



USU's PRESIDENT REPORT:

AUTHOR: Cole Scott-Curwood
TITLE: August 2022

In August, we've been welcoming new and returning students to university life. Highlights include the sold-out party at Manning, the launch of *PULP* magazine, and the packed Welcome Fest. We know how important it is to provide vehicles for socialisation, creativity, and recreation. That's why we've also brought back the pool tables in the Wentworth building while scrapping the old fee - they're now free to use. Just down the hall from that is Foodhub, a free food pantry initiative for students in need, which we're providing in collaboration with the SRC. The Board has approved \$20,000 to guarantee Foodhub can provide for students in need until longer-term funding is determined.

Transparency is fundamental to us, so we regularly publish monthly reporting and Board meeting minutes on the USU website. As of August 25, the USU has 40,000 members. This is the highest membership we've had since voluntary student unionism was enacted, and over the past 2.5 years, the USU has grown by almost 11,000 members.

Following years of delay, the University has been progressing the development of a Disability Space through discussions with student representatives and groups. Due to accessibility requirements, the current Ethnocultural Room was earmarked from the start as the location for this. USU is committed to the new Disability Space, the replacement Ethnocultural Room, and other autonomous spaces - all located in the USU's Manning House - meeting the needs of the students who use them.

The USU Board's mandate is to have diversified, ethical, and fit-for-purpose investments. Like many of our members, we're concerned that this is not the case. To ensure we do the best with our members' money, we've been systematic. Informed by the diligent USU staff and Finance Committee, the USU Board has approved several significant changes to our investments, which include the specific avoidance of the fossil fuel, gambling, alcohol, tobacco, and armaments sectors. Our next steps will be to reflect this in USU policies and then ensure USU's investment manager has an appropriate plan to operationalise the Board's decision.

Cole Scott-Curwood
President