

SRC MEETING

17th July 2020

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies and Proxies
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Accept June Minutes
6. Office Bearer Reports (encl.)
7. Online Elections (encl.)
8. Collective Promotion Video (encl.)
9. Amendments to Collective meeting and election rules (encl.)
10. Raise the rate (encl.)
11. General Business

ATTENDANCE

	NAME	POSITION
1.	Ahmed Ferkh	Welfare Officer
2.	Aidan O'Rourke	Assistant Secretary
3.	Bella Forti	Wom*n's Officer
4.	Biljana O'Connor	Marketing Manager
5.	Christina Markovska	Caseworker
6.	Erin Dalton	Education Vice-President
7.	Fran Dougenis	SA Reception
8.	Josh Logue	Councillor
9.	Juneyt Cihan	Councillor
10.	Mariah Brown	Executive Officer
11.	Mehmet Musa	Observer
12.	Melissa Sukkarieh	Queer Officer/Councillor
13.	Melodie Grafton	General Councillor
14.	Miranda Crossley	Secretary
15.	Sam Silcock	President
16.	Shlok Kumar	General Councillor
17.	Tallulah Watson Moyle	Treasurer

17-07-2020 MINUTES

1. *Opening of the meeting*

Meeting opened at 5:39pm on the 17th July via Zoom

2. *Acknowledgement of Country*

President delivers Acknowledgement of Country

3. *Apologies and Proxies*

Jeylan Riza proxies to 1. Juneyt Cihan and 2. Tallulah Watson Moyle

Junejt accepts

Ahmad Mohamed proxies to 1. Aidan O'Rourke

Aidan accepts

Tallulah Watson Moyle proxies to 1. Josh Logue and 2. Shlock Kumar

Josh accepts

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

Harrison accepts

Kurt Cheng submits apology (after cutoff)

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Approval of June SRC Minutes

Motion to accept the June SRC Minutes as a true and accurate record

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Aidan O'Rourke

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.)

Assistant Secretary delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Wom*n's officer delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Welfare Officer delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Ethnocultural convenor delivers office bearer report (encl.)

Motion to accept Treasurer and Enviro office bearer reports as read (encl.)

Moved by: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

Motion to accept all Officer Bearer reports

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion carried unanimously

7. *Online Elections (encl.)*

Preamble:

We currently find ourselves in an incredibly difficult position in regards to running online elections and we need to make a decision now as to how we will proceed otherwise we will not be able to run the elections within an appropriate timeline. I will write a run down of the only two options I can see to undertake.

The first option is for us to run our elections online through the University’s Governance Support Unit. This will entail being able to have our own independent returning officer who will have somewhat limited oversight of the process, mainly having ability to navigate the nominations, complaints, and, result announcement process, it is worth noting that our Returning Officer used last year may not be available and is worried that he wouldn’t be able to provide a satisfactory role. The other option for Returning Officer would be to use the University Secretary as the Returning Officer who is independent from the University. The software used is a bespoke creation by an individual developer which is almost impossible to edit or make changes to, thus, the use of this software will mean that it is impossible to run voting in list formats (although they can note a ticket alignment next to their name eg. ‘Samuel Silcock – Empower’) and only allows for optional preferential voting. This system would be entirely free to use unless we were to hire our own independent returning officer. This process would also require us to alter our election regulations to alter timings of the election, use of lists, a clause to ensure that the ability to use the online system would lapse after this year, and, potentially more – this of course would be reviewed at the next SRC if this route was taken.

The second option would be to run our own online election platform which at this point will be a stretch to be able to create in time, we will need it to be created and tested to make sure it’s perfect. We should also update our election regulations if we were to go down this route and make it easy for us to use this option for the year with it to default back to physical elections at the end of the year.

GSU Elections		Bigfish elections	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not running election alongside other GSU elections - Marketing through UTS channels - Cheap - System is proven to function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No lists - Loss of independence - Limited oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independence - Less change of rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Costly - May not be able to find a Returning Officer - Difficult to authorize voters - System may not work - Problems will be blamed solely on us

Optional Actions:

- Empower the President to follow up with the University in regards to using their election system and confirm our intent to use it on a short term basis, this will include amending election regulations subject for SRC approval, and, find an independent Returning Officer to run the election process mainly in terms of nominations, complaints, and, announcing results.

- Empower the President to follow up with the University in regards to using their election system and confirm our intent to use it on a short term basis, this will include amending election regulations subject for SRC approval, and, using the University secretary as our Returning Officer

- Empowering Bigfish to create a one off election platform for us to utilise in line with their proposed approach and to pass an upper spending limit of \$16,115 for the creation of this platform

President gives context to the complexities and background of the online elections for the 2021 SRC

- Emphasis that the SA needs ensure it defaults back to 2019's format for the elections in 2021

Open discussion regarding online elections

- Assistant secretary outlines numerous positives and negatives of both GSU and Bigfish, yet states preferences for GSU
- Past president (Mehmet Musa) commends the president's work on researching the options. He emphasises that its sad tickets will not be able to function as usual, but GSU is still preferable.
- EVP ultimately agrees
- President states completely new election regulations are needed
- Consensus that the SA still wants an independent Returning Officer (RO)
- The president outlines
 - The nomination process will be similar to how it functions for in-person elections
- Pre-campaign queries are brought up
 - It will likely only be online
 - The SA will be getting exposure through the UTS mailing list, therefore less need for pre-campaigning in person
 - Campaign will ideally be three days long
- Vertigo will not have a need to print the physical election booklet

Motion to Empower the President to follow up with the University in regards to using their election system and confirm our intent to use it for the 2020 elections only, this will include amending election regulations subject for SRC approval, and, find an independent Returning Officer to run the election process mainly in terms of nominations, complaints, and, announcing results.

Moved by: Erin Dalton
Seconded by: Aidan O'Rourke
Motion carried unanimously

8. Collective Promotion Video

Motion: the UTSSA promotes its collectives

Preamble:

O'Day and Clubs Day have been a great way for collectives to receive publicity and grow their numbers. Due to COVID-19, Clubs Day is not able to occur as it usually would. As many collectives have struggled to

maintain momentum and grow (in the case of smaller collectives), the opportunity should not be missed. Activate is holding a livestream available to their clubs and societies, excluding UTSSA collectives. Furthermore:

- a. It goes against precedent
- b. A photo of collective members and collective logos were used in their advertising.

Action:

1. Every collective shall be afforded the opportunity (if they deem it appropriate) to create a short <30 second video to promote their collective, to be submitted by the 24th of July
2. That these videos (in a combined format) and are to be shared on Students' Association social media

Brief discussion around the motion and collectives

- Secretary clarifies and gives context on the motion
- Marketing manager suggests a \$500 budget for social media advertising
- Addition of action point 3. To read "That the SA approves \$500 for social media advertising and that collectives are encouraged to approve their own advertising budget (to be voted on by the collective)" is amenable to the mover
- Aim is for the video to be compiled and shared on the 27th of July (Facebook and email)

Amended Motion: the UTSSA promotes its collectives

Preamble:

O'Day and Clubs Day have been a great way for collectives to receive publicity and grow their numbers. Due to COVID-19, Clubs Day is not able to occur as it usually would. As many collectives have struggled to maintain momentum and grow (in the case of smaller collectives), the opportunity should not be missed. Activate is holding a livestream available to their clubs and societies, excluding UTSSA collectives. Furthermore:

- a. It goes against precedent
- b. A photo of collective members and collective logos were used in their advertising.

Action:

1. Every collective shall be afforded the opportunity (if they deem it appropriate) to create a short <30 second video to promote their collective, to be submitted by the 24th of July
2. That these videos (in a combined format) and are to be shared on Students' Association social media
3. That the SA approves \$500 for social media advertising and that collectives are encouraged to approve their own advertising budget (to be voted on by the collective)

Moved by: Miranda Crossley

Seconded by: Melodie Grafton

Motion carried unanimously

9. Amendment to collective meeting and election rules

Motion: to amend clause 3 of the collective regulations from 1 week to 5 days' notice.

Motion: to amend clause 3.2 to 'if five days' notice is not provided, the meeting is invalid'.

Motion: to amend clause 3.3 to 'Whilst adhering to the items in Clause 3, 3.1 and 3.2, the Collective should attempt by way of motion to decide on the times and dates of Collective meetings at a previous meeting. If the Collective fails to vote on a time and date for a future meeting, the Collective Office-Bearer or Convenor, whichever comes first, may pick a time and date, having regard to notice requirements, by sending the official email for the next meeting from the Collective email'.

Motion: to remove clause 4.2 all together and change 4.5 to read:

Once the Collective has decided to call an election, a 7-day notice is required to be provided to allow individuals to nominate for the position to the returning officer by email. The Returning Officer shall have their email address provided in the notice email sent by the OB or Convenor of the Collective. The election must meet the quorum requirements stipulated in clause 2 and 2.1.

Motion to move all four amendments on block

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Aidan O'Rourke

Motion carried unanimously

10. Raise the rate

Motion: That the SRC joins the call the raise the rate.

Preamble:

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic those on JobSeeker (formerly Newstart) and Youth Allowance were living on, in the case of the latter, as little as \$33 a day and were forced to rely on support from their families – families strained under the pressures of low wages growth, high underemployment and challenging rises to the cost of living. Students now face the prospect of these conditions again but under the added weight of potentially the deepest recession since at least the early 1980s. Young people at UTS have made the decision to invest in themselves and, by virtue of that decision, in the nation by taking on already expensive university degrees. This Liberal Government should not punish these students who contribute so materially to the economy with a significant cut in their quality of life.

The *Raise the Rate* campaign, organised by the Australian Council of Social Services and endorsed by the NUS National Welfare Officer Ali Amin, is calling for a rise of the base rate of JobSeeker and Youth Allowance above the poverty line to at least \$500/week and ongoing indexation of payments in line with wages. Additionally, barriers to payment like the unfair 'age of independence' test should be eased.

It's time the Liberal Government stopped making poor people poorer.

Platform:

- The UTSSA stands in solidarity with students facing a significant reduction in their quality of life.
- The UTSSA supports actions which call on a increase in the base rate of Youth Allowance and JobSeeker.

Action:

- The UTSSA release a statement on social media supporting the call to raise the rate.
- The UTSSA endorses the raise the rate campaign.

Moved by: Aidan O'Rourke

Seconded: Erin Dalton

Motion carried unanimously

11. General Business

Motion to discuss the Stop the Fee Hikes motion in general business

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Miranda Crossley

Motion is discussed

Preamble:

Dan Tehan's ongoing attacks on the tertiary sector require strong and consistent opposition. A number of students from universities across Sydney have been involved in planning a rally on the 18th of July to oppose these attacks. This rally will start at Town Hall, before moving past UTS to Victoria Park, and is intended to demonstrate the degree of opposition we have to the gutting of university funding and the impacts that this will have on students across the country.

The UTSSA and UTS Education Action Group support this movement and appreciate the opportunity to shape the ongoing conversations within organising circles to ensure that UTS opposes any changes to fee structures. All universities must guarantee our quality of education and the continued employment of their staff. COVID-19 was an unanticipated pandemic, but it must not be used as justification by universities or the government to throw staff and students under the bus.

Policy:

1. The UTSSA supports the student protest against the attacks on higher education on the 18th of July.
2. The UTSSA stands with staff in fighting against the impacts of COVID-19 being used to justify attacks on staff and student conditions.
3. The UTSSA encourages interested students to attend meetings of the UTS Education Action Group to be involved in the fight against these attacks.

Actions:

1. The UTSSA calls on all students who are able to attend the protest on the 18th of July to do so.
2. The UTS Education Action Group will represent the views of the UTSSA at meetings of the NSW Education Organising Group.

17-07-2020 – SRC MEETING MINUTES

Moved by: Erin Dalton

Seconded by: Aidan O'Rourke

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting closed at 6:48pm

President's Report

In the last month we have had quite a few new challenges that we have been facing and new developments. Obviously, we have had a significant funding reduction for our budget for the year which will be somewhat mitigated by being able to cut costs through running partially online for the year but will ultimately hit the Students' Association quite hard.

I've been working recently on finding a solution to run elections for this year and it has proven to be the most difficult task so far for me during my term. We have two main options for running elections later this year and I will present these options further in the meeting, it will also likely be necessary to make some changes to our election regulations which we should hopefully be able to do in the next SRC meeting once we have come to some decision as to where to go with running our elections.

We've also been working on creating more engagement with the brand of the Students' Association by creating a video which will be displayed as part of our orientation efforts along with an event which will be for students to meet us and ask us questions.

From my understanding the University reactivation for next semester will be quite expansive with many classes reopening in a physical setting and this in itself will mean that students will face many challenges which I encourage everyone to be mindful of and to let me know if they notice are any major problems with the reactivation scheme especially in regards to following public health orders.

We will try and keep our services running for next semester and will try to respond as best we can to whatever fluctuating challenges will come from the next few months. Please contact me at president@utsstudentsassociation.org if you request anything from me or have any questions.

Education Vice President's Report

In the past month, the UTSSA has done a huge amount of work in terms of our response to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on our studies and lives. Our bluebird breakfast bags have been hugely popular, and we've had interest in a number of other initiatives that we've started. We were able to encourage a huge uptick in the number of people signing up to provide or access peer tutoring through us.

On a personal level, I have been responsible for meeting with the university regarding ProctorU, and online exams more generally, and working to mitigate the serious impacts that these potentially have on students. On the whole, I am pleased to say that the university has made most of the changes that we requested, including the ability to opt-out of remotely proctored exams. We do have concerns with some parts of their solutions on this front and will continue to work with them to advocate on behalf of students.

The fee hikes announced by Dan Tehan recently are an unashamed attack on all students and the quality of our educations. The UTS Education Action Group is organising a campus-oriented response to this crisis, and I have been working with my equivalent office-bearers at other Sydney campuses, as well as the National Union of Students to best coordinate our response to this campaign of opposition.

Over the next part of the year, I will continue to be working on the ongoing fight against fee hikes. I would encourage everyone to attend the national day of action on August 28, as well as any other actions, and to get involved in the UTS Education Action Group. 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.

Thank you,

Erin Dalton

Education Vice-President

Secretary's report

I hope you have all been able to enjoy some sort of a break of the last few weeks. We have definitely had some setbacks that will hopefully not affect the Students' Association too severely. Particularly with regard to our elections this year - I am conscious that we do not want to lose our independence to the university.

I am sad Clubs day wasn't able to happen this year. However in the wake of this I think its important we work in other ways to get the Students' Association's name and the collectives' names out there.

I am working towards getting clearer transparency from the university about their investments. UTS prides itself on its sustainability. However, we need to ensure that their investment match this commitment to sustainability. Through correspondence with multiple staff members, by next Sustainability Steering Committee meeting there should a clearer understanding of UTS' investment portfolio. If it is as I predict, there will be a significant portion with fossil fuels, I believe it is then important that UTS makes the stand and divest. I am optimistic about this but if the uni refuses to divest- the Students' Association must act. Our university should not be financially supporting environmental collapse and the degradation of stolen Indigenous land.

Always feel free to email me at secretary@utsstudentsassociation.org for any questions.

Treasurer's report

It feels like ages since our last SRC meeting and this is possibly because for the last month I have been back at work and not sitting around for days on end like I did in lockdown.

In the last month, the team and I have been supporting the current political movement towards racial equality. Australia has a long way to go with stopping police brutality and Indigenous deaths in custody. I, and the executive, are keen to ensure that this opportunity for social change is not wasted, and we will continue to support this in as many ways as we can.

Since the last SRC meeting, the Australian government announced an increase in fees for future Arts and humanitarian degrees. As someone who is studying one of these degrees and enjoying it immensely, I am saddened. These degrees are incredibly important to understanding and questioning the world around us and creating future civic participants who can properly employ critical thinking in everything they do. We and the executive teams after us will have to stay ahead of these fee increases and adapt appropriately to support students who may want to study these degrees.

Another current challenge of ours is figuring out how to transition the SRC election for this year to online because we are still living in a global pandemic, of course. A pandemic that does not seem to be letting up any time soon like I had hoped. Having an online election has not been done before at UTS and includes many complicated variables. We will be sure to keep you updated on what we decide.

Assistant Secretary's Report

This last month has been defined by the Black Lives Matter Movement, the easing of restriction and the continuing effort to deliver Association services. The executive has met and discussed how each of these will form the association's ongoing commitment to students in light of the recession, the fee hikes, and continued online learning.

Firstly I believe, as I imagine is the position of all councillors, the announced changes to the commonwealth fee contribution – which effectively drives up the cost of going to university by more than double in some cases – as a despicable act by this current government. It is, therefore, our responsibility as student representatives to fight these changes. Of course, this fight should be lead by the EVP and the UTSSA Education Action Group, which I encourage everyone to join and bolster. I am keen to see what strategy we adopt in the future on this matter.

Secondly, the National Welfare Officer of the NUS and our own Welfare Collective are currently generating support for the 'Raise the Rate' campaign. An incredibly important campaign for many battlers at UTS. I have worked with the Welfare Collective in formulating a motion, which I will move at this meeting. I further encourage councillors to get involved in the welfare collective to further that campaign at UTS. The more united we are on this front, the more we can achieve.

Lastly, as always, I wish the council well for the upcoming semester.

Wom*n's Office Bearer Report

Once the teaching semester ended Dana and I made the decision to cease meetings until week 1 of semester 2 to allow us to plan for the coming semester.

In the upcoming semester we have decided to continue online meetings and if later in the semester circumstances change we may go back onto campus, but for the purpose of accessibility we will most likely maintain an online option for students to join WoCo meetings.

Next week we will be hosting an online movie night to introduce students back into WoCo for this semester, and we have been preparing for several events to take place over the course of the semester.

Dana has been in contact with 'Rape and Domestic Violence services about them potentially providing some workshops in an online format, thus far the response has been very positive, and we are discussing details now.

We have been maintaining quite active social media and online spaces to keep members engaged, many members interact with our social media and as such it functions as a kind of safe space.

Enviro Office Bearer Report

The main focus of the enviro collective over the past few months has been maintaining a committed member base even though we are unable to meet in person. This has been done in a few ways, including the movie night planned for the 22nd of July. This is planned directly after our meeting to encourage active engagement in official activities of the collective. We have also organised a seed planting initiative, in which we distribute seed planting kits to members of the collective and aim to follow along the process of growing these plants together. This will both aim to increase participation in the collective and promote sustainable practices.

The collective has also been attentively watching the university's action towards divestment and departure from T-Corp. In the future we are looking towards planning a campaign to encourage either/or university divestment from fossil fuels or individual super fund/ bank divestment.

Ethnocultural Convenor Report

The UTS Ethnocultural Collective has been active in its discussions of the Black Lives Matter movement, and what we, as a Collective, can do to contribute. Considering a large bulk of the Collective identifies as non-Black people of colour, we have decided to turn to self-reflection in the form of calling out colourism in our own ethnic communities. Colourism, defined as prejudice based on skin tone, is a result of European colonialism and the rise of European beauty standards on colonised ethnic communities. A core example of this, would be the phenomena of skin whitening products as a norm in places such as South and Southeast Asian countries.

This Collective practice of self-reflection comes in the form of a project, aiming to compile our short personal essays and stories of our own experiences with colourism, as a framing device centring the Black Lives Matter movement and the experiences of Black and Indigenous peoples.

Additionally, through this project and in the general activity of the Collective, we have grown in collaboration and camaraderie with the Officers of the UNSW People of Colour Collective. Lastly, I would like to address the trend of #BlackLivesMatter starting to slowly slink back into the shadows of social media again, after trending for so long following the American death of George Floyd. Black and Indigenous lives will always still matter, regardless of the movement's social clout, and the movement will still carry on and be relevant, even when the masses have forgotten. I implore everyone, white and non-Black, non-Indigenous communities of colour alike, to continue educating themselves and calling out racism and injustice where they see it. I'll be sharing some resources below that should be a starting aid in that.

<https://pathtoequality.com.au/>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FICjve2QUyIPbbSjkkafqphGGDTClYruQnNkxldVbIA/edit>

Welfare Office Bearer Report

It is a tough time for students. Unemployment is expected to rise from 7.6% to 13%. This has directly impacted students. As more people become unemployed, more people will go on Jobseeker and Youth Allowance. The government decided that the increase in welfare payments due to COVID-19 pandemic will be reversed in September. As the Welfare Collective we advocated for the Information Services on Centrelink and other Government payments. Thus, it is within our interests to support the NUS's 'Raise the Rate' campaign, because going back to \$40 a day is an unliveable option.

Unemployment is also proven to have serious implications on people's mental health. Especially during this break, since students can't use their spare time to find some temporary job or seek more hours at work to be productive. Our collective has worked together to create a factsheet of necessary hotlines and online materials to assist students with a multitude of mental illness and domestic issues, with advice from the SSU. We are also dedicated to enhancing the mental health of students by partnering with organisations within and outside of UTS so that students are better equity to deal with mental health.

Finally, the Welfare Collective will continue to fight for suitable and accessible Multi-Faith Rooms, including prayer rooms around campus. Students of multiple faiths have expressed the importance of suitable and easily accessible faith rooms, particularly Muslim students who partake in 5 daily prayers. Lack of accessible faith rooms could see some students pray in awkward and unhygienic places around campus. This is of particular importance as some students will resume classes in the spring session. Students of other faiths, including Christians, have also expressed the importance of accessible faith rooms, to enhance their sense of belonging and togetherness at UTS.

Agenda item 7. Online Elections

Preamble:

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The second option would be to run our own online election platform which at this point will be a stretch to be able to create in time, we will need it to be created and tested to make sure it’s perfect. We should also update our election regulations if we were to go down this route and make it easy for us to use this option for the year with it to default back to physical elections at the end of the year.

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Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
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Optional Actions:

- Empower the President to follow up with the University in regards to using their election system and confirm our intent to use it on a short term basis, this will include amending election regulations subject for SRC approval, and, find an independent Returning Officer to run the election process mainly in terms of nominations, complaints, and, announcing results.
- Empower the President to follow up with the University in regards to using their election system and confirm our intent to use it on a short term basis, this will include amending election regulations subject for SRC approval, and, using the University secretary as our Returning Officer
- Empowering Bigfish to create a one off election platform for us to utilise in line with their proposed approach and to pass an upper spending limit of \$16,115 for the creation of this platform

Agenda item 8. Motion: the UTSSA promotes its collectives

Preamble:

O'Day and Clubs Day have been a great way for collectives to receive publicity and grow their numbers. Due to COVID-19, Clubs Day is not able to occur as it usually would. As many collectives have struggled to maintain momentum and grow (in the case of smaller collectives), the opportunity should not be missed. Activate is holding a livestream available to their clubs and societies, excluding UTSSA collectives. Furthermore:

- a. It goes against precedent
- b. A photo of collective members and collective logos were used in their advertising.

Action:

1. Every collective shall be afforded the opportunity (if they deem it appropriate) to create a short <30 second video to promote their collective, to be submitted by the 24th of July
2. That these videos (in a combined format) and are to be shared on Students' Association social media

Agenda item 9. Amendment to collective meeting and election rules

Motion: to amend clause 3 of the collective regulations from 1 week to 5 days' notice.

Motion: to amend clause 3.2 to 'if five days' notice is not provided, the meeting is invalid'.

Motion: to amend clause 3.3 to 'Whilst adhering to the items in Clause 3, 3.1 and 3.2, the Collective should attempt by way of motion to decide on the times and dates of Collective meetings at a previous meeting. If the Collective fails to vote on a time and date for a future meeting, the Collective Office-Bearer or Convenor, whichever comes first, may pick a time and date, having regard to notice requirements, by sending the official email for the next meeting from the Collective email'.

Motion: to remove clause 4.2 all together and change 4.5 to read:

Once the Collective has decided to call an election, a 7-day notice is required to be provided to allow individuals to nominate for the position to the returning officer by email. The Returning Officer shall have their email address provided in the notice email sent by the OB or Convenor of the Collective. The election must meet the quoram requirements stipulated in clause 2 and 2.1.

Agenda item 10. Motion: That the SRC joins the call the raise the rate.

Preamble:

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic those on JobSeeker (formerly Newstart) and Youth Allowance were living on, in the case of the latter, as little as \$33 a day and were forced to rely on support from their families – families strained under the pressures of low wages growth, high underemployment and challenging rises to the cost of living. Students now face the prospect of these conditions again but under the added weight of potentially the deepest recession since at least the early 1980s. Young people at UTS have made the decision to invest in themselves and, by virtue of that decision, in the nation by taking on already expensive university degrees. This Liberal Government should not punish these students who contribute so materially to the economy with a significant cut in their quality of life.

The *Raise the Rate* campaign, organised by the Australian Council of Social Services and endorsed by the NUS National Welfare Officer Ali Amin, is calling for a rise of the base rate of JobSeeker and Youth Allowance above the poverty line to at least \$500/week and ongoing indexation of payments in line with wages. Additionally, barriers to payment like the unfair ‘age of independence’ test should be eased.

It’s time the Liberal Government stopped making poor people poorer.

Platform:

- The UTSSA stands in solidarity with students facing a significant reduction in their quality of life.
- The UTSSA supports actions which call on a increase in the base rate of Youth Allowance and JobSeeker.

Action:

- The UTSSA release a statement on social media supporting the call to raise the rate.
- The UTSSA endorses the raise the rate campaign.

Motion for general business: Stop the fee hikes

Preamble:

Dan Tehan's ongoing attacks on the tertiary sector require strong and consistent opposition. A number of students from universities across Sydney have been involved in planning a rally on the 18th of July to oppose these attacks. This rally will start at Town Hall, before moving past UTS to Victoria Park, and is intended to demonstrate the degree of opposition we have to the gutting of university funding and the impacts that this will have on students across the country.

The UTSSA and UTS Education Action Group support this movement and appreciate the opportunity to shape the ongoing conversations within organising circles to ensure that UTS opposes any changes to fee structures. All universities must guarantee our quality of education and the continued employment of their staff. COVID-19 was an unanticipated pandemic, but it must not be used as justification by universities or the government to throw staff and students under the bus.

Policy:

1. The UTSSA supports the student protest against the attacks on higher education on the 18th of July.
2. The UTSSA stands with staff in fighting against the impacts of COVID-19 being used to justify attacks on staff and student conditions.
3. The UTSSA encourages interested students to attend meetings of the UTS Education Action Group to be involved in the fight against these attacks.

Actions:

1. The UTSSA calls on all students who are able to attend the protest on the 18th of July to do so.
2. The UTS Education Action Group will represent the views of the UTSSA at meetings of the NSW Education Organising Group.