

February SRC MINUTES

26/02/2025 | 6:30pm | CC11.04.300

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1. Opening of meeting at 6:34pm

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
Januka Suraweera	Assistant General Secretary
Mayela Dayeh	Vertigo
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Amelia Ireland	Disabilities Officer
Samiha Emran	Education Officer
Mariah Brown	Staff
Jennifer Willis	Staff
Sina Afsharmehr	Environment Officer
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Jermaine Petterson-Heard	Indigenous Officer

Eamonn Ryan	General Councillor
Amelia Raptis	General Councillor
Neeve Nagle	Welfare Officer
Olivia Lee	Women's Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Omar El-Sobihy	General Councillor
Brianna Milnes-Sexton	Observer
Bee Berdoukas	Observer
El Potts	Observer
Ella Haid	General Councillor
Emanie Darwiche	Vertigo
Vaishnavi Omar	Postgraduate Officer
Lucia Thornton	General Councillor
Natasha Abdulghani	General Councillor
Lily Campbell	Observer
Elliot Kameron	General Councillor

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Alessio Maiese	General Councillor
Yasmine Johnson	General Councillor
Chloe Ferreira	Undergraduate UTS Council Representative
Harshvardhan Suvarna	International Student's Officer

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Yasmine	Lucia
Chloe	Neeve
Harshvardhan	Januka

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 tabled on notice at this meeting are delayed until the next meeting.

- Repts Elect 2025 Minutes

-January 2025 SRC Minutes

-04/02/2025 Executive Minutes

-14/02/2025 Executive Minutes

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Neeve comments on the misspelling of observer names from the January 2025 SRC Minutes.

4. Correspondence

4.1 *Summary of Survey Results: Feedback on Subject Information System*

Mia: Summarises survey results for teaching and learning committee survey response and subsequent in-person meeting. Speaks to subject coordinators not setting up Canva pages properly, with some information being missing in new system.

4.2 *Letter to NTEU and UTSSA re Technion*

Mia: Speaks to letter to letter received by herself and NTEU Branch President Sarah Attfield from UTS Vice Chancellor Andrew Parfitt. Speaks to MOU between UTS and Technion which is about to expire, and review panel recommendation which will deliver outcome on this matter.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

Mia: Encourages for up to three questions to be asked of each Office Bearer from the floor, for the sake of transparency.

5.1. President

Mia: Speaks to busy two weeks back from leave and UTSSA Office moving. Speaks to allocation of Office Bearer desks and collective spaces. Highlights teaching and learning committee and changes Deputy Vice Chancellor has made to courses without student consultation. Speaks to process of course cuts which has been apparent. Highlights that decisions on areas such as duplicate courses have been made without student input. Notes the currently circulated open letter which will be sent to Vice Chancellor once a certain amount of signatures has been reached. Speaks to collating work in campaign summary documents, for continuity and institutional knowledge in the UTSSA for successive presidents. Speaks to the need for the UTSSA to advertise its wins more.

Ella: Issues question regarding specific updates on meetings to be attended by the president regarding course cuts.

Mia: Responds that early on the university has indicated that the first step for cuts will be classes running less frequently, for instance a class running 3 times a year might run only 1 time of year. Notes that whilst these cuts have to go through faculty boards, however faculty boards will not be the best way to stop these changes as many decisions are finalised beforehand. Mentions that notes from Teaching and Learning Committee can be sent upon request.

5.2. General Secretary

Adam: Takes report as read.

Vaishnavi: Asks for clarification on whether her report was received.

Adam: Responds that it was sent after the notice deadline so it cannot be taken as read, but the report has been received.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Januka: Takes report as read, speaks to collective videos being recorded.

5.4. Education Officer

Samiha: speaks to know your academic rights campaign, coming up with scripts made for students to summarise policies. States aim of the collective to tackle student rights and academic freedom policies. Speaks to work last week on UTS housing stall. Speaks to work on reforming special consideration

policy and being more trauma informed. Speaks to workshop due to run this semester and BDS friendly Stu-vac snack sessions as smaller future goals for this semester.

Lily: Asks if knowing your rights campaign came from past instances.

Samiha: Responds that Students generally don't find policies in a digestible manner, and that it is the job of the UTSSA to help students know their rights in an accessible way such as Instagram reels.

Mia: Notes that this is something Jennifer and other caseworkers commonly see, is that students don't know what policies they're empowered by, for example how to get a mark reviewed above a subject coordinator.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Neeve: Speaks to progress made this month with SCLG papers on permanent spaces and UTS housing. Speaks to consultation with five other units and UTSSA staff. Speaks to meeting to be held on the first week of March. Speaks to Welfare collective on O'day which has been less front facing. Notes decent amount of sign-ups. Speaks to attendance at NUS Presidents' Summit, highlighting National Student Ombudsmen and options surrounding UTS housing.

Olivia: Asks if there is any way the UTS Housing survey can be shared by other representatives.

Neeve: Notes that she wants to make a digital survey in addition to the handwritten one circulated at O'Day. Notes that any data collected will eventually be transcribed digitally.

5.6. Women's Officer

Olivia: Takes report as read, speaks IWUD event coming up and engagements with the public speaking society. Speaks to finally moving out of old women's collective room.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Harshvardan is not present at the meeting, his report is taken on read by the chair.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

Jermaine: Speaks to work coming up with high schools regarding employment and getting UTS students on board for paid mentoring role. Speaks to start of semester get together events being held through collective. Speaks to BBQ event being held this Sunday. Speaks to weekly walking group.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Vaishnavi: Speaks to good month for Collective, and growth on social media to 367 followers. Speaks to reaching students to help them with resources. Speaks to feedback on collective O'Day stall and many students thinking the collective is new. Speaks to networking event on the 4th of March which has 60

students registered. Notes that UTSSA main office may have to be used due to space. Speaks to discussions had with UTS careers regarding workshop for postgraduate students in March or April.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma: Takes her report as read.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia: Takes her report as read, speaks to event ran last week, and sign ups after O'Day. Highlights beginning collective newsletter and talks ongoing with Disabilities Pride Sydney.

Eamonn: Asks if Amelia has any thoughts on WA government policy, being able to prescribe medication and diagnosis for ADHD in General Practitioners. Asks if the Collective has opinions on this in NSW.

Amelia: Responds indifferently, noting that getting diagnosed is a long painful process, with a diagnosis having to go through a psychiatrist and not a General Practitioner.

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah: Speaks to ongoing nominations for the queer convener elections, which will conclude on the 10th of March. Speaks to process of moving to new collective space which will start tomorrow. Speaks to contact with NUS Queer officer surrounding blood donation discrimination campaign for gay men.

El: Asks what time the move will be tomorrow.

Daewah: Responds they will be there at 9am at the UTSSA office.

Mia: Notes that if anyone needs anything for moving between spaces and offices, there are boxes in the new UTSSA office. Issues reminder that if move is not completed by Friday, remaining items in space will be thrown out.

Natasha enters room at 7:07pm

Olivia: Asks how Daewah will you implement NUS campaign at UTS.

Daewah: Responds that student level petitions on campus could be conducted, speaks to event in rainbow Labor.

Ell: Asks for clarification on which email to send nominations to.

Adam: Reads out General Secretary email in full.

5.13. Environment Officer

Sina: Speaks to O'Day sign ups being a success in comparison to previous years. Speaks to updating social media branding. Speaks to welcome drinks held last week, highlighting success in attendance for regular students. Speaks to community garden. Speaks to wanting places on campus to donate coffee grounds such as Cornerstone. Speaks to recycling on campus not being successful, wanting small

realistic targets. Speaks to wanting to keep members engaged through events before AGM, such as Clean Up Australia Day.

6. Other Reports

6.1. SCLG Papers

Mia: Speaks the response for these papers which is occurring in the meeting next Tuesday. Speaks clauses within the housing paper which may be difficult to implement. Speaks to being more hopeful for permanent spaces.

Neeve: Speaks to no right to privacy and security clause in document. Speaks to policy surrounding liability on the occasion of injury or death of a student.

6.2. Presummit Reports

Neeve: Speaks to experience with university representatives nationally, and fresh ideas in Office Bearer presentations. Speaks to media training being one of the most valuable workshops. Speaks to Presummit being a better experienced organised by the NUS.

Mia: Notes that any National Office Bearers who reached out to me have been directed to the corresponding Office Bearer on a campus level.

Neeve: Speaks to the NUS' "My Future Our Voice" campaign which encourages students to put the Liberal Party last. Notes that UTS cannot support a candidate in the federal election.

Mia: Notes that this is a disqualifying factor under the charities act.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1 Approval of Office Fit-Out for UTSSA's New Reception and Office Bearer Space

Preamble:

As discussed during the July 2024 SRC, The UTSSA is relocating its Reception and Office Bearer (OB) offices to CB01.03.060, previously occupied by ActivateUTS. This move is intended to create a more functional and accessible workspace for student representatives while repurposing the existing

UTSSA Office (CB01.03.22) as a dedicated space for informal meetings, work, and activity by student representatives.

The new office space will include dedicated desks for the President and General Secretary, alongside an additional three to four desks that will be allocated to other Office Bearers on a rotating schedule. To ensure the space is fit for purpose, new office furniture and equipment must be procured, including:

- Office desks suitable for reception and office work
- Ergonomic office chairs for all desks
- Storage solutions such as filing cabinets and shelves
- Reception desk setup, including appropriate seating and workspace
- Any necessary IT infrastructure, including power boards, monitor stands, and docking stations
- Office essentials such as whiteboards, stationery supplies, and additional lighting if required

Ideally, UTS will be able to provide some of this furniture to the UTSSA from second-hand items currently in storage, but it is likely that some items we will have to purchase for ourselves.

The existing UTSSA Office (CB01.03.22) will continue to serve as a multifunctional space for student representatives, providing kitchen facilities, a lunchroom, storage for UTSSA resources (including the Vertigo archives), and the large table from the Activist Space.

Action: That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$6,800 to be used in fitting out the new office space in CB01.03.060. This amount is calculated from the following quotes for potential items, noting that these may not be the exact items purchased, and that some items may be obtained for free from UTS.

Item	Quotes	Upper Limit
Office desks x 6	LAGKAPTEN / ALEX - \$228 https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/lagkaptен-alex-desk-white-s79521605/	\$350 x 6 = \$2,100
	MALM - \$299 https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/malm-desk-white-50361754/	

	<p>Stilford S2 Pro Version 1 Desk - \$309</p> <p>https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/stilford-s2-pro-version-1-desk-1500-x-750mm-white-s2v115wwek</p>	
Office chairs for all desks + meeting table	<p>Pago Matrix Mesh Deluxe Heavy Duty Chair Black - \$209</p> <p>https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/pago-matrix-mesh-deluxe-heavy-duty-chair-black-pamatxmebk</p>	<p>\$200 x 10 = \$2,000</p>
	<p>FLINTAN Office Chair - \$99</p> <p>https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/flintan-office-chair-with-armrests-black-s69424469/</p>	
	<p>Alfordson Rafa Mesh Office Chair - \$99</p> <p>https://www.harveynorman.com.au/alfordson-rafa-mesh-office-chair.html</p>	
Storage – cabinets + shelves	<p>Steelco Storage Cabinet 914 x 1830 mm White satin - \$696</p> <p>https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/steelco-storage-cabinet-914-x-1830mm-white-satin-olst1830ws</p>	<p>\$2,000</p>
	<p>GALANT – \$1,598</p> <p>https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/galant-storage-combination-w-sliding-doors-white-s29285615/</p>	
	<p>GALANT Cabinet with doors - \$299</p> <p>https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/galant-cabinet-with-doors-white-90365142/</p>	
Meeting table	<p>Rapidline Rapid Span Meeting Table 1800 x 750mm - \$411</p> <p>https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/rapidline-rapid-span-meeting-table-1800-x-750mm-white-fnspt1875w</p>	<p>\$700</p>
	<p>Stilford Professional Meeting Room Table 1500 x 1200 mm - \$499</p> <p>https://www.officeworks.com.au/shop/officeworks/p/stilford-professional-meeting-room-table-1500-x-1200mm-white-stmrt15wek</p>	
	<p>Quadro Loop Legs Modern Boardroom Table – Rounded Corners - \$663</p> <p>https://www.jasonl.com.au/products/quadro-loop-legs-modern-boardroom-table-rounded-corners-1800x1100w?variant=39956008173649&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_content=pmax-shopping&utm_term=&utm_campaign=catch-all-high-margin&gclid=Cj0KCQiAq-u9BhCjARIsANLj-</p>	

	s2NURjmOF7N4lhxd0gGwVO9P6kxjXrGvNZOhC47rZMU_R9xomLoMjcaAgHOEALw_wcB&gad_source=1	
TOTAL		\$6,800

Mover: Neeve Nagle.

Second: Olivia Lee.

Mia: Flags that figure is the upper spending limit, which is likely to be significantly less. Speaks to trying to get as many items directly from university as possible. Speaks to furniture being thrown out in building 3, which could be repurposed.

The motion passes without dissent or abstentions.

7.2 Kitchenette

Action: That the UTSSA approves an upper spending limit of \$1,700 for the kitchenette in the new UTSSA office in CB01.03.060. This amount is calculated from the following quotes for potential items, noting that these may not be the exact items purchased.		
Item	Quotes	Upper Limit
Fridge	HiSense 326L Top Mount Fridge Silver - \$599 https://www.binglee.com.au/products/326l-top-mount-silver-hrtf325s?ref=8YowvJ	\$600
	LG 243L Top Mount Refrigerator in Stainless Finish - \$542 https://www.binglee.com.au/products/243l-top-mount-refrigerator-in-stainless-finish-gt-1s?ref=6cyki0	
	Westinghouse 211L Top Mount Frost Free Fridge - \$526	

	https://www.appliancesonline.com.au/product/westinghouse-230l-top-mount-fridge-wtb2300wh-x/	
Microwave	Panasonic 27L Flatbed Microwave Oven - \$329 https://www.harveynorman.com.au/panasonic-27l-flatbed-microwave-oven.html	\$350
	Sharp Flatbed 1200W Microwave White - \$332 https://www.appliancesonline.com.au/product/sharp-32l-1200w-flatbed-microwave-white-sm327fhw/	
	Panasonic 32L Inverter Sensor Microwave - \$279 https://www.binglee.com.au/products/panasonic-nn-st665bqpq-32l-inverter-sensor-microwave?ref=n_xU6y	
Kettle	Breville The Compact Kettle Pure - \$89 https://www.binglee.com.au/products/breville-bke395-the-compact-kettletm-pure?ref=jrwlka	\$100
	Sunbeam Fresh Start 1.7L Kettle - Stainless Steel - \$48 https://www.harveynorman.com.au/sunbeam-fresh-start-1-7l-kettle-stainless-steel.html	
	Russell Hobbs Quiet Kettle – Stainless Steel - \$59 https://www.harveynorman.com.au/russell-hobbs-quiet-kettle-stainless-steel.html	
Kitchen cupboards	KNOXHULT Base Cabinet - \$260 https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/knoxhult-base-cabinet-with-doors-and-drawer-white-30326790/	\$500
	ENHET Wall Cabinet - \$160 https://www.ikea.com/au/en/p/enhet-wall-cb-w-2-shlvs-doors-white-s39395114/	
	Kaboodle 1000mm Blind Corner Base Cabinet – 218.12 https://www.bunnings.com.au/kaboodle-1000mm-blind-corner-base-cabinet_p2666537	
	Practa 1000mm Melamine Wall Cabinet - \$89 https://www.bunnings.com.au/practa-1000mm-melamine-wall-cabinet_p2663666	

	<p>Reed 2 Door Base Cupboard - \$129</p> <p>https://www.fantasticfurniture.com.au/Categories/Storage-&-Office/Storage/Pantries/Reed-2-Door-Base-Cupboard/p/REDCUP2DBOOPABWHI?store=203&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAq-u9BhCjARIsANLj-s3h1zLALBORfzaE5OGwpQ_LHg2rejsATPkzhS_sey64qxBiTvZjKvUaApiqEALw_wcB&gclidsrc=aw.ds</p> <p>Wall Hung 1200mm wide Laundry Cupboard - \$315</p> <p>https://www.swanstreet.com.au/Overhead-Laundry-Cupboard-Kitchen-CABINET-Assembled-with-Shelf-White-1200mm-wide-Riteway~2711192?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAq-u9BhCjARIsANLj-s0dTayDgTDXsib6PWu4r5ISQvhW_d4wzVF1Us4PmOS4vpVkvbi-quYaArMCEALw_wcB</p>	
Additional utensils/appliances/cleaning tools	For example: bins, drying rack, toaster, dish soap & sponge, paper towels etc.	\$150
TOTAL		\$1,700

Mover: Samiha Emran.

Seconded: Olivia Lee.

Mia: Speaks to fortunate for new office in B1 level 4, which is likely to be closer to upper spending limit provided.

The motion passes unanimously without dissent or abstentions.

7.3 UTSSA Renovations Committee

Preamble:

The UTSSA has obtained new spaces that require renovation and allocation of resources to best serve the needs of students and the Association. To ensure a structured and consultative approach to these renovations, this motion establishes the UTSSA Renovations Committee. The Committee will oversee the renovations, discuss space allocation, and provide recommendations to the SRC throughout the year.

Motion: The UTS Students' Association (UTSSA) resolves to establish the UTSSA Renovations Committee with the following terms:

1) Purpose and Responsibilities:

- a) The UTSSA Renovations Committee shall oversee the renovations and planning of the newly acquired UTSSA spaces.
- b) The Committee shall discuss and make recommendations regarding the allocation and use of spaces, room placements, and overall renovations.
- c) The Committee shall report to the SRC on progress, decisions, and any necessary approvals related to renovations.

2) Membership and Appointment:

- a) Any student councillor, staff member of the UTSSA or Vertigo representative may nominate themselves for the Committee by emailing the UTSSA President by **Wednesday, 5 March 2025**.
- b) The Committee shall consist of those who nominate within the deadline.
- c) The Committee shall be chaired by the President or their delegate.

3) Meetings and Procedures:

- a) The Committee shall meet **as often as required**, with a general expectation of meeting at least once per month.
- b) The Chair shall provide Committee members with at least five days' written notice of the time, date, and place of any meeting.

4) Agenda and Conduct of Meetings:

- a) The agenda shall be set by the Chair and circulated with the meeting notice.
- b) The first agenda item after opening the meeting must be an Acknowledgement of Country or Welcome to Country.
- c) The General Secretary shall take minutes. If the General Secretary is the Chair, the Assistant General Secretary shall take minutes. If neither are available, a Committee member shall be agreed upon to take minutes.
- d) Discussions and debates shall be conducted in accordance with the UTSSA Standing Orders.

5) Reporting to SRC:

- a) The Committee shall report back to the SRC on its activities, including providing minutes and relevant documentation.
- b) Committee resolutions shall be considered by the SRC upon notice.

6) Observer Participation:

- a) All Councillors and Staff members of the UTSSA may observe and speak at Committee meetings.

b) The Committee may resolve to allow additional observers as necessary.

Mover: Januka

Seconder: Sina

Mia: Speaks to aim for giving representatives a voice in how the spaces are used post renovation. Notes if anyone wants to be involved in the decision-making process, nominate by Wednesday.

Adam: Asks for clarification regarding structure of the committee.

Mia: set up under section 14 of standing orders, standard stuff for committees which are established periodically, there will be no voting, it will just be to discuss things on consensus.

The motion passes anonymously without dissent or abstentions.

7.5 Queer Collective Social Media Officer

Preamble: Currently the UTSSA Queer Collective has faced malignant and continued attacks from far right bigots on campus. The most blatant and vile instance of this occurred during semester 1 O'Day, when members from the UTS Catholic Society directly harassed members of the queer collective on their Association stall. This is something being directly investigated by ActivitieUTS in partnership with witnesses involved. Something harder to mitigate which has occurred recently are online attacks from anonymous trolls, who target discord channels which the queer collective primarily use to communicate.

The Queer Collective in their first meeting of the year requested for the UTSSA to provide them with powers for vetting and removal of social media users when these online attacks occur. Currently there is no infrastructure to enable this under the by-laws apart from standard grievance processes. Oftentimes, this is hard to enact on social media, as anonymous users cannot be traced back to their membership of the Queer Collective, UTSSA, or other important identifiers such as their full name or student number.

This role will not empower individuals in the queer collective to vet or remove sign-ups outright, which will still have to occur in line with standard UTSSA grievance procedures as per usual.

Action: The UTSSA empowers the Queer Collective to democratically appoint a *social media and Communications Officer* via simple majority.

The election of this role will last until the end of the 2025 SRC term, and will not carry over into 2026 unless an additional motion is approved.

The powers and responsibilities of this role include:

- Day-to-day moderation of official Queer Collective social media channels, such as their community discord.
- Removal anonymous or hard to identify users from discussion groups who engage in blatantly Queerphobic, Transphobic or other blatantly discriminatory behavior.
- Report identifiable online grievances on behalf of the queer collective to the Queer Officer or UTSSA Grievance committee for further action when appropriate.

Mover: Daewah

Second: Neeve

Daewah: Speaks to history of bullying and trolling in queer collective social media. Speaks to Wanting to make sure the queer collective discord has more of an official role in maintaining a safe space. Wants to empower an elected person to handle that.

Mia: Agrees that it is a good idea to have more than one social media officer.

Lucia: Asks what actually happened on the queer collective discord.

Ell: Speaks to multiple instances, only one of which resulted in a person who was identifiable by name and relation to the collective as a member.

Mia: Asks if responsibilities are appropriate.

Adam: Speaks to helping Daewah draft this motion, notes that in preamble it states that collective members will not be able to be removed out right, and any appropriate action needs to be done through grievance process. Notes that when a collective member is identifiable that it would go through the standard process, and that online removals are only empowered to be used on someone who cannot be identified as they are anonymous.

Mia: Notes that the motion is fine as written, as long as everyone in the room knows that collectives cannot have their own grievance processes, and that all grievances must be conducted through the standard UTSSA grievance committee procedures.

Amendment, to insert into the Action Point:

“Democratically appoint 2”

The amendment is accepted by the mover.

The Motion passes without dissent or abstentions.

Mia: Proposes 5 minute recess, meeting to reconvene at 7:37pm.

The meeting resumes at 7:39pm.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. 2025 National Day of Action 4 Palestine

Preamble:

It is imperative that student unions across Australia continue to put in the effort to ensure that their universities cut ties with apartheid Israel and campaign for an end to the repression faced by student activists across campuses around the nation. This motion pushes for the UTSSA to actively endorse the National Day of Action 4 Palestine which is in the process of being planned and organised by

several organising groups across the country for the 26th of March. The demands of the day are as follows:

- End the genocide, sanction Israel and cut ties with all weapons manufacturers
- Cut all academic ties to Israel, no exchange with apartheid!
- End the repression on campus! Anti-Zionism is NOT antisemitism
- Fund education, not war!

It is important that members of the UTSSA in their capacities participate in the organisation and promotion of the action to ensure that we continue to send the message loud and clear on a national level to our universities and our government that we do not accept the injustices perpetrated by the State of Israel and we will not remain silent regarding our universities' ties to an apartheid state that has perpetrated genocide. We must also stand up to the unjust repression faced by students, teachers and academics alike when it comes to speaking out against Israel and make it clear that anti-Zionism does not equate to antisemitism

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Endorses the campaign for a National Day of Action 4 Palestine on March 26.
2. Will publish promotional material regarding the National Day of Action on social media platforms.
3. Will actively work with other organising groups and contribute to the planning and organising of the events on March 26.

Mover: Omar

Seconder: Salma

Omar: speaks to national day of action on March 26, which is endorsed by NUS and other activist groups. Stresses to everyone in room that everyone should try and get involved, and see everyone in the room involved in organising. Speaks for need to not just be there but to be apart of the organising process.

Salma: Important that everyone show up in climate we are now, with universities defining various definitions, last time a lot of attendees were mainly from USyd, important that people do show up. Show to management and government that we support these things and need for allies "ethnic or not". Speaks to having white people speak on issues holding a lot of power, and people in the rooms not affected by this to show up.

Lucia: Speaks to situation in Palestine in west bank and still in Gaza, speaks to ramping up assault in Palestine and government of political, economic and military support to Israel. Speaks to university ties to genocide and important role for students to play in opposing genocide in radical tradition of anti war student protest. Speaks to rally happening on Sunday.

Omar: The day of action is nationwide, precise details haven't been worked out but there is a good month to figure out what to do on campus by campus level.

Salma: meeting on 7th of March will be organising nationwide contingent.

Lily: Curious on what details are, speaks to lecture announcement and Trump announcement on Gaza.

Olivia: could we do organising meeting with Office Bearers about what can be done in collectives.

No dissent or abstentions

Omar: Context its happening on the 7th of march . It's endorsed by different groups from around the country.

Last national day was successfully, occupied building 11. National wide affect.

Omar: Stresses that it would be great to see everyone on board. That everyone should be there on and should be involved in organisation.

Salma: Speaks to it – Really important everyone shows up, mentions Zionist lobbyist motions are attempting to force definitions. Disappointing, last time most were from Usyd not Uts. Especially since most of SRC supports Palestine. We do need allies everywhere, even having a white man speak on something has a big effect unfortunately. So, It's really important for people who are unaffected to speak on issues.

Lucia: Support this motion, genocide and ethnic cleansing is continuing. The situation is fucked, government continues to support Israel in all ways. University continues to have a lot of ties, including research institute. Anyone who supports Palestine must oppose all of that, and go to protests. Students should return to Vietnam war protesting. Mentions 1pm rally at hyde park. Asks if details has been decided for the National Day of Protest.

Omar: Mentions many national partners, so precise details have not been worked out.

Mia: Clarifies meeting is on this Friday.

Salma: Describes several organisations meeting to plan in preparation of the national day.

Lily: Mentions wanting to support the protest.

Salma: Will reach out to Salt.

Olivia: Question, if there could be an organiser meeting to get collectives involved.

Salma: Would be great to meet up to organise.

8.2. UTSSA Supports the People's Inquiry into University Restrictions on Free Speech on Palestine

Preamble

Australian universities have limited the rights of students and staff to freedom of speech and assembly in recent years. This trend has accelerated since late 2023, when students began protesting the genocide taking place in Gaza. The response of numerous universities has been to limit the use of particular words and phrases. On many campuses students who have spoken in support of Palestine have faced serious disciplinary measures. At the University of Sydney, the right to put up posters informing students and staff about events has been severely limited. The display of banners has been banned unless these have been pre-approved. Students at the Australian National University have reported receiving correspondence from the university saying they may face discipline if they use the phrase, 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free'.

In response, activists, academics, students, and lawyers have established the People's Inquiry into University Restrictions on Free Speech on Palestine. The inquiry seeks to investigate freedom of speech as relates to Palestine across Australian university campuses, with the aid of submissions from the public. It is modelled on other peoples' inquiries, and has been designed with input by experts with experience in inquiries into the rights of asylum seekers in Australia and the role of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. The Inquiry has been endorsed by the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network, the National Union of Students, and the Jewish Council of Australia. Its patrons are Greens Senator Mehreen Faruqi and Dr Helen Jarvis, Vice-President of the Permanent People's Tribunal.

The support of the student unions is an important part of informing staff and students that they are able to make submissions to the Inquiry, as well as making the results of the Inquiry known to the

university community. The UTSSA is able to aid in ensuring that the Inquiry panel is provided with adequate information to make deliberations about the suppression of free speech on campus. Council members with information related to the suppression of free speech on university campuses are encouraged to make submissions.

Action

1. The UTSSA will endorse the People's Inquiry. An email will be written to the organisers of the People's Inquiry indicating this endorsement.
2. The UTSSA will share the Instagram post detailing the People's Inquiry submission process on its story.
3. Once the Inquiry panel has completed its deliberations on submissions, information about the results will be shared on UTSSA social media accounts.
4. The UTSSA will write an email to the UTS NTEU branch informing them of the People's Inquiry and the UTSSA's endorsement of it.

Mover: Olivia

Seconder: Elliot

Elliot: Speaks to the consistent attacks on Gaza. Speaks to

Ella: Speaks to the Peoples Inquiry into Free Speech on Campus, encourages to people to read through it and the NUS submissions. Speaks to the suppression of activism in the name of 'emotional safety' on campus. Speaks to definition of Antisemitism due to be adopted by Universities which conflates Judaism with Zionism. Notes that the definition is opposed by the Australian Council of Judaism for this reason.

Salma: Mentions that a mini version was done last year, although did not get a large amount of responses, Hopeful the national attempt will get more support. Vice Chancellor is getting mass amount of lobbying. Many posts are mass reported by Zionist organisations, while submissions for the anti – semintism inquiry have been made against Salma and Vertigo in general. Nothing happened. Mia: Speaks against the submission made against Vertigo, which conflates 'stop the genocide' and Palestine flag and antisemitism.

Mia: Speaks to condemn the submission made against Vertigo to the Antisemitism inquiry, which was unreasonable.

Salma: A lot of us are discouraged by the way management and security level these things, speaks to false allegation made November, at protest that never occurred at UTS, notes that this was also never reported to UTS security despite what was alleged in the submission.

Mia: If fake submissions are being made than we should be making genuine submissions. Speaks against Zionist lobby which fails to note the rise in other forms of bigotry.

Omar: Speaks to Salma being named in the government inquiry, simply for wearing a necklace depicting the borders of Palestine.

Mia: Notes that UTSSA hasn't been asked to make submission to any inquiries, so it might be good to have in this motion.

Lily: Notes that individuals are encouraged to make submissions. Speaks to instances at RMIT where students were banned from wearing Keffiyehs out of fear it would produce "anticipatory anxiety".

Mia: Notes that as safety is one of the only exceptions for academic freedom, psychological safety is often applied to silence academic freedom in these instances.

Ella: Asks Salma if something similar was already held last year, if the submissions could be transferred.

Salma: I will put all of these into the inquiry. Speaks to email from Australian Human Rights Commission, which will be doing focus groups.

The motion passes without dissent or abstentions.

8.3 Assessment Feedback (Formerly 7.4)

Preamble:

The UTSSA President, Education Officer and Assistant General Secretary are members of the Academic Administration Working Group ('AAWG'), a committee chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students), Jacqui Wise. This group was set up following lobbying by the 2024 UTSSA President, and is the group where numerous UTSSA-led campaigns have been successful, including:

- 72-hour simple extensions
- Capped 5% late penalties per day
- 11:59pm standardised submission times.

Last year, the committee resolved to consider the following items for discussion in the 2025 agenda:

- Special consideration
- Compulsory classes and class participation
- Timeliness of feedback (and further issues regarding feedback)
- Appealing results
- Faculty protocols (consistency and transparency)
- Misconducts

This motion aims for the UTSSA to decide on a policy regarding issues surrounding assessment feedback at UTS, that the UTSSA representatives on the AAWG will push for during committee meetings. *Feedback, discussion and proposed amendments to this motion are encouraged for the purpose of presenting a comprehensive and detailed perspective to the committee.*

Action: That the UTSSA endorses the following policy relating to assessment feedback at UTS, ensuring timely, high-quality, and accessible feedback across all faculties.:

1. Mid-Semester / Standard Assessments

(Includes essays, reports, major assignments, and other standard assessment tasks submitted outside class time)

- Feedback must be provided within 21 days of submission.
- Feedback should reference grading criteria and marking rubrics, with specific comments on strengths and areas for improvement.
- Written feedback should be accessible within Canvas, avoiding solely handwritten or verbal comments.
- Group work assessments should include both collective and individual feedback, recognising individual contributions.
- Students should be able to request further clarification via email or a short consultation with their tutor.

2. Frequent Assessment Tasks

(Includes weekly homework, weekly lab reports, pre-class quizzes, in-class quizzes, and other small but regular submissions)

- Feedback should be provided before the next relevant class or within 7 days, ensuring students can use it to improve their learning.
- General cohort feedback should be provided if individual feedback is not feasible.
- Automated quiz feedback should allow students to see correct answers or explanations after the due date.
- Students should have access to grading rubrics and marking criteria before performing the task.

3. Scheduled End-of-Session Examinations (Centrally-Conducted Exams)

(Includes final exams administered by UTS centrally and conducted by subject co-ordinators)

- Students should have access to their marked exam scripts and written feedback where feasible.
- If direct access to marked scripts is not provided, students must receive a breakdown of performance aligned with the marking criteria.
- Feedback on common errors and performance trends should be provided to the whole cohort.

- Requests for further clarification on final exam marks should be accommodated through a structured review process.

Mover: Neeve

Seconder: Olivia

Mia: Speaks to successful wins last year, speaks to setting the agenda for what to achieve this year. Speaks to motion being chronological, however wanting feedback and amendments from the floor. Notes that different policies have to apply for different kinds of assessment. Outlines different criteria from what is outlined in Action Points. Speaks to policy on marked exam scripts. Speaks to the high rate of casual staff being the biggest pushback for these policies, as we don't want tutors to have a higher work load. Rebukes this by stating that many of these changes would just require making existing work public.

Eamonn: Speaks to timeframe in Action point 2.

Neeve: Speaks to the issue of reoccurring quizzes.

Mia: Responds to Neeve that we can take out "before relevant classes".

Chloe enters room at 8:07pm

Vaishnavi: Speaks to subjects which have been changed to core subjects not having proper resources. Speaks to issues with contacting professors and some quizzes still due at 12pm.

Mia: Requests this email in writing for follow up.

Vaishnavi: Notes that a lot of students face similar issues.

Mia: Raises in point 5 Mid-Semester Assessments. Speaks to individual contributions in group work being difficult to access on occasion. Notes that if it is unfeasible to provide individual exam scripts, that general feedback for a cohort could be provided.

Samiha: Speaks to experience of tutor being in teams chat, notes that this is a good way for tutors to be able to monitor individual contributions. Asks whether regular reoccurring quizzes can be given on public holidays.

Mia: No.

Neeve: Notes that groupwork worked best with post assignment feedback.

Mia: Notes that future discussions need to be had about the best types of feedback for different assignments.

Amelia R: Notes that in economics feedback, you are compared to cohort.

Neeve: Notes that even if not possible, top mark, bottom mark and medium should be standard information.

Mia: Asks if this should be for all forms of assignments.

Multiple: yes.

Natasha: Speaks to consistent feedback being helpful.

Mia: Speaks to general breakdown which would be helpful. Notes that she wouldn't want to have to ask academics to produce individual feedback for every final exam.

Ell: Speaks to changes to rubrics and marking criterias, noting that when assessments are marked on a curb, often times it is marked compared to other students.

Mia: Speaks to need for clear and consistent rules against marketing on a curb at UTS.

Lily: Notes that many additional feedback from tutors will likely fall as unpaid work outside of class.

Mia: Speaks to not wanting academics to undergo unpaid work, which will ultimately effect student learning conditions.

Mia: reads out amendment 5 in full.

Natasha: Speaks to experience in subjects where drop in zoom sessions were never being recorded, asks whether should we add something these needs to be accessible via Canva.

Amelia R: Speaks to statistical representation of certain cohorts.

Ella: States her belief that teachers should, regardless of the circumstance, be paid in full for marketing student work.

Amendments

Amendment 1: remove Before the next relevant class. (Action Point 1. Pt 1)

"Feedback should be provided before the next relevant class or within 7 days, ensuring students can use it to improve their learning. "

Amendment 2: Remove pt 4 from first pt under mid semesters standard assessment.

"Group work assessments should include both collective and individual feedback, recognising individual contributions."

Amendment 3: Under scheduled assessments. Adding pt-

where possible exam coordinators should offer co-hort wide exam feedback.

Amendment 4 For general actions. – *To never mark on a curve, Adding clear and consistent Rubrics.*

Mia: Mentions Curves already banned but good to reinforce.

Ella: refer's to the email process method while cause academics to do more unpaid work.

Mia: That may be a element is saying academics should be paid to do it, agrees doesn't want to ask academics to do unpaid work.

Agrees to include it

Amendment 5: Under pt5, pt 1, which must be budgeted for by the university (

"Students should be able to request further clarification via email or a short consultation with their tutor. "

Suggested clause to allow subject coordinators to provide statistical representation of the performance of the cohort.

Trot: The way to get this fixed, to mention that the university must budget for all extra work as a result of these reforms, including feedback within 7 days of assessment.

Mia: Mentions annoyance when university uses academics not paid as a excuse to not have them do feedback.

Amendment 6: Agrees to include *the university must budget for all extra work as a result of these reforms* as another general point.

All amendments are accepted by the mover.

Commented [JS1]: (Presumably to be included prior to other points)

Commented [JS2]: Likely making Amendment 5 obsolete

The motion passes unanimously without dissent or abstentions.

9. General Business

A motion is proposed for General Business

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

Salma: reads out the title of the motion in full: "Motion to Condemn the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism and Uphold Free Speech on Campus".

The vote to hear the urgency motion is passed unanimously.

Motion to Condemn the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism and Uphold Free Speech on Campus

Preamble

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism has been widely criticized for conflating legitimate criticism of Israel with antisemitism, thereby suppressing free speech, particularly in academic and activist spaces. While genuine antisemitism must be condemned and combated in all its forms, definitions such as the IHRA's have been weaponized to silence Palestinian voices and those advocating for Palestinian rights.

This suppression of free expression is part of a broader trend that seeks to conflate anti-Zionism with racism, despite the fact that Zionism is a political ideology and not an ethnic or religious identity. The fight against racism and discrimination must not be co-opted to shield any state from legitimate scrutiny, particularly one engaged in documented human rights violations and abuses.

The recent decision by Australian universities to adopt an antisemitism definition that bans calling for Israel's elimination further reinforces this suppression. This move directly undermines the right to discuss and advocate for decolonization, self-determination, and justice for Palestinians. It falsely equates the rejection of a settler-colonial regime with hate speech, erasing the lived experiences and legitimate demands of the Palestinian people. Academic institutions must remain spaces of open debate and rigorous discourse, free from political interference that stifles dissent.

Platform

1. The UTSSA affirms its commitment to combating all forms of racism and religious discrimination.
2. The UTSSA opposes the IHRA definition of antisemitism and any other definition that may suppress legitimate criticism of Israel or the advocacy of Palestinian liberation.
3. The UTSSA rejects the conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism, recognizing that opposition to a settler-colonial state is not the same as hatred towards those who identify with the Jewish faith.
4. The UTSSA upholds the right of students and staff to freely discuss, critique, and campaign on matters of human rights and international law, including in relation to the war on Palestine.

Action Points

1. The UTSSA will write a joint letter with other willing and relevant UTS stakeholders to formally oppose the adoption of the IHRA definition or any similar definition that may suppress free speech and legitimate criticism of the state of Israel.
2. The UTSSA will advocate for academic freedom and ensure that no students or staff are penalized for their views on Palestine.
1. The UTSSA will actively challenge any attempts to label Palestinian advocacy as hate speech and will support students facing disciplinary action or harassment for their activism.

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Omar

Salma: Reads out the motion sent on notice to general secretary in full. Asks if the UTSSA can pass a motion with a platform.

Mia: Speaks to UTSSA having platform which was implemented end of last year, which is why there was confusion last meeting from Adian O'Rourke, as this change was made after this term.

Salma: reads platform and action point in full.

The motion passes without dissent or abstention

Neeve proposes an urgency motion.

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

The vote to hear the urgency motion is passed unanimously.

There have been persistent concerns regarding the conduct and accountability of certain office bearers within the UTSSA, raising serious questions about their adherence to both their fundamental responsibilities and the governing framework of the Association. These concerns include repeated failures to respond to emails, the failure to properly organise and oversee elections within their respective collectives, and the consistent neglect of their duty to submit reports to the SRC. Such failures are not only a dereliction of duty but also a direct violation of the UTSSA Constitution and By-Laws, which set clear expectations for the conduct and responsibilities of office bearers.

The Constitution and By-Laws exist to ensure that the UTSSA operates in a democratic, transparent, and accountable manner. They mandate that office bearers actively engage with their collectives, maintain proper channels of communication, facilitate elections fairly and in accordance with established procedures, and provide regular reports to the SRC to ensure oversight and accountability. When office bearers fail to uphold these obligations, they undermine the democratic processes of the Association, weaken its ability to represent and advocate for students effectively, and erode the trust that students place in their elected representatives.

It is essential that all office bearers recognise that their positions come with significant responsibilities and that their failure to meet these obligations is not just a matter of poor performance but a breach of the governing rules that structure the UTSSA's operations. Adherence to the Constitution and By-Laws is not optional—it is fundamental to ensuring the integrity, legitimacy, and effectiveness of the Association in serving the student body.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Office Bearers commit to upholding the UTSSA Constitution and By-Laws, ensuring accountability, transparency, and proper representation of students.
2. Officer Bearers commit to volunteering their time at least once a semester at either the Blue Bird Pantry or Blue Bird Pantry Cooking Classes.
3. Officer Bearers will commit to this time at the close of the meeting on 26/2/25.

Mover: Neeve

Second: Mia

Neeve: reads motion in full as on notice, including action points.

Mia: Speaks to disappointment with the performance of some office bearers. Speaks to time spent managing office bearer mistakes in their roles. Speaks to office bearer obligations to volunteer at pantry. Speaks to office bearers needing to pull weight, and meetings hold collective meetings properly.

Chloe: Speaks to her role on UTS Council with majority staff, with a lot of conversations recently occurring from lack of expectations not met by the UTSSA. Speaks to conversations with Mia about the UTSSA being reason why some items aren't being properly considered. Speaks to senior executive staff members noticing issues, and the direct effect this will have on motions including items raised today.

Mia: Speaks to wins last year, which should speak for themselves.

The Motion is Passed Unanimously without Dissent or Abstentions.

Samiha: Speaks to reform for special considerations process not being trauma informed. Speaks to similar reforms at Monash and University of Melbourne.

Mia: Speaks to this as the next thing due to be submitted in Academic Liaison Working Group, requests that all suggestions for policy are directed to Samiha and herself.

Salma: Speaks to RNA member Francesca Harrison, who is acquiring research grants to study on this topic, suggests reaching out to her.

Mia: Speaks to this resource which will be valuable.

Samiha: Speaks to public transport delays and trauma not being considered into this process.

10. Close of Meeting at [8:43]

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

Welcome back to Autumn semester everyone!! I returned from leave on the 11th of February, and so this report contains a summary of what I've completed in the last two weeks.

Moving Out!!

As you may have noticed, the UTSSA has finally moved offices! The UTSSA reception is now located in a far more central location in CB01.03.060. I am in the process of moving my office into the new offices, which will contain the UTSSA reception and a number of desks for members of the Exec and OBs. This has been quite a big process and will continue to be a process for the rest of the semester – I will speak more to this in the motions I have put up for consideration at February SRC.

UTS Budget Cuts

The fight against UTS's budget cuts is well underway, with my campaigning in the last few weeks focused on demanding transparency and genuine student consultation from the university. At the recent Teaching and Learning Committee meeting last Monday, it was confirmed by the DVC (ES) Kylie Readman that major changes to subjects and courses are being made without any structured input from democratically elected student representatives. The university's approach prioritises financial viability and strategic alignment over student needs, with decisions about course cuts and class reductions being made behind closed doors. In response, the UTSSA has launched an open letter, urging UTS to protect student interests and commit to meaningful consultation. Our petition is live on Megaphone [here](#), and myself and Januka are working to promote it through social media, the UTSSA website, and direct engagement at Bluebird Brekkie and Night Owl events. I encourage all members of the SRC to sign on.

Survey on New Subject Description Format

During the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting last Monday, I raised issues about the new subject description format on Canvas alongside Professor Amanda White. These concerns were quickly (and defensively) shut down by members of the committee, who told me that students "wanted these changes" and that the problems I was raising were actually not happening, and that no students actually thought this. Myself and Amanda White launched a survey last week following this meeting, and obtained 46 responses from students within the week. Last Friday, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Joanne Gray sent me an email acknowledging the feedback I gave during the meeting and thanking me for raising this. Joanne also said that the university has now taken steps to communicate and provide support to all subject coordinators and raised the matter with all Associate Deans Teaching and Learning. On Monday, I sent the raw data and a summary of the results to the university and certain members of the committee and am awaiting their response. Unsurprisingly, the data revealed that most students are deeply unsatisfied with the new system. I have attached the summary of results from the survey to this report for anyone interested.

Campaign Summaries + Case Studies

As I mentioned in my report for January SRC, I have been aiming to record more of the work I complete for campaigns in standard campaign summary documents so that this work can be continued/learned from at the end of my term. Biljana is also synthesising information from these campaign summaries into case studies that can be published on our website and social media platforms, so that we can publicise wins better and keep an ongoing public record of our campaigns as well. Two pages that are up and running already include a page on [Standardising Assessment & Academic Policies](#), and a page on our [Campaign Against UTS Budget Cuts](#).

Academic Administration Working Group

Now that the Academic Administration Working Group has started up again for the year, I have been working on formulating the UTSSA's perspectives on the topics coming up on the agenda for this year. The topics on the agenda for the AAWG this year are:

- Special consideration
- Compulsory classes and class participation
- Timeliness of feedback
- Appealing results
- Faculty protocols (consistency and transparency)
- Misconducts

I encourage everyone interested in these topics to come to me with their perspectives, opinions and policy ideas, so that the perspective I put forward in the working group can be informed by as many students as possible.

2. General Secretary

O'Day

Generally the biggest commitment to the UTSSA this month was the arrangements and operating the main UTSSA O'Day stall. Due to last minute changes to the location of RNA's location, we experienced an exceptional, almost overwhelming amount of foot traffic on the first day. Attendance on the second day across the board was much smaller than the opening day. As usual the stall was a good opportunity to not only provide free items to regular students, but also a good chance to gauge that interest into longer discussions about the students association and what we do. Something interesting to evaluate for the future is that often when given the option, students largely chose powerbanks over diaries, this is empirical evidence to reevaluate when looking into the future formatting of the handbook as a project, which I will no doubt have at least some involvement with.

NUS President's Summit

At the start of the month; myself, Januka and Neeve all attending the National Union of Student's President's summit. President's Summit is very different, shorter and much more productive than a standard NUS Conference, as attendees with other lobby and activist groups, often which are led by and/or for the interests of tertiary education students. It's a generally positive experience as it provides shared goals, challenges and campaigns which are implementable across campuses. More detailed analysis on the conference can be read in my post-conference report.

Vertigo Working Group

As ratified at reps elect late last year, the first meeting of the Vertigo Working Group is due to take place tomorrow as the time of writing. This will not only be a good opportunity to hold an open forum discussion about Vertigo, with resolution to minor and specific challenges. I look forward to the fresh perspective of new attendees as well as returning representatives from last year.

3. Assistant General Secretary

In February, my focus has been on several areas, including social media engagement, O-Week, and although this is still in progress, updates and improvements to the website.

1. Website Improvements

Again, I would like to encourage OB's to email if they want any changes to their own pages on the website. This is also true for the Event's page which OB's can provide me their events throughout the year so they can be posted on it. I am also still in the process of updating various elements of the website.

2. Social Media

In terms of social media, I have worked on posts to go alongside Mia's UTSSA Open Letter. My current major focus, the "Meet Your Collectives" campaign is still in progress many of the videos having been recorded but I am waiting for a few more. Alongside these being utilised on the story I intend them to be implemented on the website to provide an interactive introduction to the collectives.

3. O-Week

For O-Week preparations, I had included a new question in the Oday sign-up sheet, optionally asking if they would like to join one of the collectives, although optional it still garnered over 800 responses which while may have a weak conversion rate to active members will at least provide OB's who chose to email their collective's wider reach. Otherwise on Oday I spent time assisting on some of the different stalls when I had the time and uploading stories of all the collectives to boost their visibility.

On the administrative side, I have updated the list of approved spending with the past two SRC meetings.

Over this next month, I continue to prepare the "Meet Your Collectives", updates to the Website while looking for other ways to utilize social media to boost collectives and other UTSSA objectives.

4. Education Officer

This month, I have been working on our 'Know Your Academic Rights' Campaign which aims to raise awareness of key academic policies at UTS that students generally are not aware of, we hope this will reach students here at UTS through (30 second) Instagram reels. I really do think this has a lot of potential and scope just beyond even social media, communicating with students who aren't as involved will tell you how little they know about their academic rights, and responsibilities. Which is an aim of the education collective to tackle, to the best of our ability. I have been working on four key academic policies including Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Policy, Coursework Assessments Policy, Student Rights and the Responsibilities Policy as well as our Student Complaints Policy.

I have created a script, and to go forward with this campaign development we will be creating informative material as well as more digital content for our social media. I also worked on the UTS Housing Stall, where I had the privilege to engage with students to gather valuable insights on their housing experience and challenges. Some worthy of sharing but pretty obvious, students struggle with the re-application fee, and actually know whether or not they will be able to secure it.

In addition to the Know Your Rights campaign, I have been conducting research on our Special Consideration policy to further help with our reform, against other universities across Australia.

- Policy Review: Analysed existing Special Consideration policies at UTS and benchmarked them against other Australian universities to identify gaps and inconsistencies.

Upcoming March:

- Conduct a survey to understand student experiences with the current process for Special Consideration
- Report Drafting
- Continue expanding the Know Your Rights campaign with a Q&A session
- Finalise a date for our How to Navigate Accessibility Services Panel
- Stu-vac snacks with BDS friendly items with information on them
- Work on hoping to secure a second multi-faith room

5. Welfare Officer

It's been a busy month as Welfare Officer, but I'm extremely pleased with the fantastic standards of work being put into student welfare.

Student Council Liaison Group Reports

This month, significant efforts have been dedicated to ensuring that the Student Council Liaison Group reports were submitted in a timely manner, allowing for responses to be received before the next meeting in three months. This process required extensive research, consultation with other universities, and the complete drafting and formatting of the report. Managing these tasks simultaneously was challenging but essential in ensuring that the university provides clear and actionable responses to student concerns.

With the reports now submitted, the next step involves attending meetings and speaking directly to these reports to ensure that the issues raised receive proper attention and action from the university. The reports have also been circulated for this meeting for members of the SRC to observe.

Welfare Collective Engagement and Activities

The Welfare Collective hosted a relatively successful engagement day. Given the nature of our work, many of our campaigns operate behind the scenes, making it difficult for the collective to be consistently front facing. However, it was encouraging to interact with students who expressed interest in contributing to and informing our campaigns. This engagement is crucial in maintaining the Welfare Collective as a valuable resource for students and ensuring that our advocacy remains student-led and reflective of their needs.

National Engagement and Policy Advocacy

Earlier this month, I attended the National Union of Students (NUS) President's Summit in Melbourne in my capacity as a National Executive Member of the NUS. While this was undertaken in my NX role, it provided valuable insights relevant to our work at the university level. One particularly significant discussion was with the National Student Ombudsman regarding the establishment of a direct reporting channel for students to lodge complaints about their universities externally. This independent mechanism presents an important opportunity for students to hold universities accountable for systemic issues.

A key issue that I raised with the National Student Ombudsman in universities was the lack of binding clauses ensuring a right to habitable premises and privacy in student housing agreements. I specifically raised this with the National Student Ombudsman to determine whether it fell within their scope of complaint, and they confirmed that it could be addressed through complaints, though no precedent currently exists. This remains a potential avenue for advocacy, particularly depending on the university's response to the submitted report. The Welfare Collective will continue to explore this option as part of its ongoing housing campaign efforts.

Next Steps and Future Focus

Looking ahead, I will be working closely with Mia within the Student/Council Liaison Group to attend the upcoming meeting and advocate directly based on the submitted reports, ensuring that the university provides meaningful responses and takes appropriate action on the concerns raised. Additionally, the Welfare Collective will continue to promote awareness of the National Student Ombudsman as a potential avenue for student complaints, particularly in relation to housing rights and broader welfare issues.

This has been an exceptionally busy and productive month for the Welfare Collective, and I look forward to furthering our advocacy efforts in the coming weeks.

6. Women's Officer

It's been a busy month as Welfare Officer, but I'm extremely pleased with the fantastic standards of work being put into student welfare.

Student Council Liaison Group Reports

This month, significant efforts have been dedicated to ensuring that the Student Council Liaison Group reports were submitted in a timely manner, allowing for responses to be received before the next meeting in three months. This process required extensive research, consultation with other universities,

and the complete drafting and formatting of the report. Managing these tasks simultaneously was challenging but essential in ensuring that the university provides clear and actionable responses to student concerns.

With the reports now submitted, the next step involves attending meetings and speaking directly to these reports to ensure that the issues raised receive proper attention and action from the university. The reports have also been circulated for this meeting for members of the SRC to observe.

Welfare Collective Engagement and Activities

The Welfare Collective hosted a relatively successful engagement day. Given the nature of our work, many of our campaigns operate behind the scenes, making it difficult for the collective to be consistently front facing. However, it was encouraging to interact with students who expressed interest in contributing to and informing our campaigns. This engagement is crucial in maintaining the Welfare Collective as a valuable resource for students and ensuring that our advocacy remains student-led and reflective of their needs.

National Engagement and Policy Advocacy

Earlier this month, I attended the National Union of Students (NUS) President's Summit in Melbourne in my capacity as a National Executive Member of the NUS. While this was undertaken in my NX role, it provided valuable insights relevant to our work at the university level. One particularly significant discussion was with the National Student Ombudsman regarding the establishment of a direct reporting channel for students to lodge complaints about their universities externally. This independent mechanism presents an important opportunity for students to hold universities accountable for systemic issues.

A key issue that I raised with the National Student Ombudsman in universities was the lack of binding clauses ensuring a right to habitable premises and privacy in student housing agreements. I specifically raised this with the National Student Ombudsman to determine whether it fell within their scope of complaint, and they confirmed that it could be addressed through complaints, though no precedent currently exists. This remains a potential avenue for advocacy, particularly depending on the university's response to the submitted report. The Welfare Collective will continue to explore this option as part of its ongoing housing campaign efforts.

Next Steps and Future Focus

Looking ahead, I will be working closely with Mia within the Student/Council Liaison Group to attend the upcoming meeting and advocate directly based on the submitted reports, ensuring that the university provides meaningful responses and takes appropriate action on the concerns raised.

Additionally, the Welfare Collective will continue to promote awareness of the National Student Ombudsman as a potential avenue for student complaints, particularly in relation to housing rights and broader welfare issues.

This has been an exceptionally busy and productive month for the Welfare Collective, and I look forward to furthering our advocacy efforts in the coming weeks.

7. International Students' Officer

Monthly Report: February 2025

Prepared by: Harshvardhan Suvarna, International Students Officer

Date: February 27, 2025

February was a dynamic month for the International Students' Collective of UTSSA, with key initiatives aimed at student welfare, engagement, and advocacy. Below is a summary of the significant activities and collaborations undertaken this month.

1. Media Engagement with The Daily Telegraph – 3 February 2025

I connected with The Daily Telegraph's education reporter, who was investigating several religious groups for an upcoming magazine feature. I assisted by providing two international students who were willing to share their perspectives and experiences.

2. Meeting with Fair Work – 4 February 2025

To ensure international students are well-informed about their employment rights, I held a meeting with Fair Work representatives. During this session, I secured free pamphlets and crucial information on current working rights, which I later distributed to international students during Orientation Day.

3. Volunteer Recruitment for Orientation Stall – 6-7 February 2025

I successfully recruited volunteers for my stall at Orientation Day. Out of 16 applicants, I shortlisted four volunteers per day to assist in engaging with new international students and providing them with essential resources.

4. Media Collaboration with ABC News – 11 February 2025

I contacted Conor Duffy, the national education and parenting reporter at ABC News, regarding a study that revealed international students were unfairly blamed for Australia's rising rents. This groundbreaking study, the first of its kind in Australia, highlights the challenges faced by international students in the housing market.

5. Successful Orientation Day Stall – 12-13 February 2025



The International Students' Collective successfully conducted its stall at UTS Orientation Day. This event led to a significant increase in community engagement, with a total of 1,300 international students now part of the collective.

6. Collaboration with NSW Fire Department – 25 February 2025

I initiated a partnership with the NSW Fire Department to conduct a fire awareness workshop for international students. This session, scheduled for mid-March, aims to educate students on fire safety measures and emergency preparedness.

7. Collaboration for International Students' One-Day Trip

I collaborated with the Postgraduate Officer to organize an upcoming one-day trip for international students. This initiative is designed to enhance community bonding and provide students with an opportunity to explore their new environment.

Conclusion

February 2025 was marked by proactive engagement with key stakeholders, media outreach, advocacy efforts, and community-building activities. The efforts made this month have contributed to strengthening the support system for international students, ensuring they have access to vital resources and opportunities for growth. Moving forward, the International Students' Collective remains committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all international students at UTS.

8. Indigenous Officer

N/A

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

N/A

10. Ethnocultural Officer

Membership & Engagement

The Ethnocultural Collective has grown to approximately 45 members, reflecting strong engagement within the student body. We continue to foster a supportive environment for ethnically diverse students, ensuring that our activities and initiatives remain inclusive and representative of their experiences.

One challenge we have encountered is the participation of non-ethnic students in the collective. While we welcome all allies, we emphasize that certain spaces, such as our safe space initiatives, are designed specifically for ethnically diverse students to share their experiences without external influence. We are addressing this by clearly communicating the purpose and boundaries of these spaces while maintaining an open and educational approach to allyship.

O-Day & Outreach

Our presence at O-Day was highly successful, allowing us to connect with a significant number of students and introduce them to the collective's mission and activities. The enthusiasm and interest shown by new members demonstrate the growing demand for ethnocultural representation on campus.

We have also reached out to Vertigo regarding the possibility of launching an Ethnocultural podcast, which would serve as a platform for discussions on identity, lived experiences, and social justice issues relevant to ethnically diverse students. We are currently awaiting their response.

Future Initiatives & Planning

We are in the process of determining the best time to host a meet-and-greet or a healing circle, ensuring maximum accessibility and participation. These events aim to strengthen our collective community and provide a space for students to connect, reflect, and support one another. Additionally, we are working on strategies to maintain consistency in our activities, ensuring sustained engagement throughout the semester.

Lastly, preparations have begun for the upcoming Ethnocultural Convenor election. We are working on structuring a transparent and inclusive election process to ensure the continued leadership and success of the collective.

11. Disabilities Officer

This month for the Disabilities Collective has been dedicated to setting up the collective for a larger membership and regular meetings and events.

Autumn Orientation Day went really well, we got quite a few sign ups and lots of people were taking the UTS DisCo badges that I had made in the week leading up to. I had some great conversations with students and staff who were excited to get involved.

In terms of social media, I have been able to continue growing the collective's following by reposting things, and becoming more active and establishing a presence online. The Disabilities Collective held our first event of the year, a coffee catchup at Cornerstone Cafe, which had five people attend, which is an improvement considering the collective could not reach quorum for our meetings last year. I have also set a date for the first Collective Meeting of 2025 and am keeping an active membership list.

I have also begun sending out monthly newsletters to update members on the upcoming events, campaigns and meetings of the Disabilities Collective, and the feedback from these has been great. I have also been in communication with Hannah from Disability Pride Sydney about the UTS Disabilities Collective's involvement in Disability Pride Sydney.

12. Queer Officer

N/A

13. Environment Officer

February has been a very eventful month for the Enviro Collective, with a fair amount of progress being made towards reviving an active membership

O'day Stall:

The O'day stall was a success, with a substantial increase in sign ups from 2024 O'day. Large parts of this success were down to making sure that I was giving freebies to everyone, that these freebies were appropriately branded and that people knew what kinds of events we would be running before they signed up. Other factors such as me wearing a bee costume to draw attention to the stall and a better stall location also helped with getting people to talk to me in the first place.

Other notable parts of O'day:

- I had a few QR codes specifically for the Instagram on the table and this was very useful for making sure that people signing up for the collective were also following the Instagram.
- While talking to people at the stall, I was able to gauge how much interest there was in different kinds of events, whether that be volunteering, activism or social events. From these interactions, it definitely felt like volunteering was the most popular but I will continue to evaluate how members feel throughout the year.

Welcome Drinks:

We held a welcome drinks event at the Abercrombie hotel to start off the year. The earlier work in promoting the event at O'day and having people follow our Instagram made organising this event a lot easier as I used a google form that I posted on our Instagram to track the number of people coming. The Abercrombie was also quite easy to book and work with, especially for booking specific seats and putting up the Collective's banner. The event was very successful in terms of attendance and the attendees were genuinely interested in continued involvement with Enviro Collective.

Volunteering at Ultimo Community Garden:

The Enviro collective will be volunteering at Ultimo community garden every two weeks starting on 27 February. I first visited the garden last month to begin organising this and all throughout the process the people from the garden have been very supportive. This is particularly helpful as issues like insurance will be dealt with on their end while the collective can focus on turning out volunteers. My hope for this volunteering project is that it gives members a reason to continue being involved with the collective, especially in light of how many people were interested in volunteering at O'day, while also giving members an opportunity to make a difference in the local community.

A part of this volunteering work will eventually involve taking waste such as coffee grounds from cafes and restaurants on campus to be composted at the community garden. From my outreach so far, Cornerstone seemed quite interested in donating their coffee grounds so I will be following up with them. I hope that this can be a recurring aspect of the volunteer work as it has been a long running goal of the Enviro Collective to see more recycling at UTS.

I have been informing members about this opportunity as well as providing a sign up link on our Instagram as well as on our newsletter that is emailed to members. SOUL has also been very helpful with getting the word out as they have promoted it on WhatsApp group as a volunteer opportunity to gain hours for the SOUL program. For future promotion, I will try to emphasise that these hours can be claimed for programs such SOUL and the Brennan Justice and Leadership program and get relevant groups to reshare the sign up link.

Sustainability Steering Committee

I will be participating in the quarterly meetings of the Sustainability Steering Committee throughout the year. The first meeting was Monday 24 February and while I was unable to attend for work reasons, I did still provide an update about the fact the Enviro Collective is back up and running as well as what we are working on.

Goals over the next month

Over the next month, I have three main goals:

1. Building up our Instagram as while I have gained followers, trying to get these followers to engage more with us would help me with promoting our events
2. Running the volunteering in a way that maintains the relationships that I have built, especially with the Ultimo Community garden itself, while also making sure that members keep coming out every other week.
3. Holding a meeting and then an AGM as a few of the people at O'day and welcome drinks have expressed an interest in helping me with running the collective. This would take some of the burden off of me while others an opportunity to contribute more than they would as just members of the collective.

Appendix 2: Pres-Summit Reports

1. Adam Levett

The NUS president's conference generally adopts a similar structure, a majority of the first day holding presentations from all newly elected national office bearers, proceeded by presentations from external stakeholders of the NUS.

One of the unfortunate uncontrollable realities of the NUS is that in practical terms it is essentially a non-binding lobby group which the government which controls crucial policy developments in the education sector. Therefore, many Office Bearers have goals (Whether related to education or social reform), that are heavily dependent on the outcome of the election. The NUS has made a legitimate contribution to significant achievements in the past few years under the current government, such as the Higher Education Accords process and the introduction of the National Student Ombudsman. Therefore much is at stake for the organisation as to whether we have a government that sits at the table with the NUS, or one that doesn't after this year's impending election.

This is what made the appearance by ACTU President Michele O'Neil particularly impactful. Her comments were generally standard 'Put the Liberals Last' stuff typical from the union movement at this time in an election cycle. However this messaging was particularly resonant as we had just spent the last day of Office Bearer introductions pondering the impact which a liberal government would have on the NUS as an organised negotiating body. I am very pleased to see that the NUS executive have been so proactive and galvanized behind this campaign, because the prospect of an LNP government is generally one of the major setbacks for any positive reform in the higher education sector currently.

One of the more memorable presentations was by CAPA (Council of the Australian Postgraduate Associations). The issue of postgraduate stipends is one that is deeply concerning, and something the UTSSA can probably get behind more so than other student unions as an organisation that covers both postgraduate and undergraduate students.

Another of the other workshop I found particularly valuable was the Media Training workshop provided by FYA (Foundation for Young Australians). This workshop was very thorough, interactive and in-depth for something that could've otherwise been very bog-standard.

The National Student Ombudsman presentation was also informative on how the new processes work in practice. There was less information this year on issues such as university reporting of SA/SH, but that was probably besides the overall point of their presentation.

The Young Workers Hub presentation also contained valuable information about issues effecting tertiary students. Such as the fact that most high-school leavers are stuck with a junior wages through the duration of a standard undergraduate degree. (From ages 18-21). I also learnt that if you sign an apprenticeship under the age of 21 you are stuck with a junior rate even after they reach the minimum age.

The general workshops on campus safety (such as the one held by Students for Sensible Drug Policy), was mainly orientated to campuses which have their union integrated with their SRC, or campuses with an active colleges or culture of living on campus. Still there were some universally valuable advice given.

The workshop by TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency), was once again the weakest of the bunch, however nowhere near as infuriating as their one last year.

2. Neeve Nagle

Overview of the Summit

This month, I attended the National Union of Students (NUS) President's Summit, where I engaged with NUS Office Bearers (OBs) on their upcoming campaigns, received media training, and participated in critical discussions on student advocacy. This summit provided an invaluable opportunity to connect with national student leaders, gain insight into key policy initiatives, and contribute to shaping the future of student activism in Australia.

Key Campaigns and Policy Discussions

A central focus of the summit was the launch of the My Future, Our Voice campaign, which highlights the growing electoral influence of young Australians. With Gen Z and Millennials now forming the largest voting bloc in the country, this campaign underscores the need for greater representation and investment in students. The campaign highlights key concerns, including chronic underfunding of higher education, rising student debt, and the ongoing neglect of student welfare by successive governments.

While the campaign advocates for urgent reforms, including increased financial support for students and a cap on HECS indexation, its slogan— "Put the Liberals Last"—poses a challenge for endorsement by the UTS Students' Association (UTSSA). As a registered charity, the UTSSA is restricted from endorsing or opposing specific political parties or candidates, making formal participation in this campaign unfeasible in its current form. However, the underlying issues remain critical and align with UTSSA's broader advocacy objectives.

Meeting with the National Student Ombudsman

During the summit, I was able to speak with the National Student Ombudsman to discuss external avenues for students to lodge complaints against universities. This direct reporting mechanism presents an important tool for holding institutions accountable, particularly in areas such as student housing rights, financial hardship, and unfair academic policies. Exploring how this mechanism can be utilised in UTSSA's campaigns will be a priority moving forward.

NUS Strategic Plans for 2025

Beyond the My Future, Our Voice campaign, the summit provided insight into the broader strategic goals of the NUS for the coming year. Key priorities include:

- Campaigning for universal student unionism, ensuring students have access to fully funded and independent representation.
- Advocating for 100% of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) to be allocated to democratically elected student organisations, up from the current 40% minimum.
- Strengthening the push for higher education funding reforms, including the repeal of the Job-Ready Graduates scheme and freezing HECS indexation.

However, it was flagged that these plans may only remain an absolute priority if the Liberal Party does not form government. Should they win the next election, the NUS will shift its focus towards defending existing student services and protections, ensuring that recent hard-won gains are not reversed.