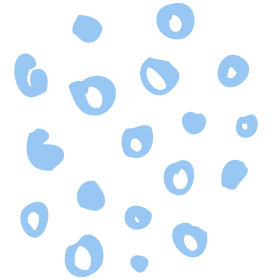

AAYUSHI PATEL
ADITI BHARGAVA
AKOI AROK
ALANA RICHARDSON
ANNABELLE GOONASEKENA
ANOUSHKA PATEL
ASHFAQ LUKMAN
BOJANA KLEPAC POGRMILOVIC
BRODY SEARLE
CARMELINA MONEA
CATHERINE ABOURIZK
CHEUK YIN WAI (NARDO)
ELLIE DEWHURST
FARRIZ ROSLAN
FRANCESCO STAGNO (FRANKIE)
HANNAH SMITH

HASSAN NUR HUSSEIN ABDI
JACK BROGDEN
JEREMY YAP
MALAIKA NAMBIAR
NATASHA RITCHIE
NAZAREEN BESAVEND
PRAVINA NAGAPPEN
SHANE I'ANSON
SWECHHYA GHAE
TEGHAN O CONNOR
THOMAS NGUYEN
TOOLSICA RAWOAH
VISHWA MEHTA
WILLIAM PENROSE
XANDER HAW

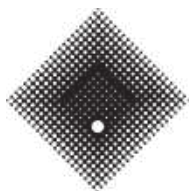


Students as Partners

SEMESTER ONE NEWSLETTER 2020

KATI ELIZABETH
SHANNYN CAIN
NAOMI DEMPSEY
JAMES ARMIT
FRANCES ONEIL
ADRIAN GALLAGHER
DARREN BROWN
SHARNA SPITTLE
SARAH DASH
RIA RENFREY

BRONTE NEYLAND
TRISH MCCLUSKEY
GAIL BRAY
LUKE KESHISHIAN
MARCUS BROOKE
LY TRUONG
LEON KERR
JAMES NIGHTINGALE
DANIELLE BORLOVAN



**VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY**

Students as Partners

INTRODUCTION

CHESHNA BOOLAKY *Chairperson*

My name is Cheshna Boolaky and I am an international student pursuing an undergraduate degree in accounting. I enjoy participating in various activities within the university campus to provide academic, transition and engagement support for students. I am excited to collaborate in various student partnership projects aligning with Victoria University's values, as I am passionate about fostering a supporting and all-inclusive culture where students' voices are heard and acted on.



ALICE GROWDEN *Deputy Chair and Coordinator*

My name is Alice Growden and I'm a domestic student from Melbourne, in my fourth year of a Laws/Commerce (Applied Finance) degree. My experience in Student as Staff roles includes Senior Student Ambassador, Student Mentor, Student Assistant at Student Services and board- member of several committees. I have been appointed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as New Colombo Plan Alumni Ambassador, a role which supports students to study in the Asia Pacific. I am excited to coordinate Students as Partners and ensure every voice is heard and valued across the University.



LEON KERR *Director of Student Services*

The most valuable outcomes are derived from working together to create the future. Students as Partners at VU provides opportunity for students and staff to work together in the co-creation of learning, teaching, administration and governance. I am pleased to be able to support the Student as Partners network at VU and look forward to seeing this ongoing work gain further momentum and recognition across the University



Our Activities

SEMESTER ONE 2020



Our ideology is to co-create 'The VU Way'

Students as Partners is a student-led initiative which aspires to achieve a better VU Community with direct involvement from both students and staff members. Student members are elected based on their key involvement within the VU community.

Each member represents a specific sector of the university, whether they be a college leader, club president, student ambassador/mentor and lots more. Within our network meetings, a range of key topics and challenging social issues are discussed and brainstormed in a formal manner.

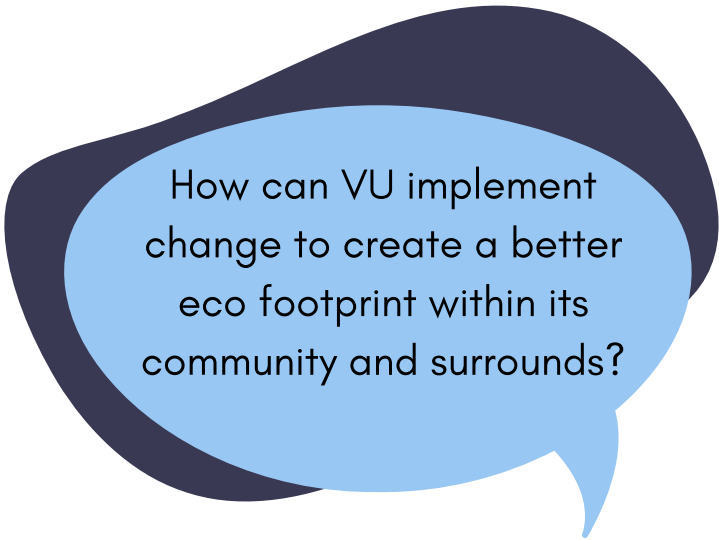
Due to impacts of COVID-19 we have been successful in diverting to an online platform via Zoom.

The agenda of our first two network meetings have created an exciting vibe within the group and created networking opportunities between our staff and students.

This newsletter will be the beginning of editions which will establish the activities, key discussion and the next steps for our hot topics.

Our first two Network Meetings dated 28 May and 26 June created a starting point for our students and staff to get to know each other and discuss the following issues: Planetary Health, Student services and Advocacy, the renaming of VUHQ and the impacts of Coronavirus on digital teaching & learning.

We look forward to providing updates in a newsletter form and hope that you will continue your journey with us.



How can VU implement change to create a better eco footprint within its community and surrounds?

The planetary health is an important subject of discussion that needed to be covered by SaP members to discuss about the practices of sustainability that could be implemented by the University.

The Planetary Health research sponsored by Corinne Reid, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Ian Ford, Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer have created a bright pathway towards change for an eco-friendly environment for future generation.



While a forum has been introduced to all students in VU for Planetary Health, Jeannie Rea suggested that this information is essential to discuss and brainstorm with SaP members. The discussion about sustainability covered all basis from curriculum to physical environments on campus.

Some suggestions were: carpooling, decreasing the use of plastic and paper, providing access to more recycling bins around campuses and lots more.



Student services at VU objectively assists students with a wide range of issues from enrollment through to graduation. They provide accessible assistance with many categories such as mental, physical, administrative and more.

While VU have made a tremendous effort to create multiple services that covers to assist all basis in hardships. VU are willing to extend feedback to our SaP and gather information about what improvements need to be made. The idea of this topic was to get an understanding of how students feel when accessing student wellbeing services and how they may feel more comfortable in different circumstances.

With the help of Sarah Dash, who is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at Victoria University, Institute of Health and Sport, we as a group have participated in fast paced workshops addressing these issues.



Student Wellbeing Research Initiative

SaP members worked hard in creating a possible outcome that could be positively progressive towards addressing the issues and problems that students have faced.

Some student lead brainstorming included:

- more visual information of services such as posters around campus.
- educate lecturers about available student services.
- Promotion of privacy and confidential environment students are in





AnswerGarden was used to vote and recommend the future name of VUHQ. The program works by student votes – where names grow subject to number of votes.

It has been a shift in virtual collaboration and the use of interactive sites such as AnswerGarden, Padlet and Survey Monkey have created a great vibe and method of working.

We managed to obtain a wide range of suggestions that will be presented to the board for consideration.



VUHQ Renaming



VUHQ is the headquarters of contact for VU. It has to have a name that is memorable, transparent and in line with university values. The name is scheduled to change upon launch of the new 'Student Precinct' building where the whole brand of our study spaces will be tailored to student preference.



Templates were distributed to the members prior to this meeting. The templates were not necessarily the only options but these were a good start to start the flow of ideas.

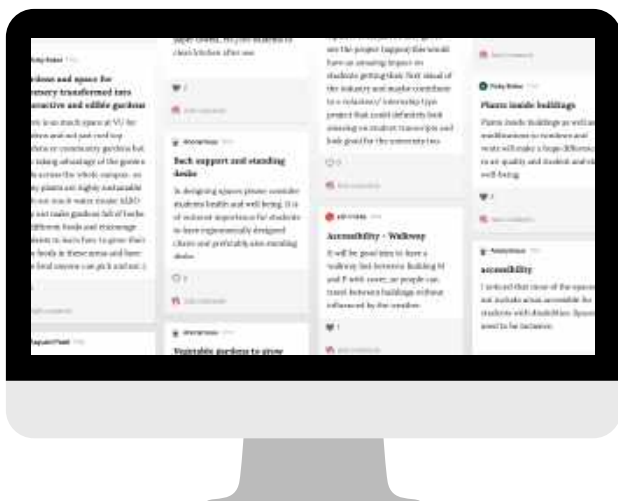
The new building is ideally going to be for the students so it is vital for students to voice what would be important for them to be comfortable. The building is being designed by architects upon student feedback gathered from our SaP meeting. The aim of the changes is to integrate comfort and distressing environment for VU's community.

Members were to vote which design they like the most, and also added their further thoughts and opinion via Padlet. It was further discussed during the zoom session.



Student Precinct

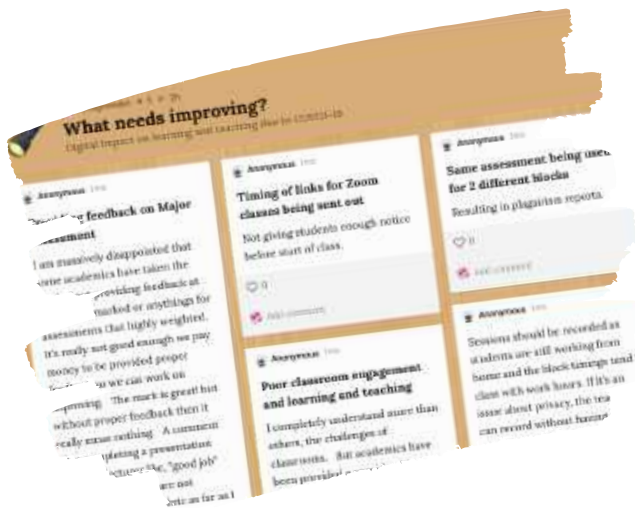
OPEN Building



Using interactive software such as Padlet, our members are able to interact and converse with each other by brainstorming ideas and creating a thread which can be discussed with others. The Student Precinct Padlet raised some great ideas which have been passed onto the architects in charge of the project.

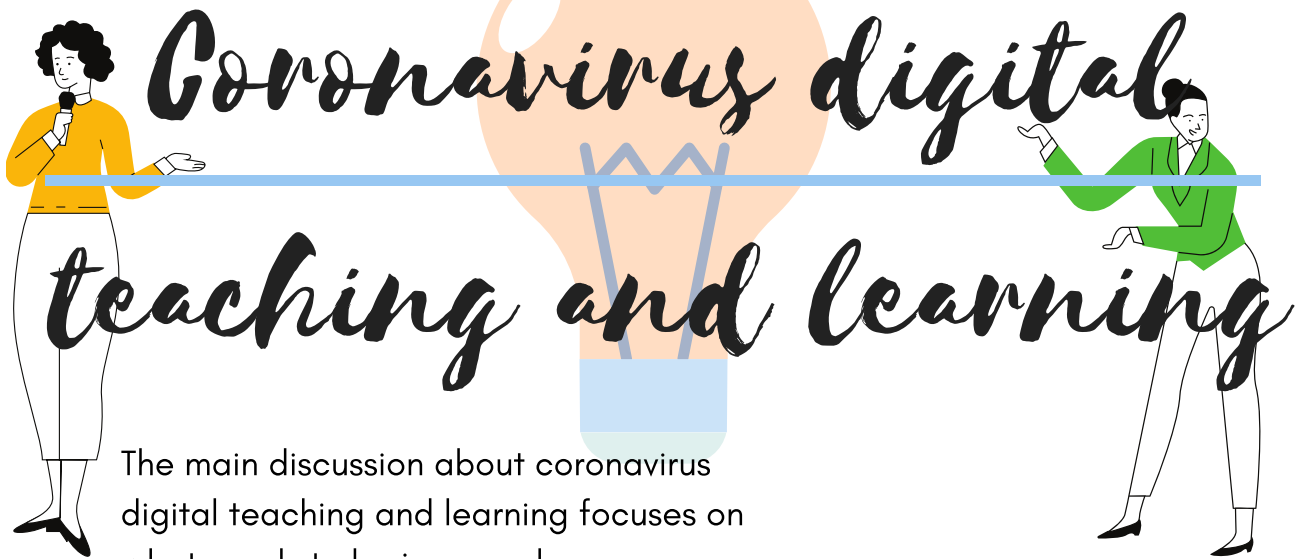
Students and staff have given their thoughts about why the changes are appropriate and how the design provides students with comfort and distress environment.

Through Padlet and Zoom discussions, we are able to provide the architects with valuable information to better VU's building.



As we are facing a unique time, VU has made appropriate changes to the way studies are being held. The changes have affected lectures, exams, workshops, teaching and learning. SaP members are tasked to give an input regarding the issues that have been faced by students during the change to digital teaching and learning in comparison to face to face.

SaP student members have addressed and represented the voices of students who are struggling in these times, which have been acknowledged by SaP staff members

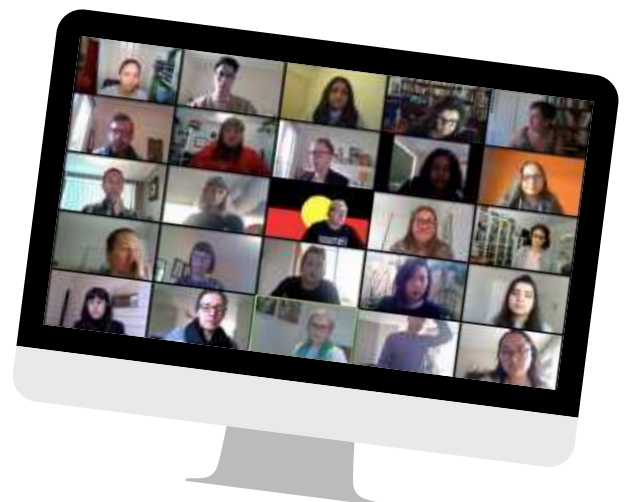


The main discussion about coronavirus digital teaching and learning focuses on what needs to be improved.

Topics that were addressed were:

- Class engagement
 - Group assignments
 - Exam delivery
- and many more.

These have been addressed and acknowledged by staff members. They are working hard to create a solution for all these issues.



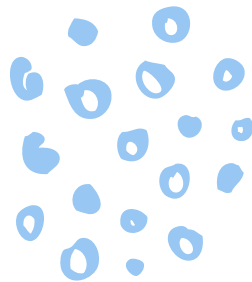
Get Involved

Research Project by Dr Ancy Gamage from Victoria University Business School (VUBS). "Boundary management challenges for online students"

1

The purpose of the study is to examine student's experiences of online classes. With the transformation of classes from face-to-face to online platforms, it is expected that students may face a range of challenges, especially in terms of their ability to manage their educational and private spaces. This study aims to explore those challenges, and in the long run devise appropriate support mechanisms for students.

Get involved by expressing your interest by emailing:
ancy.gamage@vu.edu.au



Farewell Legacy for VC Peter Dawkins "A Decade of Dawkins"

2

We would love for some students to say a few words, post pictures or memories about our outgoing VC. A place to collect memories, pictures, stories, etc. Please remember to write your name as the title of your post. An important note, this is a page for celebration.

Comments on this board will be moderated, and any content that is deemed inappropriate will be removed at the discretion of the administrator.

Please do so by adding your comments on this Padlet:
<https://padlet.com/farrizir97/4gfd3p94je0yhaeg>



Get Involved

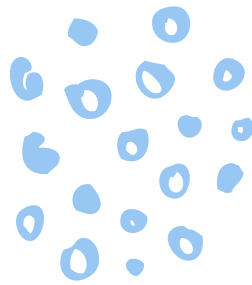
Student Experience Survey ('SES')

3

During August, VU is calling on its students to participate in the Australian Government's voluntary 2020 Student Experience Survey (SES) if they are invited to do so. The SES is a national survey, administered by the Social Research Centre (SRC) and each year thousands of students take part. VU want its students' voice heard too!

You can make a difference

At VU, around 12,000 of our first year and completing year undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students will be invited to participate, including students from VU Sydney. While not all students are selected, if you're invited make sure you complete this survey. It's so important that we have your views! Your feedback will help VU to enhance learning and teaching, improve services to students and improve the quality of your education experience. Your responses will also shape the reputation of your course and the experience for all students in the VU community, now and also for those who follow you.



Continued in the next page

Get Involved

Student Experience Survey ('SES')

How to participate

Check your VU student email for an invite. Look for an email from the Social Research Centre (SRC) which was sent on the 28 July 2020, it will contain your own unique login details and complete the survey before 30 August 2020 for a chance to win some great prizes.

Enter weekly prize draws

You will automatically be entered into two prize draws when you complete the survey.

SRC weekly prize draw: you could win up to \$1000 in weekly prizes. You will have more chances to win the earlier you complete the survey. There is a total prize pool of \$32,000. The first prize draw is on the 5 August!

VU prize draw: all students who complete the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win one of ten \$100 Coles e-gift cards.

Share this information with your peers. Ask them to complete the SES if they have been invited to do so. Find out more about the SES on the website, including information about the prize draw terms and conditions. Or talk to your teachers if you have questions.



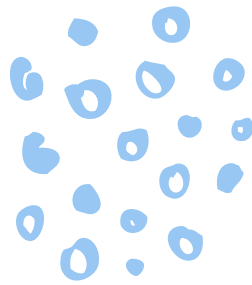
Get Involved

Deakin Students as Partners Roundtable

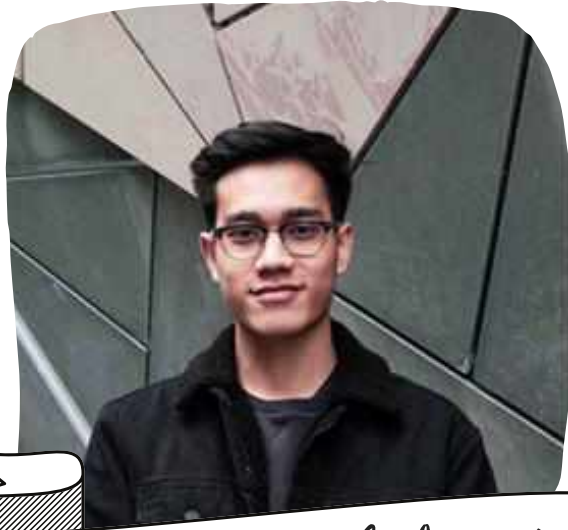
4

Deakin has kindly invited all VU's Students as Partners members to their Roundtable event that will be held as a virtual event from Monday 24th August to Friday 28th August (9.30am–11.30am AEST) due to the impact of COVID-19. The free event is open to all interested students and staff from across the globe who are interested and engaging in SaP practices. Deakin have invited inputs from staff and students to the formal program via Case Study contributions and our Human Library.

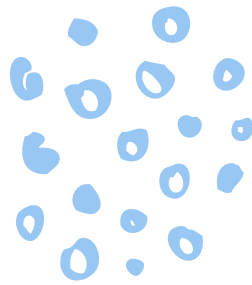
For more details on how to contribute, view the full program (including our keynote speakers), and to register for the event please visit the [Deakin 2020 SaP Roundtable website](#).



Newly Elected Chairperson



Congratulations



We are excited to announce our new incoming Students as Partners
Chairperson, **Farriz Roslan!**

Farriz is a well known student representative and has experience in various areas. He has previously held positions in VU's law students society, Dictum Society. He is currently the Director of Communications and Public Relations of VU International Student Association. He has represented, advocated and assisted students at VU as well as having a passion in making positive changes in the surrounding community.

Farriz has already made significant contributions to Students as Partners and we are excited to work with him and showcase his enthusiasm to the rest of the team.

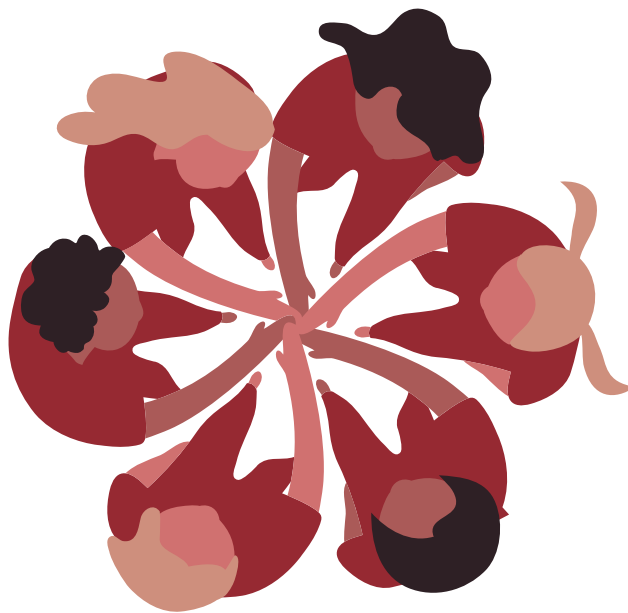
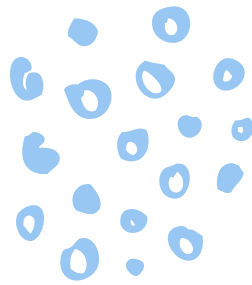
Congratulations Farriz!

New Incoming Student Members

Please welcome our new incoming student members to our Semester 2 Students as Partners team. I would like to give them an official welcome and we look forward to working together.

Our new members are:

- Falak Sakak
- Prateek Shrestha
- Ruby Baker
- Temiloluwa Oladiji
- Harshita Harshita





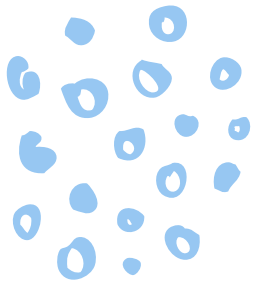
Students as Partners



Victoria University is committed to creating a space where students and staff work together on teaching, learning, curriculum, administration and governance. This way of thinking is called Students as Partners. It is increasingly adopted around the world to transform how things are done, and create positive outcomes for students and staff.

Throughout the year, we hold events such as network meetings and roundtable discussions to engage with students and stakeholders from across the University community. These events allow the aims and outcomes of the Students with Partners program to develop in line with expectations and needs from the community.

The ideology of Students as Partners is to 'co-create The VU Way'. As the program expands and more students become engaged with this important program, so too will the program's scope, and its reach will develop and grow.



For further information about Students as Partners, please [visit our website](#).

Contact: Alice Growden
By Email: studentsaspartner@vu.edu.au
or Phone: +61 3 9919 4002



Newsletter Creator: Farriz Roslan
and Alice Growden

