

May UTSSA SRC Meeting 31.05.23

6:30pm Minutes

Attendance:

- Members
 - Will Simmons (General Secretary)
 - Nour Al Hammouri (President)
 - Zebadiah Cruickshank (Assistant General Secretary)
 - Bailey Riley (Indigenous Officer)
 - Harry Ryan
 - Laura Currie (Postgraduate Officer)
 - Joseph Naffa
 - Mia Campbell (Welfare Officer)
 - Aylin Cihan (Women's Officer)
 - Saihej Singh
 - Sara Chaturvedi (Queer Officer)
 - Adrian Lozancic
 - Boris Tam (Environment Officer)
 - Paniora Nukunuku
 - Jacqui Elise
 - Rose Mores
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- Observers
 - Rufus Daid
 - Ty Seeto (Vertigo)
 - Adam Montefaire
 - Joe Hathaway-Wilson (Vertigo)
 - Aidan O'Rouke
 - Dirk Hoare

- Staff
 - Fran
 - Mariah
 - Biljana
 - Lisa

Proxies Received

1. Kurt Cheng
 - 1.1. Saihej
 - 1.2. Mariam
 - 1.3. Mia Campbell
2. Bridie O'Kelly
 - 2.1. Joseph Naffa
 - 2.2. Rose Mores
 - 2.3. Saihej
3. Mariam Yassine
 - 3.1. Saihej
 - 3.2. Nour Al Hammouri
 - 3.3. Mia Campbell
4. Peter Munford
 - 4.1. Mia Campbell
 - 4.2. Saihej
 - 4.3. Joseph Naffa
5. Harry Ryan
 - 5.1. Will Simmons
 - 5.2. Zebadoah Cruickshank
 - 5.3. Bailey Riley
6. Ali Sobh
 - 6.1. Adrian Lozancic
7. George Pond
 - 7.1. Sara Chaturvedi
 - 7.2. Boris Tam
 - 7.3. 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 Dismissal of a General Councillor
 - 8.2 Social Media Officer
 - 8.3 WoCo Elections
 - 8.4 Welfare Elections
 - 8.5 EdCon
 - 8.6 Fair Payment for Student Placement!
 - 8.7 Solidarity with Sudan
 - 8.8 Universal 11:59PM Submission Times
 - 8.9 5 Day Simple Extensions
 - 8.10 Trans Rights are Human Rights
 - 8.11 Financial Report
9. General Business
10. Close of Meeting

Minutes: 6:40pm

1. Opening of Meeting: 6:40pm

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: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Dissent: n/a

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Will: I have received seven proxies and apologies:

- Kurt Cheng
 - Saihej Singh (**accepts**)
 - Mariam
 - Mia Campbell
- Bridie O'Kelly
 - Joseph Naffa (**accepts**)
 - Rose Mores
 - Saihej
- Mariam Yassine
 - Saihej Singh
 - Nour Al Hammouri (**accepts**)
 - Mia Campbell
- Peter Munford
 - Mia Campbell (**accepts**)
 - Saihej
 - Joseph Naffa
- Ali Sobh
 - Adrian Lozancic (**accepts**)
- George Pond
 - Sara Chaturvedi (**accepts**)
 - Boris Tam
 - Adrian Lozancic
- Laura
 - Harry (**accepts**)

1.4. Declarations of Interest

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1. SRC Meeting Minutes

Motion: to confirm the previous SRC Meeting Minutes

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Dissent: n/a

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

n/a

4. Correspondence

n/a

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Take as read

See Appendix

5.2. General Secretary

Take as read

See Appendix

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Taken as read

See Appendix

5.4. Education Officer

n/a

5.5. Welfare Officer

Taken as read

See Appendix

5.6. Women's Officer

Taken as read

See Appendix

5.7. International Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer

No report was received

Bailey: voice campaign is coming up get around it

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer

No report was received

See Appendix

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.12. Queer Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.13. Environment Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

Boris: not to much has happened, we elected a convenor

6. Other Reports 6:37

6.1. Committees

Zeb: it's more or less outlined in the report, the main focus is we are starting an instagram page, deciding if we are to start stalling like USYD.

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

Biljana reads the staff report

6.3. Vertigo Report

Joe Hathaway-Wilson: Just some statistics, May was a very eventful month, within two weeks it was gone, on the digital front we launched a series of reels. Our engagement rose by 124%. We are planning to launch a new series in July. We have continued to work along the Library. We are going to have a launch event with Vertigo Alumni. Also a special thank you to Jessica.

7. Operational and Procedural Business,
Stipends and Reimbursements. 6:50pm

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1 Dismissal of a General Councillor

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Dissent: n/a

Nour reads motion as submitted

Will speaks to the motion

Jaqui: I do realise that Pnuks has failed to send the apology emails, I believe that he has been staying up to date with meeting notice, he has participated as much as many councillors here, I myself am an active member. He has observed and discussed the SRC and that is legitimate. Additionally, as newer members of the SRC there are other issues by that I mean - adapting to the process. I have been an observer, and Pnuks has been doing his part. On the strict protocol of apologies. This isn't necessary

Nour: rules are there for a reason to guide us when we might not know when things are happening, there is a difference between observing and discussing and actual participation.

Jacqui retracts their dissent.

Motion passes unanimously

8.2 Social Media Officer

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Mia Campbell

Seconded: Aylin Cihan

Dissent: n/a

Nour speaks to the motion.

Adrian: I support this but how is it going to be selected?

Nour: external hire

8.3 WoCo Elections

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Aylin Cihan

Seconded: Bailey Riley

Dissent: n/a

8.4 Welfare Elections

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Mia Campbell

Seconded: Saihej Singh

Dissent: n/a

8.5 EdCon

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Laura Currie

Dissent: n/a

Nour speaks to the motion

Nour names Observer Aidan O'Rouke

Laura and Saihej nominate from the floor

8.6 Fair Payment for Student Placement!

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Bailey Riley

Seconded: Mia Campbell

Dissent: n/a

Nour speaks to the motion

8.7 Solidarity with Sudan

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Bailey Riley

Seconded: Mia Campbell

Dissent: n/a

Nour speaks to the motion

8.8 Universal 11:59PM Submission Times

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Rose Mores

Seconded: Joseph Naffa

Dissent: n/a

Rose speaks to the motion

Nour speaks to the motion

Zeb speaks to the motion

8.9 5 Day Simple Extensions

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Saihej Singh

Seconded: Bailey Riley

Member's proposed amendment: See Appendix

Amenable to the mover: yes

Dissent: n/a

Sai speaks to the motion

Will moves an amendment

Mia speaks to the amendment

Laura: I've know people who have had to submit funeral certification to tutors, this is an unfair situation.

8.10 Trans Rights are Human Rights

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Sara Chaturvedi

Seconded: Mia Campbell

Dissent: n/a

Sara speaks to the motion

Laura Currie leaves 7:17pm, proxies to Harry Ryan who accepts

8.11 Financial Report

Motion: See Appendix

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Aylin Cihan

Dissent: n/a

Mariah speaks to the financial report

9. General Business 7:19

Joe: I am coming here to talk about the research project, and certain concerns about where this is coming. Excited to see the results. The project's finance we have two issues. We didnt ask for the project to happen, we were not consulted. I completely understand the UTSSA's need for this. If this was coming out of the Vertigo budget - we should have been consulted.

On the pragmatic side. On the budget of 129K, however, 18k sounds like it could just be swept in there. We have calculated every part of our budget. This will devastate our budget and sap all our ability to engage in other projects.

There are reasonable and effective methods to engage in better communications. Consider utilising the UTSSA reserves. If we are going to pay for it, then half this year and half next year. Rather than cramming the cost of the project into a budget that cannot contain it.

Adrian: when was the first time you saw it

Will: this was discussed at every SRC

Nour: This funding came out of the Vertigo budget. There's nowhere else we can take it out from. We have paid for this.

There was no debate at the SRC. The SRC choses what the Vertigo does not the other way around.

Will speaks to the timeline of the research project

Adrian: The tender needs to be made public, my personal view is that vertigo should be consulted.

Nour: there was no opposition at the time, we acted in good faith and according to the SRC's directives.

Will: you should have raised it two meetings ago.

Nour: the research says that 91% don't want printed issues

Sara: There should be transparency. A lot of people on the council want to go to these meetings. To avoid this in the future there should be more meetings.

Rose: Nour should have less attitude when discussing these things.

Will: Any student can attend committee meetings.

Boris: I remember that vertigo was aware of the spreading coming out of their budget at the last SRC.

Nour: If we had not done it that meeting we would not have got it done this semester. Research is like any other motion at SRC. That this could have hindered budget discussions in spring.

Will: The budget that we approved in the February meeting. This was for one semester. It was meant to be flexible.

Joe asks about next semester's plan

Nour: I do not have an answer yet, I suggests we discuss at the vertigo committee.

Joe: That should be fine. Two this semester. Two the next semester "supposedly"

Procedural Motion: to have a motion from the floor

Moved: Bailey Riley

Seconded: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Dissent: n/a

Motion: The UTSSA supports the ongoing strike action of the Health Services Union. The UTSSA urges the Chris Minns Labor government to keep their election promises and left the public sector wage cap

Moved: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Seconded: Harry Ryan

Dissent: n/a

Zeb speaks to the motion

10. Close of Meeting 7:52pm

Appendix

Collated OB Reports May SRC

Nour Al Hammouri President's Report

Kylie Readman Meeting

- Unfortunately UTS has not gotten its projected census figures, we're sitting at around 96% of the goal. This means we won't be able to secure any further funding.
 - We have finally received a very baseline and simple Gap Analysis, which I can't share at this time, but this will help us better understand how to position ourselves currently and for the future.
 - We've also spoken about initiating a 3 year funding agreement. The idea behind this is to secure our baseline activities for the next 3 years, and we then yearly would have to apply for our extra services/activations and so on ...
 - In July Kylie will be forming a SSAF committee, on which I will sit on, and other students (I believe will also get the chance)
-
- The Period Products has finally gotten a lot more traction and it will very soon get off the ground. We're currently liaising with building managers and facilities to ensure the successful maintenance and installation.
 - Kylie has recently created a DVC (E&S) Advisory Group which is a great roundtable forum for us to discuss and initiate new ideas and programs. The most recent one being the AI Operations Board. On the 24th and 25th of May I facilitated workshops about the Predictive and Generative use of AI with students. We discussed risks, mitigations, things to consider and be aware of.
 - Also, if this hasn't been fully communicated, TurnItIn won't be detecting ChatGPT for the time being, as UTS has opted out of this service.
 - I'll be compiling a report on the findings from the 2 workshops, and hopefully

present them at the Academic Board, and I will circulate them to SRC once I have them.

- I also had a chat with Kylie about UTS's position about The Voice. The current stance UTS is taking will be neutral, and educational. They want to be informing everyone of it, but not leading them into a position. However, there is space for us to lobby and ask Executive UTS Leadership to make their own individual stances known.

Academic and Other Boards

- If you all remember at our last meeting we had a discussion about the Future Of Learning at UTS, I was able to provide that feedback to all Academic Board members. They were all interested in what you guys had to say and I've been asked to write a paper about this (yay :/)

- The one item they found most interesting is the 50%+ weighted assessments and exams. Most people were nodding their heads in agreement. I will be submitting a formal paper to the Student Council Liaison Group. This will let us put it directly onto the plates of the decision making bodies. It gets hard to ignore things once put through SCLG. I will update when I have an update.

Will Simmons General Secretary's Report

Over the past month I have been watching the results of the Vertigo Survey roll in, we are to have a discussion about them very soon, and I will have stuff prepared for SRC very soon.

Since the last SRC, the Voice Working Group has met, I look forward to future discussions and getting a campaign here at UTS kick started.

Unfortunately, I have had to prepare a motion to dismiss a member of the Students Association which we will discuss at this meeting. The member had not done the due diligence to apologise for their absence for multiple SRC meetings. Please allow this to be a reminder to the other councillors.

I have also since last SRC, had to track down Office Bearers who were soon to be in breach of the conditions of their pay and will have it suspended if not corrected. Office Bearers who wish to be paid in their role, must hold convenor elections, regular meetings, and submit reports. On top of this an executive member has resigned from their position.

None of this gives me great pleasure, however we are a legitimate organisation, if we wish to have funding and to be taken seriously then the Bylaws and Constitution should be upheld and enforced. These are not particularly hard requirements. If you cannot attend SRC meetings as you were elected to do so consistently then perhaps reevaluate whether you should continue in this space, same goes with reports.

On a lighter note, I am also looking forward to attending the upcoming National Union of Students' Education Conference in Brisbane this June. This will be an exciting opportunity to

engage in country wide discussions on radical activism, student unionism, and progressive politics. I look forward to having UTS voices heard, as we are an integral part of the student union community. I hope to see many of you there.

Zebadiah Cruickshank Assistant General Secretary's Report

We held our first meeting of the UTSSA Voice working group were me and the other executives. We discussed planning for a Yes campaign at our campus. We had several action points, the establishment of social media for the campaign, creating badges for the campaign and creating a stall to speak to students about supporting the Voice.

I have met with several stake holders to discuss planning for the campaign. This includes the NUS president, University of Sydney SRC Vice President and General Secretary, the President of Wollongong University student union. The main points of discussion was how best to establish our campaigns from successful ones on other campuses and to create a coherent campaign for the Voice across New South Wales and nationally.

It is important that we have a functional campaign by the beginning of Semester two as the most likely date for the referendum will be the 14th of October. I look forward to working with our SRC on the path to reconciliation.

N/A Education Officer's Report

Mia Campbell Welfare Officer's Report

This month, the Welfare Collective had the following achievements:

- Election of New Welfare Convenor - Saihej: I am pleased to announce that Saihej has been elected as the new Welfare Convenor. The election was conducted successfully, and Saihej's appointment brings valuable skills and experience to the role.
- Attendance at Respect.Now.Always Community Voice Workshop: I actively participated in the Respect.Now.Always Community Voice Workshop, which focused on generating ideas and projects to address sexual assault and harassment at UTS. The workshop provided a great platform for collaboration and community engagement, and I was glad to collaborate with a number of different students and staff members at UTS on brainstorming better response policies.

- Contributions to Activate Clubs and Societies Sexual Safety Toolkit: My suggestions were incorporated into the Activate Clubs and Societies Sexual Safety Toolkit, highlighting our commitment to promoting sexual safety within the UTS community.
- Welfare Collective Meetings and Campaign Discussions: Two Welfare Collective meetings were held during the month to discuss upcoming campaigns for the next semester, including the planning of Bluebird Brekkie instalments. These meetings facilitated collective brainstorming and strategizing, and it was great to hear suggestions from other members of the collective.

Goals Still to Be Achieved & Challenges:

As we move forward, the following goals are still to be achieved for the year:

- Increase membership and participation within the collective – this has been challenging this year due to the limited awareness of the collective, but hopefully will be improved after O'Day for second semester.
- Video showcasing the Bluebird Pantry: We are currently in the process of creating a video that will guide students to the location of the Bluebird Pantry, ensuring easy access to its resources.
- Improve communication channels and outreach efforts to ensure wider awareness of our initiatives and services.

Lastly, it is worth mentioning that I had a productive meeting with the current NUS Welfare Officer, Grace Franco. Our discussion revolved around her national initiatives, and it provided valuable insights and potential opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Aylin Cihan Women's Officer's Report

At the beginning of May I was able to meet with the leaders of UTS Activate, Respect Now Always and the UTS Students Association President to discuss any upcoming events and changes. The meeting was highly productive and enabled the Women's Collective to get a better understanding of the plans of action this year and how we could better contribute to ensure the future wellbeing of students at UTS. Following the discussions and meetings the WOCO had last month to push for the possible implementation of free hygiene products in all female and gender-neutral bathrooms has resulted in a positive outcome. UTS has agreed to a 6 month trial basis to include free pads and tampons in female and gender-neutral bathrooms to help combat period poverty considering the current cost of living crises. The implementation of this initiative brought by the students association will lessen the financial burden of individuals who have periods by granting free period products.

As mentioned last month I was able to review the consent matters module which then allowed me to take part in student testimonials this month. During this process I was able to recount my own experiences so that it reflects the current context and student experience thereby educating and enhancing the students to come. The WOCO also signed the Open Letter: Stand with Transgender Community: From NSW Based LGBTIQ+, Legal Rights and Unions, in support of the trans community following the horrific transphobic protests and physical altercations. The WOCO also met with one of the organisers of the events to provide full support of the cause and to raise awareness of the current transphobia. This May the WOCO also held elections for the convenor position and events director position resulting in a successful nomination. Ultimately, this month the WOCO has continued to work on better student wellbeing at UTS whilst showing support for a wider community.

Joy Xu International Students Officer's Report

In May 2023, our collective showed small growth in members number and social media. We currently have 305 members within the collective, 8 new members signed up since last OB report. For social media, we have 79 followers on Instagram where we constantly post relevant event and information for international students.

We have also updated our member lists and started to engage the collective through email. We sent out our first email on calling for collective meeting and going to elect a convenor within the elective on Monday 29 th May 2023 7 pm through zoom. Since this is final exam period, we would not hold high expectation this is going to be a success one. However, we will be keeping trying to meet with members in the following months. It is worth to mentioning few small challenges when engaging with members through email:

1. We have at least 13 undelivered emails and it is highly likely they provided incorrect email address. We do not seem to have their mobile numbers so we could not contact them in any other way. This could be improved by future sign ups where they could be required to put their mobile number when signing up as a member.
2. Due to sending limits, we need to send 4 four separate emails to cover all the members. This increases the chances on error and inefficiency.

What we want to see in the future is more collective events for international cohort and more partnership opportunity coming up. We have received few partnership proposal from other collectives as well and we are intend to collaborate with them in the following months.

Bailey Riley Indigenous Officer's Report

Not received

Laura Currie Postgraduate Officer's Report

In the past few months elected as postgraduate officer, I have liaised with many academics, postgraduate students, as well as other staff members regarding the well-being and status of

campus facilities and care offered. I have liaised with graduate school of research and acting deputy dean to communicate some struggles and suggestions for postgraduate students and how we can work together to improve the well-being of postgraduate students, as well as promoting facilities here at UTS that a lot of postgrads are unaware of such as the GRS lounge in building 1 with numerous facilities for studying and meetings. Furthermore, giving re-assurance to PhD students that we will keep up-to-date with stipend increases especially with the new petition that has gone around to seek for an increase of stipend to a minimum wage, and aim ensure that UTS students receive funding that is within the range of other university standards. Furthermore, will be working towards showcasing the works of postgraduate students in a newspaper/tabloid form here at UTS to encourage postgrads and researchers to submit their publications/artwork/major projects and be able to showcase that to their peers and the university. Lastly, spreading the word of the existence of a postgraduate collective as a lot of people don't know about it, which has been done through creating a collective with fellow postgrads here in science. However, I endeavour to find other ways to promote it to other postgraduate faculties for spring to expand the collective even further.

Arjeez Slamang Ethnocultural Officer's Report

Not received

George Pond Disabilities Officer's Report

Not received

Sara Chaturvedi Queer Officer's Report

This month, the collective began to work with our new Convenor and social media Officer. We held social events to help members decompress from the stress of exam season, which members enjoyed a lot! Recently, Queer community groups and civil rights organisers such as Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) and Pride and Protest have been organising a network of activists named the Rainbow Rights Coalition in order to address rising hate sentiment and queerphobia. I met with Mia and Aylin to discuss possible steps we can take to promote the Coalition's upcoming rally on the 25th of June to students within and outside of the collectives. We have plans to release a statement supporting the rally and poster for the event around campus. The Coalition would appreciate UTS's support with its upcoming campaigns. Our clothing-swap event held alongside batyr, CSJI and FESS turned out a success, with many members being able to obtain gender-affirming clothing for free. The stall ended up closing early after stock was exhausted, which is a fantastic success.

Boris Tam Environment Officer's Report

Not received

Vertigo Team's Report

Not received

Collated Motions

8.1 Dismissal of General Councillor

Preamble

An essential duty of Councillors of the UTSSA is to attend meetings, contribute to the discussion of the Council and oversee the operation of the Association. Failing to attend is a grievous breach of the most important responsibility of a Councillor. This is illustrated by the fact that the first responsibility of Councillors listed in the *Constitution* is to attend all meetings of the SRC (Article 5.1).

It is impossible for Councillors to fulfill their undertaken responsibilities, listed in Article 5.3 of the *Constitution*, if they fail to attend.

Actions

1. That the UTSSA notes Councillor Paniora Nukunuku has failed to attend, without apology, more than three meetings of the UTSSA.
2. That the UTSSA moves to dismiss Councillor Paniora Nukunuku in accordance with section 11 of the *By-Laws*.
3. That the UTSSA will contact the 2022 Returning Officer, Phillip Binns, and will fill the casual vacancy in accordance with section 15.1 of the *Election Regulations*.

8.2 Social Media Officer

Preamble

Developing quality social media content is crucial for success in the digital space. A social media officer can create compelling and relevant content tailored directly to our target audience, even further they can provide powerful advertising tools to reach specific demographics and target markets. We also need to stay competitive in today's digital age, and having a strong

social media presence is crucial in achieving that. We've seen many organisations within UTS (e.g ActivateUTS, UTSLibrary, Careers, UTSHelps ...) leverage social media to secure larger audiences and a better connection within the student body.

This person will gather new, fresh and engaging content for our social media platforms. This role includes editing content, scheduling post, and capturing different student lead events such as Orientation Day and Collective events. This person will have high aptitude for storytelling through expert photography, editing and short form video creation, all with a strong student voice.

The purpose of this position will be (and not limited to):

- Creation, production and editing of imagery and video content for assets, social media posts (including stories);
- Writing of copy for social media posts;
- Shooting, editing and producing video content for blogs and TikTok;;
- Management of all group social media accounts (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, (TikTok?)), including DM and comment replies;
- Weekly reporting and analysis on the performance of content across digital channels, demonstrating growth and engagement;
- Alignment of all the above in relation to the overarching organisational/brand strategy.

The specific role of this position will also be dictated and aligned with the Vertigo Research feedback on what Student Media should be.

This position would be paid at \$35 an hour, and rostered on for 5 hours a week.

Actions

- That the UTSSA supports the hiring of a Social Media Officer for a pilot period, in spring.
- That the UTSSA approves an upper spending limit of \$6000 towards the hiring of a Social Media Officer.
- That the UTSSA, its Executive Members, Office Bearers and General Councillors work in conjunction with the Social Media Officer to achieve effective meaningful content.

8.3 WoCo Elections

Motion:

That the UTSSA confirm Bridie O'Kelly as the Womens Collective Convenor for 2023 and confirm Mariam Yassine as the Womens Collective Events Director for 2023.

8.4 Welfare Elections

That the UTSSA confirms Saihej Singh as the Welfare Collective Convenor for 2023

8.5 NUS Education Conference

Preamble:

EdCon is being held from the 26th to the 29th of June in Queensland, and it is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about student facing policies. The theme this year is “Welfare not Warfare: fighting against war and inequality”

This year EdCon takes place in the context of hundreds of billions being spent on AUKUS, while student feeds remain high and welfare payments are low ... from mental health support to affordable housing, financial assistance to inclusive campuses, this conference is a platform for sharing experiences, amplifying voices, and driving change.

Actions:

- That the UTSSA allows for the current Executive (President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, and Welfare Officer) to be afforded the opportunity to attend EdCon. If an Executive cannot attend, they can proxy a UTS student to attend on their behalf.
- That the Executive each select one delegate who is a current UTS student to be afforded the opportunity to attend EdCon (totalling 4), with both the Executive Member and Delegate emailing the Executive Officer and President to confirm before the Education Conference.
- That the UTSSA allows for 2 SRC members to be afforded the opportunity to attend EdCon in place of the Education Officer and Delegate, by nominating from the floor.
- That the UTSSA pays the \$140 registration of the 10 members directly and to reimburse flights, upon return, with an upper limit of \$200 per person and accommodation with an upper limit of \$300 per person.

8.6 Fair Payment for Student Placement!

Preamble

As students in social work and teaching programs in NSW and across Australia, we are writing to express our concern about the mandatory requirement of *unpaid* placements in our fields. We believe that unpaid placements not only exploit student labor but also violate the codes of ethics of both social work and teaching professions.

The Australian Association of Social Workers' (AASW) Code of Ethics states that social

workers should maintain “acceptable working conditions” (7.2.6) and that professional relationships between social workers and students on placement should be “constructive and non-exploitative” (9.1.5). Despite these ethical standards, the AASW requires that all social work students in Australia complete 1000 hours of unpaid work, often alongside study and regular employment.

Similarly, the National Professional Standards for Teachers, developed and maintained by NESA, recognise that “a teacher’s effectiveness has a powerful impact on students” and that “improving teacher quality is considered an essential reform” (p. 2). Yet, pre-service teachers are expected to complete between over 500 unpaid hours of mandatory placement in the final years of their degree, alongside study requirements and necessary paid work. Without fair pay for hours worked, these professional placement arrangements are exploitative and harmful. Unpaid placements also prohibit the decolonisation of social work and teaching professions. This is particularly concerning for Indigenous peoples who have been impacted by the ongoing effects of colonisation, as well as for migrant communities who may face additional language, cultural and especially financial barriers to studying and working in Australia.

Furthermore, requiring students to work hundreds of hours on placement without pay or compensation disproportionately impacts students from marginalised communities who may not have the financial resources to support themselves while working for free (Gibson & Anantharaman, 2018; Lawless & Anderson, 2019). This perpetuates systemic inequalities and undermines efforts to create a more diverse and equitable workforce.

Actions

1. That the UTSSA signs and unwaveringly supports this campaign
2. That the UTSSA continually engages with UnionsNSW in ensuring Fair Payment for Student Placements! actuates into real policy

8.7 Solidarity with Sudan

Preamble

The ongoing political and economic instability, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, have caused immense suffering for the Sudanese people. Inflation, food shortages, limited access to banks and the internet have worsened the situation. Recent violence between the military and the Rapid Support Force militia has resulted in numerous casualties, displacements, and destruction.

The devastating impact of this crisis has left countless innocent lives lost, homes destroyed, and the country in turmoil. Basic necessities such as medical supplies, electricity, and water have

become scarce, leaving millions trapped in their homes. The situation is forcing families to flee and seek refuge in neighboring countries, with no certainty of when they can return home. It is important to recognize that this is not a civil war but rather a power struggle driven by the egos of two men and foreign influence seeking control over Sudan's valuable resources, while disregarding the well-being of its citizens.

Addressing this crisis requires urgent action, and the UTSSA is needs to express its solidarity with the people of Sudan. The media's focus on evacuating diplomats while overlooking the scale of the crisis faced by the Sudanese people is disheartening but not surprising.

The UTSSA is committed to amplifying the voices of those most affected by the crisis and acknowledges the significance of advocacy in this regard. Furthermore, the UTSSA urges the Australian Government and the international community to swiftly intervene and provide immediate support to the people of Sudan, working towards a peaceful resolution to the ongoing crisis.

Actions

1. That the UTSSA stands in solidarity with the Sudanese community and calls for an end of the war in Sudan
2. That the UTSSA calls on the Australian government to provide safe passage for citizens in Sudan as well as providing humanitarian based visas for non-citizens
3. That the UTSSA condemns the military and rapid support forces militia and their attempts to destabilise civilian rule, and maintains that a legitimate Sudanese government is a civilian led one.

8.8 Universal 11:59PM Submission Times

Preamble

Universal 11:59pm submission times would help ease pressure on university students, particularly those who work, as 12pm, 5pm and other submission times between standard working hours unnecessarily disadvantage working students.

The common implication that students should just prioritise their university studies and ensure it does not conflict with work is quite a privileged view, specifically given the current cost of living crisis leaving students struggling to support themselves. This is a very easy step that can significantly reduce the stress of working university students.

Actions

- That the UTSSA supports standardising 11:59pm submission times for all digital hand-in assessment tasks

- That the UTSSA empowers the President, Nour, to speak with UTS' Deputy Vice Chancellor, Kylie, and at the Teaching and Learning Committee to advocate for universal 11:59pm submission times.

8.9 5 Day Simple Extensions

Preamble

As it stands, the process for requesting extensions are needlessly overcomplicated and are inconsistent across faculties. This is widely inequitable for students, as some may have an easier time obtaining an extension over others who do not. For Instance, particular faculties such as Law/Business require extensive proof (e.g. Doctor's Certificate) overcomplicated obstacles to even obtain a chance at getting an extension - whereas some other faculties just require a direct email to a Subject Coordinator without any proof to be granted an extension. These issues are only compounded further by issues such shortages of GP Bulk Billing, the lack of access to mental health care, and cost of Living pressures that significantly limit a student's ability to obtain evidence to be granted extensions.

Therefore, it is suggested that UTS is pushed to adopt/transition towards a '5-day simple extension' protocol, modelled after what has been recently adopted by USyd (Simple extensions - The University of Sydney, What you need to know about five day simple extensions - The University of Sydney) in August 2022. The simple extension process shifted the extension time from two days without having to apply for special consideration - to five days instead, and does not require supporting evidence such as a medical certificate. The Simple extension process clearly defines a universal, easy way to applying for an extension across different faculties, and has outlined steps for 'Non-Assignments' and 'Assignment' tasks.

Actions

~~- That the UTSSA supports and will lobby UTS to develop and implement a University-wide 'Simple Extension program' modelled after what is being used at the University of Sydney.~~

- That the UTSSA supports and will lobby UTS to develop and implement a University-wide 'Simple Extension program' modelled after the UTS Communications Faculty.

8.10 Trans Rights are Human Rights

Motion: That the UTSSA endorses the upcoming rally Trans Rights Rally on the 25th of June led by the Rainbow Rights Coalition.

Preamble: *This rally is led by the Rainbow Rights Coalition which is an activist network of LGBTQIA+ unions and civil rights groups in Sydney. This event has the potential to be big and it would be incredible to get UTS on board with the movement.*

Action:

1. Endorse and promote the Rainbow Rights Coalition
2. Share event details for rally on UTSSA social media
3. Share content made by collectives in regard to this event.

8.11 Financial Report

Motion: That the UTSSA notes the circulated audit report as a true and accurate record of the UTSSA finances and consistent with the requirements of the constitution.

