



Victoria University Student Union Board Meeting Report

Department & Presenter	Women's - Aimee Jenkins
Date	19 October 022

I commenced my role as Women's Officer June of 2022. I am honored to have been Womens Officer for VU Student Union. While my term was brief and it took a few months to learn the role I am proud to have established connections I hope will be useful in the coming term.

During my time in the Student Union I have focused on supporting women in our VU and local community.

Below is what I have worked on during my term.

Women's Safe Spaces

Upon arrival to this role the designated campus safe spaces were unkept and unwelcoming. For this reason I cleaned the rooms myself, arranged for further deep cleaning, and arranged for quotes for a woman-identifying handyman to repair the rooms. The repairs have not happened as of yet due to awaiting approval from the facilities department but I will work with future officers to ensure this is completed.

Since the Women's rooms were neglected I also focused on addressing the ongoing upkeep of the room with the Facilities team to ensure the safe spaces are well kept and welcoming.

P'lattes with @cloudsways.

Claudia Soto (@cloudsways) is a body inclusive local pilates teacher.

To return to campus I arranged an online and in person pilates class to run with Claudia to invite students the opportunity to protect their mental health by exercising as well as introduce themselves to some local like minded students as everyone tried to make friends after studying online.

The classes were sadly canceled due to low attendance. Claudia has promised she will be able to run 2 sessions of rooftop yoga when the weather improves.

Gender Justice Survey

Feedback focused on the state of the bathrooms on campus and requested more support regarding access to period products and trans rights.

Feedback is still coming and the information is useful in focusing the attention of Women's Officer to what the students request.

On campus live Mural painting

Footscray Park Women's safe space is discrete and not well known about. To pronounce the Women's Room at Footscray Park I wished to commission a mural on the brick wall beside the front door.

I have been in contact with Kate Robinson (@katethefeminist) to paint the mural. She returned from overseas just recently and sadly ran out of time to paint before the end of my term.

I will work with the future officers to promote this collaboration.

Period Poverty

Period Product Dispensers

Winc and Libra have offered to install Period Product Dispensers in the bathrooms but this may not be possible due to the ongoing financial responsibilities that would be left to the university. Facilities are challenging but I managed to escalate the issue to Debora, the Head of the Facilities department and she has accepted to take on the task. I also had a meeting with Anna from Procurement regarding the issue and decided we would need to wait until Debora returns to work as the staff members below her are not interested in taking this on. During my term I was not able to action this any further. It is the wish of the future officers to pursue this.

Sustainable period products.

The sustainable period product campaign provides supporting bleeders to invest in sustainable and more convenient period products. I was able to secure deals with a few businesses for bulk orders and discounted prices for students. A trial request based program was run by Tynah, Accessibilities Officer, during Respect and Empathy week.

Victoria University Women's Union Facebook Page

I founded a facebook page to promote and share content, initiatives and events organized by the Women's Officer on behalf of VU Student Union. This also provides a convenient place for students to learn about free and affordable opportunities in our local community they would otherwise not be exposed to.

Targeted promotion means students would be able to engage with content from the student union which are relevant to them.

Hopefully in the future if it were to be popular, students would be able to comment on posts on our page sharing events and arrange to attend Women's Empowerment events with other students. All moderated by the Women's Officer.

Women in Business - Nicholson Small Business Market

An idea well supported by our student community as well as local community was a Small Business Market focused on elevating Women Owned Businesses. This would promote student businesses in the local community, gain clientele and mentors from local businesses. Unfortunately there were too few student Stall Holder registrations. The Queen Victoria Women's Collective Gift Shop was a collaboration which would be a great opportunity for students to expand their business to a large audience. It would be great to engage with this organisation in the future.

Women of Racial Identity

A Moment For Biracial Women - Collaboration with Shiva, Cultural Diversity Officer

A live podcast recording with Kate and Maria (@beingbiracialpodcast) at Footscray's new local woman owned bar Bud Of Love exclusive to VU students.

This event is focused on supporting students with that internal conflict of identity and belonging, being a biracial individual in Australia. The event would be small but recorded to be shared in our community to foster connection and belonging.

While this event could not go ahead, the event hosts are still interested in participating in the event and would like to reschedule. I will work with Officers in the future to encourage this collaboration be pursued.

Women's Safety

Self Defense

To test the success of running Self Defense classes, a stand was organized to display moves of self defense to students. This was a great way to test Howard from Fight Back and engagement from students.

I liaise with Andre from Self Defense Hub as well and would encourage this collaboration be pursued further, being a woman owned small business.