

April 2026 SRC MINUTES

29.04.26 | 6.30pm | CB11.04.202

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1. Opening of meeting at 6.41pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Neeve 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. Neeve acknowledges that sovereignty was never ceded, and that this always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

Neeve calls for nominations for Deputy Chair. **Salma** self-nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so **Salma** is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Neeve Nagle	President
Salma Elmubasher	General Secretary
Cam Perez	Assistant General Secretary
Sina Ashfarmeher	Welfare Officer
Ella Haid	Education Officer
Francesca Harrison	Women's Officer
Taya Morante	Indigenous Officer
George Tulloch	Postgraduate Officer
Rose Saksena	International Student's Officer
Grace Cole	Queer Officer
Eamonn Ryan	Environment & Technology Officer
Aaron Choy	General Councillor
Lana Rumman	General Councillor
Isabella Taylor	General Councillor
Jonothan Waters	General Councillor
Yasmine Johnson	General Councillor
Andrew Brogden	General Councillor
Ibrahim Hadi	General Councillor
Benjamin Grant-Skiba	General Councillor
Amelia Ireland	General Councillor
Mariah Brown	UTSSA Staff

Emanie Darwiche	Vertigo
Simran Shoker	Vertigo
Nuha Dole	Vertigo
Teagan Nguyen	Vertigo
Mariam	Vertigo
Oscar Favelle	Observer
Daewah Thein	Observer
Ari Segelov-Smith	Observer
Zack Hossain	Observer
Brendan Tate	Observer
Rowen Snowball	Observer
Joshua Cross	Observer
Tyberious Seeto	Observer
Adam Levett	Observer
Jessica Heap	Observer
Matthew Murray	Observer

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Amelia Wilson-Williams	Disabilities Officer
Omar El-Sobihy	Ethnocultural Officer
Liyara Flavel	General Councillor

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Amelia Wilson-Williams	Eamonn Ryan
Omar El-Sobihy	Salma Elmubasher
Liyara Flavel	Aaron Choy
George Tulloch	Taya Morante

1.4. Declarations of Interest

Neeve calls for declarations of interest to be made for this meeting.

No one makes any declarations.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from February & March are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

2.1. Executive Business

Salma tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meeting held on 25/04/26.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There are no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence discussed.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

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

Neeve met with Andrew Parfit. He asked for a frank assessment of student thoughts regarding management and she noted they were negative. She followed up with how terrible the coverage of university management handling of GBV has disappointed female students.

Neeve also met with Kylie Readman where they discussed the Protest Application Form (PAF) and how Kylie explains it does not fall under her purview but Jaquie Wise & Amy Pearson's.

Neeve also met with Chloe Ferreira (UTS Council UG representative) regarding how the PAF has turned into the Protest Notification Form (PNF) as a title but not substantively, aside from the inquiry of what has been posted on social media regarding the protest. This sustains the inquiry on UTS was 'really disheartened' about how the SA viewed the proposed introduction of the PAF. Since our suggestions they have removed the question regarding what social media has advertised the protest, yet kept everything else including requiring flyers advertising the protest.

Neeve also notes the student rules reform meeting; she is requesting all correspondence is now in writing so when these rules are assessed by legal management processes will look worse.

Neeve also discusses the ongoing Grievance committee process and how **Cam** and **Neeve** had to assess 73 pages of material. Therefore they have created a form to streamline the process.

This week is Palestine Solidarity. There was a BBQ Tuesday, Protest Wednesday and another event on Friday.

Neeve attended the Queer collective meeting and it went well.

Neeve also attended a Vertigo meeting regarding the publishing of Glass. There is an NTEU strike tomorrow, everyone is encouraged to attend.

5.2. General Secretary

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

Salma attended a meeting with Amy Persson & Neeve regarding the PAF? There was also a crash course is _____. There was also a trivia that **Sina** won held by ActivateUTS.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Cam takes their report as read.

5.4. Education Officer

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

Ella says students can protest more than teachers can due to how employment inflicts a power imbalance. That staff and student activists are feeling hopeless about how management talks to their employees. She notes that it was Palestine solidarity week and there is a Drone Shield protest and invites all people to attend the strike!

5.5. Welfare Officer

Sina speaks on his health services survey, his main goal was figuring the gaps in healthcare and how students are affected. **Sina** got over 100 responses! **Sina's** analysis was that the limitations of UTS' health services are that: appointments are hard to get, get cancelled last minute, and many students do not know the services that are offered, a lot of students had to pay out of pocket and experienced grim service from staff. For example an administrative staff member messed up an appointment and the staff member told the student, "This will probably make you even more depressed." reflecting the poor counselling team at UTS. **Sina's** looking forward to the clothes bins. He met with ActivateUTS and they have not responded to him. Welfare has a roster ready and bins ready, they are just waiting for ActivateUTS to communicate the final green light.

5.6. Women's Officer

Francesca's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Fran submits their report in writing to **Salma** and reads this aloud.

Francesca met with Kylie Readman. The women's collective package of condoms has been lost. It was signed off for someone named **Josh**.

UTS Alumni from Yale have asked to interview **Francesca**, she has accepted.

The annual WAGEC walk has been moved from May to September. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Salma walks out of the room and proxies Cam.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Rose takes their report as read.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

Taya takes their report as read.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

George submitted their report and reads these highlights:

George is in the process of creating a male pilot program. However, his contact from Respect Now Always (RNA) was on leave (Catherine). Since, he has been in contact with **Emma Dawson**. **George** spoke about his joint efforts with International Student OB, Rose Saksena and how they had been successful in an initiative they ran.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Omar has not submitted a report and is absent.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia is absent and so their report is taken as read.

5.12. Queer Officer

Grace takes their report as read.

5.13. Environment Officer

Eamonn did not submit a report and gave his report verbally.

Eamonn notes that this month he worked with the sustainability people to get a circular economy plan. This would detail how to limit goods & rubbish coming onto campus.

Salma walks back into the room.

Eamonn also speaks to how UTS could set up a system for reusable cups that you could put a deposit down for at different coffee shops and turn your cup in and receive your money back. **Eamonn** was in contact with Simon from the Centre of Creative Intelligence to connect further with sustainability initiatives. Including Red Cross' plant-a-tree day.

Eamonn has been putting together a paper about Ai, and is taking it to the UTS AI operations board.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

There were no committee reports.

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

Rohen gives a report verbally regarding Queer Collective.

Rohen discusses how the Queer Collective had an internal meeting regarding conduct and it was positive. They say that there are issues with having autonomous collectives & the Queer Office is elected in a different regard which makes their role an informal model, someone to be reporting back to. Instead of someone a part of their community.

Vertigo gives their report back. They report that online submissions have been steady. They are wrapping up Glass in the incoming weeks with ongoing discussions on whether print will resume or not.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1. Meet Your Student Representatives Campaign

Preamble:

The visibility of the student union is essential to ensuring meaningful student engagement. Many students remain unaware of the impact their voices can have, particularly during a period of budget cuts and significant organisational change within the university. Improving awareness of student representatives and their roles will strengthen transparency, accountability, and student participation in decision-making processes.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Empower the Executive team to coordinate the updating of the UTS website that introduces student leaders, including representatives serving on university and external bodies.
2. Work collaboratively with other student representatives across the university to

co-design the content and structure of this platform.
3. Approve an upper spending limit of \$650 to deliver an event.

Mover: Cam

Seconded: Fran

Cam met with **Chloe** and they discussed how no one knows who the union is. They want to build awareness aside from physical demonstration; Cam plans on doing posters that are catchy, focusing on building connections and matching interested students with student leaders whose work correlates.

Neeve says something like was done previously and it was successful.

Neeve proposes an amendment to remove making a new website; and change to update the UTS Student Representative website that is currently online.

Amendment to action point 1; to remove 'development of a' and replace it with 'updating of the UTS'.

And

Amendment to action point 3; replace 'print posters & stickers' with 'hold an event'.

Neeve recalls that **Bilijana** said there was an event that was pizza and drinks to get students to come into it.

This is amenable to the mover.

Ella suggests that the reason for this is that the structure functions as an empty bureaucracy, with attendance largely limited to Office Bearers. She refers to survey feedback indicating that the organisation is primarily known for Students for Palestine and Stop the Cuts, which she attributes mainly to Socialist Alternative rather than the broader group.

She also raises concerns that General Councillors are not sufficiently proactive in their activism, and suggests that some only engage actively during election periods.

Yas walks into the room

George says that connecting people to work is a good and meaningful exercise of being a student representative.

The motion goes to a vote.

Votes in Favour:

1. Cam Perez
2. Isabella Taylor

3. Francesca Harrison
4. Sina Asfhamaher
5. Eamonn Ryan
6. Taya Morante
7. Grace Cole
8. George Tulloch
9. Rose Saksena
10. Aaron Choy
11. Amelia Wilson Williams
12. Amelia Ireland

Abstentions:

1. Ben Grant-Skiba
2. Ella Haid
3. Jonathan Waters
4. Andrew Brogen
5. Yasmine Johnson

The motion passes.

7.2. Approval of 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Representation Letter

Preamble

- The SRC has received the 2025 audited financial statements and Representation Letter from the auditors.
- The financial statements report a loss of \$241,764 for the year.
- The auditors require signed copies to finalise the audit.
- The documents are attached in the notice.

Action

The UTSSA resolves to:

1. Approve and acknowledge the 2025 audited financial statements.
2. Approve and acknowledge the Representation Letter.

3. Authorise the President and relevant Executive Officer to sign the documents.
4. Direct that the signed documents be returned to the auditors.

Mover: Sina

Secunder: Amelia

Mariah speaks to completing an audit for 2025 as we are operating currently at a loss.

Cam asks what we spent the UTSSA budget on.

Mariah replies saying we spent a lot on the BlueBird Pantry and UTS only gave us \$70,000 but we usually spent \$110, 000, on renovations to student spaces.

The motion passes unanimously.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1 Amendment to the UTSSA By-Laws Grievance Lodgement Process

Preamble:

Schedule 3 of the UTSSA By-Laws establishes the powers and procedures of the Grievance Committee, including how matters may be referred for consideration. The current By-Laws do not prescribe a standardised method for lodging grievances, which has resulted in complaints being submitted as long-form narratives that are difficult to assess, do not clearly identify respondents, relevant By-Law provisions, or supporting evidence, and place an unnecessary administrative burden on the Grievance Committee.

The UTSSA Grievance Lodgement Standard Form provides a structured framework requiring complainants to clearly identify the issue, relevant provisions, and desired outcomes, improving clarity, procedural fairness and efficiency in grievance handling. Formal inclusion of this form within the By-Laws will ensure consistency, accessibility and clarity in the grievance process.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Amends Schedule 3 – Grievance Committee, by inserting a new clause after clause 2.2 as follows:
"2.3 Grievance Lodgement Form

2.3.1 A grievance submitted to the Grievance Committee should be lodged using the UTSSA Grievance Lodgement Standard Form.

1.3.2 The UTSSA Grievance Lodgement Standard Form must require the complainant to clearly identify:

- a. the issue giving rise to the grievance;
- b. the full name and position of the respondent;
- c. the relevant provisions of the UTSSA By-Laws and/or Association Code of Conduct alleged to have been breached;
- d. how the conduct is inconsistent with those provisions; and
- e. any supporting evidence and the outcome sought.

2.3.3 The purpose of the UTSSA Grievance Lodgement Standard Form is to ensure that grievances are clear, concise and capable of proper assessment. Grievances should not be submitted as long-form or unstructured narratives that fail to clearly identify relevant parties, provisions or evidence.

1.3.3 The UTSSA Grievance Lodgement Standard Form must be made readily accessible to students:

- a. upon request;
- b. via the UTSSA website; and
- c. within UTSSA's shared document systems.

2.3.5 Nothing in this clause prevents the Grievance Committee from accepting a grievance that is not submitted using the UTSSA Grievance Lodgement Standard Form, where it is reasonable to do so.

Mover: Cam

Secunder: Grace

Neeve says that grievances were hard to pick together. The forms are to clearly identify what the issue was, what actually by-laws it fell under. These would appropriately provide room to give needed supporting evidence. This is due to the grievance committee being first made in 2021 and has not been used since.

Ella leaves the room.

Neeve speaks to the proposed form stating the form attached will change the bylaws and that the form helps streamline this issue and reads out the bylaw changes reflected by the form. This is to reduce time and money in the process.

Ella returns to the room

Cam states it is important that we make an actual process with structure.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2. Defending the Future of 2SER

Preamble:

2SER is a Sydney-based community radio station established in 1979 and jointly owned by University of Technology Sydney and Macquarie University. It operates under a community broadcasting licence with a strong educational focus and has historically provided training, volunteering and participation opportunities for students pursuing careers in media, journalism and communications.

Macquarie University has withdrawn its funding contribution, creating a significant financial shortfall for the station. University of Technology Sydney has indicated it cannot independently sustain the full operational costs, placing the future of 2SER at immediate risk. Without replacement funding, 2SER has advised it may cease broadcasting as early as July 2026.

The station supports approximately 100 volunteers and plays a critical role in Sydney's independent media landscape, particularly for underrepresented communities.

The closure of 2SER would result in the loss of a key student training pathway, weaken independent media, and significantly impact community broadcasting in New South Wales.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Supports the "I Love 2SER" campaign and commits to promoting and amplifying the campaign across UTSSA channels.
2. Expresses solidarity with staff, volunteers and workers at 2SER and supports efforts to secure the station's future.
3. Writes to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Technology Sydney outlining UTSSA's opposition to the closure of 2SER and calling for the university to take action to support its continuation.

Mover: Grace

Seconder: Cam

Grace says MacqUni is pulling their funding & 2ser needs to find a new partner. Great opportunity into radio & sound journalism. It supports students & independent meeting and the UTSSA.

Cam says supporting community radio is supporting the community & UTSSA should stand behind that.

Emanie asks to write an article regarding it in Vertigo, **Neeve** agrees it is a good idea.

Neeve says that 2ser activists ask for love & to do their survey.

Teagan says she's collaborating with someone from MacqUni.

Neeve says reach out to **Teagan**

Grace proposes to change the motion title to '*I love 2SER*'. It is amenable to the mover.

The motion passes unanimously.

Ella moves a procedural to move 8.3 and 8.6 on bloc.

Andrew seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

8.3. Support for UTS Staff and NTEU Industrial Action

Preamble:

Staff at the University of Technology Sydney, represented by the National Tertiary Education Union, have called protected industrial action, including a strike on 30 April 2026, following ongoing failures in enterprise bargaining negotiations.

Staff have raised sustained concerns regarding inadequate pay outcomes, insecure employment, excessive workloads and a lack of meaningful progress in negotiations with university management. These concerns arise in a broader context of restructuring, course cuts and job insecurity across the university.

The UTSSA recognises that staff working conditions are student learning conditions. When staff are overworked, underpaid and insecure, the quality of teaching, feedback, subject availability and student support is directly undermined.

Industrial action is a lawful and necessary response where good faith bargaining fails. The decision by staff to strike reflects the seriousness of the dispute and the failure of management to reach an acceptable agreement. Students have a direct stake in this outcome. A university that fails its staff fails its students.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Stands in full solidarity with staff at the University of Technology Sydney participating in the National Tertiary Education Union strike on 30 April 2026.
2. Endorses staff demands for fair pay, secure employment, enforceable workload protections and an end to insecure and unsustainable working conditions.
3. Condemns the failure of University of Technology Sydney management to reach a fair

enterprise agreement and resolve these issues without the need for industrial action.

4. Encourages students to support staff by respecting the staff picket line and participating

in solidarity with staff.

5. Endorses the President to write to the Vice-Chancellor of University of Technology Sydney demanding that the University immediately engage in good faith to reach a fair agreement that addresses staff concerns

Mover: Ella

Seconder: Andrew

11am is for the walk out.

Ella notes the NTEU is organising pizza, and shutting the University down from 11am-11pm. Everything has been knocked back. UTS claims that we don't have money for parental leave. **Ella** says All the academic staff have been fired or put in redundancies. **Ella** asks for everyone to push a call out to message people, & tell your classmates to come along. **Ella** also asks if we can take a solidarity photo to post on UTSSA socials.

Ella notes that we are endorsing **Neeve** to write to **Andrew Parfitt** about students being angry at their own university, as staff emails are being met with verbally passive aggressive replies.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.4. Amendment to the UTSSA Spaces Policy

Preamble:

The UTSSA Spaces Policy establishes expectations for safe, respectful and appropriate use of UTSSA-managed spaces.

Clause 3.3.4 currently prohibits alcohol, illegal substances and "other inappropriate conduct", including behaviour that compromises the safety or comfort of others.

However, this clause relies on broad and non-exhaustive language which may create ambiguity in its interpretation and enforcement.

UTSSA spaces are shared, student-facing environments, including offices, collective spaces and service delivery areas. These spaces must remain appropriate for their intended use and accessible to all students without discomfort, risk or exclusion.

Sexual activity within UTSSA spaces is inconsistent with the purpose of these environments and may compromise the safety, comfort and accessibility of the space for others, regardless of whether such activity is consensual.

For the avoidance of doubt and to support clear, consistent enforcement, the policy should explicitly prohibit sexual activity within UTSSA spaces.

Action:

That the SRC:

1. Inserts the following clause under section 3.3.4 of the UTSSA Spaces Policy:
"d. engaging in sexual activity, ~~whether consensual or non-consensual.~~"
2. ~~Notes that non-consensual sexual activity may also constitute serious misconduct and may be referred to appropriate internal or external processes.~~
3. Directs the President to ensure that the updated policy be circulated to all UTSSA office bearers, staff and collective members to ensure clear understanding and consistent enforcement

Mover: Grace

Second: Sina

Neeve says we should explicitly name sexual activity within by-laws in addressing UTSSA spaces. She will update it and circulate it.

Amelia questions 'may' in regards to serious conduct

Francesca says 'non-consensual' is unfactual. The SRC engages in a discussion regarding the legality and the logistics of . Amendment to *Strike Action point 2 and "whether consensual or non-consensual"*.

The motion passes unanimously.

Cam moves procedural motion for a 10 minute break.

Francesca seconds.

The UTSSA resumes the April SRC meeting at 7.50pm.

Mover: Grace

Second: Francesca

Meeting reopens at 7.50pm.

8.5. The UTSSA Stands in Opposition to the UTS Protest Application Form

Preamble:

The University of Technology Sydney has introduced a Protest Application Form requiring

students to submit detailed information prior to holding protests on campus.

While the UTSSA recognises the need for reasonable safety and logistical coordination, the current form imposes excessive and unclear requirements that go beyond what is necessary to facilitate safe protest.

The form requires students to pre-emptively disclose information relating to protest content, attendance, media engagement and perceived risks. These requirements create an unreasonable administrative burden and act as a barrier to spontaneous and accessible political expression.

There are also concerns that vague concepts such as reputational harm or psychosocial risk may be used to restrict protest activity. Offence or disagreement with protest content does not constitute a legitimate basis to limit student expression.

Certain elements of the form are unworkable, including expectations that students predict media attendance or fully anticipate potential risks. These are matters outside the control of student organisers.

The structure and operation of the form creates the effect of a permission-based system form protest, rather than a facilitative process, and risks deterring lawful student activism. The University of Technology Sydney has existing Academic Freedom commitments which recognise the importance of freedom of expression and should apply to student protest activity.

Action:

That the SRC:

1. Opposes the current Protest Application Form implemented by University of Technology Sydney.
2. Supports a protest process that is facilitative, proportionate and does not require pre-approval, content-based disclosure, or speculative risk assessment by student organisers.
3. Publicly advocates against the current form and supports students engaging in protest activity on campus

Mover: Yasmine

Seconder: Sina

Yasmine notes that UTS has changed the form name but doesn't change the actual form including, the more worrying aspect of pushing onus of psychosocial wellbeing and social cohesion on to the organisers of protests. **Yasmine** speaks to the motion saying UTS is proposing harsher conditions of entry for protest than NSW police.

Sina says we have lots of flyers, continuing the petition publishing that we don't support the PAF.

Salma says in a meeting they had with Jaquie Wise, Shaun O'Mara & Amy Pearson that their reasoning was about preparing and protecting students; they want to know if we can help them out and appropriately protect students.

Salma also notes that UTS is sticking with the psychosocial wellbeing argument. And noted in the meeting that disagreement is good and that's how you grow and UTS Management responded to her by calling her arrogant.

Neeve saying identified risks, what if someone came with a banner with aggressive words on it.

Brandon said psychosocial safety is a fig leaf as if they cared about their students who were from war-torn countries' psychosocial safety they would not have a 20 year Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Tallos.

Neeve said UTS copied UNSW's form. And goes on to explain that if everything is framed as the harm of being offended, then students are offended that personnel from the ADF are allowed on campus. Students are offended by the cuts and offended by lack of action on GBV.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.6. The UTSSA supports the April 30/May1 UTS staff strike

Preamble

UTS Staff are going on a 24-hour strike from 11am on Thursday April 30th to 11am on Friday, May 1st. UTS workers are still fighting for a real pay rise, improved conditions and better job security. The pay offer they've received from Management doesn't beat inflation, amounting to a real pay cut. Their demands to increase paid parental leave have been rejected entirely. The university is also undermining academic positions with new "95% teaching" roles which undercut pay for research and administrative work. The student union should continue its role in supporting staff when they take industrial action as we recognise that we share a battle against the corporate University. It is vital that councillors not only take these positions themselves but also grow support for the strike amongst students through campaigning, leafleting, postering and showing up to the picket lines on the strike day.

Action

1. The UTSSA will send an email encouraging students to skip class and join the strike from 11am April 30th - 11am May 1st 2.
2. The UTSSA will take a solidarity photo at this meeting which will be shared on its social media to popularise student support for the strike.

This motion was moved on bloc.

8.7. The UTSSA Opposes the \$53 Billion Increase to the Defence Budget

On April 16, the Albanese government announced a \$53 billion increase to the defence budget, as part of their 2026 National Defence Strategy. This increase is part of accelerating the build up of militarism and war and must be opposed. Despite trying to frame this increase as necessary for Australia's security, when announcing this, the Labor government proclaimed Australia's 'need' for "a defence force that can engage in impactful projection." Any language about "defence" and "upholding peace and stability" is deceitful. The government's main concern is not defence. Impactful projection is not about deterring supposed foreign threats. Rather, the actual reason behind this increase is building up Australia's military might to best help carve up the world in the interests of Western, and most importantly, Australian imperialism. This spending increase should also be seen in the context of maintaining and advancing the US alliance. In the wake of the US' monstrous war on Iran, which has so far claimed the lives of 4000 people and disrupted the entire global economy, throwing millions of people around the world into ever deeper poverty, this alliance should be ripped to pieces. Australia should not be backing up the imperialist ambitions of the US empire, further, Australia should not be receiving any backing from the US empire to carry out its own imperialism. Boosting war budgets only benefits the rich and powerful who have things to gain from the exploits of war. Increases to defence spending will more and more entail, as is observed with the NDIS, the slashing of social spending for working class people and the oppressed. As our university continues to expand its partnerships with weapons companies, the Australian military, and the US Department of War, it is important that our student union opposes the drive to war and ramping up of military budgets, as well as the continuation of the US alliance.

Platform:

1. UTSSA opposes the \$53 billion increase to the defence budget.
2. UTSSA supports the breaking of the US Alliance and AUKUS.
3. UTSSA stands principally against Australian imperialism.

Action points:

1. UTSSA will co-post a statement condemning the military budget with Students for Palestine and any social media accounts of interested OBs.

Mover: Jonathan Waters

Secunder: Yasmine Johnson

Jonathan speaks to the motion; on April 16th said the Albanese government will increase the defence force budget by \$53 billion. **Jonathan** claims it as dense and it's all bullshit, in a combined statement was about increasing the defense force capabilities to engage in impactful projection of force.

Zack Hossain mentions how this is taking place when we have such insane cost of living pressures and little assistance for that.

Eammon proposes an amendment to *strike action point 1 and 2 and replace with*

1. In light of current economic circumstances, the UTSSA opposes the \$53 billion increase to the defence budget on the grounds that during the current cost of living crisis the money would be better spent on social services and infrastructure.

2. The UTSSA supports an Australian Foreign Policy focused on realigning the country away from our deeply entrenched military and geopolitical dependency on the Americans in favour of pursuing peaceful political and economic ties with our South East Asian and Pacific neighbours.

Mover: Sina

Seconder: Taya

Eamon speaks for the amendment.

Andrew speaks against the amendment.

Sina says that he thinks we are living in the a time where smaller countries are suffering by larger powers like Greenland and the United States, China and Taiwan, Gaza, and-

Eman interrupts replying 'and in Lebanon,' **Sina** says yes.

Ben says that Australia is also the aggressor and that we are a massive power asserting ourselves into international warfare. Noting war attributes to rising cost of living.

Cam says that these amendments to the platform won't go anywhere aside from the minutes and asks why it is relevant for the UTSSA to debate.

Yasmine says that the action point is to write a statement and taking out anti-war positions will fundamentally change the objective.

Dissent to amendment:

1. Yasmine Johnson
2. Ella Haid

3. Jonathan Waters
4. Andrew Brogden
5. Ben Grant-Skiba

The motion as amended goes to a vote.

Votes in Favour:

1. Eamonn
2. Sina
3. Grace
4. Taya
5. George
6. Rose
7. Cam Perez
8. Bella Taylor
9. Francesca Harrison

Votes Against:

1. Yasmine Johnson
2. Ben Grant-Skiba
3. Andrew Brogden
4. Jonathan Waters
5. Ella Haid

The motion passes.

8.8. Opposing The NDIS Cuts by the Federal Government

Preamble

The Albanese Labor government has announced major cuts to the national disability insurance scheme or NDIS. This will lead to at least 1 60 000 people, or about 20 percent of those who are currently dependent on the scheme, losing access to it by the end of the decade. A key change is that access to the NDIS will not be granted based on a medical diagnosis but on a "standardised assessment". In other words, the government will be able to set the eligibility bar as high as it wants. Eligibility based on "standardised" assessments was originally a proposal of the Scott Morrison Coalition government which Labor opposed and voted down at the time.

These cuts have now been justified in several ways including dog whistles about those on the scheme being undeserving. We note that a large portion of those who would likely lose access to NDIS funding are autistic children. This will subsequently worsen the living standards of their working class families, including an increase in the number of parents (predominantly mothers) who would be forced to make ends meet without the support and care they deserve to live dignified lives. The NDIS is a neoliberal, for-profit scheme that shifts the responsibility for addressing people's needs from the government and leaves it to the private market. It was the Gillard Labor government who unleashed these for-profit companies onto disabled people and their families as it gutted the prior state-based disability services. The government must take full responsibility in the form of free, universal healthcare including disability care which would prevent disabled people's needs being thrown onto a private market.

Action

1. The UTSSA will sign on to the public petition against the NDIS cuts organised by People With Disabilities Australia

(https://www.change.org/p/protect-the-ndis-don-t-cut-the-supports-people-need-to-live-ordinary-lives?utm_medium=custom_url&utm_source=share_petition&recruited_by_id=cda30bb0-3c9e-11f1-8c13-7135596608db)

Mover: Ben

Secunder: Andrew

Ben speaks for the motion, saying \$22 billion of funding removed from the NDIS is damaging to the service. He notes only 14% of people with disability receive NDIS payments. And removing this money will worsen their quality of life. Ben claims Mark Butler called participants of the NDIS shonks.

Ben asks **Sina** why he didn't put the NDIS cuts in his report as the UTSSA Welfare Officer.

Ben says the NDIS is a neoliberal care system and asks who takes responsibility for people's needs in a vicious campaign against autistic children.

Sina responds saying that the cuts are significant and family members need help especially when they live in rural areas with limited providers. **Sina** says he thinks the cuts are bad.

Cam addresses that Mark Butler claiming there are shonks and frauds in the NDIS are about the terrible providership. As the set up of the NDIS was up to a 9 year long liberal government. She speaks on the other reforms being proposed including \$200 million going into community participation and these services are those that are heavily unregulated which is why it will be cut, as there is a lot of fraud going on specifically in this area of the NDIS.

Emanis says that because she lives in a low socioeconomic area. Her family have benefitted from the NDIS. She agrees that cutting 20% of the NDIS is bad. And targets precarious work like sex work.

Amelia Ireland says it's ridiculous and she wants to raise that the motion calls for free universal healthcare, but it does not always include disabled people and that the link doesn't work.

Brendan speaks for the motion.

Ella speaks for the motion saying Labor should not be cutting services because "someone else will cut them if we don't".

The motion passes unanimously.

8.9. Student Carers Campaign

Preamble:

Student carers are an under-supported and underrepresented cohort within the university community. Due to significant time constraints and caring responsibilities, many student carers face barriers in accessing information about available support, including Accessibility Services. As a result, a number of students who may be eligible for assistance remain unaware of these resources. Increasing awareness of both the challenges faced by student carers and the support available to them would improve equity, access, and overall student wellbeing. A targeted campaign would not only benefit student carers but also other students who may require Accessibility Services and are currently unaware of their eligibility.

Action:

That the UTSSA

1. Develop and deliver a "Student Carers Campaign" to raise awareness of the challenges faced by student carers and the support available to them.
2. Collaborate with UTS Accessibility Services and relevant university departments to improve outreach to student carers, including during orientation and key academic periods.
3. Promote the campaign through UTSSA communication channels, including social media, and the website.

Mover: Cam

Seconder: Fran

Cam says this is so important and she was talking to students with a family with disability who are carers and they state the NDIS hasn't helped them and resources aren't set up to help people that well, they only address people with disability. She thinks there should be more awareness on what

services they can access, for example, financial support, therapy and assignment extensions. **Cam** wants to bring out more awareness.

Fran says it can help with special considerations also.

Cam says she had a meeting with Chantel from Accessibility to engage more students and they want to meet with the UTSSA Disabilities Officer and Vertigo to ask how we engage students in stories about disability.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.10 Enhancing International Student Confidence, Safety, and Engagement through Collaborative Workshops

Preamble:

International students are a vital part of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) community, contributing to its cultural diversity, academic excellence, and global outlook. However, many international students face uncertainty navigating unfamiliar systems in Australia, including public transport, law enforcement protocols, personal safety practices, and legal rights and responsibilities.

These uncertainties can lead to anxiety, reduced confidence in engaging with the broader community, and missed opportunities to fully experience student life. Clear, accessible, and culturally sensitive guidance is essential to empower international students to make informed decisions, feel safe, and participate actively both on and off campus. Collaborative engagement with local police, transport authorities, and safety organizations provides an opportunity to build trust, clarify expectations, and create a supportive environment where international students feel informed and secure.

Action:

The University of Technology Sydney Students' Association (UTSSA) will:

1. Organize a series of interactive workshops for international students in collaboration with:
 - a. Legal Aid representatives
 - b. Transport authorities (e.g., Opal/public transport services)
 - c. Safety and community organizations
2. Ensure workshops address:
 - a. Understanding Australian laws and police interactions
 - b. Public transport rules, etiquette, and fare compliance
 - c. Rights and responsibilities of international students
 - d. Personal safety, emergency procedures, and reporting mechanisms
3. Encourage Engagement and Dialogue

- a. Include Q&A sessions and scenario-based discussions
 - b. Create safe spaces for students to ask questions without fear of judgment
 - c. Facilitate ongoing communication channels between students and service providers
4. Collaborate with UTS Support Services to integrate workshops into orientation and ongoing student support programs

Mover: Rose

Seconder: Sina

Sina speaks to getting international students to understand the way of life in Australia, rules are slightly different and confusing. The idea is to get students into workshops with people who help them to have questions, have a chat. To help guide them through processes to do with transport, housing and other services.

Adam Levett, Matthew Murray, Jessica Heap walk in.

Ella says that the police are still racist.

Neeve says international students are more likely to be assaulted, scammed, harassed and stalked. Empowered, safe and supported.

Rose says she doesn't want a cop coming in either, it could be propaganda. However, international students get scammed massively, and knowing where to report crimes is a way to help the community. Notably, UTS provides subpar services or services that do not go far enough.

Cam asks if they could be NSW police caseworkers?

Neeve says yes we can find a way for it not to be a cop.

Taya says even though the police are bad, and she's never had a good experience with one. International students should know where to go.

Yasmine says legal aid is better and more prepared. She says we are not trying to make a positive experience with the police, as we need to give an accurate portrayal of the experience of dealing with police.

The amendment is to *replace "police" with "legal aid"*.

This is amendable to the mover.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

Yasmine submits motion to Salma as follows:

The UTSSA opposes UTS' new partnership with the AFP

On April 29, 2026 Andrew Parfit expanded UTS' ties to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the agency to cement "a partnership that connects research, learning, and operational practice". The MOU will see UTS work with the AFP on IT infrastructure and forensics capabilities in order to increase the AFP's "operational readiness". This is a major expansion of the already outrageous partnership between UTS and the AFP, which involves the development of new forensics tools and 'professional training and development'.

For the AFP, 'operational readiness' means intervention into the pacific islands, raids on the media such as the one that took place in 2019 against the ABC for reporting on war crimes in Afghanistan, and setting up special police divisions to target the Palestine movement.

The UTSSA must oppose university management expanding UTS' ties to the AFP.

Action

That the UTSSA resolves to:

- Put out a social media post opposing the new memorandum of understanding and UTS' longstanding ties to the AFP

Mover: Yasmine

Secunder: Ben

Neeve calls for a vote on whether the matter is urgent and should be allowed to go to a vote.

The motion passes unanimously.

Zack notes we found this out through The Hon VC Professor Andrew Parfit's LinkedIn post. Zack says the AFP is fundamentally a racist organisation we oppose.

The motion passes unanimously.

Neeve says she submitted a tender to host EdCon.

We have since heard UTS is hosting the National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference! It will be held over the 29th of June to 2nd July. The past EdCons have been held at Curtin University

(Perth) and ANU (Canberra). These campuses are significantly bigger so we need all hands on deck. Jobs will consist of helping out with breakout rooms, directions and catering.

Yasmine says we will get the Stop The Cuts photo outside.

10. Close of Meeting at 8:59PM

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

April was one of the most demanding months of the year to date. Work was spread across major governance and policy advocacy, a significant volume of internal casework, campus engagement, and operational administration. This report outlines the key areas of activity across the month.

1. University Engagement and Senior Stakeholder Meetings

Biannual Meeting with Vice-Chancellor Andrew Parfitt

I held my biannual meeting with Vice-Chancellor Andrew Parfitt this month, in which I raised a broad range of student-facing concerns that have been active areas of UTSSA advocacy. Issues tabled included:

- The Protest Notification Form and the ongoing concerns regarding its design and function (detailed further below)
- The Federal Royal Commission into Antisemitism at Australian Universities, including UTS's institutional response, public positioning, and the implications of any recommendations for student policy and campus culture
- The proposed closure of 2SER, the community radio station co-operated by UTS and Macquarie University, and the impact this would have on the broader campus and community media ecosystem
- The UTS Childcare Centre, in light of reports suggesting the University may be considering closing the service, a matter the UTSSA opposes strongly, given the significant impact this would have on student-parents and carers

I also provided a frank assessment of prevailing student sentiment toward the University, which is, to put it plainly, poor. Students feel increasingly disconnected from institutional decision-making, and there is a growing perception that the University's priorities are misaligned with student welfare and academic experience.

One-on-One with Kylie Readman

I met individually with Kylie Readman to continue discussions on several of the same issues raised with the Vice-Chancellor. Key topics included the Protest Notification Form, ongoing NTEU negotiations and industrial relations, the childcare centre situation, and gender-based violence policy. These conversations form part of a sustained advocacy effort across multiple levels of university leadership.

Meeting with Chloe Ferreira (Undergraduate Representative)

I also met with Chloe Ferreira, the Undergraduate representative, to discuss ongoing student issues and priorities relevant to the undergraduate cohort. This forms part of regular engagement to ensure the UTSSA remains informed by, and connected to, the experience of students across different enrolment categories.

2. Policy Advocacy Protest Notification Form

A considerable amount of time and attention this month was directed toward ongoing advocacy regarding the University's Protest Notification Form. Before the University's revised draft, which adopted a 'notification' framing rather than a prior approval model, I, alongside Salma, attended a meeting with university representatives including the Head of Security, Shaun O'Mara, Jacqui Wise, and Amy Persson to continue discussions on the form's design.

While the shift in framing has been welcomed as a step in the right direction following this meeting, the UTSSA's position is that the revised form continues to operate in practice as an approval framework.

Key concerns include:

- The declaration clause, which reserves the University's right to prohibit a protest where community safety risks are deemed significant and cannot be mitigated, effectively making protest activity contingent on prior authorisation, regardless of how the form is labelled
- The inclusion of 'psychosocial risk' as a category of risk assessment that protest organisers are required to address, which conflates objective safety hazards with anticipated reactions to political speech and places an unreasonable and unworkable burden on student organisers
- Question 8's requirement that organisers submit sample pamphlets in advance, which functions as pre-emptive scrutiny of protest content rather than a logistical coordination measure, and which UTSSA has formally requested be removed
- The absence of any clarification that information collected in Questions 6 to 8 is used solely for coordination purposes and not as a basis for determining whether a protest may proceed

The UTSSA's position, as articulated in formal written correspondence to the University this month, is that these elements are inconsistent with UTS's own Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Policy, which protects expression by default and requires that it not be unnecessarily burdened. We have proposed a workable alternative for the psychosocial risk question and remain committed to reaching a version of the form that genuinely reflects the University's stated commitments. Advocacy on this matter is continuing.

Student Rules Reform – UTSSA Consultation

I organised and facilitated a formal UTSSA consultation session with the external law firm engaged by the University to redraft the Student Rules, thank you to those who attended. This was a substantial and detailed process, involving a thorough review of the proposed framework, identification of risks and areas of concern, and the preparation and submission of UTSSA's formal written response. The consultation required significant preparation and engaged the Association's governance expertise directly. The Student Rules are a foundational document, and this revision represents a critical opportunity, and obligation, to ensure that student rights and procedural fairness are embedded in any replacement framework. Follow-up engagement will continue into the next reporting period.

3. Gender-Based Violence Policy

Inaugural Safe and Respectful Community Steering Committee

I attended the first meeting of the Safe and Respectful Communities Steering Committee. The most significant outcome of this meeting was the confirmation that UTSSA's formal submission regarding the use of confidentiality clauses in gender-based violence matters (Attached) has been accepted in full by the University. Furthermore, the University indicated it is now operating on the basis of that advice. This is a meaningful outcome that reflects the considerable time and effort invested in researching and preparing that submission. The task now is to monitor implementation and ensure this policy shift is reflected in practice. I will continue to engage with this committee and related processes to hold the University to account on this commitment.

4. Grievance Committee

A significant and demanding portion of April was consumed by the administration and management of matters before the UTSSA Grievance Committee. Four formal complaints, all internal, lodged by members against one another, and spanning a period of approximately two years, were active during this reporting period.

The volume and complexity of this casework has been substantial. The four complaints total approximately 73 pages of material across the four submissions alone, with the individual documents running to 7, 15, 16, and 35 pages respectively. My involvement in this process has spanned multiple functions:

- Acting as a student representative on the Committee
- Organising and coordinating Committee meetings
- Taking and managing minutes and formal records
- Drafting and issuing procedural correspondence, including notification letters to respondents
- Reviewing and engaging with legal advice from the Association's independent lawyer
- Contributing to the reform of aspects of the Grievance Committee's process and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose

This work has been among the most time-intensive of the month and has also carried a meaningful emotional load. Managing active complaints between members, ensuring procedural fairness, and working through complex legal and interpersonal dynamics simultaneously is demanding work. It will continue to require sustained attention in the coming weeks.

5. Student and Community Engagement

Palestine Solidarity Week

As part of UTSSA's commitment to student-led campaigns and causes, I assisted with the coordination of a student barbecue held in solidarity with Palestine Solidarity Week, including room bookings and event

logistics. I have also helped to facilitate a scheduled Zoom call with Ethan Floyd, a member of Students for Palestine, who is currently part of the flotilla to Gaza.

Queer Collective

I engaged with the Queer Collective regarding the use of their space, providing support and liaison to assist with their operational needs. Maintaining strong relationships with student collectives and ensuring their spaces and resources are protected remains a priority.

6. Vertigo – Student Media

I continued to manage ongoing issues relating to Vertigo, UTSSA's student publication, during April. This included stepping into a more hands-on coordination role over the past week to address production challenges, working directly with designers and contributors to keep the publication on track. I also reached out to the Student Media Association regarding Vertigo's membership, as part of ongoing work to situate Vertigo within the broader student media landscape and ensure it has access to the networks and resources available through that body.

7. Industrial Action – NTEU Strike Preparation

Preparation for the upcoming NTEU academic staff strike, scheduled for the day following this reporting period, was underway during April. I have been engaged in coordination and planning in the lead-up to the action, consistent with UTSSA's position of solidarity with staff on workplace matters. The strike demonstrates ongoing strains in negotiations between the University and the NTEU, an issue I have raised directly with both the Vice-Chancellor and Kylie Readman during this reporting period.

8. Looking Ahead

Heading into May, the following matters will require continued or escalated attention:

- Continued negotiation with the University on the Protest Notification Form toward a form the UTSSA can endorse
- Monitoring and follow-up on the implementation of the gender-based violence confidentiality policy following its acceptance
- Follow-through on Student Rules reform, including any further consultation or written submissions required
- Resolution of active Grievance Committee matters and further process improvement
- A formal meeting with University representatives regarding the UTS Childcare Centre to clarify the University's intentions and put UTSSA's opposition to any closure on record
- Continued engagement with student collectives, including the Queer Collective and Students for Palestine
- Post-strike assessment and continued engagement with NTEU-related matters

Good luck with your final weeks of semester!

2. General Secretary

This month has been a mix of advocacy, engagement and some internal work.

I attended the “Brave Conversations” training on behalf of the UTSSA, which I was strongly encouraged to attend and received multiple follow-ups about. I went into it expecting

something more structured and constructive; however, it was overall an awkward experience.

A significant portion of the discussion centred on Palestine and Israel. While things like the Nakba were acknowledged, the framing remained cautious and avoided direct language such as 'genocide'. But, I wasn't expecting more than that from UTS and I guess it's a small step forward by actually saying these things out loud. The environment itself was uncomfortable at times. It felt like there was an unspoken anticipation in the room, particularly when participants introduced themselves, as though people were waiting for those with seemingly opposing views to clash. No one said this outright, but the shift in dynamic was obvious. The small group size also made this more intense, only 7 student representatives showed up. That is no one's fault though.

The training emphasised listening to perspectives and avoiding "us vs them" framing. While that is valuable in theory, in practice it seemed to come with an expectation that firmly held positions be softened. When I expressed that I was highly confident in my stance on free speech on campus, particularly around whether it should be limited in the interest of psychological safety, it felt as though this was received as a refusal to engage, or even as arrogance. That was disappointing, as there is a clear difference between engaging in dialogue and being expected to dilute positions that are non-negotiable.

Overall, I did not feel particularly fulfilled by the session. That said, I have shared the materials and workbook with the Ethnocultural Officer to review for any potential use in anti-racism work. On a more positive note, we hosted the crash course and games night explaining the university and UTSSA. It was a really lovely event, and students were happy, engaged, and felt supported. Neeve and I also spoke to management about the Protest Application Form. While some changes have been made, there are still significant concerns. I had a phone meeting with security to discuss a number of matters, with a follow-up meeting scheduled.

Towards the end of the month, I have been looking at Vertigo-related work. I have also been unwell and in and out sporadically, and I really appreciate everyone's understanding during this time.

3. Assistant General Secretary

Hi everyone,

This month has been focused on organisational reset, governance improvements, and building momentum for upcoming student-facing initiatives.

A significant portion of work has gone into sorting and resetting both the UTSSA website; minutes & how we can communicate actionables cross-factionally to ensure everyone's advocacy gets pushed out evenly. This includes progressing administrative governance tasks such as clearing outstanding minutes, improving record-keeping, and updating website content to ensure accuracy and accessibility.

I've also engaged with key stakeholders across the university. I met with Chantel from

Accessibility to discuss collaboration opportunities, particularly in relation to student carers and accessibility-focused initiatives. Additionally, I met with Chloe, the Undergraduate Representative on UTS Council, to strengthen alignment between student representation bodies.

In terms of campaigns, we are ideating on a campaign aimed at increasing visibility and engagement with student representatives. Alongside this, planning is underway for a Student Carers and Accessibility campaign, which will focus on advocacy and support for these student groups.

Work is also progressing on strengthening the grievance committee, with a focus on ensuring UTSSA can independently assess WHS matters moving forward. This is an important step toward improving accountability and student confidence in processes.

Finally, I have been organising shared drive systems to better track and access actionable items coming out of SRC, improving continuity and follow-through.

Overall, this month has centred on rebuilding structures, strengthening governance, and laying the groundwork for more visible and impactful student engagement in the coming months.

Best,

Cam

4. Education Officer

The Education Action Group has been busy promoting the upcoming staff strike. Talking to students about the upcoming strike and making a case to them about skipping class has been vital amongst a student population for whom strike support is a novel question.

We held a meeting on Thurs April 23rd where we decided to order more materials for leafleting, poster and handing out stickers. We also made plans for strike day: joining the 11am walkout, painting a banner at the EAG stall and throwing water balloons at Andrew parfitt's cutout.

I've also been part of promoting this week's Nation-wide Palestine Solidarity Week on the initiative of Students For Palestine Australia. This involved a wonderful zine launch evening on Friday April 24th which brought together students from across Sydney who worked on their newly-published zine about

weapons ties and the need to keep up the fight for Palestine. I encourage all to attend the fundraiser BBQ on Tuesday April 28th, the protest tour of Sydney's weapons companies at 2pm Wed 28th and the all-in Sydney wing of the Nation-wide student assembly for the flotilla this Friday May 1st at 6pm here at UTS where we'll hear from Ethan Floyd, a Students for Palestine member on board the current flotilla to Gaza.

I also attended the April 10 meeting on student rules revision in my capacity as the current Education Officer. Over the past few weeks, management have tried to introduce a new "protest application form" which would require students to request permission from the University to hold a protest. It has been important for student union representatives to reject this and instead assert our basic right to dissent, protest and free speech without requiring University permission, nor the expectation that a protest must "protect the psychosocial wellbeing" of everyone. This latter requirement would practically render all dissent as "unsafe"

. This experience should underscore for us all how concern for "psychosocial safety"

uses the same logic as demands for "social cohesion"

- papering over dissent to protect an unequal and unjust status quo.

5. Welfare Officer

April was a very interesting month, with progress on all of the different projects that I am working towards.

Health Services survey:

Over the past few months, we have been running a health services survey to learn more about student experiences with the UTS GP and Counselling on campus. The goal with this was to understand where the issues are and which groups were most affected, as we cannot push for these services to be better without knowing what is wrong with them in the first place. This has involved posterage all over campus, running stands about the survey where students could come and talk to us and handing out flyers about the survey. We ended up with over a hundred responses and there were a few consistent issues that came up pretty consistently. This included lack of appointment availability, what services are offered to

students, and unprofessional behaviour by both reception staff and practitioners. The survey also had sections where respondents could go into detail about the issues they've faced and how they have affected them. Many students said that they have been forced to seek treatment elsewhere, sometimes paying out of pocket and many students also felt that their experiences had impacted their mental health. With all of this information in hand, it will be a lot easier going forward to push for more appointments, accountability around staff conduct, more transparency around what services are actually available and when and an end to out of pocket fees, because we know that these are real issues, we know who they affect, we know how often they come up and we know what the impacts of these issues are when they have come up. Another part of this campaign that has been really good so far is that members of the Welfare collective got really involved, helping me hand out and run the stand. I hope that I can get them involved in future projects as their help has been really useful.

Bluebird donation drive

We have been working towards a donations drive for the pantry in a week's time with Red Cross and Ausleap. This has been a pretty straightforward project. The Pantry already takes donations, so it was just planning for a larger volume of donations and promoting the donation drive so people know it is happening. We will be taking donations at both the UTSSA front office during office hours and the donation bins outside the pantry to split the burden.

Clothes bins

A finalised proposal for the bins has now been submitted to activate so that we can use their spaces for the bins. We are hoping to get a bin in the Activate Wellbeing space before the end of semester and a larger bin in the building 1 level 3 space once the renovations are finished. We have had a few meetings with activate over the past few weeks and we have a volunteer roster and the donations bin ready to go for the wellbeing space so we can get that running as soon as Activate allows us. The donations bin is a bright blue and will have a lot of labelling with UTSSA branding to make it clear that it is NOT a garbage

bin because that has been an issue when UNSW put in their clothes bins.

Going forward:

Over the next month, I am planning to run the donations drive, get the first bin up and running and work

on raising healthcare issues with university management. I also hope to get members of the Welfare collective as involved with all of this as I can

6. Women's Officer

N/A

7. International Students' Officer

Prepared by: Aditi Rose Saksena, International Students Officer

Date: April 26th, 2026

1. Student consultation meeting with Alex- 26th March, 2026

A meeting was held between ISO and Student experience director, Alex, to talk about various upcoming events under the International Students Collective. We further discussed the fragmented pathways for help for international students and if there is something or someone that could help with different causes such as international student help center, graduation ceremony alternatives, potential privacy concerns of the students etc.

2. Student consultation meeting- 10th April, 2026

As UTS progressed towards rearranging new student conduct rules, the UTSSA representatives as well as the case workers were consulted on the changes and edits to ensure equity in the student rules.

3. Student consultation meeting with Julieanne- 13th April, 2026

A meeting was held between ISO and Careerhub manager, Julieanne, to talk about various ways we could even out the playing field for the international students as well as ask support for the consulates job fair. UTS management showed great interest and excitement and is happy to do a potential collaboration for the same.

4. Collaborative relationship creation with UTS international departments

Throughout the month

As International Student Officer, I am focusing on making the ISO position a little more complex by ensuring that the future ISOs are aware of the various international student departments and support systems that exist throughout UTS and are able to reach out to the right people at the right time. The same would be reflected in the guide that would be passed on to the new officer in December.

8. Indigenous Officer

Due to the timing of StuVac and the current assessment period, there has been limited activity in this portfolio since the last report. However, there has been progress on First Nations engagement initiatives, communication, and longer-term campus projects.

The Collective group chat has become more active, which has helped strengthen communication and engagement among First Nations students. I have also reached out to Marcelle Burns, who runs the First Nations Newsletter, and asked whether an article about the Collective could be included in an upcoming edition. This would hopefully help boost awareness of the Collective and encourage more First Nations students to get involved. I am also working with Amelia Ireland to plan a weaving event, which will hopefully take place during the winter break or early next semester. A motion will be put forward once further research has been conducted into the cultural, practical, and budgetary aspects of the event. Amelia suggested looking into Ngumpie Weaving for starter kits, as well as String Harvest, as possible sources for weaving materials.

I have continued to progress discussions around the proposed yarning circle. I met with Daniel Hamilton to go through the details of the project, including its intended purpose, design considerations, and the next steps required for it to move forward. It is hoped that this work will continue to progress during the winter break, when there is more capacity to follow up on the practical and administrative aspects of the project.

I have also been informed that the proposed First Nations College is expected to proceed toward the end of the year, with plans for the project to be completed by the end of 2027.

While the timing and precise details are still to be confirmed, I understand that the College will include a yarning circle as part of its design.

In relation to the yarning circle materials, I have reviewed the current proposal and suggested that limestone be considered, given that UTS is located on saltwater Country. I am still waiting to receive further feedback on this suggestion.

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Since my last report, I have focused on strengthening the Postgraduate Collective, following up on campus safety work, and advocating for fairer university processes.

The Postgraduate Collective has now elected its Convenor, Pon Saranya Krishnan. This gives the Collective a stronger base for organising, member engagement, and events. I look forward to working with Pon to build a more active and connected postgraduate community.

I also followed up with Respect.Now.Always about the positive masculinity pilot. I found that the person I had been liaising with is currently on extended leave, which has delayed progress. I will keep pursuing this so the proposal does not stall, and have proposed a motion based on UTSSA staff encouragement.

This month, I attended a meeting about proposed new student rules. I raised concerns about how subjective disciplinary processes can seriously affect postgraduate students, particularly HDR and international students. For these students, a university investigation can put scholarships, visas, candidature, and future careers at risk. I argued that rules with such serious consequences must be clear, objective, and procedurally fair.

Next month, I will meet with Emma Dawson to seek advice on gendered violence policy and how the Top Blokes pilot could fit into broader prevention work. I want to make sure this is done seriously, in a way that supports campus safety and aligns with wider work against gendered violence.

10. Ethnocultural Officer

N/A

11. Disabilities Officer

N/A

12. Queer Officer

This month was mainly just filled with a whole lot of admin and meetings. We kicked it off with the election of all 4 of our internal positions, which are to be confirmed at this SRC. From there I had meetings with 3 out of 4 of these people to discuss their roles, their goals, their ideas and how the year ahead would look. I also started with as much of the handover process as I could. I also had a meeting with Neeve and some members at the centre for social justice and inclusion about how we can guarantee the queer collective is a safe and welcoming space for all people. I do wish I had spent some more time on being able to plan events but with the election of an events officer that should be happening in the very near future which is exciting!

That unfortunately sums up most of what went on this month. I would like May to be more

productive, and I hope to achieve this in 3 ways.

1. Have an official queer collective event planned by the end of the month
 2. Work with my convenor on some initiatives on campus, we have had a brief chat with Neeve about one that I am quite excited about
 3. Get the social media up and running properly with the help of my digital affairs officer, I have been making some posts but I'd love to get more visibility out there!
- That's all from the queer collective from April, I hope May goes as planned!

13. Environment Officer

N/A