

Together is the largest and most diverse team ever to run in the Swinburne Student Union elections, and we need your help to run a Student Union that is truly representative of the Swinburne community. This year, we're back, and we've put together a team of new and old, fresh and experienced students. Many of our team have been SSU volunteers, community leaders, or leaders in student clubs and societies, with a diverse mix of local and international students. These students are now ready to take it to the next level and be your voice at the SSU.

COVID has posed a massive challenge to all of us, disrupting our education, our income and our personal lives. Together has proudly focused on the issues that matter most to students, delivering over 6000 meals and grocery kits to students facing food insecurity, fighting for and winning GPA protections and extensions when the community needed them most, ensuring that international students could pay their fees in instalments, and securing additional COVID support payments for students in need, from the University and now from the SSU itself.

Our focus has been even broader than this. When the SSU Women's Collective safe space lost its accommodation, the Together team fought to find temporary accommodation, and have secured a brand new, long term facility opening in 2022, with a range of upgrades from furniture to interactive tech. We have worked actively to invigorate a new First Nations Collective, hosting multiple events and workshops to unite people from diverse backgrounds, respect the heritage of this land, and educate all students on First Nations issues. And despite lockdown after lockdown we have brought new life to the Hammer & Swine Bar, with new furnishings and renovations to see our student bar into the next year, opening for a new range of SSU Thursdays events.

At every turn the Together team has focused on providing the best experience for all students while at university. Leading into 2022, our efforts will go into refreshing the SSU's membership program, welcoming students new and old into our community through revived events and services, and an even stronger commitment to student rights. Our victories speak for themselves, but they are not possible without the support of the student body. Together is committed to a new Education Action Network, to directly link students with their school representatives and create a vision for the future of our university.

Together will fight to bring transcripts to all lectures, embracing new technologies that can subtitle online sessions both recorded and live, to ensure that education is accessible to all. Our Swine Magazine team will grow, renewing a focus not just on the stories of students but also on broader educational issues so that you, the members, know what will affect your education from here on campus all the way up to the federal government.

Our welfare efforts will increase, with the SSU fully absorbing and improving the Swinburne food bank, and further developing our Welfare Hub and Welfare on Wheels services to ensure that no student goes hungry, and that everyone has the energy they need to succeed at uni.

With our strengthened First Nations Collective we can finally campaign for proper Acknowledgements to Country across the university, but more than that we can ensure that every student and staff member understand the importance of every word. We will continue fighting for more First Nations recognition, through larger events, tailored services, as well as the proper inclusion of Indigenous Studies into all degrees.

As we welcome students back onto campus next year, we will introduce new events and programs to jumpstart campus life. From a Club Sponsor program to help our grassroots organisations attain better funding, through SSU Thursdays with themes new and familiar, to One World cultural events to embrace the diversity found in our community we will continue working to bring life to our studies. We will reinvent the SSU Street Team, and return it to its pre-COVID state with regular events, more opportunities to support charitable endeavours, and a stronger community that will support you, the student.

We are the team that brings change, that protects your rights, and welcomes you onto campus. We work to build and maintain a strong union that serves and represents you. Whether you have needed advocacy, representation, food security or friends, Together has and always will be here to ensure that you, the student, succeeds in your studies. Vote [1] Together to help us continue helping you.

We are Experienced. We are Diverse. We are Progressive.

We are Together.

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