

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies and Proxies
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Accept February Minutes
6. Office Bearer Reports
7. Constitutional Change
8. Coronavirus Plan
9. Election Regulations
10. Wome*n's Officer Stipend
11. Staff Costs
12. Collective Motions
13. Removal of Prayer Spaces
14. Zoom Reimbursement
15. General Business

ATTENDANCE

Number	NAME	POSITION
1.	Sam Silcock	President
2.	Miranda Crossley	Secretary
3.	Erin Dalton	Education Vice-President
4.	Tallulah Watson Moyle	Treasurer
5.	Aidan O'Rourke	Assistant Secretary
6.	Harrison White	General Councillor
7.	Melodie Grafton	General Councillor
8.	Mansingh Jatav	Overseas Officer
9.	Bella Forti	Women's Officer
10.	Mariah Brown	Executive Officer
11.	Mehmet Musa	Observer
12.	Karen Ha	Observer
13.	Josh Hernandez	Enviro Officer
14.	Kurt Cheng	Markets Campus Convenor
15.	Biljana O'Connor	Marketing
16.	Ahmad Mohammad	General Councillor
17.	Ahmed Ferkh	Welfare Officer
18.	Harrison White	General Councillor
19.	Mark Chew	Observer
20.	Melissa Sukkarieh	Queer Officer/Councillor
21.	Shaheen Boaz	Observer
22.	Juneyt Cihan	General Councillor
23.	Josh Logue (arrived 6:21pm)	General Councillor
24.	Jeylan Riza	General Councillor
25.	Antara N	Observer

23-03-2020 MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

Meeting opened at 6:06pm on the 23rd of March 2020 via Zoom

2. Acknowledgement of Country

President delivers Acknowledgement of Country

3. Apologies and Proxies

Aiden Moore proxies to 1. Bella Forti and 2. Harrison White

Bella accepts

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

Tallulah Accepts

Shlok Kumar proxies to 1. Juneyt Cihan, 2. Ahmad Muhammad and 3. Miranda Crossley

Juneyt accepts

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

5. Approval of February Minutes

Motion to accept the February Minutes as a true and accurate record

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Kurt Cheng

Motion carried unanimously

6. Office Bearer Reports

President delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Education Vice President delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Secretary delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Treasurer delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Assistant Secretary delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Women's Officer delivers officer bearer report (encl.)

Welfare officer did not submit report in time but orally highlights progress over the past month

7. Constitutional Change

7.1. Amendment 1

Clause 14.4 (a) (vi) to be changed from “any matter referred to it by the SRC (by majority resolution), by the Executive (by majority resolution), or at the request of a personnel committee comprised of University staff” to read “ any matter referred to it by the SRC (by majority resolution), by the Executive (by majority resolution), or at the request of a personnel committee comprised of Association staff”.

- Discussion regarding the wording and what the original intentions of this clause were.
- The immediate past president stated it was his personal intention to have matters referred to the Grievance committee by association staff not university staff

Motion to accept changes in Amendment 1

Moved by: Kurt Cheng

Seconded by: Bella Forti

Motion carried unanimously

7.2. Amendment 2

Clause 4.1 (i) to be changed from “all general members” to read “14 general members”.

- Clarification and discussion about why the amendment is necessary

Motion to accept changes in Amendment 2

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Kurt Cheng

Motion carried unanimously

8. Coronavirus Plan

- President summarises the motions passed at exec meeting regarding the coronavirus plan
- Overseas officer asks about UTS Housing. EVP clarifies some of the rules placed by Yura Mudang

Motion to action the following:

- From Tuesday 17th of March, the UTS Students’ Association doors will be closed and all physical interactions with students will be ceased, implementing online strategies alongside work from home measures for all of our staff and student representatives in order to respond to the current health crisis we’re facing.
- We ask for patience from students in accessing of our services is appreciated as we test new ways of ensuring that we can operate without endangering staff or students within the Students’ Association.
- We demand that any staff on the University campus do not end up with less pay or leave due to the outbreak.

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Kurt Cheng

Motion carried unanimously

9. *Election Regulations*

- President outlines the two financial options for new election regulations to be amended/written by King & Wood Mallesons
 - \$13,000-\$15,000 – necessary cost to update the election regulations to new constitution
 - \$25,000-\$27,000 – for completely new election regulations
- Framework of current regulations are presumably sound, and most discussion revolves around support of the \$13,000-\$15,000 option.
- Prospect of online elections being necessary is flagged. However, it is outlined by the President that online elections should only be in place in the instances of COVID-19 and should not be ongoing.

Motion to approve the rewriting of our current election regulations by KWM, and to pass an initial fee of \$13,000

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Kurt Cheng

Motion carried unanimously

10. *Women's Officer Stipend (encl.)*

Motion for Bella Forti to receive the standard stipend of \$3705.00 for the year as Wom*n's Officer

Moved by: Miranda Crossley

Seconded by: Tallulah Watson Moyle

*All vote in favour of the motion. However no interest was declared so Motion is to be tabled.

11. *Staff Costs (encl.)*

- President gives background as to why this is necessary

Motion to approve \$564.75 (total) per month starting from March 2020 while the UTSSA Reception is closed.

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Kurt Cheng

Motion carried unanimously

12. *Collective Motions (encl.)*

12.1.

- Discussion in how it applies to collectives with no convenors

Motion to amend Clause 1 of the “UTS Students’ Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020” from “Collective shall internally elect a Convenor to assist in the internal running of the Collective and may have access to the email list of the Collective” to “*Collective shall internally elect a Convenor to assist in the internal running of the Collective and that Convenor like the Office-Bearer, will have access to the official Collective email*”.

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Melissa Sukkarieh

Motion carried unanimously

12.2.

- Discussion ensued, largely in favour of this motion.
- The ethnocultural office bearer raised queries as to the scope of autonomy in relation to when an individual is deemed to part of that autonomous collective.
- EVP stated that autonomy is the right to self-identify unless there is a higher belief among SRC that the person may not be of that identity group.

Motion to amend clause 2.1 of UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020" from "If that Collective is autonomous, only those members of that collective may attend meetings", to "*If that Collective is autonomous, only those members of the associated identity group of the particular Collective may attend meetings*".

Moved by: Mansingh Jatav

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried by unanimously

12.3.

Motion to add clause 2.2 to the UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020 being: 2.2 " *A Collective which is autonomous may decide by way of motion which events run by the Collective are free for everyone to attend but this precludes Collective meetings and elections which may only be attended by those members of the associated identity group of the particular Collective*".

Moved by: Bella Forti

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

12.4.

Motion to add clause 3.3 to the UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020 being: 3.3 "*Whilst adhering to the items in Clause 3, 3.1 and 3.2, the Collective should by way of motion decide on the time and date of the next Collective meeting at a previous meeting*".

Amendment: "*Whilst adhering to the items in Clause 3, 3.1 and 3.2, the Collective should by way of motion decide on the times and dates of the Collective meetings at a previous meeting*".

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Melissa Sukkarieh

Amendment carried unanimously

Motion to move: "*Whilst adhering to the items in Clause 3, 3.1 and 3.2, the Collective should by way of motion decide on the times and dates of the Collective meetings at a previous meeting*".

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Melodie Grafton

Motion carried unanimously

13. Removal of Prayer Spaces

Preamble

(1) This motion notes that:

(a) The chaplaincy has told the UTS Muslim Society executives that the executives on the UTS board are deciding to move the entire Multifaith Department from Building 3 Level 5, to the UTS Haymarket in Building 5, in the STUVAC of the Autumn session 2020. This includes the moving of prayer spaces.

(b) The move highly undesirable for Muslim students for multiple reasons.

(i) The prayer room in CB05 will be far from the main campus, where majority of UTS students have their classes, and since Muslims must pray five obligatory prayers daily, the move may mean they will be unable to pray in the prayer room since they won't have enough time in between classes to catch their prayer. This could possibly lead to Muslim Students praying in awkward places around campus, or not being able to pray at all.

(ii) Muslim students have also noted that the far proximity of a prayer space in CB05 makes them feel a sense of neglect from the University.

(iii) The current prayer spaces have both a storeroom and a kitchen in its proximity and moving the prayer space would possibly mean a downgrade, considering that the University has downgraded prayer spaces for the Muslims in the past.

(iv) It is also anticipated that the move will mean a smaller prayer room, and thus it will be difficult to have big enough spaces for both the women and men, considering gender segregation is necessary during prayer.

(v) The move is said to be temporary, however the current prayer space was also promised to be temporary despite being operational for 4 years, and Muslim students are uncertain by how long this move will be.

(vi) The move will be conducted in STUVAC, which lies in the month of Ramadan, and the Muslim Society will be burdened with making the move, in the month where they should be focused on worship.

Motion:

(2) This motion calls for the UTS Students' Association to, by any means necessary, lobby the university and campaign to stop the move of both Christian and Muslim prayer rooms to CB05.

(3) This motion also calls on the UTS Students' Association to demand more transparency from the university about the move.

(4) The UTS Students' Association executive and SRC acknowledges the Welfare campaign that is being moved in respect to prayer spaces and will work with the Welfare collective on this campaign and in conjunction with and at the discretion of the welfare collective, negotiate with management on this matter.

(5) This motion calls for UTS management to provide 2 prayer spaces in building 1 or 2 for male and female Muslim students' and a separate multifaith meeting room that can be used by everyone with a capacity of roughly 60-80 people. This room should have a projector, white board and a storage space for Chaplains and a kitchen nearby or attached

- Discussion ensues about specifics of the suggested moves particularly in location.
- Ethnocultural convenor suggests cross collective organizational support from ethnocultural collective.
- Discussion about potentially consulting Gender Diverse Muslim students about prayer spaces,

Motion for the SRC to endorse the Welfare Motion

Moved by: Ahmad Mohammad

Seconded by: Juneyt Cihan

Motion carried unanimously

14. Zoom Reimbursement

Motion to reimburse Samuel Silcock \$18.47 for a month subscription of Zoom software.

Moved by: Bella Forti

Seconded by: Melissa Sukkarieh

Motion carried unanimously

15. General business

Ethnocultural office bearer and EVP discuss extended census dates and pass/fail.

Overseas officer raises issues about UTS not replying to student queries by email. President raises the need for patience particularly in these uncertain times, indicating UTS will have high volume of emails to reply to.

Discussion in favour of Council supporting the NUS Campaign, about raising the rates for students (pressuring the Morrison Government to increase Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY and AUSTUDY in part of the COVID-19 stimulus).

Meeting closed 8:03pm Monday 23rd March 2020.

Presidents Report

The last week or so has seen a lot of recent changes towards the practices of running the Students' Association. As we are going through a time of global crisis it has become necessary for us to pursue new options to protect both staff and students and create a safe environment. In the last week we closed the physical side of the Students' Association – we closed the doors and set up our reception desk online, over the phone caseworker experiences and made sure that all staff would be able to work from home whenever possible.

As we actioned this shutdown procedure, the University campus also cancelled classes for a week as I'm sure you all know and we will know a lot more in the coming days regarding how the University plans to transition to enable social distancing precautions at all times. Our organisation will only become increasingly relevant as I'm sure you would've all seen so many students are worried about the current situation of our educations – thus we will need to all make sure we're engaged with all the issues of our fellow students and try our best to report these to the management of the University to hold them accountable.

It will be necessary for our organisation to also find new ways of branching out and making our organisation useful to students so it would be great if any representatives have new ideas for services that we might be able to provide to students while also ensuring social distancing. This is especially necessary since BlueBird and NightOwl will not be able to run for the semester and we need to ensure our resources are still being used to assist students in their university lives.

Education Vice President's Report

This past month has been quite challenging for the UTSSA as a whole. With the escalating impacts of COVID-19 on many aspects of Australian life, we've been put into a very difficult position as a student representative organisation. At the beginning of this month, I was able to attend a meeting of the university's Management of Learning Spaces Committee as a representative of the UTSSA. At that meeting, one of the items that was discussed was the university's plans surrounding managing the impact of COVID-19 on teaching and learning at UTS over the next few sessions and mitigating the impacts on space and class timetabling that would be inevitable. Since that meeting, the university has taken drastic action, resulting in a weeklong shutdown and a transition towards online-only engagement for a majority of students. There are a number of subjects that have been cancelled completely however, and all students at the university are in the situation of having the subjects that they have enrolled in undergoing drastic change. Ultimately, I feel like this, alongside the somewhat rushed conversion of our subjects, classes, and assessments to an online model, will have huge negative impacts on students' abilities to achieve strong results across this session. As a result, I will be attempting to meet with the university around the extension of the census date, as well as the possibility of moving to a simple pass/fail grade system, with fails not recorded on transcripts, a model that a number of other universities are adopting. I would also like to push for UTS to take their interim measures around lecture recordings to become an ongoing commitment. Lecture recordings are vital even when students are able to attend face-to-face teaching, and they must be mandatory across the board.

Separate to this significant set of changes, I raised the issues brought to me around the changes to Building 5 opening hours at the MLS Committee meeting. I was informed that UTS intends to provide space in Building 2 for the Queer and Womens' Collective safe spaces and that in the interim, they will be locating a room for use of students as a safe space when other buildings are closed. Unfortunately, I am unsure as to when this is likely to be implemented, but I will be following up with relevant parties. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or wish to be further involved, please talk to me in person or get in contact with me at education@utsstudentsassociation.org.au.

Thank you,

Erin Dalton

Education Vice-President

Secretary's report

I know I don't need to go into detail about the current crisis that we are in. Unsurprisingly this crisis has had impacts on the Students' Association. Night Owl and Bluebird of course cannot be online unlike our other services and can unfortunately not continue in these circumstances. I'm sure we are all struggling with the impacts of COVID-19. I think it is important that as the Association for students and by students we take it upon ourselves to support students in any and every way we can. Probably many of you will be aware that there has been no increase in the income support for Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY or AUSTUDY, even though there is an increase for workers such as increasing Newstart. I believe that we should, for the sake of UTS' students as well as students across the country, join the campaign to increase welfare payments for students.

Despite all the problems and restraints that COVID-19 is having on UTS I believe there has been success in transitioning to online lectures proving that online lectures are feasible for most if not all subjects. I hope that this is able to continue even after there are no more cases of Coronavirus.

For this past month, most of my work has been able to continue as usual. But a significant amount of work went into transitioning what we can to online. We are fortunate that we are all able to conduct this meeting online today. Please forgive us if any issues arise in this meeting as a result. It's all quite new but I appreciate everyone's patience and adaptability in these difficult and rapidly changing times. Any concerns or suggestions are most welcome.

Treasurer's report

March was a stressful month, to say the least. Semester came back for the year but did not last long. By Week 2, the growing presence of COVID-19 in Australia and especially Sydney forced the university to pause all coursework. The team and I had to quickly decide whether to close the Students Association in the university's stead or take the risk in keeping it open. For the safety of our team, the staff, and the students we took the sensible approach of closing until further notice. It is better to be safe than sorry, after all. While our office is closed for the time being, we are continuing to function remotely and virtually.

A few of our biggest recent expenses have been the printing of the first Vertigo edition for the year, purchases for O'Day including the stalls from Activate and food for collectives, and reimbursements for conferences like the National Editors and Writers (NEWS) conference and the National Union of Students annual conference, more commonly known as NatCon, that was held towards the end of last year.

Looking forward with the coming weeks being unknown and somewhat scary for many, we are learning to work online both with the university and as an independent association. This has been a challenge but one that we are committed to because our lives cannot halt for long and show business must go on. I hope that April will bring us more positivity and that everyone stays safe and healthy.

Assistant Secretary's Report

To continue tonight's theme, the COVID-19 crisis has stalled the work which many at UTSSA sought to achieve, including myself. My intention this month, per my last Office Bearer's report, was to develop a policy handbook for the Association utilising motions in past minutes and other materials. While I have access to some minutes online, the remainder are in hardcopy form or otherwise inaccessible from home. This makes synthesising policy incredibly difficult. Due to efforts to practise social distancing protocols and limit potential contact with carriers, I have not been able to access the aforementioned minutes and materials. I intend to begin the process of collating the required materials as soon as possible.

Otherwise, I have exercised my role on the executive through our meetings which have been extensive and rigorous, noting our decision earlier in the week to close the doors of the association.

More broadly, I have concerns about how the university intends to manage lessons in the COVID-19-age. Particularly, the shift to online courses. My concerns include the effectiveness of online lessons, access to student welfare initiatives and services, the value for money, and the disconnect of students from further learning resources and materials. I think it is our role to be an effective check and balance on the university to ensure that they make any transition to an online learning platform in these hard circumstances be as fair and as scrutinised as possible.

Further, I would direct councillors to the work the National Union of Students (NUS) are doing at the moment regarding the lack-lustre response to COVID-19 from Scott Morrison and his government. If councillors can attempt to involve themselves in those campaigns in solidarity. This can simply mean liking and sharing posts.

On a lighter note, I hope everyone is feeling well and practising social distancing where they can. Further, I hope that the coming month will be as positive as possible in this difficult circumstances.

Wom*n's Office Bearer Report

This past month has been quite turbulent and uncertain due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the panic accompanying it. However, we started the month off with the international Wom*n's Day rally on the 7th of March, which a few members were able to attend.

I also attended the Respect Now Always 'expert working session' on the 10th to discuss the work that had been done up to this point, offer feedback, review methods of implementing their recommendations etc.

I offered a few suggestions related to accessibility - training should be offered in various ways e.g. In person and online to allow people access to the training and higher quality training, it should also cover many things i.e. Consent, vicarious trauma, the bystander effect etc. And finally, should be offered in multiple languages.

UTS has a high concentration of international students and they should be actively thought of when it comes to this, they should know their responsibilities, as well as their rights as everyone else should.

We also held our first meeting where we discussed the origins of IWD, and what it means, and has meant in the past. In the meeting we discussed the concept of making a mini zine that we would hand out at Session two's clubs day, this would be a collection of works of our members, art, photography, poems, articles, stories, etc. We have already received interest from 5 members.

Unfortunately, we cancelled our second meeting due to the announcement of the cancelling of classes for week 2, and we are planning to continue on to have zoom meetings for the rest of semester.

Agenda item 10.

Motion

Preamble

The role of Wom*n's Officer is entitled to receive a standard stipend of \$3705.00 for their time as Wom*n's Officer.

As Wom*n's Officer up to this point I have fulfilled all of my roles and responsibilities as well as maintained a fairly active collective, Dana and I work quite closely in planning and facilitating the collective to be strong and to serve its purpose.

Receiving the stipend will allow me to dedicate a bit more of my time to the collective and planning side of things.

Stipend Motion

Bella Forti to receive the standard stipend of \$3705.00 for the year as Wom*n's Officer

Agenda Item 11.

Staff Costs – to continue reception work remotely

Preamble:

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, UTSSA reception was closed and therefore the receptionists are unable to work on the desktop. Two laptops are requested to be hired for use of email, calendar management, word processing and internet access by the two UTSSA receptionists. Below are the requirements:

- Ability to access internet via broadband connection and a mobile hot-spot/tethering connection
- Separate mouse
- USB port
- Easy to use
- Possibly Microsoft office - Outlook, word, Excel, Teams
- Basic Lenovo computer

The laptops are quoted at \$564.75 (for both) per month.

Motion to approve \$564.75 (total) per month starting from March 2020 while the UTSSA Reception is closed.

Agenda Item 12.

Motions regarding UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020

Motion to amend Clause 1 of the "UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020" from "Collective shall internally elect a Convenor to assist in the internal running of the Collective and may have access to the email list of the Collective" to ***"Collective shall internally elect a Convenor to assist in the internal running of the Collective and that Convenor like the Office-Bearer, will have access to the official Collective email"***.

Motion to amend clause 2.1 of UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020" from "If that Collective is autonomous, only those members of that collective may attend meetings", to ***"If that Collective is autonomous, only those members of the associated identity group of the particular Collective may attend meetings"***.

Motion to add clause 2.2 to the UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020 being: 2.2 ***" A Collective which is autonomous may decide by way of motion which events run by the Collective are free for everyone to attend but this precludes Collective meetings and elections which may only be attended by those members of the associated identity group of the particular Collective"***.

Motion to add clause 3.3 to the UTS Students' Association Collective Meeting and Election Rules - 6/02/2020 being: 3.3 ***"Whilst adhering to the items in Clause 3, 3.1 and 3.2, the Collective should by way of motion decide on the time and date of the next Collective meeting at a previous meeting"***.

Agenda Item 13.

Motion to prevent the move of prayer spaces:

(As amended by the UTS Welfare Collective on 17.03.2020)

Preamble

(1) This motion notes that:

(a) The chaplaincy has told the UTS Muslim Society executives that the executives on the UTS board are deciding to move the entire Multifaith Department from Building 3 Level 5, to the UTS Haymarket in Building 5, in the STUVAC of the Autumn session 2020. This includes the moving of prayer spaces.

(b) The move highly undesirable for Muslim students for multiple reasons.

(i) The prayer room in CB05 will be far from the main campus, where majority of UTS students have their classes, and since Muslims must pray five obligatory prayers daily, the move may mean they will be unable to pray in the prayer room since they won't have enough time in between classes to catch their prayer. This could possibly lead to Muslim Students praying in awkward places around campus, or not being able to pray at all.

(ii) Muslim students have also noted that the far proximity of a prayer space in CB05 makes them feel a sense of neglect from the University.

(iii) The current prayer spaces have both a storeroom and a kitchen in its proximity and moving the prayer space would possibly mean a downgrade, considering that the University has downgraded prayer spaces for the Muslims in the past.

(iv) It is also anticipated that the move will mean a smaller prayer room, and thus it will be difficult to have big enough spaces for both the women and men, considering gender segregation is necessary during prayer.

(v) The move is said to be temporary, however the current prayer space was also promised to be temporary despite being operational for 4 years, and Muslim students are uncertain by how long this move will be.

(vi) The move will be conducted in STUVAC, which lies in the month of Ramadan, and the Muslim Society will be burdened with making the move, in the month where they should be focused on worship.

Motion:

(2) This motion calls for the UTS Students' Association to, by any means necessary, lobby the university and campaign to stop the move of both Christian and Muslim prayer rooms to CB05.

(3) This motion also calls on the UTS Students' Association to demand more transparency from the university about the move.

(4) The UTS Students' Association executive and SRC acknowledges the Welfare campaign that is being moved in respect to prayer spaces and will work with the Welfare collective on this campaign and in conjunction with and at the discretion of the welfare collective, negotiate with management on this matter.

(5) This motion calls for UTS management to provide 2 prayer spaces in building 1 or 2 for male and female Muslim students' and a separate multifaith meeting room that can be used by everyone with a capacity of roughly 60-80 people. This room should have a projector, white board and a storage space for Chaplains and a kitchen nearby or attached.