1. GETTING YOUR SSCC’S STARTED IN 2007

Well here we are at the beginning of a new year which means it is time to get your SSCC’s going again. At the risk of repetition here are a few of the basics that you need to consider:

- It is RMIT policy that there are SSCC’s at all levels of including TAFE, Undergraduate and Postgraduate
- SSCC’s are one of the best ways for students to have their say about program delivery and content and about the day to day issues of student life in your program.
- SSCC’s are an important part of decision making at RMIT and allow students to develop skills such as how to be constructive in a meeting, how to get your point across and develop skills to become an effective representative.
- The RMIT SSCC brochure can be downloaded from [http://mams.rmit.edu.au/c5oo79uewp3w1.pdf](http://mams.rmit.edu.au/c5oo79uewp3w1.pdf)

Things to do now!

1. Recruiting students for SSCC’s should commence from week 1
   - Students that were on SSCC’s in 2006 should be involved in recruiting, especially first year students. Remember the best people to explain what a student on an SSCC does are a student on a SSCC!

2. All students on SSCC should attend the SSCC training.
   - Students who complete training and attend 4 SSCC’s are eligible for the RMIT LEAD certificate.

3. The first SSCC meeting should occur by the end of week 4 and there must be at least 2 SSCC meeting each semester.

Recourses to support students on SSCC’s

- For more information about SSCC’s including RMIT policy & procedure, RMIT LEAD go to [http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/sscc](http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/sscc)

Rationale for SSCC’s

SSC’s provide a forum for the Program Team and students enrolled in that program to:
• Review the effectiveness of the implementation of the Program Plan;
• Contribute to the continual quality improvement of the Program; and
• Ensure a holistic, student-centered learning environment.

Functions of SSCC's
• Monitor the delivery of the Program against the program plan;
• Highlight and share examples of good practice;
• Monitor the delivery of courses against course guides;
• Monitor the workload of students undertaking the program;
• Consider suggestions for modification and improvement to the program;
• Consider and seek to resolve problems which are of concern to students undertaking the program;
• Make recommendations to appropriate managers on matters requiring action that the Committee cannot resolve directly.

***************************************************************************************************************************

2. STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON SET PORTFOLIO GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

*WANTED*

An organisation’s governance structure is separate from management. Governance committees take an objective view of the management of an organisation when participating in the planning and decision making processes. Membership of Governance Committees may include internal (students and staff) and external stakeholders.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from students who would like to become a SET Portfolio, Governance Committee member.

Go to [http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/committees](http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/committees) for more information about:

- What is Governance?
- Role of a Governance Committee member
- Who is eligibility to be a member of a SET Portfolio Governance Committee?
- To be eligible for RMIT LEAD recognition
- About SET Portfolio Governance Committees
- About RMIT University Student Advisory Committee

There are 17 positions for TAFE, Undergraduate and Post graduate students on the Science, Engineering and Technology Portfolio governance committees.

Email rick.ryan@rmit.edu.au to find out more or register your interest.

***************************************************************************************************************************

3. HUMAN RIGHTS: HAVE WE LOST OUR DIGNITY?

An initiative of Melbourne Conversations and Future Leaders with kind support from the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. Hear three prominent lawyers reflect on some of the critical questions of our time.

Speakers:
• Major Michael Mori - USA Military Lawyer and Defence Counsel for Guantanamo Bay detainee David Hicks;
• Professor Larissa Behrendt - Professor of Law and Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney; and
• Julian Burnside QC - Barrister and President Liberty Victoria.

When:  Thursday, 1 March
Time:  6pm to 7.30pm (doors open 5.40pm)
Where:  BMW Edge, Federation Square, corner of Flinders and Swanston streets
Cost:  Free (no reserved seating at this event). Please ensure you are early as seating is limited.

A live video screening of the event to Federation Square’s Atrium area is also planned.

***************************************************************************************************************************

4. INDIGENOUS STUDIES ELECTIVES - RMIT 2007

Learn from Indigenous community development leaders sharing knowledge, stories and culture. Begin to grasp the significance of land, community, and cultural survival from grassroots community workers. This course engages students in weekly panels of community-based dialogue supported by tutorials contextualising local, national and global Indigenous issues. Students will learn how to work effectively and reflectively in support of Indigenous community aspirations.


GARMA! Experience and learn about dynamic Indigenous cultures and issues that matter to their communities at the Yothu Yindi Foundation’s Garma Festival at Gulkula, north-east Arnhem Land, 2-7 August. Students will receive pre-departure orientation, learn from prominent Yolngu and Balanda intellectuals and leaders at Garma, and have follow-up in Melbourne on return. Students should budget for travel to Gove airport (or self-arranged by land from Darwin) and all-inclusive Festival registration of $715 (discounted student rate). (Early-booked airfares cost $700-900 in 2006). For students unable to travel to Garma, structured fieldwork placements can be arranged with Aboriginal organisations in Melbourne and Western Victoria.

- ‘Garma happens when people with different ideas and values come together and negotiate knowledge with respect’. Mandawuy Yunupingu.
- ‘Garma was a life changing experience’. Georgia, student 2006

**For more information:** Peter Phipps (Course Co-ordinator) peter.phipps@rmit.edu.au

---

5. **SCHOLARSHIP FOR WOMEN COMMENCING STUDY IN 2007**

- To view eligibility criteria and to download the application form go to [http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/womensscholarships](http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/womensscholarships)

Applications close 5pm, 9th March 2007

---

6. **SET SSCC NEWS**

SET SSCC News is for all students on SSCC’s in the Science, Engineering and technology Portfolio [http://www.rmit.edu.au/set](http://www.rmit.edu.au/set) and is intended to provide information relevant to all students.

Currently, the SET SSCC News reaches only students who have attended (or expressed an interest in attending) SSCC training. Students who are not yet receiving this news can by emailing rick.ryan@rmit.edu.au and requesting to join the mailing list.

SET SSCC News is also available online at [http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/ssccnews](http://www.rmit.edu.au/set/ad/sled/ssccnews)

---

7. **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 2007 TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ON SSCC’S**

TAFE, Undergraduate and Postgraduate students who participate in SSCC training will be better prepared to effectively participate in their SSCC and by attending training and 4 SSCC meetings will be eligible for an official RMIT LEAD Certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor of RMIT University.


SSCC training will include:

- The best ways to gain feedback from other students;
- Strategies to make sure that the concerns you raise are put into action;
- Communication skills;
- Meeting Procedure; and
- A little about the structure of RMIT, and where SSCC’s fit into it.

12 training days have been scheduled between 7 and 23 March 2007 at various locations at Bundoora and in the City. Training day, time and locations (inc. Bundoora) are listed on the online registration page at [http://www.rmit.edu.au/lead/sscctrainingsessionregistration](http://www.rmit.edu.au/lead/sscctrainingsessionregistration)