

FEBRUARY 2024 SRC MINUTES

28 February 2024 | 6:30PM | CB11.04.203 and on Zoom

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1. Opening of meeting at 6:39pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

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

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Adam Levett	General Secretary
Bridie O'Kelly	Assistant General Secretary
Aylin Cihan	Welfare Officer
Alisa Hamilton	Education Officer
Raghav Motani	International Students' Officer
Laura Currie	Postgraduate Officer
Mariam Yassine	Women's Officer
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Samaha Emran	Disabilities Officer
Jeremy Higgins	Environment Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Joseph Naffah	General Councillor

Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor
Matthew Murray	General Councillor
Januka Suraweera	General Councillor
Mariah Brown	Executive Officer
Francesca Dougenis	Reception
Yasmine Johnson	Observer
Joseph Chalita	Observer
Ella Haid	Observer
Nour Al Hammouri	Immediate Past President
Tyberious Seeto	Vertigo
Raphaella Katzen	Vertigo
Gokce Caliskan	Director of Student Publications

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Adrian Lozancic	General Councillor
Neeve Nagle	General Councillor
Bilvika Abburi	General Councillor
Kurt Cheng	Undergraduate Representative – UTS Council

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Neeve Nagle	Raghav Motani
Bilvika Abburi	Joseph Naffah
Kurt Cheng	Dirk Hoare

1.4. Declarations of Interest

Mia calls for declarations of interest to be made for this meeting. No declarations are made.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from January 2024 and November 2023 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

2.1. Executive Business

No minutes are tabled for Executive meetings.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the previous minutes are raised.

4. Correspondence

No official correspondence raised.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Mia speaks to her report, highlighting the following aspects:

- Mia spoke about the SCLG paper put forward that was circulated and subsequently rejected. She spent the last two days working to obtain a better response from UTS management. Mia expressed her own thoughts on why it was rejected, speculating that reference to an open letter may have contributed to the decision. She opened the floor for suggestions from councillors and highlighted the importance of providing input on issues like extensions.
- Mia also addressed recent scam emails sent out in her name via the "Meet Your Reps" page, pointing out that there was no risk assessment in place and that the UTSSA lacks training on scam prevention.
- She highlighted the action plan for addressing gender-based violence, acknowledged contributions from members of this [UTSSA] group, and mentioned Raghav's event as a "gold standard" for external events. Mia also cited O'Week as a positive experience.

5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes his report as read. Adam speaks to the final publication of the UTSSA handbook.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Bridie speaks to her report, highlighting the Opal campaign and the petition advocating for all students to be eligible for a concession card, and social media engagement as a positive.

5.4. Education Officer

Alisa speaks to her report, highlighting the final University Accords report, mentioning several positive aspects but noting that issues such as the HECS investigation still need improvement. These will be a priority for the Education Collective in the coming year.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Aylin takes her report as read.

5.6. Women's Officer

Mariam speaks to her report, highlighting Respect Week next week, upcoming RNA events, and Women's Collective collaborations. She discussed cupcake stalls and a panel for International Women's Day, held in partnership with the Collective. She also highlighted new reports and plans to address sexual assault/harassment and gender-based violence, underscoring the importance of campus engagement.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Raghav speaks to his report, highlighting the following aspects: an increase in membership in WhatsApp communities from 30 to 100 members, with many international students enthusiastic about getting involved during O'Week, a 93.3% success rate on the Bundeena trip, the first monthly collective meeting and attendance expectations, and the focus for the coming months on helping international students with networking and forming connections.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

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

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Laura's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore she gives a verbal report, highlighting her decision not to hold a postgraduate O'Week stall due to low attendance, noting that many postgraduate students feel isolated and are eager to join the collective. She discussed collaboration with the Higher Degree Research Committee, the reporting committee, and plans for professional development. She mentioned creating a mental health group for postgraduate students, organising events focused on mental health, and potential collaborations with Law, Business, and Science Alliance societies.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore she gives a verbal report, highlighting that it had been a slow start to the year, and that she had a recent meeting with Mia to address discrimination in classrooms, particularly regarding sensitive holidays, and plans to extend university-recognized holidays for ethnocultural observances.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Samira speaks to her report, highlighting a successful O'Week stall, plans for an additional one, the need for streamlined communication within the Collective due to a disorganised handover process, a meeting with Biljana, hosting a documentary night screening "Defiant Lives," and work on an anti-ableism report.

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah takes their report as read.

5.13. Environment Officer

Jeremy speaks to his report, highlighting the successful re-establishment of the collective, access to social media, input from university members during O'Week, Green Week plans set for next month with the Enviro Collective scheduled to participate at the UTS market stall, and the first meeting tentatively planned for March 11th and 12th.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

No reports.

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

No reports from Councillors or Staff.

6.3. Vertigo Report

Tyberious takes the Vertigo report as read, but this was not circulated to Councillors.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

All motions were heard under Agenda point 8.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.0. By-Law Change for February SRC Meeting 2024

Preamble: The UTSSA needs to have centralised policies to ensure the continuity of the Association. Without a running list of policies, new Councillors are left confused and unsure of how to operate in their roles. The UTSSA has encountered miscommunications between

Association Staff and student representatives, creating a lack of efficiency in both roles. In order to mitigate this, a continuously updated policy document must be maintained. The key areas of policy content *may* include:

1. Preliminary – how to write a policy, who is bound etc.
2. Communications Policy
 - a. Covers all external and internal communication
 - b. Public media
 - c. Social media
 - d. Association meetings including meeting closures
 - e. Association emails and internal communication
 - f. Styleguide
3. Vertigo policy
 - a. Covers basic requirements ordinarily expected from Vertigo
 - b. Definitions of key terms relating to Vertigo in the By-Laws and Constituion.
 - c. Budgetary requirements ordinarily expected from Vertigo
4. Events policy
5. Stipend and Compliance Policy
 - a. Full details regarding payment of stipends, rights, superannuation etc.
 - b. Council's guidelines regarding "the (minimum) responsibilities under the Constitution and By-Laws" s 1.8.1 and 1.8.4
 - c. Enforceability actions to ensure value for money.
6. Grievance Policy and Preliminary Procedures
 - a. To deal with breaches before they are escalated to the grievance committee.
7. Expenditure and Reporting Policies
8. Sensitive and Personal Information Policy
9. Standing Legal Committee

Please note that the above are just examples of the nature of policies that may be created.

Action: That the UTSSA insert a section in the By-Laws empowering the Council to create, amend and repeal policies and procedures by absolute majority only. The section will be inserted at section 14 and read as follows:

"14 Policy

1. The SRC shall have the powers to adopt, amend or revoke policies of the Association, of which Student Representatives and Association Staff are expected and required to comply with. These policies shall be adopted, amended or revoked by a vote of an absolute majority of all Councillors.
2. The General Secretary shall have the responsibility of compiling approved policies in a single document available on the UTSSA website. The General Secretary shall update this policy document within 3 business days of approval by SRC."

Mover: Aylin Cihan

Seconded: Mariam Yassine

The motion passes unanimously.

8.1. Motion 1

Preamble:

For four months, Israel has been carrying out a genocide in Gaza. Gaza's population of 2.3 million people are under siege from relentless bombardment of schools, hospitals, mosques, churches and residential towers. At time of writing, the death toll in Gaza is nearing 30,000, meaning the conflict has seen the highest daily death toll of any other major conflict of recent years, at a rate of on average 250 people a day.

Gaza is also spiralling toward full-scale famine. Water, food, fuel and medical supplies have continued to be denied to the population, and starvation is being used as a tactic of war. This is only the latest atrocity against the Palestinians, who have suffered at the hands of Israel for 75 years.

The Australian government is complicit in these crimes. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong have repeatedly reaffirmed Australia's support for Israel. The government has also withdrawn funding from the UNRWA, the main distributor of aid in Gaza. Without funding from most Western governments, UNRWA will be forced to stop operating by the end of February, leading to an even more catastrophic situation for the Palestinians.

In Australia, we have seen overwhelming support for the people of Palestine. Every week, tens of thousands of people have taken to the street to call for an end to the war. Young people have played a particularly important role. High school students made national news during their walkouts in support of the issue, triggering backlash from Labor state governments but inspiring teachers, parents and many others. The Melbourne school strike was in fact the largest proportionally in the world.

Students for Palestine groups on campuses across the country have issued a call for a national "Student Strike for Palestine" on February 29. This is an important opportunity for university students and their student unions to take their stand. At UTS, we plan to stage a walkoff of students at 1.30pm on February 29, who will then march to a central demonstration of university and high school students in the city.

Platform:

- That the UTSSA endorses the national "Student Strike for Palestine"; protest on February 29, organised through various Students for Palestine collectives across the Country
- That the UTSSA condemns Israel's war on Gaza and Australian support for this.

Action: That the UTSSA will share posts on social media about the upcoming February 29 student strike.

Mover: Salma Elmubasher

Second: Aylin Cihan

Aylin speaks to the motion in support of the school strike for Palestine and notes that students will not be penalised if they leave class.

Salma emphasizes the importance of taking a strong stance on this issue and attending the strike visibly.

Yasmine (observer) mentions high-school strikes, noting that the statements made then "ring true now," and highlights that staff held a forum today, stressing the importance of UTS joining other campuses in the walkout.

Ella (observer) discusses the presence of different stalls and leafleting, noting the positive engagement of students who are paying attention to the genocide. She also mentions Aaron Bushnell and how many students feel they cannot do much to prevent genocide.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2. Motion 2

Preamble:

The Enviro Collective has been revitalised since our successful orientation day on 13/02. Multiple new members expressed interest in the executive structure of the collective and taking up extracurricular responsibilities. An executive structure in support of the Environment Officer will enhance engagement and share workload during large projects.

Actions: That the UTSSA approves an executive structure for the Environment Collective in addition to but not superseding the existing Environment Officer and Convenor role including:

- a. Deputy Officer
- b. Secretary

Mover: Jeremy Higgins

Second: Dirk Hoare

Jeremy speaks to the motion, noting that more people want to take on responsibilities within the Enviro Collective and that more students feel they have a role to play. He also mentions the importance of offloading work when the officer is not present.

Mia adds that what Jeremy is doing requires council approval for reforms like this, rather than approval through collective votes.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.3. Motion 3

Action: That the UTSSA approves an increase in the O'Day budget for the Welfare Collective from \$150 by an additional \$50, making it an upper spending limit of \$200.

Mover: Aylin Cihan

Second: Daewah Thein

Aylin speaks to the Welfare Collective's successful O'Week, noting that they were placed with ActivateUTS in the Wellbeing Garden. She mentions that the O'Week budget was over-spent and suggests that an increase in funding would be beneficial for future years.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.4. Motion 4

Action: That the UTSSA reimburses handbook graphic designers David Tran and Maximus Bushell 250\$ each (500\$ total) instead of 2x150 (300\$) as originally approved by UTSSA executives.

Mover: Matthew Murray

Second: Laura Currie

Mariah suggests amendment from "UTSSA reimburses" to "UTSSA pays". This is amenable to the mover, and the new motion reads as follows:

Action: That the UTSSA pays handbook graphic designers David Tran and Maximus Bushell 250\$ each (500\$ total) instead of 2x150 (300\$) as originally approved by UTSSA executives.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.5. Motion 5

Action: Approve \$14,911.13 the amount to Motus Civilis for Annual student election conduct and travel printing cost.

Mover: Mariam Yassine

Seconder: Joseph Naffah

The motion passes unanimously.

8.6. Vertigo Working Group Proposal

Preamble: In order to improve the working relationship between the UTSSA and Vertigo, we need to ensure more frequent meetings and open up channels of communication.

Action: That the UTSSA establishes a 'Vertigo Working Group' to ensure more frequent meetings and open up channels of communication. This will be established under the UTSSA Constitution at section 14.7, and will abide by the following rules:

Operational Rules:

1. The group will consist of 3 members of Vertigo, 3 members of the UTSSA, and the Chair.
2. Vertigo may independently decide their process of nomination for their representatives of the Vertigo Working Group.
3. Members of the UTSSA may nominate themselves to be part of the Vertigo Working Group. Membership will be confirmed at the first meeting of the Executive following approval of the Vertigo Working Group at the meeting of the SRC.
4. The group will meet approximately every two weeks, with every second meeting also attended by the Executive Officer of the UTSSA, Mariah Brown.
5. Meetings shall be no longer than 1 hour.
6. The Chair will be the General Secretary, and will have casting vote.
7. Minutes will be provided by email to members of the Working Group within 48 hours after each meeting.

In accordance with section 14 of the UTSSA Standing Orders:

1. Agenda: The agenda shall be set out at the discretion of the Chair. The agenda must be circulated with the notice of the Meeting. An acknowledgement or welcome to country must be the first agenda item after opening the meeting.

2. Meetings

- i. The Chair shall provide Committee members with at least five days written notice of the time, date and place of any meeting.
- ii. An emergency Committee meeting may be held if deemed necessary by resolution of the SRC or the Executive, in which case only 48 hours' notice is required.
- iii. Quorum shall be 4, inclusive of the Chair. If quorum is not met within 30 minutes of the time specified in the notice, the meeting is adjourned to a time, date and place chosen by the Chair, so that Committee members have at least seven days' written notice.

3. Conduct of Meetings

- i. Meetings must be opened by the chair. Minutes shall be taken by the General Secretary or, if the General Secretary is the Chair, the Assistant Secretary, or, if both are not in attendance, a member of the Committee agreed to by the Committee.
- ii. The business before a committee must be specifically in reference to the terms of reference set out by Council and, in case of Committees set out in article 14, the responsibilities set out in Constitution or By-Laws.
- iii. All matters are open to discussion. The Committee may resolve to enter into a formal debate, in accordance with these Standing Orders.

4. Reports to SRC

Committees shall report back to SRC and provide any minutes or documentation for the consideration of Council. Resolutions by Committees shall be Considered by Council on Notice.

5. Attendance

All Councillors and Staff members of the Association may observe and speak at a Committee meeting. A Committee may resolve to allow other observers. The Grievance Committee may set rules with respect to observers, subject to the By-Laws.

Mover: Mariam Yassine

Seconder: Daewah Thein

Ty speaks to the motion, describing past relations between Vertigo and UTSSA as "horrific."

Mia speaks to the improved collaboration between Vertigo and herself, noting that a committee of three Vertigo members and three SA members, chaired by Adam, will meet every two weeks to enhance communication between the two groups.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.7. Inserting of Policy – Section 1 ‘Preliminary’

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

DRAFT UTSSA POLICY

1. PRELIMINARY

1.1. Enforceability of Policy

1.1.1. Policies will come into effect immediately following their approval by SRC, unless specified otherwise.

1.1.2. If any approved policy conflicts with existing obligations under the UTSSA Constitution, By-Laws or Standing Orders, the policy will be invalid to the extent of that conflict and the obligations under the Constitution, By-Laws or Standing Orders will prevail.

1.1.3. Disputes over the interpretation of policy can be referred to the Policy Review Committee in accordance with section 14.3 of the UTSSA Constitution.

1.2. Development of Policy

When developing policy, the following criteria should be met.

1.2.1. The policy must comply with the UTSSA Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders.

1.2.2. The policy must be sufficiently specific and non-vague as to be enacted.

1.2.3. The policy must comply with the legal and regulatory obligations of the UTSSA.

1.2.4. The policy must ensure sufficient autonomy for collectives as to ensure creative freedom within their roles.

1.2.5. The policy must define ambiguous terms and terms that require specialised knowledge to understand.

Mover: Sina Afsharmehr

Seconder: Joseph Naffah

Mia speaks to the updated policy document, noting that this is the first policy to be introduced. She explains that section 1 covers the development of the policy and its requirements. Mia adds that she doesn't want to "confine [Office Bearers] to their roles."

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

9.1. Urgency Motion

Daewah submits urgency motion to Adam as follows:

Mover: Matthew Murray

Seconder: Laura Currie

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

The motion passes unanimously.

Mia declares the motion has passed, and that the motion will go to a vote.

The motion passes unanimously.

9.2. General discussion

Mia speaks to the SCLG paper, noting that it is pending whether it will be tabled based on the Chair's decision. She mentions that the Chair was not positive on the phone, and that issues were raised due to a "lack of consultation." She also notes that the Chair is not a staff member of UTS. Mia advises anyone who has something to bring up at the meeting to come to her, as there is uncertainty about whether observers are allowed.

Mariam speaks to the Vice-Chancellor's recent email about the Middle East, noting that Mia received an email from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor stating that students will not be penalised for attending the strike.

Salma expresses satisfaction with the email, although she describes it as "not even the bare minimum," and acknowledges that lobbying has been effective and is making some impact. Mia adds that procedural matters can be brought to other stakeholders in meeting minutes and stresses that committees "need to function the way they are supposed to."

Salma raises a question about social media, mentioning that AJA posted about a UTS Palestinian Youth Society activity on campus without consent.

Mia summarises that many committee meetings are held frequently and that any issues can be raised.

Joseph Chalita (observer) raises concerns about the removal of Vertigo offices and the ethnocultural space.

Nour (Immediate Past President) mentions that the previous Vertigo team did not treat the office respectfully and that the office should be used "respectfully" before it can be reinstated. Joseph Chalita requests evidence.

Nour responds by stating there were inappropriate and offensive items in the space. Joseph Chalita mentions that the SRC was not notified.

Nour clarifies that the President had discretion over this decision, adding that the move of the office was neither binding nor permanent and that these temporary measures show UTS management that safe spaces can be effective.

Joseph Chalita expresses concerns about budget cuts and describes the situation as "brutality" against Vertigo.

Nour explains that the cuts were "the best we could do" given that "management does not want Vertigo to exist in its current form."

Mia says that Vertigo can raise operational issues at Council and expresses understanding of their frustration over the lack of workspace. She also notes the low usage of the previous space and suggests that the room should be given to a group actively campaigning for space, adding that future changes should be communicated in advance.

Joseph Chalita expresses dismay about "inheriting something that is a sinking ship" and argues that the current team should not be held accountable for past issues.

Ty mentions that they are now operating out of the Activist Space and expresses optimism that this setup will break the continuous cycle between UTSSA and Vertigo. He concludes by saying he is pleased to be working with UTSSA.

Mia also mentions that she is exploring options for Vertigo's space and will talk to Activate again, as they are trying to relocate their office. The ultimate goal, she states, is to secure "a consistent space to operate out of."

10. Close of Meeting at 7:54pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

The start to the year has been huge!! I will try to keep this report brief but I do really want to emphasise just how much has been going on for both the UTSSA but also the broader university sector in general. Here are some highlights:

1. NUS President's Summit

Attending this summit with Bridie and Adam was a great opportunity to get a bit of transparency into the NUS this year, and also to chat to leaders of other student unions around the country and see what new ideas we can implement in the UTSSA. Ideas from this included introducing 10c recycling bins onto campus, which the Environment Collective is looking into, as well as some ideas around on-the-ground campaigning, petitioning and lobbying.

2. O'Day(s)

Very successful O'Day thanks to the hard work of all of the staff, OBs and General Councillors!!! 1435 sign-ups for the UTSSA mailing list, as well as 500 new Instagram followers. Definitely one of the most successful days for the Collectives that I can remember.

3. Opal Concession Campaign

Continuing project with Usyd SRC and SUPRA; Bridie, Raghav and Laura have all contributed to an article (published on our website on Monday) which details the issues that this campaign focuses on. In order to reach the 20,000 signatures necessary to have this petition considered in Parliament, I'd like to sort out a roster for us to share the petition around campus, at Bluebird Brekkie and Night-Owl Noodles.

4. Improving UTS' response to sexual harm

In December, UTS conducted an independent review into its processes for responding to sexual harm. The review involved interviews with key stakeholders, including agreed student groups, student support staff, HR staff, complaints team, and representatives from high-risk areas (student accommodation, LGBTQIA+ communities, international students, First Nations, PhD students). I participated in one of these interviews at the end of last year. The recommendations of this report were published a few weeks ago, and included as a top priority, a single point of accountability for coordination of sexual harm reports. This is something I have been campaigning for, for 2 years now, and am thrilled to see UTS support.

5. Ethical Partnerships

I have submitted a paper for consideration at the SCLG which I have attached to this report. Please read for a bit of context on the work that I think the UTSSA should support in this area and for a more specific understanding of how we can advocate for important causes on different boards and committees. Yet to see how successful this will be... will keep everyone updated after the SCLG meeting on the 5th of March.

6. Palestine Activism

UTS Staff for Palestine have created an Open Letter to UTS Leadership to demand action in support of Palestine. I have attended some meetings with UTS Staff for Palestine to see

what they're planning in this area and to offer UTSSA support. As part of their ongoing efforts, they are holding a public forum on campus on Wednesday February 28, 12pm CB06.03.056. They are also supporting the planned student strike for Palestine in the CBD on February 29th from 12pm. Kylie Readman, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Education and Students) informed me on Saturday that UTS will not be enforcing penalties for students who miss class by attending the strike, and I highly encourage the UTSSA to attend this.

7. Endless Boards and Committees

I have also attended a bunch of different board meetings so far, including the DVCES Advisory Committee, the Teaching and Learning Committee, the SSAF Committee, the Sustainability Steering Committee and the RNA Steering Committee. It has been a big learning curve for me to understand the way these committees operate, which ones are good for which UTSSA goals, and how to get the most out of these committees, so hopefully in my next update I will have more to share in this area. It has been very interesting to see how management operates in spheres where students are present, the dynamics between different 'staff hierarchies' and also the reactions of management when students present any ideas!

2. General Secretary

Throughout the past month much of my time has been occupied by the collation and editing of the UTSSA's digitally integrated handbook. This year's online integrated Handbook was a significant change to the way in which the physically printed handbook was traditionally published and distributed to students, and being the first General Secretary to produce a handbook this way had many challenges which needed to be overcome. Despite this, with the contributions from every single one of our Collective Office Bearers and with design help from David and Max from Vertigo I am ultimately satisfied with the final product which was produced.

Going forward I have certain priorities which I think the UTSSA should focus on, and will certainly be a focus on most motions I want to oversee in future starting this semester.

1) Reviving Collectives such as the environment collective which are currently have an unsatisfactory level of engagement with regular students. My main hope is that in future each and every collective will in-of-themselves provide a student voice that is otherwise not heard at regular council meetings, and act as a mechanism for democratising the UTSSA

2) A consistent focus on the genocide in Palestine, and a concerted effort to enforce policies and campaigns which create tangible change within the very limited scope we as UTS can mitigate this genocide, such as encouraging boycotts on campus as the UTSSA, and looking into partnerships which our university shamefully still undertakes

3) Revitalising Vertigo compared to previous years with collaboration between councillors and editors as well as consistently publishing both physical and digital content throughout both major semesters, whilst also respecting the autonomy, creativity and perspectives of Vertigo as its own publication separate from the UTSSA.

3. Assistant General Secretary

Over the past two months, I have been working towards improving the Student's Association's transparency requirement. In practice, this has looked like pioneering the following:

1. President Summit social media recap:

President Mia Campbell recorded a comprehensive overview of the National Union of Students President Summit, held over two days at RMIT University in Melbourne.

The event invites student leaders across the country to collaborate on campaigns that relate to student issues and provides training for incoming student office bearers to best assist in preparing for their terms. The recap summarised the content covered in the various training sessions and what will be actioned following the conference. The digital response from the posts on both Instagram and Facebook stories was positive. 2. 'Get to know your Students Association' social media series:

To ensure that UTS students are familiar with the leadership team of 2024 and feel comfortable reaching out, I believe putting a face to a name is the best approach! Each week, one member of the Student Council will film themselves at their favourite spot- on campus answering 4 questions which will be uploaded to the Students Association social media pages. See questions below:

- (1) What's your name, degree, year, and role on the UTSSA?
- (2) Why are you passionate about advocating for students' issues, paying particular attention to your role - e.g. "As Women's Officer, I am passionate about equitable access to sanitary products on campus".
- (3) What's your favourite spot-on campus? - this could be a food outlet, or a particular building etc.
- (4) How can students get in touch with you? (This is where you direct them to the UTSSA website and quote your EXECUTIVE / OFFICE BEARER email address, NOT your personal email.

4. Education Officer

Progress on campaigns throughout the past month:

In my introduction statement when elected, one of the main goals I highlighted was the standardisation of assessment policy and introduction of automatic extensions at UTS. In regards to this campaign, I have created a strategy plan and am currently implementing the first steps.

This month I have been researching and compiling information about UTS' current extension policies and how they operate. As each faculty runs quite differently and there are different reasons

as to why their policy is constructed in the way it is, I plan to meet with staff representatives from each faculty to discuss policy and possible changes. Whilst this is happening I will continue to compile information for the purposes of submitting a proposal for automatic extensions and standardised policy at the Student/Council Liaison Group in April and any other relevant boards for discussion. If this is unsuccessful, then I will enact a grassroots campaign.

I have been in contact with Grace Franco, NUS Education Officer, about this and other campaigns which are to be run by the Education Action Group at UTS. I plan to further consult with her about how we can be assisted in the execution of this campaign and other education related ventures at UTS.

Challenges encountered this month:

The biggest challenge that I have faced this month is definitely the status of the education collective itself. The Education Action Group is inactive, and as I was unable to run a stall at O'Week due to personal reasons, it has remained that way. There are two ways in which I intend to fix this issue, by running stalls during class time to gain interest, and by reaching out to collective members individually. I have already begun the latter, and hope to hold a meeting in the next month or so.

Upcoming Events:

In terms of upcoming events, we will have EAG stalls as mentioned previously to gain more interest in the collective.

Additionally, I have been in contact with Respect Now Always regarding joint events. We are currently organising a postering session on campus to give students the opportunity to learn more about what both RNA and EAG do, as well as meet like-minded people. I plan to work more in-depth with RNA this year, especially in regards to further consent and respect education on campus.

Goals to still be actioned/achieved:

Maintaining social media presence, by revitalising the EAG social media as well as promoting upcoming events on other social media pages.

5. Welfare Officer

As the first semester of 2024 begins things at UTS have started to heat back up again. The orientation day stall for the welfare collective started off with a big bang as baked goods and cup-a-noodles were handed out to students that signed up to raise awareness for bluebird brekkie and night owl noodle. In doing so, the stall achieved great success by having many new students join the collective and become informed about our peer tutoring, counselling and legal services that the students association provides. From the welfare collectives perspective we feel as though we have been able to raise a great deal of awareness of the students association by being placed with activate in the well-being garden next to alumni green. Having received all this attention also meant that our

supplies ran out in the first hour when catering for the line of new students. As such I had to make an additional purchase to account for all the new students that were interested in our stand. While this is just the start of the year we believe that the welfare collective has many interesting projects to come including a well-being walk for students to reduce the stigma around mental health whilst getting students involved and socialising with others. Ultimately, the start to the year couldn't have been better for the welfare collective as we look forward to what more is to come.

6. Women's Officer

Membership:

At orientation the women's collection (woco) was fortunate to have approximately 115 new sign-ups. This means that in the last 12 months woco has had 364 sign ups which is incredible.

Past Events/ Initiatives Summary:

Throughout the month of February five significant events and initiatives were undertaken:

1. Meetings with the organisation Respect Now Always (RNA), to initiate more collaboration between RNA and woco on future events and campaigns. In these meetings we discussed the national student ombudsmen consultation submission, respect week, possible future events, promotion of woco on campus and how to prevent sexual harm on campus.
2. Meeting with the general secretary of Flinders University's SRC to discuss the women's collective and how to have more engagement with the collective.
3. Attending two meetings with the organisation End Rape on Campus Australia. One regarding the Education Ministers draft action plan addressing gender-based violence in higher education and the other regarding the 2024 university sexual assault report briefing.
4. Writing a submission on behalf of UTS to give a consultation on Education Ministers' draft action- plan addressing gender-based violence.
5. Having two meetings with UTSoc and Jsoc in order to discuss our upcoming Women in Media panel.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

1. Women in media panel:

An upcoming event, focusing on the pivotal role of women in the media industry. The objective is to empower and amplify the voices of women professionals. Detailed information on panellists and discussion topics will be communicated shortly to students through our media channels.

2. International women's day stall of baked goods:

In celebration of International Women's Day, a stall featuring an array of baked goods will be set up. This initiative not only supports local women entrepreneurs but also contributes to the commemoration of this significant day.

3. An official women's safe space opening will be held when the woco space is redecorated.

Goals Still to Be Achieved:

- Get the woco book club up and running
- Ongoing efforts to enhance the women's space are in progress.
- More promotion of our initiatives and achievements on social media platforms.

7. International Students' Officer

Past Events and Activities Summary

1. Community Platform - In January, the International Collective started a WhatsApp Community to substitute the emailing service, as most international students don't read email due to the number of emails they receive. Thus, to have a quick and easy way to inform about various events and meetings, We have implemented a WhatsApp community, and to date, we have 302 members in the group and the community; due to privacy reasons, the students won't be able to see any students number nor anyone else can see their number.
2. O'Day - In O'Day, our main focus was to promote the "Day Trip to Bundeena" and the WhatsApp community. We started the O'Day with 30 members in the group, and by the end of the two days, we had 240 members, an 800% growth during the O'Day.
3. Bundeena Trip - On 24 and 25 February 2024, we organised a "Day Trip to Bundeena" with a capacity of 60 International Students in 2 days, and we successfully engaged 56 International students for the trip, a 93.3% success rate for the event. The event's main focus was to help international students meet new international students from other cultures and backgrounds and understand Australia's unexplored areas and culture.
4. WhatsApp Community Engagement - We have been regularly posting different volunteering opportunities, career workshops, the Bluebird Pantry, and Night Owl and Bluebird Brekky on the group to keep the collective informed about the various activities happening around the campus, including UTS and the Association.
5. Opal Concession Campaign by SUPRA – We have been sharing the Opal Concession petition link on the community platform and our social media platform, Instagram. To help boost the campaign and get as many signs as possible.

Upcoming Events and Activities

1. First Monthly Meeting – We plan to keep our first monthly meeting in the first or second week of the month; we will send out a message to get the collective's attention to a few dates and times to make the final decision.
2. UTS SOUL x International Collective – We have partnered with UTS SOUL, and the SOUL team has asked for 12 volunteers for the street festival at Glebe. The event is on 9 March, and to date, we have eight registered as others are awaiting their confirmation of working with child check.
3. Self-Guided Tour at Merrillville – We have partnered with Kultratrails, and they have agreed to provide a 15% discount to collective members for their guided tour.
4. Newcastle Day Trip – We are planning a trip to Newcastle by the end of March, and we are planning on going to the event with a few activities to help with the student's development.
5. Speed friending – As many international students face the issue of making friends, we plan on doing a speed friending event that will help international students make friends and show them how they can start a conversation with any student in the university.

Our Goal

We aim to increase the collective's engagement and create the awareness of the international collective we have and the services we provide. We also aim to bring back the collective to full functioning capacity.

8. Indigenous Officer

Achievements/Progress made on campaigns in the Past Month:

During my inaugural month as the Indigenous Students Officer, I had the honor of co-hosting the UTS Students Invasion Day March at Belmore Park alongside Mia. This event marked a promising beginning to the year, uniting UTS students in support of significant causes while bolstering student solidarity.

Furthermore, I had the privilege of acquainting myself with the incoming Indigenous cohort through an orientation information session at the University. During this session, I not only presented my role within the student association but also facilitated their integration into the University lifestyle. This interaction provided me with the opportunity to bridge connections between new students and those who have already established themselves within the UTS community, promoting a sense of belonging across generations of scholars.

Additionally, hosting a stall for the First Nations Society during O'Day proved instrumental in engaging awareness for both the society and the student association. This outreach effort effectively extended the reach of my role, contributing to the broadcasting of information within the UTS community.

New Membership/Engagement & Challenges:

I've been quite successful in spreading the word about the collective through verbal communication. However, now that I've discovered the option to enlist sign-ups, I'll make it a priority to encourage more people to join. I am eager to facilitate student engagement with the student association.

My main challenge has been time management. Balancing my responsibilities as a full-time construction manager, studying five subjects this semester, serving as president of the First Nations Society, and being involved in the Indigenous Students Collective has been demanding.

Goals to be Achieved and Events to be Held:

My goal is to hold community events which bring people together for a great cause. A few examples are listed below:

- Fun Run Fundraisers (City2Surf)
- Starting students' clothes donating students old, unwanted clothes to communities
- Fundraisers for Cancer
- Holding a tour which informs students of Indigenous culture.
- Helping with the Blue Bird Pantry as it is such a great cause
- Attending rallies supporting causes with the students association
- Bring the Indigenous Collective and First Nations Society together for events

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No report received on notice.

10. Ethnocultural Officer

No report received on notice.

11. Disabilities Officer

O'Day Updates

1. Had a successful O'Day in terms of collective sign ups - 40 new sign ups
2. Engaged with new members who are very keen to be involved
3. With each sign up, members were able to choose from
 - Scented Candles OR
 - Goodie bags with lollies, chocolates + a bath bomb OR fidget toy OR
 - Badges / Pins / Keychains

- Beyond Blue wristbands

4. Handed out pamphlets regarding UTS Accessibility Services along with Cards with our socials + email card + Movie Offer pamphlets

Administrative Updates:

Addressing concerns from the previous year, I am trying to be proactive in responding to complaints about unresponsiveness. Following a meeting with Bilijana, plans are underway to organise a convenor-electing meeting. To enhance communication and engagement, the collective will transition to MailChimp for streamlined email management.

- Active participation in the DisCo Facebook group

- Introduced myself and goals I have for this year

Upcoming Events/Initiatives:

Looking ahead, the Disability Collective plans to organise another Stall, emphasising collective sign-ups and engagement.

I am also planning the first event in The Activist Space, a Paint & Tea afternoon.

Second event - Movie Screening featuring the documentary film "Defiant Lives." I will work on finding an accessible room to ensure the event is accessible.

Goals:

The Disability Collective has identified key goals for the upcoming months. One primary objective is to advocate for virtual learning options in faculties where face-to-face interaction is not essential. This includes addressing the current lack of virtual learning alternatives in certain courses, such as FASS, where classes do not require physical presence.

Also maintaining the "Ending Ableism" Campaign on Campus with the forum.

To strengthen online presence, efforts will be made to recover the previous Instagram account or establish a new one entirely.

12. Queer Officer

Past Events Summary:

We received many sign ups during O'day thanks to both the visibility of the stall as well as support from Darlings (LGBTQIA+ club), something that the collective will seek to continue during the rest of the year. As we are in the mist of Mardi Gras there are tons of activities hosted by activate throughout the weeks which includes the following:

Up Coming Events

28th Feb – Drag Bingo. A bingo match which will feature several drag queens at the underground

29th Feb – Queer Comedy Night. A comedy show hosted by Oxford Street’s biggest and longest comedy club, Kweens of Comedy. Hosted in The Loft this event will feature comedians AJ Lamarque, Jake Howie, Elsa Daddo, Brendan Hancock, Annabelle James, Nic Lombardi and Gen Fricker who will be headlining the show.

1st March- Wellbeing Reps: Random Acts of Kindness. The Wellbeing reps will be on the Alumni Green and Building 2 with pink shirts handing out items to students ranging from hydrating hydrolyte to soothing face masks. If you want to get involved express your interest on the activate website under “get involved”.

26th of Feb – 1st March - Workout with Pride. Our on-campus gym is giving out free gym classes during UTS Pride Week courtesy of ActivateFit.Gym. To attend go to ActivateFit.Gym website for the class timetable and the gym in Building 4, Level 2 for your Pride workout. The best dressed member will score two-weeks free of their ActivateFit.Gym membership!

2nd March - UNKNOWN PLEASURES. House of Mince will be presenting UTS with a wide arrange of musical acts across three platforms Hosted at The Underground, The Loft and Tuner Lane. Tickets available via Moshtix.

Goals Still to Be Achieved:

- Continuation of efforts to increase membership and participation within the collective.
- Host first meeting
- Increase Social Media Posting

13. Environment Officer

Past events summary:

1. 13/02 Orientation Day was a success in seeking and receiving new interest and engagement with the collective. Many students with ideas of how they’d like to get involved with sustainability and environment-based activities on campus such as:

- a. Gardening on campus.
- b. Conservation fieldwork.
- c. Executive roles

Unfortunately, I was sick for the second day of orientation and missed out on gaining new members. The prepared seed packets were a hit, giving away over 120 of them in one day.

2. 26/02 Sustainability steering committee was a useful event for making new connections and a grasp on decision making about sustainability as a university. Key items to follow up on:

a. Maintain existing framework for ethics standards in partnerships made with the University and establish framework for future ones ensuring they are

sustainable. Future contact: Celia Hurley, VP of Advancement Celia.Hurley@uts.edu.au

b. 10c can and bottle deposit scheme

c. The Global Nature Positive Summit 8-10/10/2024 at the ICC d. Plastic free food court at UTS

Upcoming events and activities:

1. Green week market day 19th of March. Currently liaising with Elecia Douglas from Activate UTS for the collective to have a stall and presence on market day.

2. Collective meeting date TBC. Either to be the 11th or 12th of March. This is two weeks away at time of writing as to prepare executive roles and agenda for the inaugural meeting of the year.

Correspondence ongoing

1. Community organiser Zack Schofield from Rising Tide has reached out to discuss shared opportunities with the environment collective. Possibly involvement in future blockade at Newcastle Coal port.

Membership

Membership now stands at a strong 53.

Prospective activities

1. Editorial contributions to the UTS Sustainability newsletter reporting on collective's activities