

SRC MEETING

27th October 2020

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies and Proxies
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Accept September Minutes (enclosed)
6. Office Bearer Reports (enclosed)
7. Ethnocultural Collective Logo Design Reimbursement (enclosed)
8. Vertigo Editorial Stipend (enclosed)
9. Benchmarking review for Election Regulations (enclosed)
10. Assistant Secretary and EVP honorarium
11. Reclaim the Night Rally - Contribution
12. Sustainable Superannuation for Staff (enclosed)
13. Sustainable Bluebird Brekkie and Night Owl Noodles (enclosed)
14. The Students' Association Stands Against the Attacks on Our Education motion (enclosed)
15. General Business

ATTENDANCE

	NAME	POSITION
1.	Ahmad Mohamed (arrives 5:49pm)	General Councillor
2.	Aidan O'Rourke	Assistant Secretary
3.	Anna Thieben (left 6:18pm)	Observer/Enviro Officer
4.	Biljana O'Connor	Marketing Manager
5.	Camille Smith	Observer
6.	Charles McClean (left 6:30pm)	Observer
7.	Christina Markovska	Caseworker
8.	Damien Nguyen	Observer
9.	Ellie Woodward (arrives 6:01pm)	Observer
10.	Erin Dalton	Education Vice-President
11.	Jessica Hill (leaves 6:30pm)	SA Reception
12.	Jeylan Riza	General Councillor
13.	Josh Logue	Councillor
14.	Juneyt Cihan	Councillor
15.	Mariah Brown	Executive Officer
16.	Mehmet Musa	Observer
17.	Melodie Grafton	General Councillor
18.	Miles Carter	General Councillor
19.	Miranda Crossley	Secretary
20.	Nour Al Hammouri	Observer
21.	Roweena Ow	Observer/Enviro Convenor
22.	Ruby Smith	Observer
23.	Sabrina Yassine	Observer
24.	Sam Silcock	President
25.	Shlok Kumar	Postgrad Officer
26.	Tallulah Watson Moyle	Treasurer

27-10-2020 MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

Meeting opened at 5:34pm on the 27th October via Zoom

2. Acknowledgement of Country

President delivers Acknowledgement of Country

3. Apologies and Proxies

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

Erin accepts

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

Proxy lapses

Kurt Cheng apologises

Melissa apologises

4. Declarations of Interest

Assistant Secretary and EVP declare financial interest in agenda item 10. Assistant Secretary and EVP Honorarium

5. Approval of September General SRC Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the September General SRC Meeting minutes as a true and accurate record

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Juneyt Cihan

Motion carried unanimously

6. Office Bearer Reports

President delivers Office Bearer Report

EVP delivers Office Bearer Report

Secretary delivers Office Bearer Report

Treasurer has not submitted report

Assistant Secretary delivers Office Bearer Report

Ethnocultural convensor delivers Office Bearer Report

Motion to accept all Officer Bearer reports

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Aidan O'Rourke

Motion carried unanimously

Ahmad arrives 5:49pm

7. Ethnocultural Collective Logo Design Reimbursement

Motion: For the UTS Students Representative Council to pay artist Nina Pirola \$170 for her UTS Ethnocultural Collective logo, commissioned by the Collective. This is in accordance with the invoice motion passed by the Ethnocultural Collective at the meeting on the 8th of October, 2020.

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Melodie Grafton

Motion carried unanimously

8. Vertigo Stipend Motion

Motion: Payment of Vertigo Editorial Stipend

The Vertigo Editorial Team would like to submit a motion to receive the payment of the stipend (totalling \$15,000), as is due after the release of the election issue (Vol. 4 - TRASH). Below is a list of the team members to receive their stipend (\$1500 to each individual).

Editors (\$1500 each): Evlin DuBose, Sunny Adcock, Esther Hannan-Moon, Ella Cyreszko

Designers (\$1500 each): Amy Toma, Sophie Tyrrell, Karishama Singh, Elby Chai, Rachel Lee, Jennifer Wen,

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

9. Benchmarking review for Election Regulations

As sent out by the secretary on the 25th of October 2020

- After analysing the results of the benchmarking review, the President suggests it isn't necessary to rewrite election regulations
- There were some minor alterations/suggestions from KWM
- No further discussion and consensus is in agreement with the president's suggestion

10. Assistant Secretary and EVP Honorarium

- President states background
 - Two current executive members will be on exec next year. However, amendments were made to the end of terms adding complications to their honorarium

Motion for the EVP and assistant secretary to be paid whatever remaining balance there would be at the end of the cycle (at November 16, 2020). Their pay for incoming positions would start from the 16th of November 2020.

Moved by: Juneyt Cihan

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried by majority

Aidan O'Rourke and Erin Dalton abstain

11. Reclaim the Night rally Contribution

Discussion

- EVP gives context: Reclaim the Night is a recurring rally that protests against problems that affect (traditionally/most commonly) women
- EVP suggests making a donation from budget
- Executive Officer and exec members iterate that donations should be avoided (coming from SA budget) and there is no precedent of it
- Suggested that instead the SA socials are used to encourage people to donate
- Motion to be discussed in general business

12. Sustainable Superannuation for Staff

Sustainable Superannuation for Staff

Motion: To empower the secretary to represent the Students' Association in an interview-style video with the Sustainability Engagement Manager around encouraging UTS staff to have more sustainable and ethical superannuation funds.

- Secretary provides context to the importance of UTS staff being informed about the potential implications of their superannuation funds and how to switch it

Moved by: Juneyt Cihan

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

13. Sustainable Bluebird Brekkie and Night Owl Noodles

Platform:

- **That the Students' Association acknowledges the science that plant-based diets have been proven to be the single best thing people can do to reduce their impact on the planet.**
- **That the Students' Association sees the importance of taking action on climate change**

Motion:

- That if 85% of students (or more) say they will continue to use the Bluebird Brekkie service with plant-based products, then the Students' Association will discontinue Nutella, cow's milk and the non-plant-based muesli. These will all be replaced with previous plant-based alternatives e.g. oat and soy milk. (Current supplies should be given out as normal and not wasted). If Bluebird Brekkie Bar and Night Owl Noodles return, all food will be plant-based.
- That if less than 85% of students said they will continue to use the service, plant-based options (e.g. oat milk, peanut butter) will be set as the default. Then students will have to actively opt out of the sustainable option by specifying what they want instead. If Bluebird Brekkie Bar and Night Owl Noodles return, SRC will work towards ensuring the majority of food available is plant-based.

Discussion

- Secretary suggests suggested amending the motion due to recently released results that 81.5% of sampled 81 students said they would still use the service if it was sustainable and plant based. The suggested amendment is to use “green defaults” to encourage sustainable practices.
 - E.g. oat milk becomes the default requiring students to specially request or opt out of cow's milk
- Staff and EVP clarify and emphasise the extra work that will be required with the different preferences
- Secretary clarifies that no more work is required as there currently already is a default, the only change is to what that default is (i.e. currently the default is cow's milk)
- It is noted that there is only one week left on the brekkie bag service this year
- Discussion around whether the motion should be for 2021 or whether it should not be moved and that the concept will be discussed in 2021
- Secretary emphasises the resistance to this motion originally and that it will unlikely be readdressed once the secretary's term is finished
- President and others support moving the motion now
- Brief discussion regarding the excess stock of cow's milk
 - Consensus that they should not be wasted and will unlikely be wasted as it is likely that students will still opt out and request cow's milk

Amended motion:

Platform:

- That the Students' Association acknowledges the science that plant-based diets have been proven to be the single best thing people can do to reduce their impact on the planet.
- That the Students' Association sees the importance of taking action on climate change

Motion:

- That the plant-based options (e.g. oat milk, peanut butter) will be set as the default from the first semester of 2021. Students will have to actively opt out of the sustainable option by specifying what they want instead. If Bluebird Brekkie Bar and Night Owl Noodles return, SRC will work towards ensuring the majority of food available is plant-based.

Moved by: Miranda Crossley

Seconded by: Melodie Grafton

Motion carried

14. Students' Association Stands against the attacks on our education

Motion: That the UTS Students' Association support a COVID-safe rally to be held at UTS speaking out against the numerous attacks on university education.

- Secretary indicates why motion is simple: due to the likelihood that the EAG will work towards planning a rally and the SRC should have the support formally noted.
- Suggested amended so it reads “a COVID-safe legal rally”.

Amended motion:

That the UTS Students' Association support a COVID-safe legal rally to be held at UTS speaking out against the numerous attacks on university education.

Moved by: Miranda Crossley

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

15. General Business

Motion to discuss the Reclaim the Night Contribution motion (see agenda point 11).

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

- A motion is briefly discussed

Motion:

Action: That the president will share Reclaim the Night's rally, as well as their link for donations, from the UTSSA Facebook and social media.

Motion: That the UTSSA stands in solidarity with the organisers of Reclaim the Night, as well as women, trans and non-binary people, against gendered violence and the patriarchal structures of society. The UTSSA endorses the rally to be held on the 30th of October by Reclaim.

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miles Carter

Motion carried unanimously

Motion to discuss the queer collective motions as distributed by secretary on the 26th of October 2020

Moved by: Melodie Grafton

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

Motion to pass spending for UTS Queer Collective Pride Week, the queer collective is running our annual pride week to run it successfully we need to pass spending to pay the people facilitating and running our events.

The cost for 2020 is significantly lower than 2019 (which cost around \$870) due to the ability to host online events. Approximate run down of spending -

Drag Workshop with Marlena Dali - \$200 + Transport

Sex workshop with Jack Martin - \$150

Education workshop with Jazzlyn Breen - \$100

Coming out by cake - \$50

Total: ~ \$500+Dali's transport costs

Motion to approve an upper spending limit of \$600 on the UTS Queer Collective Pride Week

- Suggested that it is taken to exec as there were no sufficient invoiced

Motion to empower the exec to deal with the pride week motion

Moved: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

Second Queer Collective Motion is discussed

With the emergency move to the B3 QC room due to B5 closures, the QC is thankful but needs to use our remaining budget for 2020 to re-establish the space. We have been unsuccessful in moving items from B5 and believe it would be beneficial to purchase items such as a microwave and kettle. We have also been offered 2 couches and some rugs from QC members and would like to use some of our remaining budget for moving costs.

Motion to approve the use of the remaining QC budget (approximately \$671.94) to make the new QC room more comfortable.

- Exec members point out that there is no breakdown of costs
- Therefore, motion lapses

Further General Business

- Secretary clarifies about the policy handbook
 - To be left for the next meeting in November

Meeting closed at 7:03pm 27th October 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

This past month has been quite significant in the fight against the government's higher education changes. There have been huge rallies of staff and students, organised with appropriate social distancing and mask use, and these rallies have been brutally suppressed by police each and every time. Over \$60,000 in fines have been issued to organisers, and a number of students have been injured in acts of police brutality. This past week, however, protests of up to 500 people have been declared legal. This is a welcome relief, but is still shocking, considering tens of thousands of people can attend football matches with no issue.

The higher education overhaul sadly passed through the senate this month, paving the way for significant fee hikes, course cuts, a fall in overall funding per student, and so much more. This is not the end of the fight in support of university students, but it certainly is a blow. For the rest of the year, I will be working with the UTS branch of the NTEU, as well as my successor in the Education Officer role, Ellie Woodward, to ensure that the fight to protect UTS students continues.

Additionally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the absolute pleasure it has been to work alongside you all this year. 2020 was extremely different from the year we'd all imagined, and I'm so thankful that so many of you stepped up as you did. Moving into 2021, I'm looking forward to taking up the role of General Secretary, where I'll be continuing my work this year on the UTSSA's governance and administration.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone luck with their upcoming exams and assessments, and I hope that your Summer break is restful and productive. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or wish to be further involved, please talk to me in person or get in contact with me at education@utsstudentsassociation.org.

Secretary's report

The past 12 months have been a rollercoaster. We all started with high ambitions and commitment. COVID-19 has definitely knocked this. Covid has given us much more work to do but has also made the work we do so much more mentally draining. However, it does make me sad to see less and less people at SRC meetings and still a large number of people very disengaged. My hope is that next year's team can follow through with their election promises. I hope they stay passionate and truly deliver meaningful improvements for students.

There are many more things that I had hoped to achieve in the last year on council. In my final few months at UTS I hope that I can work with next year's team and the collectives to achieve what we can.

Unfortunately, despite requesting results from speaking to students that rely on our Brekkie Bags early last week, I have not yet received anything. I trust that hopefully we will see the results soon and can begin transitioning the SA to have more sustainable and ethical products.

Another sustainability initiative I have been working on alongside this and pushing for fossil fuel divestment is working towards ways that staff can ensure their superannuation does not support the fossil fuel industry. As currently the default is that it does. By working with staff members and the Enviro Collective I am to see ways that staff can easily transition their superannuation to more ethical funds.

University Staff Superannuation is a difficult space to navigate normally (as Australian universities are tied into one particular fund) and its especially difficult at the moment as so many staff are losing their jobs. As a union we should be standing with and fighting for staff. This is something I hope that we as the Students' Association really push for over the next few weeks. UTS has a responsibility to their students and their staff and we must work to protect these workers rights and access to free education.

I trust that over the past year you've all been happy with the way the admin/secretarial side of things have run as I have not heard otherwise. It is definitely not easy being part of active discussions around motions while writing minutes too. For next year's team, please feel free to get in touch absolutely whenever for advice or if you have any issues or questions.

Thank you so much to those of you that have been so supportive and committed this year. It has been a tough year, so I really appreciate and admire those of you that have really lived up to what you agreed to do in last year's elections. And thank you for being there for me, you know who you are.

Treasurer's report

Assistant Secretary's Report

Assistant Secretary: October Report

This year has been a particularly challenging year for student unionists and student activists across the country. University management and the Federal Liberal Government have combined to attack student rights and wellbeing. Students face imminent fee hikes and cuts to university staff. Similarly, student unions face cuts around the country. I'm excited and encouraged by next years team—their energy and enthusiasm to tackle these significant threats to education and student representatives.

I look forward to developing the Association's policy outlook and governance next year as we adopt the new constitution in its entirety. COVID-19 certainly prevented this year's team from achieving what it had hoped to accomplish at the start of the year. Hopefully, the next term presents opportunities to enact our services as completely as possible to allow the Association to reengage meaningfully with students.

As for this year, I've been proud to serve with a team who has, in the face of total uncertainty, continued to deliver services for students and advocated to protect students rights. I will be proud to deliver, pending the conclusion of this meeting and its business, a consolidated policy document that includes all of the policies and procedures adopted this term. To my knowledge, this is the first policy booklet for this Association, in at least some time. I hope that this sets a continued precedent so that our policies are searchable, referable and able to be cited in the future. A policy document like this will have a significant positive impact on the ability set policy, precedent and direction across and between teams.

Lastly, I'd like to thank my fellow members of the executive for their service. Particularly, it has been an honour assisting the Secretary. While we have disagreed on some things, her commitment to students is unquestionable. The Secretary's work on developing a substantial survey, developing our collectives, and fighting for a sustainable campus deserves commendation. Similarly, I look forward to working closely with Erin next year in their capacity as General Secretary.

Thank you.

Ethnocultural Office Bearer Report

Hi everyone!

First, I'd like to formally thank and acknowledge the patience and hard work of my Collective friends and comrades for all the support they've been in helping keep the Collective active through the year.

The Collective has been busy working towards a number of initiatives, such as an anti-racism campaign, a new logo, an open letter, and our upcoming publication in Volume 5 of Vertigo Magazine.

The anti-racism campaign, Race Your Voice, aims to provide a platform of public self-determined storytelling and advocacy in the context of Covid-based racism and the Black Lives Matter movement. We are supported by university Vice-Chancellor Shirley and are continuing to progress through this project.

Our new logo, a commission by artist of colour, UTS graduate and former Enviro Collective member Nina Pirola, is due to be adopted as soon as our invoice motion is passed by the SRC. The logo's theme, brainstormed by Collective members in a number of pre-meeting doodle sessions, features the Protea flower, representing diversity and power in resilience and resistance. We're very proud to stand by the Protea flower, united as students of colour in anti-racism.

We are also crafting an open letter to Attila Brungs and the university executive board, questioning the plans of their "Racism asks for your silence. Anti-racism asks for your voice" campus campaign, in addressing systemic racism inherent in university institutions.

Finally, we are looking forward to the Volume 5 edition of Vertigo Magazine, of which Collective member Elijah (Ysabel) and I will be published in. Our writings on anti-blackness in Filipino culture, aim to urge all non-Black people of colour in recognising anti-blackness in their own communities, and challenging those notions of thinking.

We're very excited to see how the next couple months turn out!

Thanks,

Melodie Grafton

Ethnocultural Convenor

Agenda item 7. Collective Logo Design Reimbursement

Motion: For the UTS Students Representative Council to pay artist Nina Pirola \$170 for her UTS Ethnocultural Collective logo, commissioned by the Collective. This is in accordance with the invoice motion passed by the Ethnocultural Collective at the meeting on the 8th of October, 2020.

Agenda item 8. Vertigo Editorial Stipend

Motion: Payment of Vertigo Editorial Stipend

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Sunny Adcock

Esther Hannan-Moon

Ella Cyreszko

Designers (\$1500 each)

Amy Toma

Sophie Tyrrell

Karishama Singh

Elby Chai

Rachel Lee

Jennifer Wen

Agenda item 12. Sustainable Superannuation for Staff

Motion: To empower the secretary to represent the Students' Association in an interview-style video with the Sustainability Engagement Manager around encouraging UTS staff to have more sustainable and ethical superannuation funds.

Agenda Item 13. Sustainable Bluebird Brekkie and Night Owl Noodles

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Agenda Item 14. Students' Association Stands Against the Attacks on Our Education

Motion: That the UTS Students' Association support a COVID-safe rally to be held at UTS speaking out against the numerous attacks on university education.

Proposed general business motion 1

Motion to pass spending for UTS Queer Collective Pride Week, the queer collective is running our annual pride week to run it successfully we need to pass spending to pay the people facilitating and running our events. The cost for 2020 is significantly lower than 2019 (which cost around \$870) due to the ability to host online events.

Approximate run down of spending -

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Total: ~ \$500+Dali's transport costs

Motion to approve an upper spending limit of \$600 on the UTS Queer Collective Pride Week

Proposed general business motion 2

With the emergency move to the B3 QC room due to B5 closures, the QC is thankful but needs to use our remaining budget for 2020 to re-establish the space. We have been unsuccessful in moving items from B5 and believe it would be beneficial to purchase items such as a microwave and kettle. We have also been offered 2 couches and some rugs from QC members and would like to use some of our remaining budget for moving costs.

Motion to approve the use of the remaining QC budget (approximately \$671.94) to make the new QC room more comfortable.