

2025 REPRESENTATIVES ELECT MINUTES

04/12/2024 | 6:30pm | CB11.05.200 & Zoom

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting at 6:31pm.....	2
1.1. Acknowledgement of Country	2
1.2. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies	2
Attendees	2
Apologies	3
Proxies	3
1.3. Declarations of Interest	3
1.4. Introduction to Council / President's Welcome.....	4
1.5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes	4
2. Appointment of the Returning Officer.....	4
2.1. Tabling of Election Report (If Applicable)	4
2.2. Business on Notice Required to be Discharged	4
3. Election of Internal Positions.....	5
3.1. Ethnocultural Officer.....	5
3.2. Disabilities Officer	5
3.3. Queer Officer	5
3.4. Environment Officer.....	6
3.5. Director of Student Publications.....	8
4. General Business	9
5. Close of Meeting at 7:02pm	9
Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports	10
1. Introduction to Council/ President's Welcome	10

1. Opening of meeting at 6:31pm

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. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Adam Levett	General Secretary
Amelia Ireland	General Councillor (Elected Disabilities Officer)
Daewah Thein	General Councillor (Elected Queer Officer)
Yasmine Johnson	General Councillor
Elliot Kameron	General Councillor
Lucia Thornton	General Councillor
Alessio Maiese	General Councillor
Ella Haid	General Councillor
Neeve Nagle	Welfare Officer
Eamonn Ryan	General Councillor
Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor (Elected Environment Officer)
Olivia Lee	Women's Officer
Salma Elmubasher	General Councillor (Elected Ethnocultural Officer)
Vaishnavi Omar	Postgraduate Officer
Januka Suraweera	Assistant General Secretary

Omar El-Sobihy	General Councillor
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Harshvardhan Suvarna	International Student's Officer
Samiha Emran	Education Officer
Macka Barran	Observer
Biljana O'Connor	UTSSA Staff
Mayela Dayeh	Vertigo
Jonnie Jock	Vertigo
Bianca Drummond Costa	Vertigo
Eryn Yates	Vertigo
Lily Campbell	Observer

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Bhargav Choudhari	Postgraduate UTS Council
Chloe Ferreira	Undergraduate UTS Council
Vaishnavi Omar	Postgraduate Officer

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Bhargav Choudhari	Olivia Lee
Chloe Ferreira	Neeve Nagle

1.3. Declarations of Interest

Mia calls for Declarations of Interest to be made for this meeting.

Ella: Asks for clarification on what Declaration of Interest means.

Mia: Conflict of interest or material benefit from items on notice, probably not relevant at Reps-Elect.

Nobody makes any Declarations of Interest.

1.4. Introduction to Council / President's Welcome

A procedural motion is moved to take this agenda item to General Business.

Mover: Salma Elmubasher

Second: Neeve Nagle

Procedural is passed unanimously.

1.5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes from November 2024 SRC Meeting are confirmed to be true and accurate on the record.

2. Appointment of the Returning Officer

Ameer Hamza is nominated as Returning Officer.

Mover: Eamonn Ryan

Second: Omar El-Sobihy

The election of Returning Officer is confirmed unopposed.

2.1. Tabling of Election Report (If Applicable)

No Election Report has been received on Notice.

2.2. Business on Notice Required to be Discharged

A procedural motion is moved to limit speaking time to 1 minute.

Mover: Salma Elmubasher

Second: Januka Suraweera

The procedural is passed unopposed.

3. Election of Internal Positions

3.1. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma Elmubasher nominates to the position of Ethnocultural Officer.

Salma Elmubasher is elected to the position of Ethnocultural Officer unopposed.

3.2. Disabilities Officer

Amelia Ireland nominates to the position of Disabilities Officer.

Amelia Ireland is elected to the position of Disabilities Officer unopposed.

3.3. Queer Officer

Two nominations are received for the position of Queer Officer:

Yasmine Johnson

Daewah Thein

Yasmine: Speaks to her nomination, and the importance of a fighting student movement. Speaks to the \$100 million in course cuts at UTS and the rise of the far right in the United States as her priorities. Speaks for the need for the UTSSA to fight UTS instead of collaborating with the University's Management.

Daewah: Speaks to nomination, introduces themselves and pronouns They/Them.

The position of Queer Officer is taken to a vote:

Yasmine (Votes For: 4)

1 Yasmine

1 Elliot

1 Lucia

1 Ella

Daewah (Votes For: 16)

1 Daewah

1 Amelia I

1 Omar

1 Salma

2 Olivia

2 Neeve

1 Eamonn

1 Sina

1 Januka

1 Harshvardhan

1 Amelia R

1 Dirk

1 Adam

1 Mia

Daewah Thein is elected to the position of Queer Officer.

3.4. Environment Officer

Two nominations are received for the position of Environment Officer.

Sina Afsharmehr

Lucia Thornton

Lucia: Speaks to her nomination. Speaks to the Australian Labor Party and the acceleration the climate crisis by approval of fossil fuel projects globally. The candidate speaks to Condemn the UTSSA for merging the Environment Officer role with technology.

Sina: Defends that he is not last year's Environment Officer. The candidate refers to articles previously written by him that criticised the current federal government on its environmental policies.

Daewah Thein leaves room at 6:45pm, no proxy is given.

Yasmine: Asks if councillors present can respond to this.

A procedural is moved to allow two questions to be given to both candidates.

Mover: Yasmine Johnson

Second: Ella Haid

Yasmine: Speaks as mover to the procedural, states that the SRC has a right to hear from office bearers before their election.

The procedural passes unanimously, with 2 abstentions.

Salma Elmubasher

Amelia Ireland

Yasmine: Speaks against Sina's candidacy, as a general councilor from a Labor aligned ticket. Speaks to the current policies of the federal Labor government such as Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek's recent rejection of 'natural positive laws'.

Daewah re-enters room at 6:48pm.

Lucia: Speaks to her involvement in campaigns against Labor in recent years. Speaks not only to climate policy but on Palestine and attacks on refugee rights. Speaks to the need for every student union to adopt this strategy.

Sina: Speaks to the government going further than is necessary on certain conservative policies.

Ella: Speaks to the government not taking climate crisis seriously, and the need to end Australia's role in fossil fuel exports amid rising global emissions. Asks both candidates how they will respond to UTS management's "greenwashing".

Lucia: Speaks to current partnerships with fossil fuel companies within the university sector and current internships offered at UTS. Affirms that the UTSSA should adopt a position of publicly opposing university management and organising protests on campus.

Sina: Affirms that whilst UTS has divested from fossil fuels, he will not be a front for university management. Commits to continued negotiations and opposition to the university when necessary.

The position of Environment Officer is taken to a vote:

Lucia (Votes For: 4)

1 Lucia

1 Ella

1 Elliot

1 Yasmine

Sina (Votes For: 17)

1 Daewah

1 Amelia I

1 Omar

1 Salma

2 Olivia

2 Neeve

1 Eamonn

1 Sina

1 Januka

1 Harshvardhan

1 Amelia R

1 Dirk

1 Samiha

1 Adam

1 Mia

Sina Afsharmehr is elected to the position of Environment Officer.

3.5. Director of Student Publications

Mia: Speaks to changes in the UTSSA By-Laws and this position being no longer relevant.

No Nominations are received for this position.

Ameer Hamza (Returning Officer) leaves the meeting at 6:51pm after all ballots are concluded.

Vaishnavi Omar (Postgraduate Officer) enters the meeting at 6:51pm.

4. General Business

Lily Rosebell (observer) enters the meeting at 6:53pm.

Mia: Speaks to being glad that Reps-Elect is now being held in December instead of January. Mia delivers her written Introduction to Council in full. Mia interjects to speak on the recently concluded mandatory training and subsequent feedback survey on UNITU, which will be emailed to all attendees this evening.

5. Close of Meeting at 7:02pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. Introduction to Council/ President's Welcome

Hi everyone!

I am honoured and proud to be returning for a fourth year on the UTSSA and a second year as President. I feel confident that the SRC of 2025 will continue to advocate for and with UTS students. This year is set to be challenging, with significant structural and financial changes coming to UTS. However, I believe the UTSSA is equipped with the experience, knowledge, and passion needed to be truly effective and empowered in our advocacy and representation.

This year, my key goals are focused on strengthening the longevity and continuity of the Association, continuing to build our profile, and empowering student representatives from across the university. I'm proud to have hosted our first training week and hope that attendees found the sessions from the past few days useful and valuable for understanding the UTSSA's systems and performing your roles effectively.

I want to emphasise two key points I raised throughout training:

1. I am here to represent the needs and wants of UTS students to decision-makers across the university — not for any political or personal gain.
2. I am committed to supporting you in your roles, whether you are part of Vertigo or the SRC.

This year, I also aim to maintain the UTSSA's focus on several critical campaigns. These include urging UTS to cut ties with the Technion (the Israeli Institute of Technology), collaborating with the NTEU UTS Branch in their campaign against UTS' budget cuts, and advancing essential academic reforms through the Academic Administration Working Group. Furthermore, I will closely monitor the implementation of legislation concerning the National Student Ombudsman and the Action Plan / National Code at UTS.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to reflect on my approach to leadership and student politics. Within the UTSSA, I believe deeply in fostering an environment of respect and collaboration. Despite differences in perspectives or approaches, it is crucial that we all share a core goal: supporting the welfare and education of students at this university. By working together with mutual respect and a focus on our shared purpose, we can achieve meaningful change for our community.

Thank you all for your commitment and energy as we embark on this new term. I look forward to working with each of you to make 2025 a year of impactful advocacy and representation.