

# July SRC MINUTES

30/07/2025 | 6:30pm | CB11.04.205

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## 1. Opening of meeting at 6:38pm

### 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. Januka nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so Januka is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

### 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

## Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Januka Suraweera	General Secretary
Aryan Sharma	Assistant General Secretary
Samiha Emran	Education Officer
Neeve Nagle	Welfare Officer
Olivia Lee	Women's Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Amelia Ireland	Disabilities Officer
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	Environment Officer
Yasmine Johnson	Councillor
Omar El-Sobihy	Councillor
Ella Haid	Councillor
Lucia Thornton	Councillor
Elliot Kameron	Councillor
Amelia Raptis	Councillor
Eamonn Ryan	Councillor
Sreekar Reddy	Postgraduate UTS Council Representative
Chloe Ferreira	Undergraduate UTS Council Representative
Bianca Drummond Costa	Vertigo
Jonnie Jock	Vertigo
Kaityln	Observer
Tyberious Sweeto	Observer

Apologies

No Apologies

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
<b>Dirk Hoare</b>	<b>Eamonn</b>
<b>Harshvardhan</b>	<b>Sina</b>
<b>Vaishnavi Omar</b>	<b>Olivia</b>

## 1.4. Declarations of Interest

**Mia** calls for declarations of interest to be made for this meeting.

**Amelia** declares interest in motion 7.5.

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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

### 2.1. Executive Business

**Januka** tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meetings held on 10/07/2025 and 23/07/2025

## 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No Matters Arising.

## 4. Correspondence

No Correspondence Received.

## 5. Office Bearers' Reports

## 5.1. President

**Mia** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Speaks about the campaign around UTS's approach towards sexual violence, has gone through the GIPPA request with damning information on UTS's actions, in the process of going to the student ombudsman, for both systemic and individual issues in the hope that they force them to improve the process. As a part of the campaign also hoping to ensure data consistency, including rules they should adopt, and changes to the reporting system.

Speaks to continuing campaign around Palestine with the upcoming NDA, reiterates the support needed for flyering and stalling.

Mentions Constitutional reforms from 2021 and 2024 are nearly through UTS council, which should be approved by the council in August.

Ozharvest partnership is also coming, where they will provide free hot lunch once a month.

**Tyberious:** Why has the constitutional reforms taken so long.

**Mia:** Reason for 2024 ones was that this was just the earliest they could be done, I believe it was just a delay because 2021 reforms were approved at the end of the term, in 2022 Uni said no due to it being close to Elections, in 2023 the Gensec at the time didn't work towards approving it and in 2024 since more constitutional reforms were to be passed it was considered better to have them approved together with.

## 5.2. General Secretary

**Januka** takes report as read.

## 5.3. Assistant General Secretary

**Aryan** takes report as read.

## 5.4. Education Officer

**Samiha's** report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Samiha reads theirs aloud.

Talks about collective meeting earlier that day, for planning for banner paint.

Also speaks to working on using a Whatsapp group, in order to inform students alongside flyering in order to inform students on the cuts campaign.

## 5.5. Welfare Officer

**Neeve** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Has secured a permanent space for food services, fully funded, by the university. Originally was quoted 700k, which the UTSSA refused to pay, and University agreed to fully fund it.

## 5.6. Women's Officer

**Olivia** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Speaks about the upcoming Women's welcome picnic.

## 5.7. International Students' Officer

**Harshvardhan** is absent and so their report is taken as read.

## 5.8. Indigenous Officer

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

## 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

**Vaishnavi** is absent and so their report is taken as read.

## 5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

**Salma** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Flags security for Palestinians is weak on campus right now, on Oday was given duress button which she had to give it to several people, who felt unsafe, it's an issue that is becoming worse want to warn people to be careful and to reach out.

## 5.11. Disabilities Officer

**Amelia** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Flags, the event next Sunday.

Also mentions Sunflower event is not going to cost the UTSSA anything.

## 5.12. Queer Officer

**Daewah** takes report as read.

## 5.13. Environment Officer

Sina speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Mentions successful Oday alongside plant a tree day with too many signups because council didn't have space. Restarting community garden and Trivia night coming up, with SAS.

Collective meeting happened today, with some discussion on AI exam policy. Including AI in courses. Upcoming Rising tide workshops which he will bring collective members to.

# 6. Other Reports

## 6.1. Education Conference reports.

**Mia:** Speaks to presenting the workshop "Why the UTSSA is the Gold Standard of Student Unionism", was useful to do the plannery on NUS and improving what they are doing.

**Daewah:** speaks to how this edcon was improved compared to other edcons, great to go and raise questions and argument. Including making it more accessible to making it more accessible to students.

**Amelia:** Speaks to although missing report, thought this edcon was better then last time, well organised compared to previous, still had issues with accesabilities. Doesn't know whos fault it was but believes it should change.

**El:** asks about accessibility issues.

**Amelia:** Mentions poor sensory room, terrible parking situation. Workshops were not accessible, sensory rooms and safe spaces were too far away.

## 6.2. Vertigo Report

**Bianca:** Speaks about Technicolor's, success down to a couple boxes left, Oday was also the official launch with the library. With a large scale magazine, which will be scanned looking to speak to the



library about getting to printing it. Design period of egg nearly completed. Callouts for next Friday for the technicolor party.

**Jonnie:** Shouts out the Technicolour party.

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

**Mariah:** Mentions hiring newer administrative assistant, they have been hired and will start soon. Renovations by the University have also forced some of the staff to move offices.

**Mia:** Speaks to the benefit of a new admin assistant allowing the backlog of admin work to be completed.

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

### 7.1 Volume 3 Launch Party

#### **Preamble:**

Following the success of *Vertigo's* Issue 2: *Conspiracy* Launch Party, the editorial team would like to host an event in celebration of the launch of their 3rd Issue: *Technicolour*

This event will boost recognition of *Vertigo* amongst UTS students across all faculties, providing a social opportunity for all students to get involved in the publication, whether as a reader, a contributor, or a future editor. It will also act as an invaluable community-building event for our university's students of humanities and arts, who are being especially targeted by the proposed budget cuts. This event will act as an opportunity to boost the amount of copies of the magazine that the team is able to distribute before the semester break. Finally, this event is run with the aim to feature up-and-coming young and queer artists from diverse backgrounds, contributing to the Sydney Queer Scene in a positive way.

#### **Platform:**

The *Vertigo* team has been in contact with the Lord Gladstone Hotel in Chippendale and have secured a booking for a full venue takeover with the total capacity being 250 people. There are three main spaces at the Lord Gladstone Hotel, and we have access to them at the following times: Goodspace Gallery between 8-11pm, the Courtyard from 9pm-12am, and the Main Bar from 10pm-2am.

The venue has been confirmed as of 27th May, and does not require payment up-front.

The 2025 *Vertigo* team requests \$1325 to fund the launch party for Volume 3: *Technicolour*.

\$300 will be used to pay three DJs, at a rate of \$100 each for an hour-long set, in alignment with the lower standard for DJs in Sydney. \$400 will also be used to pay two Drag Queens, at a rate of \$175 each for their performances – a rate much lower than the standard rate in Sydney, but we have sourced queens that are willing to make concessions. \$50 will be allocated to fund a cash prize for the winner of the Open Drag Competition.

\$250 has also been allocated to pay for an AV tech to ensure the sound is right on the night.

In terms of the exhibition space, we request \$150 to be put towards decorations for the night. Visual artists have expressed concerns over the cost of printing their work, so we've budgeted \$100 to be put towards printing artist's work.

We've also hired Freya Waring, a UTS Media Arts and Production student, to do our videography for the night. Last launch party Waring operated for free, but we would like to support student creatives and as a token of our appreciation, offer her \$50 for her services (filming and editing throughout the night).

The event will be ticketed, with the first 50 'early-bird' tickets costing \$10, 50 'second release' tickets costing \$12, and all tickets after that costing \$15. We have partnered with Debaser, an events company that primarily hosts events in the Goodspace Gallery, in order to boost ticket sales. This partnership means that we have been able to secure the entire Lord Gladstone Hotel virtually for free — the only fee we have to pay is \$2 from every ticket, to Debaser. Hence, through our ticket pricing, the *Vertigo* editorial team aims to recuperate the cost of the event and make a profit.

All profits made will be funneled back into the UTSSA bank account, with that money allocated towards future *Vertigo* endeavors for this year.

**Action:**

That the UTSSA approves spending for the Launch Event of Issue 3: *Technicolour*, costing \$1325 in total.

**Mover: Amelia**

**Second: Olivia**

**Jonnie:** Follows success of the previous parties, wants to do a third party for Technicolor, will boost recognition, great way for students to get involved with Vertigo and issues on campus. Has been working with lord Gladstone, who will take no upfront fee but will take it from tickets. Will be an exclusive party, requesting a total \$1350. To be repaid by ticket sales.

Explains the various expenses included in the motion including this time paying the person to do videos. Raised \$1700 last time and with majority of ticket sales in the last 3 days.

**Mia:** Not in principle objecting to the motion. But currently motion does not add up in future could be done with table of expenses. Especially when using tickets to break even, would be good to have a comparison, with ticket estimates. Then we can know how much we are spending when deciding to approve funding.

**Januka:** Raises issue with Cash Prize for auditing purposes.

**Bianca:** Will do it via a bar tab with a receipt.

Mia: Issue with the financial spending included in the platform instead of the action due it technically not binding on how funds are spent.

**Voting on motion is delayed while Vertigo creates a Table of Expenses**

**Meeting moves on to Motion 7.2**

**After Motion 7.5 Meeting returns to discussion of this Motion**

**Jonnie:** Sends through Cost breakdown

**Bianca:** Explains the change it total to be a mistake.

Januka: Read's out the table as a amendment.

**Action 1.**

*That the UTSSA approves spending for the Launch Event of Issue 3: Technicolour:*

ITEM	COST
Decorations and badges	\$150
DJ's (3)	\$300 (\$100 per hour/set)

Drag queens (2)	\$200 each for 20mins  \$50 bar tab prize for Lip Sync for your Pint challenge  Total: \$450
Payment to the venue (\$2 off each ticket)	-
AV tech	\$250
Payment for Videographer (Freya)	\$50
Exhibition Cost (Printing, framing, hanging materials)	\$100
Total	\$1300

Amenable to Amelia.

**The motion passes unanimously as amended.**

## 7.2 O'Day Reimbursements

**Preamble:** O'Day is a vital opportunity for office bearers to engage with students, promote the UTS Students' Association, and distribute information about our services and campaigns. To facilitate these efforts, each office bearer requires adequate funding to cover relevant costs.

**Action:** That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$200 per Office Bearer and the Vertigo Team to be spent on costs associated with running an O'Day stall for Autumn Semester.

**Mover: Amelia**

**Secunder: Sina**

Mia: Explains the general motion.

Mariah: Mentions OB spend more than \$200.

Mia: In interest of making it a rolling cost will leave it at \$200.

El: Notices it say's Autumn instead of spring

Amelia: Is Amenable to change it to Spring

**Motion amended to "*Spring Semester*".**

**The motion passes unanimously as amended.**

## 7.3 Catering for Election info night

**Preamble:** Following from its success last year, the UTSSA will be running an Elections Information Night with the goal of increasing awareness of the new Vertigo roles and encouraging interested students to learn more and consider nominating for the roles on SRC and Vertigo. For making the evening feel professional and engaging, this motion is for snacks to be bought for the Info Night to have in the break between UTSSA and Vertigo's presentations.

**Action:** That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$700 to be spent on food such as snacks or catering for the UTSSA x Vertigo Elections Information Night to be held in early September 2025.

**Mover: Sina**

**Secunder: Olivia**

Mia: Explains the Info night and that she will be part of running it as she isn't contesting next year but if anyone has any issues with that to let her know and someone else can be found.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.4 Approval of Election Dates for 2026 SRC, NUS and Vertigo Elections

**Action:** That the UTSSA approves the following dates for the 2026 SRC, NUS and Vertigo elections:

- Opening of Nominations: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September
- Close of Nominations: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Campaigning Opens: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm
- Voting Days: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October

**Mover: Olivia**

**Seconder: Sina**

**Mia:** Suggests Amendment to include Riki Scanlan as returning officer.

*Action*

2. The UTSSA Nominate Riki Scanlan as the returning officer for the 2026 SRC, NUS and Vertigo Elections

**Olivia is amendable Motion is amended.**

**The motion as amended passes unanimously.**

## 7.5 Reinstatement of Disabilities Officer Stipend

**Action:**

1. That the UTSSA will immediately commence the stipend of the Disabilities Officer.
2. That the UTSSA will pay the Disabilities Officer their full stipend from the date of the June SRC, Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**Mover: Daewah**

**Seconder: Omar**

**Procudeal to move the procedure in camera:**

Mover for Procudeure: **Januka**

Seconder: **Olivia**

**No dissent to procedural.**

**The motion passes with no dissent.**

Abstention from Amelia as a previously declared interest.

## **8. Other Business Arising on Notice**

### **8.1 The UTSSA endorses the protests against the AFR Higher Education Summit**

#### **Preamble**

On Tuesday the 19th of August, the Australian Financial Review will be holding its annual Higher Education Summit. This will be a meeting of University executives, government officials, consultancy firms and industry heads who will be meeting to share their plans for the upcoming year in the higher education sector. We have these same people to blame for the wave of cuts that have swept the country this year. Cumulatively, thousands of staff members will be sacked while hundreds of millions of dollars will be gutted from departments.

The prioritisation of profits for individual universities, the Australian economy and industry partners such as Australia's weapons and fossil fuel giants is precisely what is degrading our quality of education, and it's exactly what this summit will focus on.

The Sydney University Education Action Group and UNSW Education Collective have organised a rally to protest this summit at 12:00 p.m on Tuesday 19 August, meeting at Martin Place. This protest will demand a cancellation of the cuts that our universities have planned, ending the lucrative contracts with consultancies such as KPMG and Nours Group that have planned these cuts in favour of student and staff consultation instead, and for all universities to cut ties with weapons companies.

The NTEU has also organised a morning rally for members to attend as well.

#### **Action**

1. The UTSSA endorses the protests against the 2025 AFR Higher Education Summit and will publish this motion.
2. The UTSSA will reshare or co-post the Instagram tile advertising this rally.
3. The UTSSA will send an email to students encouraging them to attend this rally.

**Mover: Ella**

**Secunder: Elliot**

**Ella:** Speaks to event as regular event, which is mainly consultants going around and advocating for the Cuts, USYD Education collective will be going to protest.

Will be a fun time to protest it, while important for UTSSA to go and advertise for people to go. With a responsibility to oppose the event.

**Elliott:** Reiterates the importance to fight against cuts in every form including events like this in a time where solidarity is needed.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.2 The UTSSA endorses the March for Humanity

### **Preamble**

The Palestine Action Group has called a March for Humanity across the Sydney Harbour Bridge to take place on Sunday August 3rd.

This comes as Gaza finds itself in the throes of a starvation crisis. The UN estimates about 100,000 women and children are severely malnourished in Gaza and need immediate medical care. Doctors Without Borders estimates 25% of the pregnant women and children aged between 6 months and 5 years in Gaza are malnourished. Given Israel has been blockading aid to the region since March of this year, these figures are unsurprising.

After 5 months of Israel's deliberate starvation of the strip the ALP has finally released a statement condemning their ally's actions, but words are not enough. If the government was serious about ending the urgent humanitarian crisis they would sanction Israel and end the shipment of F-35 parts which have been used in Israel's consistent bombardment of the strip.



Instead the ALP's efforts have been focussed on repressing the people in this country taking a stand against the genocide. The most recent manifestation of this is the Minns government's attempt to ban the March for Humanity. Minns has cited the "chaos" such a march would cause. The bridge has historically been shut down for the reconciliation march in 2000, the 2023 World Pride march, and to shoot a stunt for a Hollywood film featuring Ryan Gosling. It should be temporarily shut down once more to prevent a genocide.

### **Platform**

1. The UTSSA endorses the march
2. The UTSSA condemns the Minns Government's attempt to ban the protest

### **Action**

1. The UTSSA will sign on to the Palestine Action Group statement endorsing the march
2. The UTSSA will reshare the Instagram tile posted by the Palestine Action Group with details about the protest

**Mover: Yasmine**

**Secunder: Elliot**

**Yasmine:** Speaks to the ability to shut down the bridge, and that it was a pointless excuse by Chris Minns, and now hes come out to fully oppose it. Reflects the Labor parties general opinion. Mentions was also in a organisng meeting tonight, response has been great, people should come and it would be good if the UTSSA signs on.

**Elliot:** Speaking to people at the stalls and finding many people do know about this and will be a momentis protest as people are very excited. People who work for Unions such as UOW have to gotten endorsements, important to try get other organsiations to endorse it due to how big of an Protest this would be.

**Bianca:** Asks whether they can post information about legal rights.

**Mia:** That's fine.

**Salma:** Wants to amend to add a banner paint of palsoc and ethno.

Wants to do good work, include everything on a massive banner.

*Action:*

3. Attend and support the banner painting session in preparation for the rally (timing TBC), to be held in the Activist Space.

**Yasmine is amendable.**

Salma: mentions it could help with the NDA too.

**The motion as amended passes unanimously.**

## 8.3 The UTSSA condemns the restructuring of Course 54404 (Studio: Narrative Experimentations in Animation)

### **Preamble:**

The course **54404 Studio: Narrative Experimentations in Animation** is a mandatory course for those undertaking a **Bachelor of Animation Production**. On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July, the first studio class and lecture were undertaken by Second Year UTS Animation Production students.

Originally, as outlined in the current available course outline, the course's main project was to create an animated public art installation, teaching students to experiment with non-traditional media and storytelling.

### **What happened?**

Without prior notice or knowledge, 54404 has been reformed at the last minute into an entirely different subject by course leader Deborah Szapiro. The new course focused on the 'ethical' use of AI. None of the students were aware of this before Monday.

AI use has been deemed **mandatory** in the subject, and the first assignment involves students writing a manifesto about the use of AI, outlining 10 points on the topic. (The lecturer compared this manifesto to the Unibomber Manifesto). Students will be allowed to express their own opinions on AI in the manifesto, but this does not negate the compulsory use of it in the subject to "aid" in coursework. The subject aims to "neutralise the use of AI".

Many students from the course have expressed their outrage at these changes. The UTS Animation Community stands against the use of Generative AI (GenAI) for the following reasons:

1. GenAI creates devastating environmental impacts due to wastage of power and water. In a world already impacted by climate change, further contributing to this is unethical.
2. A mass replacement of artists (including those in the animation industry) with GenAI is occurring, causing workers to lose their jobs. Those studying this course are the ones most affected by this, essentially forcing students to (proverbially) hold up a gun to their own heads.
3. The exploitation of unpaid labour that GenAI relies on in order to operate. (GenAI combs the internet to create a database of information that it is trained on.)
4. The new course is a waste of student tuition and does not equip students with the skills that are actually needed in the industry. Students already have expressed concerns at the Bachelor of Animation Production course not teaching students key skills such as how to properly use software or basic drawing foundations, and this just further contributes to this.

The course claims to explore 'ethical' AI usage, but we UTS Animation students do not believe that ethical GenAI use is possible under the current status quo. Furthermore, this is the opposite of what has previously been taught in the Animation Production course, with AI use prohibited in previous assignments.

The current Canvas page has also not been edited to reflect the new course structure, and it will not be updated until next week, meaning that students who were unable to attend the lecture are not fully informed of the extent of these changes.

**Action:**

We believe that it is within the UTSSA's interest to stand with us and fight back against these changes. UTS as an institution should have the interest of students as a priority, and this is further evidence that this is not happening amidst financial cuts and the misappropriation of the university budget.

We request the following:

1. For the UTSSA to stand against the use of Generative AI in the Bachelor of Animation Production course, and to fight for it to be banned
2. If it is possible to do so, for the UTSSA to negotiate with Deborah Szapiro for the course to be reverted back to the prior version (that is listed on Canvas as of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July)

3. If it is not possible for the course to be reverted, for the UTSSA to fight for the reform of this course for its 2026 iteration to no longer include Generative AI

**Mover:**

**Second:**

**Mia:** suggests tabling motion for future discussion due to original point of contention no longer being an issue after she sent email regarding the situation to Jacquie Wise but the situation of AI in courses is one to still watch.

**Motion is Tabled.**

## 9. General Business

### Collective Pilot Program

**Mia:** Asks for feedback. Notes should have been for autumn to get larger attendance.

**Sina:** Speaks to it being productive but timing on Wednesday during the day was difficult, making it tough to it maybe better to do it evening.

**Mia:** Clarifies when Biljana sent out and email can definitely give me more notice for future iterations.

### Oday Tote Bag discussion

**Mia:** Currently learning to tote bags instead of power banks, talking about design for totes bags rather than just the logo could be nice to run a competition or to ask vertigo. Could be a shared competition through the working group.

**Daweah:** mentions prize potential.

**Mia:** Definitely possible.

**Mia:** Will be great to get students to take stuff be putting pamphlets in the bags.

**Tyberious Sweeto:** Asks about old vertigo archives.

**Amelia:** Mentions in the old Activist space there are still some being moved.

**Mia:** A lot of in the old office, new admin worker should be working on sorting all of that to be in one spot.

**Mariah:** Jess keeps copies locked to prevent to be stolen. We should have them somewhere.

## 10. Close of Meeting at 8:12pm

## Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

### 1. President

Over the past month, I've been continuing our campaign work on two critical issues: justice for Palestine and reform of the university's response to reports of sexual violence. Alongside this, I've progressed several other initiatives related to food security, governance reform, and student voice.

#### Campaign for SASH

This month I've continued pushing for structural reform in how UTS handles reports of sexual violence.

Following up on recent Student/Council Liaison Group meetings, I provided the Deputy Vice-Chancellor with a detailed breakdown of inconsistencies across sexual harm reporting data. These inconsistencies, including mismatched figures, contradictory timelines, and unexplained reporting sources, make it extremely difficult to identify patterns or evaluate the effectiveness of the university's response. I've proposed that UTS adopt a standardised reporting template across all relevant committees to ensure clarity on:

- Timeframes (calendar year and year-to-date)  
Reporting pathways used (Counselling, online forms, staff disclosures)
- Outcomes of reports (e.g. referred to misconduct or police)
- Reporting trends by campus location and student demographics

Additionally, I attended the NSW/ACT Universities Prevention Connection Symposium and have had further meetings with the NSO (National Student Ombudsman) to advance a systemic complaint against UTS for its failure to act on prior review recommendations. The focus is on holding the university accountable for promised reforms and ensuring survivors receive meaningful outcomes. I am in the process of providing documentation to support this case.

#### Campaign for Palestine

In the lead-up to the August 7 National Day of Action for Palestine, I've been coordinating planning for the rally outside UTS Tower. I've liaised with university staff to ensure space and logistics for the rally are in place.

Earlier this month I also provided written submissions to supplementary questions from the NSW Inquiry into Antisemitism. My contribution focused on the need to uphold free expression on Palestine while also opposing all forms of racism.

#### Other Areas of Work

- **OzHarvest Partnership:** We've launched a new partnership with OzHarvest to provide monthly hot lunches to students experiencing food insecurity, especially international students. The food truck will visit campus three times this semester, with the first date locked in for August 15. I coordinated with UTS senior staff and Security to confirm Jones Street as the location. This initiative will operate at no cost to the UTSSA and builds on our broader food relief work.
- **Governance Reform:** The UTSSA's constitutional reforms from 2021 and 2024 are finally progressing through the university's governance channels to hopefully be approved during the August meeting of UTS Council.

I found the emotional weight of this month's work really difficult! But hopefully we will see some rewarding outcomes of it in the months to come.

## 2. General Secretary

July has included various organisational work between semesters including the two executive meetings. Coming back from Edcon, which was overall had some learning opportunities with more details in my Edcon report. In terms of the most relevant to council the month began with working with Vertigo with their 3<sup>rd</sup> release, Technicolour and discussing improvement to the process for future editions with the aim of reducing the pain points for future editions. As a result I've already done an early review of their 4<sup>th</sup> edition. To report Vertigo is currently interested in Vertigo Tote Bags and it is likely that after discussion at the working group is completed a version of it will be proposed to SRC.

Otherwise, Oday went well, it was great to see continued engagement in our collectives and the success of the main UTSSA stall once again. While this does reflect that the Phonebanks continue to be of massive interest to students, there was a fairly low rate of students coming back in different years to get a second phonebank potentially reflecting issues in future if want to run campaigns from the stall with the intention to engage existing students. Outside of this I'm keen to continue to work to support collectives with any assistance they might need this coming semester while my focus in the coming month is to continue to work on reforms and handbook planning.

## 3. Assistant General Secretary

### 1. Communications & Campaigns

- **Concession Opal Card Campaign:**
  - Designed and posted a 3-slide carousel on Instagram promoting the parliamentary petition for international student travel concessions.
  - Coordinated caption and bio link updates with Mia.
- **People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine:**
  - Shared campaign details via social media.
  - Engaged with NUS promotional material to raise awareness of the hearings.
- **Sip Safe Campaign:**
  - Shared awareness post on Instagram to promote safe nightlife culture.
- **Orientation Day Updates:**
  - Created and posted updates about the UTSSA stall on Instagram.

### 2. Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) Collaboration

- Initiated contact with **Camilla Pandolfini** (CEO, RLC) to discuss promoting RLC's International Student Legal Services.
- Followed up with **Catherine Hewett** and **Lauren Gillin** regarding graphic materials.
- Awaiting Canva assets from Lauren to design a post scheduled for early August.

### 3. Policy & Governance Support

- Updated the **Internal Platform Document** based on the **May SRC minutes**.
- Reviewed and reflected on quality of previous minute-taking; identified areas for improvement.
- Consulted with Januka to ensure platform alignment and offer further support if needed.

### 4. Website & Online Presence

- Submitted updated bios for myself and the General Secretary to be uploaded to the UTSSA website.
- Reviewed the exec page and confirmed all listings (except previously outdated GenSec and Asst GenSec) were accurate.

### 5. Events & Representation

- **O'Day (Orientation Day) Participation:**
  - Volunteered to assist in early stall setup.
  - Collaborated with Biljana to organise materials at the UTSSA stall.
  - Distributed UTSSA power banks and encouraged students to join the Association.

### 6. Ongoing Administrative Engagement

- Maintained regular communication with internal and external stakeholders.
- Supported tasks across policy, communications, social media, and general student support.

### Reflections

July was a productive month with a diverse mix of tasks from student engagement and campaign promotion to internal governance support and external collaboration. While some delays occurred due to overlapping emails and stakeholder availability (particularly during RLC's leave), I stayed responsive and proactive. I'm proud of the campaigns we've been able to push forward, especially around Opal concession awareness, and look forward to continuing this momentum into August.

## 5. Welfare Officer



This month has been one of both hard-fought wins and ongoing challenges but importantly, we've made significant progress on key welfare priorities that will directly benefit students on the ground.

### **Education Conference Participation**

Earlier this month, I attended the National Education Conference (EdCon). While I won't go into detail in this report, it was a valuable opportunity to engage in deep discussion around student welfare, cost of living, housing justice and food insecurity.

### **Securing Food Services!**

The most significant development this month is that we have officially secured a permanent location for Blue Bird Brekkie and Night Owl Noodles. This is a massive victory that has come after months of pushing back against proposals that would have compromised access and affordability for students.

Initially, we were quoted \$600,000 by UTS Spaces for a full kitchen fit out as part of a relocation plan. We made it very clear that this was a completely unjustifiable cost dipping into our reserves for a facility we don't own was never on the table. From the outset, our position has been simple: our food services must remain accessible, consistent, and under student control.

Thanks to continued defiance and direct negotiation, UTS has now agreed to absorb the costs themselves, ensuring that students will continue to access free food without compromise and without drawing from student union funds. The new location near the vending machines (as part of the upcoming space upgrade) will provide improved facilities while maintaining visibility and access. This is a huge outcome. Blue Bird and Night Owl are some of the most relied-upon welfare programs we run, and this result protects and strengthens them going forward. A massive thanks to everyone who supported us in holding the line on this.

### **UTS Housing: Still Waiting**

In less celebratory news, I am continuing to push UTS on the student housing licence agreement, which has not yet been upgraded. Despite the paper submitted with time frame, it's clear the university is attempting to wait this out in the hope that it slips off the agenda. I want to be absolutely clear: we are not going to allow another generation of students to be locked into a substandard contract that does not serve their interests.

I am currently escalating this matter and will keep Council updated. While no students have yet been directly impacted by the delay, time is running out to ensure a fair and transparent agreement is put in place for next year.

### **National Day of Action**

Lastly, I want to encourage all councillors and members of the student community to turn out for the upcoming National Day of Action for Palestine. Our collective voice matters, and student solidarity has always been a critical part of broader justice movements. I'll be out flyering during our food services shifts in the lead-up, please come and join me if you're free, even if just for half an hour. Every bit of visibility helps.

## 6. Women's Officer

In July I finished off a report on the Period Products campaign I worked on throughout the end of last semester. The report will be used to lobby UTS for increased funding for the services. I will also be running the first meeting of the semester for the Women's Collective on the 30th of July where we will discuss our plans for the semester.

I ran a stall for O-Day which was on the 23rd of July. I promoted the collective and handed out flyers for our first event of the semester happening on the 3rd of August. It will be a picnic for the new members I signed up at O'Day as well as returning members, I have gotten a handful of people who have RSVP'd, I encourage the non-cis male identifying members of the SRC to come along as one of my goals for this semester is to increase active membership. I also made sure to hand out flyers for the NDA for Palestine happening on the 7th of August which a great amount of members were particularly interested in attending.

As well as active membership, I am hoping to focus more on advocacy this semester, many of the students I spoke with on the O'Day stall asked about volunteer opportunities and initiatives the collective participates in, therefore this will be a focus this semester.

## 7. International Students' Officer

International Orientation Planning Meeting – 15 July 2025

Mid-month, I held a planning meeting with the International Convenor to gather inputs for our upcoming orientation activities. We discussed ways to create a more engaging and informative stall experience and brainstormed strategies to better welcome new students from diverse backgrounds.

The meeting laid the foundation for a collaborative and inclusive approach to the July orientation event.

#### Orientation Stall Preparation – 21 July 2025

In preparation for the event, I procured key materials and resources for the orientation stall. The focus was on creating a welcoming environment that also promoted awareness of student services, ongoing campaigns, and opportunities for new international students to get involved.

#### Successful Orientation Day Stall – 23 July 2025

Our stall was successfully held on 23 July as part of the university's orientation day. The turnout was strong, with enthusiastic participation from both new and returning students. Thanks to our collective efforts, the WhatsApp group has now grown to over 1,400 members, further strengthening our communication network within the international student community.

#### Future Collaboration with AusLeap – 29 July 2025

On 29 July, I connected with the President of AusLeap to explore future partnership opportunities. We discussed shared goals around cultural exchange, student leadership, and community development. Plans are now in motion for a collaborative initiative later this semester.

#### Conclusion

July 2025 has been a productive month focused on student engagement, orientation success, and collaborative vision-building. With growing momentum across our network and strong participation in our initiatives, we are well-positioned to continue building an empowered and connected international student community at UTS.

## 9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

#### Progress:

- Represented the postgraduate cohort at the **UTS O'Day on July 23**, engaging with new and continuing students, sharing information about upcoming events, and encouraging participation in the Collective's initiatives.
- Distributed volunteer certificates as a gesture of appreciation and encouragement for continued involvement.
- Connected with Postgraduate Convenor Manasvi to discuss ideas for Semester 2, including community-building activities and support-focused initiatives.

- Planned and promoted the **first Postgraduate Collective Meeting**, scheduled for **July 30**, to provide a platform for students to raise concerns, share feedback, and propose new ideas for future events.

#### Upcoming Plans:

- Host the **first Collective Meeting on July 30**, with open discussion on student experiences, semester planning, and community engagement.
- Coordinate with other UTSSA collectives and UTS support services to explore opportunities for cross-collaborative events during Semester 2.
- Launch planning for a welcome event and networking session for postgraduate students early in the semester.

## 10. Ethnocultural Officer

Over the past month, I've been laying the groundwork for a social media plan (with the help of my convenor) to showcase the collective's work, upcoming events, and ongoing campaigns in a more engaging and accessible way.

I've also begun developing a student-led working group focused on safety, anti-racism, and institutional accountability. I'm currently working to bring the Head of Student Complaints and UTS Security on board to ensure a proactive and transparent approach to the issues students, particularly racialised students, face on campus.

This month, I'll be attending the Vice-Chancellor's Social Justice & Inclusion Committee on behalf of the UTSSA, in place of our president. Hopefully this will be an opportunity to reinforce the need for genuine, student-centred action. Interestingly, the head of CSJI recently mentioned they're starting their own internal working group on similar issues. While they won't be part of ours, they've said they'll share insights. It was a bit sudden, especially considering I've raised these concerns with them for over a year, but it's a step in the right direction.

Our O-Day stall had security support after intimidation attempts by individuals from an Activate-aligned group that has publicly opposed the UTSSA. Security equipped me and my volunteers (including my PalSoc team) with duress buttons and kept a close eye on both our stall and the Persian Society's to ensure our safety throughout the day. While it's alarming that this level of protection is necessary, I'm grateful for the support and seriousness shown by security. This comes after the release of my 23-page report on anti-Palestinian racism to the head of the CSJI. A good, but very late, step in the right direction.

I remain committed to ensuring this working group is genuinely student-led, rooted in lived experience, and focused on achieving real, lasting change. I've also met with vertigo and we are working towards getting EOI's out and contacting students who have already expressed interest.

## 11. Disabilities Officer

July has been a quieter month for the Disabilities Collective. We only got a few sign ups at Semester Two O'Day, but a few new social media followers. The Badges and new marketing materials were very successful.

In preparation for the launch of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme at UTS, I have been in collaboration with UTS Accessibility on organising the launch event on the 5th of August, as well as ordering Sunflower Products for the Students Association. I have also been in correspondence and working with the organisers of Disability Pride Month Sydney, who held a very successful event at Town Hall last weekend. I have also continued to work on the UTS Disabilities Collective Guide to Accessibility Master document, and have been adding to this throughout the month, particularly with information regarding organising protests and actions and accessible meeting and event organising.

I have also continued sending out newsletters to update members on the upcoming events, campaigns and meetings of the Disabilities Collective, with another one coming out this week in preparation for Semester Two.

## 12. Queer Officer

I would like to report on the recent and upcoming activities of our collective. We've been working hard to create more visibility and engagement for queer students across campus. A key project we're proud of is the upcoming release of our zine on the 30th of July, 2025. This zine will feature artwork, stories, and voices from our community, celebrating queer identity and activism in a vibrant, accessible format.

Additionally, we are focusing on strengthening our online presence, particularly through Instagram. By sharing updates, educational content, and amplifying queer student voices, we aim to foster a stronger online community and ensure our collective remains visible and connected with the wider student body.

Looking ahead, I am currently planning a Queer Ball in collaboration with the Darling Society. This event will be a celebration of queer joy and solidarity, providing a safe and inclusive space for students to express themselves and connect with each other. It's also an opportunity to highlight the intersection of our collective's work with broader student-led initiatives on campus.

These initiatives mark a renewed momentum for our collective as we continue to build spaces for queer representation, celebration, and activism.

## 13. Environment Officer

July was another very busy month for the collective, I've tried to organise most of what will happen over semester 2 during the break. For the most part this has been very successful and a lot of the work has been done ahead of time.

### O'day:

This Oday was done very similarly to my last one with new seed packets ordered. Two changes I made were to make sure that the seeds I was giving away were for native plants and I also made quite a few pins with the Enviro Collective logo on them. All of the pins and new seed packets were successfully given away and we gained many new sign ups and Instagram follows.

### Plant a tree Day 2:

I organised another plant a tree day with Red Cross and TBL. This one had an even bigger turnout than the last one which I was very happy to see. It was also a lot easier to organise logistically as the council supplied the trees and digging equipment, meaning most of my work was herding people and watching their bags while they did the digging.

### Community Gardening:

I have reached out to the Ultimo garden. I have organised new gardening sessions over the duration of the semester, with the first of these being on the 12th of August and then every two weeks after.

### Trivia night:

We will be organising a trivia night with SASS on the 26th at the Abercrombie. I am hoping this will bring more new people into the collective and also help people learn more about sustainability in their day-to-day lives.

### Coming up:

- We will be having a meeting to better define our position and approach towards the adoption of AI at UTS this week.
- Over the next month or so I am hoping to delegate more of the events aspect of the collective to the elected execs to focus on other parts of my role.
- I am planning on attending some of the Rising Tide workshops that will be happening in August, hopefully with at least one Enviro exec