

April UTSSA SRC Meeting 26.04.23

6:30pm Minutes

Attendance:

- Members
 - Will Simmons (General Secretary)
 - Nour Al Hammouri (President)
 - Zebadiah Donald Cruickshank (Assistant General Secretary)
 - Jacqui Bodill
 - Harry Ryan
 - George Pond (Disabilities Officer)
 - Mia Campbell (Welfare Officer)
 - Peter Munford (University Councillor)
 - Aylin Cihan (Women's Officer)
 - Joseph Naffa
 - Rose Mores
 - Saihej Singh
 - Sara Chaturvedi (Queer Officer)
 - Adrian Lozancic
 - Boris Tam (Environment Officer)
 - Joy Xu (International Students Officer)
 - Anna Thieben (Education Officer)
 - Bridie O'Kelly
 - Mariam Yassine

- Observers
 - Adam Montefiore
 - Adam Levett
 - Daewah Thein
 - Alisa Hamilton
 - Aidan O'Rourke
 - Joe Hathaway Wilson (Vertigo)
 - Ty Seeto (Vertigo)

- Other
 - Mariah Brown (Executive Officer)
 - Biljana O'Connor (Marketing Officer)

Proxies Received

1. Kurt Cheng
 - 1.1. Rose Mores
 - 1.2. Saihej Singh
 - 1.3. Mia Campbell

2. Bailey Riley
 - 2.1. Zeb Cruickshank
 - 2.2. Will Simmons
 - 2.3. Harry Ryan

3. Laura Currie
 - 3.1. Harry Ryan
 - 3.2. Zebadiah Cruickshank
 - 3.3. Will Simmons

4. Areejz Slamang
 - 4.1. Sara Chaturvedi
 - 4.2. Anna Thieben
 - 4.3. Boris Tam

5. Ali Sobh
 - 5.1. Adrian Lozancic

Agenda:

1. Opening of Meeting
 - 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country
 - 1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair
 - 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies
 - 1.4. Declarations of Interest

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 - 2.1. January (RepsElect) SRC Meeting
 - 2.2. Emergency SRC Meeting

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4. Correspondence

5. Office Bearers' Reports
 - 5.1. President
 - 5.2. General Secretary
 - 5.3. Assistant General Secretary
 - 5.4. Education Officer
 - 5.5. Welfare Officer
 - 5.6. Women's Officer
 - 5.7. International Students' Officer
 - 5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer
 - 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer
 - 5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer

- 5.11. Disabilities Officer
- 5.12. Queer Students' Officer
- 5.13. Environment Officer
- 6. Other Reports
 - 6.1. Committees
 - 6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.
 - 6.3. Vertigo Report
- 7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.
- 8. Other Business Arising on Notice
 - 8.1 UTSSA Voice referendum working group
 - 8.2 HECS Indexation
 - 8.3 Youth Allowance
 - 8.4 Returning Officer
 - 8.5 Queer Collective Internal Positions
 - 8.6 Enviro Motion
- 9. General Business
- 10. Close of Meeting

Minutes: 6:35pm

1. Opening of Meeting: 6:35 pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country 6:6:35pm

Given by Nour Al Hammouri.

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

Motion: to elect Will Simmons as Deputy Chair

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Rose Mores

Dissent: n/a

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Will: I have received four proxies and apologies:

- 6. Kurt Cheng
 - 6.1. Rose Mores (**accepts**)

- 6.2. Saihej Singh
- 6.3. Mia Campbell

- 7. Bailey Riley
 - 7.1. Zeb Cruickshank (**accepts**)
 - 7.2. Will Simmons
 - 7.3. Harry Ryan
- 8. Laura Currie
 - 8.1. Harry Ryan (**accepts**)
 - 8.2. Zebadiah Cruickshank
 - 8.3. Will Simmons
- 9. Areejz Slamang
 - 9.1. Sara Chaturvedi (**accepts**)
 - 9.2. Anna Thieben
 - 9.3. Boris Tam
- 10. Ali Sobh
 - 10.1. Adrian Lozancic (**accepts**)

1.4. Declarations of Interest 6:36pm

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. SRC Meeting

Motion: to confirm the SRC Meeting

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Dissent: n/a

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes 6:37pm

Nour: I need to send you to send the Vertigo research tender to everyone, we have finalised most of the work.

4. Correspondence 6:38

n/a

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Nour:

Still waiting on the podium project to be completed in 10-15 years. In the interim we want renovations for the UTSSA, we need to get Kylie to give the greenlight to make it a more friendly space.

RNA x Activate project to give out hygiene products across the university bathrooms, 10 to start, hopefully we will have the in every bathroom.

UTS has opted out off Turn it In AI detector. UTS has stopped using it for now.

We have formed a new student rep advisory board to directly speak to Kylie.

5.2. General Secretary 6:42

Take as read

See Appendix

Observer Aidan O'Rourke has been named by the Deputy Chair

5.3. Assistant General Secretary 6:42

Zebadiah:

I have submitted a motion about creating a Voice Working group, since the last meeting I've met with key stakeholders across sydney universities campus. They are hosting an event this Friday, and we are planning an event here at UTS for the following Monday.

5.4. Education Officer 6:43

No report was received

Anna: no report from me

5.5. Welfare Officer

Only thing I wanted to say, we are working with RNA. There is an event on the 15th of May, let me know if you want to attend. We want to hold UTS accountable for last year's SPA agreement, I have to shift through lots of policy to see how it has changed.

Taken as read

See Appendix

5.6. Women's Officer 6:45pm

Working with Mariam to review the consent matters module with RNA, and again to introduce the hygiene products at UTS.

Taken as read

See Appendix

5.7. International Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer

No report was received

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer

No report was received

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.12. Queer Students' Officer

I'll just mention I spoke to Spence from CS - for mutual aid, clothing donation, and SWOP.

Take as read

See Appendix

5.13. Environment Officer 6:47

Take as read

See Appendix

6. Other Reports 6:37

6.1. Committees

Will: We had our first meeting a little while ago, we mostly touched on the research project and how we could get funding from management.

6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.

Peter: ill give a brief update from student council liaison, with Nour and Kurt, i think it was a quite productive meeting, active and engaged in solving problems. Long discussion on generative AI. Looking at what UTS will look like in 2027.

Just some VC updates, the uni is engaging with the state labor government, keeping existing projects going, redeveloping the goods line entrance. On the student load, we have an update from the COO, we saw less students in post grad and international coming through. In terms of engagement, we formed the student advisory group with Kylie, and our visibility campaign with conflutes - strong feedback from students.

6.3. Vertigo Report

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements. 6:52pm

8. Other Business Arising on Notice 6:52pm

8.1 UTSSA Voice referendum working group

Motion:

Moved: *Zebadiah Cruickshank*

Seconded: *Will Simmons*

Zebadiah's proposed amendment: see appendix

Amenable to the mover: yes

Dissent: *n/a*

Zeb: I want to amend the motion so that the council spots are to be appointed at the first meeting and that the committee is to determine its own function and format.

8.2 HECS Indexation

Moved: Rose

Seconded: Will

Dissent: n/a

Nour speaks to the motion

Will speaks to the motion

8.3 Youth Allowance

Moved: Rose

Seconded: Mia

Dissent: n/a

Nour speaks to the motion

8.4 Returning Officer

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Joseph Naffa

Dissent: Yes

Peter: I can vouch for Gregg's capabilities

Adrian: He ran for the seat of deakin as a Labor candidate, we should seek to have an impartial Returning Officer

Aidan: Gregg was the National Union of Students Returning Officer last year at National Conference, no one had any concerns about his ability or any biases.

Will: I have spoken to people in his home state of Victoria, all have sung his praises.

For:

- Will Simmons
- Nour Al Hammouri
- Zebadiah Donald Cruickshank
- Jacqui Bodill
- Harry Ryan

- Mia Campbell (Welfare Officer)
- Peter Munford (University Councillor)
- Aylin Cihan (Women's Officer)
- Joseph Naffa
- Rose Mores
- Saihej Singh
- Joy Xu
- Bridie O'Kelly
- Mariam Yassine
- Kurt Cheng's proxy (held by Rose Mores)
- Laura Currie's proxy (held by Harry Ryan)
- Bailey Riley's proxy (held by Zeb Cruickshank)

Against:

- Sara Chaturvedi
- George Pond
- Anna Thieben
- Adrian Lozancic
- Boris Tam
- Areejz Slamang's proxy (held by Sara Chaturvedi)
- Ali Sobh's proxy (held by Adrian Lozancic)

Motion passes

8.5 Queer Collective Internal Positions 7:03

Moved: Sara Chaturvedi

Seconded: Boris Tam

Dissent: n/a

8.6 Enviro Motion 7:03

Moved: Boris Tam

Seconded: Sara Chaturvedi

Will's proposed amendment: That the UTSSA Supports the June 5th Climate Action Rally

Amenable to the mover: yes

Dissent: n/a

Will: what was the actual event called? Can we have the motion to amend it so its not vague.

Boris: it was called the climate action? Sydney climate coalition

9. General Business 7:05pm

Nour: UTS management is working on its teaching modules, how teaching is done in future and want students to be at the forefront of the discussion. Kylie has asked me to bring it to SRC to pass on. I'd like suggestions to take back to her.

Mariam: In comms they often reuse content

Sara: Some lectures were recorded in lockdown

Aylin: We need to keep both in person and online classes and lectures.

Mariam: leaves 7:06pm

Rose: it's important to increase participation

George: important to have hybrid learning, it's what ive been doing, with the NUS. In person is important but having guaranteed hybrid learning is amazing. It's what disabled students deserve.

Mia: 60% exams arent working, you spend 12 weeks doing work and it can all come undone in one exam. It would be good to bring that up with Kylie.

Will: simple extensions are important

Peter: Kylie is broadly in support, and hoping to get them introduced here.

1.

Jacqui: on the seven day thing, I know that following the 7 day process, doesn't always work. I know someone who was ignored for a very very long time by a tutor. We need to make sure the process is followed by tutors and subject coordinators. Making sure official procedures are followed.

Will: here are your Action Points Nour:

2. Simple extensions
3. No 60% exams or assessments
4. Hybrid learning

10. Close of Meeting 7:18pm

Appendix

Collated Motions April

8.1 UTSSA Voice referendum working group

~~Motion: That the UTSSA will create a working group composed of SRC members and other students to organise a UTS based Yes campaign for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum.~~

Action:

- ~~● That the UTSSA will establish Voice referendum working group will be comprised of :
 - ~~○ The UTSSA Indigenous Officer.~~
 - ~~○ The UTSSA Executive.~~
 - ~~○ Three other UTSSA Councillors.~~
 - ~~○ And all Indigenous Collective members.~~~~

~~Meetings will be called by the UTSSA Assistant General Secretary and meetings chaired by an Indigenous committee member.~~

Motion as Amended: That the UTSSA will create a working group composed of SRC members and other students to organise a UTS based Yes campaign for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum.

Action:

- That the UTSSA will establish Voice referendum working group will be comprised of :
 - The UTSSA Indigenous Officer.
 - The UTSSA Executive.

- Three other UTSSA Councillors which will be determined by way of expressions of interest sent to the Assistant General Secretary and ratified by the existing committee
- And all Indigenous Collective members.

Meetings will be called by the UTSSA Assistant General Secretary and meetings chaired by an Indigenous committee member.

8.2 HECS Indexation

Preamble: Last week, the Federal Government regrettably refused to act in the best interest of young Australians, instead choosing to exacerbate the growing generational wealth gap. The increased Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) indexation needs to freeze - to help ease the burden of student debt, compounded severely by the rising cost of living crisis currently unfolding. The Federal Government needs to tackle these issues, and not further the intergenerational wealth crisis unfolding in Australia.

Motion:

- 1) That the UTSSA expresses its regret and disappointment of the Federal Governments decision to sideline the unfolding student debt crisis by palming it off to the Universities Accord process.***
- 2) The UTSSA notes this decision will only lengthen and further exacerbate the effects of HECS indexation and urges the government to listen to the voices of students to act in ending the unfair practices of HECS indexation.***

8.3 Youth Allowance

Preamble: Disappointingly, the Federal Government has decided to reject the recommendations put forward by the National Union of Students to raise the rate of Youth Allowance, furthering the inane impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.

The Federal Government will spend \$368 billion dollars on submarines, however, will not spend anything on the future leaders of this country, leaving students to fend for themselves in an unprecedented cost of living crisis.

Motion:

- 1) That the UTSSA condemns the Federal Government in refusing raise the rate of Youth Allowance and lower the age of independence to 18.***

2) That the UTSSA notes this decision will condemn students into abject poverty and homelessness.

3) That the UTSSA acknowledges the work of the National Union of Students and other student unions in campaigning for adequate and necessary reforms to Youth Allowance and welfare payments.

8.4 Returning Officer

Motion: That the UTSSA appoints Matt Greg as the Returning Officer for the 2024 SRC Elections.

8.5 Queer Collective Internal Positions

Motion: That the Queer Collective elects Eleanor Shepherd to be Queer Convenor and KJ Leu for Social Media Officer.

Preamble: Elections were held on the 7th of April, where two internal positions were elected. Ellie and KJ are very excited to work with the collective this year.

8.6 Enviro Motion

~~Motion for the SRC to endorse the June 5th Climate Action.~~

~~Actions:~~

- ~~- Promote event on available SRC social media accounts~~
- ~~- Allow SRC logo on graphics~~
- ~~- SRC can be mentioned and included in communications regarding event~~

Motion as Amended: That the UTSSA Supports the June 5th Climate Action Rally

Action Items :

- That the UTSSA promotes event on social media channels
- That posterung be conducted on official UTS noticeboards

Collated OB Reports April SRC

Nour Al Hammouri President's Report

No Report Received

Will Simmons General Secretary's Report

I have taken some time off of responsibilities over the past month to capitalise on StuVac and the various public holidays as to minimise disruption to the functioning of the UTSSA. As such I have little to report back.

I have been working with Biljana to get the Vertigo Research Project off the ground. We have got back our questions and are awaiting the final tick of approval. I look forward to seeing the results.

I have approved the latest issue of Vertigo, I recommend to everyone to pick up their copy and encourage others to read them to support the work our team has produced.

I have been talking with Zeb and Bailey about getting a Voice to Parliament working group off the ground so that we can begin the vital work required to advance Indigenous rights in this country. Everyone needs to stand behind our Indigenous Comrades and throw all their efforts into this campaign.

The archiving project is still happening, the library has begun testing scanners so we should see some progress soon.

Zebadiah Cruickshank Assistant General Secretary's Report

No Report Received

Anna Thieben Education Officer's Report

No Report Received

Mia Campbell Welfare Officer's Report

In April, the Welfare Collective continued to work towards our goals for the semester. Unfortunately, we had to reschedule the Wellbeing Walk that we had planned for World Health Day on April 13th due to stormy weather on the day. We were disappointed that we could not hold the event as planned, as it was intended to be a great event to meet new members in person. However, we are still determined to hold this event and will announce a new date as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we are continuing to work on improving our outreach efforts. This month, we were more active on our social media pages to increase awareness about our initiatives and events, as well as spreading general information about our causes. If you have not already, I encourage all SRC members to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up-to-date with the latest news and updates from the Welfare Collective and also boost engagement.

We are also currently working on creating a video that will showcase the Bluebird Pantry's location to make it easier for students to find and access the resources they need. If you are interested in participating in the production of this video, please let us know.

In addition to our ongoing efforts to increase awareness about the Welfare Collective, we will also be working with Respect.Now.Always. this coming month to address the challenges surrounding consent education on campus and UTS' response to SA/SH reports. We recognize that this is a crucial issue that affects many students and are committed to working together to create a safer and more inclusive campus environment, so if you'd like to be involved in a workshop coming up on the 15th of May hosted by RNA, let me know.

Aylin Cihan Women's Officer's Report

At the end of March 2023 the Women's Collective held a widely successful Women In Media panel with the Journalism Society and Communications Society. We had over 30-45 women attend the panel to speak with our amazing panellists who came from many different backgrounds in the media industry, including public relations expert LJ Loch, filmmaker, Mitzi Goldman, Writer, Mawunyo Gbogbo and journalist Alicia Vrajlal. Each of these women came and gave a great insight into working in such a male dominated industry sharing their unique personal stories that assisted many of the young women in the audience. The students were also able to ask the panellists vital questions to help advance their own knowledge of what to expect in the workplace and facilitated a comfortable environment for many people to network and make new connections. Overall, this event was a major success and helped achieve the Women's collective goal to ensure that we host projects that link women who are studying with other women in established industries to promote further connections.

In April, I had also attended a meeting to discuss a new project that would ensure that women's and gender neutral bathrooms would be stocked with hygiene products to accommodate for individual that menstruate. This initiative is still in the preliminary stages but the WOCO recognises the importance of having free menstrual products on campus to ensure that no one is suffering from period poverty as it is an essential item just like toilet paper or soap. I have also taken part in a project with the help of Respect Now Always to re-evaluate the consent matter module so that it reflects the current context and student experience. Ultimately, the WoCo is currently working on a couple projects this month and later through the year to better the experience of students and facilitate a safe and supporting environment.

Joy Xu International Students Officer's Report

No Report Received

Bailey Riley Indigenous Officer's Report

No Report Received

Laura Currie Postgraduate Officer's Report

No Report Received

Arjeez Slamang Ethnocultural Officer's Report

No Report Received

George Pond Disabilities Officer's Report

Over the month of April have had another meeting with the disabilities collective where we opened convenor elections. Nominations will close next Monday with the elections happening the Tuesday after.

We have also been engaging in conversations about effective ways to do sustainable activism while being disabled. Ways in which we do not put ourselves at health risks and can still continue to build sustainable activism. The outcome of this has been decisions on how to share the work around within the collective and so on.

We have also continued my correspondence with the UTS Academic Liaison Officers (ALOs) in regards to hybrid learning after having several meetings with various ALOs last month. The ALOs main job is to liaise between faculties and accessibility. They have been a great source of insight and information into what is happening with hybrid learning in the future and who to talk to about more detailed information. One such suggestion was talking to the Associate Deans of particular faculties. We are still waiting on some information and replies from the Associate Deans of various faculties. Which will influence how we go forward with obtaining guaranteed

hybrid learning for all students at UTS.

Sara Chaturvedi Queer Officer's Report

Things have slowed down since the hectic beginning of the year for the Queer Collective. The TDOV rally held on April 2nd turned out to be a success, with a turnout of around 3000 people who attended in an incredible show of solidarity despite the bucketing rain. I'd like to thank those from council who were able to attend – your support means a lot to us! Elections were opened for Convenor and social media Officer, and collective members Ellie and KJ were elected. In my discussions with our new convenor, we have plans for social events in the coming weeks for members to be able to wind down and relax during assessment season! Along with this, I was able to meet with Spence Messih, who runs Pride@UTS through CSJI. He loved our idea of a collective clothing swap event for members who may be struggling to find identity affirming and affordable clothes. We have also been discussing a collaboration with QC, CSJI, and Batyr for the upcoming IDAHOBIT. The collective is growing steadily, and the newly cleaned Queer Space is hardly ever empty these days! I hope that alongside our new convenor and social media officer, the collective will be able to hold more events in the coming weeks.

Boris Tam Environment Officer's Report

The last week of March and the beginning of April was an extremely busy time for the Environmental Collective. We had multiple events on Green Week, a Sydney wide cross-campus organised protest on the following week and a collective meeting the week after. As such, Stu-Vac was a welcome time to rest and reorganise.

The first event held on Green Week was the stall at the Green Market. While the zine workshop last month was a success, there were not enough zines made to be given away at the market. Instead I have given a space for market attendees to view and participate in placard painting, and also as an opportunity to promote the collective, similar to a stall at O'Day. I set out our existing placards at the stall and also set out the A frame with the enviro collective flyers, as it is quite eye catching. I spoke to a lot of passers-by about the collective and handed out some flyers, who were interested due to the design of the flyers. In doing so I gained a handful of sign-ups. I also was able to advertise the next event at Green Week, which was the film screening. In speaking to the market attendees, I was able to promote the Enviro Collective as a niche that is separate from the other societies present at the market; in promoting system change rather than individual change. It was definitely beneficial to have the presence of the other societies to show that there is genuinely space for both forms of action simultaneously in the climate movement. Furthermore, the collective gained the assistance of a dedicated graphic design student.

The Green Week film screening was for the 2017 film Okja, which was a satire of corporations appearing environmentally friendly. This event was advertised through the Enviro Collective social media channels, as well as the social media accounts for UTS Film Appreciation Posse's, UTS Sustainability and UTS Eco Society. This is a great indication towards further collaboration with Enviro Collective and these societies

upcoming. The screening was held on Thursday of Green Week. Leading up to the screening, there were posts and reminders daily. The screening was ultimately quite enjoyable and reaffirmed the position of the Enviro Collective being critical of corporate and government greenwashing.

During this time and after, the collective was working with our counterparts at USyd and UNSW in planning and promoting a protest against Tanya Plibersek for approving new gas wells to run until 2077. This was very important because it indicates our first University led and protest, and directly targets actions from the environmental minister. This action provides credibility towards the values of the Enviro Collective. The protest was pushed through social media, and a new Cross Collective Enviro page and group was created, with the idea that future protests and collaborative events would be promoted there. I had the opportunity to chair the rally and lead the march which was extremely passionate. All parts of the protest went according to plan, and will definitely pave the way for similar action to happen in the near future.

Following this protest, another meeting was held during Stu-Vac and I was able to gain new insights on what needs to be done in the remaining weeks of the semester. Educational workshops will be the focus of the coming weeks and months. The education will be centred around food security in Sydney, and with the information presented and discussed at these educational events, we will be starting a campaign in the University to promote food security. Suggested ideas were establishing sustainable sourcing for the food at the food pantries, putting a focus on local gardening through the garden at UTS, and reducing prices for food at UTS so that the price is not a barrier to food security.

Finally, the Enviro Collective will also begin focus on promoting the next city wide climate strike to be held on the 5th of June. The June Climate Action building has already begun with graphics already being promoted and spread, and contingent events to be posted shortly. More cross-campus building has already been scheduled and, given the ample time to build, we are expecting a very positive turn out for this event.

Vertigo Team's Report

Over the past month, the Vertigo Editorial Team finalised our roll-out of Vol. 1, with all copies removed from the office and the vast majority of these removed from stands. We have also been working on Vol. 2, due for release late this week or early next week depending on the speed of delivery. Other exciting initiatives we worked on in the past month included a collaboration with UTS Engage, who asked for permission to reconfigure and repost Vertigo content from Vol. 1, and the redrafting and refining of the two new student-based Instagram series mentioned in last month's meeting. These series are set to debut next week. In addition to these developments, we have held talks with UTS Library about the curation of an exhibition which celebrates 50 years of UTS student publications. The exhibition in question will examine the past, present and future of UTS student publications as well as the careers of notable Vertigo alumni. We are currently enlisting the help of readers/volunteers to assist in the research and curation processes. Vertigo's social media following continues to grow at a gradual rate.

Our current Instagram following of 2,370 signals a 12% overall increase since the incumbent Editorial Team took over, despite the annual loss of graduated students.