



## COVID-19 Forum – TAG Student Outcomes, Clubs & Volunteering 13.00, 19/03/20

Jack Arnold **(JA)** – RMIT Student Life

Genevieve Dickinson **(GD)** – RMIT Student Life

Tiahna Thiele **(TT)** – Adelaide University Union

Cara Bowley **(CB)** – Adelaide University Union

Sophie Siciliano **(SS)** - Adelaide University Union

Anna Wockner **(AW)** - Adelaide University Union

Cameron Sherwood **(CS)** – Griffith University Gold Coast Student Guild

Sara Kearney **(SK)** - UON

Rowan Stevenson **(RS)** – UON

Tegan Jardine **(TJ)** – USASA

Tracy Wellen **(TW)** – USASA

Lauren Fowler **(LF)** – USASA

### General

**TW** All events and face-to-face events cancelled for the foreseeable future.  
Limited students still on campus, no directive as to when that may change yet.  
No students on campus as of next week.

**SK** Classes of over 100 have gone to online classes, smaller classes moved into larger rooms to facilitate distancing.

**RS** Will be working more closely with UON Student Communications team.

**CS** All classes going online tomorrow.

**TT** All classes going online Monday.

### Clubs

**TAG** How do you police clubs from holding events that are in contravention of event restrictions?  
Who is liable if something goes wrong?

**LF** Track their social media and if an event is announced discuss the issue with them.  
Ultimately, can't enforce rules if clubs don't tell you of events off-campus.

**JA** If it is not a university-sanctioned event, then the liability lies with the club.

**RS** Agrees with above. Waiting for the imminent final draft from the university of an email to be sent to all clubs regarding unauthorized events.

- CS** Also agrees.
- TJ** Compliance requirements for affiliated clubs may be tricky. Eg, USASA clubs are expected to hold their AGMs by end of April.
- SK** Clubs cannot receive funding unless registered. Online support available from UON staff during the disruption to ensure that clubs are up to date when normal activity resumes.
- JA** This downtime is ideal for clubs to catch-up on compliance obligations.
- How do we ensure that clubs will re-engage when they finally return to campus?
- TAG** Humans are social creatures and it is inherent for us to gather in groups. After months of isolation, they most likely be very eager to re-engage.
- TJ** That will be the fun bit. Can't wait to spend the money that USASA has not been able to spend.

### **Volunteering**

- SK** How to keep volunteers, particularly new ones, engaged during the disruption?
- This is an issue as many volunteers join to meet new people, and this is now unachievable in a real sense.
- TAG** Perhaps redeploy volunteers into the wider community for the duration?

### **Digital Engagement**

- SK** Looking at what activities and events they can migrate online, such as their Create Arts Festival. Then introducing community events such as Netflix Watch Parties.
- RS** Looking at how they can facilitate the TAG national comps online in preparation of when the national events are able to occur physically.
- Looking at their existing programs and which can be adapted for online. Eg, UON has a community garden., so considering creating online gardening videos for application at home. Also cooking demos.
- TW** Looking how they can engage traditionally physically-attending partners in bringing Unitopia, USASA's wellbeing festival, online in May.
- TJ** End of April clubs training camp has been cancelled. Investigating how it might be able to be brought online.
- USASA has an extensive clubs grant program. Considering diverting those grants to support clubs in developing and hosting online events.
- Believes that some clubs will not survive and may not be engaged going forward. Very unlikely that any new clubs will form for the foreseeable future.

- CS** Moving their new Professional Development Program series online.
- Creating exercise programs that can be communicated online, including yoga and meditations, either recorded or live. A digital-linked fun run that can be done remotely and individually.
- Increasing their social media engagement, eg Insta prompts of “show us your...dog, pet, etc.”
- TT** Current events and programs for S1 can’t be moved online in their existing formats under the current situation but is investigating how this can be done moving forward.
- Looking to engage now to ramp up engagement existing events such as the Arts Comp before they are scheduled to occur.
- Online streaming of daily yoga and meditation.
- JA** Sports clubs events cancelled, except e-Sports (of course!), so some clubs are filming their activities for online content for their members, eg: here are your workout instructions for the day, here are your martial arts moves for the day.
- Creating Strava groups for bike riding, running, stepping. Challenging students to compete with their peers.

### **Membership Value**

- TT** Looking for a solution to how to provide paid members value when physical benefits like their free lunch program can no longer be physically delivered. Looking to find online benefits that represent a similar value, if not more.

### **Student and Staff Wellbeing**

- RS** One of their biggest worries is student and staff mental health, see it as a challenge for the vulnerable.
- CS** Waiting on SSAF funding allocation. As many of their students are in the events casual workforce, even if they return to campus in T2, will they have any money to spend. Will guild need to move into information support regarding Centrelink and rental assistance.
- Guild may struggle if disruption continues into T2.
- AUU** Already experiencing increased levels of distressed student calls relating to employment displacement, potential accommodation disruption.
- GD** Students are very scared and anxious. Working with RUSU to identify where any SSAF funding may be redirected to wellbeing programs.

## **Staffing and Closures**

**TAG** Given the potential scope of personnel depletion, both temporarily and possibly permanently, are these plans future-proof in so much as can they be delivered with a reduced workforce?

**JA** Current adapted plans are not future-proof, possibly valid for only a month.

Their few student casuals are being given odd jobs such as cleaning equipment, etc, to keep their hours up for the duration.

Most of their casuals are in the enquiry centre, which is very busy now, as can be expected.

**GD** For many of their casuals, their RMIT jobs are their sole employment. RMIT are looking to migrate online as many as possible along with the programs.

**CS** Short-term solution for casual event staff are being re-deployed to other jobs for the duration.