

Meeting 17/7 of the UTS Students' Association (UTSSA) Student Representative Council held **at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 11 July 2017** in the Activist Space, Level 3, UTS Building 1.

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Present:

Beatrice Tan (President)  
Norma Cooper (Education Vice President)  
Luke Chapman (Secretary)  
Lachlan Barker (Treasurer)  
James Wilson (Assistant Secretary)  
Christine Saunders (General Councillor)  
Gabriella Brackenbury-Soldenhoff (General Councillor)  
Leya Reid (Women's Officer)  
Adrian Rook (Postgraduate Student's Officer)  
Bijay Sapkota (Undergraduate Member of University Council)  
Harrison Stanton (General Councillor)  
Peter Zacharatos (General Councillor)

In Attendance:

Mariah Brown (Executive Officer)  
Michael Zacharatos (Vertigo)  
Taylor Ficarra (Special Needs Officer)  
Ella Bickley  
Richard Tong  
Llywelyn Parry  
Lachlan Woods

Apologies:

Michael Rosser (Postgraduate Member of University Council)  
Indraneil Banerjee (Overseas Students' Officer)  
Edward Strong (General Councillor)

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## **AGENDA**

1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**
  2. **APOLOGIES AND PROXIES**
  3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
  4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
    - General Meeting of the UTSSA SRC held 13 June 2017
  5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
  6. **EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
  7. **SECRETARY'S REPORT**
  8. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
  9. **ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REPORT**
  10. **WOMEN'S OFFICER REPORT**
  11. **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER REPORT**
  12. **OVERSEAS STUDNETS' OFFICER REPORT**
  13. **RE-AFFILIATION TO THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS**
  14. **CONFERENCE CAP**
  15. **GENERAL BUSINESS**
  16. **CLOSE**
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The President opened the meeting at 7:06pm

## **1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The President acknowledged country.

## **2. APOLOGIES AND PROXIES**

Michael Rosser sent his apologies and proxied to Norma, Adrian, Harrison, and Peter.

Indraneil Banerjee sent his apologies.

Edward Strong sent his apologies

### **MOTION C17/79**

That the apologies and proxy from Michael Rosser and Indraneil Banerjee be accepted

**Moved:** Harrison Stanton

**Seconded:** Lachlan Barker

**Motion Carried**

### **MOTION C17/80**

That the apology from Edward Strong be accepted.

**Moved:** Luke Chapman

**Seconded:** Lachlan Barker

**Motion Carried**

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nothing was declared at this stage of the meeting.

## **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

General meeting of the UTSSA SRC held 13 June 2017

### **MOTION C17/81**

That the minutes of the meeting held 13 June 2017 are an accurate record of proceedings.

**Moved:** James Wilson

**Seconded:** Adrian Rook

**Motion Carried**

## **5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

1. NUS Education Conference:

The National Union of Students held their Education Conference from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of July this year. UTS had 13 people in attendance.

It was far more productive than I expected. Of course, it was occasionally dramatic but that is to be expected when large groups of people with disparate viewpoints are put together in a confined space. We are in the process of organising another national day of action (NDA), and part of the conference was spent planning this. This NDA will be focusing on the higher education reforms proposed by the liberal government. NSW are looking to have ours on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August at the University of Sydney.

Further details will be discussed and decided upon by the NSW State Education Action Group.

## 2. Student Services and Amenities Fee:

During the last meeting with UTS' DVC, Shirley Alexander, approved most of our proposed budget. The only item that needed to be double checked was whether or not the equity textbook loan scheme could be funded using SSAF. At the end of last month, I heard back from Shirley's office, there are no objections to our SSAF allocation being used to purchase textbooks to loan out. The DVC's office is now in contact with the UTS finance department to transfer the funds to the Association.

In regards to the textbook loan scheme, I am in the process of ordering the textbooks as per the recommendation of the business society.

## 3. Re-O'day:

Most of the merchandise for RE-O'day has arrived. The USBs, powerpacks, and bags are in the storage. Most of the contents of the safe sex kit like dams, lube, and female condoms, will be ordered from Glyde. However, this time around we are looking at customized condoms with the UTSSA logo on the packaging.

The jelly beans and bottles are in the process of being ordered by Norma and Lachlan.

This time around, I'm hoping to divide the work more evenly between the people in the association.

## 4. Diversity Week:

We are getting more involved with diversity week this year. I am involved in the Diversity Week organising committee. It's currently set to place on the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. It's still in the early stages of planning but there will be various panels and workshops held throughout the week including a 'Racism Stops with Us' panel and a belly dancing workshop.

I will update the association as we get further into the planning.

## 5. Payitforward Week:

This year, the Association will also be getting involved in Pay It Forward Week at UTS. The week is set to take place from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August.

The association's main contribution is offering the Night Owl free dinner service for an additional night of the week. Our executive officer, Mariah, and I are sorting out the finer details for this.

## 6. SAWG:

The sexual assault working group has been meeting regularly; roughly every 3 or so weeks. Since my last update, the working streams to the working group have been established. Various people of the Association have been assigned to work streams so that the student voice is heard all throughout the process.

The various streams are meeting individually throughout the next few weeks to discuss their focus areas.

Other than this, Lachlan and I are working on a policy submission that we will be giving to the SAWG Student Advisory Group for feedback. It will likely be ready for the next meeting in August.

Beatrice Tan  
President

The President waived their speaking rights and the Secretary requested that the meeting be opened to questions relating to the report .

The Secretary stated that the NSW Education Action Group Meeting would be taking place 21 July 2-3pm in the UTS Activist Space and that all students are welcome to attend.

The Secretary also asked the President what other societies in addition to the Business society had been contacted to participate in the textbook loan scheme. The President clarified that she had also contacted the Law Students Society but was yet to receive a response. It was agreed that the Deans of faculties could also be contacted to expand the scheme to more faculties.

The Secretary reminded the meeting that the date for semester 2 two O'Day (ActivateUTS Club's Day) is 3 August and asked if clubs and collectives had been contacted to arrange their stalls. The President confirmed that all PERC clubs and the collectives had been contacted to arrange their stalls for the day.

The Secretary asked which nights the Night Owl Free dinner service would be operating on during Payitforward week. The President responded that the service would likely operate on Tuesday and Thursday but was yet to be confirmed.

The Secretary recommended that the policy submission to the Sexual Assault Working Group be provided to the Women's Officer and Women's Collective Convenor before being submitted to the University. The President stated her intention to provide the policy submission to all SRC Councillors before submitting it.

**MOTION C17/82**

That the President's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Adrian Rook

**Seconded:** Lachlan Barker

**Motion Carried**

## **6. EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hello everyone, hope you are well. For everyone who has returned from the Education Conference, I hope you have recovered. Brisbane is a beautiful city and I thank the University of Queensland Student Union for hosting the conference. I arrived on the first day of the Education Conference. I will now write about the highlights of the conference. On Tuesday, I attended a plenary on the War on Students and VSU, 10 years on. After this I attended the Education Campaign Overview. After this I attended Economics Without Maths, which was a particularly interesting session that equipped us at a basic level of economics. The presenter was from the University of Sydney and made sure it was a very accessible presentation.

I then attended a session on Engaging International Students (which ironically was on at the same time as CICA), and I spoke with some students from South Australia who were interested in affiliating with the aforementioned organisation. It is of my opinion, that as a domestic student, I can never fully understand the needs of international students. Therefore, I recommended to everyone at the session that their respective student associations and guilds should reach out to relevant resources like CICA in order to best help these students. On Wednesday, I went to a particularly engaging panel on the future of education funding and legislation. At this session I had the pleasure of seeing renowned politicians, Wayne Swan, Lee Rhiannon, and Larissa Waters. Besides the quarrelling amongst themselves (and with certain other parties) it was an incredibly inspiring session. I also attended a NSW EAG meeting.

The main thing I learned on this conference is that different student associations have different skill sets according to the team that leads them, as well as the contextual

relationship it has with its respective university. I'm personally very proud of the diverse team we have at UTS Students Association, and if we continue building on each other's strengths, we will have a fantastic year ahead.

Norma Cooper  
EVP

The EVP did not speak to their report.

**MOTION C17/83**

That the EVP's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Adrian Rook

**Seconded:** Lachlan Barker

**Motion Carried**

## **7. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The end of exams has been the beginning of a busy time for the students association.

### **Bijay Sapkota Elected President of CISA**

I would like to congratulate Bijay Sapkota for his election to President of the Council of International Students Australia (CISA). I was delighted to support Bijay's nomination for the position. In his capacity as a member of UTS Council and the SA Bijay has consistently advocated for the interests of students and I am excited to see what he will deliver on a national level. I look forward to working closely with Bijay to address the needs of international students at UTS and across Australia. I would like to thank Bijay and Indraneil Banerjee for coordinating our delegation to the 2017 CISA Conference in Canberra.

### **Edcon 2017**

It was my pleasure to attend the National Union of Students Education Conference at the University of Queensland, Saint Lucia Campus Brisbane. The conference was a valuable opportunity to meet with student union leaders from across Australia exchange ideas and shape the focus of the education movement and NUS.

As part of the conference, I participated in the following workshops.

-The War on Students - Plenary

-VSU 10 Years On - Plenary

-Free the Refugees: Building Solidarity & breaking ties to detention - Chloe Rafferty, Michael Labone

The treatment of refugees is an issue that I care deeply about, and it is encouraging to see our national union discussing issues beyond the immediate experience of students.

-Be realistic, demand the impossible: when the student movement was revolutionary in may '68 - Nicholas Reich & Mindi Suter

-Restructures, Renewals and Resistance: Fight Against Cuts on Campus - Caitlin Keogh

-Saving the UOW Student Union - Stopping the Libs & Management - Chloe Rafferty  
I was concerned to hear about the plans from some students at UOW to wind up their union after previously disaffiliating from NUS. There is an opportunity for the UTSSA to support students at UOW who are campaigning to keep their student union and re-affiliate to NUS. I am looking forward to pursuing this.

-Below the Poverty Line with Anti-Poverty Week - Jill Molloy & Jill Lang

The NUS Welfare Officer, Jill Molloy outlined the financial struggles and poverty that students are experiencing in increasing numbers. It would be great to see the whole of the UTSSA supporting Ant-Poverty Week and the work of our Welfare Collective and Welfare Convenor, Regan Ruppel.

- The Right to March - Plenary

-Sexual Assault on Campus - Plenary

-Why Identity Politics is a Dead End - April Holcombe

- Student Partnership Agreements and a National Framework - James Connolly, Jordon O'Reilly, Luke Chapman

I had the opportunity to talk to students about the possibilities offered by student partnership agreements and introduce the search being conducted by Prof. Sally Varnham at UTS into student participation in university decision-making. James Connolly spoke about his experience preparing a student partnership agreement at ANU and Jordon O'Reilly will be establishing a national student network to support student leaders as they draft partnership agreements.

It was great to see the SA well represented with conference attendees from SRC, the Education Action Group (EAG) and Vertigo. I would particularly like to thank Taylor Ficarra and Lachlan Wykes for supporting the safety and participation of our delegation.

## **Constitution Election Regulations and Election Dates**

I have been working with Beatrice, the Returning Officer and Executive Officer to ensure that changes to the Constitution and Election Regulations are finalised and that the Election is called in accordance with all UTSSA regulations. The RO has notified us that the Election for next year will be held in accordance with the constitution and election regulations that are in effect at the time of the election announcement.

Luke Chapman

Secretary

[secretary@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:secretary@utsstudentsassociation.org)

The Secretary spoke to their report thanking the councillors, vertigo reporters and members of the EAG who attended and actively participated in NUS Edcon and noted the opportunities for collaboration with NUS and other student unions the conference has provided. He thanked Taylor Ficarra and Lachlan Wykes for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the UTS delegation.

### **MOTION C17/84**

That the Secretary's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Norma Cooper

**Seconded:** Lachlan Barker

**Motion Carried**

## **8. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Since the last meeting, I have worked with the President to establish a cap on conference reimbursements to come into effect for the remainder of the year, which will be tabled and discussed at this SRC meeting. The purpose behind this is having a fair, transparent system applied for all students representing the UTSSA in their travel to conferences. Concerns have been raised by both office bearers and university management at increases to the conference expenditure section of the budget and in order to ensure this does not lead to misuse of association funds, we recommend the adoption of this policy.

I also met with various club and society executives at a summit arranged by The Big Lift for '#payitforward week', a wellbeing and welfare initiative slated to take place after Spring Session Census from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August. There are various activities taking place across the week and the UTSSA is investigating an additional night of Night Owl. The Big Lift have requested that the UTSSA participate in the marketing plan leading up

to the week. Various charities and community organisations are also involved (including the Red Cross Migrant Support Programme, St Vincent de Paul, Lentil as Anything, Monica's Doggy Shelter, Landcare Project) and it would be of great benefit for the UTSSA to donate time, hands and money to this cause.

I also attended the Sexual Assault Working Group meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Ideas were floated of having a video that includes student leaders speaking to their peers and having an additional video with students that is pitched toward staff members. Initially, the idea has been pitched as having women students aged 18-24 in the video, as this demographic is the most affected by campus- and community-based sexual violence, but UTS Equity & Diversity has raised issue with this and I would encourage students to forward their suggestions to me for discussion at a future meeting.

I hope the session break has been treating you all well,

Lachlan Barker

2017 UTSSA Treasurer

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The Treasurer did not speak to their report.

The Secretary asked why the executive or council were not consulted during the creation of the conference expenditure cap and recommended that the the Treasurer work with all members of the executive before bringing new policy to council meetings.

The Secretary stated that the association financially supporting students to attend conferences is a legitimate and normal use of funds which should not be characterised as 'misuse'. The Treasurer clarified that he did not intend to imply misuse rather the policy is intended to prevent misuse. The Secretary asked which members of university management had raised the issues of conference expenditure and the Treasurer explained that it was DVC (Education and Students) Shirley Alexander. The Secretary noted that the budget travel arrangements of the UTSSA use much less student money than the business class travel used by the University Council and management

In relation to the #payitforward week the Secretary suggested that councillors should have been informed of this proposal sooner and reminded the Treasurer of the importance of protecting the reputation of the UTSSA when partnering with other organisations.

The Secretary recommended that the Women's Officer and Women's Collective Convenor be consulted for suggestions about the video being produced by UTS Equity and Diversity. The Treasurer noted that he welcomed suggestions from council.

## **MOTION C17/85**

That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Gabriella Brackenbury-Soldenhoff

**Seconded:** Norma Cooper

**Motion Carried**

## **9. ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Assistant Secretary Report/Education Conference report

Since we have yet to hear back from the university regarding Constitutional Change and it has been uni break/exams, I have been limited in the work I have done.

However, I did attend the Education Conference in Brisbane on July 3-7. The conference brought together a range of interests from across Australia and New Zealand, ostensibly to talk about the ongoing Education Campaign but in reality, an excuse to get drunk and yell at each other for a week. It was like flying to a different city to be surrounded by 200 people impersonating my family every Christmas.

There were a few useful sessions once everyone stopped screaming, in particular discussing how to better work with the NTEU and other stakeholders, as well as the session discussing male privilege, which I found quite enlightening. I think – despite my distaste for it – the real outcome is learning how to negotiate with a wide range of people with vastly differing opinions without chanting over the top, lewdly winking at women to shut them up, mocking people with different lived experiences, attaching 5 minute preambles to every question among others – something that at least 2/3 of the people there were completely ill-equipped to do.

The NUS Education Conference failed in its aim to put forward a cohesive argument for second semester's education campaign, and provided – if nothing else – a solid argument for disaffiliation, or at the very least, a reduction in the funding we give to NUS, whose chief activists include a range of office bearers who are either too lazy, too inept or simply don't care about the roles they have been elected to, but merely the titles. If they just want a title for their CV, they don't need UTS students to continue to fund their incompetence. I would prefer we donate to, or affiliate to an organisation(s) that actually give a shit about students, and the world they inhabit.

## **MOTION C17/86**

That the Assistant Secretary's report be accepted.

**Moved:** Lachlan Barker

**Seconded:** Gabriella Brackenbury-Soldenhoff

**Motion Carried**

## **10. WOMEN'S OFFICER REPORT**

Reflecting back on semester 1, we can safely say that the collective has developed into a strong unity of students determined to create a safe, supportive campus for women and non-binary students. Having reinvigorated our social media presence and engaged with the wider student community through a range of events and workshops, we hope to continue to grow the collective in semester 2. Leya and Chloe consulted with the collective on the things they enjoyed and the things they would like to improve on. We will incorporate this feedback when deciding what ideas to pursue for the rest of the year. Starting with a trip to IKEA to give the Women's Room a delightful makeover, we will be giving special attention to creating a welcoming and encouraging community space.

Over the holidays the Women's vertigo magazine committee have been tireless working to produce a beautiful magazine in time to hand out on O'Day. On the 16th of July, five collective members will head down to Canberra to attend the NOWSA conference, funded by the WoCo budget. All attendees are extremely excited and will take the knowledge acquired back to the Women's Collective in Sydney. Notably, we look forward to the preparatory workshop on the release of the Human Rights Commission sexual assault and harassment survey.

Leya Reid

[womens@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:womens@utsstudentsassociation.org)

The Women's Officer spoke to her report noting the progress made by the collective this year and the upcoming NOWSA Conference.

The Secretary thanked the Women's Officer for their report and asked council to note that the report from the Human Rights Commission sexual assault and harassment survey, would be released 1 August.

## **MOTION C17/87**

That the Women's Officer report be accepted.

**Moved:** Luke Chapman

**Seconded:** Lachlan Barker

**Motion Carried**

## **11. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER REPORT**

An optional report from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer was not submitted.

The Assistant Secretary noted that the council has previously voted to remove inactive members from the council but that he would not necessarily be in favour of such a vote as he could not see the benefit to the Indigenous Collective. The Assistant Secretary asked if there was anyone present from the Indigenous Collective who could comment. Chrissy Saunders replied that she agreed a removal motion would be unhelpful.

The Secretary asked if payment of a stipend had been made to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer or any member of the collective in accordance with the by-laws. The Executive Officer clarified that no payment had been made this year and that for a payment to be made, the Indigenous Collective would need to hold a meeting authorising the payment and provided minutes of the meeting to the Executive Officer.

The President noted that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer had been responsive to emails. The Secretary agreed with this and recommended that all efforts be made to communicate with the officer before any further actions are taken.

## **12. OVERSEAS STUDENTS' OFFICER REPORT**

The Secretary noted that the Overseas Students' Officer was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, had supplied a medical certificate and had sent their apologies. An optional report was not submitted.

## **RE-AFFILIATION TO THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS**

Motion: that the SRC re-affiliate to NUS for a sum of \$50,000 as per the invoice provided.

Rationale: NUS is the peak national representative body for undergraduate students studying in Australia. In recent years, they've launched relevant campaigns and garnered media attention that have furthered on-campus campaigns. To support the national union is to support our own union.

Submitted by Norma Jean Cooper  
Supported by Lachlan Barker

The mover Norma Jean Cooper (EVP) did not speak to the motion.

The seconder Lachlan Barker spoke to the good work done by NUS under the Welfare Officer Jill Molloy who is running a campaign on Centrelink.

Taylor Ficarra the National Disability Officer for NUS spoke in favour of affiliation noting that it has been ten years since the introduction of USU and NUS has continued to deliver for students. Taylor stated that affiliation fees from the UTSSA and student unions nationally go towards supporting nationwide campaigns and lobbying for student rights. Taylor noted that NUS has delivered a surplus.

James Wilson spoke against the motion noting that affiliation to other student groups including CISA and CAPA offered more bang for our buck. James stated that while some office bearers have worked well this year, it is unclear where NUS is spending its budget. James observed that NUS cuts to campaign and office budgets were responsible for the surplus.

Beatrice Tan spoke in favour of the motion noting the important work that NUS is able to do on a national level including the work of Heidi LaPaglia, the former NUS Women's Officer.

Luke Chapman stated his support for the affiliation of the UTSSA to NUS. He noted that NUS is the only peak representative body for university students and plays an important role advocating for students at a national level. Luke stated his concern that such a large amount of money would be spent without a more indepth discussion and the provision of supporting documentation, that demonstrates the value and benefits that NUS affiliation offers to the UTSSA and students at UTS. He suggested that as there was no pressing deadline for payment, the vote be deferred to the next meeting. Luke offered to work with councillors to prepare a document setting out the benefits of affiliation for the next meeting. He asked the executive officer if affiliation to NUS was the single biggest expense in the UTSSA budget.

The executive officer confirmed that this was the largest single expenditure made by the UTSSA and stated that a document setting out the benefits of affiliation would be useful.

Taylor Ficarra reminded council that any time NUS office bearers spent preparing such a document would take away from the time spent on important campaigns that benefit students.

Gabriella Brackenbury-Soldenhoff stated her support for affiliation to NUS and supported the suggestion of preparing a document that explains the benefits of NUS affiliation before a vote at the next meeting. Gabriella offered to assist in the preparation this document.

Adrian Rook asked Luke Chapman why a supporting document would be needed as a majority of council had stated their support for affiliation.

Luke Chapman agreed that affiliation had widespread support but stated that it was important to explain large expenditures before they are passed.

James Wilson noted that justifying expenditures and ensuring their benefit to students is a basic requirement of council.

Lachlan Barker withdrew as seconder of the motion.

Harrison Stanton Seconded the motion.

### **MOTION C17/88**

That the SRC re-affiliate to NUS for a sum of \$50,000 as per the invoice provided.

**Moved:** Norma Jean-Cooper

**Seconded:** Harrison Stanton

**Motion Carried (James Wilson Against)**

### **13. CONFERENCE CAP**

Motion: that the UTSSA SRC adopts the following conference caps for the remainder of the year:

a) Travel coverage for transport to, during and from conferences

- NSW and ACT: \$150

- Victoria, Queensland and South Australia: \$200

- Tasmania, Northern Territory and Western Australia: \$250

- International: \$350

b) Accommodation:

- \$30 per person per night

Moved: Lachlan Barker

Seconded: Norma Cooper

Speaking in support of the motion Lachlan Barker noted that the UTSSA had previously had a conference cap in 2014 and that it would be a good idea to make one for the current year. Lachlan stated that the UTSSA is not a charity, the UTSSA should be equity focussed and that students should be encouraged to seek budget accommodation. Lachlan noted that the caps were in line with previous caps and that increases to expenditure for conferences should be contained.

Norma Jean-Cooper spoke in favour of the motion but suggested that the cap for the Northern Territory and Tasmania should be raised due to higher flight costs.

James Wilson questioned if the policy would apply for the current or future years and whether increases could be requested that are above the cap. He suggested raising all caps by \$50.

Lachlan Barker clarified that the policy would apply for the current year and that any increases above the cap would have to be passed by council.

Luke Chapman spoke against the motion noting that while he supported the concept of expenditure policies and guidelines he had a number of concerns about the process used to draft the proposed policy and the contents of the policy. Luke stated that all members of the executive should have been consulted in the drafting of the policy and that it would have been good to get the opinion of relevant collectives and councillors before presenting a motion. He questioned how the cap amounts were determined and stated that he found the caps inadequate especially for international travel and accommodation. He noted that the low accommodation allowance could push students to select less safe and secure accommodation. Luke also noted that the proposed policy had no equity measures at all and could actually disadvantage low income students by limiting their ability to attend conferences.

Bijay Sapkota spoke against the motion stating that financial support from the UTSSA was important for international students attending conferences. He spoke about how some international students attending CISA had slept in cars to avoid paying for accommodation. Bijay suggested that any policy should be flexible to respond to student needs.

Leya Reid requested that the policy be amended to reflect seasonal pricing and more appropriate caps for interstate and international conferences.

Lachlan Barker stressed that the cap is intended as a baseline that is flexible as students can request extra funding through the council.

Luke Chapman suggested that the policy be withdrawn and workshopped by Lachlan Barker including the executive, councillors and collectives.

James Wilson agreed that the policy would benefit from workshopping.

#### **MOTION C17/89**

That the policy for conference caps be withdrawn and workshopped by Lachlan Barker, including the executive, councillors and collectives before being presented to the council again.

**Moved:** Luke Chapman

**Seconded:** Norma Jean-Cooper

**Motion Carried**

### **14. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### 15.1 Women's Representation on the Sexual Assault Working Group

cw : Sexual Assault

##### Background

While it is encouraging to see the university recognising the diversity of experiences and survivors of sexual violence, it is necessary that the Sexual Assault Working Group consults those representing women on campus from the very beginning, given women disproportionately represent the majority of survivors.

To guarantee student representation, trust and engagement, the committee must work in partnership with the Students' Association and the Women's Collective. The Students' Association Women's Officer and the Convenor of the Women's Collective deserve a place at the highest decision making table on these issues, as they represent the group of students most likely to be affected by sexual assault.

##### Motion

That the UTSSA requests that the University invite the UTSSA Women's Officer, Leya Reid and the UTSSA Women's Collective Convenor Chloe Malmoux-Setz to join the

Sexual Assault Working Group at the same level of decision-making as the President and Treasurer.

Moved: Luke Chapman

Seconded: Leya Reid

Luke Chapman spoke in support of the motion, noting that the majority of people affected by sexual assault on campus are women and that the best people to represent the most affected group are Leya Reid, the Women's Officer elected yearly by women and Chloe Malmoux-Setz, the Women's Collective Convenor selected by the Women's Collective. Luke stated his disappointment that representatives of women on campus had been excluded from a discussion that disproportionately affects women. Luke noted that at NUS Edcon the majority of student unions were being led by their Women's Officers and Collective Convenors in their response to the crisis.

Leya Reid spoke in support of the motion. She noted that Chloe and herself meet regularly with survivors of sexual harassment and assault. She highlighted the importance of women representatives being present at meetings and participating in decision making bodies rather than relying on second hand report backs. Leya described her disappointment in only hearing about developments at council meetings long after important decisions had been made by the university without women representatives. Leya stated that being included in the decision making bodies was essential for Chloe and herself to fulfill the roles they were elected to.

James Wilson asked what the current membership of the working group was and how the UTSSA representatives were selected.

Lachlan Barker clarified that the working group included UTSSA President, Beatrice Tan, a number of university staff from various departments and himself, UTSSA Treasurer.

Beatrice Tan clarified that she had been asked by the university to join the working group and recommended Leya Reid, the Women's Officer, Chloe Malmoux-Setz, the Women's Collective Convenor and Lachlan Barker, the Treasurer. Beatrice explained that the university would only allow two students to join the panel so she selected Lachlan.

James Wilson noted that delegation was common and that it may be a good idea to develop guidelines for future Presidents, to ensure that the most relevant people are put forward for working groups.

Leya Reid noted that Chloe and herself were not consulted during the selection of members of the working group and that they only found out in the email where Lachlan and Beatrice mentioned their involvement in the working group. Leya stated that Chloe and her need to be involved in these decisions as they directly and disproportionately affect women.

Lachlan Barker responded that he has been working with the university to include more students in consultation groups. Lachlan stated that the information provided to the working group by Universities Australia was currently under an embargo which might stop more students from being added to the working group. Lachlan stated that while he agreed more students should be involved he was unsure if this was possible until after the report is released.

Leya Reid thanked Lachlan for recognising the need to include her and Chloe in decisions affecting women and asked for more regular meetings if the UTSSA was not able to get the University to include the Women's Officer and Women's Collective Convenor in the working group.

Luke Chapman stated that if the university would not include the Women's Officer and Women's Collective Convenor moving forward, it may be necessary for the UTSSA to reconsider their participation in the working group as we would not want to endorse a process that excludes the voices of the majority of students who are affected by sexual assault and harassment.

#### **MOTION C17/90**

**Motion:** That the UTSSA requests that the University invite the UTSSA Women's Officer, Leya Reid and the UTSSA Women's Collective Convenor Chloe Malmoux-Setz to join the Sexual Assault Working Group at the same level of decision-making as the President and Treasurer.

**Moved:** Luke Chapman

**Seconded:** Leya Reid

**Motion Carried**

#### **Space Allocation**

James Wilson enquired about the problems affecting the old office space.

Mariah clarified that the office currently had mould that needed to be removed.

James suggested that the old book store space be converted into a student drop in centre with food and resources for students.

Luke Chapman agreed with James and asked the President how negotiations were going to acquire space in the new Building 2.

Beatrice clarified that talks are in progress.

### **Vicarious Trauma Training**

Beatrice noted that vicarious trauma training would be offered to all members of the council and staff.

### **Student Welfare Measures**

James spoke about the various student services offered by other campuses that were discussed at NUS Edcon. He noted that Luke also supported the introduction of a food bank and the provision of emergency housing.

Beatrice clarified that emergency housing is currently offered by UTS housing.

James suggested that the UTSSA could be better promoted at the Bluebird Brekkie Bar, maybe with a napkin with the association logo.

Mariah Brown noted that the best way for councillors to promote the UTSSA is for councillors to attend the Breakfast Bar and Night Owl and speak to students.

### **15. CLOSE**

The President closed the meeting at 8:46pm