

FEBRUARY COUNCIL REPORT- PRESIDENT

Ana Tinc

Orientation Week

Much was done for O-week preparation this month collectively. Show bag freebies have been coming in, engaging activities have been booked and merchandise is being stocked, great work team!

I have been in contact with Rameeza, the person in charge of the International expo on the Monday of o-week and we have secured a place for an SSU stall, we are trying to get two tables but due to a lack of space that is still being negotiated.

I have also attended a portion of SEC's first meeting and helped discuss and plan their stall for O-week, with plans of face painting and planting, as they were pretty on top of it, my input was minimal.

For the main stall (unless we choose to put them somewhere else) I have ordered some PTV flyer information for the tram and train routes nearby campus and some tertiary concession forms for new students especially those who weren't living locally before.

I have also written a check list for reps to look at as they are planning their own stall, ensuring they cover all of the necessities.

President Summit

For a portion of this month, I travelled to Sydney and attended the President Summit run by NU! where I received the opportunity to meet and discuss with presidents from across Australia and NUS office bearers who were excited to get in contact with representative from our union. If you weren't already in contact with such office bearers, I have sent you a message with their names and contact details.

During the conference, I learnt of ways to deal and respond with media and how to run a successful campaign. The bulk of the conference was collaboration between ourselves to think of campaigns that would be successful for students across our campuses whilst also suggesting to NUS what their focus should be on from our own universities perspective.

Orientation Directory

I can proudly say that the orientation directory that I have incessantly been emailing about has been completed by the SWINE deadline with plenty of content relevant to our diverse student

base, this could not have been done without everyone's input, so thank you all to those that lent a helping hand.

Aside from answering a few questions, my input was predominantly to engage reps to write on sections relevant to their role, tweak any questions and ensure work was being done for the deadline to be met.

SSU Website

Although not all information has been collected yet, I have been working hard to gather material from collectives to place in our website that is currently being worked on. To keep the website consistent, we now have the majority of our collective's goals, upcoming projects, further descriptions and images. Thanks for all your work team!

Meeting with SSAA

This past month, I have had the pleasure to meet with SSAA for multiple reasons, one revolving around orientation week and the other revolving around the cheerleading club here at Swinburne.

I first attended a meeting with Ella and her team in charge of clubs as a union representative for the cheerleading squad during their mediation. As they have been having some difficulty both internally and with SSAA, post meeting I suggested a strategy to resolve their issues and ensure they will not arise again, however they are still in the process.

On a lighter note, I met with Ella and the team in charge of orientation week alongside James and Nikki to discuss our plans for o-week and listen to theirs. This was a great way to ensure we don't double up on the same activities and services, it also gave us an idea of what hasn't yet been provided for students from SSAA's side, such as an indigenous presence which will surely be covered by us.

Toga Party Poster

After much search for a designer, I finally found someone to quickly and effectively design our toga party poster, giving us plenty of time for advertising before welcome back week. After sending her the proposal, we received the final design in the same day.

Strategic Planning Day

Sam and I held a planning day with the reps to cover plans for orientation week, welcome back week and our events for semester one. Thankfully the turnout was great and all input was appreciated.

Swinburne Student Union
Council Meeting 14th January
General Secretary

Meetings

Since the last council meeting, I have taken part in the Education Board meeting, weekly Operations Discussions, and many informal meetings with representatives and the new volunteer's officer.

Design Work

In preparation for O-Week and semester one, I have been doing a lot of design work on posters, promotional material and a 2017 Wall Planner – to be provided to all students at the O-Week stall.

Website

I have continued my work on upgrading the content of the website. To date I have completed the 'Your Collectives,' 'Your Representatives,' 'Membership – Benefits,' 'Hammer & Swine' and 'Contact' pages, and am currently working on the 'Education Department,' 'Welfare Department,' 'Clubs Advocacy,' 'History,' 'SSAF' and 'Volunteering,' pages.

Rep Quiz

After distributing the Representative Quizzes, I have marked those which have been completed.

SSAA Clubs Advocacy

I'm currently working with the Swinburne Cheerleading Club executive in their case with the SSAA. This has involved me having a series of meetings with their executive and, attending their meetings with SSAA management and SUT staff. This process has been a good, yet sad insight into the environment clubs work with under the SSAA, after-which, I will begin branching out and working with more clubs to determine what help the SSU can offer them – this will be considered as part of the SSU's larger strategic planning process.

Supporting Representatives and preparing Council Agenda

On the day of writing, I have been in contact with at least 10 reps helping them through the process of completing reporting and motions for the first council meeting, as well as putting together the first distribution of the council agenda.

Bar Garden

I have completed more of the bar garden project and time permitting, should have the construction completed by the end of the week. Following construction, in the final week before O-Week, we will hold a working day to clean, move soil and plant the natives in the garden.

Poster Run

In preparation for O-Week/WBW, I have done a poster run covering the campus with 200 Join the Union and Toga Party Posters.

Feel free to call, email or talk to me with any questions regarding my role or report,

Regards,
Sam Roberts

General Secretary
Swinburne Student Union

Swinburne Student Union
Council meeting #2
Education Officer Report

To start off with, education board will be changing, now that the motion has been passed. We will continue having education board meetings, but there will also be faculty and department committees. These will be made up of the elected reps, and a student of for each faculty and PAVE department, comprising of a student from each year level and department. eg. FSET would have 4 undergrads for science, 4 undergrads for engineering, 4 undergrads for technology, and 2 for each department for postgrad, being one of coursework and one of HDR. This will make ed board more effective, we need to have greater reach and representation of students. One student cannot be expected to represent postgrad and undergrad across an entire faculty. Really excited to see this happen, so that we can alert the university to issues that they may have missed. Students need good representation and we can provide it.

Secondly, really happy with the how to guide. This will be an important asset for students. So pleased to see this finally come to actuality. Thank you everyone for being involved.

Thirdly, the events calendar for the education department is going brilliantly. Previously we have offered very little to students, and I wanted that to change. Spaces have been booked for about half the events, and speakers are also about half confirmed. This semester is looking fantastic!

I am continuing my work from last year of helping FSET redesign their new courses. Ensuring student input, and making it inclusive for all. Can't say too much on that one. But more student consultation is happening before oweek.

Been talking to academics about educational issues. Such as following up about the newish changes to progress review panels. They are sounding fairly problematic as we envisioned. Some students are receiving at risk letters when they aren't even at risk. All of the work is being put onto the ADA's. The uni must feel so good about freeing up staff. The post census remission of debt form has also changed this year. Now students have to withdraw instead of that being an option as well as failing. That is really unfair on students so will be following up.

Met with a national director from engineers Australia, who raised many issues with postgrad courses. Plan will be to work with SUPA, SISA and CAPA. But that will be when I can catch my breathe. EA is keen to work with us, including getting young graduates in to talk, and discuss other pathways engineers can take beyond the traditionally expected ones.



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Suzanne Walker
Education Officer
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I met with Scott, who is part of business without borders, and discussed their involvement in the faculty day. They have more planned for this year so will be working with them hopefully.

Lots of following up, and emailing other people to make the events possible.

Had services management board, and education board, and the planning day.

Ed board went really well. Passed the budget, planned oweek, planned the semester. Really excited to work with them all.

Lots of things happening, happy to discuss anytime.

Suzanne

Swinburne Student Union
Council Meeting No. 2 14th February 2017
Welfare Officer

O-Week Flyers

I have designed and ordered 2,000 welfare department flyers for distribution at O'Week. These flyers will be a handy resource for all students, with information about all of our collectives, events and services.

Your Rights at Uni, Work and Home Campaign

I have been assisting the national welfare department with their campaign. Predominantly through my own networks and the SSU welfare department facebook page, I have encouraged students and others to sign the national petition to #FixCentrelink.

Volunteer Recruitment

This week I have held meetings with interested and motivated students who will form part of my Welfare volunteer crew. I have made a sign-up sheet which I hope will engage students into the department during O'Week.

Meetings Attended

Services Management Board
Operations
Media Committee Meeting

Welfare events planning

I have been working alongside my reps to organise events for Semester 1. Sustainability Week and Health Week are looking to be exciting and engaging weeks for students. I met with Josh to discuss our wider plan for Queer events throughout the year, and I am working with Audrey on the wider Swinburne committee to plan International Women's Day.

Meeting with Chaplaincy

I had my first stakeholder meeting regarding our Strategic Plan with Newton Daddow from Swinburne Chaplaincy. Newton is a big fan of the student union and hopes to enhance the relationship between SSU and chaplaincy this year and beyond, and I look forward to bridging this relationship.



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Alex McGilvray
Welfare Officer
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The Swine

I have enjoyed contributing articles and 'how-to' guides to the first edition of the Swine, particularly about Centrelink and national welfare systems for students.

Welfare Board

I have called for the first Welfare Board meeting to be Friday February 10th, I look forward to making an official start on welfare policy with our team.

Feel free to get in touch with any questions about my role or what I have achieved in February.

Regards,
Alex McGilvray

Welfare Officer
Swinburne Student Union

Women's Representative

February 2017

International Women's Day

Unfortunately, the last IWD meeting was cancelled so I cannot update progress on that. However, the Swinburne wants the SSU to run a bbq for IWD, and Alex is organising sending them figures/prices/amounts from Pride Day.

Crafternoons

Suzanne and I have collaborated and decided that we will host a crafternoon for the education faculty and women's together in early May. David kindly donated some spare wool he had which will significantly lower our costs. As I plan to host regular crafternoons for the women's collective, costs for other equipment will likely come out of my budget (knitting needles etc.). Suzanne and I discussed teaching people how to knit squares, and with those squares we can make a blanket for the women's space (still need to decide if the squares will just be made by the women's collective crafternoons, and what to teach on the education/women's crafternoon, or if it will just be an education crafternoon in early May).

Ask Book

I was thinking of buying a diary for the women's space, in which people can write questions anonymously if they like, or to give answers to those questions. Some questions can be a bit intimidating to ask in person or people might like to suggest new ideas for the women's space/collective and if they want to brainstorm together that would be fantastic!

Budget

I have also made and attached my budget for the Women's Collective in the email.

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Council report 23/1

Amy Gilderdale- **Health and Disability Representative**

What I have achieved so far:

- I had visited Beyond Blue organisation to ask about what kind of merchandise and leaflets they could offer, which they had said they give away things like wristbands, fridge magnets, and helpful booklets on how to cope with anxiety and depression. I also found out that they are able to provide a free speaker volunteer to talk about their experiences about anxiety and depression at an event I could run (Since the speakers fitted more towards my 'World Mental Health day' – I plan to –with Alex (welfare officer)- book speaker for that event. For now, we ordered 300 wristbands, 200 fridge magnets and 200 flyers for show bags.
- Also for my 'World Health' day event I was able to order and have delivered 500 empty hydrolyte drink bottles to give away free to students with a free lunch of sandwiches I am planning with Alex. However, Alex and I were thinking of making a whole week dedicated for two events which run practically close together and which overlap (World Autism Day & World Health Day – both in April).
- I was able to arrange an appointment to see Accessibility advisor Stephanie Hansen and to investigate whether or not they have a connection with Spectrum House – they have not but they are different to what I had researched so I have left that idea of getting spectrum house involved with Swinburne. I came up with something better with Stephanie though – an idea I already had to improve the LAS Centre.
- The Learning Academic centre I researched and realised it does not give helpful study and coping strategies for students who struggle with learning disabilities. I realised the centre would have to hire more staff that are trained like teachers' aides but then got brilliant idea of a way where psychology students (3rd year or honours) could somehow be paid to help LAS tutors to help gain experience. In addition, Stephanie said the counsellors may be able to offer free workshops to students as well which I could plan something there.
- I also went visiting Lido and other food places to see whether they offered student vouchers/discounts to put in show bags (which I did not realise the union already has partnerships).
- Typed up some aims and goals for the SSU website

Reps I have worked with since last meeting

- Alex (Welfare Officer)

What I will plan to do over the coming weeks

- Keep in contact with Stephanie Hansen to see if we can come up with some sort of program (psychology or mentoring program) for the LAS Centre where psychology students can be paid to help tutor students. So speaking together with the mentoring group, counselling, LAS, even SSAA and Anthony Gardner (manager of Accessibility) to see what can be arranged.
- Work with Joe on designing logo's and info for the SSU website
- Try to find and order other additional show bag items (e.g. chap sticks)

Meetings attended:

- 17th Council meeting
- 23rd Jan Induction meeting

Swinburne Student Union
Council Meeting 17th January
Environment & Sustainability Officer

Role Preparation

This month I have been preparing myself for the role and making sure to learn about all the responsibilities that come with it. This has involved reading the SSU Constitution, Regulations and the Rep Guide. As well as the handover packet Ana Tinc gave me (as last year's Environment & Sustainability Officer).

2017 Goals

My priority in these weeks has been to work more on ideas and research for my goals in this role this year. This involves the goals as part of the Swinburne Environment Collective, and the three sub-groups focusing on zero waste, divestment, and the community garden. Additionally, my two big goals are to create/change Swinburne's campuses to have sustainable habits. This is in regards to things like having recycled paper in printers on campus, having recycled/eco-friendly toilet paper, etc. I have started research into these to see what options there are available, which has shown many results. However, I need to look into the exact products that are currently being used. Other elements of creating more sustainable campuses include banning the sale of plastic water bottles, and continuing to improve and grow the recycling systems (as well as the composting).

I also have looked into eco-friendly alternatives for cafes to use on campus (including the Croydon café), such as swapping the current disposable coffee cups (most of which are not eco-friendly) to BioPak or similar product, which are biodegradable and made from renewable resources. This would be part of a plan to start liaising with the cafes/businesses on campus to get them on board the 'Sustainable Swinburne' project.

Events

Besides the weekly SEC meetings (day/time TBC), I am hoping to start weekly casual social event on Friday afternoons at the Community Garden on the Hawthorn campus. Additionally, the plan is to continue with the weekly Wednesday stall across from the SSU BBQ that has been about selling KeepCups and SSU water bottles, but will be expanded to hopefully sell other eco-friendly products, such as lunch containers, menstrual cups, etc.

On top of these weekly events, the two big things on the calendar are O-week and Sustainability Week. Planning for O-week involves the setup for the SEC stall, including posters/banners, and volunteer rostering. There will be an SEC meeting next week to organise the details for this, including what we can put in the showbags (e.g. seedlings, succulent cuttings, informational leaflets).

Sustainability Week is the big project that I'm really excited about I am hoping to have five days full of events related to the environment and sustainability (with different aims, e.g. educational, participative, group discussion, fun activities, etc.). I am hoping to collaborate with other SSU representatives and collectives to make this a big week with many events and people involved.

Other

I have started thinking about the general budget for the year, and will write out a more detailed set out budget once this has been discussed at the first meeting for SEC this year (next week).

If anyone has any questions or input about what I'm working on, please feel free to get in contact with me ☺

Kind regards,
Joaquina Miller Cooper

Environment & Sustainability Officer
Swinburne Student Union

Swinburne Student Union
Council Meeting 14th February
Environment & Sustainability Officer

O'Week Preparation

In the past few weeks, my priority has been primarily to organise O'week activities for the Environment Collective and plan what we will put in the showbags on behalf of the collective. The two ideas were to create seed bombs (which are made with soil, clay and a mixture of seeds, and then are meant to be thrown onto vacant spots of land and they grow and fill that space with plants); as well as making handkerchiefs from upcycled fabric. Using the custom stamp I ordered with an SEC logo on it, we will print both the handkerchiefs and the little paper bags the seed bombs go in. With the collective we decided to go with the handkerchiefs for the showbags and making the seed bombs as an activity at the SEC stall to interact with students interested in the group.

Semester 1 Planning

Besides preparing for O'week, I have been planning for the other events this semester. On February 1st we had our full planning day with members of the Swinburne Environment Collective (SEC). We discussed our goals for the year and refocused these for the three subgroups of zero waste, climate change/divestment, and the community garden. Many campaign and event ideas were discussed and are in the works for the semester. We talked about having interactive events at the garden at least once a month to get interested students to socialise and learn more about the group and important issues.

I have started with planning for the big Sustainability Week, which will most likely be in Week 8 (after the Anzac day public holiday on Tuesday; thus Wednesday – Friday). The week will include documentary screenings, the SEC stall with sustainable products on sale, daily stall with interactive activities, sustainable living workshops, gardening workshops, vegan lunch event, and speakers. I have started researching into the selection of possible documentaries (such as Cowspiracy), other topics for workshops and activity ideas. The Sustainable Living Festival in Melbourne starts on the 10th of February so I am planning to attend as many of the events as possible to get some ideas for SSU Sustainability Week and possibly get some contacts for the workshops and speakers.

Other

I have worked out the approximate budget for the year and will discuss it with SEC members at our next meeting on the 8th of February. These past weeks I have also attended the catch-up induction that Sam organised for new SSU council members, which helped to answer any questions I had about internal processes, etc. There was also poster runs recently for the Toga party posters and SSU membership. In addition, I am excited that James and I are both working towards making the office more environmentally friendly, particularly regarding the waste generated. There is now a recycling bin in the kitchen and a bag for soft/flexible plastics. Soon we will also have a Bokashi bin for organic waste as well!

If anyone has any questions or input about what I'm working on, please feel free to get in contact with me ☺

Kind regards,
Joaquina Miller Cooper

Environment & Sustainability Officer
Swinburne Student Union



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Residence Representative Report to Council 17/1/17 - 3/02/17

*Finding my place in the union. Happy with the work I am doing, hoping to be more involved.
Planning is key, looking to make great changes and impact.*

Contact with residence

My letter of intentions to the management at swinburne student residences was replied to promptly. Given this time of year is the busiest for them, I understand that they are not able to meet with me until late Feb. However, I was disappointed with the dismissal of some of the issues I put forward, especially my asking to speak at the new residents Health and Safety Talk. Many of the topics I put forward were promised discussion when I am able to meet with them at the end of February.

Eduroam

I have spent much of my time researching, planning and developing my facts and arguments for the Internet Provision Recommendation Report. This included making contact with 51 university accommodation and residential services. Seeing how they offer internet, how they afford it, data limits, providers etc. The results I have gotten back are not surprising, it's what we all knew; students at swinburne residences are worse off, internet wise, when compared to university accommodation around Australia. We are part of the 16%(not final figure) who have to pay for internet, the rest have it for free!

I have been fortunate to get ahold of documents from last year that show the plans and discussions of internet and updating it on res. These are positive and show the idea of eduroam on res has been floated, now to just get it off the ground! Much more to come from this.

Res Policy-

Res policy is something that will be discussed in my meeting with management at the end of February. I have already made a list of recommendations and possible additions/ amendments. I will continue to add to this before my meeting. I have also been comparing Swinburne's policy with other universities and state and federal tenancy laws.

Oweek Prep

Helped hang posters, took part in planning day.

As new resses move in I'll be talking to them, explaining the benefits of the union, events we are running and encouraging them to join the union.

Going forward, I hope to build an effective and friendly working relationship with management at res and am eager to meet with them.

SARAH SORDELLI

Designer Report

SWINE Student Magazine issue one for 2017 started really quick for the team.

I attended our first meeting as it was a meeting to inform and introduce what the Swinburne Student Union is about, the SWINE Student Magazine and meeting all members of the union and media team. Within that meeting, everyone was introduced, forms were filled out and costs and budgets were discussed. As the first meeting came to an end, I discussed further information and spoke about the SWINE Student Magazine with one of the editors - Imogen. Brainstorms were made about content that could be put in the first issue.

In our second meeting I met the whole media team and our other designer. We discussed ideas on content, design layouts and themes, emailing people that we thought would be interested in writing for the magazine. The other designer and I then discussed and researched previous SWINE Student Magazines for inspiration and also looked up other layout and grid inspirations. I then went home and did more research on layouts and looked at previous magazines that I have done for other University's and also other University's themselves.

After our second meeting I started to sketch up multiple grid layouts for the magazine and also played around with different type to figure out the best type for the magazine as it is a quick deadline. I sent all my ideas and type development to the other designer so we can work together on creating a great first issue.