



RMIT University Student Union
SSAF Funding Reporting

First quarter report

Reporting period
01/01/2012 – 31/03/2012



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

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

Student Union Council members take part in teamwork and leadership training at the Lancefield induction camp.



A note on our quarterly reports:

Like everything RUSU does, our reports are a team effort. If it seems like this was written by 50 different people, it's probably because it was! We are a unique organisation and our energy, teamwork and passion is communicated through these pages. We look forward to sharing our successes and near-successes with our student members and RMIT University throughout the year. For more information on anything contained within this report, please contact the RUSU Governance and Development Officer.

RUSU quarterly report: January–March 2012

President's report

The year is now in full swing with heaps of weekly activities and student union programs up and running. The new team has taken up their role with a high level of commitment and integrity. Our focus has been to make the student experience at RMIT a memorable one, that will be looked back at fondly.

The year started with a huge Orientation Day, with many RUSU Clubs and Societies stalls present, and ended with a bigger-than-ever O'night party, attended by over a thousand students.

We were amazed at the enthusiasm of students who signed up in droves for our volunteering program, which is now bigger than ever! This program continues to be in high demand, with more and more volunteers signing up every day.

For the Student Representatives the year began with a group induction, which allowed the reps to understand the workings of RUSU and get to know each other better.

Some big changes are also underway with preparation for the closing of the RUSU Bourke street offices for ever and the opening of the SAB. Hence we also began a campaign around SAB working to assist students and ensure an equitable transition.

The first quarter of this year has been challenging and productive for RUSU. We eagerly await the next three quarters!

Hovig Melkonian
SUC President



Welcome to the 2012 Student Union Council

Student Union Council induction 14th and 15th February

- The SUC spent two days in Lancefield for their second Induction session.
- Professional teamwork and leadership training delivered by Corporate Team Solutions.
- Other training included event management, finance procedures, campaign strategy, collective building, website and media, student rights and appeals and the RUSU volunteer program
- During the intensive sessions the SUC planned out their goals and priorities for the year including whole of union and departmental events, campaigns and activities.



Position	Name
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	Ahlan Tariq
Environment Officer	Aditi Shah
General Representative	Cortney Bruch
President	Hovig Melkonian
Media Officer	James Michelmores

Position	Name
General Secretary	Jian Zhong
General Representative	Jordan Lockett
General Representative	Mengyi Lin
General Representative	Luke Bouwmeester
General Representative	Chris Sagewood
General Representative	Sarah Corridon
International Officer	Wang Zhang
NUS Delegate	Darren Roso

Position	Name
NUS Delegate	Hovig Melkonian
NUS Delegate	Lily King
NUS Delegate	Luke Portelli
NUS Delegate	Omni Ioannou
NUS Delegate	Tim Emmanuelle
NUS Delegate	Xiana Chen
Postgraduate Officer	Aaron Garth
Queer Officer	Kim D'Amazing

Position	Name
Queer Officer	Kade Leereveld
Queer Officer	Marcus Lim
Swanston Street Coordinator	Rachel Micallef
Swanston Street Rep	Nick Carson
Tivoli Coordinator	Xiana Chen
Tivoli Representative	Ting Li
Welfare Officer	Luke Smith
Womyn's Officer	Shyneth Paton

RUSU activities and events

2012 started off with a BANG at RUSU. We are proud to offer students numerous on and off campus recreational and welfare events. At RUSU, we pride ourselves on delivering awesome events – it sure seems the students love it!

HUGE events to kick off 2012

- **O'Week** – What a week! As always, O'Week was a huge success for RUSU. With marquees at each O'Day, we offer students a warm and energetic point to pick up valuable insider information on being a student at RMIT University. City campus O'Day was our busiest day and was extremely successful for O'Night ticket and RUSU membership sales. RUSU will be making a number of recommendations to the RMIT Orientation Advisory Group in order to improve this event for commencing students in 2013.



- **Drinks With Friends – O'Week edition** – This was a fantastic event that really created a vibe at the City Big O'Day. The event was held from 5pm-8pm at Pearson and Murphy's Café (Bld 1) and included free food and drinks for students over 18 years of age. RMIT Link dance collective Funkadelic performed alongside renowned Hip Hop DJ's M.A.F.I.A and Flagrant. **The venue was at capacity early** – a clear sign that RUSU is doing something right! This event was exactly what O'week needed – it was a chance for new students to actually meet and make meaningful friendships on their first day in an informal environment.
- **"Back to School" O'Night Party** – This is the most recognisable event at RMIT (next to the graduation parade!) and the 2012 O'Nite was huge. We officially sold out of tickets (in person and online sales) at 3pm on the day of the event. Roxanne Parlour provided a great venue for a fantastic night with **1000 students in attendance**.



RUSU membership sales increase

RUSU continues to encourage financial membership as a student engagement exercise and, as of the first quarter of 2012, have seen an increase to the total number of members when compared to the same time in 2011, despite keeping the price point constant.

- Total paid members – 1700 (compared to 998 paid at the same time in 2011)
- Total membership forms completed – 1990 (compared to 1339 forms complete at the same time in 2011)
- Membership price O'Week special (until the end of Week 3) – \$30
- Regular membership price – \$60
- Total revenue from paid memberships – \$38,795

During the City O'Day, the Bld 8.3 lobby was filled with new members from 9am – 7pm and Bundoora's membership packs allocation **sold out in one day**.

RUSU member benefits in 2012

- Membership Welcome Pack: RUSU USB stick, RUSU notepads, O'Night Party ticket, 2012 A0 Academic wall planner, RUSU program brochures, sponsor materials, RUSU branded pens/rulers, RUSU O'Book.

Another membership drive will commence in Semester 2 and will include the \$30 discount price, additional RUSU merchandise and a new pack design.

RUSU connects with students online

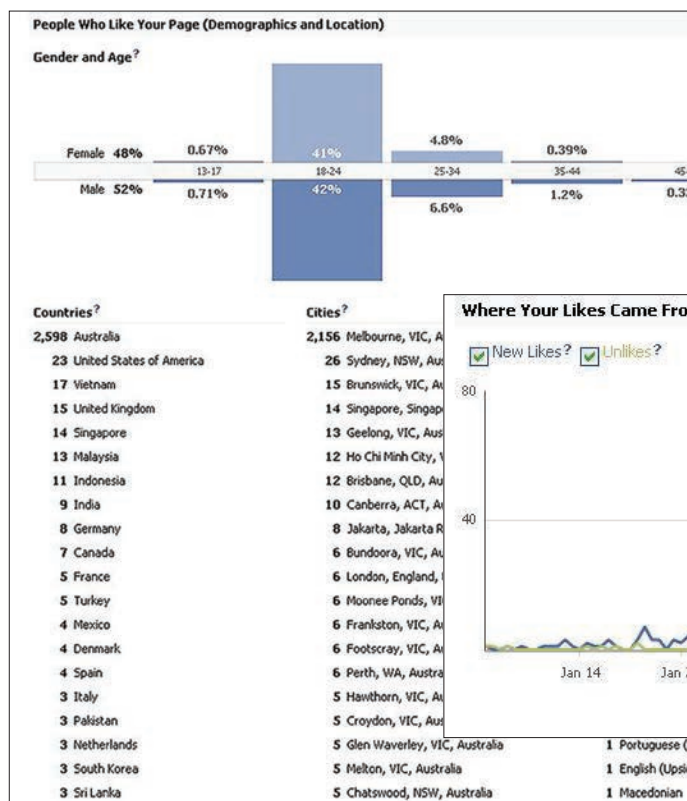
Thanks to a great team of people working on our social media we have successfully **increased engagement across all platforms**. RUSU social media has also become much more interactive and now utilises more polls, questions and student uploads including events pictures. During O'Week the overall hits, posts and photos that were uploaded to RUSU was higher than those received by RMIT's social media channels. The additional exposure this brought to our website was a key factor in our membership sale success.

The Twitter-verse – 844 followers

Twitter is up by +250 followers since the last quarter and is still growing. While this form of social media is still young within Australia, it works really well for RUSU when it comes linking posts and spreading our brand and message further. For clarity's sake, it is important to send the same message out across all our various communication channels; twitter has been great for competitions, last minute event details and membership promotions.

Facebook – 3,050 likes

Since the last quarter the RUSU Facebook page has increased the amount of 'likes' from 1,800 to 3,050. We have made concerted efforts to quickly post branded pictures from events – at times we are able to post whilst the event is occurring! Our members and 'friends' on Facebook want to see the photos we get of them at events, so they can tag themselves. As evidenced by the data below, O'Week is a peak period for establishing new connections.



The new RUSU volunteer program

Over 100 new volunteers sign up to the RUSU volunteer program

RUSU relies heavily on having a solid volunteer base – we run a dozen events per week on campus and we acknowledge that this would not be possible without the assistance and professionalism of our volunteers. We now have a volunteer database of **over 200** keen students.

RUSU volunteers work areas:

- Realfoods Fairtrade Organic Café – hospitality, food preparation and customer service skills.
- RUSU Activities & Events – teamwork, bar and safe food service skills, bump-in and bump-out skills, PA set-up.
- RUSU Campaigns – communication and project management skills.
- RUSU Student Rights – policy and social justice skills, advocacy and communication skills.
- Compass Drop In Centre – professional development for Social Work and Youth Work students.
- RUSU Info Counters – customer service and information provision skills.

All volunteers receive basic training, including a general session on RUSU (the organisation and procedures) and expectations of being a LEAD accredited volunteer (held 2nd March 2012). In addition, 30 volunteers were selected to become volunteer leaders and completed additional and extensive team building, campaigns, communication, student rights, events and hospitality training whilst on an off campus training day (held 9th March 2012).

RUSU also offers volunteers external accredited training such as:

- Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate
- Food handling certificate
- Manual handling certificate
- St John's First Aid training

RUSU Volunteers are expected to complete a minimum of 5 hours training and 15 hours volunteering to receive RMIT LEAD accreditation. The volunteers and volunteer leaders can be spotted at all RUSU events wearing the purple "SOLD to RUSU" T-shirts. This large group of volunteers have really brought back a sense of community on the RMIT campuses. On top of RUSU offering them the opportunity to gain great skills, experience and training, the program is proving to be a great way for students to make meaningful personal relationships with other students.

RUSU welfare collectives

Collectives were heavily promoted as part of O'Week, in particular the Womyn's, Queer, Environment, Campaigns and Postgraduate Collectives.

- The Womyn's and Queer department have been especially active in promoting their collectives this quarter, with a full calendar of activities.
- The Postgraduate Officer attended the Post Graduate Welcome event run by Student Services to promote the collective.

- The International Students Officer promotes the collective through an International Food Day which runs every Friday. Attendance is growing and includes both international and domestic students.

As the semester and year continues the Campaigns and Collectives officer will continue to work with all RUSU collectives and representatives to ensure that they have relevant support and assistance to enable them to reach a wide range of students.

What's happening across the campuses

City campus events

- **Chill 'n' Grill** – Every Wednesday from 12pm in Bowen Street. Chill 'n' Grill is an event powered by sunshine & good vibes. On average 1500 students attend weekly and receive free vegetarian friendly BBQ food, free beer, cider and softdrink served in environmentally friendly picnic ware. Entertainment is provided by student DJ's including Smoking Toddlers, RUSU club performances and stalls from our fortnightly Market. Chill 'n' Grill is the biggest weekly event that RUSU delivers – it takes a team of 30 RUSU volunteers and 5 RUSU staff and reps to pull it off.
- **Drinks with Friends** – Drinks with Friends is a weekly on-campus networking session held at Pearson and Murphy's from 4pm-6pm every Thursday. RUSU has made a concerted effort to increase the profile of this event whilst still working within a restricted budget. At least 100 students attend each week, although this varies depending on the weather. The purpose of this event is to encourage students to stay on campus and build a sense of community among students from various cohorts.

- **Pop Up Pub** – With over 200 students in attendance, our first PUP for the year was a great success. Smokin' Toddlers, Matt Can't and Rocko Rosco provided DJ entertainment and RUSU volunteers cooked up a storm on the BBQ's. This event is especially a hit with international students.

Bourke Street info counter and administration

The Tivoli (Bourke St) RUSU office has been super busy in the first quarter preparing the office for its move in second semester. The Tivoli staff are working with Property Services to coordinate the move to the Swanston Academic Building (SAB). RUSU has ongoing concerns with the implications for current building 108 business students and the transition to SAB and has worked to ensure student interests are represented. We have done this, in this quarter, by resourcing a number of student focus groups, particularly ones conducted in relation to BYOD at SAB and "Anywhere, Anytime" computing.

City info counter and administration

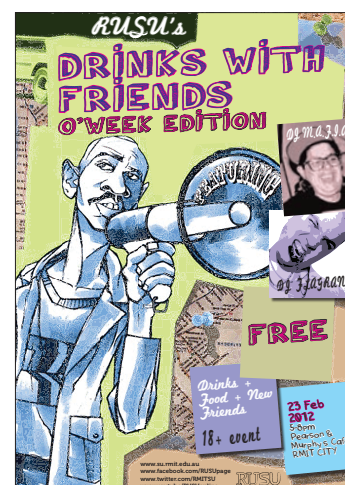
As the busiest info counter, the city counter contends with the majority of membership, volunteer, general and student advocacy related enquiries. In the first quarter of 2012:

- RUSU answer approx. 100 individual queries daily – face-to-face and via telephone
- RUSU membership and tickets sales
- Student Rights triage – supporting students through basic queries and Student Rights Officer appointment booking and database maintenance
- Volunteer recruitment, supervision and database maintenance. Also main point of contact for LEAD staff in regards to the program.
- RUSU events assistance – i.e. poster, promotion and ticket sales.

Bourke Street events

RUSU is aware that Bourke Street campus will be no longer as of Semester 2, so we've tried to make this first quarter a memorable one for our Bourke Street students!

- **Pizza Lunch** – 120 free pizzas, 60 garlic breads and loads of soft drink given away at weekly free pizza lunches every Monday. Over 60 students have been turning up each week to grab a couple of slices and the event has proved a great opportunity for RUSU to promote campaigns and communicate with students at Bourke Street.





Free BBQ & summer cider

Every Thursday 12pm

**Student Union Courtyard Bld. 204
Bundoora West**



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

Bundoora events

- **Starving Students** – This is a weekly event that attracts approximately 300 people every Thursday. The free food this quarter has included BBQs to pizza. This event increases student life and fosters a sense of community for students at Bundoora
- **Free Yoga classes** – Following on from 2011, this weekly class is very popular and well attended by students
- **Meet the Dean of Students** – This was organised by Student Services, however RUSU played a key role in actually attracting people to the event, which was attended by 150 students
- **Orientation talks** – Every year RUSU contacts schools in order to be a part of the school orientation sessions – at Bundoora, we delivered a ten minute presentation to 500 students from the Health Sciences School

Bundoora info counter and administration

The Bld 204 info counter has been very busy so far this year – on average, we handle 30 inquiries per day. Enquires can include:

- Movie ticket sales (30–40 sold weekly)
- RMIT academic program information
- RUSU and RMIT Link club information
- Volunteering program info
- Student rights advice and bookings
- Sales and promotion for RUSU and RMIT Link recreational events and trips and tours
- Lockers – rented out 33 lockers within first 2 weeks of semester.
- Proper use of Welfare rooms (Womyn's and Queer Lounges)



Brunswick and Carlton events

- **Welcome Back to Tafe Bash** – To kick off the start of the year RUSU held 2 welcome back BBQ's in the weeks prior to O'Week. These BBQ's were a nice way to welcome all the TAFE students back and to orientate new TAFE students.
- **Free Pizza Lunches, Carlton** – In the first quarter, RUSU ran the first of our monthly free pizza lunches. We feed over 100 students with 40 delicious wood fired pizzas from a local Lygon street pizzeria. The event went down extremely well and we are looking forward to repeats at the end of April and May.
- **Weekly Brunswick Barbie** – Held every Tuesday from 12pm at Bld 514, we serve an average of 500 students weekly. This event is delivered by 3 RUSU reps and 4 RUSU volunteers. This event is often utilised as a platform for RUSU clubs to work towards their fundraising and awareness goals through the promotion of up and coming events.
- **Free yoga at Brunswick courtesy of Compass** – Continuing on from last year, up to 20 students have access to free yoga classes every Monday afternoon from 4.30–5.30pm.

Brunswick/Carlton info counters and administration

There has been an increase in the number of student rights and general enquires coming to the TAFE info counters this quarter. We believe this is due to the increased use of the office spaces by student reps and staff, including student rights staff. The TAFE front counters now provides the following services:

- **Free emergency supplies** – The female toilets at Brunswick have no sanitary dispensers – RUSU is now able to provide emergency supplies to womyn in need on campus. Supplies can be accessed at the RUSU info counters and in Carlton in the Womyns room (56.4.80). This service has already saved quite a few students unnecessary stress and embarrassment.
- **Brunswick Discount Movie Vouchers** – This is a really popular service – in the first quarter, we almost sold out of our initial order. As an aside, offering services such as this from the info counter increases the total number of students visiting the RUSU counter and therefore increases exposure to other services and campaigns.
- **Free Book Binding at Brunswick** – This is a new, low cost service we have chosen to provide as it saves students money when preparing assessment pieces, workbooks and increases traffic to our information counter.

The Brunswick office underwent a redesign in order to increase usability and storage space. Several unused shelves and filing cabinets were recycled through the Furniture Cage. Similarly, the Carlton info counter and office now has three permanent workstations with computers and a small meeting space for up to six people. The office now has a working fridge and microwave allowing it to be a more functional and self sufficient office. RUSU has also spent the first quarter reclaiming and tidying the storage space (end of café in building 57) which now allows for easier access and more space to store the equipment needed to run events at Carlton.

RUSU Realfoods

The Realfoods Fairtrade Organic Café reopened for business in week 0 of Higher Ed classes for 2012. First quarter top menu items are the Hot Meal of the Day and the delicious smoothies. RUSU has spent a lot of time developing new signage and promoting the service through our student media and outreach events such as the Big O'Days.

Realfoods events

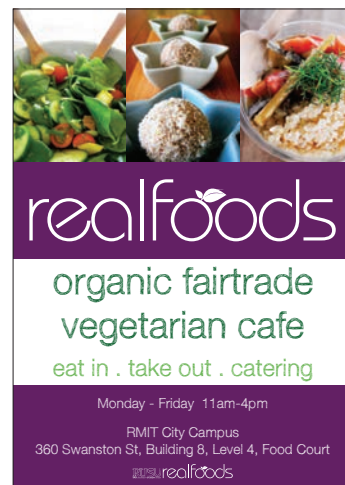
- **O'Week** – Realfoods gave away free muffins, sushi and icypoles at the Brunswick, Bundoora and City Campus O'Days. This was the first time Realfoods has been involved in O'Week activities and it was a huge success and raised the café's profile significantly.
- **Cooking classes** – Planning and promotions began in March for the upcoming 'Real Fit Food' cooking and nutrition demo to be held on April 17 at Realfoods.
- **Catering** – This quarter, Realfoods have catered the RMIT Link Arts staff meetings and have only just finalised our new 2012 catering menu which will see this service develop significantly.

Realfoods volunteers

- 100+ interested students are currently signed up to volunteer at Realfoods (up from 40 students in 2011).
- Volunteers are students from various cohorts including commencing students, mature-age students, local and international students, from various disciplines including Food Technology and Nutrition.
- 65 volunteers have been rostered as part of a weekly schedule. Volunteers complete 1x 2hr shift every week, alternating from Front of House (FOH) to Back of House (BOH) duties.
- FOH duties involve set-up/pack-down, customer service, register etc. BOH duties include food & drink prep, cleaning, planning, FOH support.

“Best food in Melbourne”

– Antony Branson



“Delicious stuff! :)”

– Kimberly Kushner (Melbourne Nutritionist)

Realfoods student casuals

4 current RMIT students have been recruited from the 2011 volunteer pool as student casual staff members. The students must continue to maintain their weekly volunteer shift, but are also granted a paid weekly shift in order to support the Realfoods Coordinator (permanent staff position). They are a valuable and necessary addition to the running of Realfoods, as their presence makes it possible for the Café Co-ordinator to tackle administration, events planning, rostering, catering enquiries and future planning.



RUSU Womyn's Department

The aim of the 2012 Womyn's Department is not to re-invent the wheel but rather work on improving it.

Introducing the new Womyn's collective

- The Collective has 206 members from all RMIT campuses
- They consist of a diverse range of womyn who are interested in getting involved with womyn's events.
- Approximately 30% of collective members regularly attend events.
- 4 collective meetings this quarter; 1 held at Bourke St campus and the others at City campus. These meetings introduced the new Womyn's Room Convenors to their campuses.
- New Womyn's Collective website established, www.womyns.org. Have so far received numerous submissions of articles and poetry from young womyn at RMIT. The website allows any interested member to sign up and have member access to the picture gallery, the ability to upload their own photos, an online calendar of events and an interactive blog page where members can upload their own work/articles.

Womyn's events

- **Orientation** – The Womyn's Department was present at Brunswick, Bundoora, and City campus Big O'Days. There were over 100 students who signed up to the Womyn's Collective.
- **RMIT International Womyn's Day: Inspire and Connect**
In support of the white ribbon campaign, the International Womyn's Day celebration involved an oath signing raising awareness to students that they should never be violent towards womyn, nor they should be silent about violence towards womyn. It was a successful event with over 100 oaths signed. We also had petitions signed for Amnesty International to empower the womyn's movement in Egypt. Guest speakers included, Steve O'Mally from the MFB, Donna, on behalf of the White Ribbon campaign and comedian Hannah Gadsby.
- **RMIT International Womyn's Day: Cross campus Screening** – A film screening was held at the RMIT University function room to celebrate IWD with students from and outside of RMIT University. In addition to RMIT students we had around 23 students from La Trobe, Melbourne, Monash, Victoria and Deakin universities attend. We also had the NUS Womyn's Representative for Victoria, Noni Sproule, in attendance. An assortment of food and drinks (some made/baked by the womyn who attended the event) were also provided. The event focused on the screening of 'Miss Representation', a documentary on how media controls and affects society's perception of womyn and how womyn see themselves. It's a powerful and disturbing documentary which aims to politicise and empower womyn and we plan to again show this documentary to the Womyn's Collective in the next few months.
- **Self Defence Workshops** – Three self defence classes were held on one day and allowed RUSU to provide self-defence classes to more students at RMIT. Approximately 30 students went through the training and over 50 observers took part. The Instructor was very supportive engaged the students with specific practical skills.

- **Cross Campus Film Screening** – As a result of the successful International Womyn's Day movie screening, the Womyns Department organised another film screening (with the hope of having a similar recurring event all year). The Collective watched 'Mona Lisa Smile' and discussed how far womyn have come since the 1940s. 30 students attended this event.

Regular womyn's events

- **Potluck Thursday** – Potluck is a monthly event where womyn can come together and share the food that they love with other womyn in the womyns room. The womyn in the womyn's room now anticipate this event with excitement.
- **Talky Tuesday** – An all-day event where womyn can introduce themselves and ask for support (study support and/or emotional) from one another and the womyn's officer.
- **Grrrl Zone** – A chance for womyn to ask those awkward questions about sex and relationships. This is still in its infancy, since a lot of womyn are still not comfortable discussing sex and relationship publicly. This is facilitated by the elected womyn's officer.

Upcoming womyn's events

- Free first Aid training at all campuses
- Free daily breakfast
- Free Womyn's Room soup kitchen
- Stitch 'n' Bitch at the City
- Stitch 'n' Dip at Carlton and Bundoora
- Bollywood dance classes at Bundoora
- Website classes
- "I love my body campaign" – volunteers will take womyns photographs with a Polaroid camera. This aims to raise the awareness that you don't need to wish for someone else's body to be beautiful. This aims to promote healthy eating and increase self-esteem
- Safety on campus campaign – from the NUS, petitioning Universities to be safer for students, especially for womyn
- Clothes Swap
- White Ribbon Campaign in November
- Blue Stocking Campaign in second Semester
- Australasian womyn's debating tournament

New connections for womyn students

The current Womyns Officer is in close contact with other Womyns officers – Amy (Melbourne), Kate (Monash), Elinor (Latrobe) and Noni (NUS). There have been several meetings to discuss cross-institutional activities and events. A new group has been created called **The Victorian Cross Campus Womyn's Network (VCCWN)** to organise monthly meetings. The VCCWN presents a great opportunity to meet progressive womyn from other campuses and celebrate how far we've come, discuss how we can improve womyn's representation on campus, where the movement as a whole needs to go and what progressive womyn can do for feminism. The support they provide is immense and future Womyn's Officers should be encouraged to establish this relationship at the beginning of their term each year.

RUSU Queer department

In 2012 the Queer Department aims to be a visible and vocal advocate for queer rights on campus. This department challenges discrimination, fights homophobia, smashes stereotypes and pokes its tongue out at hetero-normativity.

Queer department events

- **Midsumma Queer Picnic (quicnic)** – Midsumma Melbourne's annual Queer celebration, is a great community event that queer students can attend to experience queer culture in Melbourne. On the 15th of January, the queer collective ventured to Birrarung Marr for the Midsumma Carnival. We had a little picnic and explored the various stalls and performances. It was a positive, sunny day where we got to reconnect with last year's collective members again before heading back to class for Semester 1.
- **Pride March** – On the 5th of February, we donned our gay apparel, with banners in hand and headed to St Kilda for Pride March. It was encouraging to see and hear the crowd supporting RMIT University's Queer reps – **RMIT is now known as a supportive and non-discriminatory university.** We made banners too!
- **O'Week** – In preparation for O'Week at RMIT, the queer department wanted to get as many sign-ups as possible. We decided to make show bags for sign-ups – this was a great tactic as everyone loves free stuff! We had glitter, lollies, magnets, iPhone hoodies, water bottles and more. Collective sign ups were stellar! Roughly 70 students signed up during O'Week and our restricted Facebook group gained 213 members. **We're so popular!**
- **O'Day Picnic, City campus** – Following our amazing O'Week efforts, we had a little gathering in the queer room to meet new members over some tea and cupcakes. Woo hoo everybody knows RMIT queer department is where it's at!
- **Beginning of the Queer Party** – One of our most successful events so far! We had up to 70 people in the queer lounge (we rarely take pictures at our events for privacy reasons, so you'll just have to use your imagination)! We had pizza, booze, hot babes and boys; it was the perfect combination for any party! We made new friends and welcomed back old ones. This is what RMIT Queer Dept is all about – making our time at uni easier and full of support for queer kids.
- **Lady Gaga Workshop + After Party** – Is there any other queer icon bigger than Lady GaGa? We celebrate our God(ga) by paying tribute to her outrageous costumes. Following our workshop we had food, drinks and music! Overall it was a success to have collective members come together and do what we do best – be gay and excited about lady gaga. Truth.

Regular Queer department events

- **Monster Meeting Mondays** – This is a weekly meeting where the collective discusses any issues they have with the department; it brings together any ideas for events or campaigns the collective might want to do.
- **Tuesday Whine and Wine** – A regular night where we gather and whine about life in a heteronormative society over a glass of wine.
- **Thursday Crafternoons** – This is a hugely popular weekly event where we make craft like things with paint and paper. Great to stimulate our bored members.
- **Talky Thursday** – Every week, the collective members drop questions into a box and we draw them out one by one and answer them as a collective.

Also...

This quarter, we subscribed to 2 queer orientated magazines and rearranged the Queer Lounge to distinguish different spaces; a social area and a study area. We claimed a new couch and installed a new computer. We have added a scribble wall where people write messages and thoughts – we are all about letting your creative side out!



RUSU International students department



The international students department has been looking for ways to engage and support students at RMIT and believe that events are an important part of this process. There are plans to work closely with the RUSU cultural clubs to attract and connect with a wider range of international students in 2012.

International events

- **International student survey** – Launched in the first quarter, this survey will help RUSU to know more about what support international students need and what kind of events they would like to get involved in.
- **Weekly Collective meetings** – Every week, the collective of approximately 25 students meets in order to discuss issues and plan events and outings.
- **International welcome day** – This free-food event was held on the City campus to welcome all RMIT international students and inform them of how to get involved with student life and support at RMIT and RUSU. We had over 30 new international students attend.
- **International food day** – This is a weekly cultural exchange event where we all students can meet and chat with international students. Approximately 70 people attend each week.
- **International movie night** – Held on the 30th of March this was a chance for international students to socialise and enjoy a new Hollywood blockbuster, *21 Jump Street*. This was an extremely popular event which attracted over 50 students.

RUSU clubs and societies

This year RUSU is looking at supporting **the largest number of student run clubs since pre-VSU days**. As a result, the Clubs and Societies Department has had to look at new ways to approach supporting clubs and aims to work with both the university and students to foster positive working relationships.

C&S events

- **Big O'Days** – The main focus of first semester is always the Orientation program. This year, **55 RUSU Clubs participated in the 3 Big O'Days – totalling 102 RUSU Clubs stalls** across the week. This was an increase in RUSU Clubs participation of almost 50% at the Brunswick and Bundoora Big O'Days. The increase was assisted by the provision of a hire bus used to transport City Campus based clubs to the Bundoora festival. The hire bus proved a cost effective development to support Club participation and will be repeated for Semester 1 Orientation in 2013.
- **Harmony Day 2012** – The C&S Officer, the RMIT Chaplaincy Service and SSG Project Worker Claire Ong worked together to organise RMIT's Harmony Day 2012 event, held in the first quarter. A call to involve more students in this event led to the Chaplaincy seeking greater RUSU Club involvement. The lunchtime event was held on 25th March at the Spiritual Centre and was attended by over 40 people, most being RUSU Club representatives and supportive RMIT Staff. Staff and students exchanged information about their aims and activities with some opportunities for co-operative efforts arising. A focus of the

Harmony Day event was to introduce a broader range of student groups to the Chaplaincy Service and Spiritual Centre which is a great resource for all RUSU Clubs. RUSU introduced our second semester World Week event as our main multi cultural activity of the year and invited participation from all RUSU Clubs attending. **Special C&S thanks to Robina Bamforth from the Chaplaincy Service** for her practical support with this event. RUSU funded most of the lunch costs of the event.

RUSU clubs respond to O'week security threat

Club participation in the Big O'Days 2012 was commendable. A risk of infiltration of the events by a right wing group was responded to with understanding, maturity and professionalism. Clubs accepted additional security measures without complaint and supported RMIT Security by proving their RMIT status, by wearing club leader identification and by being alert to signs of trouble and committed to a common response plan should any such trouble have eventuated. Fortunately, the threats of the group involved proved baseless at RMIT O'Week and the events proceeded without incident. We would particularly like to thank RMIT Property Services, RMIT Security and University Events for responding quickly to the threat and working cooperatively with RUSU and our Clubs to minimise the risks and develop and communicate a clear response plan.

C&S affiliations

74 RUSU Clubs have completed their 2012 affiliation. Given RUSU had just over 50 clubs at mid year in 2011, RUSU is very pleased with club affiliation rates within the first quarter of 2012. As a result, the SUC decided to set an affiliation deadline for Semester 1, 2012 with the affiliation of any new or remaining 2011 RUSU Clubs to be deferred until Semester 2, 2012. This practice is consistent with other University Clubs & Societies programs.

Current clubs

Note – Clubs highlighted in **bold text** are brand new RUSU Clubs.

Academic Clubs	
1	RMIT Accounting Students' Association (ACCT SA)
2	RMIT Aerospace Engineering Students' Association (AESA)
3	RMIT AIESEC
4	RMIT Applied Chemistry & Environmental Science Students (ACESS)
5	RMIT Assoc of Chem Eng Students (ACES)
6	RMIT BA Photography Club (BAP)
7	RMIT BA Textile Society (BATS)
8	RMIT Basement Club (BASE)
9	RMIT caliCo
10	RMIT Ceramics Students Association (Ceramics)
11	RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA)
12	RMIT Communication Design (COMMDES)
13	RMIT Computer Science Info Tech Society (RMIT CSIT)
14	RMIT Economics, Finance, Marketing Students Association (EFMSA)
15	RMIT Environmental Engineering Students Association (EESA)
16	RMIT Fashion Design Society (FDS)
17	RMIT Furniture Technology & Furniture Design (FT & FD)
18	RMIT Gold & Silversmithing Society (RMIT G&S)
19	RMIT Graduate Engineering Association of RMIT (GEAR)
20	RMIT Graphic Design Graduate Exhibitions (GDGE)
21	RMIT Information Security Collective (RISC)
22	RMIT International Studies Association (ISA)
23	RMIT Manufacturing & Mechatronics Engineering (M&ME)
24	RMIT Media Arts Club (MAC)
25	RMIT Medical Radiation Students Association (MRAD)
26	RMIT OPEN BITE Print Making Student Association
27	RMIT OSA (Optics) Student Chapter (OSA)
28	RMIT Public Relations Society (PR SOC)
29	RMIT Racing Association (RACE)
30	RMIT Social Work Alliance Project (RMIT SWAP)
31	RMIT Wellness Society (The WELL)

Activist Clubs

32	RMIT ALP Club (RMIT ALP)
33	RMIT Amnesty International
34	RMIT Engineers Without Borders (RMIT EWB)
35	RMIT Fair Trade Collective (RMIT FTC)
36	RMIT Greens
37	RMIT International Students for Social Equality (ISSE)
38	RMIT OXFAM
39	RMIT Refugee Action Collective (RAC)
40	RMIT Resistance Club (RESIST)
41	RMIT Secular Society (SECSOC)
42	RMIT Socialist Alternative (RMIT SA)
43	RMIT Socialist Party Club (RSPC)
44	RMIT Students For Palestine (SFP)
45	VGEN RMIT (World Vision Youth Club)

Cultural Clubs

46	RMIT African Students' Association (RASA)
47	RMIT Australia China Youth Association (ACYA)
48	RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association (RCSSA)
49	RMIT French Club
50	RMIT Indian Club (India)
51	RMIT Japan Club (Japan)
52	RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA)
53	RMIT Sri Lankan Students Association (SLSA)
54	RMIT Tamil Mandram (Tamil)
55	RMIT Turkish Society (RTS)
56	RMIT University Indonesian Student Association (PPIA)
57	RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA)
58	Vietnamese International Student Association at RMIT (VISAR)

Faith Clubs

59	RMIT Buddhist Society
60	RMIT Cantonese Gospel Ministry (RMIT CGM)
61	RMIT Chinese Methodist Christian Fellowship (CMCF)
62	RMIT Christian Union (RMIT CU)
63	RMIT Islamic Society (Islam)
64	RMIT Korean Campus Ministry (G4R)
65	RMIT Overseas Christian Fellowship Melbourne (OCFM)
66	RMIT Planet Uni (PU)
67	RMIT Student Life University Group (SLUG)
68	RMIT Multicultural Student Fellowship (MSF)
69	RMIT Asian Association (RAA)

Special Interest Clubs

70	RMIT Association of Debaters (RAD)
71	RMIT Chinese Debating Group (CDG)
72	RMIT Games Manga & Anime Society (GMAS)
73	RMIT Rubik's Cube Club
74	RMIT Science Fiction & Gaming Association (SFGA)

The changing nature of RUSU clubs

There has been some movement in the make up of affiliated RUSU Clubs. Some Clubs have not been able to re-establish for 2012 whilst other new clubs are just starting to take off. The biggest change for 2012 thus far is the growth of RMIT student clubs linked to a range of activist organisations including clubs new to RMIT such as Amnesty International, RMIT Oxfam, and RMIT VGen (World Vision) as well as the growth of existing clubs such as the RMIT Fair Trade Collective and RMIT Engineers Without Borders. It would appear that although some of the more traditional activist campus clubs such as Socialist Alternative and RMIT Greens are still going strong, **today's students seem to be increasingly interested in directing their commitment to non-partisan reform and development organisations.** As with the more traditional political clubs, the campus activist clubs are independent from their parent organisations and determine their own activities and priorities.

A changing approach to how clubs operate is also reflected in the establishment of an informal network amongst this new range of activist clubs at RMIT – The RMIT Social Justice Network. As well as including the clubs mentioned above, this network has also been embraced by a couple of academic clubs including the Social Work Action Project (SWAP) and City Psychology Society. These academic clubs see a clear link between their own club and the networks' goals, as well as being relevant to the industries/professions of the individual student members' of the clubs. Anyone in the RMIT Community interested in the network are encouraged to contact it through the RMIT Fair Trade Collective, as listed on the RUSU website.

A major impact on Clubs capacity to continue and develop is the changing nature of student life. Today's students simply don't have the free time students did prior to the introduction of academic fees with the concomitant need for students to take up paid work at increasing rates. Today's students also face increasing competition for part-time employment and many have the responsibility of children, siblings and even parents to care for. Increasing demands arising from academic competition amongst students can also impact on students' willingness to engage in cooperative activities outside the classroom. The fly-in/fly-out nature of the student experience at RMIT also means many club members are not available over the longer inter-semester break periods to prepare for Orientation or Club planning prior to semester.

Responding to change

RUSU is addressing the changing nature of Clubs & Societies at RMIT by reviewing and updating relevant policies and regulations to make the affiliation and club operation processes clearer and better supported. RUSU is reviewing the grant categories and processes to reflect and better support the changing nature of club activities. In particular, RUSU is working to ensure it can provide continued support to affiliated political/activist clubs in light of legislative changes resulting from the reintroduction of the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF). Even without the SSAF legislation, RUSU Clubs operate in an increasingly statutory bound environment – University and City of Melbourne regulations, food safety, Responsible Service of Alcohol, volunteer responsibilities, GST, public liability and working with children considerations (we have underage students to consider).



Join EFMSA and gain access to faculty and industry events.

With a wide array of activities lined up, EFMSA offers great networking opportunities.

EFMSA is the Economics, Finance and Marketing Students' Association of RMIT University's School of Business. The main purpose of the EFMSA is to provide networking opportunities for you in all areas of Economics, Finance and Marketing.

The association also aims to provide you with current industry information and hold events that assist in your professional development. Our main aim is to improve your study experience and help create potential career paths.

Membership is FREE

Contact Andrew Fawcett - EFMSA President on: president@efmsa.net or visit us on Facebook.

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

www.su.rmit.edu.au • www.facebook.com/RUSUpage • [www.twitter.com/RMITSU](https://twitter.com/RMITSU) • www.youtube.com/RUSUonline

RUSU clubs & RMIT property services working together

The C&S Officer has spent a significant amount of time working with RMIT Property Services to develop and communicate clear guidelines and processes to support student access to space on campus. Doing this enables systems to maximise RUSU Club access to space on campus. It also ensures clubs are clear as to expectations of professional behaviour when dealing with Property Services staff and processes. Progress has been made on the Clubs Locker Project which will be finalised in the second half of the semester after delays arising from the impact of Orientation, the move to SAB and decisions around relocating Building 108 lockers. **Special thanks to David C Howard (Property Services)** for assisting with this project and to resolve issues around Clubs activity in the cafeteria. David and Nicole Eaton (Property Services) are also supporting the **redevelopment of City Campus BBQ facilities** to replace the well loved but somewhat tired BBQs in Bowen Street with new, larger and more efficient models as well as possibly installing some additional BBQs on City Campus to meet the increasing need for these facilities.

New RUSU club logo

RUSU made a decision to design and release a RUSU logo specifically for our Clubs to include on their promotional material.

RMIT UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION
A F F I L I A T E

RUSU student media

Catalyst magazine

With three new student editors on board, we're excited to see what this year's team will produce!

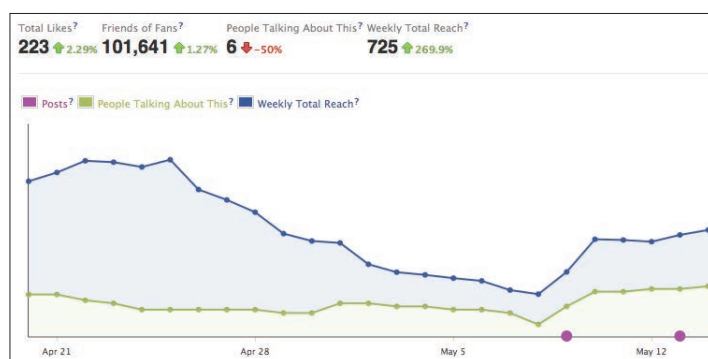
Social media

In the first quarter Catalyst created Facebook and Twitter accounts – before the first edition was released in March, we endeavoured to get the word out to the RMIT community about the 'new look' Catalyst.

Our facey page now has 223 likes and on a weekly basis our posts reach up to 1,333 people. In the next quarter, Catalyst's aim is to keep our posts occurring on a regular basis to further increase the popularity of the page and further extend its reach.

Catalyst has been tweeting since the 19th March – we have 212 followers. Followers are treated to snapshots of the magazine as well as 'Catalyst facts'.

In addition to our own facebook page Catalyst sometimes features on the RUSU page that has over 3,000 likes, further increasing the online presence of the magazine.



The printed mag is now also online!

There are 3,000 copies of each edition of Catalyst printed and each magazine has 80 pages – in the first quarter, we printed only 1 edition (to coincide with week 1 of classes). All the copies for edition 1 were snapped up and we've received great feedback from readers in the form of letters to the editor and emails. This shows that readers are engaging with the content; one of our main goals.

All editions of the magazine are now available in digital form through the RUSU website – this will hopefully allow even more students to access Catalyst, encourage more students to contribute and also give all advertisers more bang for their buck.

Advertising revenue for Edition 1

- Edition one – \$6,200 (Grilled, Computers Now, Office Works, Workshop, The Wisdom Teeth Professionals)
- Advertising Rates – the back page is \$2200, a full page is \$1500, a half page is \$800 and a third of a page is \$500.

RMITV

In early January, RMITV's new team of Volunteers on Honorarium were selected and began working in their respective departments. For the first time in recent history, we stipulated that two of these roles be given to current RMIT students, and we also offered an additional role for a Training Manager to oversee our Training pilot project for the first six months of this year. The Management Team now consists of:

- Rhys Tate – Programming Manager
- Jake Lambden – Technical Manager
- Sarah Corridon – Office Manager
- Pamela Meagher – Training Manager

Training

RMITV's Training program for 2012 got off to a great start this year, with the first three months being devoted to researching and developing a training plan covering areas of directing & vision switching, lighting, basic studio operation, producing and production management and sound. This will be facilitated through tours to professional studios (eg, the ABC) and a series of workshops that are slated to begin in April and we hope students will take advantage of these.

Student Engagement Policy

In late 2011, RMITV were asked to develop a framework outlining the commitment we would make to students on each production. This policy was drafted and approved by RUSU in March and has helped our Programming department to focus on selecting programs that provide a large number of student friendly roles, or that pair students with mentors to help them develop skills.

Programming

Programming for 2012 started with a bang with 'Tough Times Never Last' completing a season early in semester, 'In Pit Lane' returning live from the Channel 31 Studios and 'Africa Amara' commencing production on season one. In March we approved a pilot production submitted by former General Manager, Eliza Beck, called 'the High Bar', focusing on bar tending tricks of the trade. 'The High Bar' are now well underway to completing their pilot and we are hopeful it will continue on to a season. We are currently in discussion with Channel 31 Melbourne about the live status of our Flagship production, 'Live on Bowen' and are expecting to hear back shortly. In the meantime, executive producers Darcy Bonser and Lisa Sloetjes are working to recruit a team of student writers and segment producers.



Welfare and advocacy at RUSU

During the first quarter, there has been ongoing research conducted concerning a variety of issues including: the help seeking behaviours of tertiary students, SSAF, Special Consideration and RMIT and disability. Additionally, all staff working within advocacy and support resource students involved in various advisory and decision making committees at RMIT. Currently Student Representatives are sitting on the following boards and panels:

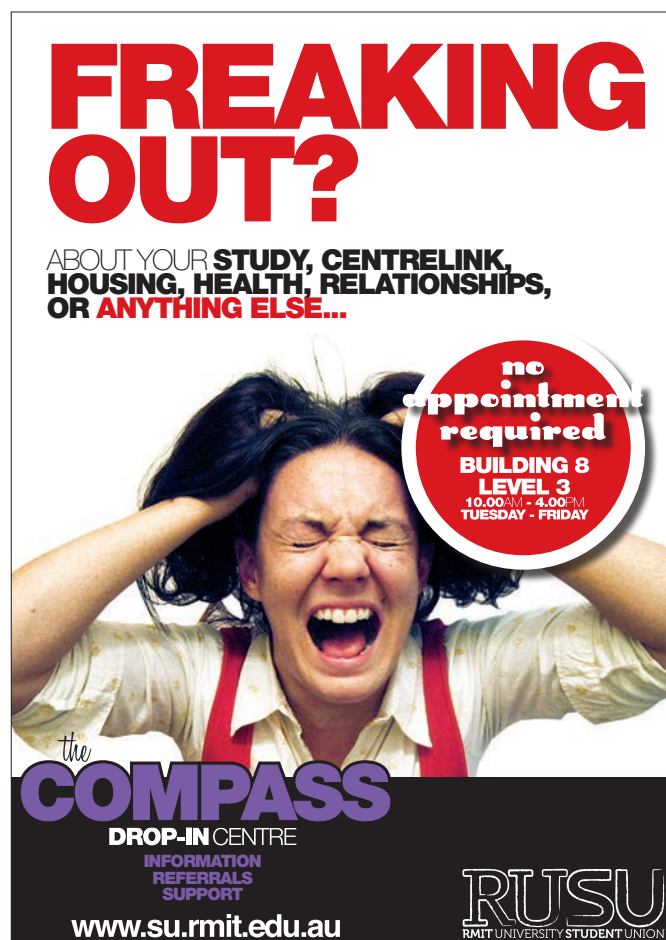
- Academic Board
- RMIT Council
- Policy and Programs committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Various SSCC's, through TAFE, Higher Ed and Post Graduate levels

The Compass drop-in centre

2012 is shaping up to be a big year for Compass with a RECORD number of drop-ins this quarter. Volunteers are working hard and planning for the 1st semester major events are well underway

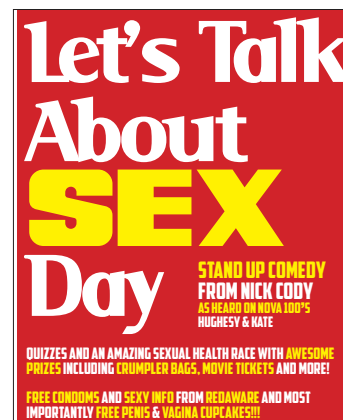
- There have been 83 student drop-ins between January and March. This is an increase on the number of students attending Compass in the first quarter of 2011 and shows that Compass just keeps growing!
- Mental health, employment and housing continue to be common issues that students are dealing with and numerous referrals were made to external agencies.
- The Compass Project Officer met with the new SSG Wellbeing Officers in order to define the referral relationship between the services
- The Compass Project Officer forms part of the university wide Mental Health Committee which is undertaking some initial mapping of the mental health services at RMIT as well as the experiences of RMIT students who have a mental illness. This is in preparation for a new project due to start later this year.

The Compass service continues to provide a great direct practice learning opportunity for the student volunteer from the RMIT Psychology, Social Work and Youth Work courses. New volunteers are currently being trained with a view to beginning in Semester 2.



Compass drop-in centre outreach events

- **O'Days** – This is a prime chance for this service to be promoted to commencing students and was also a chance for 15 new Compass volunteers to sign up for this year.
- **Free weekly Yoga** – The Student Well Being Yoga Program is now operational over the City, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses. It is continuing to be an important place for relaxation and focus for students, with all classes on all campuses well attended.
- **Stress Less Week Planning** – Compass has been approached by the RMIT counseling service to collaborate on RUSU's annual Stress Less Week in May by providing mindfulness workshops over all 5 days.
- **Let's Talk About Sex Day** – This is set to be a major event for Semester 1 with stand up comedy, a visit from RedAware (an organisation that campaigns to bring young people together to take real action and prevent the spread of HIV & other STI's), free food and lots of free condoms! Compass has been assisted by the expertise of the SSG Health Promotion team in the planning for this event.



Student advocacy report: January – March 2012

Cases created 1st quarter 2012:

1	Admin Issue	2
2	Appeal Against Assessment	16
3	At Risk/Academic Progress	3
4	Bullying	4
5	Complaint	19
6	Disability	25
7	Discipline	6
8	Enrolment Issue	18
9	Exclusion	40
10	Fees Issue	4
11	Leave Of Absence	1
12	Ombudsman Complaint	1
13	Payment Plan	1
14	Placement Issue	1
15	Plagiarism	6
16	Problem with course advice	4
17	Problem with exam	1
18	Refund/remission of debt	3
19	RPL Issue	3
20	Special Consideration	15
21	Transcript error	2
Total		175

Case outcomes 1st quarter 2012:

1	Academic misconduct – Student penalised	2
2	Academic misconduct – Case dismissed	2
3	Academic misconduct – Student reprimand	1
4	Advice for letter given	45
5	Appeal Against RPL – Appeal Dismissed	1
6	Appeal Against RPL – Appeal Upheld	1
7	Appeal Against Special Con – Successful – Supplementary Exam –	1
8	At Risk Advice Given	4
9	Complaint Resolved	1
10	Contacted Head of School – Issue Resolved	1
11	Contacted Course Coordinator – Issue Resolved	6
12	Contacted lecturer/tutor – Issue Resolved	1
13	Debt Issue Resolved	4
14	Debt Remains	1
15	Discipline Committee- Student allowed to continue	1
16	Exclusion withdrawn – by school	2
17	Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	1
18	Late Enrolment achieved	4
19	Late Enrolment not achieved	2
20	Leave of Absence	1
21	Ombudsman Complaint	7
22	PAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Dismissed	1
23	PAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Upheld	4
24	Payment Plan Approval	1
25	Plagiarism Meeting case – Dismissed Against Student	1
26	Plagiarism Meeting Case – Upheld Against Student	1
27	Plagiarism Meeting Case – Reprimand	4
28	RPL Not Granted	1
29	Referral Given – Counselling Service	6
30	Referral given – DLU	7
31	Referral Given – Legal Service	2
32	Referral Given – SLC	7
33	School level complaint made – Outcome Successful	3
34	School level complaint made – Outcome Unsuccessful	3



35	Show Cause Letter approved by SPC	3
36	Show Cause Letter rejected by SPC	3
37	Special Consideration Granted – Deferred Exam Granted	4
38	Special Consideration Granted – Equitable Assessment	2
39	Subject withdrawn by student	2
40	Supplementary Assessment Granted by Student Progress Committee	2
41	Support at a meeting or a review	16
42	UAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Dismissed	1
43	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Dismissed	4
44	UAC Appeal Against Assessment – Appeal Upheld	1
45	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Appeal Dismissed	11
46	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Upheld	13
47	UAC Appeal Against Exclusion – Appeal Upheld with conditions	2
48	UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration – Appeal dismissed	1
49	UAC Appeal Against Special Consideration – Appeal Upheld	4
50	University Level Complaint Made – Outcome successful	2
51	University Level Complaint Made – Outcome unsuccessful	4
Total		205
Cases created in 1st Quarter 2012		175
Case outcomes in 1st Quarter 2012		205

Appeal committees:

- 7 Student reps sat on 31 UAC hearings
- 6 Student reps sat on 9 Discipline hearings
- 5 Student reps sat on 8 CAC hearings

RUSU's fight against unfair special consideration

RUSU has contributed to the ongoing redrafting of the special consideration policy and procedure with a submission to the Deputy Director of Academic Policy and Governance on the 29th February. We believe that **we continue to be unheard** in regards to policy issues preventing students who genuinely need special consideration from being able to access it. RUSU's advocacy staff will continue to reach out to RMIT's policy staff and hope to be able to encourage a more student-friendly policy outcome.

RUSU student rights officers – kicking advocacy goals!

“Thanks for the advice. I will try my best to add that in if I get the chance, because I need to rush down to school and scan the documents. I am currently working towards sending out this email before 4pm Melbourne time. so if I get the chance I definitely will include these points. I will be including you in my Cc when I do send out my appeal to the university. And once again thank you for all your help. I understand from Candice that it is more common for you to help appeal cases over a period of 1-2 weeks and yet you're able to provide me with so much help in such a short amount of time. I really appreciate all the help you have provided me. Have a great day. =D ”

“Your help and support are much appreciated. I've certainly learned a lesson on where & how to seek for a help in speaking up for my student rights.”

“Thank you so much, I really owe you a lot, these days I've been working on my assignments and catching the lectures, I am trying my best to get HD of all courses which I enrolled”

“I've visited a couple of times to personally thank you but you have been away but anyways thanks so much! Your letter was the bomb!”

“Thank you for everything you have done and we are awaiting registration steps and It will be for us to meet soon at the end of this problem”

Even a little praise from within RMIT...

“Your email has brought to our attention that our website currently contains an inaccuracy in that mid year RMIT Study Support Scholarship applicants do NOT need to have a year left of their program, they can be completing their final semester in semester 2 2012 and be eligible to receive a scholarship, so Sam should definitely reapply then if he is unsuccessful in his current application.”

RMIT Scholarships Office

Governance and administration highlights

Student services and amenities fee

With the introduction of the SSAF legislation as of January 2012, RUSU has been working hard to ensure that the best interests of the student body have been represented at all stages of the decision making process in allocating funding. RUSU has:

- Participated in numerous informal planning meetings in regards to branding, communications, priority funding areas and understanding the legislation in application.
- 2 x RUSU representatives sit on the SAFF Steering Committee meeting (19 March 2012)
- Presented a new and expanded service packages including the Student Connectedness package, a Student Wellbeing package, a Student Experience package and a Student Media package for funding approval.

Staff development

Staff Training and personal development undertaken in the first quarter has included:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Workplace Hygiene procedures
- Food handling
- Level 2 (senior) First Aid
- Quik Fix Skills Workshop

Additionally, there was attendance by RUSU NTEU representatives at the NTEU conference and NTEU lobbying workshops. Attendance at this conference ensure RUSU is connected with delegates from other Victorian universities and their campaigns to improve workplace conditions and tackle issues such as overwork, workforce casualisation and lack of funding and staffing for courses.

Ongoing administration work

- Staff Induction Manual finalised and commencement of further development of other departmental induction/training handbooks
- I-drive mapping and re-structure project ongoing

Finance overview

SSAF funding 2012

\$2,046,931.00 Total to be provided in instalments as follows:

- \$147,222.00 on the first day of the month from January – May 2012 inclusive
- \$187,260.00 on the first day of the month from June – December 2012 inclusive

In order to meet legislative requirements, RUSU has altered its previous financial reporting to reflect the need to match expenses with “allowable items”. The underspend in the budget reflects the small number of academic weeks in this period and therefore reflects only 4 weeks of activity in relation to clubs and societies and recreational events and expenses.

Allowable Item	Item Description	Quarterly Expense
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Book operations, honorariums, publication (online and print) and distribution • Membership incentive program • Membership engagement, communications and marketing • Upgrade and maintenance of online communications including website, e-newsletters, social media integration • Orientation specific events 	\$34,724.00
Caring for children of students		Nil
Providing legal services to students		Nil
Promoting the health or welfare of students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from advocacy and welfare collectives: Queer, Womyn's, Post-Graduate, Environment, Welfare, Education • Campaigns, events, programs, marketing 	\$35,905.00
Helping students secure accommodation		Nil
Helping students with their financial affairs		Nil
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities and events from International student department 	\$4,184.00

Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers		Nil
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents		Nil
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction programs/Student Representative Professional Development • Volunteer Program + program staffing • Student Union Council Elections • Secretariat Honorariums • All of SUC campaigns • Campaigns staff support 	\$24,629.00
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students		Nil
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website • Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) • Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$29,127.00
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus specific events and marketing • Activities and Events collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support • RUSU Realfoods 	\$39,677
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions 	\$52,228.00
Supporting an artistic activity by students		Nil
Supporting debating by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants paid to RMIT or Chinese Debating clubs (or any future debating club) 	\$0.00
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies • Clubs and Societies Staff and other support • Student Initiative Grants 	\$26,899.00
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration and Support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance • 5 x Information counter staff and operations 	\$83,942.00
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Rights Officers • Student Advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees 	\$88,064.00
First Quarter SSAF Expenditure		\$419,379.00
First Quarter SSAF Received		\$441,666.00
Underspend		\$22,287.00