have consistently helped us throughout semester..

University Mental Health Day

Following meetings with the University Mental Health Day working group over several weeks, we ran a breakfast on the Tuesday morning of week 9 (May 2nd). This event launched the day's events and was done jointly with Counselling and Psychological services. The day served as an important reminder to students to look after their physical and mental wellbeing, particularly before the exam period.

Stress Less Week

The events for Stress Less Week 2017 are planned and ready to go. There are events scheduled from Monday-Thursday of week 12. The structure of the week will be similar to last years. Most of the spaces have been booked for events, including South Lawn for the Thursday carnival and the Members Lounge for the Finding Dory movie night. We hope that the week's events will provide students with the opportunity to take a break from their studies and have a bit of fun.

Respect Week

In week 10, Welfare had a stall for the Respect Week carnival day on South Lawn. Although attendance at the event wasn't ideal it's important for UMSU to have a presence during the week.

Food donations

Earlier this semester, we were approached by an external group of volunteers who organise collection of food about to be thrown out by larger companies in Melbourne, such as Coles. Unfortunately, we most likely won't be continuing with weekly food donation collections from Coles in Melbourne Central. Most of the things donated were vegetables, and other things that students would have to take home with them to cook. These items weren't being taken from the breakfasts, as students most likely didn't want to carry them around for class, before heading home. We've told the organisation to contact us regarding breads and fruits, which would be more suitable, so future trips with volunteers will be based on what's available.

Meetings with Safer Community

In week 8 we met with the Safer Community team. They've asked us to put together a pamphlet detailing a list of UMSU services relevant to students who seek assistance from financial aid. We'll aim to have these put together and send to the Safer Community reps by mid-June.

Women's Hannah Billett

SummerFest

SummerFest was a big success for the Women's Department. We had great interactions with students at the carnival day stall and massive turn out for the Van Badham speaking event. Our tote bags were super popular and we accrued a lot of social media likes and follows. The second weeks saw the launch of our collectives and the GRRRLS Rock event. The latter was incredibly stressful to organise but was a great success.

Safety on Campus/Sexual Assault survey

This has been the main project I've been working on. We were all surprised when we found out that all universities will be releasing the data from the sexual assault on campus survey, since early indications led us to believe that this data would be kept secret. The release date is now set as the 2nd of August and I have been told that I, along with select others within UMSU, will be able to see the data a couple of weeks early. We hope to work constructively with the university but, if we are not satisfied with the outcomes, we are willing to use more activist strategies to make progress.

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. We 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.

Departure of Anjana

My co-office bearer Anjana resigned for family reasons. I am grateful for all she has contributed to the department and wish her all the best. Naturally this has taken up a lot of my time as I have had to take on her responsibilities as well as my own. I am doing the job full time but I hope that I will find a replacement for her by the end of semester. Who this person will be is up to the Women's Committee to approve, but I will have to resign and stand again with my preferred cocandidate. This will be confirmed in a by-election during September's election. The Women of Colour collective will be run by two of my committee members – Kim and Kareena. It is my hope that the interests of women of colour will remain represented by the amazing women of colour on my committee, until we have a new woman of colour office bearer.

Women's Mentoring Network Program

The mentoring network has received a lot of positive responses and applications. However, most of the applications received are for mentee positions. This poses as a challenge for the women's department when trying to pair mentors to mentees. The deadline was extended until the 24th of March to encourage more mentor applications. Anju has been emailing over 60 clubs on campus, to encourage the clubs to inform their female members about the Women's Mentoring Network. A few clubs have already got back to us agreeing to advertise the program. Another round of advertisements is set to be released, mainly targeting mentors. Comms department has been very prompt and responsive. Anju has also begun preparations for the Mentoring Network Training Session. Emails have been sent to Legal, Advocacy and Safer Communities, inviting them to talk about their services and how they may be of use to the mentors when they are interacting with their mentees. The training session occurred on 31st of March. Interviews were held and pair/groups were created. This was Anju's sole project during her time in the role and has suffered in her absence. I will admit that I have struggled to keep up with responding to the emails/needs of members of the program. This has been made worse by the fact that I was unsure what information Anju had told them. This is something I hope to improve going forward.

Diversity Week

The tight turnaround of this week meant we decided to collaborate with the Queer department on their discussion event with Faustina. We paid the AV and catering costs. The event had a decent turn out and discussed some really important issues.

Respect Week

The organisation of the Women's Department's contribution to Respect Week has been consuming the majority of time over the latter part of semester. There was a lot of pushback from the university about our holding a screening of the Hunting Ground and we had to make a lot of concessions for it to be able to go ahead. While we could have held it independently, securing a strong working relationship with the university is important to ensuring we have a voice in policy talks. The agreement we have come to allowed the screening to go ahead while giving the university the opportunity to explain what they have been doing to combat the issue of sexual assault on campus. It was one of the best attended events of Respect Week, but turn out wasn't massive due to the time of semester and the fact that most students interested in these issues have already seen the documentary.

Stress Less Week

The Women's Department is fully getting behind the Welfare Department's Stress Less Week. The two departments are collaborating on fun dance/hula-hooping lessons for women students to help them release positive vibes during what is an objectively awful time. We will also have a Craft and Cakes event after our Wednesday collective where women can enjoy yummy desserts while making art.

Burnley Jessica Peeler

Orientation day event

At the Burnley orientation day we gave out keep cups, hoodies and information to new students, and spoke to them about the role of the BSA. We held a 'welcome/welcome back' party after the formal orientation for new and existing students, which had a turn out of approximately 60-70 people.

Termination of Associate Degree in Urban Horticulture (ADUH)

The School of Science has announced its decision to terminate the ADUH, the only undergraduate qualification taught at Burnley and a highly regarded degree within the horticulture industry. We have been campaigning to have this decision reversed, with no success. We will now be advocating for undergraduate horticultural education to continue at Burnley in other forms, including through incorporation into existing Bachelor degrees. We will also focus on supporting existing students, who have been given very little information about the impact this will have on their studies.

BSA office space

The BSA office space has been minimally used in the past. It has now been cleaned and organised, and the computer and printer are functioning well.

Improvements to Student Amenities Building (SAB)

We've installed a new microwave in the kitchen, and created a dedicated BSA quiet zone upstairs with magazines, couches, study spaces and a plant/produce swap table.

Community garden

The community garden has been very neglected in recent years, so we've been improving it by removing weeds, planting new crops and creating a compost system.

Beehives

We hired a professional beekeeper to check on the communal hives and run a workshop for students, and we have been maintaining and improving the dedicated BSA hive.

Pizza night

We held a casual get together at Burnley for all students on March 23rd, where we provided pizza and drinks. This was very well received, with approximately 70-80 students attending.

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre dinner

On May 5th we held a dinner at Burnley for all students, with food catered by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Feedback was good, and roughly 60 students attended.

Frog adoption

A PhD student at Burnley has approx. 60 Spotted Marsh Frogs that were used in a trial and will be euthanised if not rehomed (they cannot be released into the wild due to disease risk). We've been encouraging students to adopt these frogs, and with the help of the PhD student have put together a care sheet to distribute. In the holidays we will run a workshop showing students how to construct a suitable enclosure.

Hoodies

We've distributed 140 Burnley hoodies to students. Feedback has been excellent, with students telling us they're happy to have something that is specific to Burnley rather than to the uni in general.

Coffee machine

Our coffee machine is up and running in the SAB, and we receive a weekly delivery of coffee beans and milk from DD Milk.

Victorian College of the Arts Nicholas Lam

VCA Orientation Week Camp.

For the first time in a long while, the VCASA has organised a plethora of orientation week activities for incoming first years. This includes a 3D2N camp at Campaspe Downs for over 50 participants, including leaders. This provided a common space for students of different year levels and disciplines who would otherwise not interact together, to bring them closer and form close bonds within the Fina Arts disciplines.

I am also happy to report that a significant number of participants were from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (MCM), who will be moving to Southbank Campus beginning 2019. It is reasonable to assume that the bonds they form will be significant in smoothing out the transition process for them.

Other activities during O-week includes a 2-day fair held on Southbank, including a live band, candy floss and popcorn machines, and booths for music, film and art related clubs as well as the GSA.

Free Monday Breakfasts and BBQs on Wednesdays for students

The VCASA has also started to supply free breakfasts every Monday, and every snags on Wednesday during lunch when school is in session. This provides common areas for students to interact where possible during school hours, as well as to help ease the burden of finding food in the Southbank area during peak meal times, which can be expensive.

Restarting talks with administration

We have also restarted talks with the Dean of the VCA and MCM, Professor Barry Conyngham. It is my belief that through effective communication between the student union and administration, we can achieve more for the convenience and to improve the conditions of Southbank students than acting as separate entities. Already, we have communicated the needs of students regarding timetabling and faculty infrastructure, and the administration has acting favourably and swiftly to remedy situations relayed by the students, through the VCASA, to the best of their ability.

Stress-less Week

Due to intrinsic differences between BFA degrees and many others, Stress-less week for Southbank was held in week 9 instead of week 12 as it is traditionally held on Parkville campus.

For Stress-less Week, the VCASA brought in six therapy-trained border collies to interact with students in a controlled, confined space for two hours, during and after lunch near the Queen of Hearts Café in the Southbank Hub building.

Overall turnout exceeded expectation and the number of students who stayed and overall interacted with the dogs come close to, if not exceed, 100. It also brought in MCM students who had class, or just finished class in Southbank campus.