

APRIL SRC MINUTES

24/04/2024 | 6:30pm | CB11.03.205

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting at [6:35pm]	3
1.1. Acknowledgement of Country	3
1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair	3
1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies	3
Attendees.....	3
Apologies.....	4
Proxies.....	4
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes	5
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes	5
4. Correspondence	5
5. Office Bearers' Reports	5
5.1. President	5
5.2. General Secretary	5
5.3. Assistant General Secretary	5
5.4. Education Officer	5
5.5. Welfare Officer	5
5.6. Women's Officer	6
5.7. International Students' Officer	6
5.8. Indigenous Officer	6
5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer	6
5.10. Ethnocultural Officer	6
5.11. Disabilities Officer	6
5.12. Queer Officer	7
5.13. Environment Officer	7
6. Other Reports	7
6.1. Committees	7

6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.	7
6.3. Vertigo Reports	8
7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.	8
8. Other Business Arising on Notice	8
8.1. Inserting Communications Policy	8
8.2. Disability Collective Spending Motion	14
8.3. National Rally Against Gender Based Violence	14
TW: Gender-based violence + SA/SH	14
9. General Business.....	16
10. Close of Meeting at [7:44pm].....	16
Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports	17
1. President	17
2. General Secretary.....	18
3. Assistant General Secretary	18
4. Education Officer.....	19
5. Welfare Officer	19
6. Women’s Officer.....	19
7. International Students’ Officer.....	20
8. Indigenous Officer	21
9. Postgraduate Students’ Officer.....	21
10. Ethnocultural Officer.....	21
11. Disabilities Officer	21
12. Queer Officer	22
13. Environment Officer.....	22

1. Opening of meeting at [6:35pm]

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Mia delivers the acknowledgement of country, acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora nation upon whose ancestral lands UTS stands, and extends respect to elders past, present and emerging and any Indigenous people present today. Mia acknowledges that sovereignty was never ceded, and that this always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

Mia calls for nominations for Deputy Chair. Adam nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so Adam is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Adam Levett	General Secretary
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Mathew Murray	General Councillor
Laura Currie	Postgraduate Officer
Jeremey Higgins	Environment Officer
Raghav Motani	International Studnets' Officer
Aylin Cihan	Welfare Officer
Samaha Emran	Disabilities Officer
Januka Suraweera	General Councillor
Kurt Cheng	Undergraduate UTS Council
Peter Munford	Postgraduate UTS Council

Neeve Ann Nagle	General Councillor
Joesph Naffah	General Councillor
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor
Raphaella Mae	Vertigo
Melodie Kiptoo	Vertigo
Isabel James	Vertigo
Mariah Brown	Staff
Bridie O'Kelly	Assistant General Secretary
Adrian Lozancic	General Councillor
Tyberious Seeto	Vertigo

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Peter Munford	Postgraduate UTS Council
Bilvika Abburi	General Councillor
Alisa Hamilton	Education Officer

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Peter Munford	Januka
Bilvika Abburi	Dirk
Alisa Hamilton	Daewah

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from March SRC and 2/4/2024 Emergency Meeting are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Bridie comments on mistake when reading quote from Vertigo during emergency meeting, Tyberious and Raphaella confirm this

4. Correspondence

No items on agenda

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Mia speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

rolling out google form, to go on back of bathroom stalls about how we operate, so we can gauge student feedback to gauge on what we want to campaign on, outside of collectives we don't have much student input, we can get data from students about stuff they don't like, informational accept which the uni doesn't have. Will likely do on monthly basis, bridie did all the questions. Me and staff have gone through and looked through edit.

National rally against DV on the weekend. A bunch of work over last week, would be great to see you guys there on Friday even for a bit.

5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes report as read

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Bridie takes report as read

5.4. Education Officer

No report received

5.5. Welfare Officer

Takes report as read

5.6. Women's Officer

Mariam is not present at meeting, her report is taken as read.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Raghav speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Opal concession campaign, March 8th we did receive a city of Sydney response (letter to transport minister), formal reply by minister of transport, "was not a positive response" copy pasted from a few years back, waiting for parliamentary debate and might be taking international students from various unis to observe in public gallery. Monday scam prevention workshop, Greg, Senior crime prevention officer gave speech.

Newcastle trip during Stuvac.

Few event planned for next few weeks.

Mia: big congratulations for the work Raghav has done during opal campaign. Letter from Jo Haylin "poor response". And "overplayed excuses".

Raghav: we are waiting for responses

Mia: a few PMs supporting this campaign at debate such as Alex Greenwich

5.8. Indigenous Officer

No report received

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Laura delivers spoken report: Highlights working with high degree research committee, what's been a success is mentorship program, (PHD student mentoring honor students). Also holding conferences for research students at UTS. Recently also met with Raghav over concerns with international postgrad students. First is international postgrad doing research having stipends cut off, only problem at UTS, less time than normal students to do research, domestic students 4 years but at UTS international gets 6 months less and \$200 a day beyond that. Putting case together so Raghav can bring to SGLC meeting (7th of May) both me and Raghav attending. Raghav sent student feedback survey for postgrad business school. Laura thinking of doing for school of law and health- to bring to meeting with higher ups.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Now collaborating with center of social justice and inclusion, gathering qualitative data on racism at UTS.

Working on getting people interviewed in ethno safe space. If POC in this room want to get involved please read out to me it is all confidential. 12th of April first event, successful to get seen and valued, less sign ups than expected however. Somewhat successful. Finally got passwords back. Since vertigo archives are big and full removalists need a lot of time to convert the space. Why space hasn't been set up yet

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Samiha takes report as read.

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah delivers spoken report: Highlights that they are working to get in contact with 2010 org. They specialise in free housing for LGBTQIA+ housing with no family support. Gathering materials.

5.13. Environment Officer

Jeremy speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Unfortunately vending machines for return and earn not appropriate for schools as they can't meet minimum requirements and vehicles, do something different.

Rising tide wanting to use space for event in Sydney, don't think we can confirm great hall. Good relationship to nourish.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

No items on notice

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

Kurt, delivers spoken report on UTS council: speaks to ethical partnership, council commented EPA paper and referred to DVC for formal response, taken rest of report as read. Mention university accords and number of issues in sector UTS isn't immune to. One of big issues is student safety, in process of preparing support for students policy. HECS indexation, redefining how HECS works. Also mentions OPAL concession, UNI in Principe support on equity level. SPA renewal, Mia working with Aciviate president. Kurt speaks to the SPA and how it operates over 2 years. (SA/SH and student safety) in 2 years hasn't met what we hoped. SRC will be influential in this process.

Peter adds encouragement that SA should make submissions to SPA. Chance to have a real say on policy on how policy is developed. If anyone has questions raise with me Kurt or Mia. Raises anonymous with uni for goods line escalators, requested update from psychological infrastructure committee. There will be lift in place of escalators. Lift will be stopgap solution. Goods line renovation over the next five years. Asks marketing to roll out comms with students and staff.

Mia: on SPA if you want to make submission, tell me if you're intending to make a submission in next week. Isn't something that will get approved until June/July.

Kurt leaves room and proxies to Joesph 7:06pm

6.3. Vertigo Reports

Raphaella delivers spoken updates: volume 2 to be sent to printers tomorrow, volume 3 callouts still ongoing.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

None on agenda

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. Inserting Communications Policy

Action: That the UTSSA adopts, in line with the By-Laws, the following policy:

2. COMMUNICATIONS

2.1. OBJECTS OF THE POLICY

The communication policy aims to establish guidelines for effective, transparent, and consistent communication both internally and externally within the Association. Clear communication fosters understanding, collaboration, and promotes the objectives of the Association. The protection of privacy and confidentiality remain critical within the implementation of this policy.

2.2. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Policy under 2.2 applies to all external communication. External communication, within the context of this policy, refers to the exchange of information, messages, or interactions that occur when Student Representatives and Staff of the Association, acting in their role within the Association, communicate with individuals or entities outside of its immediate structure. This includes communications with other UTS stakeholders.

- 2.2.1 Student Representatives and Staff of the Association should ensure accuracy, clarity, and relevance in all communications, regardless of the recipient.
- 2.2.2 Only authorised spokespersons may represent the Association in public media interactions. Authorised spokespersons will be those approved by the Executive Officer or President on a case-by-case basis, as public media interactions arise.
- 2.2.3 Office Bearers representing their Collective shall have the authority to represent their respective Collectives regarding specific areas or issues that fall under their purview or expertise, however are reminded of their duties to the Association under Schedule 2 of the UTSSA By-Laws. Before engaging with the media, Office Bearers are encouraged to coordinate with other relevant stakeholders within the Association including the President.
- 2.2.4 Office Bearers and members of the Executive are strongly encouraged to use their Association email addresses for all external communication to facilitate easy retrieval of information and to ensure progress threads are kept.
- 2.2.5 The UTS Students' Association Partnerships Policy Form is to be completed upon being presented with an opportunity or partnership to the Students' Association. This policy establishes a framework to assess if there is a genuine benefit to the student community and if the partnership provides mutually beneficial outcomes.

2.3. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Policy under 2.3 applies to all internal communication. Internal communication, within the context of this policy, refers to the exchange of information, messages, or interactions that occur when Student Representatives and Staff of the Association, acting in their role within the Association, communicate with other Student Representatives and Staff of the Association.

- 2.3.1 All emails exchanged within the Students' Association should maintain a professional tone and language. Address the recipient using "Dear [Insert Name]", and avoid using slang, abbreviations or informal language that does not appropriately represent the UTSSA.
- 2.3.2 Student Representatives and Staff of the Association should ensure a timely dissemination of information regarding meetings, events and other forms of correspondence.
- 2.3.3 Student Representatives and Staff of the Association should use their Association email addresses for formal communication. Instant messaging platforms should not be relied upon for official announcements or important tasks.
- 2.3.4 Student Representatives and Staff of the Association should exercise discretion when discussing sensitive matters via email and avoid forwarding emails without proper authorisation.
- 2.3.5 Student Representatives and Staff of the Association should refrain from contacting fellow members outside of work hours unless deemed necessary and/or urgent.
- 2.3.6 All forms of communication must also follow the Association Code of Conduct contained in Schedule 1 of the UTSSA By-Laws. Student Representatives and Staff must ensure professional courtesy and respect is used in all face-to-face and written communication, including during SRC meetings.

2.4. SOCIAL MEDIA

UTS Students' Association (UTSSA) encourages its Student Representatives, Staff and affiliates to participate in social media in ways that demonstrate respect for the dignity of all human beings; and do not bring the UTSSA into disrepute or imply UTSSA endorsement of personal views.

Social media, within the context of this policy, refers to the sites, tools, channels and platforms used to publish user-generated content and promote social connections and conversations. The UTSSA embraces the use of social media by staff, student representatives and affiliates to connect with each other and a broader community of researchers, business partners, alumni, supporters and colleagues as an important tool of academic, community and business engagement.

- 2.4.1 It is expected that all Student Representatives and Staff who contribute to the Association's social media familiarise themselves with this policy and related guidelines; and will act responsibly in references to UTSSA in their online activities.
- 2.4.2. Policy under 2.4 should be consulted in conjunction with other policies, including: the Code of Conduct for All Staff; Student Conduct and Discipline Policy; Acceptable Use of IT; Email Messaging Policy and the Privacy Statement.
- 2.4.3 Personal, academic and professional use of social media by UTSSA Student Representatives, Staff and affiliates must not:
- a. Bring UTSSA into disrepute;
 - b. Compromise the effectiveness of the UTSSA;
 - c. Defame individuals or organisations;
 - d. Imply endorsement of personal views;
 - e. Disclose, without authorisation, confidential information;
- 2.4.4 Consult the UTSSA Visual Identity Guidelines to inform the design of all material disseminated under the UTSSA. This includes guidance on:

- a. Graphics
- b. Colour palette
- c. Typography
- d. Tone of Voice
- e. Photography
- f. Communication Structure

2.4.5. A breach of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct for All Staff policy and Student Conduct and Discipline Policy and may lead to disciplinary action. Where inappropriate use under this policy constitutes a breach of any law, action may also be taken in accordance with that law by UTSSA or concerned third parties.

2.5. MEDIA RELATIONS

Policy under 2.5 is intended to provide Student Representatives and Staff guidance on interaction with members of the media. The contents of this media policy is designed to ensure that any comments made to the media are consistent, in accordance with this policy, and do not breach any UTSSA requirements.

2.5.1 The Marketing Manager is responsible for managing all liaison between staff and the media. In particular, this includes the management of media inquiries from media outlets, media releases and the handling of major announcements.

2.5.2 Any media inquiry - whether seeking comment, information, permission to take a photograph/ produce an audio or video recording of staff and/or SRC members - should be directed to the Marketing Manager and/or President.

2.5.3 All UTSSA representatives are authorised to provide to the media basic, publicly available information on matters of a general nature, such as:

- a. Office location and opening hours
- b. Services provided by the UTSSA e.g. advocacy, peer tutoring, Bluebird and Night Owl, legal services etc.
- c. Copies of UTSSA publications such as the Student Handbook, promotional material and the Vertigo magazine.

Note: only provide such factual information and avoid making any comment or opinion.

2.5.4 Only the President is authorised to make official comments to the media on behalf of the UTSSA about sensitive or contentious issues, issues of a political nature, or issues relating to funding or management. This is a delegable duty.

2.5.6 If an article or report appears in the media containing an inaccurate quote from the UTSSA, the President will determine the appropriate response. If staff become aware of any such errors they should bring them to the attention of the Marketing Manager who will inform the President and advise on the appropriate response.

2.5.7 The social media platforms of the UTSSA are run by the President, Marketing Manager and Assistant General Secretary.

2.5.8 Student Representatives and Staff should not refer to their position, or wear/carry anything that identifies them as a member of the UTSSA when expressing an opinion or participating in a public debate, in a private capacity.

2.6. MARKETING AND EVENTS

Policy under 2.6 is intended to ensure that the UTSSA's extensive and diverse marketing communications are strategically sound and well planned. This policy is consistent with the Marketing and Events Approval Process and works to ensure that the Associations communications:

- a. Are using SSAF funds prudently.
- b. Are strategically sound and have clear objectives.
- c. Utilise mediums that can reach the target audience efficiently.
- d. Have adequate budgets that can achieve the desired outcomes.
- e. Have appropriate and measurable evaluation methods in place, prior to activity launch.
- f. Comply with all guidelines and policies.
- g. Are approved by the President, prior to release into both the public and student domain.

2.6.1 For all campaigns and events, refer to the marketing briefing form to establish the key objectives and deliverables of the project.

2.6.2 If required, Student Representatives need to book a meeting with the Marketing Manager at least 20 days before the event date regarding items such as banners, flyers and posters.

2.6.3 Student Representatives and Staff are conscious of lead-time and will create a diligently planned timeline to cater for a two-week turn around for printing.

2.6.4 For all events estimated to cost over \$200, Officer Bearers and members of the Executive must establish a comprehensive budget that is to be presented and approved by the SRC before booking or promoting the activity.

Mover: Jerney

Secunder: Dirk

Mia: Bridie drafted this, I think we should talk through this.

Adam: clarifies that between all comms (e.g OBs to collective members)

Bridie: Familiarise yourself with something that's been finalised, first part is relevant to everybody (eg drafting email). Going into nitty gritty the further down you go on third parties. Generally Media reaches out to President themselves.

Mia: Main things new rules, all rules is precedent put into words. If new people coming into this it puts it all together so we're not operating based off preference. Learning curve with new people this year.

Key areas are section 2.2 on external comms, (anyone not from organisation). Internal communication how we speak to each other and staff, not using messenger for important stuff.

Documents should be on email, notice for event or meetings should be in email, anything that pertains to role should be in email. Don't care if you use discord for trivial stuff but date and time needs to be used for both for there is a track record for everything.

Refrain for contacting outside work hours unless urgent (recommendation), you're not going to get into trouble if you don't follow (unless it's a bylaw) just recommendation for new members or staff.

This will apply to Vertigo (anyone who is elected under students association) This doesn't take away group-chats.

Not to apply to lower level communication

Ty: 24.5 will our social media have to go through these guidelines.

Mia: it probably shouldn't.

Mia: 24.5 is tone for colour pallet,

Raph: we have the guidelines but we don't use it religiously.

Mia: It's so you have the colours we use, maybe fine how it is, consult doesn't mean you can only use that.

Raph: could this be used to censor in future years

Mia: no consult doesn't mean its binding **Samiha:** consulting is fine wording.

Adam: stuff that is in the bylaws it specifies that the code of conduct applies. **Mia:** 2.4.5 can stay but there is no 2.4.4

Amend 2.2.5 and 2.4.6 to 2.2.4 to 2.2.5 (respectively)

Mover: Aylin

Secunder: Samiha

Rahgav: 20 days before marketing manger a lot of email are done later than this, very hard to send email it goes out later as there is a whole form.

Mariah: maybe because manager has a whole bunch of jobs to do, if you need banners flyers posters that is impossible to do in three days.

Rahgav, for my collective Office Barer I make this.

Mia: 20 days does seem like a lot

Rahgav: different societies might contact weeks prior

Mia: we can clarify wording a but more, if you need assistance from marketing manager this is the time that is allowing, will not be relevant for every event which you have autonomy to do yourself.

Mia: proposes amendment to insert "if required" to beginning of 2.6.2

Amendment is accepted by the mover

Ty: for 2.5 if we need to approach a councillor we will need to go through marketing manager to direct one of us to speak?

Mia: I don't think media inquiries should apply to Vertigo

Mariah: it's so people can't go forward and say I represent the entire UTSSA. **Mia:** its phrased for official requests, it's for ABC, Sky News, Guardian and it's all for comment on behalf of UTSSA, sometimes for personal experience. Unless it's on behalf of UTSSA than it doesn't apply really. **Raph:** that would be on you (Mia) not us?

Mia: yes it is a delegable duty, if you came to Adam for official comment I will need to authorise it.

Mia: everyone can make comments about stuff UTSSA has one or approved but something contentious we can't. 2.5.4 is about contentious issues or not approved we run policy for.

Mia: more specifically would have to be passed through SRC, we are allowed to make more personal comments, only applies if it is on behalf of the UTSSA. **Mia:** you can always quote "the GenSec of the UTSSA Adam says this" we will have our own views always, it's like when something makes a terrible comment and a workplace, it reflects on them and not the organisation.

Mariah: its future proofing if people come who have radically awful ideas.

Adam: if for example the queer collective made a view on behalf of the collective that nobody but the OB supports would this apply?

Jeremey: important that is something if asked of you that it reflects your capacity **Mia:** 2.5.2 any media enquiry should be directed to manager or president, if someone comes to you let us know. Good point to have this for what capacity "are you asking this to me because I live in UTS housing or because I'm a postgrad officer?"

Jeremy: ok to have different opinions as one person, but important to state what capacity for the protection for others.

Adam: will we be able to amend this in following meetings

Mia: easier to amend compared to By-laws **Adam:** encourage to read everything

8.2. Disability Collective Spending Motion

disability Collective is screening a documentary film called 'Defiant Lives'. The date has not been finalised, but the film must be purchased as it isn't available on any OTT platform.

Action: That the UTSSA approve \$200 for the Disability Collective to spend on: - Purchasing a copy to the movie

- Snacks including popcorn, drinks etc

Mover: Samiha

Secunder: Aylin

Samiha: can I change to \$150 dollars, working with F.A.P so there is good turnout with non0collective members.

Samiha as mover amends '200' to '150'

The motion passes unanimously

8.3. National Rally Against Gender Based Violence

TW: Gender-based violence + SA/SH

Preamble: 2024 has seen an increase in male violence against women. At the time this motion is written, 30 women have been killed by men in Australia since the start of the year. By this time in 2023, 12 women had been killed, and in 2022,

17 women had been killed. 1 in 4 women has been a victim of physical or sexual violence since the age of 15. In the year 2021/22, 4,620 women aged 15 years and over (average of 13 women/day) were hospitalised due to family and domestic violence. Men are far more commonly the perpetrators of physical violence, sexual harassment and sexual violence.

The significant increase in deaths in 2024 demonstrates the most tragic consequence of the society-wide trend of increasing sexist extremism.

Across society, the polarisation of political views between men and women is at its highest rate.

As [the Guardian states](#):

- “Three in 10 young men believe that in 20 years’ time it will be more difficult to be a man, while young women believe the opposite, making gen Z the most divided generation by gender on what the future will look like. And it’s not just this one issue: all age groups besides young men have become more progressive on issues surrounding race and immigration.”

As an organisation primarily for young people, the UTSSA has a duty to do its part to prevent gender-based violence and demonstrate progressive, feminist views on current issues of national concern.

Action:

1. That the UTSSA support the What Were You Wearing? national rally against gender-based violence, happening from Friday 26 April to Sunday 28 April. This support should take the form of re-sharing social media posts from ‘What Were You Wearing?’, as well as forming a UTSSA contingent for the rally.
2. That the UTSSA approve \$100 in spending for snacks for the Banner Paint event on Friday 26 April.

Mover: Joseph

Secunder: Neeve

Mia: Speaks to rally for gender based violence, 31 (as of today) women have been killed. Significant increase especially considering Bondi junction event. Mia, men in the room please be there, for women this can be difficult.

The motion passes unanimously

9. General Business

Mariah: speaks to financial report, it has to be presented to you. Big thing we made \$185k loss, biggest in the decade. Mia: reminders for SPA,

10. Close of Meeting at [7:44pm]

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

I've mostly been on leave this month and only came back last week, so this is a shorter update than usual. Here are the main things I have been working on: No More: National Rally Against Violence – Banner Paint (Friday April 26 1-4pm) I have been in contact with

What Were You Wearing? a nonprofit organisation which is organising a rally this weekend in response to the tragedy at Bondi Junction last weekend and the rise in male violence against women in Australia. The UTSSA will be hosting a Banner Paint event this Friday on the Alumni Green ahead of the rally. I want this to be quite a public event, so it has a dual purpose; actually creating the banners for the rally, but also raising awareness about the rally itself. Please get in touch with me if you'd like to be involved in any of this.

Policy Development: I've been working with Bridie and the staff of the UTSSA to develop policy regarding communications and responsible use of UTSSA spaces. This is intended to give us more of a framework to fall back on when people enter OB roles without guidance from previous years (or without ever having been in a similar role/office environment). The Communications policy is put up for consideration at April SRC, and the spaces policy will be put up at the May SRC. Hopefully you all find this helpful guidance!

Sexual Harm Response at UTS: After two years of campaigning for a case management system for sexual harm reports at UTS, I am feeling increasingly disappointed at the extremely slow response of the university to enact the policies they have agreed to focus on. I am going to create a report detailing my grievances with the different bureaucratic processes that I have gone through to try to achieve something in this area to hopefully demonstrate the extent of the issue in the different committees that I am a part of, and hopefully this can further inform the new SPA draft later in the year.

Calling All UTS Students: Share Your Opinions on Your Student Experience I've been working with Bridie and Biljana to roll out a google form that will go up on the back of bathroom stalls across the university. This form asks a number of questions about the student experience at UTS and is aimed at working out what we should be campaigning on year-by-year. As I've mentioned before, I don't like how the UTSSA can become limited to only the experiences of the people on SRC when collectives are not active. This is aimed at mitigating that risk and ensuring that despite the (in)activity of different collectives, we still have a way of collecting data as to what our members want us to campaign on. This will be rolled out over the next few weeks. I'll need a few men to put up flyers in the men's bathrooms, so please volunteer!

2. General Secretary

The past month has been quite uneventful, with many other staff members being on leave throughout the previous few weeks. There are a few updates throughout this past month however.

1# Vertigo: As many councillors would have attended, during our emergency meeting we passed the vertigo working group's motion which was originally brought up during as an emergency item at the March SRC meeting. This secured funding for the immediate printing for volume one, which is to be distributed on campus physically in the coming week. There are still pressing issues which are yet to be resolved, such as the lack of office space for the elected vertigo team, as well as missing equipment belonging to vertigo which was removed from the office at the time. The Vertigo working group will next convene on Tuesday the 23rd of April.

2# End Student Poverty: Last Friday various executives and councillors including Mia and myself attended the National Union of Student's 'End Student Poverty Snap Speak Out'. This rally, which took place outside of State Parliament House, was a reasonable success. Many of us will likely also picketing Federal Parliament House on the day of the federal budget next month, in an attempt to continue to protest for this issue.

3# Legalise It: A few student unions across the country have started to engage in the upcoming 'Drug Reform' / 'Legalise it' campaigns which will likely be pushed by the government and other parties such as The Greens in the coming months. Specifically, myself and a couple other councillors observed a planning event held by the USyd SRC for this campaign. The USyd SRC's mobilisation on this issue provides a gold standard for how our own education and/or welfare collectives could engage with this campaign when it will likely head into full swing next semester. I am personally keen for the UTSSA to start engaging with this campaign alongside other issues which we have already made leeway on this year.

3. Assistant General Secretary

Over the past month, I have been working on the following project:

1. Student feedback campaign:

- Due to low engagement in various collectives, the UTSSA is currently lacking student feedback about what key issues facing students at UTS are, and we are increasingly reliant on our own personal experiences.
- This campaign will look like having posters in bathroom stalls and various other high-traffic places on campus with a QR code that leads students to fill out a feedback/complaints/issues form.
- We hope this form provides the UTSSA with greater direction about the issues we should focus on.

📄 Since last SRC, Mia, Aylin and myself have drafted a set of questions that will be included in the Google Form.

📄 We are working alongside Biljana to create a design for the poster. - Further updates will follow.

4. Education Officer

N/A

5. Welfare Officer

Students are now well and deep into the Autumn semester for 2024 and are keeping busy with course work and assignments. With that in mind this month has been slower for the welfare collective. As the welfare officer I was able to take part in the hiring of a new position here at UTS, known as the director of student experiences. After a long and thorough interview process I alongside UTS management were able to settle on a candidate that we believe is best suited for the role to ensure that the time spent here by students is a memorable one surrounded by ease and assistance. The new position for the director of student experience will hopefully lead to indicators to monitor progress and define steps by closing gaps in activities that are otherwise unresponsive and lack action. As this new position is heavily involved with the wellbeing of students on campus the welfare collective is invested in ensuring its success to give way to a greater environment for students on campus. This month I will also be taking part in a project run by the CSJI to record the acknowledgment of country in another language, that being Turkish, as its important that we recognise and accommodate for the multicultural background in Australia and pay our respects to the indigenous community. I will also be taking part in National Rally Against Violence by creating a banner, when considering the current tragic events in Bondi and the ongoing issue of violence against women to ensure that these situations do not just become another statistic.

6. Women's Officer

Past Events/ Initiatives Summary:

Throughout the month of April these events and initiatives were undertaken:

1. Meetings with the organisation Respect Now Always (RNA), to initiate more collaboration between RNA and woco on future events and campaigns.
2. The women in media panel with Jsoc and Utsoc
3. Conducting a raffle for woco members one that was sponsored by Dendy cinema Newtown.
4. Discussions surrounding the upcoming period product survey that will be released in order to keep supplying UTS students in free period products in the bathroom.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

1. A feminist movie night in collaboration with RNA.
2. Our second collective meeting.

3. The period product survey.

Goals Still to Be Achieved:

- An official women's safe space opening to be held when the woco space is redecorated - Get the woco book club up and running
- Ongoing efforts to enhance the women's space are in progress.
- More promotion of our initiatives and achievements on social media platforms.

7. International Students' Officer

OPAL Concession Advocacy:

On April 8th, the City of Sydney officially approved its support for the OPAL concession and drafted a letter addressed to the transport minister advocating for fair OPAL concession for all students in New South Wales (NSW). This initiative aims to address the transportation challenges faced by international students and ensure equitable access to transportation services. We anticipate that this issue will be deliberated upon during the upcoming parliamentary debate, and we remain hopeful for a favourable outcome.

Newcastle Trip:

We organised and successfully executed a trip to Newcastle, which was attended by 27 international students. The trip included an exploration of the vibrant street art depicting the rich Aboriginal culture of Australia. Additionally, participants gained insights into the coal and mining history of Newcastle, further enriching their understanding of Australia's industrial heritage. The highlight of the trip was a visit to Fort Scratchley, offering a breathtaking panoramic view of Newcastle, enhancing the students' appreciation for the historical significance of the region.

Cybercrime and Scam Prevention Workshop:

In collaboration with the NSW Police, we are conducting a workshop focused on cybercrime and scam prevention. This initiative aimed to equip international students with essential knowledge and skills to safeguard themselves against cyber threats and scams prevalent in the digital age. By educating students on current laws and regulations in NSW and providing practical tips for emergency situations, we empower them to navigate challenges effectively and ensure their safety and well-being.

Conclusion:

April witnessed significant progress in our efforts to support and empower international students in NSW. From advocating for fair transportation concessions to organising educational trips and workshops, we remain committed to addressing the diverse needs of our international student community. Looking ahead, we will continue to explore opportunities for collaboration and innovation to enhance the overall experience and well-being of international students in UTS.

8. Indigenous Officer

N/A

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

N/A

10. Ethnocultural Officer

Past Progress Summary:

The ethnocultural collective has made great progress this month;

- We are now in collaboration with the Centre of Social Justice and Inclusion (CSJI) (and the international collective) to gather qualitative data alongside quantitative statistics on racism and racial discrimination at UTS, this includes surveys and co-facilitating interviews with BIPOC individuals at UTS. We also have made progress on working with the CSJI by working on the project in which members of the UTS community will be reading AOC in their mother tongue and giving us insight on their connection to their mother tongue.

- We hosted an event for Eid on the 12th of April, it was quiet and many students were not able to have the opportunity to try the treats because the timing of events relies on the phases of the moon, it landed on a day where many Muslims choose to fast (the third day of Eid), so it wasn't that successful however our goal was to make people feel seen and valued, and we definitely had a couple of people pass by thank us for doing something to celebrate.

- We are now in the process of regaining traction on social media, as we only recently retrieved our passwords from past ethnocultural officers.

Goals to still be achieved:

-The room is becoming more and more tidy, however we need to get everything properly tidied up so we can host in-person interviews for the project we're working on with CSJI at UTS.

-Increase membership.

-Increase social media presence.

11. Disabilities Officer

April has been a slower month than usual, this is due to the Collective not meeting quorum for meetings at every attempted meeting. I have decided to go ahead with events on my own.

It is hard to campaign etc with little support. On a more positive note - I have been contacted by the Film Appreciation Society about the educational screening of a documentary film, "Defiant Lives". DisCo plans to purchase a lifetime copy of the film

for the future of the collective. This event will be open to non-collective members, hoping to broaden our reach and promote awareness. However, the date for this screening is yet to be confirmed as they screen on specific days, likely towards the end of the semester to accommodate schedules.

12. Queer Officer

N/A

13. Environment Officer

CDS on campus

Ian McInnes from central services had investigated the feasibility of reverse vending machines for bottles/cans by contacting the peak provider, TOMRA. Unfortunately, in the judgement of TOMRA's customer service team, their products are found not to be suitable in an education campus setting like UTS. The correspondence made note of "minimum requirements" for a space to become a collection point, such as access for trucks, access for public (UTS being students only on weekends).

Ahead of this issue, a renewed approach to the 10c deposit bins on campus should be looked at, this is likely to involve a volunteer-based system.

Upcoming events and activities:

07/05 Collective meeting. The collective aims to meet on the 7 th of May, especially to elect a convenor before semester's end.

Correspondence

a. The Sustainability newsletter has reached out to incorporate any promotional material ahead of the release of the next newsletter. Items should include promoting the next meeting.

b. Zack Schofield, Community Organiser of Rising tide reached out to organise one of their East Coast tour events to be on UTS grounds to increase cooperation and save money. This involves booking the Great Hall for use on the 6 th or 7 th of July this year. This process is pending.