

# Minutes of the February Meeting of the UTSSA 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

## Attendance:

- Aidan O'Rourke (President)
- Camille Smith (Assistant General Secretary)
- Sabrine Yassine (Welfare Officer)
- Luna Manandhar (International Officer)
- Abdul Kandil (General Councillor)
- Eshna Gupta (Womens' Officer)
- Jared Turkington (General Councillor)
- Jeylan Riza (General Councillor)
- Lina Min (General Councillor)
- Will Simmons (General Councillor)
- Nour Al Hammouri (General Councillor)
- Melodie Grafton (Cultural Diversity Officer)
- Zebadiah Cruickshank (Indigenous Officer)
- Nick Allison (General Councillor)
- Peter Mumford (Postgraduate Officer)
- Hawa Mohammad (General Councillor)
- Mehmet Musa (General Councillor)
- Cal McKinley (Queer Collective Convenor)
- Damien Nguyen (Observer)
- Miles Carter (Observer)
- Angela Jin (Vertigo)
- Rachel Percival (Vertigo)
- May Tun (Observer)

## Minutes:

### 1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened 6:37pm

#### *1.1. Acknowledgement of Country*

Delivered by Aidan.

#### *1.3 Apologies and Proxies*

Erin proxies to Zebadiah. Juneyt proxies to Mehmet. Ruby proxies to Sabrine.

#### *1.4 Declarations of Interest*

None

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes for the Executive Meetings on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

Motion to accept minutes of the previous meetings.

Moved: Camille

Seconded: Zeb

Motion carries unanimously

## 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

## 4. Correspondence

Aidan spoke to NUS about new campaigns. News Media ban – UTS and other institutions have had information hidden. NUS led a campaign against it which was supported by Cappa. 22<sup>nd</sup> March is Education week of action - speak to Ellie about involvement. An international student has been attacked – contact Aidan or Luna for details about how to get involved with support.

## 5. Office Bearers' Reports

### *5.1. President*

Aidan: Summarises his report for council..

### *5.2. Assistant General Secretary*

Camille: Summarises her report to council.

### *5.3. Education Officer*

Ellie: Summarises her report to council.

### *5.4. Welfare Officer*

Sabrina: Summarises her report for council.

### *5.6. Women's Officer*

Eshna: Summaries her report to council.

### *5.7. International Students' Officer*

Luna: Summaries her report.

### *5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer*

Zebadiah: Summarises his report.

### *5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer*

Report not received. Peter summarises recent activity.

### *5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer*

Report not received. Melodie summarises recent activity.

### *5.11. Accessibility Officer*

Position vacant.

### *5.12. Queer Students' Officer*

Clodagh: Summaries their report.

### *5.13. Environment Officer*

No Enviro Officer present.

## 6. Business Arising on Notice

### *6.1.1 Standing Orders*

Aidan briefly discusses the document provided to council prior to the meeting. Council has read the provided document.

Mover: Mehmet.

Secunder Will.

Motion carries unanimously.

### *6.1.2 Events Approval Policy*

Aidan briefly discusses the document provided to council prior to the meeting. Council has read the provided document. Ellie believes that the policy will threaten the autonomy of collectives holding events, especially snap rallies. Melodie explains the Ethno has an event next week and asks the process of approval for this event. Aidan explains the 3 possible bodies that can approve an event. Will asks why we are passing the motion if this is already standard practise. Aidan explains that it is the current standard practise, it just is not in writing yet. Clodagh asks who the first authority is to ask for event approval. Aidan explains that the process begins with the Collective OB, then President, Exec or Council. Ellie questions whether its appropriate for the President to have this power, not just for this year, but for coming years. Mehmet explains that he originally wrote this but not with the extreme power of the president in mind, more to streamline the process of organising and approving an event.

Mover: Zeb

Secunder: Sabine

Abstentions: Ellie, Eshna, Melodie & Camille abstain

Motion carries

### *6.1.3 Communication & Meetings Policy*

Camille and Sabine have drafted a policy intended to increase productivity during work hours and increase positive mental health and protect personal time.

Going forward, all UTS Students' Association ('SA') meetings should be scheduled for weekdays and start no later than 7:30pm and finish no later than 9:00pm. These guidelines allow SA members to decompress and allow time for a healthy sleep. For inevitably busier times, meeting times can be extended with a 2/3 majority of attendees, however we should strive to avoid this as much as possible to promote a healthy work/life balance in the SA. Long and late meetings should not be the norm.

Emails should be the standard mode of contact between members of the SA, not only because it doesn't blur the line between professional and personal modes of contact, and not just because it allows people to take their time with reading and replying, but also to retain legacy information for the people who will take over our roles next year. Although we will still retain and utilize our group chats appropriately, SA correspondence should first and foremost be sent via our student/SA email accounts. Association members should also avoid contacting other members on non-meeting days outside of the regular workday i.e., 9am-5pm through non-email modes of communication. Our social media should remain social, and not professional.

## Action

That the UTS Students' Association ('SA') adopts the following *Communication and Meetings Policy*:

- 1) All meetings shall be scheduled on weekdays, with start times no later than 7:30 pm and end times no later than 9 pm.
- 2) A motion to extend a meeting past 9 pm requires a two-thirds majority agreement.
- 3) That all SA correspondence be delivered via email, and that SA related contact on non-meeting days should not be made via any social media site outside of the regular working hours.

Mover: Camille

Secunder: Ursula

Motion carries unanimously.

### *6.1.4 Vertigo Printing*

Aidan happy with the response from the recent Vertigo publication. Aidan has submitted an alternative motion for \$9000 to print 1 further issue.

Mover: Zebadiah

Secunder: Luna

Rachel from Vertigo believes both should be printed. Stands have been empty demonstrating an interest in the printed issues. Points out that this is a small amount to publish in contrast to previous years. Mariah is happy with current issue, points out that this is the most expensive one ever printed and believes the compromise is a good idea. Suggests printing more of the same issue could be beneficial as its cheaper than printing 2 separate issues. Council believes foot traffic on O'day is

responsible for the increased interest and worries that when things calm down, there will not be as many students picking it up. Rachel asks if the next issue is well received, will the council potentially approve further budget for another issue. Aidan says we should approve initial compromise and re-evaluate after this one is printed.

Motion to approve Aidan's revised budget of \$9000 for one further printed issue of Vertigo.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### *6.1.5 Myanmar Motion -Ethno*

Melodie speaks to the motion provided. Observer May Tun, a Burmese student has been working with Melodie on writing this motion.

Motion for the SA to stand in solidarity with Burmese students fighting in Myanmar and with Burmese students. May Tun hopes that more students will become aware of the situation facing Burmese students in Myanmar and in Australia.

Mover: Melodie

Secunder: Will

Motion carries unanimously.

Melodie reads second provided motion and discusses the SA advocating for better mental health support from appropriate counsellors for Burmese students at UTS, advocating for divestment from corporations that benefit from the violence and unrest in Myanmar.

Mover: Melodie

Secunder: Will

Motion carries unanimously.

#### *6.1.6 Queer Collective O'Day reimbursement*

Clodagh outlines the action points in the documents provided.

Mover: Camille

Secunder: Melodie

Motion carries unanimously.

Clodagh explains that COVID restricts access to the safe spaces provided for Queer students. Clodagh requests funding to refurbish the Queer space to make it more inclusive for Queer students. Aidan explains that the Queer Collective can find the items they want, write a motion, and submit the items to Exec for approval. Clodagh explains that the nature of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items can be sold very quickly on Facebook Marketplace, Gumtree and Op Shops. Aidan explains that if the Queer Collective agree on items, Queer Collective can purchase and make a reimbursement motion to submit to Exec.

Amended motion for Queer Collective to purchase items for refurbishment and SRC to reimburse the costs where appropriate.

Mover: Zebadiah

Seconder Sabine

Motion carries unanimously.

## 7. General Business

### *7.1 Student Association Student Conduct*

Aidan explains that students must remind careful and kind within the SA and requests that if any SA Councillor or Collective member feels bullied or intimidated by another member, or feels unsure about procedures that they should request clarification from an Exec member.

Peter is seeking a meeting with the VC. Anyone can contact Peter if they have anything they would like to present to the VC.

## 8. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed 7:41pm