

BOARD REPORT

PRESIDENT

USU Board meeting date: 30/10/2025

Agenda item: 10.4

Report Period: October 2025

Author: Phan Vu

Title: President

Phone/mobile: +61 493 322 268

	Page No.	Res. No.
Recommendation 1 That the Board notes this report.	2-5	1

SUMMARY

October has been a productive month for the USU, with a busy schedule of events, continued service delivery, and progress on strategic initiatives, including incorporation and stakeholder engagement.

Overall, September's performance exceeded expectations. Despite pressures from reduced outlet revenue and increased utility costs, the USU benefited from lower spending within events and marketing, largely due to resourcing constraints, contributing to the positive variance. For September, the P&L result before investment movements (which are not budgeted for) was a deficit of \$147k, compared to the Q2 Reforecast (RFC) deficit of \$365k. After including investment gains and losses, the final September result was a deficit of \$133k, representing a favourable variance of \$232k against the Q2 RFC.

Governance activity remained steady, with four committee meetings held and *USyd Student Union Ltd* officially registered with the ACNC, a major milestone in the incorporation process. On the stakeholder front, the USU continued to strengthen partnerships with the University and student organisations, including advocacy for Opal fare concessions and collaborative planning for 2026 Welcome Fest. The SSAF Consultative Meeting secured \$1.95m in guaranteed funding with potential for an additional \$400k post-Census, affirming institutional confidence in the USU's programs and initiatives.

Looking ahead, budget planning for 2026 is already underway and will be presented to the Board in November. The process will take into account operational performance to date, timing considerations for contestable SSAF projects, and alignment with strategic priorities, ensuring a clear financial roadmap for the coming year.

GOVERNANCE

Committee Meetings

Four committee meetings were held this month: Clubs & Societies, Debates, and Finance. Further detail is captured in the Vice President's report, but key highlights include:

- Clubs & Societies: The committee met this month to discuss arising club governance and resolve to approve the remaining new club applications for the year as well as appeals. In summary, 5 clubs were approved, bringing the total clubs approved in S2, 2025 to X new clubs. The committee received 16 appeals. A new Clubs App, funded through SSAF contestable grants, will be rolled out in January 2026 to streamline management and improve administration for both club leaders and the clubs team.
- Awards: The committee went over 180 nominations for the Clubs Awards and was very pleased with the dedication and the growth demonstrated across the Clubs Program. The high volume of nominations reflected the strength of student leadership, the diversity of interests on campus, and the commitment of clubs executives to building communities where members feels welcome. The committee also reviewed nominations for Volunteer of the Year and approved the 2025 Debates Awards nominations.
- Finance: The committee reviewed the September P&L and recommended the Q3 RFC to the Board, while also reviewing the new risk register and risk appetite.
- Debates: The committee discussed governance matters and received committee updates.

Working Groups

The Student Safety Conference (SSC) Working Group met to review preliminary planning for next year's conference, including agenda and logistics. The group will continue to meet frequently in the lead-up to the event to ensure smooth execution.

Incorporation

There has been positive progress on the incorporation front. On 14 October, Usyd Student Union Ltd was officially registered with the ACNC. On the same day, the USU attended a University Executive (UE) meeting as part of the approvals process before the People and Risk Committee (PARC) and the December Senate meeting. UE indicated a positive disposition toward USU incorporation, with one minor revision needed to align with the Student Association Policy regarding subsequent constitutional amendments. Subsequent meetings have focused on bridging this gap, with USU committed to working in good faith.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

University

In a catchup with Darren Goodsir (USyd, Chief of Staff), we discussed opportunities to enhance campus experience, including the 2026 Welcome Fest and other key strategic initiatives. I also escalated the Manning lift issue, which affected multiple scheduled events, emphasising that the lift is the only accessible facility in the building.

S1 2026 Welcome Implementation Group

Planning for 2026 Welcome Fest is underway, taking into account lessons from previous years to facilitate smoother delivery. The group, headed by Lydia Dutcher from Student Life, also discussed planning for the 2026 Lunar New Year event on campus.

Student Organisations

The USU continues to advocate for the Opal fare concession for all students via the ePetition, which has collected nearly 8,500 signatures of the 20,000 required for debate in the House. We will continue to collaborate with SUPRA and SRC to ensure the petition reaches its target before closing on 25 November.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Grace Street for her successful election as the 98th SRC President and Burn for Honi as the editors of Honi Soit for 2026.

SSAF Applications

A massive thank you to the senior leadership team for preparing the base and contestable fundings and the directors for submitting their proposals.

At the SSAF Consultative Meeting on 21 October, USU secured \$1.95m in guaranteed funding with potential for an additional \$400k post-S1 2026 Census. USU is expected to receive 37% of this potential amount if sufficient funding becomes available. All proposals were approved either fully or partially, with some eligible for increased funding in April 2026 based on census reporting. Internal budget adjustments will be communicated to the committee to ensure the total approved funding remains intact.

<i>Table 2 – total base funding</i>			
Recipient	2025 base funding	Indexation (3.5%)	2026 base funding
SRC	\$2,567,900	\$89,876	\$2,657,776
SUPRA	\$2,203,681	\$77,129	\$2,280,810
SUSF	\$6,216,260	\$217,569	\$6,433,829
USU	\$6,700,482	\$234,517	\$6,934,999
Careers Centre	\$416,317	\$14,571	\$430,888
Student Life (training)	\$467,863	\$16,375	\$484,238
Total base allocation	\$18,572,503	650,037	\$19,222,540

The total SSAF budget for 2026 is included in *table 3* below. \$7,214 remains unallocated and will be used for miscellaneous organisation administrative expenses or added to any additional funds available after the Semester 1 census.

<i>Table 3 – Projected 2026 SSAF funding</i>	
Base Funding	\$19,222,540
Contestable Funding	\$5,755,778
Unallocated	\$7,214
Total SSAF 2026 Forecast	\$24,985,532

STUDENT EXPERIENCE & IMPACT

Debates Committee

The Debates Committee saw leadership changes this month, with thanks extended to outgoing Director Charlie Ryan and congratulations to Samuel Druce, incoming Director of Debates. The 2026 committee appointments have been finalised, with a mix of new and returning members. The SXP team facilitated a smooth handover, and equity reforms are planned to ensure safer spaces and clearer reporting processes within the Society.

Manning Night Market

The Manning Night Market was a major success, attracting over 4,000 attendees and providing \$14,125 in free food via USU Free and Rewards memberships. This event is funded through the SSAF contestable grants and is well positioned for an expanded concept in 2026.

Glitter Gala

The Glitter Gala was cancelled due to low ticket sales and lack of interest. Feedback consultations will be conducted to understand the reasons behind the low engagement. This year's format was changed from a sit-down arrangement to a party style, and lessons learned will inform future event planning.

Clubs Awards Night

The Clubs Awards Night was held in the Courtyard with 150 attendees, celebrating the achievements of outstanding clubs and societies on campus. Special thanks to Natalie Moussa, Clubs Development & Training Coordinator, for her work in organising the evening. Congratulations to all nominees and award winners.

Debates Dinner

The Debates Dinner, scheduled for 30 October, will celebrate exceptional talent within the debating community throughout 2025, bringing together students, alumni, and staff. The evening will feature speeches, awards, and discussions highlighting the impact of debating on student life.

Naming of Facilities

Following written confirmation from all three nominees and/or their respective families for the Naming of Facilities proposal endorsed by the Board in August, an application has been completed and sent to the University for consideration. Progress will be reported to the Board.

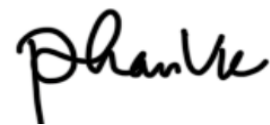
PULP

PULP Issue 24 is now on stands, with the launch held on 30 October at 8pm at Lord Gladstone. Congratulations to the PULP 4 team for another successful edition.

Upcoming Student Programs

As the semester wraps up and students enter finals season, several events remain scheduled, including the Screamfest Halloween Festival (anticipating 4,000 attendees), Language Exchange End of Semester Social Gathering, G'day Gatherings, and numerous other events organised by clubs and societies.

Looking ahead to November, the USU is excited to continue deliver a diverse range of programs and initiatives that will continue to engage, support, and celebrate our student community. None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication, creativity, and commitment of our staff across all departments. On behalf of the Board, I extend sincere gratitude for your hard work and wish all students the best of luck with their exams.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Phan Vu'.

Phan Vu
PRESIDENT