

# January 2026 SRC MINUTES

28.1.26 | 6:33 | CB11.04.101

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## 1. Opening of meeting at [6.33]

### 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

### 1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

Salma calls for nominations for Deputy Chair. Salma asks Sina to be chair for this meeting instead of her. Sina Accepts. Sina calls for nominations for Deputy Chair. Salma nominates herself as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so Salma is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

### 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

#### Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Omar El-Sobihy	Ethnocultural Officer
Grace Cole	Queer Officer
Eammon Ryan	Environment and Technology Officer
Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams	Disabilities Officer
Francesca Harrison	Women's Officer
Salma Elmubasher	General secretary
Sina Afsharmehr	Welfare Officer
Liyara Flavel	General Councillor
Yasmine Johnson	General Councillor
Benjamin Grant-Skiba	General Councillor

Aaron Choy	General Councillor
George Tulloch	Post-graduate Officer
Rose Sakseena	International Students Officer
Andrew Brogden	General Councillor
Ibrahim Hadi	General Councillor
Amelia Ireland	General Councillor
Emanie Darwiche	Vertigo Editor in Chief
Lauren Lim	Vertigo Editor
Nuha Dole	Vertigo Editor
Simran Shoker	Vertigo Managing Editor
Taya Morante	Indigenous Officer
Lauren	Observer

### Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Neeve Ann Nagle	President
Cam Perez	Assistant General Secretary

## Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Ella Haid	Yasmine Johnson
Chloe Ferreira	Salma Elmubasher
Isabella Taylor	Francesca Harrison
Jonothan Waters	Benjamin Grant-Skiba

### 1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

George is a member of UTS startups and will abstain from voting on motion 7.6 and 7.7.

No one else makes any declarations.

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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

### 2.1. Executive Business

Salma tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meeting held on 21.01.26.

### 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Salma runs through the motions to contract 2 designers and spending for the UTSSA handbooks that will be at the stall on O-Day. She then runs through Ella's motion on spending for shirts to be distributed at EAG events.

### 4. Correspondence

No correspondence for this month

### 5. Office Bearers' Reports

#### 5.1. President

Neeve is absent and so her report is taken as read.

#### 5.2. General Secretary

Salma takes her report as read.

#### 5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Cam's report was not circulated to Council.

#### 5.4. Education Officer

Ella's report was not circulated to Council.

#### 5.5. Welfare Officer

Sina outlines plans to develop campaigns focused on student welfare, including improvements to health services, the introduction of clothing bins, and stronger inventory management systems. She highlights ongoing work with Bluebird and Night Owl, with a particular focus on expanding the range of culturally appropriate

food options, especially for Ramadan, and continuing to support the pantry. The remainder is taken as read.

### 5.6. Women's Officer

Francesca's report was not circulated to Council.

### 5.7. International Students' Officer

Rose explains that a key focus has been understanding the university structure, her role, and the needs of the cohort. She circulated a survey to gather insights into what students need, and the results have informed the development of campaign initiatives. The aim is to identify how the UTSSA can better support students and ensure they feel heard and represented.

She also mentioned that a second event is being planned in collaboration with UTS Startups, specifically for postgraduate students.

### 5.8. Indigenous Officer

Taya explained that her plan for O-Day is to collaborate with students on a stall featuring three canvases, creating a space where people can sit, have a yarn, and engage in conversation. She aims to invite students to share their culture, reflect on what they want, and speak about how they connect to Country.

### 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

George spoke about his event with RNA and Top Blokes, which focuses on developing a toolset for healthy masculinity and fostering respect towards women. He emphasised that rather than shaming men, it's important to provide education and support that equips them with the skills to grow. The aim is to challenge and nurture young men to become their best selves.

### 5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Omar takes his report as read.

### 5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia spoke about establishing herself in the role and focusing on key priorities, particularly increasing student engagement. She highlighted the importance of better centralisation and inclusivity, with a current focus on strengthening engagement across the student body.

### 5.12. Queer Officer

Grace takes her report as read.

### 5.13. Environment Officer

Eamon takes his report as read.

## 6. Other Reports

### 6.1. Committees

No reports

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

No reports

## 7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

## 7.1. Approval of 2025 Financial Audit Quote

### **Preamble**

The UTSSA is required to undertake an annual financial audit to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with its governance and reporting obligations. A quote has been received for the conduct of the 2025 financial audit.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Approves the engagement of the proposed auditor ( Troodpratt) for the 2025 UTSSA financial audit at a cost of \$9,500 plus GST

**Mover:** Eammon Ryan

**Second:** Grace Cole

**Ibrahim** asks how we obtain quotes.

**Salma** says that Mariah goes through and finds the best one.

Motion goes to a vote

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.2. President and General Secretary Visibility Corflutes

### **Preamble**

Clear, visible UTSSA leadership branding around campus supports student awareness  
of the Students' Association, strengthens visibility of elected representatives,  
and  
improves accessibility for students seeking support, services, and advocacy.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Approves the design, printing, and placement of UTSSA corflutes depicting the President and General Secretary for visibility around campus.
2. Sets an upper spending limit of \$500 for the production of these corflutes (including design and printing costs).
3. Authorises the President and General Secretary to finalise artwork, quantities, and placement locations, and to coordinate installation where permitted.

**Salma** speaks to the importance of visibility for the UTSSA and the use of an 'image' to encourage people to go to executives. She explains that when Nour Alhammouri was president in 2023, everyone knew him and increased UTSSA visibility.

**Mover:** George Tulloch

**Seconder:** Liyara Flavel

**Yasmine** asks the necessity of having visibility of individual faces instead of the UTSSA broadly

**Emanie** asks the same question as Yasmine.

**Sina** says that Executives that are placed because they are executives of the organisation.

**Yasmine** says that it gives tickets an unfair advantage during elections if their faces are around the campus all year.

**Emanie** echos this point.

**Salma** reminds them that executives will not have the name of the ticket they ran under included on the corflute.

Motion goes to a vote.

Votes in Favour:

1. Ibrahim Hadi
2. Omar El-Sobihy
3. Grace Cole
4. Eammon Ryan
5. Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams
6. Francesca Harrison
7. Salma Elmubasher
8. Liyara Flavel
9. Aaron Choy
10. George Tulloch
11. Rose Sakseena
12. Taya Morante

Votes Against:

1. Yasmine Johnson
2. Ben Grant-Skiba
3. Andrew Brogden

Abstentions:

1. Amelia Ireland

**The motion passes.**

### 7.3. Funding for NUS Presidents' Summit Attendance

#### **Preamble**

Attendance at the NUS Presidents' Summit supports coordination between student unions nationally, strengthens UTSSA's capacity to engage in national student advocacy, and ensures UTSSA is represented in sector-wide discussions impacting students.

#### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Approves funding for the President and General Secretary, or their chosen proxy, to attend the NUS Presidents' Summit.
2. Sets an upper spending limit of \$400 for flights and \$300 for accommodation for each attendee.

Mover: George Tulloch

Seconder: Eammon Ryan

**Yasmine** asks who will be attending on behalf of the UTSSA.

**Sina** responds that a proxy will be sent.

**Emanie** asks what typically takes place at the Presidents' Summit.

**Yasmine** explains that it involves a series of NUS workshops.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.4. Appointment of Independent Person – Grievance Committee

### **Preamble**

The UTSSA Grievance Committee requires an independent person to support procedural fairness, independence, and sound decision-making in grievance and disciplinary matters under the UTSSA By-Laws.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Confirms the appointment of Simon Fletcher (Principal Solicitor, Fletch Law) as the independent person on the UTSSA Grievance Committee.
2. Approves the engagement of Fletch Law at an hourly rate of \$400 + GST, and authorises the President (and/or General Secretary) to finalise arrangements and confirm commencement timing.

Salma reads the motion in full.

Mover ?

Seconder?

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.5. Compensation for Designers Motion

### **Preamble**

Vertigo notes that submissions for the first issue (Issue One) closed on 16 December to allow the design team a full month to prepare a final edition, and that the SRC was informed of this deadline on 1 December. Despite multiple follow-ups, OB articles were not submitted until 5 January, leaving the design team with fewer than ten days to incorporate the content and prepare the magazine for print. Laurie, the Design Director, produced 10 pages of spreads to accommodate the OB reports within the existing page quota, with a planned showcase piece removed to allow for this. A “Final Digital Document” was sent to the general secretary on 14 January, with accessibility feedback addressed and an updated “Final Draft” submitted on 15 January, with no further comments provided. On 16 January, Salma and Neeve called an urgent meeting with the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor, at which new concerns were raised regarding the design and placement of the OB articles and the absence of UTSSA articles, despite these issues not being communicated previously. As a result of this delayed communication, the print deadline was postponed by one week, requiring the design team to produce an additional 10 pages of spreads for five articles over a single weekend, significantly compressing the standard four-week design timeline.

### **Action**

Given that the design team, with outsourced assistance, was required to correct a miscommunication by the SRC and to accommodate the delayed

submission of OB articles, Vertigo submits the attached invoices to compensate the team and outsourced assistance for the work undertaken and the urgency with which it was completed. And appropriate acknowledgment of work required to meet organisational deadlines.

# TAX INVOICE

Invoice no. #2602  
 Invoice date : 23/01/2026

Invoice to	Period Covered	Payment Terms
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION 59 352 932 539	17/01/26 - 19/01/26	N/A

Rate	Task	Total
\$100/Task	Design for "What Australia's Anti-Protest Laws Mean" article	\$100
	Design for "Thousands Spent, Days Wasted" article	\$100
		<b>AUD 200</b>

# TAX INVOICE

Invoice no. #2603  
 Invoice date : 23/01/2026

Invoice to	Period Covered	Payment Terms
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION 59 352 932 539	17/01/26 - 19/01/26	N/A

Rate	Task	Total
\$100/Task	Design for "Safe and mindful Alcohol and Drug Use" article	\$100
		<b>AUD 100</b>

# TAX INVOICE

Invoice no. #2601

Invoice date : 23/01/2026

Invoice to	Period Covered	Payment Terms
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION 59 352 932 539	17/01/26 - 19/01/26	N/A

Rate	Task	Total
\$100/Task	Design for "Sexual Consent" article	\$100
	Design for "What the F**K is SSAF" article	\$100
		<b>AUD 200</b>

**Mover:** Ibrahim Hadi

**Second:** Amelia Ireland

**Emanie** speaks to the burnout experienced by Vertigo in producing the handbook edition. She notes that Vertigo was not informed that UTSSA information needed to be included and expresses frustration at what she describes as a lack of accountability from the SRC.

**Salma** responds, outlining the circumstances faced by Office Bearers and noting that these were communicated to Vertigo. She also raises concern about the lack of visibility of the UTSSA within the publication and the inaccessibility of reports, particularly in terms of readability.

**Emanie** further details frustration with the lack of clarity around communication, including when and where handbooks were to be referenced for design and content, as well as the pressure placed on Vertigo to comply with by-laws.

**Salma** acknowledges a shared responsibility between Vertigo and the UTSSA for the delay, but reiterates that extensions had been granted. She also refers to the by-laws outlining Vertigo's roles and responsibilities, and raises concerns about the ambiguity of the submitted invoices, noting this may conflict with audit obligations. Salma then cites various sections of UTSSA governance explaining why this motion cannot pass.

**Omar** returns discussion to the substance of the motion, stating that the UTSSA cannot pass it due to the ambiguity of the invoices. He also expresses concern that the motion may be being used to air grievances.

**Emanie** acknowledges that the motion is likely to be rejected but rejects the suggestion that it is being used to air grievances.

**Neeve** explains that the honorarium system is not intended to reimburse individuals for work within their role, nor to function as wages. She emphasises the nature of student union work in this context.

**Mariah** refers to the requirements set out in the constitution bylaws and says that it can not pass.

**Eammon** proposes a procedural motion to reduce speaking time to one minute and to limit the speakers' list to two further speakers.

**Mover:** Eammon Ryan

**Second:** Grace Cole

**Yasmine** expresses frustration and a desire to move on to more pressing motions, noting that this motion is constitutionally unable to be passed.

Procedural is passed unanimously.

**Taya** seeks clarification as to why an invoice was submitted to Nate last year.

**Salma** explains that Nate was a major designer for Vertigo 2025 but was not a formal member of the team, and that he was given a gift of appreciation rather than any form of reimbursement or payment.

Votes in Favour:

Votes Against:

1. Ibrahim Hadi
2. Omar El-Sobihy
3. Grace Cole
4. Eammon Ryan
5. Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams
6. Francessca Harrison
7. Salma Elmubasher
8. Liyara Flavel
9. Aaron Choy
10. George Tulloch
11. Rose Sakseena
12. Taya Morante

Abstentions:

1. Yasmine Johnson
2. Ben Grant-Skiba
3. Andrew Brogden

**The motion fails.**

## 7.6. Approval of Expenditure for “Main Character Energy: Startup Careers”

### **Preamble**

The Postgraduate Collective is supporting the delivery of Main Character Energy:

Startup Careers, to be held on 19 February 2026 in partnership with UTS Startups. The event is targeted at students interested in startup and early-career pathways. It aims to provide practical insights into startup work, including entry pathways, skill development, and career acceleration, and will conclude with networking opportunities. Approximately 80-100 students are expected to attend. Funding is required to support catering and associated event costs.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA approve an expenditure of up to \$700 from the Postgraduate Collective budget to support the delivery of Main Character Energy: Startup Careers on 19 February 2026.

Salma reads the motion in full.

**Mover:** Eammon Ryan

**Seconder:** Rose Sakseena

Votes in Favour:

1. Ibrahim Hadi
2. Omar El-Sobihy
3. Grace Cole
4. Eammon Ryan

5. Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams
6. Francesca Harrison
7. Salma Elmubasher
8. Liyara Flavel
9. Aaron Choy
10. Rose Sakseena
11. Taya Morante
12. Yasmine Johnson
13. Ben Grant-Skiba
14. Andrew Brogden

Abstentions:

1. George Tulloch

**The motion passes.**

## 7.7. Approval of Expenditure for “Main Character Energy: Startup Careers”

### **Preamble**

The International Collective is supporting the delivery of Main Character Energy: Startup Careers, to be held on 19 February 2026 in partnership with UTS Startups. The event is targeted at students interested in startup and early-career pathways. It aims to provide practical insights into startup work, including entry pathways, skill development, and career acceleration, and will conclude with networking opportunities. Approximately 80-100 students are expected to attend. Funding is required to support catering and associated event costs.

**Action**

That the UTSSA approve an expenditure of up to \$700 from the International Collective budget to support the delivery of Main Character Energy: Startup Careers on 19 February 2026.

**Salma** reads the motion in full.

**Mover: Liyara Flavel**

**Secunder: Eammon Ryan**

Votes in Favour:

1. Ibrahim Hadi
2. Omar El-Sobihy
3. Grace Cole
4. Eammon Ryan
5. Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams
6. Francesca Harrison
7. Salma Elmubasher
8. Liyara Flavel
9. Aaron Choy
10. Rose Sakseena
11. Taya Morante
12. Yasmine Johnson
13. Ben Grant-Skiba
14. Andrew Brogden

Abstentions:

1. George Tulloch

**The motion passes.**

## 7.8. Purchase of Indigenous-Themed Lanyards and Notebooks for Orientation and Indigenous Collective Use

### **Preamble**

The Indigenous Students' Collective is planning initiatives for Orientation Day and the 2026 academic year that are focused on creating culturally safe, welcoming, and visible spaces for Indigenous students at UTS. As part of this, practical and reusable materials such as lanyards and notebooks have been identified as appropriate resources to support engagement, visibility, and participation.

These items will be distributed primarily through an Indigenous art and yarn stall at Orientation Day, which aims to invite students to sit down, have a yarn, and engage in reflection about their connection to Country. Lanyards and notebooks are items that students are likely to use regularly, ensuring ongoing visibility of Indigenous culture on campus beyond Orientation.

The items are intended for use not only at Orientation Day but also across future Indigenous Collective meetings, events, and initiatives throughout the year. Where possible, procurement will be from an Indigenous supplier, aligning with UTSSA's commitment to ethical purchasing and support for Indigenous-owned businesses. Pricing for these items is currently pending confirmation from the supplier.

### **Action**

1. That the UTSSA approve, in principle, the purchase of 200 Indigenous-themed lanyards and 200 Indigenous-themed notebooks for Orientation Day and

ongoing Indigenous Collective use.

2. That the cost of these items be funded through SRC funds and not drawn from O'Day funding.

3. That the Indigenous Students' Officer be authorised to proceed with the purchase once final pricing is confirmed, provided the cost is reasonable and consistent with comparable SRC expenditures.

4. That, should the final quoted cost be considered unreasonable by the president, general secretary, and both Mariah and Biljana, the matter be returned to SRC for further consideration.

**Mover: Aaron Choy**

**Seconder: Taya Morante**

Taya speaks to the motion and the importance of reinvigorating her collective.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8. Other Business Arising on Notice

### 8.1. UTS Student Housing – Heat and Air Conditioning Campaign

#### **Preamble**

Extreme heat and poor ventilation in student accommodation can have serious impacts on student wellbeing, safety, sleep, and capacity to participate in study. The UTSSA has an obligation to advocate for safe, fair, and liveable housing conditions for students, particularly in high-density student accommodation where residents have limited control over building infrastructure.

#### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Authorises the UTSSA to run a student housing conditions campaign focused on heat, cooling, ventilation, and air-conditioning requirements to ensure student accommodation meets liveable standards.
2. Authorises the President and relevant Officebearers to progress campaign work, including student consultation and evidence gathering, engagement with UTS and relevant accommodation providers, and advocacy for improved standards, repair timeframes, and accountability measures.
3. Requires that campaign progress and key outcomes be reported back to SRC as appropriate.

**Mover: Grace Cole**

**Seconder: Liyara Flavel**

**Sina** speaks to necessity of regulated temperature to ensure health conditions

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.2. Acknowledgement of the Bondi Beach Attack and Support for Students

### **Preamble**

The SRC acknowledges the antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025. This was an act of antisemitic violence, targeting Jewish people celebrating Chanukah, and it must be named clearly and unequivocally as such.

The SRC mourns the loss of innocent life and extends condolences to the families, loved ones, and communities of those who were killed. The SRC holds in its thoughts of those who were injured, those who witnessed the attack, and all who are experiencing fear, trauma, or grief in its aftermath.

**Platform**

That the UTSSA:

1. Stands in full solidarity with Jewish students and staff at UTS.
2. Reaffirms that an attack on a community gathering is an attack on people's right to exist safely, visibly, and freely in public life.
3. Recognises that this may affect students of any background, ethnicity, or religion, including those who feel unsafe or fearful in the wake of heightened tension, misinformation, or community backlash.
4. Reaffirms that social cohesion matters, and that our community is strongest when we protect one another.

**Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Publicly shares the UTSSA acknowledgement statement and available support services with students.

**Mover: Eammon Ryan**

**Seconder: Aaron Choy**

**Yasmine** speaks to it, supports it but wants to remove that the social cohesion stuff bc its been used against palestinian advocacy

**Eammon** wants to keep it as social cohesion.

**Yasmine** explains that she means just the particular phrase itself is weaponised.

**Salma** agrees.

**Yasmine** proposes an amendment to change '*that social cohesion matters*' to '*that solidarity matters*' proposes stands in solidarity instead.

The amendment is amenable to the mover.

The motion goes to a vote

**The motion passes unanimously.**

### 8.3. Health Service Accountability Survey

#### **Preamble**

With ongoing academic restructuring and a cost of living crisis, students are under more psychological and financial stress than at any time in recent years. This means that services such as on-campus medical care and counselling are especially important right now. It is not enough for these services to exist purely on paper, they have to be reliably accessible for all students and the care needs to be delivered competently so that students who use on campus healthcare actually have their needs met.

Reports of appointments being difficult to get, last minute cancellations and unprofessional conduct by staff are highly concerning, particularly given the vulnerable nature of students that rely on these services. By raising awareness about how students have been let down, we can make these issues more and take the first step towards pushing the university to make changes. Furthermore, by having a better understanding of where problems are, we will be able to direct time and resources to where the biggest difference would be made.

#### **Platform**

1. The UTSSA supports accessible and professional healthcare services, available to all students on-campus and online.

**Action**

1. The UTSSA will support this campaign by promoting a Health Service survey on its social media.
2. The UTSSA will support the Welfare Officer with raising awareness about issues with the UTS Health Service.

**Mover:** Salma Elmubasher

**Seconder:** George Tulloch

Sina speaks to the necessity of the medical centre's services to students in a cost-of-living crisis and course cuts/expenditure cuts. There is a responsibility to gather anecdotes as supporting evidence. (Sina)\* will follow up in the second half of the semester.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Salma proposes a procedural motion that states that speaking time is 2 mins for the mover and the seconder and 2 minutes for a speaker for and a speaker against.

**Mover:** Salma Elmubasher

**Seconder:** Yasmine Johnson

**The procedural motion passes.**

Yasmine proposes a procedural to go to motion 8.4 then 8.7.

**Mover:** Yasmine Johnson

**Seconder:** Andrew Brogden

**The procedural motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.4. Motion: Support for Iranian Students and the Right to Self-Determination

### **Preamble**

Recent escalations in violence and instability in Iran have caused significant distress and uncertainty for Iranian students and members of the Iranian community. Many students are affected through concern for the safety and wellbeing of their families and loved ones, while continuing to manage academic and personal responsibilities.

Universities and student organisations have a responsibility to support students impacted by international crises in a way that is respectful, non-instrumentalising, and centred on student wellbeing. It is also important to acknowledge that external military or political intervention often exacerbates harm to civilians and undermines the ability of communities to determine their own futures.

The UTSSA recognises the diversity of views within the Iranian community and affirms that decisions about Iran's political future must be led by the Iranian people themselves.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Expresses its solidarity with Iranian students at UTS and acknowledges the stress, fear, and uncertainty caused by escalating violence and instability in Iran;
2. Affirms the UTSSA's opposition to foreign military intervention or coercive political interference in Iran, including by major global powers, recognising the harm such actions often cause to civilians;

3. Supports the right of the Iranian people to self-determination and democratic autonomy, without external domination or imposed outcomes;
4. Calls on UTS to ensure Iranian students have access to appropriate wellbeing support, academic flexibility, and culturally safe services during this period; and
5. Reaffirms UTSSA's commitment to supporting students affected by global conflict and instability, while respecting the voices, agency, and diversity of perspectives within impacted communities.

**Mover: Salma Elmubasher**

**Seconder: Liyara Flavel**

**Salma** speaks to the motion reiterating that Iranian students should be supported during these times.

**Lauren** (observer) speaks to inspiration felt from the actions of the Iranian protesters.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**Eammon** puts a procedural to take a 5-minute break after 8.7

**Moved: Eammon Ryan**

**Seconded: Grace Cole**

**The procedural motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.5. Support for Gun Law Reforms

### **Preamble**

Recent reforms strengthening gun laws have been passed to address gaps in existing regulations and reduce the risk of firearm-related harm. Evidence consistently shows that strong, clearly defined gun laws play a critical role in protecting public safety and preventing violence.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Is in support of the for recently passed gun law reforms aimed at strengthening firearm regulation;
2. Affirms that public safety and the protection of civilian life must take priority over access to firearms; and
3. Recognises strong gun laws as an important and effective measure to reduce violence and prevent harm in the community.

**Mover: Salma Elmubasher**

**Second: Grace Cole**

**Salma** explains that strong and strict gun-law reform is crucial.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.7. The UTSSA stands in solidarity with anti-regime protests in Iran

### **Preamble**

For over three weeks now, Iran has been shaken by a wave of anti-government protests, strikes and heroic resistance by workers, students and young people. In the face of a regime that is willing to unleash the most

brutal forms of repression to stop the spread of resistance, protestors are continuing to fight against the rampant inequality, corruption and oppression that has shaped Iranian society for decades.

The protests were triggered by a rapid devaluation of the Iranian national currency, the Rial, which saw hundreds of bazaari's (shopkeepers) close shop and take to the streets. In a matter of days the protests spread to 200 cities in all 31 provinces of Iran. Brave students at Shiraz University in southwest Iran burned down the flag of the Islamic republic, and protesters blocked roads and chanted "Down with the oppressor, be it the shah or the mullahs".

Workers have also taken strike action, such as teachers who joined their students in solidarity as well as gas workers in the South Pars refinery. We stand strongly in solidarity with these acts of defiance, and recognise that strike action, particularly by gas and oil workers, have the power to deepen this current uprising by stopping the flow of profits to Iran's most profitable industry.

The regime however, has not stood idle. The Times have described it as the "most brutal crackdown by the clerical regime in its 47-year existence" with an estimated death toll of up to 16,500 and 330,000 injuries with most victims being under the age of 30.

We strongly condemn the relentless violence and brutality that has been carried out against a defenceless population.

Importantly, we support the rights of Iranian people to rise up against their oppressors and fight for real democracy. We reject the argument that these protests are instigated by the US and Israel or stageist theories that suggest the oppression of Iranian people cannot be dealt with until the western imperial core is weakened. Trump's cynical backing of the protests are a

symptom of the state-divided society in which we live, but should not provide grounds to back the Iranian regime. We do not support any of these theories because they treat the Iranian working class as pawns in a geopolitical game rather than actors capable of building their own power.

### **Action**

1. The SRC should post a public statement expressing solidarity with the student protestors and workers on strike in Iran. The SRC's public statement explicitly clarifies that the UTSSA does not support foreign interference or geopolitical intervention in Iran, including involvement by the United States or Israel, and does not support Reza Pahlavi, the restoration of the Shah, or any externally imposed regime-change project. The statement must affirm that the UTSSA's solidarity is with the safety, autonomy, and democratic self-determination of the Iranian people.
2. The SRC should take a solidarity photo to be posted on the UTSSA Instagram with the statement. The SRC should take an optional solidarity photo to be posted on the UTSSA instagram with the statement.

**Mover: Ben Grant-Skiba**

**Seconder: Andrew Brogden**

**Ben** speaks to the causes and widespread nature of the protest across a broad cross-section of the Iranian population. He emphasises the importance of standing in solidarity with workers.

**Salma** proposes an amendment to include action 1a to read :

*“The SRC's public statement explicitly clarifies that the UTSSA does not support foreign interference or geopolitical intervention in Iran, including involvement by the United States or Israel, and does not support Reza Pahlavi, the restoration of the Shah, or any externally imposed*

*regime-change project. The statement must affirm that the UTSSA's solidarity is with the safety, autonomy, and democratic self-determination of the Iranian people.*

**Mover: Salma Elmubasher**

**Secunder: Liyara Flavel**

The amendment passes unanimously.

**Salma** proposes an amendment to action 2: to read, *"The SRC should take an optional solidarity photo to be posted on the UTSSA instagram with the statement."*

**Mover: Salma Elmubasher**

**Secunder: Eammon Ryan**

**The amendment passes unanimously.**

Andrew speaks to the motion as a whole, emphasising the necessity for the UTSSA to stand with the working class and oppressed communities.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 9. General Business

**Sina** asks if anyone would like to raise anything in General Business.

Salma submits a motion as follows:

Condemning Islamophobic and Far-Right Violence and Affirming Solidarity with  
First Nations and Muslim Communities

**Preamble**

1. We unequivocally condemn the escalation of Islamophobic and far-right violence surrounding Invasion Day events across Australia. This includes the throwing of an explosive device into a public rally in Perth on Invasion Day, threats issued against a Sydney mosque, and the desecration of a Muslim cemetery with pig heads. These acts are deliberate, targeted, and politically motivated.
2. These incidents are not connected by coincidence or timing alone, but by a shared ideological foundation rooted in far-right extremism, racism, and Islamophobia.
3. Invasion Day rallies are held in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and in protest of ongoing colonisation, dispossession, deaths in custody, and systemic racism.
4. Acts of violence and intimidation at Invasion Day rallies, as well as attacks on Muslim communities and sacred spaces, are intended to terrorise communities, suppress political expression, and undermine long-standing struggles for justice led by First Nations peoples and supported by broader communities.
5. Violence at protests, threats against places of worship, and the desecration of burial grounds retraumatise communities and are frequently exploited to justify heightened policing, surveillance, and restrictions on protest rights — disproportionately impacting First Nations peoples, Muslims, and other

marginalised communities.

6. Student unions have a responsibility to name and oppose far-right violence, defend the right to peaceful protest, and stand in principled solidarity with communities targeted by hate.

### **Action**

That the UTSSA:

1. Publishes a public statement on social media condemning these acts of violence, explicitly naming Islamophobia and the rise of far-right extremism, and affirming solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Muslim communities.
  - a. A suggested statement
    - i. We unequivocally condemn the escalation of Islamophobic and far-right violence surrounding Invasion Day events across Australia. This includes the throwing of an explosive device into a public rally in Perth on Invasion Day, threats issued against a Sydney mosque, and the desecration of a Muslim cemetery with pig heads. These acts are deliberate, targeted, and politically motivated.
    - ii. Invasion Day rallies are held in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and in protest of ongoing colonisation, dispossession, deaths in custody, and systemic racism. Acts of violence and intimidation at these events are designed to terrorise communities,

silence political expression, and undermine long-standing struggles for justice led by First Nations peoples.

- iii. Violence at Invasion Day rallies, threats against places of worship, and attacks on sacred burial grounds are acts of terror fuelled by the rise of far-right and racist ideology. They endanger lives, re-traumatise communities, and seek to fracture solidarity between marginalised peoples.
- iv. We stand in unwavering solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with Muslim communities, and with all those targeted by hate. We reaffirm our absolute commitment to peaceful protest, religious freedom, and the right of all communities to gather, resist, and exist safely and with dignity — free from violence, intimidation, and racism.

**Mover:** Salma Elmubasher

**Seconder:** Eammon Ryan

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

**The motion passes unanimously.**

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

**Amelia Ireland** speaks to the heinous acts of terrorism in Australia and the need to condemn those actions.

**Ben** raises concerns over the rise of the far-right and the lack of response to the rise of the far-right by the Labor government. Speaks of the necessity of the left to mobilise

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Yasmine Johnson submits motion to Salma as follows:

### Solidarity with Protests in the US against ICE

#### **Preamble**

In Minnesota there have been ongoing protests against the racist ICE raids. ICE have brought a reign of terror to migrant communities in Minnesota and anyone standing in solidarity with migrants. ICE have murdered Renee Good and Alex Pretti, two protesters, for interrupting their operations. Workers, students and ordinary people have rallied to stop ICE and their terror. This has culminated in the brilliant mass demonstration on the 23rd of January in Minneapolis where tens of thousands of ordinary people went into the streets to demand an end to ICE's attacks. This action was endorsed by all major unions and I think all unions should support such actions. Some groups have now raised the demand of a nation wide mobilisation against ICE on the 30th of January. ICE, and the broader targeting of migrants, is a key feature of Trump's far-right agenda and only through mass struggle can it be challenged and defeated.

#### **Action**

The UTSSA will send a solidarity message to the University of Minnesota student union in support of their struggle against ICE and Trump.

The UTSSA will post the solidarity message on the UTSSA social media pages.

**Mover: Andrew Brogden**

**Seconder: Yamine Johnson**

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

**The motion passes unanimously.**

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

**Andrew** speaks to the abhorrent nature of the ICE raids and highlights the inspiring spread of mass action in response.

**Salma** asks if anyone would be interested in assisting with drafting the statement and invites members to reach out.

**Lauren (observer)** speaks to the power of student action, referencing the mobilisation of students in Minnesota.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

Ibrahim Hadi submits motion to Salma as follows:

### **Preamble**

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) and Israel has stated that Israel is responsible for the commission of genocide in Gaza and concluded that Israeli President Isaac Herzog, among other senior officials, incited the commission of genocide.

A YouGov poll commissioned by the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) in October 2025 found that 58% of Australians agreed a genocide is occurring in Gaza, and 57% agreed Australia should impose sanctions on Israel.

Despite this, the Australian Government has invited President Isaac Herzog to visit Australia, a decision that risks legitimising conduct identified by credible international bodies as involving grave breaches of international law.

This decision represents a gross breach of public trust and undermines the democratic principle that governments should act consistently with human rights and the will of the communities they represent.

### **Actions**

That the UTSSA:

Condemns the visit of Isaac Herzog to Australia and opposes efforts to normalise state conduct identified by credible international bodies as involving serious breaches of international law.

Publishes a public statement reflecting this position through UTSSA communication channels.

Reaffirms UTSSA's commitment to universal human rights, civilian protection, and meaningful accountability under international law.

Encourages SRC councillors to attend and support related lawful and peaceful protests.

**Mover: Ibrahim Hadi**

**Seconder: Amelia Ireland**

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

**The motion passes unanimously.**

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

**Ibrahim** speaks to the motion, referencing the preamble. He states that Israel is a genocidal state and criticises Prime Minister Albanese for inviting Herzog, arguing that there is no regard for human rights. He encourages the UTSSA to show up regardless of restrictions on protests.

**Sina** notes the classification of the UTSSA as a charity and emphasises that it cannot endorse anything illegal or that has not been approved by the government.

**Amelia** speaks to the necessity of showing up regardless of protest restrictions, echoing the importance of student presence and solidarity.

**Yasmine** clarifies that the issue is not the planned protest on the 9th itself, but rather Form 1. She argues that, in the context of new laws, the form appears deliberate and reflective of broader attempts by the government to impose protest restrictions. She also raises concerns about the conflation of Zionism and Judaism, noting the dangerous precedent this sets.

**Salma** expresses support for the use of General Business to pass emergency motions, noting its effectiveness in responding to urgent matters.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 10. Close of Meeting at 8:34pm

## Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

### 1. President

#### **President's Report (December 2025 – January 2026)**

Across December and January, I focused on setting the UTSSA up for a strong start to 2026 through governance and training delivery, national representation, intensive Officebearer planning, and readiness for Semester 1. This period also involved significant work on student priorities, UTSSA communications and publications, and early-year engagement with University leadership.

#### **UTSSA Mandatory Training and Governance (December)**

In December, I organised and delivered the UTSSA mandatory training program. This included coordinating and facilitating key onboarding sessions such as Welcome to the UTSSA, icebreakers, and Working with the UTSSA, ensuring officebearers and councillors had a clear understanding of UTSSA structures and expectations going into the year.

#### **2025 NUS NatCon (December)**

Following training, I represented the UTSSA as a delegate at NUS National Conference (NatCon). While aspects of NatCon were challenging, (more of this in my conference report), UTSSA participation ensured that our union remained represented in national student discussions and decision-making processes. I also want to congratulate Yasmine on being elected as the NUS Education Officer. In addition, I was elected as NUS NSW State President, which is a significant opportunity for the UTSSA to have strong leadership and influence within the state-level student movement. I am looking forward to progressing this work throughout 2026.

### **Officebearer Planning and Strategic Coordination (December – January)**

A major focus these two months was intensive planning and coordination with officebearers to establish clear priorities and direction for the year. In the lead up to the Christmas break, I held extensive meetings with officebearers to map out their proposed workplans to identify key goals and campaigns for the UTSSA this year. This work continued strongly in January, with further Officebearer meetings focused on refining goals, confirming Semester 1 priorities, and ensuring each portfolio was supported to move from planning into implementation when semester begins.

### **University Liaison (January)**

In January, I also prioritised early engagement with University leadership through meetings with senior management. These discussions focused on ensuring UTSSA priorities were raised early in the year, strengthening working relationships, and positioning the Association to effectively advocate on student needs as the University enters Autumn Semester. Additionally, I met with student constituencies as part of ongoing engagement and relationship-building.

### **Communications, and Publications Work (January)**

Throughout January, I met with Respect.Now.Always, supporting UTSSA's broader student safety commitments and campus culture priorities alongside the Women's officer and Postgraduate Officer. I've also been planning our contribution to the social justice report which has required writing summaries of our campaigns for the UTSSA website.

I also provided extensive support to Vertigo in preparation for the first edition of the year, ensuring publication timelines and production work were supported where Needed. Additionally, I assisted Salma with the development of the General

Secretary's Handbook, helping progress an important foundational document for UTSSA operational continuity and governance.

### **O-Day Preparation (January)**

A significant operational priority across January has been preparing the UTSSA for O-Day and the start of semester. This has included substantial planning with Mariah and Biljana around UTSSA's stall presence, visibility, and student-facing engagement approach.

To support delivery, I also circulated a roster for General Councillor staffing at the UTSSA stall.

Ensuring adequate staffing and councillor participation is key to making UTSSA visible, welcoming, and accessible to students at the beginning of Semester 1.

See you all back on campus soon!

## **2. General Secretary**

Across December 2025 and January 2026, my work as General Secretary has focused on stabilising internal operations, supporting student-facing functions, and ensuring continuity across key UTSSA governance and publications work during a difficult transition period.

### **Vertigo support and operational continuity**

A major priority over this period has been supporting Vertigo through significant internal disruption, including navigating three resignations and the flow-on impacts for workload distribution, timelines, and decision-making. I have spent a substantial amount of time working closely with the team to keep essential work moving,

manage urgent issues as they arose, and ensure the publication remained operational while governance and process questions were clarified.

### **Office set-up and resourcing**

I have also progressed the furnishing and practical set-up of the UTSSA office, with the aim of improving functionality, creating a workable space for day-to-day operations, and supporting officebearers and councillors to engage with the Association on campus in a more consistent way.

### **University engagement and risk monitoring**

Following the Bondi attack, I met with CSJI to understand the University's likely approach to heightened scrutiny and regulatory or conduct-related settings impacting student organisations and political activity on campus. These discussions were important for anticipating how the University may respond in the current climate and for planning ahead accordingly. More broadly, I am conscious of an increasingly restrictive environment, not only at an institutional level but also politically, where the risk of further crackdowns on student organising is growing, and I am monitoring this closely as part of ongoing governance and risk considerations. Handbook development and governance work. Due to internal issues and miscommunications within Vertigo, I transitioned my focus to developing the General Secretary's Handbook in collaboration with the President. This has involved significant behind-the-scenes drafting and coordination work aimed at strengthening institutional continuity, clarifying procedures, and ensuring clearer governance practices moving forward.

### **Support to officebearers and councillors**

Despite a challenging period logistically, I have continued making time to meet with General Councillors and Officebearers to provide support, troubleshoot issues, and assist with work planning and operational questions. At present, much of this work has had to be managed as a one-person office function, which has made capacity and responsiveness more difficult, but I have prioritised maintaining availability and ensuring key support continues.

### **Executive leadership and administration**

I convened and chaired my first Executive meeting during this reporting period, and have continued progressing the behind-the-scenes administration required to keep the Association functioning. This has occurred alongside a difficult “teething” period due to the holiday shutdown and repeated illness across the break, which significantly impacted capacity and timelines. Despite this, I have remained focused on keeping core operations moving and managing urgent and time-sensitive issues as they arise.

Overall, this reporting period has been defined by heavy operational support, crisis-navigation work, and foundational governance development, particularly in relation to Vertigo, internal processes, and the General Secretary’s Handbook, while balancing limited staffing capacity and ongoing disruption.

### 3. Assistant General Secretary

N/A

### 4. Education Officer

N/A

## 5. Welfare Officer

January was a busy month for me as I began to settle into the role, I have outlined a few key areas that I want to spend the next couple of months focusing on and I have started to work on all of the past few weeks.

### **Healthcare services:**

The university provides a healthcare service on campus that is open to students, with this including a general practice and counselling. These services are particularly important right now as the cuts are happening and we are going through a cost of living crisis, meaning students are under far more psychological and financial stress than normal. Last year, there was an independent review into the Health Service and the UTSSA raised a number of issues, mainly the lack of appointments, last minute cancellations and unprofessional behaviour by staff. I will be working to push the university on these issues to see we can get some action going. The first part of this will be a Health Service survey that will run over the semester, that will allow us to get a better picture of what students are going through. Ideally, if I could get some good anecdotal examples of what students have been going through, that would be very helpful with raising awareness about how university needs to be doing more in this area. Another area that I want to get more information on is instances of students having to pay for appointments, especially as international students may not be covered by medicare in the same way as domestic students.

### **Clothes Bins:**

Another project of mine is clothes donation bins on campus. This has already been implemented at other universities, with UNSW doing it last year. I will be meeting with FESS next week to get some advice from them as they already have

experience in inventory management, logistics of running donations and promotion of the service. Ideally, if we can get good visibility for these clothes bins, they can contribute to better sustainability and cost of living support for UTS students.

### **Bluebird and Night Owl:**

Beyond overseeing the implementation of the permanent space for our food services, I will be working on getting a more diverse range of food available through these services. From my time volunteering at the pantry, I know many international students rely on these services and are undergoing financial stress, as well as the hardship of being away from home. I am hoping that by offering a wider range of food, not only will we be more accommodating of dietary needs, but we can help people feel more at home when they use our services. I am hoping to get some international options available by March at the latest, in time for the second half of Ramadan.

## 6. Women's Officer

N/A

## 7. International Students' Officer

A significant portion of December and January was dedicated to understanding the requirements of the ISO role, mapping what the year could look like for UTS's international cohort in 2026, and exploring potential partnerships that could help students feel more at home and better supported in their studies. Below is a summary of the key activities completed this month.

### **1. Meeting with Biljana regarding O'week- 23rd December, 2025**

I met with Biljana for an extended planning session on the O'Week stall, including potential activities to run on the day. We also discussed distributing informational

pamphlets for international students outlining key visa do's and don'ts, along with a list of relevant organisations and support services to contact if they need assistance.

## **2. Meeting the ex-officio to understand the role better– 29th December, 2025**

I met with Raghav Motani, Ex-Officio UTS (International Students Representative 2024). Our discussion focused on potential plans and events for international students in 2026. We also spoke about what strong ISO leadership looks like, including key resources, networks, and the people I should connect with across UTS. Refer to Appendix A for a potential plan (events and trips only) for

## **3. Conducting International Students' survey to understand sentiments and potential problems- 6th January, 2026**

International Collective conducted a survey to understand how international students were feeling this year and what their biggest stressors were. We received 25 responses, with most students having lived in Sydney for 6–24 months and the majority working alongside study. Overall experience in Sydney averaged 3.1/5, and the most common pressure points related to cost of living and visa/employment concerns, followed closely by loneliness/homesickness, with housing and work–study balance also featuring strongly. Academically, confidence in tutorials averaged 3.9/5, but students identified group work dynamics, time management, and assessment expectations/academic writing as their main challenges. While students rated both perceived support and comfort reaching out at 3.6/5, they were much more aware of pathways for mental health and academic support than for housing/financial or visa/work help. This information will help the International Collective ensure we are planning the right events, activities,

and engagements so students can make the most of their time at UTS and reduce the impact of these challenges.

#### **4. Meeting with UTS Startup along with Post-graduate Officer- 12th January,**

2026 Discussed and initiated planning for UTS Startups for Main Character Energy:

Startup Careers, to be held on 19 February 2026 at the UTS Startups Event Space (CB03.02.045)

alongside Postgraduate Collective. The event will provide students with practical insights into startup careers through founder-led discussion and networking, with approximately 80 attendees expected.

#### **5. Assisted students who wanted to participate in City of Randwick Creative**

##### **Hoardings- 20th January**

Created posts for City of Randwick Creative Hoarding competition for international students and assisted the students that were interested in taking part in the competition.

#### **Conclusion**

December and January focused on laying strong foundations for the ISO role through targeted planning, stakeholder engagement, and early partner scoping to better support UTS international students in 2026. With initial O'Week preparations underway and a draft events/trips plan outlined, the next step is to refine delivery details and progress key collaborations into implementation.

## ISO Year at a Glance 2026

February	March	April
International Students Survey  Event 1- O'week	Event 2- International Student's mixer  Trip 1- Sydney getting to know the city	Workshop 1- NSW Police- CyberSecurity  Trip 2- Walks Bondi to Coogee
May	June	July
Event 3 Culture Mixer (Name to be finalised later)  Workshop 2- First job in Australia with peer	Workshop 3- NSW Transport  Trip 3- Vivid Sydney	
August	September	October
Workshop 4- Sydney: How to rent  Trip 4- Cockatoo Island	O'week  Trip 5- Whale watching	Event 4- Culture Mixer (Name to be finalised later)  Event 5- Trivia night (Australia+ UTS)
November	December	January
Workshop 5- NSW fire safety  Trip 6 Sculpture by the Ocean (Bondi)	Workshop 6- Mock interviews and being workplace ready  Trip 7 ????	

### 8. Indigenous Officer

Over the past month, I have focused on strengthening visibility, engagement, and long-term planning for Indigenous student spaces and initiatives at UTS, while also laying important groundwork for Orientation and future collective activity.

A key initiative I have been developing is an Indigenous art stall for Orientation Day. The intention behind this stall is to create a welcoming, low-pressure space where

students can sit down, have a yarn, and engage meaningfully with culture. Rather than operating as a purely promotional stall, the focus is on connection and conversation. Students will be invited to contribute to a collaborative art piece centred on how they connect to Country within Australia.

This initiative aims to foster reflection, inclusivity, and cultural awareness among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, while also establishing a visible and culturally grounded presence at Orientation. In relation to Indigenous materials for Orientation Day, I initially reached out to Kirsten Gray, an Indigenous artist and legal researcher at UTS, who previously created Indigenous lanyards for the UTS Law Faculty. Approximately two weeks ago, I inquired about commissioning Kirsten to produce an artwork to be used for custom lanyards, as well as a small run of 20 t-shirts. At the time of writing, I have not yet received a response; however, this outreach reflects an effort to prioritise collaboration with Indigenous artists and staff within the University wherever possible.

Moving forward with the acquisition of Indigenous materials to be handed out at Orientation Day, I have also been in contact with Yarn Marketplace to explore partnerships and resources. Yarn Marketplace has provided a discount code, Welcome20, which can be shared with students. I have additionally been in discussions with them regarding the pricing of 200 Indigenous-themed lanyards and 200 notebooks for distribution at Orientation. These materials would serve both practical and symbolic purposes, reinforcing Indigenous visibility on campus.

Once pricing is confirmed, I will provide a cost breakdown.

Alternatively:

### **Campaigns:**

#### **A-Grade Sandstone Yarning Circle Campaign:**

One of the key campaigns I am currently working on is the establishment of a permanent A-grade sandstone Yarning Circle on campus. The aim of this campaign is to create a highly visible, culturally appropriate space that supports teaching, learning, wellbeing, and community gathering, while also acting as a point of conversation and engagement for the broader university community. I met with Daniel Hamilton, Director of Experience and Quality at the UTS Library, to progress this campaign. As a result of this meeting, Daniel is moving forward with a Student Amenities Fee (SAF) bid of \$50,000 for the construction of the A-grade sandstone Yarning Circle. The preferred location for this space is Alumni Green, due to its high foot traffic, visibility, and accessibility. The garden on Level 17 of Building 2 has been identified as a backup location; however, this would not be preferable. That said, an A-grade sandstone Yarning Circle in any location is better than no Yarning Circle at all. The SAF bid will be considered when the relevant committee meets on 10 February. If the bid is successful, I will work alongside UTS staff and the Property Development team to determine the precise location and design of the Yarning Circle, including the configuration of the sandstone seating, as well as explore the incorporation of native flora within existing garden beds surrounding the Circle. I would also like to open communication with a representative sample of Indigenous UTS students and staff to seek their input into the design and use of the space. If the Indigenous Collective is formally established by this stage, I will ensure communication on this campaign remains open and collaborative.

### **Permanent Indigenous Collective Space Campaign:**

I am also actively working on a campaign to secure a permanent space on campus for Indigenous Collective students. The aim of this campaign is to provide a culturally safe and consistent environment where students can meet, yarn, and engage in cultural activities, supporting community building, wellbeing, and

student retention. During discussions with Daniel Hamilton, he indicated that he will begin internal conversations regarding the identification of a permanent space for Indigenous Collective students. This space would require access via Student ID card entry, ensuring that only Indigenous Collective members and approved friends or allies are able to enter. Establishing a secure and dedicated space is particularly important in light of increasing racism and hostility towards Indigenous peoples within the broader Australian community, and reflects the University's responsibility to lead in cultural recognition and historical acknowledgement on Aboriginal land.

In relation to external partnerships, I have reached out to Infosys to explore the possibility of them acting as a donor or supporter for Orientation Day or future Indigenous Collective initiatives. While I have not yet received a response, this outreach reflects an ongoing effort to build external relationships that may benefit Indigenous students in the longer term.

To support communication and visibility, I have established an Instagram account for the Indigenous Collective. Posting has been limited over the university break period and during my overseas travel; however, the account is now set up and ready to function as a central platform for promoting events, initiatives, and engagement moving forward.

I have also met with Megan Wong regarding Indigenous signage within the UTS Library. Megan has expressed strong support for Indigenous initiatives and has offered assistance with advertising and promoting Indigenous Collective events and projects, which will be valuable in ensuring initiatives reach a wider audience within the university community.

### **Invasion Day Rally:**

Finally, on the 26th of January, there was a significant and highly visible turnout of UTS students at the Invasion Day Rally. Images from the event will be supplied. I promoted the rally, as well as Yabun, through the Messenger chat and the Indigenous Collective's social media platforms. I am incredibly proud that, among surrounding universities, UTS had by far the strongest student presence - particularly from Vertigo and the student politics team. This level of engagement reflects a strong commitment to solidarity, truth-telling, and collective action.

Overall, the past month has been focused on planning, consultation, advocacy, and relationship-building, with a strong emphasis on progressing active campaigns and establishing foundations that will support Indigenous students through meaningful spaces, partnerships, and cultural visibility at UTS.

## 9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

### **Progress:**

Confirmed a booking with UTS Startups for Main Character Energy: Startup Careers, to be held on 19 February 2026 at the UTS Startups Event Space (CB03.02.045). The event will provide students with practical insights into startup careers through founder-led discussion and networking, with approximately 80 attendees expected.

I have been developing a men's engagement and accountability program in partnership with Top Blokes, informed by discussions with Respect.Now.Always and UTSSA Presidents. The proposal includes a voluntary 4-week certificate program, an 8-week referral-based intervention stream aligned with UTS processes, and an early-March taster event to support recruitment. Work is ongoing to finalise naming, referral pathways, and O-Day promotion, subject to UTS approval.

### **Upcoming Plans:**

Hold first collective meeting

Start the process for convenor elections for the Postgraduate collective.

Hold event with UTS startups on Feb 19

Submit proposal for Top Blokes courses

## 10. Ethnocultural Officer

The past few weeks have been focused on firmly establishing the Ethnocultural Collective's direction for the year and setting out a clear and intentional timeline for delivery. While I was on leave for part of this period, I have prioritised addressing key structural and planning matters to ensure the Collective is entering the year with clarity, purpose, and momentum. I have commenced work on establishing a multi-faith advisory group and have begun engaging with relevant stakeholders across faith communities. This work has taken on increased importance in the current climate, particularly in light of rising racial and religious hostility nationally. Recent events, including but not limited to the Bondi attack, have further exposed how quickly communities can become targets of scrutiny, misinformation, and institutional overreach. Alongside this, the growing influence of right-wing politics in Australia has contributed to an increasingly hostile environment for marginalised communities, making structured, principled engagement more necessary than ever.

In parallel, I have begun approaching cultural societies to progress plans for a large-scale multicultural event that is grounded in genuine collaboration and shared ownership. This work is intentionally framed to build solidarity across communities and to counter divisive narratives with collective action and visible unity on campus. Operationally, I have ensured the Ethnocultural Collective is fully

prepared for O-Day, including securing materials and designing flyers for distribution. This preparation is about visibility, accessibility, and setting a clear tone for the year ahead. My focus moving forward is on maintaining a staunch and principled approach to Ethnocultural advocacy—one that centres accountability, meaningful consultation, and strong collective structures. In a political climate marked by increasing racism and reactionary policymaking, this portfolio will prioritise impact over symbolism and pursue sustained, deliberate progress that meaningfully supports students.

## 11. Disabilities Officer

### **Disabilities Officer Report – Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams**

#### **1. Promotional Materials and Collective Visibility**

During February, I prepared and finalised a promotional poster for the Disability Collective to strengthen visibility and awareness of upcoming initiatives. The poster was designed to improve outreach and ensure students are aware of opportunities to engage with the Collective in an accessible and welcoming format. Eamon's stall displayed the Disability Collective poster and spoke about the Collective with any prospective students, ensuring that accessibility supports and the Collective's role were visible to incoming students. This representation helped maintain continuity of advocacy and awareness in my absence.



The poster features an illustration of six diverse students in a park-like setting. One student is in a wheelchair, another uses a walker, and another has a cast. They are surrounded by trees, flowers, and a bright sky.

**UTS Students' Association**  
**Disability Collective**

**Autonomous Collective**

You must identify as having a disability, mental illness, chronic illness, auditory or visual impairment, neurodivergent condition, or other health condition in order to become a member.

**Campaigns**

The Collective advocates for improved access and equity at UTS through activism and student-led campaigns by and for disabled students.

**Community & Connection**

The Collective aims to build community by connecting peers with shared experiences for mutual support. We also run social events throughout the year.



**UTS  
STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION**  
Our voice. Our way. Our SA.



**2. Disability Collective Coffee Catch Up – Cornerstone Café, 27 February at 12 pm**

On 27 February at 12pm, the Disability Collective will host a Coffee Catch Up at Cornerstone Café. The event is designed to be low-pressure, informal, and in a social environment which encourages connection among members and reduces barriers to participation.

The catch-up has formed part of a broader strategy to prioritise in-person engagement and rebuild active community participation within the Collective, noting there have been efforts to rebuild the Collective since 2022. Creating consistent, accessible social opportunities remains a key focus moving forward.

I drafted a spending motion for approval at the executive meeting held the week of February 16 2026. The motion was for complimentary coffee to be provided to members attending the coffee catch up, to reduce financial barriers to participation, and support inclusive engagement, as a means of encouraging community building within the Collective. The motion had an upper spending limit of \$50 to cover the coffee orders. As it stands, 1 person has registered for the event.

**UTS Students' Association  
Disability Collective  
Coffee Catch Up**

**Friday 27 February, 12 pm  
Cornerstone Cafe**



### **3. Marketing Strategy Meeting – Biljana O’Connor, UTSSA Staff, 23 February at 12:30 pm**

I met with Biljana to discuss marketing approaches for the Disability Collective. This meeting focused on strengthening communication channels, improving student reach, and refining strategies to increase awareness of disability-related initiatives across campus. We discussed social media strategy, and incentivising events to ensure larger turnouts.

We discussed methods to ensure messaging is clear, consistent and accessible, with a focus on building sustained engagement rather than one-off interactions.

We discussed the 2026 initiatives for the year, and Biljana suggested adding a ‘short win’, since the initiatives are all larger, complex goals. This will create momentum and further engage participation in Collective events.

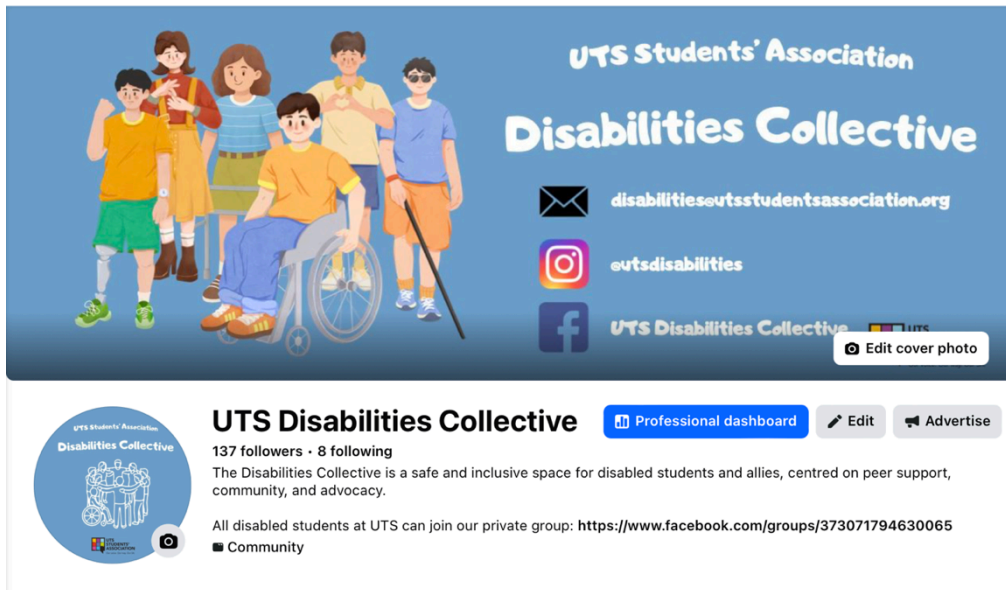
We discussed creating a campaign around a short-term initiative focused on something the UTSSA has control over, given that is more immediately achievable.

### **4. NUS Disabilities Introductions – Mia Williams**

Mia Williams, NUS Disabilities Officer emailed me to introduce herself. Advised Mia of my plans for the 2026 tenure, and indicated that it would be beneficial to work with OB’s from other Universities when I focus my efforts on initiative 3 (when exploring ways to better centralise disability services across Universities).

### **5. UTSSA Website & Disability Collective Facebook Page Update**

Updated UTSSA Disability Collective page, and Facebook Page with new graphics for the Collective, alongside an amended bio with the 2026 initiatives on the UTSSA Website.



## 6. Cross-Portfolio Collaboration – Francesca Harrison, Women’s Officer, March Meeting

Francesca and I are organising a date to discuss shared advocacy priorities. The meeting will focus on structural and policy-level issues currently under review, including MyTimetable functionality, the operation of grievances processes, and the implementation of special considerations policy.

## 7. Liaison with UTS Accessibility – Liz Penny, Accessibility and Financial Assistance Administrator, 5 March at 12:30 pm

I have organised to meet with Liz, to discuss alignment between the Disability Collective and UTS’ Accessibility Service. Our discussion will focus on strengthening communication pathways, improving awareness of available supports, and identifying opportunities for collaboration throughout the year. Maintaining a constructive working relationship with Accessibility Services remains a priority to ensure student advocacy is informed, practical, and responsive to existing institutional frameworks.

## 12. Queer Officer

In my time since being elected I have been working towards getting my bearings as

an oming weeks once I get the collective running properly for the year. Finally, I

sent a collective email out introducing myself to the wider collective and asking for volunteers for the O'Day stalls and I am in the process of creating a roster for that!

As of right now the steps I am actioning for February is finalising everything for orientation week and liaising with Neeve to organise my reps elect collective meeting

so I can gain support in my role as soon as possible as the Queer Collective is very active!OB and attempting to lay down a strong foundation for the year ahead. I started

by reaching out to the 2025 collective convenor and introducing myself and attempting to plan a time to meet. Then in mid-December I attended a meeting arranged by said convenor, El, where I could finally introduce myself to more members of the collective. Within that meeting I listened to and addressed any questions they had about the year ahead and also worked through the motions members had brought to get them SRC ready. I got their feedback about potential ideas for the upcoming Orientation stalls, like getting materials such as buttons as well as creating more engaging and interactive things to bring traffic to the stall. I am

still in the process of actioning those ideas and gathering materials for O'Day!

As this is my first time being an OB, I also had a meeting in early January with UTSA President Neeve where we discussed potential ideas for how I can

effectively run my collective this year. She mentioned getting in contact with NUS

Queer officer to hopefully get some campaign ideas! I am yet to action this but will  
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### 13. Environment and Technology Officer

Following the handover last year, my work has consisted of setting out a plan for the  
enviro and

tech collective in 2026 and preparing for o'day in February.

I've met individually with a number of people who were very involved in the  
collective last year

to discuss what activities and events they might want to run or participate in. I also  
met with

Biljana to discuss marketing for enviro and tech campaigns.

Following discussions with members of the collective, I hope to run a campaign  
around the

university's use of ProctorU in exams, as well as the general lack of consistency or  
fairness in the

university's AI policies, which is having significant negative effects on students. I will  
seek

approval for these campaigns from the collective during our first meeting of the  
year, after

o'week. I have also reached out to the university's head of sustainability to gain a better

understanding of the status of environmental action and climate sustainability at uts.

Unfortunately, I was informed she was away until the 27th, but I will follow up when she

returns. In the meantime, I have been working on designing materials for our O'week stall,

including a brochure with general collective information, a campaign's brochure, and a poster. I

am very much looking forward to o'week and hope to welcome many new members into the

collective.