

Attendees:

**Councillors**

Mia Cambell [president]

Adam Levett [general secretary]

Bridie O'Kelly [assistant general secretary]

Aylin Cihan

Alisa Hamilton

Rahgav Motani

Laura Currie

Mariam Yassine

Daewah Thein

Samiha Emran

Jeremy Higgins

Salma Elmubasher

Dirk Hoare

Joesph Naffah

Sina Afsharmehr

Mathew Murray

Januka Suraweera

**UTSSA Staff**

Mariah Brown

Fran

Observers:

Yasmine

Joey

Emily

Nour

Tyberious [vertigo]

Raphaella [vertigo]

## **Zoom**

Gokce Caliskan

## 1. Opening of meeting

Meeting opened at 6:39pm

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of country

Mia delivers acknowledgement of country.

### 1.2. confirmation of deputy chair

Motion to elect Adam as deputy chair

Sina moves

Salma seconds

Motion carries without dissent

### 1.3 attendance, apologies and proxies

Neeve proxies to

- 1) Raghav
  - 2) Mariam
  - 3) Joesph
- Rahgav accepts

Bilvika proxies to

- 1) Joesph
  - 2) Aylin
  - 3) Mariam
- Joesph accepts

Kurt proxies to

- 1) Dirk
- 2) Aylin
- 3) Bridie

Dirk accepts

Apology also received from Adrian- No proxies

## 2. Confirmation of previous minutes

### 2.1 November 23

Accepted

### 2.2 January 24

Accepted

## 3. Matters arising from minutes

No matters arising from minutes

## 4. Correspondents

N/A

## 5. Office Bearers' Reports

### 5.1 President

Mia speaks to document which was circulated and how it was rejected. Spent last two days trying to get better response. Mia speaks to having 'own thoughts' about it based on why it was rejected and suggests reference to open letter was part of the reason why it is speculated that the paper was rejected. Mia opens suggestion to councillors if they have any suggestions and speaks to the need to provide input on issues such as extensions. Summarises that the paper is a good example

Mia also speaks to scam emails which got sent around on her behalf, and that it was sent from the meet your reps page that was published- speaks to how there was no risk assessment and that uts doesn't have training on scams.

Also highlights the action plan for gender based violence, speaks to people from this [UTSSA] group who contributed to it, and highlights Rahgav's event. Proposes that students should go to Rahgav if they want an external event as it's a gold standard. Mentions O'week as a positive as well.

## 5.2 General Secretary

Takes report of read- Speaks to final publication of the UTSSA handbook

## 5.3 Assistant General Secretary

Takes it as read- speaks to opal campaign and the petition for all students allowed concession card. speaks to social media being a positive

## 5.4 Education officer

Takes as read, speaks to final university accords report and how there were quite a few good things but also stuff such as investigation into hecs which still need to be improved on and will be priority for ed collective this coming year.

## 5.5 Welfare officer

Takes as read

## 5.6 Women's officer

Takes it as read but notes respect week being next week and speaks to RNA events and women's collective collaborations. Speaks to cupcake stalls and panel on international women's day in partnership with the collective. Speaks to new reports and plans to address sa/sh and gender based violence and the importance of engaging with on campus.

## 5.7 International students officer

Takes as read, highlights speaks to increase of 30 to 100 members on whatsapp communities and many international students on O'week keen to get engaged in O'week, speaks to 93.3% success rate on bundi trip. Speaks to first monthly collective meeting and expectations for how many students ideally could attend. Focus for next few months is helping international students with networking and making friends

## 5.8 Indigenous officer

Read on behalf as Mia, Mia speaks to getting events up and running and collaboration with Indigenous society

### 5.9 Postgraduate students officer

Speaks to no need to have no post-grad O'week stall as there are not many students who attend, and that many postgrad students feel alone and isolated thus want to join collective. Speaks to collaboration with Higher degree research committee, and reports committee and professional development planned, speaks to creating mental health group for post-grad students and events which focus on mental health, speaks to potential collaborations with law, business, and science alliance societies.

### 5.10 Ethnocultural officer

Speaks to slow start to the year, and meeting with Mia over potential on academic board meeting over discriminatory disclosure in classrooms especially when discussing sensitive holidays and extending university holidays for ethnocultural holidays

### 5.11 Disabilities officer

Speaks to successful O'week and having another stall, and how in the collective there is no streamlining of communication and that the handover is messy, had meeting with Biljana, and documentary night on 'defiant lives', and end apartheid report

### 5.12 Queer officer

Leaves it as read, speaks to pride week events such as drag bingo, and then queer comedy night and then well-being reps, working with pride such as pride gym membership and range of musical acts at the underground, and been speaking with conveners and building up numbers.

### 5.13 Environment officer

Takes it as read and speaks to successful resablioshing collective and access to social media and hearing from uni members on O'week, and green week which is next month and enviro collective will be at uts market stall and first meeting will likely be 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

## 6. Other Reports

### 6.1 committee

### 6.2 Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff if requested or required

None

6.3 Vertigo report

Ty takes as read

## 7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements

## 8. Other Business arising on notice

8.0 By-Law change

*By-Law Change for February SRC Meeting 2024*

*Preamble: The UTSSA needs to have centralised policies to ensure the continuity of the Association. Without a running list of policies, new Councillors are left confused and unsure of how to operate in their roles. The UTSSA has encountered miscommunications between Association Staff and student representatives, creating a lack of efficiency in both roles. In order to mitigate this, a continuously updated policy document must be maintained. The key areas of policy content may include:*

- 1. Preliminary – how to write a policy, who is bound etc.*
- 2. Communications Policy*
  - a. Covers all external and internal communication*
  - b. Public media*
  - c. Social media*
  - d. Association meetings including meeting closures*
  - e. Association emails and internal communication*
  - f. Styleguide*
- 3. Vertigo policy*
  - a. Covers basic requirements ordinarily expected from Vertigo*
  - b. Definitions of key terms relating to Vertigo in the By-Laws and Constituion.*
  - c. Budgetary requirements ordinarily expected from Vertigo*
- 4. Events policy*
- 5. Stipend and Compliance Policy*
  - a. Full details regarding payment of stipends, rights, superannuation etc.*
  - b. Council's guidelines regarding "the (minimum) responsibilities under the Constitution and By-Laws" s 1.8.1 and 1.8.4*
  - c. Enforceability actions to ensure value for money.*
- 6. Grievance Policy and Preliminary Procedures*
  - a. To deal with breaches before they are escalated to the grievance committee.*
- 7. Expenditure and Reporting Policies*
- 8. Sensitive and Personal Information Policy*

## 9. Standing Legal Committee

*Please note that the above are just examples of the nature of policies that may be created.*

*Action: That the UTSSA insert a section in the By-Laws empowering the Council to create, amend and repeal policies and procedures by absolute majority only. The section will be inserted at section 14 and read as follows:*

*“14 Policy*

*1. The SRC shall have the powers to adopt, amend or revoke policies of the Association, of which Student Representatives and Association Staff are expected and required to comply with. These policies shall be adopted, amended or revoked by a vote of an absolute majority of all Councillors.*

*2. The General Secretary shall have the responsibility of compiling approved policies in a single document available on the UTSSA website. The General Secretary shall update this policy document within 3 business days of approval by SRC.”*

Mia speaks to having running list of policies and how its not in the constitution, which will allow running list of policies, and how policies need to be streamlined in one doc, example policy as one later motion. Speaks to how it will make it easier for new councillors and guidelines for OBs and staff, although all policies would have to be put up

Mover: Aylin

Secunder Mariam

No dissent

## 8.1

### *Preamble*

*For four months, Israel has been carrying out a genocide in Gaza. Gaza’s population of 2.3 million people are under siege from relentless bombardment of schools, hospitals, mosques, churches and residential towers. At time of writing, the death toll in Gaza is nearing 30,000, meaning the conflict has seen the highest daily death toll of any other major conflict of recent years, at a rate of on average 250 people a day.*

*Gaza is also spiralling toward full-scale famine. Water, food, fuel and medical supplies have continued to be denied to the population, and starvation is being used as a tactic of war. This is only the latest atrocity against the Palestinians, who have suffered at the hands of Israel for 75 years.*

*The Australian government is complicit in these crimes. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong have repeatedly reaffirmed Australia’s support for Israel. The government has also withdrawn funding from the UNRWA, the main distributor of aid in Gaza. Without funding from most Western governments, UNRWA will be forced to stop operating by the end of February, leading to an even more catastrophic situation for the Palestinians.*

*In Australia, we have seen overwhelming support for the people of Palestine. Every week, tens of thousands of people have taken to the street to call for an end to the war. Young people have played a particularly important role. High school students made national news during their walkouts in support of the issue, triggering backlash from Labor state governments but inspiring teachers, parents and many others. The Melbourne school strike was in fact the largest proportionally in the world.*

*Students for Palestine groups on campuses across the country have issued a call for a national “Student Strike for Palestine” on February 29. This is an important opportunity for university*

students and their student unions to take their stand. At UTS, we plan to stage a walkoff of students at 1.30pm on February 29, who will then march to a central demonstration of university and high school students in the city.

*Platform:*

- That the UTSSA endorses the national "Student Strike for Palestine"; protest on February 29, organised through various Students for Palestine collectives across the Country

- That the UTSSA condemns Israel's war on Gaza and Australian support for this.

*Action:*

1 That the UTSSA will share posts on social media about the upcoming February 29 student strike.

Aylin speaks to motion in support of school strike for Palestine, and that you won't get penalised if you leave class. Salma speaks to having strong stance on this issue and the importance of attending visibly.

Mover: Salma

Secunder: Aylin

Yasmine (observer) speaks to high-school strikes and that the statements they made 'ring true now', and that the staff had a forum today and its important that UTS joins other campuses in the walkout

Ella (observer) speaks to different stalls and leafleting and that its positive students are paying attention to the genocide, speaks to Aaron Bushnell and how many students feel they can't do much about genocide

No dissent or abstentions

8.2

*Preamble:*

*The Enviro Collective has been revitalised since our successful orientation day on 13/02. Multiple new members expressed interest in the executive structure of the collective and taking up extracurricular responsibilities. An executive structure in support of the Environment Officer will enhance engagement and share workload during large projects.*

*Actions:*

1. That the UTSSA approves an executive structure for the Environment Collective in addition to but not superseding the existing Environment Officer and Convenor role including:

a. Deputy Officer

b. Secretary

Jerme speaks to motion and that there are more people who want to have responsibilities in the enviro collective and that more students feel as though they have a part to play, speaks to also off-loading work when officer is not present



Mia speaks to what Jeremey is doing and that reforms such as this have to be approved by council and not by collective votes.

Mover: Jeremey

Secunder: Dirk

No dissent or abstentions

8.3

*Action:*

*1 That the UTSSA approves an increase in the O'day budget for the welfare collective from \$150 by an additional \$50, making it an upper spending limit of \$200.*

Aylin speaks to how the welfare collective had a successful O'week and how they were put with activate, and that the O'week budget was spent, and that an increase in funding

Mover: Aylin

Secunder: Daewah

No dissent or abstentions

8.4

*Action:*

*1 That the UTSSA pays handbook graphic designers David Tran and Maximus Bushell 250\$ each (500\$ total) instead of 2x150 (300\$) as originally approved by UTSSA executives.*

Mariah suggests amendment to from "UTSSA reimburses" to "UTSSA pays"

Mover: Mathew

Secunder: Laura

No dissent or abstentions

8.5

*Action:*

*Approve \$14,911.13 the amount to Motus Civilis for Annual student election conduct and travel printing cost*

Mariah speaks to drama in RO being paid and that the payment was invalid and that the gst was put up incorrectly. Mia speaks to how since we are unincorporated that we are directly liable if something goes wrong, and that Miuts avvilass did stuff wrong

Mover: Mariam

Seconded: Joesph

Passes

## 8.6

*Preamble: In order to improve the working relationship between the UTSSA and Vertigo, we need to ensure more frequent meetings and open up channels of communication.*

*Action: That the UTSSA establishes a 'Vertigo Working Group' to ensure more frequent meetings and open up channels of communication. This will be established under the UTSSA Constitution at section*

*14.7, and will abide by the following rules:*

*Operational Rules:*

- 1. The group will consist of 3 members of Vertigo, 3 members of the UTSSA, and the Chair.*
- 2. Vertigo may independently decide their process of nomination for their representatives of the Vertigo Working Group.*
- 3. Members of the UTSSA may nominate themselves to be part of the Vertigo Working Group. Membership will be confirmed at the first meeting of the Executive following approval of the Vertigo Working Group at the meeting of the SRC.*
- 4. The group will meet approximately every two weeks, with every second meeting also attended by the Executive Officer of the UTSSA, Mariah Brown.*
- 5. Meetings shall be no longer than 1 hour.*
- 6. The Chair will be the General Secretary, and will have casting vote.*
- 7. Minutes will be provided by email to members of the Working Group within 48 hours after each meeting.*

*In accordance with section 14 of the UTSSA Standing Orders:*

- 1. Agenda: The agenda shall be set out at the discretion of the Chair. The agenda must be circulated*

*with the notice of the Meeting. An acknowledgement or welcome to country must be the first agenda item after opening the meeting.*

### *2. Meetings*

- i. The Chair shall provide Committee members with at least five days written notice of the time, date and place of any meeting.*
- ii. An emergency Committee meeting may be held if deemed necessary by resolution of the SRC or the Executive, in which case only 48 hours' notice is required.*
- iii. Quorum shall be 4, inclusive of the Chair. If quorum is not met within 30 minutes of the time specified in the notice, the meeting is adjourned to a time, date and place chosen by the Chair, so that Committee members have at least seven days' written notice.*

### *3. Conduct of Meetings*

- i. Meetings must be opened by the chair. Minutes shall be taken by the General Secretary or, if the General Secretary is the Chair, the Assistant Secretary, or, if both are not in attendance, a member of the Committee agreed to by the Committee.*

*ii. The business before a committee must be specifically in reference to the terms of reference set out by Council and, in case of Committees set out in article 14, the responsibilities set out in Constitution or By-Laws.*

*iii. All matters are open to discussion. The Committee may resolve to enter into a formal debate, in accordance with these Standing Orders.*

#### **4. Reports to SRC**

*Committees shall report back to SRC and provide any minutes or documentation for the consideration of Council. Resolutions by Committees shall be Considered by Council on Notice.*

#### **5. Attendance**

*All Councillors and Staff members of the Association may observe and speak at a Committee meeting. A Committee may resolve to allow other observers. The Grievance Committee may set rules with respect to observers, subject to the By-Laws.*

Ty speaks to the motion and that the past relations being vertigo and UTSSA have been 'horrific',

Mia speaks to the collaboration between vertigo and her and that three members of vertigo and three members of SA chaired by Adam, and it will meet once every two weeks to increase communication between two groups.

Mover: Mariam

Secunder: Daewah

## **8.7**

Mia speaks to updated policy document and this is first policy that will be put up, and that 1.1 is development of policy and what that complies, and that she doesn't want to 'confine people [OBs] to their roles'.

Mover: Sina

Secunder: Joesph

Passes

## **9. general business**

Prosedural to put up emergency motion moved by Salma seconded by Mathew

Daewah speaks to how the UTSSA needs to support this decision and publish statement as well as

Joesph speaks to the new plain clothe changing and Daewah accepts amendment

Mia speaks to sclg, and that pending based on committee and that the committee was not positive and the chair was rude on the phone and grievances were raised due to 'lack of consultation'. And that the chair is not actually from UTS, says if anyone wants to bring anything come to her as there are unsure if observers are allowed

Mariam speaks to vice-chancellors recent email about the middle east, and that Mia did receive email from Dvc about not penalising anyone from attending the strike.

Salma speaks to happiness with email even though its 'not even bare minimum' and that the lobbying has been effective and making somewhat of an impact. Mia speaks to how procedural matters can be brought to other stakeholders at meeting minutes. And speaks to how committees 'need to function the way they are supposed to'

Salma raises a question on social media and how Jewish association posted UTS Palestine society activity was posted without consent taken on campus

Mia summarises that meetings are held frequently and anything can be raised

Daewah speaks to amendment on emergency motion as updated,

Mathew moves

Laura seconds

Passes

Joey [observer] raises concerns about vertigo offices being removed and the ethnocultural space,

Nour (observer) and speaks to how former vertigo did not treat office respectfully and that until vertigo could be proved that office was used 'respectfully'

Joey asks for evidence

Nour rebukes that there was images such as 'alcohol and condoms'

Joey speaks to how the src was not notified

Nour speaks to how the president did not have discretion,

Nour also mentions that the move of the office was not binding or permanent, and that the temporary measures proves to management that safe spaces are successful,

Joey speaks to slashing budget and the 'brutality' against vertigo

Nour speaks that cuts were 'best we could do' as 'management does not want vertigo to exist in its current form'

Mia speaks to how vertigo can raise things in how vertigo operates at council, and understands frustration of not having space to work in, also mentions the low use of slight access and that the room should be given to a group campaigning for space but suggests that notice should be given in future.

Joey speaks to disheartening impact of 'inheriting something that is a sinking ship' and how the current team should not be held to account.

Ty mentions now operating out of activate space and speaks to optimising of working group as it will mitigate continuous cycle between UTSSA and Vertigo, concludes by speaking to happiness with working to UTSSA

Mia also speaks to looking into options for Vertigo space and will talk to activate again as they are trying to relocate their office. Ultimate goal is 'consistent space to operate out of'.

## 10. Close of Meeting

7:54pm