



RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION: SECOND QUARTER REPORT

 REPORTING PERIOD: 1 APRIL 2015 – 30 JUNE 2015



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Himasha
FONSEKA

Second quarter. Autumnal hues become the defining feature of Melbourne. Clothing begins to be layered, and the serious business of study gets underway.

With the carefree summer months in the rear-view mirror, RUSU has carried through the momentum from a great start to 2015 through this reporting period.

We held our first external event for Bundoora students for some time, being a Good Friday Eve party. We held a successful boat cruise in

April, hosted Music Week in Alumni Courtyard and our end of exams party in June proved as popular as any in recent memory.

The New Academic Street project continues to loom as a disruption to our activities and the broader student body, and we remain in constant contact with the University to work through this period.

Our growth in financial membership remains encouraging, with our 2015 target almost reached by the halfway stage of the year. This result will allow RUSU to continue to deliver a great suite of programs and activities for the benefit of our members.

In mid-May, we conducted our annual general meeting, as required under the relevant legislation. We used this process as an opportunity to update some of our departmental branding. We found that some of our departments had somewhat dated naming conventions. I am pleased to say that these changes were passed unanimously, and details of this can be found in these pages.

What follows is a detailed account of our activities this quarter that stands as a testament to the hard work of our elected Councillors and staff.

Himasha Fonseca
President
RMIT University Student Union



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

STANDOUT EVENTS

The second half of semester one was BUSY! The following are just some of our stand-out events:

Good Friday Eve Party

We started off with an event for our outer campus students to kick off their Easter long weekend at the Good Friday Eve Party on April 2 in Northcote. The venue was chosen for its proximity to RMIT'S Bundoora and Brunswick campuses, and made a pleasant change from our usual City events. The party was a real success, and we are looking at more ways to engage students on the outer campus in semester two, including a Brunswick Ball and Bundoora Games week.

RUSU Boat Party

The pirate-themed boat party cruise on the 'commandeered vessel' the Victoria Star was a massive success. The event sold out well in advance, and the venue's 350-person capacity was easily reached. We were really impressed with the effort students went to with their dressing up. Equally important, the venue was really happy with the behaviour of all who attended and are excited about the possibility of working with RMIT students again in the future – great news for the many RUSU clubs who use their services.

Music Week

BBQs, beers and sweet tunes! Music Week went down with a bang, with tunes supplied by RMIT's music industry students. It was a great opportunity for RUSU to collaborate with students, whose beats created a little more atmosphere at our weekly city lunch, Chill 'n' Grill. The event was held in Alumni Courtyard allowing RUSU to create a much bigger event than usual, but still held onto the feeling of a RUSU community event.

EoX Glow Party

To celebrate everyone surviving their exams and the semester, we let our hair down and donned white for the Glow Party to end all parties on June 26. Our bi-annual end of exams parties are always warmly received by RMIT students, providing a great way to say goodbye to friends made during the semester, and this event was no exception. Students were given glow sticks, UV bubbles flew through the air, and many students chose to have their faces adorned with neon paint by our RUSU facepainting guru. The event was a huge success, and with over 800 students attending on the night EoX Glow was our largest club event to date. This was also the first time that RUSU has staged a Friday night event, and this proved to be very popular with students, so is something we will continue with in future.

RMITV Collaboration

RUSU has been working closely with RMITV to develop post-event promotional videos. Videos have been made for both the Welcome Bash and EoX Glow Party, and are available to view on the RUSU Youtube channel: www.youtube.com/RUSUONLINE.

MEMBERSHIP

4658 RMIT students became financial members of RUSU in the period up to June 30. This was a fantastic boost to our membership drive and puts RUSU very nearly at our goal target of 5000 financial members in 2015.

Giveaways in the 2nd Quarter

- » Two double passes to artist Will Sparks's show at Lucky Thursdays on June 18.
- » Five double passes to the critically-acclaimed Argentinian film *Wild Tales*.
- » Five double passes to a special event screening of *SPOT*, playing as part of the Spanish Film Festival.



The RUSU EoX Glow Party in full swing



VOLUNTEERS

The second quarter has seen increased take-up of volunteering opportunities by some of our Bundoora students. We have provided RSA and SFH training there as well as some small induction training sessions. City campus volunteers have traveled to Bundoora to support that small but growing volunteer team in a couple of special RUSU events.

Showing our volunteers how much we appreciate them is a high priority of the RUSU Volunteer program. This quarter up to 50 volunteers attended a get together at Strike Bowling where they were thanked and encouraged to continue their association with us.

The end of semester also sees the end of a wonderful partnership we have enjoyed with Certificate 1 Work Education Students. After some induction training, 12 students assisted our Activities and Events Officer in delivering Chill 'n' Grill at Brunswick campus every Tuesday. We have enjoyed their participation and wish them well.

VOLUNTEER HOURS WORKED IN 2015

During the second quarter, RUSU volunteers contributed more than 1376.5 working hours to RUSU services, bring the total hours for the year to date to 2453 hours.

RUSU VOLUNTEERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Second Quarter 2015

Recruitment	Apr-Jun	Year to date
Number of students registering their interest to volunteer during third quarter	91	371
Training	Completions	
Volunteers inducted	246	246
Volunteers trained in Safe Food Handling Level 1	23	92
Volunteers trained in RSA	22	89
Volunteers trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid	22	22
Realfoods Cafe onsite kitchen & operations training	-	-
Volunteers trained in Community First Aid	-	-
Volunteers trained in manual handling	-	-



Volunteers hard at work...



... And having fun!

ACROSS THE CAMPUSES

CITY

The RUSU Information Counter (Building 8, Level 3, Room 1) continued to function as an important 'go to' information and contact point for RMIT students. April, May and June proved to be very busy months, with many students signing up for RUSU memberships and accessing RUSU services.

The admin volunteer program continued to be successful, with 16 volunteers staffing the office during the peak periods of the day. This program provides RUSU volunteers with experience in administration and student-focused customer service. Seven RMIT student casuals were also employed to assist the Front Office during peak periods of the quarter.

City Events/Chill 'n' Grill

The city Chill 'n' Grill has continued to be an extremely successful event, with approximately 15 volunteers assisting with the delivery of the free lunch to approximately 1000 students every week. Chill 'n' Grill continues to provide volunteers with an opportunity to meet new friends, develop new skills, and gain event work experience, while facilitating a fun and atmospheric event on campus every week for all RMIT students. Moreover, it has continued to offer opportunities for student employment through booking student DJs to perform at various events.

Collaboration characterised the Chill 'n' Grills during the second half of semester one, as we worked in partnership with REMIT in providing three special guest DJs (organised by the Live Music Industry Students). Various clubs also collaborated at the lunch events including the Indian Club, VISAR, AYCC, OXFAM (Nepal fundraising drive) and a handful of others.

The Chill 'n' Grill relocated from Bowen St to Alumni Courtyard during the second half of semester with much success and will remain there for the rest of the year.



BUNDOORA

Bundoora West Events/Free Lunch

The Chill 'n' Grill/Free Soup event has continued to grow in popularity among students at the Bundoora West Campus. As the second half of semester one grew colder and less BBQ-friendly, we started serving free soup with rolls as it was proven to be extremely successful last year. As the soup is gluten-free and vegan or vegetarian, it caters for most students dietary requirements ensuring we remain socially inclusive.

'Winter is Coming' Bundoora West Themed Chill 'n' Grill – May 20, 2015

Two themed events were delivered throughout the second half of semester one, including a special Mexican-flavoured soup with guacamole, corn chips, and margaritas (with both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options available) to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, and a 'Winter is Coming'-themed lunch with a winter vegetable soup, lemon cake, mulled cider and warm fruit tea. Both events employed student DJs and approximately seven volunteers to assist with the delivery of the event, decorations, and of course to help create life and atmosphere to the common lunch hour. These bigger events were supported by SSAF funding and were regarded as highlights by many of the Bundoora West students.

CARLTON

While the front counter has been closed in Carlton (Building 57), construction on the new 'revamped' office is expected to be finished near schedule. Once opened the Carlton space will become one of the focal points of RUSU's city operations. RUSU and the Carlton staff eagerly await the new office spaces.

BRUNSWICK

Brunswick Ball

The Brunswick Ball is getting into full swing with the Brunswick Baller's committee meeting quite regularly during this quarter. Brunswick representatives and staff are working with Gene & Peta in the lead up to the event to help engage students with design and layout of the event. The theme of the event has now been decided, with the committee choosing to adopt the theme of 'Vintage Garden Party'. To date, an incredible effort has been done by the Ballers.

Brunswick Events/Free Lunch

Throughout the second quarter, the Brunswick Chill 'n' Grill/ Free Soup Lunch event was delivered with a rotating roster of Work Education Students. Two themed lunch events were delivered including Cinco de Mayo and National Sorry Day. RMIT Brunswick students love their soup and it continues to be a huge success.



RUSU DEPARTMENTS

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Ladies Nights

The Women's Department excitedly had our first ladies night at the beginning of the quarter. The night started with the Women's Collective enjoying dumplings and drinks, and as the event was during the Melbourne International Comedy Festival the collective went along to support an upcoming female comedian. Our first ladies night was a huge success – we sold out the event and an absolutely fantastic night was had by all.

In this quarter before exams the Women's Department also had our second ladies night, which was dubbed 'Pitch Perfect Ladies Night'. The collective screened the film *Pitch Perfect* in the Women's Room, had dinner and drinks and then headed to the cinema to see the newly released *Pitch Perfect Two*. Afterwards we headed to a karaoke bar – in keeping with the theme! The night went fantastically and the department will continue running these events with more frequency into second semester/the third quarter.

Departmental Name Change

The Women's Officer put forward a motion at RUSU's AGM for constitutional change to have the spelling/name of the department officially changed back from 'Womyn's' to the correct dictionary spelling, 'Women's'. This change went through with unanimous support and the department will hereby be known as such.

The department is now planning for next semester which should be jam packed with a lot of great events. We'll be launching some regular workshops and activities including a sexual support network, sexual assault campaign, karaoke nights, (continuing) ladies nights, crafternoons and collective meetings. It's been a fantastic year so far for the Women's Department. Semester one was a hit, bring on semester two.



QUEER DEPARTMENT

Weekly Events

- » Monday: Queer Collective (12 pm) and Games night (5pm)
- » Tuesday: Lunches and Queers (12pm) and Queer Cinema (5pm)
- » Wednesday: Bundoora lunches (1pm) and Queer Workshop (3pm)
- » Thursday: Wine and Whine (5pm)
- » Friday: Crafternoon (12pm) and tea and biscuits (5pm)

WEEKLY EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Workshops

The workshops that have been run thus far have been educational, fun and popular. One of these workshops was when a life coach, Natalia, came into the lounge to run a Happiness and Contentment Workshop. Other workshops included our Coming Out workshop, which was run by Ai Vee, and guest speaker Natalia as part of the wellbeing campaign that the Queer Department took part in this semester. We are looking forwards to continuing these workshops into next semester, as they have been a wonderful addition to the Queer Department and an absolute joy to run.

Queer Collective Meetings

Queer Collective meetings are a wonderful way for the students in the Queer Department to speak with their peers and officers in a safe zone about their thoughts and feelings about the department, any issues that may have arisen, and what they would like to see in the future.

Movie Nights

Movie Nights are always very popular, and are run by our Queer Convener, Sean. It's a great way for students to relax and enjoy a movie with plenty of yummy nibbles. They're a good way for newcomers to join the space and socialise, and of course bring friends along who may be interested in becoming a part of our department.

RUSU Queer Presents: Trans-Gendering and its Relation to the Binary Proposed by the Patriarchy

This event, held on April 28, was a lively and healthy discussion with a diverse panel. The discussion constituted of a panel, a mediator, grievance officers and audience. The mediator asked members of the panel questions followed by question time for the audience to be allowed to engage with the panel in an ordered manner through the mediator.



Rad Sex And Consent Week

» The sex-ed you never had! April 19-23, 2015

Exactly what the title says – this was a chance for students who had either never had, or had very little education, on sexual health. As many schools do not educate on queer sexual health it is vital that this information is available somewhere. This event was not just about information and facts, it was about learning the information in a fun and peer-safe environment.

This event was run in collaboration with other universities such as Melbourne University and Monash University. The event was across various campuses and gave students from all universities the opportunity to take part and learn. This was great for the RUSU Queer Department to make friends with other universities and have great connections for future projects.

End Of Semester Karaoke – May 28, 2015

This was the end of semester karaoke event held in the RUSU Queer Lounge. It was great fun for students to let their hair out and sing it loud. The event was followed up by heading to Thursday at Mr Wow's Emporium in Smith Street.

The Zine – Queerness 101

The RUSU Queer Department zine has been a wonderful attraction this semester and we look forward to continuing it into semester two.

INTERNATIONAL

The department ran a successful multicultural awareness film night in collaboration with the RUSU Postgraduate and Queer Departments. We had a night of social drinks, different cultured foods and a film that provided the opportunity for students to relax after a stressful day of classes.

Following some great feedback, the International Department will be running a series of subsidised movie nights for international students. These events will aim to give international students an opportunity to socialise and will also help them with their English language skills.

The first round of conversational English language workshops concluded this quarter, with many students taking advantage of the opportunity to refine their skills. We are now preparing to roll out this program for second semester, and are investigating expanding the program to the Bundoora campus.



WELFARE & EDUCATION

National Union of Students' National Day of Action

» May 20, 2015

We saw many RMIT students participate in the rally and oppose the Federal government's proposed changes to education. Students got involved in the rallies in a big way to say no to the cost of degrees rising to over \$100,000, diminished accessibility to higher education, and students left with a lifetime of debt. RUSU maintains its stance that these reforms will limit the accessibility of higher education and will continue to oppose these changes throughout the year.

Recorded Lectures

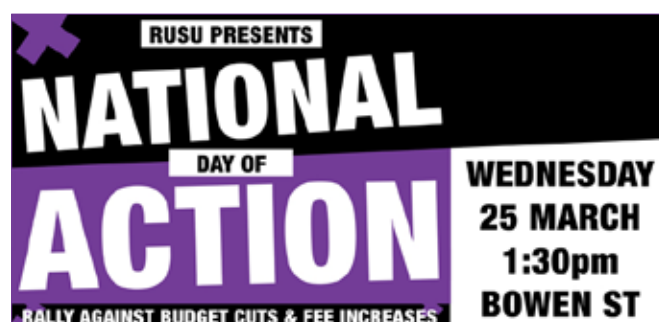
The Education Department has been running a campaign to ensure lectures are recorded by engaging with students at Chill 'n' Grills and around campus. The response has been very positive, with students very keen to engage with RUSU to change this policy.

Policy changes

The Education Department has worked closely with the Academic Board, Education Committee, and other RMIT boards and committees for consultation and feedback on policies. The new Course Design Procedure, with a set implementation date of semester one 2016, will see changes that will significantly enhance the student experience. One significant change includes no assessments worth over 50% – a campaign which RUSU has been running and is very excited to see implemented over the year ahead.

Free Healthy Breakfasts

Thanks to increase in assistance from student volunteers, the Healthy Breakfasts program was an even bigger success during the second half of semester one. Every week more meals are being handed out and going faster than ever. Across all the Melbourne-based campuses, we estimate to have served well over 10,000 meals to RMIT students, many of whom would otherwise go hungry. That's more than twice as many meals as last year. WOW, what an achievement! Among other things, yoghurt and berry cups, fruit, muesli, tea and a variety of vegan breakfast muffins have also been on offer.



POSTGRADUATE

In this quarter, the RUSU Postgraduate Department has focused on social and academic engagement with postgraduate students.

The department has held a series of postgraduate masterclasses specific to the needs of the postgraduate cohort. These fortnightly sessions have focussed on the development of graduate skills while also providing an opportunity for postgraduate students to meet, spend time together and enjoy some free food on campus.

The masterclasses were held fortnightly over the first semester with special guest speakers from RMIT Alumni. Each masterclass was well attended with sessions given on the following topics:

- » Networking Skills with guest speaker John McMorro
- » Getting Hired with guest speaker John Wright-Smith
- » The Power of LinkedIn with guest speaker Raelene Campbell

The department has received exceptional feedback from students about the masterclasses, which have greatly benefited and provided unique industry insights to the postgraduate cohort.

The Postgraduate Department would like to offer special thanks to RMIT Alumni – particularly Kristina Vukusic and Sofia Ridwan – for their support in finding speakers, and the alumni who gave their time so generously. Plans are now underway for next semester's event schedule for postgraduate students, and the department is pleased to confirm that we will be participating in the cross-institutional Postgraduate Ball with the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

The Postgraduate Officer has also worked to improve student experience and services by helping to achieve positive changes to the postgraduate lounge.

SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT

Department Title Change

The department's name was successfully changed at the Student Union's Annual General Meeting from the RUSU Environment Department to the RUSU Sustainability Department. This change will focus the department on not just raising awareness of the effects of broad systemic failures that cause environmental degradation, but also on finding and promoting genuine solutions to the problems of environmental degradation. The change in name reflects a shift from drawing attention to the problem to drawing attention to the potential solutions. The department feels that a solutions-focused approach that promotes the uptake of effective solutions is more relevant in the 21st century than a problem-focused approach. The department's view that a solutions-based approach more accurately reflects community sentiment was vindicated by the success of the renaming campaign at the Annual General Meeting.

RMIT Environment Network

Building on the formation of the RMIT Environment Network in Q1 2015, the department representative met with the senior leadership of both the Sustainable Systems Engineering Students Association and Engineers Without Borders RMIT to discuss strategy around ensuring that the network continues to provide value to member groups. Both groups expressed a desire to add to prior successes to ensure a collaborative culture continues across sustainability-focused groups on campus. The department is taking a facilitative approach to building the network, aiming to empower members to be active innovators rather than prescribing a top-down agenda.

Sustainability Ball

Negotiations began in April for sustainability-focused groups on campus to hold an end-of-year event celebrating sustainability and each group's achievements. These negotiations progressed throughout Q2 resulting in the successful launch of ticket sales for the event as well as the booking of the venue. The ball will be held on October 9 in the Alumni Courtyard at the RMIT City Campus.



Partnerships:

- » Greening RMIT: the partnership between the department and Greening RMIT came to a formal end, however negotiations are underway to extend the partnership as significant gains were realised for both parties as a result of the partnership.
- » Engineers Without Borders (EWB) RMIT: The department played an active role in supporting EWB RMIT's screening of the documentary film *Cowspiracy* on August 5. The event and post-drinks were a success, generating significant interest from across the RMIT community.

Sustainability Drinks

The department held the inaugural Sustainability Drinks event with more than 40 people attending. Friends were made and bonds between sustainability-focused groups were strengthened.

Discussion began in Q2 for the design and recruitment of a volunteer position to manage the Sustainability Drinks initiative. The position ideally will manage the Sustainability Drinks and be an ambassador for the project.

Community Dinner

The department successfully co-hosted an end-of-semester free community dinner with Greening RMIT and approximately six other sustainability-focused clubs. The event was attended by over 100 people. The event celebrated the achievements of these clubs over the semester as well as those of the department and Realfoods Cafe and was broadly well received.

REALFOODS CAFE

Realfoods was open 10.30am–4.30pm, Monday to Friday during semester.

After its reopening on February 23, Realfoods continued to trade until its closure on June 5 due to the New Academic Street redevelopment.

Daily retail operations continued to be overseen by the Realfoods Café Administrator & Volunteer Support and the Café Assistant, supported by a team of over 50 trained volunteers and six student casuals. Casuals are a valuable and highly necessary addition to the running of Realfoods, as their presence makes it possible for the Café Administrator & Volunteer Support to have dedicated time set aside to work on administration, rosters, and strategy. The program also provides employment opportunities for RMIT students in a convenient on-campus location.

All food was freshly prepared on-site by the RUSU Realfoods Cook (also an RMIT student).

Realfoods continued to provide hands-on hospitality and customer service experience to RMIT students and assisted them in increasing their employment prospects, with most students requesting references for their resumes, and many reporting back that they have found employment. By participating in this program students gain experience and solid employment skills through certification in Responsible Serving of Alcohol and Food Handling, funded by RUSU. Both certificates can often prove too costly for students to afford on their own.

All volunteer time is LEAD accredited.

Some of our Realfoods volunteer feedback

University gets so stressful sometimes, coming in for my Friday shift is the highlight of my week, it really puts me in a positive mood. – Kelvin

I never would have gotten a job if it wasn't for the Realfoods experience on my CV. – Gabriela



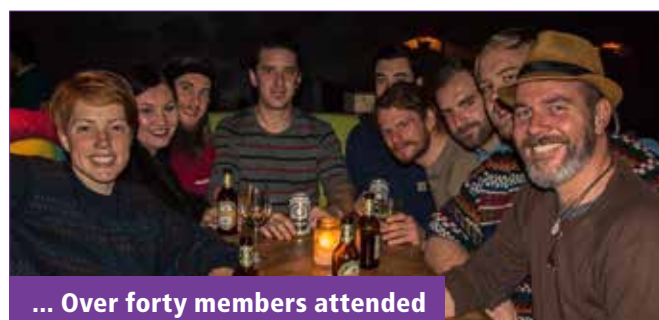
Community Dinner in full swing



A big crowd gathered for Sustainability Drinks...



Community Dinner Guests



... Over forty members attended

It's rewarding to hear of lasting friendships that have been built through volunteering at Realfoods. Another volunteer informed me that every second weekend he and his 'volunteer buddies' catch up. Many of our volunteers are new to Melbourne and having a support network plays an imperative role in a positive university life.

This semester new roles have been developed for kitchen hand volunteers. This has given students that have an interest in food preparation an opportunity to practice and develop these skills, working closely under the direction of the Realfoods Cook.

This program also played an important role in the community dinner. Not only did the Realfoods Cook cater the event, but it was a great opportunity for an informal volunteer party to show appreciation for their hard work. Among the guest speakers was the management of the Realfoods program, who shared their experience and gave thanks to the volunteers.

Since operations recommenced in February, various new items have been added to the menu including peanut butter and chocolate cookies, Anzac cookies and lemon curd vegan doughnuts. We provided three delicious salads – freshly prepared by our volunteers – to complement our various curries that are bursting with flavour.

Our returning volunteers love the streamlined structure of Realfoods and comment on how user-friendly our new POS system is. This allows for volunteers to concentrate on building their customer service skills and other operational skills during their time at Realfoods.

The end of semester one also saw Realfoods wrap up their partnership with Nomad Coffee, who were a wonderful addition to the campus. We are grateful for their hard work and fantastic coffee over the previous months.

A new 'Grab'n Go' Realfoods is in the works in order to continue to provide students and staff on site with coffee and delicious, organic, sustainable food. We are hoping to re-open in semester two.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

RUSU CLUB GRANTS

RUSU Clubs & Societies accessed over \$30,000 in clubs' grants this quarter.

RUSU CLUBS ACTIVITY

Affiliation

As at the end of the second quarter of 2015, RUSU has 95 fully affiliated student clubs and societies. The distribution of clubs across our different categories is as follows:

- » Spiritual Clubs – 11
- » Social Clubs – 20
- » Political Clubs – 5
- » Cultural Clubs – 20
- » Academic Clubs – 39

Brand new clubs:

RUSU welcomes the first of our mid-year affiliating new clubs:

- » RMIT Spanish Club
- » RMIT Press Club

Another five new clubs are working with us towards a mid-year affiliation and some 15 clubs are due for their regular re-affiliation.



VISAR students supporting their club...



... And showing their best moves!

2ND QUARTER CLUB ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Club achievements in the spotlight

This quarter, RUSU Clubs & Societies would like to congratulate RMIT Oxfam for its quick and dedicated response to the earthquake tragedy in Nepal. The club arranged a number of fundraising activities on campus that were well supported. Several other clubs also contributed to charity activities during this period including RMIT PPIA (Indonesian Association), CAINZ RMIT and RMIT Electric Racing (who contributed by giving their own blood!). RUSU clubs not only contribute to the well-being of RMIT students but to the broader local and international community, and RUSU is very proud to support them.

Special events this quarter included the VISAR swap meet held in Alumni Courtyard – a clever idea to assist members and other students to save cash by swapping clothes, books and household items. The event was held in conjunction with RUSU's City Chill 'n' Grill and they enjoyed a lovely sunny Autumn day for it.

Club activities this quarter

- » RMIT Civil Engineering Student Association (CESA) 2 x Industry Presentation Events in RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Christian Union 'Kick Off' Camp @ Upper Plenty Conference Centre, Upper Plenty, Victoria
- » RMIT PPIA Indonesian Student Association (RMIT PPIA) participation in intervarsity 'Dota 2' Tournament @ MC Internet, City
- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Industry Night @ RMIT Green Brain
- » RMIT Geospatial Science Students Association (GSSA) Friday Night Socials series at various venues, Melbourne City
- » RMIT International Studies Association (ISA) End of Semester Party @ Aer Bar, City
- » RMIT Law Students Society and RMIT MBA Student Association Careers Night @ RMIT Design Hub
- » RMIT Association of Pharmacy Students Commencement Evening @ The Apartment, Melbourne
- » RMIT Information Security Collective (RISC) Industry Speaker series in RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Sports Chiropractic Association Dry Needling Workshop @ RMIT Bundoora Campus
- » RMIT Law Students Society Hoodies Release in RMIT Building 13
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association 1000 Steps (Kokoda Track Memorial Walk) excursion @ Mt Dandenong National Park, Upper Ferntree Gully
- » RMIT Electric Racing Blood Bank drive @ The Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Melbourne
- » RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) 'Accelerate Your Career in Finance Industry Night' in RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Japan Club participation in intervarsity Japan Clubs mid semester social @ The Bottom End, City
- » RMIT International Studies Association (ISA) Thursday Night Social series @ John Curtin Hotel, Carlton
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders Trivia Night @ John Curtin Hotel, Carlton

- » RMIT Law Students Society MOOT training and skills workshop series @ Old Magistrates Court RMIT Building 20
- » RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association (CSSA) “Flea Market” @ The Drill Hall, City
- » Club movie nights in RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association (RUMA) BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) MaCa (Marketing Career) Event in RMIT Building 12
- » RMIT PPIA Indonesian Student Association (RMIT PPIA) “Plug & Play” Charity Event @ Bell’s Hotel, South Melbourne
- » RMIT Applied Chemistry and Environmental Science Society BBQ @ RMIT O’Grady’s Place
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) participation in RMIT Global Mobility Fair in RMIT Storey Hall
- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Week 8 BBQ @ RMIT O’Grady’s Place
- » RMIT Business Information Systems Student Association (BISSA) BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA) Durian Festival @ RMIT Bowen Street
- » RMIT Law Students Society End of Semester event @ Marrakech Bar, City
- » RMIT Environmental Engineering Student Association (EESA) Social Night @ Queensberry Hotel, North Melbourne
- » RMIT Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) Mid-Year Roving Social @ various venues, City
- » RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) Industry Night featuring Jon Burgess @ RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Student Association for Sustainable Systems Engineering (SASSE) End of Semester event @ The Shaw Davey Slum, City
- » Engineers Without Borders (EWB) RMIT Chapter in collaboration with the RMIT Sustainability collective Sustainability Drinks @ Sheeben, City
- » RMIT Law Students Society Paper Presentation Competition @ RMIT Building 13
- » RMIT Singapore Students Association (SSA) Markan 2015 night @ Chan Charlie Chan, City
- » RMIT Economics, Finance and Marketing Student (EFMSA) Trivia Night @ Queensberry Hotel, North Melbourne
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) National Volunteer Week Thank You BBQ @ Exhibition Gardens, Carlton
- » RMIT Business Students Association launch BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT PPIA Indonesian Student Association (RMIT PPIA) “Pisang” (gathering) event series @ RMIT Building 8 and Abode Apartments, City.
- » RMIT Oxfam Semester 1 Wind Up Drinks @ The Moat, City
- » RMIT University Malaysian Association movie excursion @ Hoyts Cinema, Melbourne
- » RMIT Chinese Students & Scholars Association (CSSA) boat cruise @ Victoria Harbour, Docklands
- » RMIT Japan Club origami workshop as part of RMIT Stress Less Week @ RMIT Building 8
- » RMIT University Sri Lankan Student Association (RUSLSA) semi-formal, “DO YOU EVEN KOTHU? The Second Serve!” @ The Venue, Richmond Hill
- » RMIT ALP (Labor) Club Anzac Dawn Service excursion @ The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
- » RMIT University Jewish Students Club weekly coffee and catch up program @ various venues, City
- » RMIT Australia-China Youth Association language swap and trivia night @ Abode Apartments, City
- » Vietnamese International Students at RMIT (VISAR) Swap Meet (clothes and household items exchange) @ RMIT Alumni Courtyard
- » RMIT Islamic Society Guest Speakers in RMIT Kaleide Theatre
- » RMIT Hong Kong Student association (HKSA) City Hunt activity around Melbourne City
- » RMIT African Student Association lunch in RMIT Building 8
- » RMIT University Somali Student Association (RUSSA) end of semester BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT AIESEC “Succeed as a Graduate” forum in RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Association of Debaters (RAD) Women’s Open (debating competition) in RMIT Building 80
- » RMIT Engineers Without Borders End of Semester BBQ @ RMIT O’Grady’s Place
- » RMIT Asian Association End of Exams Party @ Alumbra, City
- » RMIT Oxfam Nepal Earthquake Fundraising Bake Sale, Badges and Raffle in RMIT Building 8
- » RMIT Chess Club weekly chess teaching and games program in RMIT Building 56
- » RMIT Beer Brewers and Connoisseurs Meet Up @ James Squire Brewhouse, City
- » RMIT League of Legends 2015 ARAM Tournament #2
- » RMIT CAINZ “Growing Wealth” seminar & Nepal Earthquake Fundraiser in RMIT Building 56
- » RMIT ALP (Labor) Club BBQ @ RMIT Bowen Street
- » RMIT Asian Association BBQ @ RMIT A’Beckett Square
- » RMIT Christian Union DSC Lunch @ Fukuyu Rama, City
- » RMIT Greens Social @ Workshop Bar, City
- » RMIT Union of Jewish Students Society Toasties Lunch @ RMIT Bowen Street

INFORMATION TO RUSU CLUBS

- » Mid-year affiliation form and instructions.
- » Clubs mid-year orientation events registration forms and instructions.
- » New club executives shared Google drive folder for clubs information and forms.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS & SUPPORT TO RUSU CLUBS

RUSU Clubs & Societies is preparing to make the big move to Building 57 as RUSU relocates for the New Academic Street development. City campus clubs have long had direct personal access to RUSU Clubs & Societies staff and this move from Building 8 to Building 57 will present a range of challenges. A new system is being developed to enable clubs to borrow club equipment through RUSU's first point of contact office in Building 5.

The RUSU Clubs Leadership Program 'RASCAL' (RMIT Affiliate Student Clubs Accredited Leadership Program) will be launched in semester two of 2015. RASCAL will include a dedicated leadership training program for club executive members as well as continued access to practical training in food safety, responsible service of alcohol, running meetings, etc. RASCAL participants will also be able to access the training available through the LEAD Program itself and RUSU looks forward to developing this important partnership with RMIT LEAD. With some 400 elected RUSU Club executive members, RASCAL is set to make a big impact on the quality of student leadership at RMIT.



STUDENT MEDIA

CATALYST

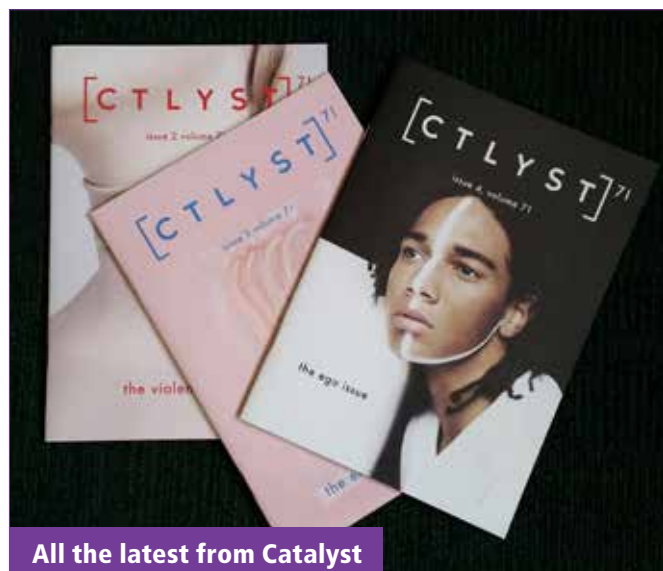
Catalyst is currently in the final production phase of its fourth issue, after having launched three successful issues in the first semester. We've taking the mid-year break as a time to reflect on what we want to achieve before our term ends this year.

We are engaging with various sponsors to find new launch venues and opportunities to create content beyond the usual print medium. Our podcast is currently on hiatus but that latest episode featured interviews with journalist Peter Greste and author C.S. Pascat.

Ferdydurke and Belleville have agreed to host our launch events free of charge, which signals the beginning of a strong partnership and potential future relationship for next year's editors.

In terms of readership, our print issues have needed regular restocking while online we are receiving around 1000 readers per month. The video content we send to Facebook is garnering thousands of views; on a related note, Facebook has signalled potential changes to ad revenue on uploaded videos. The changes would mean the pages uploading the content would receive partial revenue from ads played in the videos, something to be mindful of in future.

We endeavour to work more with RMITV during the next semester to help create new exciting ways to reach our audience on campus and beyond.



All the latest from Catalyst

RMITV

The second quarter of 2015 has seen RMITV SCT Inc continue to move from strength to strength. Growing in numbers of members and thus expanding the number of productions sees RMITV's resources being heavily utilised. Relationships with affiliate organisations are being cultivated through co-productions and external industry events.

RMITV's senior leadership team continues to improve its structure, developing teams to take on new projects and build student skill bases and opportunities for training and engagement within all domains of the media.

Membership

RMITV is rapidly expanding. Our focus on recruiting members has proved very successful. We have a total of 285 new members this year so far. At the same time last year, we had 140 new members. This year the number of membership sign ups has already exceeded those of 2014 in its entirety.

This rise in numbers is reflected in the increase in programs and the active engagement the membership base has with events RMITV is offering to students.

Marketing Department

The RMITV marketing team has grown to 24 (16 current RMIT students, and 8 alumni). It has been continually developing marketing strategies throughout the year with a focus primarily on recruiting new members.

After an enormous effort earlier in the year to make RMITV more visible to students, the newly formed RMITV marketing team has taken on the task of communicating what is happening at RMITV as the year progresses. This is being done through short, regular video updates; aptly titled RMITV Update. These short productions give new members an opportunity to make something short and simple and increases member engagement. It is planned that RMITV Update will grow to be broadcast to potential members through alternate media channels.

RMITV has had a presence at other industry events. RMITV representatives are encouraged and regularly attend events that encourage network building both within and externally to RMIT University. RMITV members regularly support events held by RMIT Screen Network, SYN Media, Lean Filmmaking, ACMI Events (such as David Stratton's Film Criticism Masterclass), St Kilda Film Festival, The Fodder Radio Station and many more!



RMITV Crew hard at work

WRAPPED PRODUCTIONS

Tough Times Never Last

Having completed its 13th season with a brand new set design and currently broadcasting on Aurora, *Tough Times* remains one of the best basic training productions for first time RMITV members. Members involved are fully immersed in training for roles from camera, sound, light to even directing and production management under the leadership of ABC employees.

In Pit Lane

Having just filmed its 19th season, *In Pit Lane* is Australia's longest running prime-time motorsport journalism series and RMITV's longest running production. The season celebrated *In Pit Lane* successfully transferring back to a live-to-air format, broadcasting live for six episodes to Channel 31. Live broadcasts continue to offer students new and exciting opportunities to engage with the cutting edge of making television productions.

World from Below

Produced by human rights lawyer Elizabeth O'Shea from a national law firm, and chairperson of the human rights media organisation 'Right Now', *The World from Below* is an informative news and analysis show. The show goes beyond the usual power and personalities dominating headlines in the mainstream media, with particular interest in stories from the Asia-Pacific region.

Follies of Youth

Written and produced by RMIT student and talented RMITV member Tony Avar, the show deals with issues of sexual assault and HIV. With content that is relevant to youth today, the show has already created a strong community on social media. The show is currently online and running a new episode from its second season every Wednesday till mid-year.

Live on Bowen - RMITV's Flagship Program

Live on Bowen is an hour-long variety show featuring comedy segments, celebrity interviews, stand up comedy and live music performances. Since its commencement in 2012, with the help of RMITV, the show has evolved and developed, becoming a launching pad for many young media professionals and up-and-coming comedians. Since 2014, *Bowen* has extended its audience beyond Channel 31 Melbourne and Geelong to 31 Digital Brisbane, C44 Adelaide and internationally to Face TV New Zealand.

Live on Bowen's sixth and final season began taping earlier this year with the support of SSAF funding. Producers Antonio Cafasso and Billie Egan have worked exceedingly hard to pull off a technically and creatively challenging and engaging production with celebrity guests such as Father Bob, Adam Zwar, Justin Hamilton and many more. In early June, the cast and crew geared up to take on a 'Week of Action', lobbying the government to extend Community Television's license until 2019. With many of the crew having built the foundations of their careers at Channel 31 and within Studio A, the *Bowen* team stepped up and delivered an amazing episode urging it's viewers to commit to community TV.

RMITV's commitment to Live on Bowen has provided countless members with the ability and knowledge to tackle the Australian entertainment industry head on with confidence

– Billie Egan, Line Producer of Live On Bowen, Season 6.

SOCIAL MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

Facebook – 12,479 Facebook Likes

Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow stronger, with approximately 500 new likes this quarter. Facebook serves as a platform for event advertising for both RUSU events and for Clubs & Societies, and allows students to interact with RUSU via wall posts and photo tagging and to RSVP to events (giving RUSU an idea of numbers beforehand). Post-event photo galleries also continue to be a major drawcard for students on the Facebook platform. Popular events on Facebook this quarter included the RUSU Boat Party and the RUSU Blacklight Party.

Website

RUSU's site continues to be a great platform for delivering news, updates and information about RUSU events and activities. Our ever-changing front page advertises all the latest events.

Newsletter

RUSU's newsletter continues to be popular, with over 5,128 subscribers to date, and a readership engagement rate of around 40 per cent, which is far higher than the industry average. To date, there have been five main issues so far in 2015, and many more smaller updates, providing students with the latest news and information on upcoming events and activities.

Other Social Media

RUSU's presence on other social media, including both Twitter and Instagram, remains strong, with our Twitter account having over 1780 followers. However, RUSU recognises that it does not use these social media avenues to their full potential, and we are keen to exploit these further throughout 2015.

As part of an ongoing drive for improvement across all of our social media and website avenues, the Publications & Communications department recently researched and prepared a social media audit, which looked at the website and all of the RUSU and RUSU-affiliated social media avenues and made recommendations as to consolidation, continued usage and the closing of irrelevant and underused pages/sites. Implementation of these findings should happen slowly over the second half of the year.



Aaarrgh! Pirate fun at the RUSU Boat Party

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The RUSU Media Department produces a wide variety of publicity materials for RUSU departments, events and clubs. To ensure their suitability over a broad range of printed and digital media, publicity materials are always made in a range of formats. New this quarter is the Instagram-style format – appropriately sized for that social platform. Some of the highlights from this quarter include:

RUSU Boat Party

The end of term Boat Party sold out fast. The pirate theme proved popular with students, with many dressing up in full pirate garb to ride the high seas! The poster design featured the all-important Jolly Roger flag against a black backdrop.

RUSU EoX Glow Party

Glowsticks at the ready! This year's first end of semester party proved to be hugely popular on Facebook in the run-up to the event, with some 2000 students expressing an interest in attending. Ticket sales reflected this, and the event – featuring glow sticks, UV paint and UV bubbles – was much enjoyed by all students. Marketing materials for the event reflected the UV vibe, with a very fluorescent, funky look that helped to reel in the punters.

Healthy Breakfasts Re-brand

The Healthy Breakfast event that RUSU puts on at all campuses weekly is an important part of our outreach work, and is very popular with students. Foods on offer include fruit, yoghurt, muesli and muffins, and the event represents a real money saver for cash-strapped students. The branding for this event was over two years old, and was in real need of a re-vamp. The new marketing materials feature a really delicious breakfast spread, and shows the RUSU colours to give brand recognition. As part of the re-brand, pop-up banners will be printed with the same design for each campus.



More Boat Party mayhem



Glowing hard at the RUSU EoX Glow Party



EoX dancefloor in full swing



Throwing shapes at EoX Glow



Faces painted and glowsticks out at EoX!

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

COMPASS

- » 73 students accessed the Compass Drop-in space throughout Q2, with issues of mental health and housing remaining strong themes
- » Compass volunteers continued to staff the drop-in space four days per week and are wonderful as always
- » More than 20 newly recruited volunteers were provided with the internationally accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid certificate and will be ready to start their shifts in semester two
- » Stress Less Week was held over all metropolitan campuses including Bundoora East. This event saw free massage and giveaways provided to students alongside valuable information regarding how to manage stress and where to find support on campus. Approximately 2500 students were reached during this event
- » The Compass Project Officer took a position on the Student Hardship Grant assessment panel at the request of RMIT Wellbeing
- » Yoga wrapped up for the semester with some wonderful feedback being provided by students:

You are the best yoga teacher I have ever met in my life!! You don't know how much I love your classes, sometimes I come to uni only for your class, though I come from very far. The way you speak during entire class gives motivation. I regret that I missed your classes for first two years of my study, which made me go crazy with the work. Thank God at least I found you now. I am blessed. Please keep up good work. World needs teachers like you.
– Facebook post to our yoga teacher

REPRESENTATION

2015 is an exciting time at RMIT. There is a great deal of focus on improving the student experience and RMIT have actively engaged RUSU in discussions about what students need and how RMIT and RUSU can both be working to make RMIT the best it can possibly be.

RUSU representatives have been active in meetings, forums and consultations on issues ranging from New Academic Street, to campus facilities, IT, events and teaching and learning. RUSU has also been working collaboratively with RMIT on events and projects such as Founder's Day, the Demo Party and Safety Week. It has been a very busy quarter indeed!

RUSU/ RMIT Meetings

The RUSU President and General Secretary have met with the new Vice Chancellor, Marin Bean several times this quarter. A focus of these meetings has been on improving the student experience at RMIT.

The RUSU President has also meetings with the following key RMIT people this quarter:

- » Kelly Bosman - Project Manager Student Experience NAS – These meetings have covered a range of projects and issues around the New Academic Street student experience – (parties and promotions, art work on hoardings, student placement opportunities, site visits for students)
- » Paul Noonan Deputy Director - Marketing & Communications - Founder's day celebrations, great debate, and the 'You Asked, We Delivered' campaign

Student Voice

RUSU elected student representatives provided a student voice on a range of RMIT committees during this quarter. These included but were not limited to:

- » Academic Board
- » Bundoora Campus Advisory Committee
- » Equity and Diversity Committee
- » Education Committee
- » Monthly Catch Up Meetings with the Dean of Students
- » NAS Strategic Users Meetings
- » Orientation and Transition Steering Group
- » Religious Advisory Committee
- » Student Experience Advisory Committee
- » Student Staff Consultative Committees (SSCCs)
- » Science Engineering Health College Board
- » Design and Social Context College Board

Appeal Committees Repts

RUSU has supported students on the following RMIT hearings:

- » Two student representatives sat on two Student Conduct Board/Student Conduct Appeals Committee hearings
- » Three Student representatives sat on ten University Appeals Committee hearings
- » Three student representatives sat on nine College Appeals Committee hearings.

RUSU Internal Meetings

Elected student representatives have been supported and resourced to manage RUSU as a student-controlled organisation, including:

- » Three Student Union Council (SUC) meetings
- » 13 secretariat (SEC) meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee, Investment Committee and Student Rights Group Monthly Meetings
- » Elected student councillors supported to act work as governors and managers.



STUDENT RIGHTS

STUDENT RIGHTS CASEWORK AND ADVOCACY

The quarter has been a busy one for the Student Rights team who have worked with several hundred students over the last few months. In respect of casework, the quarter saw the team dealing with a considerable number of appeals against special consideration outcomes in accordance with impending end of semester exams. Late appeals against exclusion, late withdrawals from course without academic penalty, fee remissions, complaints and academic misconduct hearings were also considerable aspects of this quarter's casework.

In terms of advocacy and campaigns, the Student Rights team have been actively involved in a number of inter-departmental meetings designed to improve student referrals and support, and to discuss collaboration around policy issues. Members of the team have met with staff from Counselling, Student Wellbeing, the Ngarara Willum Centre, Vocational Education, the Assessment Support Unit and the Disability Liaison Unit over the past quarter to establish strong processes for referral and areas where we can work better together.

The Student Rights team has been involved in a number of campaigns and advocated for greater student support on a range of issues. The Student Rights team have specifically campaigned to the Assessment Support Unit, the Financial Services Group and other departments within RMIT, for example on RMIT's Special Consideration policies and the way that students registered with the Disability Liaison Unit access and are managed by the Special Consideration unit.

The team provided formal feedback on policies including the University Appeal Committee's Guide to students who have hearings and RMIT's proposed policy for cancellation of enrolment of student debtors. The input from the Student Rights Team and RMIT's Wellbeing Department has resulted in more equitable processes for students experiencing financial disadvantage and distress in the wake of these new policies.

The Student Rights team also responded to the Nepal earthquake by working with counselling and Student Wellbeing to assist students especially affected by this disaster, providing particular advocacy around the extension of fee deadlines and provision of fee waivers.

The team sadly bid farewell to Student Rights Officer (HDR) Helen Cook during the quarter, who has moved on from RUSU after several years of dedicated service. In the next few weeks, staff will be assisting students with Appeals Against Assessment, following end of semester exams, and preparing to give a series of O-Week talks to students starting at RMIT mid-year.

I just wanted to say a big thankyou for all your help. Without you guys I don't think it would have been possible. You guys deserve a lot of credit for the work you do.

Thank you for helping and listening to me and my supervisor. I finally fully passed on Monday afternoon... I am so grateful to be finished. You are both doing important work.

Thank you very much... because of your help I can continue studying.

PROBLEMS CREATED

Problems created during the last quarter	Number
Discipline (University Level)	
General Misconduct	1
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism)	36
General Misconduct	1
Complaint	
School Level	54
University Level	25
RMIT Ombudsman	1
Victorian Ombudsman	4
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	4
Admission Issue	2
Appeal Against Assessment	49
Assessment Issues (other)	8
At Risk	2
Bullying	4
Disability	10
Enrolment Issue	25
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	3
Exclusion	34
Fees Issue	16
Leave of Absence (LOA)	14
Mental Health Issue	15
Other issues	32
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	9
Remission of Debt	16
RMIT English Worldwide (REW)	1
Sexual Harassment	1
Show Cause	21
Special Consideration	60
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass by Compensation)	2
TOTAL	450

PROBLEMS SOLVED

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	9
Appeal Upheld	8
Exclusion Withdrawn by School Before Hearing	8
Exclusion Withdrawn by Student	1
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	2
Fee Remission Not Approved	2
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	1
Deferred Exam	8
Extension Of Time	4
Late Withdrawal Without Academic Penalty	6
Special Consideration Not Granted	8
Referral External	2
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	2
Special Consideration Granted Without a Hearing	3
Complaint Outcome	
Alternative Resolution Reached	1
School Level Complaint Dismissed	3
School Level Complaint Resolved	6
University Level Complaint Dismissed	3
University Level Complaint Resolved	6
RMIT Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
Victorian Ombudsman Complaint Dismissed	1
Late Enrolment Outcome	
Late Enrolment Achieved	2
Compass	3
Counselling Service	18
Disability Liaison Unit	11
Student Well Being	6
Study And Learning Centre	11
Appeal Against RPL/RPL Issue College Appeals Committee	
RPL Appeal Achieved	1
RPL Appeal Dismissed	2
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	4
Contacted Course Coordinator	7
Contacted Head of School	7
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	2
Contacted Program Manager	5

Problems outcomes during the last quarter	Number
Other	
Advice Given – Student Able to Proceed With Case Themselves	89
Other Outcomes	52
Student Doesn't Want to Pursue the Case	24
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Other Penalty	1
Student Asked to Re-submit the Assessment	17
Student Reprimanded	5
Student Given a Fail For All or Any Part of Any Assessment	3
Leave Of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	7
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	1
Other Penalty	1
Student Reprimanded	1
Appeal Dismissed	5
Appeal Upheld	7
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Not Resolved	2
Issue Resolved	10
Payment Plan Provided	1
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	2
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	8
Appeal Upheld	4
Informal Review of Assessment Resolution	2
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student Found Not Guilty	9
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in Favour of Student	2
Other Penalty	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause Approved by SPC	9
Email/Phone Advice Given	21
Singapore Institute of Management Cases	5
TOTAL	643
Student Cases Opened During Last Quarter	200
Student Cases Closed During Last Quarter	299

RUSU GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION & SERVICES

RUSU's operations are supported by the Governance, Administration and Finance staff. The RUSU relocation to buildings 5 and 57 and the logistics involved in relocating 70 staff and student representatives/student media reps has consumed a significant amount of the Governance and Administration time this quarter. Some key projects during this period include:

- » Assisting and resourcing RUSU student representatives in meetings with RMIT University
- » Regular Meetings with RMIT University and Property Services regarding: Design of the Bld 57/Bld 5 temporary RUSU offices, Realfoods Café, NAS & Storage, Bundoora Bld 204 (Bundoora), Building 514 (Brunswick) and the Student Experience Improvement Projects
- » Assisting student representatives with strategic consideration of RUSU operations at Bundoora campus
- » Preparation of the Operational Plan and Scope of Works for the Temporary Hub Realfoods Cafe
- » Development of the SSAF competitive grants for RUSU
- » Finalisation of the 2014 Financial Reports and Audit
- » Coordination of the RUSU Annual General Meetings across all campuses.
- » Finance Standing Committee meetings held monthly including reporting on the RUSU Compliance checklist
- » RUSU Investment Committee meetings held as required
- » Providing advice to the RUSU management on IT-related issues.
- » Providing first point of contact Student Rights advice for RMIT students (both onshore and offshore)
- » Coordinating Student Rights Team meetings
- » Developing and delivering training for RUSU staff on the Student Rights Database to ensure consistency of data entry and database use.
- » Assisting RUSU management with addressing any OH&S issues
- » Conducting site visits of RUSU offices at Brunswick and Bundoora with the RUSU President and identifying areas for improvement
- » Coordinating recruitment of RUSU staff
- » Training and Inducting new RUSU staff
- » Coordinating student reps for RMIT Appeal Committees and Student Conduct Board
- » Attending meetings with ITS & Academic Registrar Group to source student data for RUSU elections

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RUSU SSAF FUNDING 2015

RUSU Funding from RMIT for 2015 is made up of the following:

- » \$2,270,498 (Base grant) and
- » \$553,500 (SSAF Committee Grants) and
- » \$36,483 (One off special payment for 2015 – non-SSAF)
- » **2015 TOTAL GRANT: \$2,860,481**
- » **2015 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE: \$2,860,481**
- » **SSAF Component of 2015 Grant: \$2,823,998**
(for SSAF reporting purposes)

The 2015 RMIT/RUSU Deed Agreement has been signed. The 2015 grant was received as a lump sum payment in February. This upfront payment will enable RUSU to generate additional income to supplement the grant.

In order to meet legislative requirements, the RUSU financial reports match expenses with 'allowable items'. Please note that Table 1 below is based on SSAF Allowable items and expenditure of SSAF funds on these areas. It categorises the SSAF expenditure from the base grant and SSAF Committee projects into the allowable items. This table does not include activities and services funded by non-SSAF expenditure.

RUSU also receives some funding from other sources. While some of the activities funded through these sources are reported on in the narrative section of this quarterly report, due to the overlap with other representative, advocacy, administrative, governance and publicity functions of RUSU, expenditure on these projects is not included in the expenditure reported below as it is not SSAF funded.

Table 2 reports on the specific grants approved by the SSAF Committee.

RUSU is committed to continuous improvement of our financial systems to ensure we both work within our budget provisions as agreed through our funding agreement and to satisfactorily achieve our annual audit of statutory accounts by a registered company auditor.

**TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF GRANT EXPENDITURE ON ALLOWABLE ITEMS:
1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2015**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation specific events • Re-Orientation Events 	36,060
Caring for children of students	Nil	\$0
Providing legal services to students	Nil	\$0
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, honorariums, programs, marketing • All Compass Centre, programs and staff • Healthy Eating SSAF Grant 	\$120,247
Helping students secure accommodation	Nil	\$0
Helping students with their financial affairs	Nil	\$0
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 and International Support SSAF Grant 	\$10,243
Helping students obtain employment or advice on careers	Nil	\$0
Helping students obtain insurance against personal accidents	Nil	\$0
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 Engagement Officer • Student Union Council Elections • Secretariat Honorariums • All of SUC campaigns 	\$171,245
Providing libraries and reading rooms (other than those provided for academic purposes) for students	Nil	\$0

**TABLE 1: RUSU SSAF GRANT EXPENDITURE ON ALLOWABLE ITEMS:
1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2015 (CONTINUED)**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
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 • RMIT Flagship Program • Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) • Communications/Graphic Designer Staff 	\$90,577
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 (all campuses) • RUSU Realfoods 	\$63,782
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions • Activities and Events Collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support 	\$107,920
Supporting an artistic activity by students	–	\$0
Supporting debating by students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants paid to debating club are included with clubs reporting. 	\$0
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 	\$128,735
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 (including Bundoora East and SSAF Project) 	\$332,103
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 	\$293,484
	YTD SSAF Expenditure	\$1,354,396
	YTD 2015 SSAF Funds Received	\$2,823,998



**TABLE 2: 2015 SSAF COMMITTEE GRANT FINANCIAL REPORT:
1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2015**

Program Title	Grant Amount	Expenditure Jan–March	Comments
RUSU Volunteer Program	\$155,000	\$78,356	
Compass – funding a welfare information and referral drop-in space	\$115,000	\$55,266	
RUSU Flagship Production (<i>Live On Bowen</i>) and RMITV training program	\$40,000	\$14,467	
RUSU International Student Support – conversation classes and city tours	\$27,000	\$6,485	Semester 2 includes new Bundoora program
Bundoora Common Lunch Hour (including SRO and BE)	\$72,000	\$34,104	
RUSU Orientation Package	\$50,000	\$39,433	
RUSU Healthy Breakfast program (including nutrition and sustainability awareness)	\$60,000	\$16,063	
Postgrad Support Program (including SRO)	\$34,500	\$15,260	
TOTAL	\$553,500	\$259,434	

RUTSU

RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION