

# August UTSSA SRC Meeting 29.08.23

## 6:30pm Minutes

### Attendance:

- Members
  - Will Simmons (General Secretary)
  - Nour Al Hammouri (President)
  - Zebadiah Cruickshank
  - Joseph Naffah
  - Bridie O'Kelly
  - Mariam Yassine
  - Peter Munford
  - Mia Campbell
  - Sara Chaturvedi
  - George Pond
  - Boris Tam
  - Adrian Lozancic
  - Aylin Cihan
  - Harry Ryan
  - Laura Currie
  - Rufus Dadd-Daigle
  - Rose Mores
  
- Observers
  - Salma EIMubasher
  - Bilvika Abburi
  - Daewah
  - Adam Levett
  - Adam Montefiore
  - Alisa Hamilton
  
- Other
  - Julie (Social Media Officer)
  - Ty (Vertigo)
  - Jess (UTSSA)
  - Mariah (UTSSA)

# Proxies Received

1. Kurt Cheng
  - 1.1. Joseph Naffah
  - 1.2. Mariam Yassine
  - 1.3. Rufus
2. Saihej
  - 2.1. Mia Campbell
  - 2.2. Joseph Naffah
  - 2.3. Bridie O'Kelly
3. Jacqueline Bodill
  - 3.1. Mia Campbell
  - 3.2. Will Simmons
4. Bailey Riley
  - 4.1. Zebadiah Cruickshank
  - 4.2. Will Simmons
  - 4.3. Laura Currie
5. Ali Sobh
  - 5.1. Adrian Lozancic
6. Rose
  - 6.1. Bridie O'Kelly
  - 6.2. Aylin Cihan
  - 6.3. Mia Campbell

# 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 Handover Motion
  - 8.2 EthnoCon Motion
  - 8.3 Condemning the racist Israel Junket Trips
9. General Business
10. Close of Meeting

## Minutes: 6:32pm

### 1. Opening of Meeting: 6:32 pm

#### 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Given by Nour Al Hammouri.

#### 1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

**Motion:** to elect Will Simmons as Deputy Chair

**Moved:** Will Simmons

**Seconded:** Zeb Cruickshank

**Dissent:** n/a

#### 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Will: I have received six proxies and apologies:

1. Kurt Cheng
  - a. Joseph Naffah (**accepts**)
  - b. Mariam Yassine
  - c. Rufus
2. Saihej
  - a. Mia Campbell (**accepts**)
  - b. Joseph Naffah
  - c. Bridie O'Kelly
3. Jacqueline Bodill
  - a. Mia Campbell
  - b. Will Simmons (**accepts**)
4. Bailey Riley
  - a. Zebadiah Cruickshank (**accepts**)
  - b. Will Simmons
  - c. Laura Currie
5. Ali Sobh
  - a. Adrian Lozancic (**accepts**)
6. Rose
  - a. Bridie O'Kelly (**accepts**)
  - b. Aylin Cihan
  - c. Mia Campbell

#### 1.4. Declarations of Interest

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 2.1. SRC Meeting

**Motion:** to confirm the SRC Meeting

**Moved:** Will Simmons

**Seconded:** George Pond

**Dissent:** n/a

## 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

n/a

## 4. Correspondence

n/a

## 5. Office Bearers' Reports 6:34pm

### 5.1. President

***Nour speaks to his report***  
***See Appendix***

### 5.2. General Secretary

***Taken as read***  
***See Appendix***

### 5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Zeb: Since we last met we attended EdCon at the university of Queensland, I gave a well received talk on unionism and Broken Hill, Max Chandler Mather was in attendance to give a talk on housing.

We also ran our voice stall at O-Day, it was quite successful, with lots of conversations with international and exchange students.

***Not received***

### 5.4. Education Officer

***n/a***

### 5.5. Welfare Officer

Mia: if anyone wants to help with the promotion of the Bluebird Breakie and Night Owl Noodles you can get involved let me know.

***Taken as read***  
***See Appendix***

### 5.6. Women's Officer

Aylin: last week we did a walkthrough of the hygiene product dispensers, 6 across the campus, we will be trying to get more

***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

Laura: It has been difficult reaching post-graduate students, I have been liaising with the HDR Students Association. They have reached out and invited me to their next meeting. We hope to come together to eliminate issues facing students. I am thinking of liaising with a post graduate research school. They have spaces for students but no one knows about, including private spaces and lounges. Its just not well known and nobody's there. I am aiming to put through a motion regarding PHD stipends. The stipends are for 3.5 years, and many students study for longer than this on top of work. Its not enough, I want to see if we can increase the length of the stipend. Communicating with students about Night Owl as well.

***Not received***

#### 5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer

***Not received***

#### 5.11. Disabilities Officer

George: me and the past disabilities officer have been collating experiences of ableism on campus. Please let us know if you want to be involved.

***Take as read***

***Not Received***

#### 5.12. Queer Students' Officer

Sara: QC and Darlings is having a charity ticket night for Blak Rainbow a Queer Indigenous organisation. Please come along and support.

**See Appendix**

#### 5.13. Environment Officer

***Not received***

## 6. Other Reports 6;37

### 6.1. Committees

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

Jess: One of our big focuses at the moment is the pantry, it's a year old, and it's been growing. If collectives or SRC members want to reach out and get involved that would be great.

### 6.3. Vertigo Report

## 7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements. 6:47pm

## 8. Other Business Arising on Notice 6:47pm

### 8.1 Handover Motion

**See Appendix**

**Moved:** Mia Campbell

**Seconded:** Mariam Yassine

**Dissent:** n/a

*Mia speaks to the motion*

### 8.2 EthnoCon Motion

**Moved:** Zeb Cruickshank

**Seconded:** Mia Campbell

**Dissent:** n/a

*Nour speaks to the motion*

## 8.3 Israel Junket

### ***Amended motion was heard In Camera***

#### ***Preamble:***

University institutions are complicit in human rights violations against indigenous peoples across the globe, from here on Gadigal land, to Palestine. Violations include the support and normalisation of the colonial state, discriminatory admittance policies, systematically preventing racialised groups from attending university, and misinformation. Universities have a lot to answer for, and student unions have a duty to fight this fight and hold their universities accountable.

As a settler colony, the Government of Israel has created various systems and structures to take over Palestinian land: a military occupation to suppress resistance, ethnic cleansing to achieve demographic targets and land theft, and an apartheid system of governance to give privileges to one people while denying the rights of others.

Palestinians have called for non-violent global solidarity action in the form of boycott, divestment, and sanctions upon the State of Israel, until it recognises the rights of Palestinian people to self-determination and fully complies with international law. As a student union, we must stand on the right side of history and demand justice and an immediate end to the oppression of Palestinians by the State of Israel. Palestinians have told us what they seek from us in global solidarity: boycott, divestment and sanctions. This includes boycotts of institutions complicit in the settler-colonial project, divestment from corporations that profit from injustice and calling for sanctions on the Apartheid policies contrary to international law.

#### ***Motion:***

- 1. That the UTSSA condemns and strongly discourages the participation in junkets funded (in whole or in part) by the Government of Israel.*
- 2. That the UTSSA supports boycotting all entities that promote the expulsion, genocide, and disestablishment of Palestine.*
- 3. That the UTSSA would like to reaffirm its support to the Palestinian people and to continue in its advocacy towards Palestinian self-determination and freedom.*

#### ***Vote Count:***

***For: 22***

***Against: 2***

***Abstentions: 0***

***Motion Passes***



## 9. General Business

Will: I would like to highly encourage everyone to come along and be involved in the Voice to Parliament campaign.

Nour: Just letting people know that elections are coming up soon if you want to be involved.

## 10. Close of Meeting 7:04pm

# Appendix

## Collated Motions August SRC

### 8.1 Handover Motion

**Preamble:**

Ensuring that the UTSSA can work on long-term campaigns is vital to the continuity and effectiveness of the work of the student union. So that new members can begin the work in their roles at the start of their term in October/November with momentum, it is important that the UTSSA has a mandated handover process. This will also ensure that communication between incoming and outgoing members is thorough despite being part of different tickets during the election period, and that roles of the UTSSA can be accessible to all UTS students beyond just the most experienced members of the UTSSA.

**Motion:** To mandate handovers at the end of each paid member of the SRC's term by inserting section 14 of the by-laws as follows, to be enacted immediately:

**14 Handover Procedure**

14.1 Each Office Bearer and Member of the Executive must prepare a handover document for the individual succeeding them.

14.2 The handover document for Members of the Executive must include, but not limited to, the following information:

14.2.1 Summary of all completed and uncompleted campaigns worked on that year by the Member of the Executive

14.2.2 All usernames and passwords for relevant social media accounts held under the Member of the Executive's title

14.3 The handover document for each Office Bearer must include, but not limited to, the following information:

14.3.1 Up-to-date email list for current members of the collective

14.3.2 Summary of all campaigns worked on during the term of the Office Bearer

### 14.3.3 All usernames and passwords for social media accounts

14.4 The handover document will be provided to the General Secretary before the end of the term of all Office Bearers and Members of the Executive, by a date agreed to by the SRC and no later than the second last day of the concluding term.

14.5 If handovers are not provided by the designated date, the honorarium of the relevant member will be suspended as specified in section 1.8.1 of the By-Laws until the handover document is provided.

14.6 The outgoing President must provide full and exclusive administrative access to accounts managed by them, including email management, to the incoming President as soon as practical after the start of the next term.

14.7 The incoming President must provide access to accounts managed by them to incoming Office Bearers as necessary, including an email account, as soon as practical. Email accounts shall not be unreasonably withheld from Office Bearers unless the provision of emails are impractical for the Association or to prevent a breach of the By-Laws, including its schedules, unless otherwise provided by the By-Laws.

### **Attachment 1 of the By-Laws**

Insert in By-Law Table of Variation:

**Version x:** dd/mm/yyyy

1. Section 14 inserted, enacted immediately

### **Draft Handover Motion - Date Due**

**Motion:** To designate 3 November 2023 as when handovers are due to the General Secretary.

**Action:** For all paid members of the SRC to provide their handovers to the General Secretary by 3 November 2023, with all information as outlined in Section 14 of the By-Laws.

## 8.2 EthnoCon

**Preamble:**

EthnoCon has officially been called, and will take place between Sept 27th and Sept 29th. This years theme is “Our Voices | Our Spaces | Our Rights”. More information can be found <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1106917>

**Motion :**

*That the UTSSA allows for the current President to be afforded the opportunity to attend EthnoCon.*

*That the President selects a delegate who is a current UTS student to be afforded the opportunity to attend EthnoCon.*

*That the UTSSA allows for 3 other UTS Students to be afforded the opportunity to attend EthnoCon by emailing the President to confirm their nomination.*

*That the UTSSA pays the \$75 registration of the 5 members directly and to reimburse flights, upon return, with an upper limit of \$300 per person and accommodation with an upper limit of \$300 per person.*

## 8.3 Condemning the racist Israel Junket Trips

~~*That the UTSSA condemns the members of National Union of Students, and the members of various University Student Unions for embarking on a state sponsored trip to Israel. The people who embarked on this trip have become implicit in the ongoing dispossession, genocide, and the establishment of an Apartheid state of Palestinian people.*~~

~~*These trips, funded by a Zionist government should not be justified or taken, instead we should be boycotting and moving away from engaging with Zionist entities that promote the expulsion, genocide, and disestablishment of Palestine.*~~

~~*UTSSA would like to reaffirm its support to the Palestinian people, and to continue in its advocacy towards Palestinian self-determination and freedom.*~~

**Motion as Amended:**

**Preamble:**

University institutions are complicit in human rights violations against indigenous peoples across the globe, from here on Gadigal land, to Palestine. Violations include the support and normalisation of the colonial state, discriminatory admittance policies, systematically preventing racialised groups from attending university, and misinformation. Universities have a lot to

answer for, and student unions have a duty to fight this fight and hold their universities accountable.

As a settler colony, the Government of Israel has created various systems and structures to take over Palestinian land: a military occupation to suppress resistance, ethnic cleansing to achieve demographic targets and land theft, and an apartheid system of governance to give privileges to one people while denying the rights of others.

Palestinians have called for non-violent global solidarity action in the form of boycott, divestment, and sanctions upon the State of Israel, until it recognises the rights of Palestinian people to self-determination and fully complies with international law. As a student union, we must stand on the right side of history and demand justice and an immediate end to the oppression of Palestinians by the State of Israel. Palestinians have told us what they seek from us in global solidarity: boycott, divestment and sanctions. This includes boycotts of institutions complicit in the settler-colonial project, divestment from corporations that profit from injustice and calling for sanctions on the Apartheid policies contrary to international law.

***Motion:***

- 4. That the UTSSA condemns and strongly discourages the participation in junkets funded (in whole or in part) by the Government of Israel.*
- 5. That the UTSSA supports boycotting all entities that promote the expulsion, genocide, and disestablishment of Palestine.*
- 6. That the UTSSA would like to reaffirm its support to the Palestinian people and to continue in its advocacy towards Palestinian self-determination and freedom.*

# Collated OB Reports August SRC

## Nour Al Hammouri President's Report

A lot has occurred since we last met two months ago, so please bear with me as I go through this report. Feel free to email me any questions you may have about any of the items I discuss in this report :)

### DVC E&S Meetings

Since we last met, I have had three meetings with Kylie, and we've discussed many items. Primarily focusing on SSAF. Here are the summaries.

We launched the new SSAF committee. The makeup of this committee is SSU, IML, SAU, UTSSA, Activate and UTS Council. Joanne Grey is the Chair of this committee.

I haven't been very fond of the group; thus far, it has felt like we are being directed to come to a finding instead of discussing and coming to our own collective conclusions.

We've already been told what our budget for next year will be without any negotiation, discussion or forward planning from us.

### Other Updates

We've successfully collaborated with Activate on a few events centred around Wellbeing. We've had Wear It Purple, Sharing Is Caring, and tomorrow, we have Discover Sydney Harbour (buy tix and come along!). This is the first time in a very long time we've been able to bring RNA, UTS, CSJI, Activate and UTSSA together at the same event - I think this is a monumental step towards future collaborations and partnerships. #ThankYouSPA

We're in the final stages of the Period Products - the locations have been confirmed. I am currently working on the design of promotional materials with RNA (again #ThankYouSPA) and the evaluative survey with UTS MCU. Hopefully, in the upcoming weeks, they'll be here.

We've officially hired our new Social Media Officer (Julie Riedel)! Today is her first day, and if you need social media help - Julie is your person. She can be reached at [socials@utsstudentsassociation.org](mailto:socials@utsstudentsassociation.org)

### Bluebird Brekkie Campaign

Since our launch on O'Day, we have reached just about 750 signatures. Unfortunately, UTS won't take a petition seriously until we reach around 2,000 signatories. Therefore, your help is required. If you haven't already signed it, sign it now. If you haven't shared it amongst your networks, I urge you to do so now. <https://chng.it/hpNgHyHnHs>

Mia and I will be launching some pop-up BlueBird Brekkie stalls in an attempt to push for more signatures and also to make the campaign more visible.

We also have just created some shirts, thanks to Biljana, with a QR code on the back linking it to the petition. These will be worn by those of us who will volunteer and help out at Night Owl Noodles, the Pantry, and the pop-ups.

## Will Simmons General Secretary's Report

Over the break we have been preparing for how we wish to campaign on the Voice to Parliament at UTS. I have had discussions with other campuses on how they are running their campaigns. We had at the last SRC meeting passed some funding for materials. I can confirm we have bought corflutes, 30 t-shirts, and mini cupcakes. All of which were put to good use during O-Day.

I would like to say a massive thank you to those who helped on O-Day at the Voice stall, Zeb, Bailey, Saihej, and Joseph. We were also joined by volunteers from Sydney for Yes who were a massive help getting materials out to students. I would also like to acknowledge Sydney for Yes for donating a tonne of Voice material from Government pamphlets to Stickers and pins.

We engaged with hundreds of students, a vast majority of whom were in support. Getting a handful of volunteers. Spring Semester is when a large number of International and Exchange Students come to UTS, while most of them could not vote, it is still important to educate those we can, and help them to understand that this is stolen Indigenous land. We had an incredibly positive reaction from these two groups of students which was very encouraging.

Last week we had our first event, a Voice to Parliament banner paint, which was a great success. We are now looking to move forward with other events and welcome anyone to join us!

# Zebadiah Cruickshank Assistant General Secretary's Report

*Not received*

## Mia Campbell Welfare Officer's Report

Past Events Summary:

Throughout the month of August, several significant events and initiatives were undertaken:

1. Meeting with NUS Welfare Officer Grace Franco and NUS Campaigns Officer:

I had a productive meeting with NUS Welfare Officer Grace Franco and the NUS Campaigns Officer to discuss the Change the Age campaign. This provided an opportunity to collaborate on the campaign's goals and strategies to lobby for a reduction in the Centrelink age of 'independence'.

2. Launch of the Bring Back BlueBird Brekkie Petition:

We successfully launched the Bring Back BlueBird Brekkie petition, which has gained considerable traction with 747 signatures to date. The petition aims to reinstate the BlueBird Brekkie initiative, which has been an essential service for so many UTS students.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

1. Discover Sydney Walk in Collaboration with ActivateUTS:

An upcoming event, the Discover Sydney Walk, is scheduled for Wednesday. This event is being organized in collaboration with ActivateUTS and aims to provide students with the opportunity to explore and experience the city while fostering a sense of community. It is also a great opportunity for the UTSSA to collaborate with other UTS stakeholders.

2. Promotion of Bring Back BlueBird Brekkie Petition at Night Owl Noodles:

We are planning to promote the Bring Back BlueBird Brekkie petition at Night Owl Noodles each week. This will allow us to engage with a wider audience and garner more support for the petition. Please let me know if any of you would be interested in assisting with this initiative.

3. Bluebird Pantry video – now that we have a Social Media Officer, we should be making a video in the coming weeks to show students where the Bluebird Pantry is located. If anyone would like to be involved in this, let me know!

Goals Still to Be Achieved:

- Continuation of efforts to increase membership and participation within the collective.
- More promotion of our initiatives and achievements on social media platforms.



## Aylin Cihan Women's Officer's Report

As UTS begins to swing back into action following the mid semester holiday things have started to quickly heat up for the women's collective. Our orientation day stall for the beginning of the Spring 2023 Semester went very well as we were able to raise awareness about the services that we and the UTSSA provide and even managed to get a few sign ups along the way. This month the Womens Collective alongside the UTSSA partnered with the UTS Activate to promote and organise a clothing swap. This initiative allowed students to bring in clothes that they had no use for and donate them, whilst also having the opportunity to take from items others had donated, those who did not donate were also able to take any piece of clothing they desired. This initiative was a way to help those who are currently struggling with the cost of living crisis find items that could empower them and be used in the workplace, it was also a great way to combat fast fashion and promote sustainability by reusing clothing. Moreover, the Women's Collective had their first ever walk through of UTS bathrooms to decide where to install the dispenser that would provide free hygiene products to all students at UTS. This initiative from the Women's collective has finally come to fruition after months of hard work and we are very excited to see how the project will help those in need in the future.

## Joy Xu International Students Officer's Report

In August 2023, we have 29 new members joined collectives, mainly from the O'Day. Our Convenor Raghav did an amazing job throughout preparation and towards end of the O'Day. We spent \$32.27 and got reimbursement from the Association.

We feel like we need to be more active in various activities. So Raghav and I are doing our best to participate in Association's activities. This month, Raghav went with Nour for an event that we are partnering with UTS Active. It was a Discover Sydney Harbour and walked around the city, visiting few monuments. It was mostly international and exchange students, so we did not want to miss that opportunity to connect with them.

We are looking for more activities that we can participate in and connect with more international students.

We are also actively assisting Association on the media posts recently and keen to do more of it.

## Bailey Riley Indigenous Officer's Report

***Not received***

## Laura Currie Postgraduate Officer's Report

*Not received*

## Arjeez Slamang Ethnocultural Officer's Report

*Not received*

## George Pond Disabilities Officer's Report

*Not received*

## Sara Chaturvedi Queer Officer's Report

After a well-deserved break, the Queer Collective has returned for the new semester. We spoke to many new students interested in our collective on O'Day, and held a great event after stalling in the Queer Space! Turn out came to around 15-20 people, where we watched Nimona and got to know each other. In our meeting earlier this month, members expressed their interest in creating a donation box for the space, as an aid resource for those in need, which we are looking into for next month!

For Wear it Purple Day, QC held two events – an internal picnic for collective members in the space, and a stall held alongside RNA, UTS Darlings and Activate UTS. Both events had a good turn out, and I was able to direct students to the resources and services we provide at the SA.

Along with this, we have an upcoming Charity Trivia Night at the Loft on September 4th. This event has been organised by us, UTSoc and UTS Darlings. All ticket proceeds will be donated to Black Rainbow, a Queer Indigenous charity. The event is open to all, so I hope to see people there!

## Vertigo Team's Report

*Not received*

