

A photograph of three young women standing together against a purple and grey background. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow dress with a black floral pattern and glasses, holding a small purple object. The woman in the middle has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a black top. The woman on the right is wearing a light blue hijab and a matching long-sleeved top, holding a large award plaque. The plaque is blue and pink with the text 'RUSU STUDENT LIFE AWARDS' and 'BEST CLUB INITIATIVE'.

RMIT University Student Union

Third Quarter Report

Reporting Period:
1 July – 30 September 2018

RUSU
RMIT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION

President's Report



As the holidays ended and students began to reappear on campus, the student union ramped up the energy with a series of mid year Orientation events across RMIT. This is a really important way to welcome new and returning students to the University, as well as a wonderful chance for us to make ourselves more visible and showcase our many services and campaigns.

In August, we held our annual Student-Staff Consultative Committees (SSCC) Student Leadership Summit in Storey Hall. Essential to developing the next generation of young leaders, the summit was a huge success. On a personal note, I was thrilled to be able to speak to RMIT students and share some of my own experiences and knowledge.

The third quarter was a busy one for the RMIT University Student Union with our weekly lunch and breakfast events. This quarter this included an international hot breakfast in the NAS Food Court. This was a new event for RUSU. Given its success it will hopefully become an ongoing part of our annual events plan!

Abena Dove
President,
RMIT University Student Union



Activities & Events

VE/Global Experience Pop Up Pub – July 12

As is the custom, RUSU welcomed new and returning VE students, as well as our new Global Experience cohort with a pop up pub in the building 57 cafeteria. The approximately 150 attendees enjoyed complimentary beer, cider, soft drink and food as well as the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones along the way.

Winter Wonderland – July 19

After the success of this event in 2017, we looked again to mark the beginning of a new semester with a members only event in the spiritual courtyard.

However, poor weather on event day led to our wet weather plan being enacted and the building 57 cafeteria was transformed into a snow flecked retreat from the outside elements. Over 120 new and returning members joined us.

Nerd Week Party (Chaise Lounge) – August 2

To mark the 'withdraw no fail' deadline, RUSU runs a week long series of activities that culminate in an evening party themed 'nerd', with tongue very much in cheek.

The over 100 attendees at this event celebrated the final withdrawal deadline in the presence of their fellow students.

RMIT Village Event (alcohol free)

Once again, RUSU hosted an outreach event at RMIT Village, providing lunch and branded collateral to students in residence.

Bld 57 Pop Up Pub – 23 August

This event attracted around 100 RUSU members who enjoyed complimentary drinks and food.

AFL Grand Final Pop-Up Pub – 27 September

To celebrate both the AFL Grand Final and mark the pending public holiday, RUSU held a party in Alumni Courtyard and invited students to come along in football colours. This event was particularly popular with our Global Experience cohort as they looked forward to their first AFL Grand Final weekend. This event was run in conjunction with RMIT Sports.

Indian Independence Day

On August 15 RUSU partnered with RMIT Connect and RUSU's Indian Club to commemorate Indian Independence Day.

This was the first time RUSU and the university have deployed significant resources to a national event of this nature.

The day began with a traditional flag raising ceremony, and featured performances from students, traditional music and speeches from various dignitaries, both from the RMIT community and beyond.

Attendees enjoyed a selection of food and sweets from the Indian subcontinent, including curry, biryani, gulab jamun and chai.

Attendance could be estimated at over 800 throughout the day, and many students from India reported being very pleased at the success of this event.



Nerd Week Party

Membership

Special Members Giveaways included:

- » Ten double passes to see New Zealand film, The Breaker Upperers.
- » Five double passes for the Tom Cruise blockbuster, Mission: Impossible - Fallout.
- » Ten double passes for the gritty, Melbourne tale West of Sunshine.
- » One double pass to see top Norwegian DJ, Kygo live at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl.

RUSU is delighted to be able to offer special giveaways to our members, and we are looking to actively increase the number of competitions and prizes we can offer through 2019 and beyond.

At the end of the third quarter
RUSU had :

4891
financial members.

Volunteers



Volunteer Training

There have been 549 student participants in RUSU Volunteer program training in 2018, almost half of this participation occurred in the third quarter, with 234 students undertaking some form of training with RUSU.

Volunteer Contribution

RUSU Volunteers have contributed a total of 6081 volunteer hours to RUSU programs and events so far in 2018.

Third Quarter – Number of volunteer hours completed:

371.5	Administration
1132	Activities & Events
135	Healthy Breakfast Program
874	Realfoods
189	Compass:
86	Student Rights
195	English Language Workshops

In total, RUSU volunteers completed:
2417 hours this quarter

RUSU volunteer hours completed:
6081 hours year to date

Volunteer Training: Number of participants

Quarter	1	2	3	4	Year Total
Program induction	258	46	55		359
Responsible Service of Alcohol	48	76	65		189
Safe Food Handling	50	60	74		184
Youth Mental Health First Aid	0	20	40		60
TOTAL	356	193	234		792



Across Campuses

city

Administration volunteers continued to support the City RUSU Central Information Counter during the third quarter, contributing hundreds of hours and gaining valuable experience in a professional environment. The student rights peak period saw a large number of students requiring help with show cause submissions, appeals against assessment, and special consideration. Many students, particularly those facing an acute crisis, were brought over to the City office directly from RMIT Connect, indicating an increased awareness among staff that RUSU can be a critical support for students in need.

The Building 10 Large Activity Space was used a total of 154 times during the third quarter. About half of these bookings were for club events and meetings. Other bookings were for our English Language Workshops and free weekly yoga classes.

City Chill 'n' Grill

The weekly Chill 'n' Grill barbecue in Alumni Courtyard provides 1000+ serves of free food per week. This quarter there were 11 Chill 'n' Grill events. This year there have been 21 Chill 'n' Grill events. Chill 'n' Grill caters to our diverse student population, including halal and vegan options.

Members Tent

Each week, around 250 students have free drinks (soft-drink, beer or cider) and entertainment inside the RUSU members tent. This quarter 2750 students have participated in the members tent events. Year to date 5250 students have participated in the members tent events.

Chill 'n' Grill, Alumni Courtyard



Week	Event	Additional	Lunch
2	Chill 'n' Grill: Mexican Fiesta	Frozen margaritas	Taco bowls
3	Chill 'n' Grill: Nerd Appreciation Week	Lollies and sweet treats	Barbecue sausages and vegan burgers
4	Chill 'n' Grill: Indigenous Australia	Welcome to country, live music from Philly with support from Neil Morris	Food truck - Jerry's Veggie Burgers
5	Chill 'n' Grill: Women in Higher Education	Blue stocking cupcakes	Barbecue sausages and vegan burgers
6	Chill 'n' Grill: RUSU Pride Week	DJ Salvador Darling	Barbecue beef and vegan burgers
7	Chill 'n' Grill: International Week + RUSU Elections	South-east Asian food trucks and free bubble teas from Suzy Lee	Pad thai and popcorn chicken noodle salad
8	Chill 'n' Grill: Education Week	Stationery Giveaway	Barbecue sausages and vegan burgers
9	Chill 'n' Grill: Sustainability Week	Sustainability stall, giveaways, prize draw, RUSU Swap Shop	Vegan schnitzel sandwiches
10	Chill 'n' Grill: Oktoberfest	Imported German beers, pretzels, live music from Horns of Leroy	Food truck - halal beef bratwursts and vegan hot dogs
11	Chill 'n' Grill	None	Barbecue beef and vegan burgers
12	Chill 'n' Grill: Vellie Appreciation Week & Stress Less Week	Food trucks & stalls	Indian curries and tacos

Bundoora East & West

The front counter volunteer program has grown in Bundoora West with over 66 hours of administration hours completed in the third quarter. The Student Rights service peak period was during the start of the quarter and in total approximately 115 appointments were made at the Bundoora Student Rights service. From late September, the service was reduced to one day a week due to the regular staff member being on leave. Students were offered a choice of appointments in the city or phone appointments.

The Bundoora East games room has gained popularity and has been regularly used by students. The East offices were staffed by student casuals from Week 1 to Week 12 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in this quarter.

Bundoora Events

In partnership with Walert House, RUSU delivered a welcome event including a food truck and entertainment for

residents. The first Bundoora trivia night happened with approximately 40 attendees on the September 26.

Chill & Grill

Notable Chill 'n' Grills included Oktoberfest, Yo India Food Truck with zorb soccer, Greek souvlaki week, pizza week and international week with a Vietnamese food truck. Over the quarter Chill 'n' Grills have also included several nacho bowl weeks which has been great to diversify the lunches that students get. We have also had two amazing volunteers consistently help run the event each week.

RUSU's free lunches cater to our diverse student population, including halal and vegan options.

Bundoora Clubs

Bundoora welcomes back the RMIT Mechatronics Society after a year with lapsed affiliation.

The RMIT Exercise and Sport Science Society has also gained provisional affiliation in the third quarter.

Bundoora West

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 650 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were 11 Bundoora West Free lunch events, serving 7,150 serves of food.

Bundoora East

Bundoora East had 11 Chill 'n' Grills over the third quarter. The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 120 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were 11 Bundoora East Free lunch events, serving 1320 serves of food.

Bundoora East has a special Zorb soccer event.

Bundoora East and West students were treated to free ice cream as part of RUSU Ice cream week in week 11.

Brunswick

Yet another vibrant and engaging quarter has passed at the Brunswick campus. Our ongoing Healthy Breakfast program continues each week. Our free yoga program maintained a consistent group of student yogis who came to practice on the mat over the course of the semester.

RUSU's most popular event at Brunswick, the Brunswick Networking Gala, was held on September 20. More than 80 students and guests attended the event and students were able to mingle and network with some of Melbourne's local fashion designers over cocktails and gourmet canapes. The theme of this year's event

was 'Sustainability and Entrepreneurship' and our fashion presenters discussed with students their journeys into the fashion industry, highlighting core themes around their businesses and 'top tips' for students who are emerging designers. We have already received overwhelming feedback from the event, which has all been very positive.

The weekly free lunch event provides approximately 450 serves of free food per week. This quarter there were 11 Brunswick Free lunch events, serving 4950 serves of food.

Brunswick students were treated to free ice cream as part of RUSUS Ice cream week in week 11.

Brunswick Clubs

The RMIT Association of Fashion Students held three events in the third quarter and reached membership of 228 members.

The events held were:

- » Fashion Styling workshop
- » Masters of fashion Entrepreneurship Networking Night
- » 2019 AGM

Carlton

Administration volunteers continued to support the Carlton office during the third quarter, contributing dozens of hours and gaining valuable experience in a professional environment. The student rights peak period saw a large number of students requiring help with show cause submissions, appeals against assessment, and special consideration.

There were a total of 29 club equipment bookings during the third quarter. The new online booking system is functioning well, and the storage space next to the Building

57 front office has made it easier for clubs to access and return the equipment.

The Building 57 Medium Meeting, Training & Activity Space was used a total of 149 times during the third quarter. About a third of these were club bookings for events and meetings, with the other two thirds made up of training sessions for volunteers and student rights workshops for appeal against assessment, show cause, and exclusion issues.

There were also 35 bookings of the Building 57 Small Meeting Room.

Point Cook

Two regular fortnightly lunches were held in the quarter, providing 150 serves of food. Our weekly breakfasts commenced after the Easter break, feeding around 70 hungry students each week.

RUSU Departments

Queer

We had a very successful Q-Tea event, with 25 students attending. The equity and diversity team and the Queer Department also worked together to provide a chill-out zone for people affected by speakers attending a conference on campus.

The Queer Department also hosted their monthly chocolate and chat and a coffee catch up for the group of six students that were funded to attend the national conference with the department, Queer Collaborations 2018, in Brisbane. The Department assisted the group through a mixed funding base to send four more students than last year. This was a huge achievement for the Department, as the conference is an excellent opportunity for students to hear from keynote speakers and network with key queer organisations and campaigns around Australia.

The Queer Officers have also formed a working group to collaborate on a 'Queer Victorian Cross Campus Ball' with various other unis as well as making links to a national campaign, 'Ending Queer Youth Homelessness' and look forward to introducing this campaign to RMIT through RUSU.

Women's

This quarter the Women's Department has been running free self defence classes for students. Students learnt the basics of self defence in a safe, all-female class which covered the basics of theoretical and practical self defence. RUSU continued to support Women's Rooms on all campuses.

Education & Welfare

Healthy Breakfast

The Healthy Breakfast Program has been really well received by students this semester! We have provided a range of free foods including yoghurt cups, vegan cake slices, fresh fruit, fruit salad cups, hummus and veggies, across the City, Carlton, Bundoora West and East and Brunswick campuses.

This quarter RUSU held a free International hot breakfast in the NAS Food Court with 550 serves of free hot food to students including roti, burritos and bacon and egg muffins.

Postgraduate

This quarter the Postgraduate Department ran a huge start of semester event for postgraduate students. The start of semester party was really well attended. Held at the Carlton Club, free food and drinks were available for postgrad students to meet and mix. RUSU postgrad mixers help our postgraduate students to break down barriers and tackles some of the isolation commonly felt by postgrad students.

VE

The Vocational Education Department has been busy running our VE Chill event every second Monday. VE Chill has been great and students are loving it, with different food options every time. In Semester 2, the VE Lunches serve approx 250 students per week (up from 220 in Semester 1). Seven regular fortnightly lunches were held in the quarter, providing 1750 serves of food.

VE Pop up Pubs was held in early July and late-August serving free food and drinks to VE students in Building 57.



Healthy Breakfast Program

International

The international department ran two big events this quarter. RUSU's International Week included international food trucks at Chill 'n' Grill serving a range of free food and bubble tea across all campuses. The International Department also ran an international hot breakfast offering 550 serves of free hot food to students including roti, burritos and bacon and egg muffins.

Two 'International and Local Student' mixer events were delivered during the third quarter, with the aim of bringing both local and international students together to share local experiences.

One of these was a 'Sustainability Mixer', including a sustainable and local lunch and tour of the CERES Environment Park. 26 students registered for the event.

The second event was held at Holey Moley Mini Golf Course in the Melbourne CBD and included a game of mini-golf, dinner and drinks. 35 students registered for the event.

English Language Workshops

RUSU's English Conversation Workshops were run over five weeks, during the third quarter across RMIT's Bundoora and City campuses. 113 students registered for program.

The workshops in Semester 2 placed a strong focus on supporting these students to understand university culture and social

life at RMIT and in Melbourne, to equip them with the skills and resources to thrive at RMIT.

46 students attended the program excursion to Puffing Billy in the Dandenong Ranges, and 51 students ended the end-of-program dinner held at Captain Melville's.

The end-of-program survey indicated that 77% of students who responded to the survey "gained confidence speaking English in public" and 80% "made some friends". This was evident at the end-of-program dinner at Captain Melville's, where the students conversed comfortably with their new friends from the program. The dinner attended by 45 student participants and program volunteers.

One of the Bundoora students noted: "I believed that it extremely hard for international student to be opened, making new friends and build up confidence due to language barrier... therefore, I really appreciated English Workshop Conversation has come to Bundoora!"

Many other students expressed their positive experience of the program, and over 50% of those students who provided feedback expressed a desire for the workshops to run for more weeks of semester. This is a positive sign, and shows that the program is highly valued amongst international students.

Sustainability

This quarter has seen the introduction of edible gardens at RMIT, something the Sustainability Department has been working closely with the University to achieve. The launch of the edible gardens also tied in with our Sustainability Week activities. During the week our Chill 'n' Grill events featured free vegan food, a focus on our sustainability clubs, and a free clothes swap. We also signed students up to the new RUSU GROW team. Sustainability Week also featured our lunchtime sustainability mixer at CERES, where students learnt more about growing organic produce and enjoyed an organic lunch.

Indigenous

RUSU ran it's Indigenous Chill 'n' Grill on August 9, featuring Philly and Neil Morris. Philly and Neil have been very successful artists in their field spreading strong messages about Aboriginal culture. They were a perfect fit for Chill 'n' Grill and were well received by the students.

Realfoods

City & Bundoora

The Realfoods City store re-commenced regular trading hours of 8am to 3.30pm (Monday - Thursday) and 8am to 3pm (Friday), and Bundoora reopened for Semester 2 on Monday, July 16. There were approximately 200 inducted student volunteers for the quarter, usually with 50-70 active in any given week.

A number of new student casuals were recruited in addition to a new Bundoora Cook, bringing the total staff to 14, eight of which are current RMIT students.

Realfoods has managed to boost both volunteer numbers for the period, particularly at Bundoora where volunteer retention is at an all time high since opening in March, 2016. The City store has also catered more events than in any other semester.



Indigenous Chill N Grill

Clubs & Societies



From top: Engineers Without Borders, AIESEC Leadership Club, Japan Club

RUSU Club Grants

RUSU clubs and societies accessed \$57,662.51 of Clubs Grants funding during the third quarter of 2018 and \$120,694.30 over the year to date.

RUSU Club Members

Membership across all clubs totals approximately 13,305 members.

RUSU Club Activity

As at the end of the third quarter, RUSU has **112** fully-affiliated student clubs and societies.

New Developments & Support to RUSU Clubs

Training offered to all RUSU clubs includes Food Safety Handling, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Bringing in the Bystander.

RUSU Clubs Activity Affiliation

The distribution of clubs across our different categories breakdown is as follows:

Spiritual	8
Social	25
Political	4
Cultural	21
Academic	54
TOTAL	112

Provisional Clubs

RUSU is in the affiliation process with the following six provisionally affiliated new clubs:

ASEAN YOUTH OF RMIT UNIVERSITY

RMIT REGIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SAUDI STUDENTS UNION RMIT

RMIT STUDENT PILOT ASSOCIATION

RMIT EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCE SOCIETY

RMIT FILM SOCIETY

Student Media

Catalyst

We kicked off July with the launch of issue three: 'Positive'. It was a jam-packed issue including the story of an ex-ballerina, a how-to guide for maintaining a positive bank balance, a look at Seasonal Affective Disorder plus new and original art, writing, activism, photography, advice, reviews, poetry and recipes. In early September, the Catalyst team released the accompanying podcast to the issue, also with the theme of 'Positive'. It was the 31st edition of this podcast.

On September 4, we released issue four of the print magazine, with the theme 'Mate', containing articles, essays, and stories related to what friendship means to different people.

In the midst of all this, the Catalyst reporting team also offered extensive coverage of the 2018 RMIT University Student Union student council elections. We wish the newly-elected 2019 editors of Catalyst - Emily Cork, Lekhika Jain and Rana El-Mahmoud - all the best for the year ahead.



Above: Issue 4, Mate

RMITV

General Manager

In the third quarter RMITV grew beyond 400 members, currently sitting at 425+. Our Facebook page has more than 2270 likes. Across our productions, training and social events, 15 students are engaged on average. For the remainder of the third quarter, RMITV will be seeing three new productions begin: Half Hour, Doctor Duck and Emmylou Loves. Equipment usage remained strong, averaging around 2-4 hires per week, and totalling in excess of 50 hires over the three month period - that works out to more than one hire every two days!

Upcoming Productions

Half Hour

Political news and issues aimed at young people with a focus on the Victorian State Election.

Emmylou Loves

Emmylou Loves (formerly Dot Corn Social) is a live half hour talk show taking a look into popular social media accounts and online personalities.

Dr. Duck

Location-shot sketches with live performed sketches to a live studio audience.

RMITV Productions - Student Engagement Summary

Production	Attendance Total	RMIT Students	RMIT Alumni	Other
Offbeat (Season Six) A live-to-air arts talk show. Part of RMITV's training program	10-16 per week	7-12 per week	0	Facebook likes: 491 Facebook follows: 493
Silent Comedy A one-off live comedy special	23	5	3	Facebook likes: 56 Facebook follows: 56





Above: RMITV in action

RMITV Training & Events Table						
Date	Training/ Event Title	Description	Attendance Total	RMIT Students	RMIT Alumni	Other
List of Training						
6 August	Writer's Workshop	Workshop focussed on screenwriting and developing ideas	12	Data Not Collected	Data Not Collected	Data Not Collected
28 August – 28 September	Offbeat Season 6	Training ground live television show. Ten episodes in total run over one month. Aired on C31.	16	12	0	4
24 September	Boot Camp Trial: Video Operation in Studio A/B	Trial for a new 10-week repeating training program which will be rolled out in October. Centred around studio operation.	10	3	0	7
List of Training						
26 September	SGM (By-Election)	SGM to elect new board and pass constitutional updates. Dinner provided.	26	10	13	3

Social Media & Publications

Department

The RUSU Communications Departments aims over the coming months, and moving into 2019, are to help all departments to streamline their communications offerings, to further unify our brand, and to more clearly communicate to students the wide range of services that RUSU offers.

Social Media

Facebook

We now have 21,332 likes (up 305 from the previous quarter, and 1774 from this time last year). Facebook still serves as our number one social media engagement tool, and our presence on the platform continues to grow. Facebook is our main tool for event advertising, and our reach, reactions, comments and shares remain very strong. As an organisation, we are becoming more focussed on presenting (curated) offers and competitions to users, in a bid to drive engagement further.

Website

Averaging around 4000 uses per month, the RUSU website continues to be a necessary resource to consolidate all that RUSU offers into one place. We have made it as simple as possible for students to locate up to date information on our upcoming events, student support and student rights.

Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to be a great source of quick bites of information delivered directly to students inboxes, with simple and direct messaging to help students know all that is on offer at RUSU. With almost 24,000 subscribers, and an open rate of 40% (almost double the industry standard), the newsletter serves as an excellent engagement tool for our members. While the newsletter is normally sent out monthly, RUSU has also used the platform to send out special communications, such as the One Year On: Change The Course anniversary statement, and the Students Leading Mental Health Initiative 2018, both sent this quarter.

Other social media

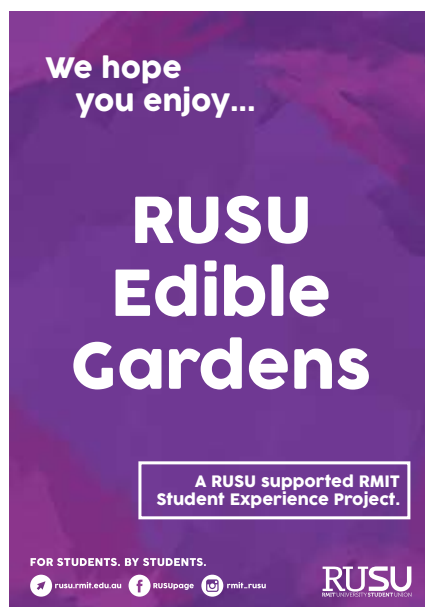
Our student reps have taken the lead with platforms such as Snapchat and Instagram. These are more spontaneous tools for users, meaning students can directly upload stories straight from events. While both of these platforms remain a small user base for us compared to Facebook, we are pleased with how they are growing, with Instagram at 1117 followers and Snapchat at almost 500. Both of these platforms are areas that we would like to grow heading into 2019, with our students continuing to take the lead. Twitter is generally seen as a less valuable communication platform by our reps, and while there may be some merit in RUSU maintaining a presence there, we have parked the platform for the time being, subject to further, regular review.

Promotional Material

Nerd Culture Appreciation Week: This fun week of events celebrated all things nerd, and included meme making workshops, dungeons and dragons, a special Chill 'n' Grill, and culminated with a nerd party. The communications team had a lot of fun designing the various artworks for this event series!

Student Life Awards: An amazing new event for RUSU, honouring the incredible contributions our students make to life on campus. Communications involved awards artwork, categories artwork, invitations and certificates. Additionally, there was written communications involved in this project, including an RMIT-wide newsletter used to promote the event, and report on it afterwards.

We Hope You Enjoy: A simple poster series communicating all of the things that RUSU provides to students, such as the edible gardens project, free phone charging stations, lockers and the games room upgrade.



Representation & Advocacy

Compass

City Compass	
Drop-ins (Includes Compass Cupboard users)	173
Compass Marketplace	350+
Stuffed Animal Petting Zoo	300+
Chill-out Zones	400+
RU OK? Day	400+
Outreach Total	1800+

Bundoora Compass	
Drop-ins	10
Compass Marketplace	140
Weekly service promotion	38
Compass Cupboard	6
RU OK? Day	180
Outreach Total	364

Brunswick Compass	
Drop-ins	7
Compass Marketplace	150
Weekly service promotion	10
Compass Cupboard	6
RU OK? Day	130
Outreach Total	296

Mindful Monday Crafternoons



Representation

Student Voice

RUSU's elected student representatives provided a student voice on a wide range of RMIT committees and meetings during this quarter. This included:

Appeals Committee Representation				
Hearing Type	Q3 No. Student Reps	Q3 No. Hearings	YTD No. Student Reps	YTD No. Hearings
University Appeals Committee	3	3	7	9
Student Conduct Board	12	13	21	26
College Appeals Committee	6	6	10	12
GUSS Show Cause Panels	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	–	22	–	47

RUSU Internal Meetings

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

- » 2 Student Union Council Meetings
- » 9 Secretariat meetings
- » Student representatives gaining governance experience on internal Student Union Committees, such as Staffing Committee, Finance Standing Committee and OH&S.
- » Elected student councillors supported and mentored to work as governors and managers.

Elections

The annual RUSU student council elections were held over five days from September 3 to 7. They were hotly contested, with the counts for some positions very close. There were three tickets of students running in the elections and a total of 4258 votes were cast.

SSCC Summit

The second SSCC summit for 2018 was hugely successful. Approximately 350 students attended the half day summit. This SSCC summit was a first in that it formed a

new collaboration between RUSU and RMIT. Students could choose to attend a training component, run by RMIT, that would form part of their LEAD accreditation and attendance at any part of the summit would also contribute towards LEAD hours.

Student Life Awards

The inaugural RUSU Student Life Awards celebrated the incredible contributions that RMIT students make to university life outside the classroom. RUSU received 146 applications across 20 award categories, receiving a fantastic reception from RMIT students in the program's first year. Categories included 'Student Life Champion', 'Best Club Initiative' and 'Student Peer Supporter Award'.

Award winners were presented their awards, and recognised by their peers, mentors and family at the RUSU Student Life Awards Celebration, held at the Melbourne Museum on Thursday August 9, 2018. More than 80 people attended the event.

Twenty-two RMIT students received Student Life Awards for their outstanding contributions to student life, with \$10,000 in cash scholarships awarded to these students. Another five students received Honourable Mentions for their achievements and were recognised at the Student Life Awards Celebration.

Student Rights

Year to date:

Number of cases opened:

850

Total issues created:

1141

ISSUES	
HDR Issues	
Candidate Action and Support Plan	1
HDR At Risk Issue	1
Milestone Review Issue	1
Research Candidate Progress Committee	3
Supervisor Issue	6
Discipline (University Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	10
General Misconduct	1
Complaint	
School level	29
University Level	3
Discipline (School Level)	
Academic (Plagiarism) Misconduct	13
General Misconduct	4
Uncategorised	
Admin Issue	12
Admission Issue	2
Appeal Against Assessment	48
Assessment Issues (Other)	28
Bullying	8
Disability	8
Enrolment Issue	13
Equitable Assessment Arrangements (EAA)	6
Exclusion	50
Fees Issue	14
Leave of Absence (LOA)	7
Mental Health Issues	16
Other Issues	51
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	8
Remission of Debt	23
Show Cause	32
Special Consideration	49
Supplementary Exam Request (Pass By Compensation)	2

OUTCOME	
Appeal Against Exclusion University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	1
Appeal Upheld	1
Exclusion Withdrawn by School before the hearing	5
Fee Remission	
Fee Remission Approved	7
Fee Remission not approved	2
Special Consideration Granted	
Alternative Assessment	2
Deferred Exam	3
Extension of time	3
Late withdrawal without Academic Penalty	13
Special Consideration Not Granted	2
Supplementary Exam	1
Referral – External	
See note	1
Appeal Against Special Consideration University Appeal Committee	
Special Consideration Granted without a hearing	1
Complaint Outcome	
School level Complaint Dismissed	1
School Level complaint Resolved	1
University Level Complaint Dismissed	1
Referral – Internal	
Counselling Service	3
Disability Liaison Unit	5
International Student Services	1
Contacted School Issue Resolved	
Contacted Academic Administrator	4
Contacted Course Coordinator	2
Contacted Head of School	3
Contacted Lecturer/Tutor	1
Contact Program Manager	14
Other	
Advice given - Student able to proceed with the case themselves	69
Attended group session	11
Other Outcomes	25
Student doesn't want to pursue with the case	13

Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Other Penalty	1
Student asked to resubmit the assessment	5
Student Reprimanded	6
Student was given a fail for all or any part of any assessment	2
Leave of Absence (LOA)	
LOA Granted	3
Discipline Board Hearing Academic Misconduct	
Case Dismissed in favour of Student	2
Fail recorded in an assessment session	5
Other Penalty	1
Student Reprimanded	3
Appeal Against Assessment CAC Decision University Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	2
Appeal Upheld	4
Fee Issue Outcome	
Issue Resolved	5
Supplementary Exam	
Supplementary Exam Granted	1
Appeal Against Assessment (AAA) College Appeals Committee	
Appeal Dismissed	5
Appeal Upheld	1
Discipline/Plagiarism Meeting Case School Level	
Student found not guilty	1
Discipline Board Hearing General Misconduct	
Other Penalty	1
Student Reprimanded	1
Student suspended	1
Show Cause Outcome	
Show Cause approved by SPC	13
Show Cause Rejected by SPC	1

This quarter:

Total cases opened:

334

Total cases closed:

211

Total issues created:

449

Total outcomes achieved:

260

RUSU Governance, Administration & Services

Financial Overview

RUSU's operations are supported by the Governance, Administration and Finance staff.

The 2018 grant was received as a lump sum payment in February, 2018. This upfront payment enables RUSU to generate additional income to supplement the grant. At mid -year RUSU was granted an additional \$23,368 in SSAF Competitive grant funds specifically for RUSU Clubs.

In order to meet legislative requirements, the RUSU financial reports matched 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 distinguishes the SSAF expenditure from the Base grant and SSAF Committee projects into the allowable items. Hence, the table does not include activities and services funded by non-SSAF expenditure.

RUSU also received funding from other sources. While some activities were funded through these sources (are reported on in the narrative section of current quarterly report), due to the overlap with other representatives, advocacy, administrative, governance and publicity functions of RUSU - Expenditure on these projects is not included in the report below, as it is not SSAF-funded.

RUSU SSAF Funding 2018

RUSU funding from RMIT for 2018 is made up of the following:

Base grant	\$2,785,317
SSAF Committee Grants	\$983,500
Additional mid-year Clubs SSAF Grant	\$23,368
2018 TOTAL GRANT	\$3,792,185
2018 GRANT RECEIVED TO DATE	\$3,792,185



RUSU Student Life Awards Ceremony

**Table 1: RUSU SSAF Grant Expenditure on Allowable Items
1 January – 31 September 2018**

Allowable Item	Item Description	YTD Expenditure (SSAF Funded)
Giving students information to help them in their orientation;	» Orientation specific events	\$112,378
Promoting the health or welfare of students;	» Activities and events from advocacy and welfare departments: Queer, Women's, Postgraduate, Environment, Welfare, Education, Indigenous » Campaigns, events, honorariums, programs, marketing » All City Compass programs and staff	\$1294,504
Helping meet the specific needs of overseas students relating to their welfare, accommodation and employment;	» Activities and events from International Department & International Support SSAF grant	\$47,210
Helping students develop skills for study, by means other than undertaking courses of study in which they are enrolled;	» Induction programs/student representative professional development » Volunteer program + program staffing » Student Engagement Officer » Student Union Council elections » Secretariat honorariums » All of SUC campaigns » Students as Partners Grant » Student Life Awards	\$284,498
Supporting the production and dissemination to students of media whose content is provided by students;	» RMITV operations, honorariums, special projects, productions, training, website » RMIT Flagship Program (SSAF grant) » Catalyst magazine operations, student honorariums, publication (online and print) » Communications/graphic design staff	\$208,251
Providing food or drink to students on a campus of the higher education provider;	» Campus-specific events and marketing (all campuses) » Realfoods » Healthy Breakfast SSAF grant	\$221,755
Supporting a sporting or other recreational activity by students;	» Major events and intervarsity recreational activities and competitions » Activities & Events collective including administration, student honorariums, marketing and staff support	\$202,263
Supporting the administration of a club most of whose members are students;	» Administration, grants, equipment and support to student run clubs and societies » Clubs & Societies staff and other support	\$274,384
Advising on matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);	» Administration and support staff members: Administration, Governance and Finance » 5 x information counter staff and operations (including Bundoora East info counter)	\$539,760
Advocating students' interests in matters arising under the higher education provider's rules (however described);	» Student Rights Officers » Student advocacy materials, campaigns, research and training for staff and student representatives on committees	\$527,987
YTD SSAF EXPENDITURE		\$2,712,990
YTD 2018 SSAF FUNDS RECEIVED		\$3,792,185
AMOUNT OF GRANT REMAINING		\$1,079,195



