

SRC MEETING

22nd September 2020

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies and Proxies
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Accept August General SRC Meeting Minutes
6. Office Bearer Reports
7. Vertigo Print Motion
8. NUS Accreditation
9. Finance Committee
10. General Business

ATTENDANCE

	NAME	POSITION
1.	Ahmed Ferkh (leaves 5:50pm)	Former Welfare Officer/Observer
2.	Aidan O'Rourke	Assistant Secretary
3.	Catherine (Elby) Chai (leaves 6:52pm)	Observer (Vertigo)
4.	Camille Smith (arrives 6:15pm)	Observer
5.	Erin Dalton	Education Vice-President
6.	Jessica Hill (leaves 6:14pm)	SA Reception
7.	Josh Logue	Councillor
8.	Karishama Singh (leaves 6:52pm)	Observer (Vertigo)
9.	Melodie Grafton	General Councillor
10.	Miles Carter	General Councillor
11.	Miranda Crossley	Secretary
12.	Rachel Lee (leaves 6:52pm)	Observer (Vertigo)
13.	Sam Silcock	President
14.	Sophie Tyrrell (leaves 6:52pm)	Observer (Vertigo)
15.	Sunny Adcock (leaves 6:52pm)	Observer (Vertigo)

22-09-2020 MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

Meeting opened at 5:38pm on the 2nd of September via Zoom

2. Acknowledgement of Country

President delivers Acknowledgement of Country

3. Apologies and Proxies

Melissa Sukkarieh apologises

Kurt Cheng apologises

Juneyt Cihan proxies to 1. Ahmad Mohamed 2. Shlock Kumar 3. Miranda Crossley

Miranda accepts

Ahmad Mohamed proxies to 1. Miranda Crossley

Proxy fails

Shlok Kumar proxies to 1. Ahmad Mohamed 2. Sam Silcock

Sam declines

Aiden Moore proxies to proxies to 1. Harrison White 2. Bella Forti 3. Erin Dalton

Erin accepts

Harrison White proxies to 1. Erin Dalton 2. Bella Forti

Proxy fails

Tallulah Watson Moyle proxies to 1. Josh Logue

Josh accepts

Jeylan Riza proxies to 1. Aidan O'Rourke, 2. Juneyt Cihan, 3. Tallulah Watson Moyle and 4. Josh Logue

Aidan accepts

4. Declarations of Interest

5. Approval of August General SRC Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the August General SRC Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Aidan O'Rourke

Motion carried unanimously

6. Office Bearer Reports

Sam Silcock delivers President Report

Miranda Crossley delivers Secretary Report

Aidan O'Rourke delivers Assistant Secretary Report

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Office Bearers Report as read

Moved by: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

Ahmed delivers Welfare Officer report

Motion to accept all Officer Bearer reports

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

7. Vertigo Print Motion

Vertigo Volume 4 and 5 Print Budget Motion

Why should we print volumes four and five?

Since the move to online, Vertigo's readership has declined slowly, which is troubling considering that there needs to be substantial audience engagement for not only the end of this year's team, but the incoming team soon to be elected for 2021. In addition to revamping the website, we believe that the best way to increase engagement overall is to print our two remaining volumes, particularly the election issue, Vol. 4: TRASH, which contains crucial nominee information. As for the final issue of the year, Vol. 5: UNDERGROUND, we believe that this will be a great way to cap off the semester, particularly since semester two has seen a significant return of students to campus.

We believe it's worth there being a magazine for students and staff to enjoy around open buildings, particularly Building 02; Vertigo is part of the university experience, after all, and we believe it's important that we not only honour our commitment to being a print magazine for our contributors, but be enjoyable for anyone on campus—particularly first years, as the print volumes

are usually their first and most important exposure to Vertigo. It helps create a sense of normalcy in a time of uncertainty for the many students who have voiced anxiety about returning to campus. Reading an easily accessible physical volume is not only unifying, but cathartic and distracting. Students especially need that comfort heading into assessment periods. Our print copies also have the unique opportunity to gain even greater exposure than pre-COVID times, given that our university community – which has been almost exclusively consuming content online for the past six months – is craving the rare and incomparable experience of consuming print media. Lately, our favourite magazines and news organisations have shut down, and the majority of our lives has been relegated to the online world. For most of us, that has created an even greater desire to seek the sort of pleasure that comes from

physically and tangibly interacting with content. Our first volume, METAMORPHOSIS, saw the student body begin the year with this tumultuous journey and it only makes sense that our last two volumes, TRASH and UNDERGROUND, see them out at the other end of the tunnel. Reduced engagement also has implications for the overall UTSSA since if students aren't able to pick up the magazine, it creates a less-informed cohort with regards to UTSSA services such as Bluebird Brekkie or hot-button election issues, which carries over detrimentally into 2021.

Issuu Statistics

(in the last 30 days)

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Vol. 3: BODY – 910 reads, avg. read time of 3 mins 4 secs

What are the printing parameters?

As Vol. 4: TRASH is the election issue of Vertigo, it contains all of the nominee information for the UTSSA elections in its page number, as opposed to the election insert done in 2019. This bolsters the page count to 150 pages, which is more than the standard 120 Vertigo page count for the year (Vol. 1 was 116 pages, including the front and back covers). The cost of this is reflected in the second part of the quote on the following page. For Vol. 5: UNDERGROUND, the page count is expected to fall around the standard 120 pages.

Marlene, our correspondent at SOS Printing, has provided us with quotes for basic printing

options, including low weight 120 gsm paper (as higher weight paper is more expensive), and for basic perfect binding and no special finishes, all of which goes to making the most affordable

magazine possible. We are hoping that since we have not printed the past three issues of Vertigo that the UTSSA can provide us with a budget to print the final two of the year, and allow Vertigo to re-engage the students of UTS who have not been as engaged during the last three online issues.

Higher Cost Per Copy vs. Overall Cost

Based on the quotes provided by SOS printing, it is evident that the printing costs per magazine are higher when printing less copies overall and vice versa. For Vol. 4, printing 1000 copies, 1500 copies, and 2000 copies is \$11.96 , \$9.01, and \$7.53 per magazine, respectively. Vol. 5 will cost \$9.95, 7.49, and \$6.25 for 1000, 1500 and 2000 copies respectively. It is more cost effective to print a higher total quantity of magazines; however, the Vertigo print budget overall is at the discretion of the UTSSA.

In summary, more money is saved by printing 1000 copy print runs for the next two issues, however, cost per magazine goes up. While printing 1500 or 2000 copies has a higher overall cost, the cost per issue is reduced and therefore represents better value.

Discussion

Ahmed leaves 5:50pm

- Sam gives background context to the motion
 - Deputy Vice Chancellor (education and students) has indicated she intends to start a new magazine after generally being displeased with Vertigo
 - Indicated she liked the content of the first Volume in 2020
 - Indicated she prefers the style and content of student magazines at other universities such as USyd's Honi Soit
- Vertigo Editors argue their magazines do represent the student body and that being off campus has made Vertigo more difficult
- Several exec members and general councillors indicate the many issues with Vertigo as well as indicating a broader issue of lack of student life, engagement and knowledge around UTS and the Students' Association more specifically

Jess leaves 6:14pm

Camille arrives 6:15pm

- President and Secretary state preference to print one volume (rather than both or neither)

- General agreement amongst council
- Discussion around number of copies to be printed

Motion to approve the physical printing of 1000 copies of Volume 4 of Vertigo excluding the election component

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

Sophie, Sunny, Rachel, Karishama, Catherine leave at 6:52pm

8. NUS Accreditation motion

Every year the UTS Students' Association contributes a fee to the National Union of Students (NUS) which is the peak representative body for students across Australia. The NUS has been crucial for advocating for student rights during the COVID period and it will continue to be as universities face the onslaught of changes to University from the current Government. We've been sent an invoice to pay our affiliation fee of roughly \$275,000. The purpose of this motion is for the Council to decide if we want to apply for a fee waiver so we can pay less fees and decide how much we wish to contribute this year. Keep in mind that last year we contributed \$55,000 to NUS.

Motion:

That the Students' Association will apply for a fee waiver from NUS to pay \$55,000* in affiliation fees.

*= placeholder figure until further discussion from council

Discussion

- EVP clarifies that the dollar value in the invoice is never intended to be paid in its entirety
- Secretary suggests 80% of \$55,000 as it reflects the 20% cut that the Students' Association has had
- Secretary seeks clarification around what the money is used for
- Assistant Secretary outlines several ways NUS uses funding (such as campaigns, research, paying office bearers)
- EVP and Assistant Secretary state that due to being in political factions they somewhat have interest in this motion
- SRC discusses further and agree on \$50,000
- EVP suggests the SRC should demand less complacency from NUS
 - When contacting them, it should state that we are giving more money proportional to our budget cut as the SRC does not wish to hinder the organisation

Motion: That the Students' Association will apply for a fee waiver from NUS to pay \$50,000 in affiliation fees.

Moved by: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

9. Finance Committee Motion

Preamble: Although the budget of the Students' Association is mostly controlled simply through the decisions that are made on council in regards to spending money it is good practice to pass a budget through a Finance Committee every year. In the Constitution this committee is comprised of the General Secretary, President, Assistant General Secretary, and, three general members.

Motion 1: That the SRC will appoint the Treasurer to act as the General Secretary for the purposes of the finance committee in 2020.

Moved by: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

Motion 2: That the SRC will appoint the EVP to act as the Assistant General Secretary for the purposes of the finance committee in 2020.

Moved by: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

Motion 3: That the SRC nominate Aidan O'Rourke, Miles Carter, Josh Logue as a general member to sit on the finance committee in 2020.

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Melodie Grafton

Motion carried unanimously

10. General Business

- Discussion around Learning Analytics
 - Benefits and issues of learning analytics are outlined
 - Clear interest by members of SRC in engaging further and not allowing UTS to make decisions without consultation with students and/or the Students' Association
 - Miles Carter requests to be part of the focus group

Meeting closed at 7:38pm 22nd of September 2020

President's Report

In the last month the Students' Association has been able to open nominations for the Students' Association 2020 online election successfully which will hopefully continue in the next month and lead to the rest of the process continuing to be run successfully. A lot of the positions are contested which will lead to a stronger association in the future with students being in charge of who they would like to see representing them.

Myself and Erin recently attended a meeting in which we discussed aspects of how students interacting with UTS online material's data is recorded which was a very productive discussion. We were able to raise certain points regarding privacy of students and ensuring that tutors or the University aren't given excessive information about students that they may use to harness against students. We especially discussed the need to ensure that certain cultural aspects of the University would need to change before students might feel comfortable with sharing more of their data with the university. We did also welcome the concept that the use of analytics would be able to aid in improving teaching and learning within the UTS community.

I have also raised concerns brought up by the SRC about the Respect Now Always campaign recently with those in the working group, however, on this front I can not see much of the changes we discussed being implemented. Concerns about the objectifying language and the use of puns inappropriately were somewhat dismissed especially alongside the consideration that the RNA campaign received a prestigious award recently for socially conscious campaign design.

I have also had some discussions with Shirley recently where she explained that she was especially dismayed by some of the more recent government announcements surrounding the tertiary education sector and it seems as if with the proposed changes to the University fee structures and the new first year failing policy, along with lack of additional expected support from the Government to Universities during this period, we have a potential ally with the University executive against these changes and hopefully can in the future determine suitable joint campaigns against the Government changes.

Education Vice President's Report

Secretary's report

Our time in these positions are quickly ending which is making me very aware that there are many things we can still do as the UTS Association for Students. While we are all very busy at the moment we must keep on track and do our best to support and listen to students over the next few months. I aim to further my commitment to students particularly given the hugely detrimental attacks on education we are seeing.

I have continued with my commitment to sustainability this semester. With the Enviro Collective we are planning ways to encourage students to investigate their current superannuation and how they can (quickly and for no cost) switch their super to ensure their money isn't supporting environmental degradation. I had a meeting with TCorp and numerous UTS staff members last week. Following this, the founder of the Science Sustainability Committee and I cowrite a letter to the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Resources demanding immediate divestment. Please get in touch if you would like a copy of this letter. I am also proud to have been selected as a finalist for the Australasian wide university sustainability awards called the Green Gown awards of which the winner will be chosen in several weeks.

I was fortunate to attend the International Students Welfare Roundtable Meeting to discuss key issues that international students face in Australia. We mainly focused on workplace exploitation and travel concessions. But I was able to bring up further serious issues that I understand to be hugely detrimental to international students. While I am a domestic student, I am proud to have attended as it should not just be international students fighting for international students. We should all be fighting for them.

Of course, any questions please let me know.

Assistant Secretary

The executive hasn't met since the last General Meeting of the Council. Therefore my responsibilities have been generally kept to continuing progress on the Association's policy booklet and assisting the Secretary in their duties.

The policy booklet captures the Association's policies and procedures passed and adopted during the current SRC term. I have submitted a draft policy booklet to the other members of the executive for feedback. The booklet is taking its final form and will continue to be updated as the year continues. By the expiration of our term in November, a completed booklet will be handed over to the new team. I intend to present a more completed draft booklet to SRC for feedback in meetings to come.

In addition, I have assisted the Secretary in preparing the notice for this meeting. The Secretary and I have worked well together through the year and I commend her for her work this year and no doubt in the coming months.

Communication amongst the executive has generally been relating to the continuous attacks by the current Liberal Government on Higher Education. The legislation has been referred to a senate committee which gives university students some time to create a case for students. We should support campaigns and submissions when we can.

I wish everyone well and wish good luck to those running for Council next year.

Treasurer's report

We are looking toward the end of the year now and it feels so strange. I feel like nothing and everything has happened this year. Thanks, Corona, I guess.

The team and I have devised a plan to conduct the SRC elections for 2021 online and nominations for them have now come and gone. For that very reason, it is an exciting time. No other year have elections been held completely online and so this is also a proud moment for us. We are the first team to have attempted this, even though it was necessary in order to observe social distancing.

Along with this, we are moving closer to becoming a completely environmentally sustainable university. UTS already has a plastic-free food court and was one of the first universities to declare a climate emergency, but there is more that we can do. We want to achieve this goal of complete sustainability, but we want to be able to offer the same services that we always have. It is a delicate process but one that we are committed to because we are committed to our future.

I always try to end on a good note and fiercely advocate for optimism because even though we are living in a time of crisis, you can always find something to be proud of and to be grateful for. I think this is something that can be easily forgotten but is one of the most important things for motivation, hope, and good mental health. It is a difficult time right now to feel in any way positive about the future and sometimes the present, but this is something that I believe we need to commit ourselves to. If I can leave anything as my legacy as UTSSA Treasurer for 2020, it would be helping others to always try to find the positives; to try to look on the bright side, even when everything seems dark.

Wom*n's Office Bearer Report

Welfare Office Bearer Report

I write this with a heavy heart. For those who do not already know, Me and Fatma have handed in our resignation from our respective positions on Wednesday the 26th of August 2020. I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the amazing initiatives our welfare collective has done throughout this year.

With the assistance of the caseworkers we rolled out a service for advising students on how to navigate their welfare payments during this tough period which was COVID-19. We dedicated ourselves to a 2020 vision for improved access to mental health treatments and distributed a pamphlet with all the relevant services and hotlines with the assistance of Biljana and the executive. And we have participated in the raise the rate campaigns of the NUS and aimed to initiate consultations with students to advocate for a better Centrelink and youth allowance.

Unfortunately, because of my resignation I will not be able to see these wonderful initiatives through. But I am happy to note that our 2020 collective was the more active than in the last 2 years. I am offering the new welfare officer an opportunity I never had, and that is that I will guide them to continue these amazing initiatives when they are sworn in this Summer. It is ultimately their choice if they wish to do so.

I also want to take this opportunity to clear up why I left. I entered politics to fight for my disadvantaged community in south western Sydney. My community is made up of socioeconomically disadvantaged ethnic minorities who are struggling to make ends meet, a lot of whom do not even have the luxury of going to uni. I was recently given the chance by senior figures in my community to deliver lasting and effective, change and social justice for my community and I could not turn down the offer. I realised my involvement in university politics would just hold me back from the very reason why I entered politics, and that is for my community.

I would like to end with something that a Muslim always does when they part ways with people and that is to seek everyone's forgiveness for any harm however small or big that I caused to anyone. And if any of you need anything, just text me or give me a call, I am always happy to help.

It was truly a pleasure meeting all of you and id like to thank everyone who assisted me throughout my term as Welfare Officer.

Thank you and Goodbye!

Agenda item 7. Vertigo Print Motion

Vertigo Volume 4 and 5 Print Budget Motion

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We believe it's worth there being a magazine for students and staff to enjoy around open buildings, particularly Building O2; *Vertigo* is part of the university experience, after all, and we believe it's important that we not only honour our commitment to being a print magazine for our contributors, but be enjoyable for anyone on campus—particularly first years, as the print volumes are usually their first and most important exposure to *Vertigo*. It helps create a sense of normalcy in a time of uncertainty for the many students who have voiced anxiety about returning to campus. Reading an easily accessible physical volume is not only unifying, but cathartic and distracting. Students especially need that comfort heading into assessment periods.

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NUS accreditation motion

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Motion 1: That the SRC will appoint the Secretary to act as the General Secretary for the purposes of the finance committee in 2020.

Motion 2: That the SRC will appoint the the Assistant Secretary to act as the Assistant General Secretary for the purposes of the finance committee in 2020.

Motion 3 x 3: That the SRC nominate _ as a general member to sit on the finance committee in 2020.