



RMIT Student Union
RMIT University
Funding agreement 2011

Fourth quarter report

Reporting period

01/10/2011 - 31/12/2011

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RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

Student Life

RUSU collectives, events and activities

\$240,937 Total spent in fourth quarter

46.60% of total spend

The 4th quarter of the year at RUSU is about two things: celebrating/mourning the end of another year and preparing for the start of a new year. There are many highlights from this quarter, detailed throughout the report, but some of the standouts include:

- The RUSU Smart Cart project pilot
- The RUSU End of Year Mixtape Party
- The first 2-day 2012 Student Union Council induction sessions
- Commencing SSAF negotiations and planning
- Rolling out welfare and student support events such as stress less week
- Jointly delivering the 2nd Brunswick campus Commune Festival
- The official announcement of the RUSU annual election results!

What with all the wrapping up and planning, it's been a BUSY fourth quarter for RUSU at RMIT.

End of year Mixtape Party

The end of year party was held for ALL RMIT Students on the 10th of November at CBD venue Roxanne Parlour. This party was a huge success, attracting 450+ students, all of whom danced the night away in their "double denim" to the music of Purple Sneakers DJs, M.a.f.i.a, The Bad Cats and RMIT's own Smoking Toddlers. It was a positive and energetic way for the students to celebrate the end of exams until 2am!



Preparation for major RUSU events in 2012

We have some HUGE plans for events in early 2012 including:

- O'Week SUMMER SCHOOL O'NITE PARTY
- O'Week edition of Drinks with Friends
- Participation in the 2012 RMIT O'Days
- "Welcome Back" Chill n Grill for 2012
- RMIT heats, Victorian Finals and National Finals of the National Campus DJ Comp

Equipment loans

RUSU is the ONLY place at RMIT for clubs, SSG and RMIT departments to access high quality DJ and band PA equipment. In last quarter we worked alongside Students Services and RMIT Corporate events to provide them with equipment for Movember and the Vice Chancellor's cocktail party.

RUSU not only provides RMIT's departments with equipment but also sources DJ's and performers for these events – for example, our own CC Disco played at the VC's end of year party (apparently the Vice Chancellor is a BIG disco fan!!). While we are happy to help out with these events, it does create additional work and there is wear and tear on our equipment.

RUSU volunteers

While we have MASSIVE plans for a new volunteer program in 2012, the 2nd half of 2011 provided RUSU with a prime opportunity to pilot new ideas for training and engagement and lay the foundations for a reinvigorated program.

- 30 events volunteers received Responsible Service of Alcohol and Food Handling certificate training

- 4 of RUSU's Semester 2, 2011 activities and events volunteers gained accreditation from RMIT LEAD for completing over 5 hours training and 15 hours volunteering with RUSU.
- Volunteers participated in programs such as Chill 'n' Grill, Student Advocacy and Appeals, Compass Drop-In Centre, Clubs and Societies, RUSU Information Counter services and RUSU Realfoods.
- Compass Drop-In Centre 2012 volunteers (from social work, youth work and psychology courses at RMIT) began training in October 2011.



Looking ahead to the 2012 RUSU Volunteer program

RUSU will continue to improve its LEAD accredited Volunteer Program in 2012 by:

- Combining all current areas of volunteering into one volunteer database. This means that students will be able to volunteer across the various RUSU departments including Realfoods, events and activities, the information desks, student advocacy and appeals, campaigns and within the Compass Drop-In Centre.
- Introducing a new training schedule including free certified RSA, First Aid, communication, leadership and Food Handling training.
- Increasing the number of volunteers through a highly coordinated volunteer induction and welcome session.
- Updating RUSU volunteer policies in line with the new program, LEAD accreditation and Volunteering Australia standards.

Building on-campus student life

City

RUSU continues to show what it's made of with a variety of awesome events and programs being run on RMIT City Campus.

- Chill 'n' Grill – Our signature free food/beer/cider/acoustic event went out with a bang on the 12th Oct during "Ride to RMIT" day. With great weather, there was a huge turnout of around 500 students.
- Drinks with Friends – The final few weekly "Drinks with Friends" events at Pearson and Murphy's Café (Bld 1) were very successful. Featuring DJ's such as Zac Rampage from PBSFM and D-Ceed. Students really enjoyed the warm weather, the

music and the chance to relax with friends on campus!

- Free Breakfasts – We kept churning out the free bagels, pastries, muffins and fruit every Thursday morning until the end of exams, feeding around 200 students every week as part of a welfare program to assist students experiencing student poverty.
- International Student lunches – Every Friday, both international and local students have enjoyed a free lunch, themed as according to the traditional foods of home countries, and a chance to socialise with other students. This has proven a great event which will continue throughout 2012.



Bourke Street

RUSU is constantly being told by Bourke Street students that there is "nothing happening" on their campus! Bourke Street is a very difficult campus to hold events on, due to strict space restrictions and an inability to hold any events inside during the winter months. With the year wrapping up and planning beginning in earnest for the move to the SAB, RUSU decided to see the year out with one big bash.

- "Pop-up-Pub Final Blow-out" – The final Pop Up Pub session of 2011 was held on Wednesday 12th October 2011. Music was provided by DJs Deacon Rose from JJJ and Airwolf and free beer, wine, cider and soft drinks were also made available. This has been a very popular event throughout 2011 for the business students and will be continued in 2012 and expanded to include a BBQ.

Bundoora

Just because Bundoora is far away, doesn't mean it misses out on the fun!

- Starving Students – Continuing on from the last quarter, this event is extremely popular at Bundoora. Held in the Bld 204 courtyard, it encourages students to gather on the grassed area in groups, listening to music while eating and drinking. This event also provides an invaluable weekly platform for staff and representatives from RUSU, RMIT Link Arts and Sport and Recreation and Student Services to do outreach work.
- Stress Less Week – Bundoora also participated in Stress Less Week with 300 'Young and the Stressless' exam help kits handed out along with free 5 minute massages and fruit. The kits proved to be very popular and were claimed by students very quickly; initiatives such as this are always very successful at Bundoora.
- Free Yoga - The weekly Yoga classes are part of RUSU efforts to improve student wellbeing at the Bundoora campus. The wellbeing of students has been cited as a priority area, with a considerable number of students in contact with the student rights department experiencing mental health related issues. The classes were very popular in 2011, with numbers building to a regular group of 25 students every session.



Brunswick & Carlton

RUSU ended 2011 with heaps happening for TAFE students! As a result of a small survey of Brunswick students, we started selling discounted movie tickets from the Brunswick info desk and began one free yoga class every week for students. Other great 4th quarter events included:

- "I Pity the fool" Free Tuesday Lunches - Free pizza, salad and a DJ – what more could you want?! This event will continue in 2012.
- Free Yoga - We got a really positive response to free yoga from Brunswick campus, particularly during the hectic exam period.
- 2nd Commune Festival - The theme for this event was "within a pedal of RMIT" and so a range of stall holders from the Brunswick community were in attendance. RUSU organised a free Argentinean BBQ lunch, music, giveaways and drinks and networking nibbles following the carnival. Sustainability was a major consideration, with the stall holders representing a wide range of fashion, jewellery and accessories that fit this theme. Drinks were provided by the GoodBrew Company. RUSU also supported RMIT Link Arts in their campaign to promote student sculpture on Brunswick campus.
- Carlton Free Weekly Brunch – This event has started to attract a crowd of building 94 regulars, eager for a sugar fix early Thursday morning. We offer free fruit, pastries, muffins and bagels with spreads and juice boxes to students.



Building on-campus student life 2012

The campuses all have lots planned for 2012:

- Free Lunch events on all campuses
- Free Yoga on all campuses
- Cheap movie tickets at Bundoora and Brunswick
- Monthly POP UP PUB's in Tivoli
- Free book binding at Brunswick
- Bigger Chill 'n' Grill events
- Carlton Tradie "knock off" drinks
- 'Let's Talk About Sex' education day

RUSU Environment Dept.

The environment department was kept busy well into the 4th quarter with a lot of activity from the Smart Cart Trial, RUSU Realfoods and activities emerging from the Bike Grant.

SMART CART

Psst, feed your brain for \$5 or under!

Be there or be hungry. Get SMART, the CART is coming.

Tasty snacks and light meals delivered straight to your desk!

The SMART CART will be cruising the SWANSTON ST LIBRARY (Bld 8, Lvl 5) 6-8pm Tuesday-Thursday

From Tuesday 13 September.

COMPASS RUSU realfoods

www.su.rmit.edu.au . www.facebook.com/RUSUpage . www.twitter.com/RMITSU . www.youtube.com/RUSUonline

Bike Grant update

This last quarter was a big one for the RUSU Bike Grant, with events and promotion and planning at full speed.

- **RUSU Bike Festival Day** - To promote bicycle riding at RMIT, and in conjunction with RMIT Property Services' Ride to Work day, RUSU organised a festival in Bowen Street. Activities included free breakfast, bike themed market stalls and a live BMX stunt show. Various organisations came out to support the festival, which coincided with the 2nd Commune Festival on Brunswick Campus (including the theme "Within a Pedal of Brunswick").
- **Bike Polo Tournament** - Presented by RUSU, RMIT Greens and CCEN. RMIT Brunswick campus played host to the first (and hopefully annual) cross campus bike polo tournament. RUSU supported the RMIT Greens club to host the event. The RUSU bike grant is all about promoting and supporting bike initiatives, including demonstrating bike sports that students can get involved with.
- **Queer History Bike Ride** - From beats to coffee houses, the birth of Gay Liberation to ACT UP, RUSU facilitated a bike tour of Melbourne's Queer history. Meeting at the fountain beside the Exhibition Building we travelled on bike to significant Queer landmarks, finishing in Alexandra Gardens just south of the river. This event was co-produced by the RUSU Bike Grant and the RUSU Queer Department.



On ya' Bike in 2012

In 2012, RUSU will work with RMIT Property Services to refurbish and redistribute to students approximately 100 discarded bikes abandoned on the City Campus throughout 2011. Similar to how the Furniture Cage recycling works, RUSU will ensure all fixed up bikes are distributed for free to RMIT students.

RUSU Realfoods

RUSU Realfoods, under the guidance of Café coordinator Lucy, has gone from strength to strength in 2011. Serving hundreds of students and staff every week, it maintains opening hours of 11am - 4pm Monday to Friday, during semester and offers students not only great quality food and but a plethora of professional development opportunities.

Highlights from 4th quarter

- **Tip Jar Takings for Charity:** \$407.45 to partners BOS Australia, and Gene Ethics
- **RUSU Volunteers:** 35-40 student volunteers rostered on weekly in three daily slots of 1 ½ hours each. Include first year through to mature-age students from a wide variety of courses. Volunteer numbers are particularly strong from students of the Bachelor of Science (Food Technology & Nutrition)
- **Student Casuals:** The 3 Realfoods Student Casual positions, which were created at the start of Semester 2, continued to maintain their volunteer shifts each week, but were available for emergency relief when the co-ordinator required. These positions have proven to be an invaluable and necessary part of Realfoods.
- **Cooking classes:** RUSU Realfoods cafe hosted its final healthy cooking demonstration for the year - 'Real Brain Food' on Tuesday, 11 October. It was an evening of cooking demonstrations and nutrition tips on how to boost your brain power, increase your clarity and pump up your memory - all the while enjoying healthy, nutritious, fair-trade and delicious food! Special guests were health food chef Kemi Nekvapil and nutritionist/author/media personality Lola Berry. Event highlights included door prizes, recipe samples, Q & A time with our guests, and a free e-recipe book for all attendees. With an audience turn-out of about 130 people, it was our most successful demo yet! The demo was also filmed by a volunteer from RMITV.



RUSU Realfoods feedback



Kemi Baruwa-Nekvapil (Kemi's Raw Kitchen): "I hope there will be more events Lucy. You know how to create ones that make a difference. X"



RMIT student Heath: "Thanks for the invite!! It was great and I want to get a lesson with Kemi! Lola was energized!... count me in for any other events!"



RMIT student: "Thanks for organising a great event!!"



RMIT student Jo: "Thanks Lucy. You and your volunteers put on an outstanding night again. Loved Kemi and Lola and all the yummy food :)"

RUSU catering/events work

- World Vegan Day
- Department of Maths and Geospatial Sciences (ongoing staff lunch meetings)
- RMIT Property Services

Top menu items at Realfoods

- Chai Latte
- Smoothie
- Cupcake
- Curry
- Pies
- gRAWnola bars

RUSU Realfoods customer feedback highlights

"I just had the most amazing tofu stir fry from you guys. One of the best I've ever had. Congrats to whoever made it."

Eike Zeller (via email)

'Thanks a million for everything this year, it's been amazing having your support, as well as your mind-altering, soul-replenishing, love-full food to keep us going.'

Ivana (RMIT City Fitness)

"I love the food and the staff are so friendly."

Jabir Jonuzi (customer)

Smart Cart trial

Research published by the RMIT Health Promotions Unit (2010), highlights that many RMIT students are experiencing challenges in terms of maintaining a healthy, balanced diet. Barriers to good nutrition were identified as time constraints, monetary pressures, nutritional knowledge and limited food skills (including purchasing food and cooking).

Anecdotal evidence from RMIT library staff suggests that students studying at night have limited access to healthy food - this led to discussions between the Student Union, RMIT Health Promotions Unit and the RMIT Library, as to how this problem could be addressed. The result of these discussions was the 'Smart Cart', envisioned as a mobile food cart which would provide affordable, healthy food to students working in the library at night.

A trial of the Smart Cart was commissioned as joint Compass/Realfoods project and was managed by a 4th Year Social Work student – the trial ran from the 13th of September to the 24th October. The Smart Cart operated at the Swanston St Library between the hours of 6pm-8pm. Food for the Smart Cart was prepared within the RealFoods kitchen and included bottled drinks and water, organic crisps, muffins, sushi and pre-packed noodle meals.

Throughout the 6 week trail, the Smart Cart proved to be an effective vehicle, particularly in terms of engaging students one on one in discussions focused on nutrition. In total, **521 students purchased items from the Smart Cart**, demonstrating the popularity of this service. The key aspect of this trial was the demonstrated capacity of the Smart Cart to provide an intervention to assist students in overcoming barriers to making healthy food choices. This was done through key features of the cart:

- It was mobile – the food came to the students!
- It was cheap – the value for money was good and special “meal deals” were developed in order to increased the affordability aspect
- It was student/peer run – this made communicating about nutrition and the importance of the cart more accessible.
- It was a novel idea – just the fun of buying something from the cart ensured we had repeat customers!

A comprehensive analysis of the Smart Cart Trial has been completed by the RMIT Student Union. Recommendations include the following:

- That the Smart Cart is adopted as a regular fixture within the library, either throughout semesters 1 and 2, or in the latter half of each semester in the lead up to exams.
- The Smart Cart should have a clear focus on improving the nutrition of RMIT students, which is reflected in the menu items available for sale by the Smart Cart. Ideally, menu items should involve a combination of foods which are healthy, promote cognitive function, are simple to eat, affordable and attractive to students.
- The Smart Cart should provide students with access to healthy food, however this should be accompanied by effective communication aimed at increasing awareness of what constitutes a healthy, balanced diet
- Regarding the key barriers to nutrition, which are identified as time and cost, the Smart Cart should make available simple, affordable and recipes which students can prepare at home with limited preparation time. Furthermore, these recipes should be accompanied by very basic cooking information, which assists students to develop essential cooking skills they otherwise may not have.

RUSU Furniture Cage

The Furniture Cage is a service provided for students with multiple benefits. These include:

- Addressing student income issues by providing free furniture to allow students to create conducive study environments in the home with reclaimed furniture from the university
- Reducing the ecological footprint of RMIT through diverting waste from landfill
- Providing a platform for students to engage with sustainability concepts, including frameworks such as Re-use and Re-cycle.

Highlights

- Student Casual position hired for 3 hours per week to manage the open cage, distribute furniture and promote the cage at special events.
- A social gathering for the furniture cage collective held at the John Curtain Hotel.
- Engagement with property services, to attain furniture from RMIT, including the old Bundoora medical clinic.
- Weekly operation of the furniture cage with an average attendance of 10 to 25 students.
- Distribution and diversion of approximately three (rubbish) truckloads of furniture from landfill, to students and staff of RMIT by the end of Semester 2, 2011.



Furniture distributed in 4th quarter

- 18 x Office Chairs
- 2 Large bookshelves
- 2 x 3-Draw filing Cabinet
- 1 Day bed
- 1 x Giant Shelf (cubes)
- 1 x Large Cabinet
- 3 x Office Tables
- 1 x Buffet Cabinet

Building on the Furniture Cage in 2012

In order to maintain productivity and services in 2012, we are planning for the following:

- Increased hours for the student casual position to allow for more access for proper cataloguing and distribution of furniture
- Increased contact and communications with the university to identify buildings scheduled for refurbishment. Ensure that they are aware of the furniture cage and that times are established for deliveries and storage in the space.
- Undertake a promotions campaign prior to start of semester one in 2012.

RUSU Clubs & Societies

2011 was a year of change for RUSU Clubs & Societies. The Department saw a huge growth in the number of affiliated clubs and the re affiliation of a number of previously inactive clubs.

Grants and financial support

From October 2011 to the end of the year, RUSU Clubs and Societies allocated 108 individual grants totalling \$35,023.60. This amount exceeded the annual Grants budget by some \$7,500 but was met by additional funds sourced through the closure of inactive club bank accounts. There were 444 individual RUSU C&S grants allocated throughout 2011, with a **total budget expense of \$127,500**.

New clubs of the quarter

- RMIT Oxfam – an Activist club aiming to build awareness and support for Oxfam and social justice issues at RMIT and in the broader community
- RMIT Youth Work Club – a club for RMIT BA Youth Work Students
- RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian Fellowship – a new Spiritual Club
- The Frat – a new social club – focusing on large events for all RMIT students, some of which will be in conjunction with RUSU Activities.
- Be Well – a new academic club based at Bundoora for online Master of Wellness students and undergrad students studying Wellness electives within the School of Health Sciences. This will be RUSU's first academic club for online students and marks a new chapter in RUSU's contribution to student life.

Club events

The RUSU C&S Grants allocated over this last quarter focused on end of year events, AGMS and student organised and funded exhibitions and catalogues. RUSU also supports club fundraising towards these events through its Functions grant category. Club representatives also attended conferences and professional development opportunities. The majority of C & S events were held on campus with some of the larger end of year social and academic events held at various venues around Melbourne. From the attendance records provided, **over 5000 students, staff and community members participated in RUSU club events during this period**. This number does not include attendance at club events that did not require RUSU support.

RUSU club highlights

- The wide range of student organised and funded exhibitions, art auctions, catalogues and fashion runways are the highlight of the final part of each academic year. Whilst some Programs are required to present end of year or graduating shows and thus receive funding and other practical support from their Schools for end of year and graduating exhibitions etc, other Programs do not have such a requirement. Where academic Programs do not have academic requirement for such presentations of work but students feel it is important to showcase their efforts, RUSU C&S funding and support is essential. This support takes many forms - financial, assistance with promotional design, access to BBQ equipment for fundraisers, use of the RUSU eftpos machine for auctions and sales etc, event planning support, assistance with room bookings etc. Financial grants for student clubs are only part of how RUSU supports its' affiliated clubs.

- The gorgeous MET students brightening up City Campus by dressing up as pandas and tigers to promote the clubs' boat cruise
- RMIT Singapore Students Association stall at the Malaysia Street festival at the Vic Market (durian anyone?)
- Another hugely successful Medical Radiation Students Association Annual Ball
- **RMIT Japan Club won the 2011 "International Students Have Talent Show"** hosted by Darebin City Council & Latrobe University as part of its' "Festival of Light and Friendship". To see footage of the Clubs performance, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_wOKesXNtE or just search You Tube for "International Students Have Talent "
- Also have a look a You Tube for footage of the RMIT Indian Club "Bollywood Flash Mob" performance at RUSU's Men's Health Week



RUSU club training, support & representation

- Another round of club training in November enabled 40 RUSU Club Representatives and RUSU Volunteers to gain their Responsible Service of Alcohol qualifications. This training ensures both RUSU and the clubs can meet their legal and ethical duty of care for our students and make wise decisions around event planning, venue selection and ensuring the well being of members and friends.
- A full Program of Training has been developed by RUSU for Semester 1, 2012. The Program focuses on event safety and will include RSA, First Aid, Food Safety and Basic Kitchen Skills. The Training is available for free to RUSU Volunteers and RUSU Club members nominated by their club.
- Over 40 face to face meetings were held between the C&S Officer and RUSU Clubs preparing their end of year activities and to work with the Clubs in planning 2012.
- The C&S Officer attended the annual Tertiary Recreation and Entertainment Victoria (TREV) Professional Development Conference. This Conference enables RUSU Clubs & Activities Staff to meet their peers from other Victorian Universities and TAFEs, to discuss issues pertinent to all campus Student Life workers and to develop a program of events across all institutes.

One outcome of the Conference is that RUSU will host a Clubs & Societies Staff professional development day at RMIT. The Day will bring in a broader cross section of campus representatives and be particularly valuable in light of the reintroduction of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF).

- Contact has been made with all political/activist groups related to RUSU activist clubs to determine the formal connections between the campus clubs and the political/activist groups. This is being done in light of changes to the reintroduced SSAF legislation that now bans the use of SSAF funds "to support political parties".
- RMIT ITS is assisting RUSU C&S by providing an club specific RMIT email address for every RUSU Club. This will increase our Clubs' professional standing, improve recognition by the community and ensure a measure of administrative and communications continuity for clubs across the years.
- The C&S Officer is working with the Orientation Steering Committee and particularly RUSU Activities, University Events and Property Services to plan RUSU Clubs participation in Orientation 2012. One development is that clubs will have the option of being located either at Alumni Courtyard or around the Spiritual Centre for the City Big O Event. This will enable clubs that seek a quieter space to be located somewhere other than busy, noisy Alumni. The extension of the space is also an opportunity for The Spiritual Centre to become more involved with Orientation. The area will also host "SEEDS" community enterprises, free fair-trade coffee and is shaping up to be a lovely addition to O Week. C&S is also funding a bus to transport City based clubs to and from the Bundoora Big O Day as a means of increasing participation in the day, getting more clubs out to Bundy and creating a bit of community.

One last thing on clubs...

RMIT Youth Work Club has applied for 2012 National Youth Week Grant through the Dept Planning & Community Development. Their application focuses on the development and delivery of a peer empowerment program. RUSU is auspicing this application and we wish our new Youth Work Club the very best and look forward to the activities of this new academic club.

Student media Spotlight on RMITV

In December RMITV and RUSU met with RMIT reps and EduTAG to discuss RMITV's continued studio use in 2012 and the associated costs. At this meeting it became clear that studio use must benefit students as it poses a direct cost to the University and as such RMITV has negotiated that we will work towards an 80% benchmark for student participation in studio based shoots. While this will negatively affect some productions, it also heralds the beginning of a significantly more student focused era for RMITV.

There are a huge number of people who help RMITV run each year; and we want to quickly acknowledge some of them! Thanks to:

The whole team at RUSU, Craig & Brian in the Studio, EduTAG for our access to said studio, Kirk & Caitlin at C31, Brett Ramsey from In Pit Lane, Darcy Bonser & Lisa Sloetjes from Studio A, Naomi Davis, Darren McAuliffe & Astyn Reid as our outgoing Management Team members, Eliza Beck & Nicole Brown as former General Managers and of course, all our student volunteers!

Productions

- Studio A - RMITV's flagship production, Studio A went out on a high note in November with an extended Christmas themed finale that ran for an extra 30 minutes with thanks to the generous assistance of Channel 31! In addition to this; we were supported by the Order of Melbourne who graciously allowed us to do a live cross to their rooftop bar. It has been many years since RMITV has attempted a live cross and this one went off without a hitch thanks to Studio A's Producers and dedicated crew. The cast also deserve a mention here as we say farewell to Tommy Little & the gang! Overall, an incredible last episode that encapsulates the amazing opportunity RMITV has been able to provide through Studio A over the years.
- Undergrads- a comedy series about student life, aired in September and October. For the small but dedicated group of writer/actor/producers behind it, the long, hard slog was finally over and they got to see what they had poured their energy into for a year go to air. Congratulations to all involved, a great effort!
- Fergus in Hell - Fergus in Hell is a sitcom about love, life and eternal damnation, and it finally hit screens around Melbourne in October 2012. After over a year of sleepless nights, long shoots and frantic color grading, the team behind Fergus have completed their first season, receiving average viewer numbers at 14,300 per episode and generating lots of positive buzz around the RMITV community. Fergus in Hell is likely to return for a second season in 2012.



Social events

Studio A had a wrap party in early December, kindly hosted by Wayne at Rue de Fleurus in Fitzroy. Cast and crew alike took the opportunity to kick back and enjoy a hard earned beverage or two while celebrating a fantastic season's work. This event could not have been possible without financial assistance from RUSU, who provide Studio A's budget or without the hardwork of producers Darcy Bonser & Lisa Sloetjes.

The RMITV Christmas Party took place at the Workers Club, Fitzroy, on December 13. Our annual Christmas Party is a great chance for our volunteers to meet each other and share their experiences from different productions, and to get producers, board members and Management Team members alike chatting. We also use this as an opportunity to recognize the hard work of key volunteers with small a thank you, drawn from our Volunteer Recognition Budget provided by RUSU. This year we chose to recognize a large number of volunteers with two movie passes – a smaller gift than previous years but one which allowed us to acknowledge more people. The event was thoroughly enjoyable and we would like to thank RUSU for providing our events funding, the Workers Club for all the lovely drinks & snacks, and Ruth Sayers, General Manager, for organizing it.

RMITV in 2012...

2012 is looking to be a time of significant change for RMITV. We are working steadily with a focus on increasing opportunities for students to volunteer with us through the following measures:

- Bringing on a new Management Team of RMIT students
- Implementing a Training & Capacity Development pilot project for the first 6 months of the year to provide additional Workshops & Training events free of charge to students! We could not do

this without assistance from RUSU who are providing funding for an additional Volunteer on Honorarium position to oversee the project AND a significantly increased training budget.

- Agreeing to an 80% benchmark for student involvement in studio based productions and working to ensure on location productions provide more opportunities to students.
- Working to implement the RMIT LEAD volunteer program to allow students to be officially recognized for their volunteering here.
- Implementing changes to our flagship production, formerly known as Studio A, to improve creative input from students (more on that below).

Tough times never last

Long running program *Tough Times* will return in late Feb/early March and is a great opportunity for new students to try out a variety of roles and receive on the job training in different areas.

Live on Bowen

In 2012 RMITV's flagship production will be Live on Bowen, a late night talk show with an all new cast, set & creative team. This production, beginning in June, will provide opportunities for students to write, produce segments and learn about content generation, in a switch away from the Studio A style of content creation where we have comedians who are both cast and writers. Instead, Live on Bowen will adopt an industry standard model, pairing cast members with writers and producers in a collaborative learning environment. Live on Bowen is funded by RUSU and is a step towards RMITV providing not only technical crewmembers opportunities, but becoming a training ground for producers once more.



RUSU Representation and Advocacy

\$91,814 Total spent in fourth quarter

17.75% of total spend

RUSU annual election results

The Annual RUSU elections were hard fought - the declaration of the winners was delayed by 3 weeks due to an appeal against the results. Ultimately, however, the Returning Officer was able to declare the results in October and the following students were elected to sit on the 2012 SUC:

President	Hovig Melkonian
General Secretary	Jian Zhong
Activities Officer	Zac McLelland
Bundoora Co-ordinator	Luke Portelli
Bundoora Representative	Jesse Gatt
Carlton/Brunswick Co-ordinator	Matthew O'Callaghan
Carlton/Brunswick Rep	Andrew Tedja
Clubs and Societies Officer	Adrian Lekay
Education Officer	Ahlam Tariq
Environment Officer	Aditi Shah
Gen Rep	Cortney Bruch
Media Officer	James Michelmores
Gen Rep	Jordan Lockett
Gen Rep	Mengyi Lin
Gen Rep	Luke Bouwmeester
Gen Rep - RESERVE	Chris Sagewood
Gen Rep	Sarah Corridon
International Officer	Wang Zhang
Postgraduate Officer	Aaron Garth
Queer Officer	Kim D'Amazing
Queer Officer	Marcus Lim
Swanston Street Coordinator	Rachel Micallef
Swanston Street Rep	Nick Carson
Tivoli Coordinator	Xiana Chen
Tivoli Rep	Ting Li
Welfare Officer	Luke Smith
Womyn's Officer	Shyneth Paton
NUS Delegate	Darren Roso
NUS Delegate	Hovig Melkonian
NUS Delegate	Lily King
NUS Delegate	Luke Portelli
NUS Delegate	Omni Ioannou
NUS Delegate	Tim Emmanuelle
NUS Delegate	Xiana Chen

Student Representative Induction 9 - 10 December 2011

The new SUC for 2012 attended their initial Induction and training session in preparation for their Induction Conference in February. The sessions were really successful and we are all very excited about a busy and productive 2012. Over two days the council attended workshops and presentations covering everything from financial procedures to party planning to student welfare. The new reps are full of great ideas and enthusiasm and ready to build on the great work established by the 2011 SUC. 2012 is an especially important year for RUSU with the introduction of the SSAF. The new council are very aware of both the possibilities and responsibilities that may come with increased funding.

Some of the main objectives for the year for RUSU include re developing areas which were lost with the introduction of VSU, further increase of activities and services on outlying campuses, the creation of a new

disability student representative position and collective, increasing student rights assistance capacity, creation of a new Orientation scheme to address issues of student isolation and loneliness, increased communication between SUC, SSCC's and Academic Board Reps and continued improvement of the RUSU Volunteer program.

In February the reps will attend a two day away session which will build on the skills they have begun to develop in December. Professional team building training from Corporate Solutions will ensure that they are ready to tackle 2012 head on.

Appeal Committee training

Sourcing and training students to sit on appeal committees is a vital aspect of student advocacy. In the 4th quarter of 2011, RUSU was pleased to provide:

- 8 Student reps sat on 39 UAC hearings
- 5 Student reps sat on 9 Discipline hearings
- 2 Student reps sat on 3 CAC hearings

Student Rights training for new Student Liaison Officers

In December RUSU ran a training day for new staff members to get everyone up to speed before one of the busiest times of the year for student rights enquiries. Over the summer Student Liaison Officers help the Student Rights Officers deal with the large numbers of students needing assistance with appeals and applications. The training day focused on increasing the staff member's familiarity with the new series of written resources recently developed by RUSU, and the new Student Rights Administration and Caseload Policy which governs student rights processes.

Student advocacy

Summary

- Total number of new cases created October - November – 351
- Total number of cases resolved – 380
- Issues with Plagiarism hearings - students have been made to attend when it is clear they have acknowledged the source of the information they are presenting and they may have just made some minor errors in referencing -the policy says such minor issues should be dealt with as assessment matters.
- Input on RMIT Fees Audit - resulted in a lot of proposed fees being cancelled and RMIT acknowledging fees in elective subjects must comply with government guidelines -this is something new, which means RMIT will no longer even attempt to charge a lot of the fees that it has done in the past up until now.
- **RUSU used as an example of good practice in terms of equity issues in VET** by the National VET Equity Advisory Council for its student voice project.

Student Advocacy feedback

“Great news, everything’s fine, we won the case. Thanks a lot for your help, you’re a good man I really appreciate that.”

“I just read through a summary and all is good. i just checked my transcript and all subjects have been entered, to me some 8 to 10 weeks too late. Thanks again for everything, its good to know that there are people out there when someone needs help”

“Thanks a lots for that I will never forget what you did to help me during my life.”

“Just writing to say thanks for helping me out with my complicated enrollment problem. I’ll be submitting the mentor assessment in February as Grace emailed and hopefully this adventure will be over officially”

Student Advocacy statistics

Problems created during the last quarter

1. Admission Issue	10
2. Agent gave incorrect or misleading advice	13
3. Appeal Against Assessment	36
4. At Risk/Academic Progress	37
5. Bullying	9
6. Complaints	31
7. Disability	48
8. Discipline	18
9. Enrolment Issue	19
10. Exclusion	27
11. Fees Issue	7
12. Graduation Issue	6
13. Payment Plan needed	6
14. Plagiarism	22
15. Problem with course advice	2
16. Problem with exam	6
17. Refund/remission of debt	9
18. Special Consideration	42
19. Transcript error	3
Total	351

Problem Outcomes during the last quarter

1. Academic misconduct - Student penalised	4
2. Academic misconduct - Case dismissed	4
3. Academic misconduct - Student reprimand	5
4. Advice for letter given	42
5. At Risk Advice given	21
6. At Risk Withdrawn (appeal against maximum time)	2
7. Complaint Resolved	3
8. Contacted Academic Administration - Issue Resolved	1
9. Contacted Head of School - Issue Resolved	4
10. Contacted Course Coordinator - Issue Resolved	4
11. Contacted lecturer/tutor - Issue Resolved	3
12. Debt Issue Resolved	6
13. Debt Remains	4
14. Discipline Committee - Student allowed to continue	2
15. Email advice given to student	37
16. Exclusion withdrawn - by school	5
17. Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	4
18. Late Enrolment Achieved	5
19. Leave of Absence	4

20. Ombudsman Complaint	12
21. PAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Dismissed	6
22. PAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Upheld	5
23. Pass by compensation achieved	2
24. Plagiarism Meeting case - Dismissed Against Student	11
25. Plagiarism Meeting Case - Upheld Against Student	7
26. Referral Given - Counselling Service	19
27. Referral given - DLU	18
28. Referral Given - ISIS	3
29. Referral Given - Legal Service	13
30. Referral Given - SLC	12
31. School level Complaint made - Outcome Successful	10
32. School level complaint made - outcome unsuccessful	3
33. Show Cause Letter approved by SPC	4
34. Special Consideration Granted - Alternative Assessment	13
35. Special Consideration Granted - Deferred Exam Granted	11
36. Special Consideration Granted - Supplementary Exam	9
37. Special Consideration Granted - Equitable Assessment	8
38. Student withdrew from services	4
39. Subject Withdrawn	3
40. Supplementary Assessment Granted by Student Progress Committee	1
41. Support at a meeting or a review	16
42. UAC Appeal Against Assessment - Appeal Dismissed	2
43. UAC Appeal Against Exclusion - Dismissed	4
44. UAC Appeal Against Exclusion - Upheld	12
45. UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration - Appeal dismissed	2
46. UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration - Appeal Upheld	4
47. University Level Complaint Made - Outcome successful	3
48. University Level Complaint Made - Outcome unsuccessful	3

Total	380
Cases created during the last Quarter	351
Case outcomes during the last quarter	380



Compass Drop-in Centre

2011 has been a highly successful year in cementing the importance of Compass in the welfare landscape - with **over 200 student drop-in's** recorded and many, many more students engaged through on-campus events and activities.

Below is a quick breakdown of what the Compass achieved in the 4th quarter of 2011:

- There have been 27 student drop-in's between October and December. This is a similar number to that of the fourth quarter 2010, as there are far fewer students on campus during this time and Compass staff and volunteers are out of the office more than usual providing exam support programs.
- Student volunteers received their LEAD certificates for their hard work in the Compass office.
- Exam support this semester consisted of jam packed, fun filled show bags which also carried important information about stress, study tips and a guide on where to get help on campus. Over 1500 show bags were packed and distributed over all RMIT campuses
- Compass volunteers continued with their shifts this quarter, providing a great direct practice learning opportunity for the volunteers, who are all from Psychology, Social Work and Youth Work courses.
- Final year Social Work student Eva Lay finished up her placement this quarter. Eva provided a feasibility report on her project-The Smart Cart which was trialed at the Swanston St Library.
- Planning meetings were held with University stakeholders including Counseling and Health Promotion, and Compass looks forward to working in collaboration with these services throughout 2012.
- Referrals were made to external and internal agencies and services
- An ongoing working relationship with the Victorian AIDS council was set up so that youth focused programs in the prevention of HIV and AIDS can be promoted throughout RMIT on a more permanent basis.

Compass in 2012...

In 2012 Compass will continue to grow the programs that have proven a success including Yoga, Exam Support and Jump up for Men's Health. Some serious work will also be put into the Students at Risk program which will aim to support those students who are considered "At Risk" through social inclusion, activities and a buddy system. As always though, what we most hope to see is that the drop-in space continue to be utilized by students in need.

RUSU Governance, Administration and services

\$184,563 Total spent in fourth quarter

35.67% of total spend

Governance and admin highlights

Recruitment of City and Tivoli SLOs

RUSU received a fantastic response to the Student Liaison Officer staff positions advertised in October. RUSU would like to welcome Helen Cook as our new Tivoli Campus Student Liaison Officer and Tali Polichtuk (below) as our new Swanston St Campus Student Liaison Officer.



O Book Editor positions advertised and recruited

Each year RUSU recruits a team of students to produce the Orientation Handbook. This is an excellent opportunity for students to get hands on experience and a fantastic addition to a student's portfolio. Students apply as editorial teams and the successful applicants receive an incentive of \$8000. Recruitment was finalised in late October and the project is well under way!

Commented on RMIT Infrastructure Plan and SAB meeting (26th Oct)

RUSU welcomed the opportunity to review and give feedback on RMIT's Infrastructure Plan 2011- 2015, including plans for new facilities, student spaces, green house gas emission reduction targets and disability access improvements.

RUSU representatives also attended a meeting to review the student portals in the new Swanston Academic Building. RUSU is currently involved in negotiations to make this a more student friendly building.

The student body is concerned about potential issues associated with computer access, microwave access and building navigation.

It is vital that students are consulted on decisions that will affect the future of their time at RMIT and as the representative body for RMIT students, RUSU is well placed to do so. We hope that our comments will be valued as key stakeholders in RMIT's future plans.

SSAF submission

In consultation with the incoming and outgoing Student Union Council, as well as RUSU collectives and clubs, we have developed a proposed schedule of new funding areas in light of the recent Student Services Amenities Fee legislation. This will form the basis for ongoing negotiations with RMIT to determine the allocation of the funding. RUSU hopes to offer both an increase of current services as well as some exciting new ideas.

Consultation over Draft Special Consideration Policy

The Student Union Council have been contributing to ongoing discussions regarding issues with the special consideration process. RUSU take their responsibility to advocate on behalf of the student body very seriously and this issue will be a major priority for 2012. RUSU believes that an invigoration of support services and a focus on student wellbeing can help to stem rising special consideration application rates, which are an indication of the worrying state of student health at RMIT. RUSU is keen to work together with the ARG on strategies to better support RMIT students, to encourage student connectedness and to reduce stigma around help seeking and disability. As always, RUSU will be looking to see that any new policy is written with the students' best interests at heart and that RMIT standards are maintained.

Other admin achievements

- Provided feedback on RMIT's proposed changes to HDR Candidature Policy and related procedures/supporting documents
- Reworked the student rights guides and communication materials
- Commenced an I:drive mapping and re-structure project
- Prepared a new Induction Manual for Appeal Committee Reps
- Development of Staff Induction Manual underway
- Volunteer recruitment, induction, supervision and database development projects underway
- New SUC Induction manuals drafted including specific guides for student running departments such as Environment, International, Womyn's, Welfare and Postgraduate Association.
- Updating RUSU website content and design.



Finance overview

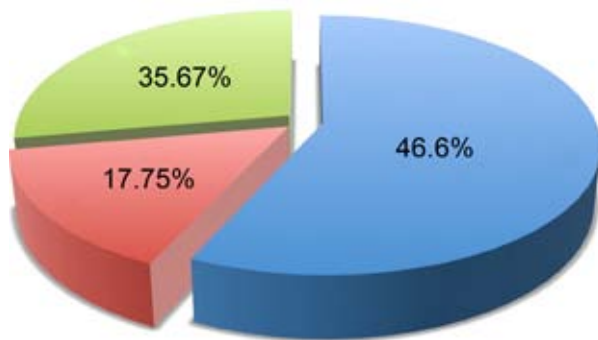
Total University Grant for 4th quarter \$425,636.00

Total Spending for 4th quarter \$517,315

Third Quarter Grant Overspent by \$91,679

Overspend offset by secondary RUSU income sources – financial membership, RUSU Realfoods Café and interest earned.

Division of grant spending



- Student Life and Clubs & Societies/Student Communications 46.6%
- Services, Student Support & Representation
Sub section: Student Representation & Advocacy 17.75%
- Services, Student Support & Representation
Sub section: Governance, Administration & Services 35.67%

Student life/Clubs & Societies and Communication

\$240,937 Total spent in fourth quarter

46.60% of total spend

Funding used for

- Staff (Clubs & Societies Officer, Sponsorship & Events Officer, Activities & Events Officer) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, work-cover costs and training
- Club grants, Student Initiatives Grants
- Materials, training and resources for student clubs and societies
- Student activities and end of year event expenses
- Student Union collective events and programs including; Environment, Realfoods, RAIS (International dept), Womyn's, Queer, Postgrad, Welfare & Education, Activities, City Campus collective, Carlton/Brunswick Campus collective, Bundoora Campus collective, Tivoli Campus collective.
- Student representative honorariums
- Student media (RMITV and Catalyst magazine) expenses including student honorariums
- Student training and capacity building initiatives
- SUC induction session 1

Services, Student Support & Representation – Sub section: Student Representation & Advocacy

\$91,825 Total spent in fourth quarter

17.75% of total spend

Funding used for:

- Staff (Student Rights Officers, SUC Admin Coordinator) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, maternity leave, work-cover costs and training
- Workshops, trainings and resources supporting student rights advocacy work and student representation functions

Services, Student Support & Representation – Sub section: Governance, Administration & Services

\$184,563 Total spent in fourth quarter

35.67% of total spend

Funding used for:

- Staff (Publications & Communications Officer, Governance & Development Officer, Finance Staff Student Liaison Officers/Front Counter staff) including salaries, superannuation, other entitlement provisions, maternity leave, work-cover costs and training
- Governance and Administration support for representation, advocacy, student life activities and functions
- Office administration such as finance and accounting, banking, leasing, stationery, postage, photocopying, utilities and equipment
- Managing room bookings for the Student Union Meetings room at City and Bundoora campuses.
- Maintaining key register, asset register and security access card records
- OH&S requirements and OH&S Committee meetings
- Providing services for students including met tickets, movie tickets, phone cards, fax, binding, locker hire etc
- Information Technology requirements
- Managing Student Union space and logistics
- Updating membership contacts for Student Union members and developing and maintaining various RUSU contact lists and email groups
- Monitoring and responding to student emails to the RUSU website
- Finance costs (Bank fees, audit fees etc)
- Governance related costs such as consultants, legal fees etc