

AUGUST 2025 SRC MINUTES

27/08/2025 | 6:30pm | CB11.04.300

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1. Opening of meeting at 6:33pm

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. Januka nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so Januka is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Januka Suraweera	General Secretary
Aryan Sharma	Assistant General Secretary
Samiha Emran	Education Officer
Neeve Nagle	Welfare Officer
Olivia Lee	Women's Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Amelia Ireland	Disabilities Officer
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	Environment Officer
Yasmine Johnson	Councillor
Omar El-Sobihy	Councillor
Ella Haid	Councillor
Sreekar Reddy	Postgraduate UTS Council Representative
Arkie Thomas	Vertigo
Bianca Drummond	Vertigo
El Potts	Queer Collective Convenor
Rohen	Observer
Kaityln	Observer
Tyberious Sweeto	Observer
Jonothan	Observer

Apologies

No Apologies

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Eamonn Ryan	Sina Afsharmehr
Lucia Thornton	Ella Haid
Harshvardhan Suvarna	Januka Suraweera
Elliot Kameron	Yasmine Johnson
Chloe Ferreira	Olivia Lee

1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

No one makes any declarations.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes'

The minutes from July are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

2.1. Executive Business

Januka tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meeting held on 18/08/2025

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No Matters Arising.

4. Correspondence

Neeve raises communication from UTS Housing received this month regarding her campaign to improve conditions at UTS Housing.

Neeve: Speaks to correspondence from Matthew manager of Student Housing, going through meetings and working towards reviewing the licence agreements. Overall correspondence demonstrates the ongoing back and forth push while still working on getting exact details including potential changes to license agreements before looking to mobilise students.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Mia takes as read. Mentions that she is open to questions only that it was mainly the continuation of her large campaigns she has been reporting on for several meetings in a row.

5.2. General Secretary

Januka takes report as read.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Aryan's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Aryan submits their report in writing to Januka and reads this aloud.

5.4. Education Officer

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

Mentions her focus on the Cuts campaign, talks about being disappointed with the University's approach to wellbeing with them improperly addressing and communicating how the cuts will impact students and staff. Speaks to harming the reputation of UTS, important to reach students to ensure everyone to know about the cuts. As a part of this has paid to boost the exposure of her posts alongside speaking with students from other universities about the campaign for strategies that have previously worked.

Mia: Speaks to there being 100 signatures so far on a recent petition made against the cuts.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Neeve takes report as read.

5.6. Women's Officer

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

That articles written by members of the Women's collective, are going to be published in the final edition of Vertigo.

5.7. International Students' Officer

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

5.8. Indigenous Officer

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

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

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

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

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

Has been working on the complaints process at UTS particularly in regard to racism and Islamophobia with the current system not functioning correctly. Highlights the Referendum is tomorrow and preparing for DivCon.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia takes report as read.

5.12. Queer Officer

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

Reminds SRC that the coming Friday is Wear it Purple Day and to wear purple if they are able to.

5.13. Environment Officer

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

Highlights recent Collective activities like the return of regular gardening, more tree planting events next month and upcoming social night with SASS society. Speaks to board meetings where he argued against the Cuts. Has spoken with the sustainability coordinator or some projects Jeremy was working on last year, including phasing out disposable items in building 2 alongside getting dishwashers for students to let them reuse their containers and utensils.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Vertigo Report

Bianca: The Team has been working on three editions this month, currently completing final elements for Egg before handing it off for approval. Volume 3 has been going well, nearly already off shelves, while its launch party also went well selling out and making a profit.

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

Mariah: Talks about renovations to women's space and space next to it, hoping to get a new IT system for staff and students to keep information easily accessible also mentions the new receptionist has started working in the office.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7. 1 Expansion of the MyTest HIV Self-Test Vending Machine Program

Preamble:

In 2024, the UTSSA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the NSW Health Administration Corporation (represented by the NSW STI Programs Unit) to host an HIV Self-Test Vending Machine on campus as part of the MyTest pilot project. This initiative sought to increase access to confidential HIV self-testing among students and community members who face barriers to traditional healthcare access, including Medicare ineligibility, structural inequities, and cultural stigma. The vending machine has provided an accessible, private, and free method of HIV testing – an important public health service.

Following a successful 12-month pilot, the NSW STI Programs Unit is transitioning the MyTest initiative into a business-as-usual program, and has offered to extend our participation for a further two years. Under this updated arrangement, the UTSSA will continue to host one machine, with all existing service provisions intact – except for minor changes such as the removal of the word "pilot" and a reduction in meeting frequency.

Given the demonstrated importance and utility of the existing machine, and recognising that demand may grow as awareness increases, the UTSSA has been offered the opportunity to host a second HIV self-test vending machine.

Expanding this initiative would:

- Further increase access to critical sexual health services.
- Support Medicare-ineligible and at-risk student populations.
- Reaffirm UTSSA's commitment to student health, safety, privacy, and equity.
- Allow us to offer services in multiple key student-accessible locations.

Action:

That the UTSSA will:

1. Approve the extension of the existing Memorandum of Agreement with the NSW Health Administration Corporation for a further two (2) years, removing all references to the "pilot" phase and continuing to host one (1) HIV Self-Test Vending Machine under the same service terms.
2. Approve the hosting of a second MyTest HIV Self-Test Vending Machine under the same terms and obligations as the first, to further improve access to testing across campus.
3. Authorise payment of \$1 to the Health Administration Corporation for the lease of the second machine.
4. Commit to providing a suitable location for the second machine on UTSSA-managed premises or other agreed location in collaboration with ActivateUTS, ensuring:
 - Close access to a power point.
 - 4G network coverage.

○Public accessibility.

5. Continue to restock and manage both vending machines as per existing obligations outlined in the MOA, including responding to consumer inquiries and liaising with the NSW STI Programs Unit as required.
6. Approve up to \$1300 in marketing and promotional costs to support the expansion of the program and increase visibility of both machines, covering signage, printing, and social media campaigns.

Mover: Olivia

Seconder: Neeve

Mia: Speaks to the success of the HIV machine previously launched at UTS. Has been offered a second vending machine as a part of an ongoing partnership, to be in building 10.

The motion passes unanimously.

7. 2 Approval of Consent Labs Training for Incoming Student Representatives

Preamble:

As part of the UTSSA's commitment to building a campus culture free from sexual violence, we have again engaged Consent Labs to deliver training for incoming student representatives. Consent Labs is a not-for-profit organisation specialising in consent and respectful relationships education to prevent sexual violence. They have an established record of delivering high-quality training to student groups at UTS, including UTSSA representatives, RNA volunteers, and UTS Housing leaders.

On Wednesday, 3rd December, Consent Labs will provide a 90-minute training session tailored to student leaders. This session is designed to ensure that participants:

- Feel confident navigating internal UTS reporting options, as well as external reporting pathways and support services.
- Know how to respond to disclosures of sexual harm in a safe, trauma-informed way, while also protecting their own emotional wellbeing.
- Are able to apply this knowledge to practical situations through scenario-based learning.

Last year's session was one of the highest-rated workshops in our end-of-training feedback survey, with many attendees highlighting its relevance, impact, and clarity. The training will be delivered to all incoming UTSSA representatives as part of their mandatory induction, and the session will also be open to RNA volunteers and other key student leaders attending the Networking Lunch on Wednesday, 3rd December.

Action:

That the UTSSA will approve payment of **\$3,054.96 (incl. GST)** to Consent Labs for the provision of this session, as outlined in the attached invoice.

Mover: Sina

Second: Olivia

Mia: Speaks to how well the Consent Labs training was last time and the importance in keeping it separate from the University.

Olivia: Mentions in her experience the in-person consent training being better than other forms of training.

Neeve: Speaks to importance in continuing to work at supporting respect on campus.

Mia: Highlights importance for those running to remember the dates because they will need to attend.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.3 Replacement of the President Office Door

Preamble:

The current door of the UTSSA President's office does not have a lock and as a sliding door cannot have one installed. This presents an issue, as the office contains UTSSA archives, sensitive information and the President's personal property, preventing the new UTSSA office from being open for general SRC member use.

To replace the door with one that can be locked the original quote received is A\$6,215.00, which is an upper limit while a cheaper quote is being requested. In order to have funding approved at an SRC meeting this motion is being put forward with an upper

limit so that the replacement door can be purchased as soon as the final quote is received and the UTSSA office can be shared by all SRC members sooner.

Action: That the SRC approves an upper limit payment of \$6,215.00 for installation of a lock or a lockable door on the President's office (CB01.03.60B).

Mover: Neeve

Seconder: Sina

Mia: Mentions that they have received a wide range of quotes from \$300 to \$6000 so this is an upper spending limit and ideally it would only be \$400. Speaks to the difficulty in allowing the office to be accessible, because without locks sensitive items could not be stored which this will solve.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.4 Student Experience Network Membership

Preamble:

The Student Experience Network (SEN) is a professional body for staff and student associations focused on student experience across Australia. Membership provides access to training, professional development, toolkits, governance resources, networking opportunities, and national programs that for both staff and students.

Membership would allow access for both staff and students to the SEN Annual Conference in November at discounted rates which would allow for professional development opportunities for staff in student engagement, wellbeing and advocacy.

Alongside smaller benefits like participation for UTS students in the national music competition, with monthly \$500 prizes and additional financial and merchandise support for campus music activations. 10% discount on SENPRO software packages for managing memberships, clubs, volunteering, case management, and events.

The annual membership fee is \$1,784, with a reduced cost of \$620 plus GST to cover the remainder of this year. This represents an opportunity to trial membership for the rest of the year before considering renewal with the annual membership fee.

Action: That the SRC Approves the UTSSA becoming a member of the Student Experience Network (SEN) for the remainder of the 2025 membership year at the cost of \$682 Incl. GST.

Mover: Sina

Seconder: Olivia

Mariah: Speaks to experience with SEN in the past. As they work with student unions across the country it allows easy access to information that can be useful.

Mia: Speaks to the opportunity to learn about various processes including how to approach the IT systems currently being worked on.

The motion passes unanimously.

Salma joins the meeting and gives her report.

7.5 Election Tribunal Nominations

Action:

1. That the UTSSA elect Maria Abertos as the Chair of the Election Tribunal.
2. That the UTSSA elect Annabella Poll and Ben Dunkerley as student members of the Election Tribunal.

Mover: Neeve

Seconder: Olivia

Mia: Explains how the tribunal works, exists for when anyone has issues with how the election is run. Asks if anyone knows the students in the tribunal and is running to flag it now to prevent conflict of interest.

Ty: Asks how people who are running would know who is in the Tribunal in case they do have a conflict.

Mia: Their names can be included in the election edition, while in the unlikely case that a student on the tribunal can declare that and the Tribunal will still have quorum to make a decision. Otherwise, if somehow the Tribunal cannot function new student members can be elected.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.6 Motion to Amend Election Regulations

Preamble: Last year only 100 students voted at Building 8 in total, far less than those who voted at other booths. This amendment changes the building allocation for polling booths back to what it was in 2022-2023.

Action: Amend section 10.7 of the UTSSA Election Regulations to omit 'Building 8' and replace with 'Building 10'.

Mover: Olivia

Seconder: Sina

Mia: Explains that the Booth was moved last year in the hope that there would be more Students going past the Booth to vote but this didn't happen. As a result, now moving it back.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.7 Reimbursement for Newcastle Trip Expenses

Preamble: The International Collective Society and the Postgraduate Society successfully hosted a trip to Newcastle, with tickets sold via the Humanitix platform at \$5 per person.

A total of 47 tickets were sold, raising \$235.00 in revenue, and that food was ordered for 49 students, with two additional meals provided for the organisers (myself and the Postgraduate Officer, Vaishnavi).

The food for the trip was ordered from a local business, Tasteful Creations, in line with UTSSA's choice to avoid companies considered targets of BDS.

The total cost of the food order came to \$404.64, which exceeded the funds raised through ticket sales.

Action: That the SRC approves an additional reimbursement of \$169.64, which was covered personally by the organiser, to reconcile the total trip expenses.

Mover: Olivia

Seconder: Sina

Mia: In absence of Vaishnavi and Harshvardhan speaks to the event being held the past weekend, raised money from tickets which covered most of the expenses, this motion is to cover the remainder, and it was ensured that they purchased from BDS friendly companies.

Mariah: Asks to confirm if the expense would be split evenly between collectives

Mia: Agrees it will be split between the collectives.

The motion passes unanimously.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1 The UTSSA endorses the National Student Referendum for Palestine

Preamble:

Israel's genocidal campaign against the people of Gaza has been the preeminent political question of the past two years. In response, a mass, sustained movement has erupted worldwide, opposing not only the slaughter itself but also the complicity of Western governments in enabling it. The fight for Palestine has become the largest and most sustained movement in a generation.

Australia has seen two historic days of protest for Palestine in the past month. The March for Humanity over the Sydney Harbour Bridge mobilised 300,000 people. This past Sunday was the largest coordinated single day of protest for Palestine in Australian history which saw mobilisations in dozens of cities and towns.

Despite these mass displays of pro-Palestine, anti-genocide sentiment, the Albanese

government has failed to meet any demands of the movement. No sanctions have been placed on Israel. The two way arms trade is ongoing. The government has not broken its support even now as Israel's concerted starvation campaign of the Gaza Strip has resulted in the declaration of famine by the IPC.

Students for Palestine's National Student Referendum for Palestine is the next step in the student campaign for Palestine, and against the support of Israel by our government and universities. It will provide the students of UTS with the opportunity to democratically express their condemnation not only of the Albanese government, but also the universities' own ties to the weapons companies profiting from the slaughter.

Platform

1. The UTSSA endorses the National Student Referendum for Palestine

Action:

1. Where possible SRC members will attend the referendum mass student meeting at 12pm Thursday, August 28.

Mover: Yasmine

Seconder: Ella

Yasmine: Speaks to the success of the referendum so far with three thousand people already voting, including at RMIT which is tech heavy university, media attention is picking up and Al Jazeera will be there. Student engagement is reflective of them starting to see the government is not doing enough and that more needs to be done to stop the two arms trade alongside the starvation in Gaza.

Jono: Early signs are looking good for the referendum with 470 half signups so far and even receiving assistance from some Clubs on campus. Students seem enthusiastic about the referendum.

Neeve: Speaks to the success the referendum has been having at other campus and is excited to see to come to UTS and hopeful it will have a strong result. Happy to see it come through the NUS and reflective of the ongoing national campaign.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2 The UTSSA Condemns UTS Management for 146 course suspensions

Preamble:

UTS has announced the temporary suspension of 146 courses across six faculties beginning in 2026. The suspensions disproportionately affect Honours and research pathways, leaving many current students in limbo with no clear communication or next steps from the University. This has also had detrimental impacts on staff who were sent an email on Thursday 14th of August, in the wake of these course suspensions, and told to “Do that task you've been dreading, like washing delicates” and “Start a tea ritual” by university management.

At the same time, UTS has sent out “Wellbeing Week” emails to students containing generic tips, yet made no mention of how the university intends to support those affected by suspended courses or reduced research opportunities. This lack of acknowledgment is deeply unprofessional and ignores the very real stress being caused to students whose study plans and futures are now uncertain.

Further, UTS has begun aggressively promoting the use of Artificial Intelligence within learning and teaching, raising concerns that management is using AI as a justification to cut staff jobs. This undermines the student experience and reduces education at UTS to the depersonalised, corporate model that many other Australian universities are adopting.

As students, we reject this lack of transparency, the disregard for staff and student wellbeing, and the erosion of research and teaching quality

Action:

That the UTS Students' Association:

1. Condemn UTS management for suspending 146 courses, threatening the quality of education, and failing to provide clarity or support for students affected by the suspension of Honours and research courses.

2. Criticise the Wellbeing Week communications sent to students for failing to acknowledge the impact of course suspensions and staff cuts, instead offering generic advice unrelated to the real issues students are facing.
3. Oppose the forced promotion of AI in teaching and learning when it is used as a justification for staff cuts and a reduction in educational quality.
4. Demand transparency from UTS leadership about:
 - Which Honours and research courses are being suspended and what pathways will remain open.
 - How students currently enrolled in affected areas will be supported.
 - The real impact of AI integration on staff workloads and student learning quality.
5. Stand in solidarity with the NTEU in any action/s they wish to take in response to the course suspensions, and continues work closely with the union and the Course Cuts Campaign

Mover: Samiha

Seconder: Amelia Ireland

Samiha: Speaks to the importance of emphasizing the fight against the cuts.

Ella: Outrageous that 100 courses are slated to be cut. Reminds SRC that 400 staff is 10% of the workforce, could be more than that due it being full time equivalent. Mentions it has really hit classes and students can feel the difference in their courses. States it is the result of the university being run for profit with the least profitable from faculties being cut. Continuing to fight with the stop the cuts campaign and there will hopefully be a rally in week 8.

Neeve: Talks about the issue of suspended enrolments alongside faculty mergers and that she has had a conversation with MLC Sarah Kaine with the work she's doing with the NTEU on an upcoming Education Summit. The hope is the state government becomes more involved in the issue which they have been claiming is a federal issue. Enquiry has opened on university governance, as mentioned in the report is excited for the UTSSA to submit to that.

Amelia Ireland: Flags upcoming rally organized by the NTEU at the tower.

Ella: Speaks to the Rally as she was at the organizing meeting, NTEU is going to create promotional material, one idea was where they get angry testimonials from prospective students who are already affected. Alongside current students who wanted to do honours also being affected.

Mia: talks about information from the recent meeting with Kylie Readman. Where she asked about the varying reasons on why courses are being suspended which were sometimes financial viability and other times based on how good they were. Even when those courses were previously recredited only a couple months ago based on them being good enough to keep going.

Kylie responded there were four criteria for courses being suspended. Enrolment in 2024, Enrolment from 2022 to 2024, Financial viability and Strategic direction of the university.

Mia: Speaks to all answers really coming down to financial viability when she asked about courses that had only recently been recredited. With the enrolment used only to identify which courses could be cut while affecting the least amount of people.

Reiterates the argument that students need to remember that this isn't just a corporate decision to be made and that it should be made with consultation with staff and students. That these unprofitable courses are run for the value they provide, even if it is expensive. As profitable courses will cover unprofitable courses. Important to change the focus and that we are the university not the corporate management.

Amelia Raptis: speaks to this not being the end of the Cuts and the potential for more Cuts to be announced in the future.

Mia: Mentions the University has a change proposal for actual cuts not just course suspensions, University is currently saying they can't release it while they are in dispute with the NTEU. That document will have even more impact. The narrative of the University that it will not be affecting students at this time is false but regardless students should empathize with their tutors and staff. Some PHD staff are expected to take on students for free, which those who are passionate will do but it's still awful they are being asked to. Even if it had no impact on us, we should be encouraging friends and peers to be empathic to those who will be impacted.

Neeve: Conversations I've been having even if the cuts are not impacting law as much has been by meeting students where they're at in order to have them understand the negatives of the cuts. People who would be the first to complain about slow marking, making sure they know that things like class sizes will get worse. To ensure that they know that just because it's not your faculty doesn't mean it won't affect you.

Ty: Asks where the information about the change proposal come from.

Mia: Says she heard it from Kylie who said they couldn't release it due to the dispute with the NTEU.

Mia: Mentions that luckily with the upcoming bargaining process for the staff EBA that the NTEU can engage in protected industrial action, which the UTSSA should be supportive of and help students understand why it should be done. University is attempting to split students and staff, that it's somehow unprofessional to talk about losing their jobs. The union's stance cannot be to force staff to keep working and must ensure solidarity between staff and students.

Neeve: Talking about the way strikes work and the opportunity to support strikes with options like family union days, with fun days with the NTEU to morale boost could be good.

Rohen: As NTEU postgraduate member speaks to NTEU alongside fighting against cuts also fighting for expanding rights around leave, will be important to get student support.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

General Reminder on Ticketing Policy

Mia: If anyone runs an event, follow the ticketing policy. Email herself or Januka if you have confusion.

Upcoming Space Renovations

Mia: Echo's Mariah's mention of upcoming renovations will be a lot of work looking for help from anyone with an interest in design.

Bianca: Asks which spaces.

Mia: mentions the spaces behind the women's office that are in extremely poor condition. Use to be security offices, none big enough to be a collective space. Will be getting it expanded by hopefully having some of the walls knocked down.

Bianca: What will be the spaces.

Mia: One space will be women's space, could be disabilities, could be another prayer room with agreement with university based on how bad the previous prayer space was, will be dependent on what the architects say they can be done with it.

Mariah: reiterates how small some of the rooms are. Building 2 previously housed a lot of those old offices.

Olivia: Mentions the doors lock from the outside, so you have to be careful not to get locked in.

Gender-based Violence

Amelia: Raises update on previous motion about Audrey Griffen's with an upcoming music event festival called Light Up celebrating her life and raises awareness on Gender based violence. While also raising money for her charity to go towards awareness and supporting victim survivors. Will be on Saturday the 4th of October.

Mia: Raises something that it came up in the meeting with Kylie, after pressure over the years and the national code university will finally look for student representation, from a larger students particularly on new respect matters modules instead of consent manual to include safer communities and respect team which will approach it as a larger issue in line with the code. Will involve process mapping asks if anyone has experience reporting through the University. Asked the University to inquire from anyone who used it, but they didn't want to because it they would only get bad feedback. Will be doing consultation on changes the new respect matters module, process mapping for respect matters team and new students' rules. New student rules should be watched including general misconduct separate from academic misconduct, especially rules related to protests important to get students involved to prevent them from randomly added rules without consultation.

Neeve: Something to note is that don't think anything is stupid for example there was a consent response from UTS Housing after incidents which was just to include coasters that say consent matters during events with alcohol, so you really can't suggest worse ideas then what they are currently doing.

Representatives-Elect and Autonomous Collectives

Rohen: Raises something from the queer collective, in response to the 2025 elections in terms of the Queer officer election. Wanted to read out a statement from the Queer Collective.

Rohen reads out statement: Generally, statement covers the Queer collective's condemnation of the current election of autonomous OB roles, that the current system limits the independence of the Queer collective and that previous attempts to reform have been unsuccessful at UTS but potential to follow UYSD's system.

Rohen: Speaks to it, quite disappointing that when tickets are made, they have someone for Queer officer but no discussion with the Queer collective, important that tickets in future speak with the Collective.

Mia: Starts with the reason why Queer officer is not directly elected like other directly elected roles like Women's officer, is because the university collects the data for those students. UTS doesn't want to collect Queer data also not something that we would want them to have due to privacy concerns which is why the role is Repselected alongside Enviro, Ethnocultural and Disabilities. Similar to how it's done at the next universities, this system is better as they don't need 50% of the vote as other officer roles compared to 16th to become a councillor and then to convince the SRC to make the Officer. The difference between the convenor is they are intended to represent the collective, while the Officer is paid because they are elected on a democratic basis by students at UTS being people beyond the Queer Collective. While important to hear what the Queer collective's opinions are on political issues the UTSSA's regulations prevent the Collective itself from endorsing a Candidate. As a result, the Ticket would be not to reach out to Collective for a Candidate because there would be no official Candidate but individuals from the Collective could approach tickets to express interest which historically hasn't happened.

Rohen: Clarifies that they believe tickets should reach out to collective not the other way and also while El has done really well, it's a situation when the Officer has the actual vote. Where the officer can refuse to support the Collective's motions.

Mia: Corrects that if the Collective, agrees to something that the Officer Bearer can't stop it

Rohen: State's the Convenor can't bring Motions

Mia: El has brought a couple of motions to SRC, it only needs a mover and a seconder like all other motions. Reiterates the SRC is bound to accept a Collective decision outside of very specific reasons in the cases where it violates the UTSSA's By-laws. This was intended to protect collective independence.

Mia: Believes that issues this year were largely a result of interpersonal issues and not a result of how the election system functions. SRC would not really shutdown a motion for any reason, El has submitted motions, and they are happy to hear more motions. Reads out the few situations where a collective decision might be refused from the By-Laws. Otherwise, they have to take what the collective says, even if they can't work with the Officer important to remember they can still bring things forward.

Rohen: States people should go to the Collective if they have issues, Officer should not have to bear the responsibility for all queer students it should be with the whole Collective, believes it would be a better model for student unionism to allow more involvement.

Mia: Agrees that the Queer collective should be consulted on Queer issues.

Rohen: Believes that factions should consult the Queer Collective on the Queer Officer in the spirit of democracy. This includes both in Respselect and once those officer bearers are elected as to their plans for the year.

Mia: For Repselect that is up to individual factions not something the UTSSA can force.

Mia: This is an election discussion, and we try to keep it out of the UTSSA especially because otherwise it would be a political tool leading to the Queer Collective to be stacked out by factions. Much easier than winning an election and avoiding that culture is something that the Queer Collective might not have realized. It is important that if students are paid, they are elected by broad students.

Omar: This discussion limits democracy to a ticket as difficult thing, but this is just students getting together to run a ticket, people are able to organize a ticket if you really want it, no one going to tell you to stop.

Mia: It's a lot easier to get on with just a fourteenth of the vote, the members of the queer Collective would have decent change on getting on if they formed a ticket since it is important to get buy in from a larger number of students.

El: Asks about clearer policy around interpersonal issues including harassment and sexual harassment.

Mia: Speaks to work moving forward with Activate to implement clear processes alongside the University to improve this in future.

Ty: Asks about whether Mia has been in communication with Chloe or Sreekar in terms of the Cuts and why has not much been said.

Mia: Speaks to having been in a meeting with Sreekar and Chloe earlier. Talks about regular communication with Chloe on the issue. However, there are limitations on what they can do because they are considered University Directors and therefor have legal requirements to not damage the reputation of the University and confidentially agreements. Chloe shares what she can but the University does little to ensure effective consultation with the Reps.

10. Close of Meeting at 8:00pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

This month has been one of the busiest and most challenging of the year so far, with major work continuing across campaigns for justice for Palestine, reforming UTS's response to sexual violence, and defending the integrity of education at our university.

On sexual violence reforms, I've been pressing UTS to address serious inconsistencies in its reporting of sexual harm. Current data is filled with contradictions, making it impossible to track outcomes or assess whether survivors are receiving support. I've called for a standardised reporting system that tracks timelines, referral pathways, outcomes, and demographic trends. At the same time, I've been working with the National Student Ombudsman to progress a systemic complaint against UTS for failing to implement past review recommendations. This accountability work is difficult but crucial, and I'll continue pushing until victim-survivors see real change.

On Palestine, beyond organising the August 7 National Day of Action at UTS, I've responded to troubling findings from an external review of campus protests earlier this year. The UTSSA has raised serious concerns about procedural fairness, inconsistent treatment of political expression, and the chilling effect on student activism. We remain clear: freedom of expression, including for Palestine, must be protected on our campus.

Beyond these campaigns, I'm excited that the UTSSA has launched a new food security partnership with OzHarvest, bringing free hot lunches to students on campus starting August 15. I've also been in contact with staff and other student leaders across NSW to build momentum on transport concessions for part-time and international students, an issue that students have been fighting for decades. The state-wide petition for expanding transport concessions has already gathered thousands of signatures – you can add your name and support the campaign here: [QR CODE].

Finally, the UTSSA is deeply concerned by the Operational Sustainability Initiative (OSI) and the suspension of 146 courses announced by UTS. While management frames these as “temporary,” the reality is that decisions of this scale have been made with little transparency and without genuine consultation with the staff and students most affected. Academic governance processes exist to ensure our community has a voice in shaping the future of education at UTS. Students and staff deserve clarity, accountability, and meaningful engagement, not unilateral announcements and after-the-fact briefings. We will continue to call for proper consultation, transparency, and protection of disciplines that are core to UTS's identity and mission. I've spoken publicly about this decision as both a President and a Physics student (one of the majors that UTS is suspending!) and I'll continue to fight for the future of these disciplines.

2. General Secretary

August has been a productive month in terms of continuing general organisational work such as updating the public information on the website.

In terms of the work most relevant to council being work done with Vertigo, this month began with working with Vertigo with their 4th release, Egg and implementing improvement to the process for future editions with the aim of reducing the pain points for future editions such as reviewing the content for edition both in written form and designs early. I believe this has already reduced a lot of issues with the review process and so far, has led to know significant issues or delays pending the final design approval this week. Alongside other Admin related ways to assist Vertigo including Budget Templates and supporting further SRC suggestions for articles.

The next Vertigo working group will be on Wednesday where further discussion with Vertigo will occur on several points but relevant to council is the Tote bag design competition suggesting during general business in the July meeting where I hope to begin collaboration on that project.

I have written my reforms to Collective elections to include a voting system for more than three candidates which will be included in By-Law reforms in a future SRC. While I begin work on the Handbook to hopefully be completed by September.

3. Education Officer

In August, much of my focus was on responding to the announcement of course suspensions and ensuring that students were informed and had avenues to voice their concerns. I drafted a petition opposing the cuts, which was formally launched through the UTSSA, and supported its circulation with a social media campaign and printed posters across campus that included a QR code for easy access. Alongside this, I attended the student and staff forum on the course suspensions, providing space for discussion, questions, and collective action. Recognising that not all students were able to attend, I prepared a follow-up post summarising the forum's key points to ensure transparency and accessibility.

I also drafted a post critically engaging with the communication received by students, particularly her assurance that current students would not be impacted “as of now,” which I believe is as a temporary reassurance that could change at any time. These communication efforts have been vital in clarifying misinformation and building momentum among students who genuinely feel left in the dark. To maintain visibility and continue outreach, I am also supporting UTSSA's presence at the upcoming Open Day on Saturday along with the NTEU, where future students' will be present and need to be concerned about the future of their studies will likely remain a central issue. Our next steps, will be in line with the NTEU.

4. Welfare Officer

UTSSA Welfare Officer Report August

Over the past month, my work as Welfare Officer has been spread across multiple areas of advocacy:

UTS Housing:

I have continued correspondence with UTS Housing, who remain reluctant to disclose information and have been purposefully secretive regarding student concerns. All correspondence has been forwarded to Januka so it can be tabled formally. I have been persistent in pushing for a follow-up meeting and am preparing to campaign strongly on any remaining housing issues once the recommendations of the SCLG are finalised into the final licence agreement.

Persistent Wi-Fi Access Issues in UTS Housing:

I have been in touch with Jacqui Wise regarding long-standing Wi-Fi issues reported repeatedly by residents. Many students have flagged that essential apps and webpages, including Spotify, Safari, banking services, messaging platforms, and work-related applications like Zambion, often fail to load on the UTS network. As a result, students are frequently forced to switch to mobile data to complete basic tasks and access study resources, creating both financial and academic barriers.

Vertigo Article:

I have also authored a piece for *Vertigo's Oddity* edition highlighting the inadequacy of the free health service on campus. This article aims to shine a spotlight on systemic shortcomings and to build momentum for reform in student health support at UTS.

University Governance Inquiry:

I met with the Hon. Dr Sarah Kaine MLC to discuss both the suspended courses on campus and the broader inquiry into university governance currently before NSW Parliament. The inquiry has been accepted by the committee, submissions are now open, and I have begun drafting material I hope to inform part of the UTSSA's submission. The aim is to ensure student experiences and welfare considerations are meaningfully represented in this process.

Content Filtering & Website Blocking:

It has been reported that the UTS Wi-fi content filter is blocking numerous queer and trans-related websites, along with legitimate sexual health resources such as Planned Parenthood's condom effectiveness page. Alarming, even the UTSSA Queer Collective's website has been blocked. While some sites have been whitelisted after complaints, the underlying issue persists, likely due to keyword-based or vendor-default filter settings that disproportionately restrict legitimate content. I have also raised this with Jacqui Wise, who is currently following up on the matter. I will continue to monitor and push for a comprehensive fix.

See you all at the National Referendum on Thursday!

5. Women's Officer

This August, I had planned a picnic for my welcome event that unfortunately kept getting delayed due to the weather. Luckily the constant rain has stopped and I will hopefully be able to hold my picnic on the first Sunday in September.

I turned out a contingent of UTS WoCo members to the recent harbour bridge rally which happened earlier this month, it was great to get the collective involved in such an important and widespread rally.

I am hoping to hold another meeting in early September to discuss plans for the rest of the year.

6. Disabilities Officer

August has been an incredibly successful month for the Disabilities Collective! The highlight of the month was the Launch of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme at UTS. This has been something that myself and the collective have been working on for a long time and I am really glad that the university got on board with the scheme. You can now find a sunflower lanyard, pin or wristband in Building One, Level Three at the UTS Students Association Reception, before the food court.

I have been working more closely with Liz Penny from Accessibility on a range of events that aim to bring together the Disability community at UTS. We are organising an Access Meet and Greet, participating in Access' 'Connected Minds' support program for autistic students and relaunching the DisCo coffee catchups.

We have also launched the Assistive Technology Database campaign, and responses are slowly coming in from the survey. I have also continued sending out newsletters to update members on the upcoming events, campaigns and meetings of the Disabilities Collective.

7. Queer Officer

On 25 August, our Collective held a meeting to discuss upcoming events and initiatives. Friday will be Wear It Purple Day. Unfortunately, I wanted to do a collaboration with Darlings like the queer ball they

hosted last year but due to communication issues and internal struggles within their club I couldn't organise anything. Regardless Wear it Purple day is an important occasion to show solidarity with LGBTQ+ young people and highlight the value of visibility, inclusion, and community support on campus.

As part of the program, the Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion will be hosting a series of presentations and activities. Additionally, The Darling Society is coordinating an event at the Learning Centre, creating another opportunity for students to come together in celebration and support.

These events represent our commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students. The SRC encourages everyone to participate, whether by attending sessions, wearing purple, or simply showing support for your peers.

8. Environment and Technology Officer

August has been yet another busy month for the collective. This month, in addition to the usual social and volunteering events I have also spent more time engaging with my university board positions.

Community Gardening:

We have organised new gardening sessions with Ultimo Community Garden this semester. The first one was two weeks ago and in spite of the rain, we still had pretty good turnout. We will be working continuing to maintain people's engagement over the next few months of this year.

Tree planting day 3:

We are in talks with Canada Bay Council for another tree planting day next month. This will be similar to our first tree planting in April where we will source native trees ourselves and the council doesn't help apart from giving us permission to do it.

Music Bingo Night with SASS:

I have organised a social night with SASS on the 26th. I am hoping that this will be an opportunity for members of the collective to socialise and for us to continue building a community within the collective

AI operations board:

There was a special meeting this week of the board. There was discussion about implementing AI for certain assessments such as clinical practice assessments. There was some discussion about how this may lead to job cuts for casual employees which I expressed concern about.

Sustainability Steering Committee:

I attended the third sustainability steering committee meeting of the year last week and quite a few topics were raised

There was some discussion about certain sustainability courses and majors that may be discontinued. As the student representative, I was asked about my thoughts and I talked about how I did not support what was happening.

There was also a lot of time spent on implementing a 'circular economy' at UTS and I will be catching up with Alexandra Fransen, the Sustainability Coordinator, to discuss this further.