



University of Melbourne Student Union

Annual General Meeting

Student Office Bearer Reports

12:45pm, Tuesday, the 1st of May, 2018

Location: North Court, Union House, the University of Melbourne

Student Office Bearer Reports	
President	Submitted
General Secretary	Submitted
Activities	Submitted
Clubs & Societies	Submitted
Creative Arts	Submitted
Disabilities	Submitted
Education (Academic Affairs)	Submitted
Education (Public Affairs)	Submitted
Environment	Submitted
Indigenous	Submitted
Media	Submitted
People of Colour	Submitted
Queer	Submitted
Welfare	Submitted
Women's	Submitted
Burnley	Not submitted
Victorian College of the Arts	Vacant

All Office Bearer Reports are presented as they were received, with only formatting changes.

**President
Desiree Cai**

Summerfest

The semester got off to a bang with Summerfest (the two week orientation event) happening from the 20th of February to the 2nd of March. The week was pretty successful, with many students getting the chance to engage with UMSU and see what we do- from our student-run departments to the clubs and societies. The UMSU ‘adventure’ guide was also published in time for O-week, I hope some of you got to pick it up!

One of the new initiatives that I was able to help instigate for this year’s Summerfest (with the Host Program directors and Daniel our General Secretary) was the UMSU Welfare Angels program. It was a volunteering program that had students trained in Mental Health First Aid and a number of other courses so that students throughout the week of orientation could have a touchpoint for any issues that came up and ask for help.

The Ida Bar

We successfully opened the Ida Bar on level 1 of Union House this year. The bar opened just in time for semester after a lot of planning. Work on the fit-out and look of the bar continues, and we will be hosting a launch of the bar soon. The bar is named after the Princess Ida Club- the first club for women in the history of the Union, and the name of the first women’s room on this campus. If you haven’t seen the bar yet, come up and check it out- a bar built just for you!

Student Precinct

The university is currently undergoing a huge project to build a new Student Precinct. You may have seen the hoardings up around Alice Hoy and the ERC- demolition and early work to prepare for construction are currently being done.

As part of this project, UMSU is moving out from Union House and into the Student Precinct. We’re in the process of working out where UMSU will be and what we will look like in the new precinct, working closely with the architects. We are pushing to maintain space for students and adequate spaces for UMSU events and activities in what will eventually be our new home. A rough timeline for the move currently has UMSU moving around 2020.

I have also sat as a member of the Student Precinct Steering Committee as the UMSU representative throughout the year. This committee has been spearheading the student precinct project, and I will continue to ensure that the student voice is represented on that committee.

CADMUS/ Academic Integrity

CADMUS continues to be on the agenda as an issue for students at this university. If you haven't heard, CADMUS is the name of a google-docs type software (or learning environment) used for assessments in which your keystrokes may be tracked in order to combat contract cheating. While contract cheating is a serious issue, we believe that a punitive approach to assessments does not benefit students, and there are a range of accessibility issues, particularly if students are not able to do their assessments without internet access. These concerns and more have been raised to the university this year. Currently the campaign around CADMUS has been a bit quiet, but we'll be ramping up into semester 2 as the trials of the program restart.

National Day of Action- National Education Campaign

The National Union of Students National Day of Action about education was on the 21st of March. It was great to see the Education Department run a speak-out before the rally and bring a good contingent from Melbourne University to the rally at the State Library.

Other education issues

Melbourne Model changes

Changes to the Melbourne Model have been mentioned at various meetings with the university- we'll be keeping an eye out for any updates and proposed changes.

Stop 1

A survey on Stop1 has been launched by the Education Academic officers, the quality of services from Stop 1 is one of the issues we continue to push on the agenda with the university.

Flex-Ap

Changes to courses proposed by the university under the 'Flex-Ap' project continue to remain on the agenda. Thanks again to the Education Academic officers for all their work in this space.

Non-Parkville campuses

The Burnley Campus has faced issues with their library this year, with the university proposing changes to the staffing and hours of access to their library. UMSU representatives from the Education Department and myself were able to go down and set up information stalls about these changes, and support students and staff at Burnley in bringing the issue to the attention of the university. I've also helped the Education department office bearers in continuing to push the university in meetings on a better outcome for Burnley students. This issue continues to be on our agenda.

Outreach to the VCA is currently being investigated, with options for different Student Rep departments to go out to the Southbank campus every week to help run their weekly barbeque/free food being organised.

University response to Sexual Assault and Harassment Survey- Respect Taskforce and Student Advisory Group

We continue to push the university to implement meaningful change to tackle issues of Sexual Assault and Harassment on campus, which were highlighted in last year's survey about the issue. Molly, one of our women's officers sits on the Respect Taskforce, and a number of student reps from UMSU, including myself, sit on the taskforce's Student Advisory Group. We've delivered a number of recommendations to the university that we would like to see happen. Within UMSU itself, a number of changes to the service of alcohol within UMSU departments and clubs, and changes to club o-week camp regulations have been successfully instigated, in order to ensure that events run through UMSU are more safe. Thanks to the Clubs and Societies Officers who have done a lot in this space.

Counselling and Psychological Services campaign

I'm currently supporting the Disabilities and Welfare Office bearers who have been in contact with Counselling and Psychological Services to see what actions or campaigns we can run to try to move forward in improving the service. We got some advice from Advocacy, and we continue to wait for more information from CAPs so that we can continue to push in this space and work on a campaign.

Media-related activities

As the President it is my responsibility to handle media enquiries when UMSU receives them. Currently I've been able to provide comment about the university consent module in the Age, and continue to respond to the requests for comment for various Farrago stories. President's News on the UMSU website is also alive and well. Statements about various issues throughout the year have been and will continue to be released there, so check it out.

NUS

NUS (National Union of Students) is the peak representative body for all students in Australia, and UMSU as a student union is affiliated to NUS. I was able to attend President's summit, one of NUS's annual summits to learn about the NUS campaigns, goals and do some skill-sharing in January this year.

We're also working closely together with NUS to support many of their campaigns- especially in regards to the slew of higher education legislation changes that may make university education more inaccessible for a lot of students. I expect that there will be more to do as the federal budget looms, in terms of running campaigns to secure the future of higher education and make sure the government is thinking about students in their budget.

General Secretary
Daniel Beratis

Summerfest

Summerfest this year went sensationally. I provided support to Office Bearers as they began to engage with students at the start of what promises to be a very productive year. Turnout and engagement across the four days of Summerfest was fantastic, and the atmosphere was excellent, and as such a big congratulations must be extended to all Office Bearers, staff, casuals, volunteers and especially the Communications Division for their work.

Publications

As General Secretary, I am the publisher of all publications produced by UMSU. While this does not mean I control the content—in fact, most content is driven by Office Bearers, the Adventure Guide is one publication I especially want to single out as an inviting and comprehensive introduction to everything UMSU. Working in concert with Communications and the President in developing the concept for the Adventure Guide was highly educational and worthwhile.

Policy

I have been working hard on several new policies within UMSU that I hope will be adopted throughout the year. A policy governing grants and subsidies to students who wish to attend conferences and events with UMSU support is my immediate focus, and will hopefully be adopted by the end of April. I have also been working on a policy regarding conflicts of interest so that the elected members of Students' Council can be as transparent and accountable as possible when making decisions that affect students at the University.

Working Groups

I have also established several working groups where development of more complex and involved policy is involved. Currently, three working groups exist: the Harm Reduction Working Group, the Ethical Sponsorship Working Group, and the Policy and Procedure Framework Working Group. The HRWG aims to (finally) establish a program to provide harm reduction by way of drug checking kits to students, and will be continuing talks with various key stakeholders both on- and off-campus to achieve as such by the end of the year. The ESWG comes out of the current sponsorship process at UMSU, which can at times be convoluted, and aims to provide UMSU with a framework and concomitant procedure regarding sponsorship, while still ensuring that UMSU accepts funds from ethical sponsors and does not promote sponsors contrary to the Aims of UMSU. The PPFWG, finally, aims to establish a union-wide framework for the continued development of policy by myself and my successors, so that development is not ad hoc and as required, but follows a clearly defined and reliable path.

Student Precinct

I am the UMSU appointee to one branch of the structure that governs the New Student Precinct development, having been appointed to the Student Experience Advisory Group. This group, which aims to ensure that the NSP is being governed in part by how the precinct will interact with student experience, has been enlightening and fascinating in its opening

months, and I have represented the student body's views as best I can around such topics as Alice Hoy, the brand design, the operational plan, and the overall concept of the NSP. Some of these topics are more abstract and less immediate than others, but all will have a large impact as to how the NSP finally operates, and this work will continue to be vitally important.

Students' Council and Committees

The management and organisation of meetings of Students' Council is a vital secretarial responsibility. I am pleased to report that there have been, as at the 23rd of April, no inquorate meetings of Students' Council—special mention must go to the diligence of Councillors broadly, who have shown up in significant numbers to meetings of the Council, and whom have ensured that the business of UMSU can continue to be transacted without pause. The varied Committees of the Student Representative Departments have also met regularly, and there has been less need for use of the Operations Sub-committee to pass money for Committees when the latter have been unable to meet, which is a testament to both the Committee members and Office Bearers they direct.

Student Initiative Grants

One particular initiative through the Students' Council that I believe is of particular note to students is the Student Initiative Grant. Interested persons and groups can apply for a SIG of up to \$1,000 to partly fund an event that benefits students of the University. This initiative has enabled several groups, many of whom are on placement in rural and regional areas and are otherwise cut off from UMSU, to stage events that would otherwise have required funding from elsewhere or would have not been possible. As the person who administers SIGs, I'm glad that this program has continued this year, and that its reach seems to be increasing. In future, I also hope to advertise this program more broadly, so that as many students as possible are aware of what UMSU can do for them.

The Ida Bar

It has been a long while since UMSU operated its own bar, but it's finally back. The Ida Bar was opened at the start of this Semester, after an astounding amount of work from all involved. The naming process and selection of provision of alcohol were processes supervised by myself, with the Operations Sub-committee electing for *The Ida Bar*. I hope you all enjoy it.

Presidents' Summit

Each year, the National Union of Students, an organisation to which UMSU is affiliated, hosts Presidents of student unions at a summit for training purposes and to learn more about the NUS' plans for the coming year. This year was the first year (as far as I am aware) in which General Secretaries of student unions were also invited to Presidents' Summit, and I found the summit a valuable resource for the year ahead. Training included media training, submissions to inquiries, campaign training, as well as governance-related discussions, which was a particular interest of mine.

Annual General Meeting

And now, the reason you're all here—the Annual General Meeting. As an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic), we are required to hold an Annual General Meeting every year at which Members—a group comprising all students—consider the financial documents and other such matters as required, the result of

which shall be delivered by myself to Consumer Affairs Victoria. As you may have guessed, this report would not exist without the Annual General Meeting taking place, and I am glad that the needed business of this meeting can be transacted.

Special General Meeting

Based partly in a desire from interested parties to pursue Constitutional amendments, and partly due to administrative reasons, a Special General Meeting has also been flagged to occur in Semester 2. More information will be coming in the months ahead.

Activities

Alex Fielden and Jordan Tochner

Throughout the semester the Activities Department has hosted a large range of events for all students. In chronological order here is the breakdown:

Sleepover

This was the biggest event of the year. With the Activities Department coordinating with a majority of the other UMSU Departments, Union House was thrown open for 12 hours, allowing student to enjoy a total of 175 hours worth of combined entertainment. All of this was available for only \$25 a ticket (\$20 if you combined it with SoUP and St Patrick's Day). The event was very well attended with approx. 550 tickets sold. There was a wide arrangement of activities on offer - from a haunted house, to all night Harry Potter movies, a roaming silent disco and much much more!

SoUP

Our annual Start of Uni Party was again a great success. Although it was not as well attended as previous years, it was still very popular with around 500 tickets sold. This was in part down to there being so many events around the University during that time, so the market became a little oversaturated. Tickets were sold for \$25 or \$20 if combined with the other events.

Trivia 1

This trivia was not the biggest success sadly. A combination of factors, including limited time for our department to organize and advertise this event, other events occurring at the same time, and our department holding events every week bar 1 from O-week - lead to a very small attendance. In total this event attracted 40-50 people maximum. However, this is more down to timing than anything else. We would advise the next Activities Officers to not hold trivia in week 3 if you have other events during O-Week, Week 2 and Week 4.

St Patrick's Day

This was our new initiative for this year and is something that we are very proud of. Activities have previously held St Patrick's Day events, but this was the biggest by far. The event was very well attended for an inaugural event with 490 tickets sold. With ticket prices between \$30 and \$35, this included all alcohol, food and a take home stein. The event ran very smoothly and everyone had a great time. We hope that this event continues into the future and that it continues to make more traction with students. This was a major goal we had for this year and we are proud to say we succeeded in delivering a comprehensive event with minimal hiccups along the way

Campus Comedy Competition

This event was successful, even though it suffered from limited advertising. In total 15

competitors attended and the audience was around 30-40 people. This perfectly fit the members lounge and was a great venue for it. As usual this event was free to attend and the winner won \$500. The talent on display was incredible and it was good to see an event that has run for years not suffer because of limited advertising.

Tuesday Bands BBQ's and Bevs

We have continued to run the Tuesday BBQ's and they have been (as always) a complete success. We have had some brilliant bands (including BABBA, Confidence Man, Alex Leahey, Kingswood, and many more) and due to the newly opened Ida we have a wider variety of bev's on offer.

Thursday BBQ's

This again is new this year. We are now running a BBQ every Thursday in North Court. We moved this from Monday due to more people being on campus on Thursday's. These are running very well, with attendance growing every week. We have a speaker and play music, offer food and bev's. With more advertising and continued offering, we hope that this event will gain in popularity and continue into the future. Students are now able to access free food 2 days a week, which is important as the rate of youth hunger, cost of living in Melbourne increases year on year.

<p style="text-align: center;">Clubs & Societies Nellie Seale and Matthew Simkiss</p>

Camps and liquor licences

Late last year we implemented new changes to club requirements for camps to bring them up to date with the standard of safety and compliance that UMSU requires. A lot of the start of our time was dedicated to making this club as easy as possible and creating different documents to walk clubs through the process and sit down and trouble shoot potential issues with clubs. Because of this we are undergoing a comprehensive review of the camp process and have been collecting feedback from the leaders to further assist clubs in running their camps safely and effectively.

Orientation Clubs Expo:

The biggest event we run as a department. Almost 200 different clubs to manage and oversee over the 2 days with sorting them into days, providing them with their requests such as power and display boards and trying to work around their requirements. We reviewed the expo policy before the event and made some changes which resulted in the days being more organised and less crowded, making the event run more smoothly. Naturally the event was not without issues and several clubs and other bodies acting inappropriately, but all were dealt with effectively.

Clubs Carnival:

Clubs carnival is happening between when this report has to be submitted and the UMSU AGM so we have had a lot of planning into this as well with over 30 clubs participating for a day designed to be fun and show off the best that clubs can offer.

Lockers:

The maintenance and distribution of the C&S lockers has been a large part of our role. This included handling the returns late last year and the allocation and distribution early this year. This has been through 2 rounds of allocation now with all large lockers being occupied, almost every medium locker and most small lockers now confirmed. The space leftover could potentially be offered to new clubs affiliating in semester 1.

New Club Affiliations:

We had 33 new club apply to affiliate to us with 17 of those being successful. They will all now move to hold their Inaugural General Meeting in order to finalise their affiliation. If all of these meetings go well, the total number of affiliated clubs could reach just under 230, something which the department is incredibly excited about.

Regulation & Policy Working Group

We have started a working group to review current policies and regulations for Clubs and Societies. All clubs have been informed of this and we currently have about 10 people signed up for the groups, the first one of which was run very successfully and the second which will have just finished as this meeting starts. The topics being covered are:

- Discipline and grounds
- Camps
- Grants
- Operating Responsibilities
- Trading & Legal Responsibilities
- Affiliation
- Technical back end policy and regulations
- Resources

Training

Changes have made to trainings to try and improve attendance at the camp welfare training as late withdrawals have taken up a lot of our valuable time. This has made improvements however which is nice. We have also been in contact with CAPS about implementing a general training for execs to cover a broader range of issues relating to student wellbeing. We are also looking at trying to get practical bar training running to for clubs to use to assist with camp planning for next year.

Emails and admin

On a daily basis we receive more emails than we thought physically possible, but with the help of Fiona, Sarah and Thomas who are staff that assist with this office's function we have been able to mostly keep on top of emails. Fiona having to approve risk assessments for all events now, taking on more responsibility due to shifting resources around venue management has made this more stressful and put more of a load on her, and thus the office bearers. The office has been in cycles between actioning large numbers of tasks including preparing for multiple hour-long committee meetings to then answering emails to get back on top of it. It's a lot of fun and worth it to see the clubs functioning well and holding amazing events and being a crucial part of student engagement.

Creative Arts
Freya McGrath and Ashleigh Morris

Key Activities

SUMMERFEST

For the Whole of Union Sleepover, the Creative Arts Department ran an ongoing Craft and Chill space in the Arts Lab, the Environmental Disaster Haunted House in collaboration with the Environment Department and a Diva Dance Session run at 4am by our very own Creative Arts Dancing Diva, Freya McGrath. The Environmental Disaster Haunted House was a great success, with participants lining up all night & the Diva Dance Session allowed for the OBs to let off some steam at 4am in the morning.

The Botanic Drawing class was a very chilled-out event after Week1 OF Summerfest and we had fantastic engagement with the students at Burnley campus. We had over 30 participants on the day – the majority from Burnley campus, and some beautiful botanic drawings were produced.

Summerfest ended with the infamous ARTY PARTY, in collaboration with Union House Theatre, which had a fantastic turn out. There were lots of fresh faces at the event – mainly first years who were excited to get involved in the creative arts & theatre scene at UniMelb. We ended the night with a bev & a boogie and all the Office Bearers (and Bruni?!) performed the dance routine from Freya’s Diva Dance session @ the Sleepover.

CREATIVE ARTS COLLECTIVE

Running the Creative Arts Collective in the Arts Lab, every Thursday from 1pm-3pm. This collective provides a safe and supportive environment for students to engage in the arts and unwind from the stresses of university life. Sometimes we program other events during this collective including: The Screen Printing workshop, our Radical Art Collective and Crafts, Beers and Queers (in collaboration with the Queer Department).

CREATIVE ARTS GRANTS

Over the course of the Semester we met & consulted with grant applicants in preparation for our first Creative Arts grant round, which closed on 16th March. We held individual consultations with eight student applicants and have received a total of seven applications for Creative Arts grants of \$500 each. We allocated \$2500 from the Creative Arts department budget to support these student art projects on campus during our first round of Creative Arts Grants.

POT LUCK OPEN MIC NIGHTS

We hosted our first two Pot Luck Open Mic Nights of the year. It was a great success! We’ve had over thirty very talented performers showcase their work – including our very own Callum Simpson & Amelia Reeves! This event is open to all students to present work of any discipline, and so far, we have seen: squats, live performance art, singer-songwriters, monologues, poetry, story-telling, music (including an electric violinist) and more!

RADICAL EDUCATION WEEK

During Radical Education Week, the Creative Arts Department hosted the Radical Roundtable discussion: “Pushing Boundaries through Performance” and our Radical Arts Collective in the Rad Ed hub. We also commissioned a live performance work to take place during the Radical Art-Making session. Although attendance numbers were low, we had an in-depth discussion about Radical Performance and live-streamed it from our Facebook page to cater for anyone who couldn’t make the event.

VISUAL ART CLASSES

We have delivered two of our six-part Visual Art Classes series. We facilitated the Botanic Drawing session at Burnley campus, and most recently the Screen Printing Workshop, run by Susan Hewitt. The recycled UMSU tote bags looked fantastic with the new print designs! Next semester we plan on running: found-object sculptural assemblage, jewellery making, and knitting classes.

‘TRICKS OF THE TRADE’ WORKSHOPS

This year the Creative Arts Department launched a new professional development series called TOTT-SHOPS (Tricks of the Trade Workshops). These workshops have been focused on upskilling and providing professional development opportunities for the creative community UniMelb. So far we have planned a Happy, Healthy Art-Making session on safe-practice in the arts, and a workshop on writing strong arts grant applications. Next semester we will facilitate a workshop on Arts Marketing & ‘How to Survive’ as an Artist.

TALKING OUT OF ARTS – POST SHOW Q&A

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 semester we are hosting sessions for Four Letter Word theatre company’s production of: Everything is Fine and for the Union House Theatre Semester 1 Production: Things We Should Talk About. We look forward to facilitating more critical discussion about artistic work next semester.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATIONS

This year Creative Arts has been engaged in many interdepartmental collaborations! So far we have collaborated with Activities Department in the Whole of Union Sleepover Event, the Environment Department on the Environmental Disaster Haunted House & Radical Education Week, Burney Campus for the Botanic Drawing event, the Queer Department for Crafts, Beers & Queers and the Women’s Department for Princess Diary inspired event for Stress Less Week. In the future we intend on collaborating with the Environment Department for our sustainable found-object sculptural assemblage and Women’s for sexplorations.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

Student representation on the Theatre Board, Union House Theatre venue allocation, George Paton Gallery selection meeting, Arts and Entertainment SAG & UHT awards committee.

MUDFEST PREPARATION

Ongoing preparation for MUDFEST 2019.

Disabilities

Jacinta Dowe and Hien Nguyen

Key Activities

Student Equity and Disability Services Info Session

We ran an info session with SEDS and Advocacy for students to learn about the processes, eligibility requirements, and what to do if you run into trouble applying for ongoing special consideration.

Weekly Collectives

We are running three collectives this year. Two are running at the same time on alternative weeks: Anxiety Support Group and Mental Wellness Collective, and the other is every week with alternating themes every third week or so: Disability Collective. Mental Wellness Collective is co-run with the Welfare Department, and focuses on celebrating neuro-divergence and supporting mentally ill students.

Building Collectives/Event Attendance

In response to concerns from our committee about the willingness of students to identify with “disabled” as a label, we have updated our website and events descriptions to include ‘carers, supporters and friends’ of people with anxiety/disability. Hien wrote a statement for event Disability Pride that establishes our position on disability definitions, taking on the social model rather than the medical model. We will be putting this on our FB page and website as well as in our event descriptions to clarify for students who feel confused or alienated by the term “disability”.

We also tried incorporating a theme into disability collective by bringing books by disabled authors and encouraging people to come and read them. We may run with this theme for the next two weeks while deciding on the next one, suggestions are welcome.

Fair Food Challenge Workshop

We have been in contact with the people from Fair Food Challenge about a potential workshop to help students learn easy, cheap meal prep techniques so that they can have food easily at hand at times when they lack the energy or are unable to cook for themselves for whichever reason.

New Disabilities Space

We have a new disabilities space which we haven’t been able to access yet. Once we see the space and are notified about what the university will be providing for it, we’ll be able to start getting it ready for students. We have planned the space to have a kitchen and communal eating area on one side (the noisy side), and a sleep space with beanbags, cushions, and soft blankets next to a study space with computers and chairs on the other side (quiet side). This is separated by a big open space in the middle, with three couches, a resources rack, and bookshelf. We’re also planning on having pieces by disabled artists on the walls. We have

already obtained books by disabled authors and sensory toys like fidget cubes, putty and bubble wrap which we are going to keep in the space.

Carnival Day Chill Space

We ran a marquee space on carnival where students could rest and play with sensory toys on beanbags, chairs, and a picnic rug. AV Melbourne provided us with equipment so students could listen to ambient music with headphones.

DisabiliTea Clubs Day

We ran a tea party on clubs day in union house with lots of cupcakes, drinks, and resources for students.

Website Updates

We've been writing draft additions to our community page of compiled resources for mental health. All pages are posted with consultation from Clare and Sarah over at Counselling and Psychiatric Services to discuss these pages to make sure they are accurate and worded appropriately, to optimally benefit students.

Australian Disability Network Promotion & Info Session

We ran a AND/PACE workshop on the 15th March to inform students about internship and mentoring programs available to them.

Respect and Diversity Week

We collaborated with the People of Colour Department to run an event for Respect Week and Diversity Week on Racism and Mental Health. This event took place on the 21st March, featuring guest speaker Romile Mokak. The event centred around a NACCHO Aboriginal Health and racism study conducted on the impacts of racism on Aboriginal health.

Rad Ed Week

We ran a discussion on Disabled Pride from a non-Capitalist perspective. We are in the process of setting up a second event of the same topic with guest speaker Jax Jacki Brown for the 22nd May. This will lead into a broader campaign for Disability Pride.

Rad Sex and Consent Weeks

We have organised for three events under this theme: Autism and Relationships, Sex and Disability and Mental Health and Dating. The first two will feature guest speakers and the third will be a discussion lead by the Disability OBs.

Education (Academic Affairs)
Alice Smith and Toby Silcock

Projects we have worked on so far this year:

Summerfest

Carnival day was very successful for Ed Ac. Students loved our tote bag design, there was significant interest in the workings of the department and activism and advocacy generally. We ran stalls in both Parkville and the VCA. Engaging with VCA students and those from other satellite campuses throughout the year is a focus of the department, since it is apparent from conversations with VCA students that there is significant frustration with continuing course cuts and centralisation of services on Parkville campus.

Cadmus/ Academic Integrity

Desiree and Alice have met with Richard James (Deputy Vice Chancellor) about the academic integrity working group, which is investigating the viability of Cadmus and alternative methods for combating contract cheating. We are also building on the response to our letter to Academic Board, which was written on the back of the campaign run at the end of last year. While the Cadmus campaign has been quiet this semester, it will be ramping up as we have had it confirmed that there will be trials in Semester 2.

Burnley

A major project for this year has been managing the changes to the Burnley library hours. We have made two visits down to the Burnley campus to engage with students, and ran a survey to get student input into the campaign. We have met with Paul Duldig (the Head of University Services), Neil Robinson (the Academic Registrar) to discuss the changes and how the current proposal can be improved for students. We also met with Donna McRostie (the acting Head of Library Services) to discuss in greater depth the practicalities of the current plan.

FlexAP

The implementation of the FlexAP recommendations has been slow, with Chancellery still conducting consultation. There will be more known soon, as some FlexAP recommendations have been incorporated into the Melbourne Model Evolution, as discussed below.

Melbourne Model

The University is currently considering changes to the way in which the Melbourne Model operates, with the details still technically being confidential. These changes relate to changes to entry pathways and course options. The current proposal doesn't limit student options in their courses, so at this point we have little concern about this project.

Stop 1 and academic services

We have just launched a survey collating student experiences with Stop 1, Academic Skills and Career Services, which will inform a campaign to improve the quality and wait times of these services. Watch this space.

IT changes

We have also consulted this year with the Learning Environments team in relation to the change of the Lecture Capture system and the ongoing process to possibly change LMS provider. More will be known on this as we move through the year, and we are ensuring that there is student representation at every stage.

Student Representative Network

We have a great bunch of Student Reps this year, and will have held two general SRN meetings as of the date of the Annual General Meeting. We have changed the reporting mechanism to make it streamlined and allowing students to send meeting papers through to the department, so we remain fully informed on University decisions. We had a well-attended training session run by UMSU Advocacy at the beginning of the year to introduce Reps to the responsibilities of their role.

Weekly Stalls

This year we have begun holding weekly education stalls to connect with students and make ourselves more accessible. We have engaged with many students and pointed them in the right direction, as well as providing general information about UMSU and the department.

Education Collective

This year we have introduced a new collective. It has been slow getting off the ground but over the next few months we hope to expand it and get greater student engagement.

NDA

We assisted the Education Public department with preparations for the NUS National Day of Action, and provided a BBQ for students attending the on campus speak out. Both Alice and Toby spoke at the speak out, highlighting their concerns about the MYEFO cuts to higher education.

Lecture Recording

This year has seen the creation of our lecture reporting tool, which allows student to easily report which of their subjects are unrecorded so we can follow up with the University. This tool had massive engagement, reaching thousands of students. We are also following up with faculties to highlight cases of unrecorded lectures that don't fit within the policy, and cases of unrecorded lectures that are conducted without the faculty's approval.

Refugee Scholarship

We've been working with Conor to develop a proposal for the University to provide a refugee scholarship. We're hearing good things from Chancellery about this, possibly rolling it into Access Melbourne. The first step is to propose different options and benchmark it against other programs, then we simply see whether Chancellery is willing to commit to it (specifically in light of the Melbourne Model Evolution, which is specifically targeted at top-end, rather than disadvantaged, students, and could be leverage for more scholarships).

Relationship with Advocacy

We have been meeting with Advocacy on a regular basis to gain knowledge of previous actions by UMSU and knowledge of University staff. It has helped immensely helpful in planning our campaigns for the year.

Special Consideration

We are organising meetings with senior University staff to discuss changes to special consideration. Our goal is to make it more accessible, particularly relating to documentary requirements. This lines up nicely with the recent Advocacy quarterly report, which deals extensively with students providing falsified medical records (as well as other things and trends). We are also concerned about some faculties making allegations that students were applying for special consideration as "insurance" against getting bad grades, then not sitting supplementary exams once their grades came out. The implication being, this is students "gaming" the system. We received that data commissioned on this point, which clearly didn't substantiate the claims made. We've redirected the question back to the faculties, making it clear that there are many reasons why students don't sit supplementary exams, and that it's up to the Faculties to clarify what presumptions they actually have.

OB Lyf

We started the year with a can of 1000 chupa-chups, that were all gone by week 7. A win for student engagement. We have also moved offices, so Ed Ac and Ed Pub now share an office, allowing for greater interdepartmental collaboration.

Education (Public Affairs) Conor Clements

Syndicate

One of the main programs that has been run out of Education Public so far has been our workers' rights collective, Syndicate. We have run events designed to teach students about their rights in the workplace – things like ensuring that they're being paid the award wage; getting penalty rates for working on weekends, public holidays and overtime; and making sure that they're getting breaks at appropriate times.

The idea for Syndicate was born out of the concern that students and young people more broadly, especially those who already face barriers due to their ethnicity, gender and English ability, are at a significant disadvantage when it comes to finding a secure and well-paid source of income. This has been born out of a number of things such as freezes and cuts to youth allowance and welfare more broadly, which in the past have allowed more leeway for student expenditure, a significant rise in the cost of living, and most notably for us, the decline of trade unionism among young people in service industries. This has been the primary focus of Syndicate – increasing awareness of workplace rights and trade unions.

We've incorporated a couple of different campaigns thus far, including within businesses in Union House and supporting the NTEU in their Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations with the university, which will be discussed below in this report.

Weekly stalls

We've been running stalls every Wednesday this semester, both at Parkville and Burnley, with future plans to visit campuses in Southbank and Dookie. Attendance at them has been up and down, but we have always found there to be a justification for them existing – if nothing else, they have been a great way to interact with the student body and tell them what the Education department have been up to.

Education Collective

The Education department have been running collectives fortnightly, which have provided another forum for students to come and either discuss their own issues or have us rant and rave to them about different problems with the university.

So far we've had semi-themed collectives on topics such as the Flexible Academic Program (FAP) and its proposed restructures and changes to university services, and Stop 1, which has tied in with Education Academic's Stop 1 survey (discussed in their report).

Burnley Library campaign

We have been supporting Burnley students in their campaign to stop the university from reducing the staffing hours of the library. This campaign is currently ongoing, with only a couple of visits and nothing definite on the university's end confirmed as of yet, but we are attempting to seek concessions such as ensuring that there is an appropriate bridging program for students who need to learn how to use the university libraries cataloguing system and getting the university to research which parts of the collection should be open to borrowing at all hours so as to make sure that as much of it is to remain accessible as possible.

National Tertiary Education Union

As of the time of writing, the NTEU have been campaigning to get their members to support industrial action, in response to the university's refusal to meet a number of demands, including a positive commitment to academic and intellectual freedom, a commitment to have one single enterprise bargaining agreement covering both academic and professional staff, and a commitment to maintain current staff to student ratios.

We have been offering support in the form of postering, creating materials to distribute to students, and helping out with stalls giving information to staff and students alike.

Refugee and Asylum seeker student scholarship

This one is in development, but we've heard so far that chancellery are considering this proposal without us having to prod them at all. Our role will be in ensuring that the program is as expansive as possible, rather than the one or two scholarships offered by other universities across Australia.

National Day of Action

Shifting the focus to a national level, Education Public have been supporting the National Union of Students (NUS) in their National Day of Action protests as well. The most recent one (on March 21st) was in response to the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook budget cuts, which will see \$2.2 billion cut out of the higher education sector, and there will be another in May in response to the government's budget, which is predicted to have a number of other cuts to higher education within it.

Environment
Callum Simpson and Lucy Turton

Key Activities in 2018

The Environment Collective has been busy, as ever, in its pursuit of effective change on campus for the the university's sustainability and it its upskilling of students in activism and change-making. The Environment Collective works to uphold the environmental and social justice values of the student body.

Below you'll find a description of the key activities of the department.

To learn more please email environment@union.unimelb.edu.au and like UMSU Environment Collective on Facebook. Also, feel free to drop by the office on level 1 of Union House (opposite the Food Co-op).

Radical Education Week

Radical Education Week was our big week 5 event jam - packed with workshops and discussions on everything from non-capitalist disability pride to performance as protest, radical populist theory, queer political action, and everything in between! The idea behind Radical Education Week is to critique the corporatisation of tertiary education and to teach useful and thought-provoking ideas that students will never learn in the classroom.

Radical Education Week was very well attended throughout the week. There were many thought-provoking workshops and discussions. We're so thankful for all the amazing contributions from students, friends and the UMSU departments. It took a great deal of effort from many people, but it is certainly a worthwhile exercise. We are now reaching out to participants to give feedback on the week for future improvements.

Lockout Lockheed

Lockout Lockheed (LL) has been working hard to step-up its engagement with the student body, with BBQs, stalls and fun events. LL is also preparing five requests to the university under freedom of information legislation, and expects to build up a picture of the corporate ties between Melbourne University and weapons manufacturers.

Lockout Lockheed is part of the beginning of a nationwide student campaign advocating for the cutting of ties with arms companies of universities across Australia, which will very soon be launched. An early project of this campaign will be the development of a report on the militarisation of Australian universities; the research conducted by LL will contribute to this report and will be instrumental in supporting and guiding other campus campaigns in their research.

Fossil Free MU

Earlier in the year, Fossil Free Melbourne University actively campaigned for the full divestment of the university from fossil fuel companies, by engaging students and protesting outside the front of the University administration. This has been adding to four years of active and hard campaigning by concerned students which lead to the formation of the Sustainability Executive and the Sustainable Investments Framework.

Following the 28th March release of the Sustainable Investment Framework (SIF) by the University of Melbourne, Fossil Free Melbourne University spent some weeks reviewing the SIF in terms of its effectiveness in leading to divestment from fossil fuel companies. After seeking advice from UMSU Advocacy and Legal and more experienced campaign members, FFMU has come to the informed opinion that the SIF is a toothless document that states some vague values for its investment portfolios and rules out actual divestment, which it refers to as an 'exclusionary approach.'

Fossil Free MU is now working on a strategy to get the university to end its delaying and fully divest its investment fund from Fossil Fuel companies.

Play With Your Food

Play With Your Food is a fortnightly event hosted by the Melbourne University Food Co-operative and put-on by UMSU Environment and the Melbourne Activist Catering Collective. PWYF is going very well. They're well-attended each fortnight and make delicious food, which is contributing to a good community of interested participants who are learning about delicious vegan cooking and food co-operatives.

'Green Screen' film screenings

So far in 2018, we've held one 'Green Screen' film screening. It was a screening of the film Food Co-op about the Park Slopes Co-op in New York. It was very well attended and it's personalised perspectives of locals from Brooklyn was of great interest to attendees. Other Green Screens are in the works for the end of this semester and for semester 2.

Students of Sustainability

Students of Sustainability (SOS) conference is an annual gathering of environmentalists and activists hosted by the Australian Student Environment Network. Students and other activists from across the country come to learn skills and discuss contemporary issues in environmental and social justice.

SOS 2018 is going to be held in Naarm (AKA Melbourne) between 7th and 11th of July, with arrivals and departure on the 6th and 12th respectively. Both of the Environment Officers and a dozen of the environment collective members have been heavily involved in the preparations for the conference.

It's been an exciting year so far and we look forward to bringing more useful and interesting events to students and in creating more change on and off campus. Please look out for Enviro Week and Enviro Camp next semester for these are set to be fantastic events.

**Indigenous
Alexandra Hohoi**

As this year's Indigenous Officer my aim was to build upon and improve many of the pre-established programs as well as implementing new programs where I saw gaps. I see my purpose as supporting the students in their cultural and personal lives so that they are able to succeed academically and in their careers. 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.

Under Bunjil

Under Bunjil continues to grow in its fourth year with a new head editor and team to create, support, assist in telling the stories of Indigenous students. This year it is being co- directed by Serena Thompson and Paris Mordecia. Already they have both been working tirelessly to develop this very unique publication into a platform addressing the

wide range of voices and talents of students. Student submissions are already above average for the year.

Spreading Fire

This year a student within our collective developed a performing arts program specifically

for our collective. The purpose was to give Indigenous students expression, voice and cultural safety. My department has been collaborating closely with the Spreading Fire to

deliver culturally safe workshops. The response from the students has been overwhelmingly positive.

Special Projects and Events

This year special projects and Events has had two main focuses. Firstly a focus is to provide whole of collective events with an aim to bring all of our students together; connecting students

from different year levels, colleges and mobs. Our second focus has been to run targeted programs for the various sub groups within our collective.

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 .

Whole of Collective, social events

Our whole of collective programs have been extremely popular, attracting any number

from 50-150 students. We have been doing weekly lunches, which we collaborate with

Murrup Barak to provide. We have ran several BBQs, Took students to a screening of Black Panther, hosted a Friday 13th Trivia and board game night, Blackout Cafes and still on our calendar is to deliver a movie night, more BBQs and an end of semester Blackout Party (which our collective does every year).

Targeted Groups

Fresher Timetabling and Organisational Skills:

When we released our yearly calendars this year I saw a gap, which was that many freshers did not know how to effectively plan out their study. A group of older students

and myself ran some timetabling sessions. We ran them during the day at Uni and some

at night at colleges. The feed back was extremely positive and I hope to make this a more permanent part of our collective.

Cultural Recipe Sharing:

We have many students that a from remote communities and this year we have been encouraging them to talk about and swap recipes from their home. We find that creating

spaces for these conversations and sharing of stories has been very positive and is reaching students that are often very disengaged.

Womens Tea Business:

Collaborating with Murrup Barak to create safe spaces for Indigenous women to get together over tea has been a great initiative. We have been engaging smaller numbers of

15-30 women, however the quality of conversations has been high.

Indigenous Queer Community:

This year we have allocated a specific amount of budget to the Indigenous Queer Community. They have autonomy over the budget to use it to engage their students in

the way that they see fit. This year they have had a BBQ and they have more engagement planned for this semester and for next semester.

Sports Grants and Engagement

Regular exercise continues to have positive benefits, particularly in on mental health and studying. This year MU Sport have taken over a lot of the sporting programs that the Indigenous

UMSU department ran in the past. So far they have not been able engage the numbers that our

department used to engage. My Vision for the rest of the year will be to work on encouraging the

collective to get more involved.

Indigenous UniGames

As we send two teams to Indigenous UniGames for the eighth 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. Indigenous University games continues to be

one of the key highlights for our year and it works to strengthen our community as a whole. The students involved train four hours a week, and they must maintain a pass

average to attend the games. This is a big incentive to study. Many of the students we engage are leaders within our community. Having these leaders and key figures on campus, studying and engaged, has a huge positive impact on our entire community.

Media

Ashleigh Barraclough, Esther Le Couteur,
Monique O’Rafferty and Jesse Paris-Jourdan

Batman by-election

In the week beginning 12 March, we completed substantial coverage of the Batman by-election. You can see an overview of our coverage [here](#). In the process, we did something kind of historic: the first ever [live video coverage](#) of breaking news by *Farrago*.

We saw our coverage as an opportunity to do a few things:

- 1) to inform students (who make up a large proportion of the Batman electorate) in their choice of whom to vote for; and,
- 2) to teach our reporters (and learn ourselves) about the requirements of live broadcasting. We intend to do more live video this year, and are already planning a number of potential future events: coverage of the federal budget, the UMSU election (maybe including a presidential debate), the state election at the end of the year.

Carnival Day

On Carnival Day on 21 February, we were handing out copies of *Farrago* and talking to keen young jaffies about how they can get involved in the media office. We had a presence at both Parkville the VCA—one of only a couple departments to be at both campuses. We signed up over 100 people to our mailing list!

Digitising *Farrago’s* archives

This year, we’re doing something a bit boring but really important and useful: digitising *Farrago’s* archives! That means that all of *Farrago’s* 93 years of history will be made available in electronic form to the general public! That’s pretty cool! Even better—we’ve made the university library agree to pay for the process! Not much to report on this yet, but there will be movement soon. There is a [draft project outline](#).

Farmers’ Market

The media office is down at the weekly UMSU Farmers’ Markets on Wednesdays—repping Radio Fodder and providing some sick beats to the good people of the Concrete Lawns. We haven’t missed one yet! No promises to continue the 100% attendance rate as the weather gets more brutal in winter.

Farrago

Edition one of *Farrago* came out on 20 February. Edition two came out on 15 March. On the day of submitting this report, we are waiting for edition three to come back from the printer.

We have been very pleased with the quality of *Farrago* so far, and it seems to be getting better with every edition.

This has been our print schedule for the year so far:

Edition	Copies	Cost
Edition one	5,000	\$13,618.00
Edition two	3,500	\$12,870.00
Edition three	3,500	~\$13,000.00

In terms of writing, here are some highlights from the year so far:

- [“Neo-Nazis” Escorted Off Campus on First Day of 2018’](#) by Ashleigh Barraclough
- [‘The Inheritance of Grief’](#) by Tilli Franks
- [‘Bard Times’](#) by James Gordon

Monique definitely deserves a special mention under this heading. As graphics editor, she is the person who ties the whole magazine together—without her, there would be no *Farrago*, let alone the beautiful publication we’ve been producing.

Governance

Jesse has begun the process of reviewing UMSU’s media governance, including the student newspaper policy and other potential constitutional changes.

“Student newspaper policy” is, itself, a dated phrase. The media office produces a whole lot of things—a magazine, a website, a YouTube channel, a full-time radio station—none of which are mentioned in the policy. The one thing the media office no longer produces, however, is a newspaper (a fact that causes one or two members of the editorial team to shed a single tear). Also standing out in terms of aspects of the policy that need amendment is the section on letters to the editor. Letters are a potentially outdated concept in an age when readers can make their thoughts known to a wide audience in the comments sections on Facebook and the *Farrago* website. What is missing from the policy, however, is a sophisticated approach to the moderation of comments and engagement with readers on social media. Recent events surrounding the spicy campus article about neo-Nazis on campus and comments thereon have made the need for this clear to us. The redrafting process is ongoing.

We are also looking at introducing affirmative action for people of colour in the media office. We are in the process of drafting a terms of reference for an UMSU working group to look at the possibility.

Launch parties

We have completed two launch parties—on 20 February and 14 March. Our third launch party is scheduled for 24 April. All of these events were held at the Ida, UMSU’s new student bar. The first launch doubled as the unofficial opening of the bar (being the first event held therein), so we set aside extra money to account for a large group of people. A breakdown of the expenditure (and expected expenditure) is below.

Launch	Expenditure
Edition one	\$995.65
Edition two	\$400.00
Edition three	~\$500.00

Making improvements to the Radio Fodder studio

Isaac from AVMelbourne has delivered a quote for his work making improvements to the Radio Fodder studio. Isaac is installing a new desk to organise the cords, which are a mess and a safety hazard at the moment. He is installing the desk in such a way that it will be able to be flat-packed and moved easily to the new student precinct when Union House is no longer operational.

Money

An extensive and updating breakdown of how we have spent every cent this year can be viewed at [this spreadsheet](#).

News briefing

Ashleigh has started creating fortnightly newsletters with campus news! Click [here](#) to stay up to date with campus news and receive *Farrago's* news briefings delivered to your inbox every fortnight. It's a really fantastic initiative, making it campus news more accessible than ever before.

NEWS Conference

The NEWS Conference (National Editors Workshop and Skillshare Conference) is an annual two-day event presented by Express Media for students editors, publishers and contributors across Australia. This year, the NEWS Conference was presented on January 29 and 30 in Melbourne. It is an annual tradition that the media officers attend this event. We went along, and found it a valuable experience in terms of learning skills for the year and creating networks with other Australian student publications.

NUS NatCon

On the week beginning 11 December last year, four of our reporters, including Ash, spent four days in Geelong for NUS NatCon. You can check out our [coverage of the conference](#), if you're into that.

Radio Fodder

In terms of Radio Fodder, things are on track! Kudos to our Radio Fodder station managers, Carolyn and Conor.

Here are a few, of many, incredible shows to check out:

- [Melbourne Anthology Hour](#)
- [No Eye Deer](#)
- [Snappy Hour](#)
- [When She Speaks](#)

Restructuring the media office

In our budget at the start of the year, although we did not ask for significantly more money than in 2017, the budget did represent a shift in the relative proportions of its budget lines. Specifically, the introduction of the “staffing” budget line signified the first time the media department would offer honoraria to a small number of its contributors. To make this change possible, we shifted money from various budget lines. In particular, we received a reduction in funding to Radio Fodder and Farrago Video to make these honoraria possible.

Arguably the most pressing issue the media office has faced in the past several years is the rapid growth of the media collective. In 2014—just three years ago—Radio Fodder did not exist, nor did a functioning website, a social media presence or any kind of video content produced by the media department. Three years ago, *Farrago* did not provide feedback to contributions that were not accepted in the magazine, and the subediting process was closed to the writers of the contributions. Now, in addition to the same number of printed magazines on stands across campus, the media department runs a full-time radio station, along with two websites, eight social media channels and anything up to 30 videos a year. In 2014, the media officers had roughly 50–100 volunteers to manage. Today, the number is closer to 300.

This growth is important and desirable. Only in recent years have students involved in the media collective had the ability to gain experience in the types of media that are, in our opinion, likely to be most prevalent when these students are serving out their careers—i.e., experience in the creation of video, audio, social media and internet-based content. The provision of feedback to authors not published in the magazine, and an open, collaborative subediting process increases the value of the magazine to its contributors, who are developing their skills and need honest, engaged feedback above anything else. In addition, this growth increases the value of *Farrago* to its audience, with associated advancements in the accessibility of content.

However, despite the growth of the media office, there has not been a proportional increase in the number of media officers, or a decrease in the amount of regular printed content the department produces. In 2018, we have opted to experiment with bringing on board a number of volunteer positions with extra responsibilities, each paid a small honorarium. These positions would include a Radio Fodder station manager, Farrago Video manager, social media coordinator and web developer. The amount of money we allocated for these positions is not a living wage. The Radio Fodder station manager and social media coordinator—both positions that require some form of contact with the media officers from Monday to Friday during semester—will be paid \$3,000 over the course of the year, the equivalent of \$125 per week of semester. The video coordinator will receive \$2,000, or approximately \$83 per week of semester. The web developer will receive \$1,000 for specified work on the Radio Fodder website.

Reviews

The [reviews section](#) of the website is banging this year—thanks in large part to the hard work of Esther. This is a fantastic way of using our leverage as editors to give back to the collective, providing them with free tickets to various events and opportunities for development as writers.

Sleepover

UMSU's Sleepover on 23–24 February went okay for us. We played Radio Fodder on the second floor of Union House and we held an informal Wordplay in the Rowden White Library. Not many people came to the latter, but we still had a good time.

Style guide

Towards the start of the year, we made a new *Farrago* style guide. [Look how beautiful it is.](#)

Tepid 100

On 25 January, we completed the Tepid 100—an initiative by Ed Pitt which will see Radio Fodder scooping the 'Hottest 100' two days before Triple J did it. The songs played were based on votes posted on social media, which Ed scraped with a Python program. The event, coordinated by Conor Day and Ed Pitt, was quite successful, with a high number of listeners for Radio Fodder. It was a great way to start off the year!

VCA distribution

We've set up a decent presence at VCA campus! Students can find *Farragos* at the two students' lounges on campus. We'll keep these stocked up as the year goes on.

Website (*Farrago*)

We have started to experiment, more than *Farrago* has done in the past, with new online-exclusive stuff. We have:

- Revamped the website.
- Begun to experiment with [data visualisation](#) and other JavaScript-based reportage.

Wordplays

Wordplays are events where we encourage students to get up and perform their poetry and other writing and performance. Wordplay number one was held on 27 February. Wordplay number two is scheduled for 1 May. Expenditure and expected expenditure are given below.

Wordplay	Expenditure
One	\$361.88
Two	~\$300.00

Conclusion

The media office has been going well so far in 2018! The writer of this report is already dreading leaving this job in December. Being media office has involved creatively and intellectually fulfilling work with some of the best people he's ever met in his life. It's sometimes stressful and sometimes very fun. Thanks for reading!

People of Colour
Reem Faiq and Hiruni Walimunige

Key Activities

SummerFest 2018

We held 3 events during Summerfest 2018: a Carnival Day stall on February 20th, an autonomous Meet and Greet Picnic on February 23rd and an introductory Collective for Week 1 on February 28th.

We commissioned an artist of colour for the design of our tote bags and then worked with the Communications department to adapt the design for use on the bags. Comms also helped with creating our department bookmarks, which had our event details. Inside the bags, we put the bookmarks, copies of our department magazine, Myriad, from the previous year, and various snacks bought from businesses run by PoC. Our Carnival Day stall was a success and gave us the opportunity to meet and connect with new students who were eager to get involved with the department.

Our Meet and Greet Picnic was a smaller, tight-knit casual event with catering provided by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre's (ASRC) catering service.

We promoted our introductory Collective through our social media channels, on our website and in person at our SummerFest Carnival Day stall. As a result, we had approximately 25 attendees at this event, a significant increase compared to last year's collectives, which attracted an average of 10 people per week. Catering was provided by the Sorghum Sisters.

Weekly Autonomous Activities

The People of Colour Collective has been the most popular of our weekly autonomous events, attracting around 20 attendees per week. We have consistently provided Collective attendees with meals sourced from PoC-run businesses as a means to support the wider PoC community.

Our film screenings and reading groups compliment each other through shared themes. The theme is first explored through the week's chosen film, with readings then provided and discussed during the reading groups. These events have been popular with Collective members who appreciate the chance to explore deeper critical analysis of topics like Orientalism, white saviourism and the discourse surrounding black women's beauty practices.

Tutor training with the Arts Faculty

We were approached by a contact in the Arts Faculty who was interested in developing materials for cultural sensitivity training for staff following the involvement of previous Office Bearers in tutor training workshops last year. We are working to provide them with materials and to potentially organise some workshops.

Diversity Week

The University-wide Diversity Week was held in Week 4. We met with a staff member from the Arts Faculty to discuss our involvement during the week and proposed a keynote speaker discussing and critiquing the concept of diversity, as well as a speaker event about racism in the healthcare system and its effects on the wellbeing of PoC, held in collaboration with the Disabilities and Indigenous departments.

On Monday the 19th of March, we invited Dr Yassir Morsi to speak about 'Diversity, Tokenism and White Guilt'. We were pleased to have around 30 attendees at the event, including many newcomers. Attendees were engaged throughout Dr Morsi's presentation, with many taking the opportunity to ask questions and speak with him directly after the event.

On Wednesday the 21st of March we, along with the Disabilities and Indigenous departments, invited Mr Romlie Mokak, the CEO of the Lowitja Institute, and Ms Angeline Ferdinand, a research fellow with the Centre for Health Policy, to talk about 'Racism, Health & Wellbeing.' This event had lower attendance but was considered engaging and informative by those that attended.

Radical Education Week

Radical Education Week was held in Week 5 and gave us the opportunity to collaborate with the Environment Department and run events highlighting the current state of academia and offer a means to improve learning spaces to make them more accessible to students of colour.

For our first Radical Education Week event, we invited Dr Yassir Morsi back to discuss and develop an action plan on the topic 'Curriculums of Colour: a discussion on academia & reading lists'.

Our second event was a repeat of the 2017 Diversity Week Workshop titled 'How privilege manifests in tutorials'. We used it as an opportunity for reporting on the experiences of students of colour in learning space, so that we could take this information to staff training opportunities in the future.

Both events were autonomous, and we were very happy with the attendance for both. Overall, this was a successful collaboration with the Environment Department.

Prayer Room

A Muslim prayer room is to be set up in Union House following concerns from students about safety and the distance from the general campus area to the current available prayer spaces. One of the Office Bearers, Reem Faiq, is a Muslim, and drew on her own experiences, as well as advice from consultations with members of the Muslim community, to determine what would be required for this room. The motion for funding to cover costs was taken to Students' Council. The associated costs included prayer mats, prayer clothing and prayer beads for both prayer spaces. Students' Council approved this motion and we are currently in the process of ordering items for the room.

Anti-Racism Workshops

Our weekly anti-racism workshops have run from Week 6 onwards. Regular attendees at our events have had the opportunity to present on a topic of their own choosing to non-autonomous audiences. Past topics have ranged from 'The Black Experience' to 'Hollywood as Cultural Imperialism'. Attendance has been building gradually and the workshops themselves have had good feedback as educational opportunities.

Myriad Magazine

Applications for the role of editor and artistic director have closed and we have chosen suitable candidates. The next stage will involve further discussion of the publication's direction for the upcoming year, as well as opening applications for subeditors and a graphics team.

Queer
Elinor Mills and Amelia Reeves

Summerfest

Summerfest was an absolute blast! We signed up over 200 students to our newsletter, handed out 500 pots of biodegradable glitter, and saw many fresh faces at our Week 0 events.

- **Intro Zine** – we printed 1000 copies of a short introduction to the department zine. We easily handed out 600 or 700 of these throughout Summerfest, and as of April, we are nearly out of them! The zine is an incredibly important piece of media for the department, as it brings together creative and informative pieces. We wanted to have something that could serve as a guide to queer life in Melbourne, as well as introduce a few collective members through their art.
- **Speed Friending** – this event was a major success, with over 50 attendees! It was absolutely incredible to see so many people gathered together and getting along.
- **Picnic With The Queer Bunch** – our first event of Summerfest, following the major carnival day. This was a great, relaxed opportunity to meet new people, and catch up with old friends. We got a lot of positive feedback on this event.
- **Sleepover** – both Elinor and Amelia stayed for the full 12 hours at sleepover. We ran a number of events throughout the night, including a late night/early morning disco. At its peak, we had over 100 people dancing to some sweet queer anthems.

Major Events

- **Crafts, Beer, and Queer** – A joint event with Creative Arts. We wanted to be able to have a fun, non-autonomous event to engage with as many students as possible.
- **Study Groups** – A new initiative from the department. We will be running three, day long study rooms in weeks 11, 12, and SWOTVAC. It will be an autonomous, quiet space for queer students to get some study done. This is important to us because it exam time can be extra tough on queer students, and we want to be

able to provide a safe, and comfortable space where people can be with others and supported through exam time.

- **Respect and Diversity Weeks** – we ran special edition collectives during respect and diversity week, which were focused on how the University can actually respect and support diverse groups within the community.
- **IDAHOBIT** – the department is working with the GSA and well as the University to hold a large event for IDAHOBIT. At the time of writing, we are still in planning stages, but it has been incredible to engage with queer staff and students in order to make this event possible.

Regular Collectives

- **Lunch With The Queer Bunch** – this event occurs weekly, and we have about 30-40 regulars. Lunch is a space where everyone gets together, and is a beautiful, social space. Plus, it feels great to know that we are able to support these people every week.
- **Trans Collective** – another weekly event, with a dozen or so regular attendees. This is a space where trans and gender diverse people can get together and be supported in solidarity.
- **Queer People of Colour Collective** – this collective has had a major rejuvenation this year, and has attracted far more people than we had anticipated. This is great, and we are trying to support this collective as much as possible.
- **Queer Political Action Collective** – new this year, QPAC is a space to engage politically minded queers and campaign for our rights. We have enjoyed moderate success in this event, and have been able to take things to the University in relation to supporting trans students.
- **Coming Out Support Group** – this is an UMSU Queer affiliated group, which we provide funding for. It is often a stepping stone for people to get involved in the department.

CAMP Magazine

Perhaps the most exciting thing we're doing this year; launching a brand spanking new UMSU publication! CAMP is our baby, and we couldn't be prouder. We have a wonderful editorial team (graphics, non-fic, and creative) who we're working closely with to produce this work of art. We're currently in the process of editing all the incredible words that were submitted, and putting the pages together. At the end of the semester, we will have a launch party and be able to give the community an amazing anthology of words and art. The launch party itself will also be extra special, as it will be a piece of art itself!

Queer Collaborations

This year, the national queer conference (Queer collaborations/QC) will be held in Queensland. We are in the process of inviting our collective to the conference, and will be creating a contingent based on a Google Form. This form has been workshopped to ensure it follows the travel and conferences policy. We are hoping to send newer collective members to QC this year, and this has been reflected well in our applicants, with half of them being people who have not attended before.

Social Media

- **Newsletter** – we have been working hard on trying to reach out to the community through our newsletter. This has been used to promote our events, as well as interdepartmental events. We have been providing incentive for people to read these newsletters through giveaways, and currently we are giving away two Cinema Nova double passes per newsletter.
- **Facebook** – we have been using Facebook to promote both our events, as well as events that are relevant to the wider queer community.

Queer Space

Queer Space is an incredibly important space on campus for queer students. We provide them with a place to sit, chill, and study. This year, we're focusing on making the space as welcoming as possible. This is because we have had feedback that the space can be quite intimidating for new people. We've provided people with plenty of excuses to come in, including a chocolate and biscuit stash, and many flavours of tea. For the most part, this has been successful, especially combined with our hardwork throughout the first few weeks of semester.

<p style="text-align: center;">Welfare Cecilia Widjojo and Michael Aguilera</p>

Introduction:

Moving into the end of Semester One it has been nice to take a break and reflect what we have done so far during our term as Welfare Officers. Both of us have dealt with the extreme stress of organising large events and groups of volunteers, as well as getting our heads around complex multi-faceted campaigns that involve many different people. But at the heart of it we are both extremely grateful to have been given this position – that has brought with it a great deal of responsibility but a unique opportunity to shape and the Welfare Department around our interests and what we believe Melbourne students need. During this report we will offer a brief run-down of the Welfare portfolio; the successes, the issues we have had and our plan for moving forward for the next six months.

Cecilia and Michael

Regular Events

Our Regular Events program has traditionally been the foundation of the services that the Welfare Department can offer, as well as our main point of contact with students. Volunteers from our Community Involvement Program (CIP) have been essential in making sure that these events run smoothly; setting up, packing up and supporting the instructors.

Zumba

Weekly Zumba sessions have run from 3-4pm each Thursday afternoon during semester time. The instructor, Gabby, has been fantastic in leading these high tempo classes and offering students a chance to get their blood pumping. The classes have had between 10 and

15 students attending each session, which is enough to fill Training Room One, Union house. We will look at increasing the size of the space if we need to do so.

Yoga

Weekly Yoga Sessions have run from 5.30-6.30pm each Tuesday afternoon during semester time. Sara, the instructor, has given us really good feedback as to the students involvements. There have been between 10-20 students each week. We will need to keep an eye on the classes and assess whether we need to buy more Yoga Mats, or book a larger space.

Meditation

Weekly Meditation Sessions have run from 4-5pm each Tuesday afternoon during semester time. Sahajyoga Meditation is practiced in over 100 countries across the world, and is a great way of reducing stress, increasing mental and emotional stability and sharpening the mind. Both Cecilia and Michael have tried the sessions and have appreciated the moment of quiet and reflection. Our instructor, **, has enjoyed the eagerness of those that have taken part. She has however been concerned with the amount of students, between 1-5, each session. We will look at other ways to advertise the classes, and experiment with the time of day and location to appeal to more students.

BBQ Breakfast

The Thursday morning BBQ breakfast been a bedrock of the Welfare Department for years. Operating two BBQ's and a production line of four tables, the Breakfast runs between 8.30-10.30am each Thursday morning. We are proud to say that we served a record 400 students during Week 7. The Breakfast runs only through the constant support of our CIP Volunteers. There are roughly 20 Volunteer's and 3-5 of our supervisors each week. We serve cooked bacon and eggs and pancakes, as well as juice, milk and cereal and toast with spreads. To cater for vegetarian and vegan students we offer soy milk, and have just added hash browns to the cooked menu. Both students and volunteers have found that the BBQ has been great in getting them into University early and making sure that they have access to free food – breaking down the barriers to eating a healthy breakfast in the morning. Looking to next semester we would like to serve 600 students by the end of the year. In order to do this we will need to hire another BBQ and continue to grow our volunteering network. We would also like to offer more gluten free and vegetarian options.

Breakfast Bar

The Breakfast Bar runs every day of the week during the semester. The successful launch of the Ida Bar meant that the venue was ideal for hosting the regular event. The bar manager Tom has been supportive of the program and has done everything he can to help it run smoothly. In the first few weeks of semester we changed our initial approach to the events – only running three days a week – because students were interested in coming each day. This is reflected in our Budget document. We offer toast and spreads, cereal and milk, and have managed to organise a coffee thermos through UMSU events. We are currently serving around ** students each morning. The setup, pack up and upkeep of the Breakfast Bar is only made possible by our CIP Volunteers.

Mental Health and Wellness Collective

The Mental Health and Wellness Collective runs every second Tuesday from 4.15-5.15PM. The disabilities officers have been essential in helping us get this regular event off the ground. The aim is that we compliment the Anxiety Support Group by offering a collective for those that don't deal with Anxiety. The sessions have been well attended, between 3-8 people each time, and we have been able to have good talks and brainstorming around

healthy behaviours and habits. Moving forward we would like a clear set of discussion points beforehand.

Welfare Collective

The regular Welfare Collective takes place each Wednesday from 12-1pm. We have a regular group of students that come each week. They have been useful in providing ideas to the Office Bearer's around organising events and the direction of the department. We had several themed events – such as a 'Milk and Cookies Collective' and several of the students and volunteers have even made food at home, which has been delicious. We will continue to foster our Welfare community through the Collective.

Welfare Committee

After a few initial hiccups we have been moving through the Welfare Committee meetings smoothly. All the members are attentive and knowledgeable about the portfolio of the Department and, alongside our Collective, provide essential suggestions for approaching events and general budgetary issues. We couldn't be happier.

Special Events

To build student engagement with Welfare and UMSU generally, we have run various larger scale events during semester One. The events have appealed to various student demographics and interests and therefore it has been important to work with various of the other departments (P.O.C, Environments, Activities ect.) The events however have only been achievable through the help of our Community Involvement Program (CIP) volunteers and supervisors.

O-Week

During O-Week we took part in two whole of union events. Firstly, Department Day gave us the opportunity to present ourselves to the students that were getting a feel for the University and UMSU. Our stall was 'beach themed' and was decorated by inflatable swans and towels. We ran the duck pond game in which students were rewarded with Zooper Doopers if they were successful. This gave us a chance to chat about our plans for the year and the various regular events we were planning. This was also the first time we began advertising our CIP Program and the CIP Launch Party. Secondly we took part in the O-Week Sleepover event. We ran and monitored the 'Welfare HQ' space on the First Floor of Union House. However, we were not adequately advised by the Activities Officers as to the running of the event, nor given support during the night. We suggest this event be seriously reconsidered next year.

Co-Op Day

Soon after, in week 3***, we organised the Co-Op day. This event aimed to show off the Welfare Department, Environment Department, the Book Co-Op and the Co-Op restaurant to students. We had volunteer's that made food, music that ran all afternoon and the launch of our Food Bank Program. We were happy to have this together in time for the event and had many conversations with students. This event was a pleasure to run, and would like to run this event again in Semester Two.

Stress Less Week

At the time we are writing this, Week Eight, we are coming up to Stress Less Week. This event has a week long timetable of general Welfare activities as well as collaborations with other Departments. This will need to have significant event management during the next few weeks.

University Mental Health Day

We have been to meetings with the University over the last month so we can collaborate on University Mental Health Day on May 1st. We will be contributing our regular event program to the day, as well as our volunteer base through the CIP. We look forward to this day very much as a chance for students to relax and take time to de-stress, learn some effective behaviours and promote general wellbeing and mental health.

Campaigns

Historically, Welfare has been a service based department. However, this year we have lead a series of advocacy campaigns out of the Office.

Drug Harm Reduction

Over the last few years UMSU has attempted to implement a policy and procedure around Harm Reduction measures for students. We have been restricted thus far by the University and we have heard out and responded to their concerns. Daniel, the General Secretary, has worked with Welfare, the President, Harm Reduction Victoria (Dance Wise) and Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) to put together a comprehensive policy document. We are looking to Second Semester this year to establish a pilot program for pill-testing kits. Please refer to the terms of reference of the Drug Harm Reduction Working Group.

Mental Health Services

The Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) department of the University has restructured that way that they offer their services to students this year. We completely support this move, that will make sessions more easily available to students that need it most. However we will be working with CAPS, Advocacy and the National Union of Students (NUS) to build a campaign to lobby the University to allocate dearly needed funding to the department, and student services as a whole.

Tenants Victoria

Tenants Victoria is an advocacy service that offers advice around being a tenant. This year we have linked up with RMIT Student Union (RUSU) and UMSU Legal and have come up with a campaign to inform students and raise awareness around their rights in tenancy agreements and at home generally. This will begin during the first week of semester two. In the meantime we will be in contact with RUSU's Welfare Department and the NUS welfare Officer.

Syndicate

We have contributed to the creation of the Syndicate Action Collective under the Education Public Department. There has been the launch of the Collective, two events, and a planned campaign to address potential wage exploitation of workers in Union House.

Food Bank Program

Our Food Bank Program has been an essential service for students during this semester. It is a growing issue for young people who cannot afford basic essentials. The Food Bank is now up and running with 50 or so packs being taken each week.

Community Involvement Program (CIP)

We established the Community Involvement Program during this semester. This has been the jewel at the centre of the Welfare Department. The comprehensive volunteer network aims to train students to manage and engage with event planning, as well as involving them in the various campaigns and elements of the Welfare portfolio.

Women's Kareena Dhaliwal and Molly Willmott

Key Activities, as of 23rd April 2018

Women's Room Maintenance

In December 2017, we restocked the supplies in the Women's Room. We ordered tampons, condoms (including non-latex) and dams. Every few weeks, we top up the supply drawers in the Women's Room and place orders for items that are running out.

We went through the shelf of pamphlets and threw out the ones that were outdated or irrelevant. We cleared out the storage cupboards and reorganized the room to make more space available. We also ordered a new kettle for the room to replace the old broken one. We met with the archivist from the Rowden White Library to discuss the files and historical documents in the Women's Room and office. Sorting through these files is an ongoing process.

Summerfest

We commissioned a student artist to design the department tote bags. We ordered 2000 and distributed over half of them during Summerfest. We're keeping the remaining bags for Winterfest.

We worked with more student artists on the graphics for the Princess Ida zine, a guide to the 2018 Women's Department, and on badges for the department and the Women's Action Collective.

We ordered T-shirts for the department, to be worn by volunteers at our events. These can be used in future years.

At our Carnival Day stall, we had a picnic, as well as interactive banner and badge-making activities. We distributed tote bags, which included the Princess Ida zine, copies of Judy's Punch from 2016 and 2017, and material promoting the Women's Rights at Work festival. We spoke to hundreds of students about our department. We were joined by Kate Crossin, the Women's Officer for the National Union of Students. Kate talked about her *We Will Not Be Silent* campaign addressing sexual assault and harassment on campus.

We held a Feminism 101 panel, featuring Celeste Liddle, Lauren Rosewarne, Marley Holloway-Clark and Karin Zhu, and moderated by Kareena.

During Week 1, we held 'Smash the Pastry-archy' themed versions of our weekly collectives, involving lots of desserts.

During the Union House Sleepover, we kept the Women's Room open and supervised all night as an autonomous sleeping space.

Collectives

Molly runs the Women's Collective and Kareena runs the Women of Colour Collective each week. We've had great attendance and discussion throughout the semester.

We've started up the Transfemme collective. As expected for a new collective, it has been small so far, but we hope to see some growth over the rest of the year.

The Women's Action Collective (also known as WAC) is another new initiative, aiming to equip women with skills in activism and running campaigns. The first WAC was a sign making session on International Women's Day.

Judy's Punch

Judy's Punch is the department's annual magazine. We distributed most of the leftover copies of the magazine from 2017 and 2016 during Summerfest.

Kareena has been organising the Judy's Punch Collective, which creates a space for group discussion on the direction and content of the 2018 edition.

International Women's Day

In addition to the sign making session, we held a picnic on South Lawn as a way for people to meet up and make friends before we all went to join the official march.

We also collaborated with Rowden White Library to curate a special IWD display of books and DVDs

Respect Task Force

This is the University's peak body to discuss issues of sexual assault and harassment on campus. Molly has been attending the monthly meetings as a representative of the Women's Department, and also redrafted the UMSU Recommendations to the Respect Task Force, informed by in-depth research and consultation with UMSU's CEO and Legal Department. These recommendations have been approved by Student's Council and presented to the Respect Task Force.

Rad Sex and Consent Sessions

Instead of a dedicated week, we have opted to run sessions throughout the year. The first session was presented by Euphemia Russell in Week 5. We will be collaborating with other departments on sessions over the rest of the year. The Disabilities Department will be running two sessions early in Semester 2.

Women's Mentoring Network and Networking Nights

The first Networking Night is set to run in Week 10, focusing on women in STEMM careers. Kareena is co-ordinating the Mentoring Network. Applications have closed and mentors and mentees are in the process of being paired up.

Screening of The Hunting Ground

This will run on Wednesday, the 2nd of May, from 4 to 6:30pm in the Guild Theatre. The film screening will be followed by a panel featuring both Women's Officers, NUS Women's Officer Kate Crossin, Rose-Monet Wilson Scott and Nina Funnell. We strongly encourage students to attend this event and join the conversation around consent and safety on campus.

Burnley
James Barclay

No report received.

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Vacant