June 2026 SRC MINUTES

June 24 2026 | 6:37 | CB11.05.202

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting at 6:37 ..... *3*

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country 3

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair 3

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies 3

Attendees 3

Apologies 3

Proxies 4

1.4. Declarations of Interest 4

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes *4*

2.1. Executive Business 4

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes *4*

4. Correspondence *5*

5. Office Bearers' Reports *5*

5.1. President 5

5.2. General Secretary 5

5.3. Assistant General Secretary 6

5.4. Education Officer 6

5.5. Welfare Officer 6

5.6. Women's Officer 7

5.7. International Students' Officer 7

5.8. Indigenous Officer 7

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer 7

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer 7

5.11. Disabilities Officer 7

5.12. Queer Officer 7

5.13. Environment Officer 7

6. Other Reports *7*

6.1. Committees 7

6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required 8

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements *8*

7.1. Welfare Collective Spending 8

7.3. Vertigo Printing....9
7.4. EdCon Funding.... 11
8. Other Business Arising on Notice....12
8.1 Editorial Standards Form.... 12
8.2 UTSSA Opposes Attacks on Abortion Rights.... 15
8.3 The UTSSA opposes Waterloo public housing demolitions....16
8.4 End the Explosives Trade with Israel.... 19
7.2. Fair Work Commission Proceedings....21
9. General Business.... 24
10. Close of Meeting at 8:57PM....24
Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports.... 25

1. Opening of meeting at 6:37

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Neeve 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

Neeve calls for nominations for Deputy Chair. Salma is nominated 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)
Vee	Observer
Ali Al-Lami	Observer
Thomas Snow	Observer
Teagan Ngyueng	Vertigo
Neeve Nagle	President
Salma Elmubasher	General Secretary
Cam Perez	Assistant General Secretary
Sina Ashfarmeher	Welfare Officer
Ella Haid	Education Officer
Francesca Harrison	Women's Officer
George Tulloch	Postgraduate Officer
Amelia Wilson-Williams	Disabilities Officer
Eamonn Ryan	Environment & Technology Officer
Liyara Flavel	General Councillor
Andrew Brogden	General Councillor
Amelia Ireland	General Councillor
Frances Dougenis	UTSSA Staff
Ibrahimm Hadi	General Councillor
Aaron Choy	General Councillor

Lana Rumman	General Councillor
Isabella Taylor	General Councillor

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Jonothan Waters	Andrew Brogden
Benjamin Grant-Skiba	Ella Haid
Rose Sakseena	Liyara Flavel
Chloe Ferreira	Aaron Choy

1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

No one makes any declarations.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from May 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 13/06/2026. Salma discusses the legal fees incurred from legal proceedings brought by Vertigo editor in chief, Eman Samira Darwiche, against the union. She shares that they are refraining from discussing particulars publicly at this stage.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters mentioned.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence this month.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Neeve reports that UTSSA remains opposed to the PNF because of the provision requiring individuals to accept personal liability. The University is also developing definitions of antisemitism, queer identities and other terms. Neeve is concerned about adopting definitions, but says the University intends to proceed, so UTSSA is working to ensure student voices are heard.

Neeve has also been working on postgraduate stipends and Vertigo. Two more Vertigo editors have resigned in the past two weeks, which is disappointing. Neeve will discuss the editorial standards form later in the meeting.

Respect Matters training will replace Consent Matters to align with the University's obligations under the new gender-based violence framework. The NTEU has spoken to the media about its class size survey. UTS Childcare has approached UTSSA and the NTEU

because its funding is at risk. Neeve notes that UTSSA founded UTS Childcare and that it is an important part of the Association's history. 2SER's funding has been secured.

EdCon has been an uphill battle, as have the SSAF negotiations. Ty asks whether UTSSA has received a SSAF offer. Neeve says there is no offer yet. There appears to be a commitment that UTSSA's SSAF funding will not decrease, but this is uncertain and negotiations are still at an early stage.

5.2. General Secretary

Salma reports that she has been invited to join a UTS working group examining university partnerships, following discussions about UTS's links to companies involved in weapons manufacturing. She has also been nominated to the CSJI Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism Board and has submitted a proposed definition of Anti-Palestinian Racism to the CSJI for consideration.

Preparations for O'Day and EdCon are underway. Salma has continued to spend significant time on the Fair Work Commission matter and on Vertigo. Two further editors have resigned, bringing the total to five this year, shame. Edition 2, *Glass*, remains unfinished despite submissions closing in February. Salma and Neeve have raised concerns about the publication's wider operational issues and maintain that printing the edition is inappropriate at this stage. Salma is contacting candidates to fill the general editor vacancy and has proposed other ways for Vertigo to engage students at O'Day.

Salma and Neeve continue to advocate for changes to the protest notification form to better protect students' rights. Salma is awaiting next steps on the partnerships working group and feedback on the proposed definition of Anti-Palestinian Racism.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Away.

5.4. Education Officer

Ella reports on an event opposing One Nation over the weekend, she described it as an opportunity to mobilise young people against One Nation's far-right, pro-business politics. They note that many young people are angry and that student unions have a role as anti-racist organisations.

Ella will speak about the rise of One Nation at EdCon. The Education Officer proposes an NDA against One Nation.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Sina reports that he is preparing a paper for SGLC on the clothing bins and volunteer support. Sina plans to place plastic bags inside the bins to make sorting donations easier and are seeking a larger bin. The changes should be in place by the start of Semester 2, with the aim of doubling the volume of clothing collected.

5.6. Women's Officer

Francesca reports a quieter period focused on reproductive and sexual health, including work relating to Building 5. This has involved meetings and correspondence. She is also reviewing the Respect Matters materials in light of the National Code, particularly consent training and communications about gender-based violence.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Away

5.8. Indigenous Officer

Takes it as read

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Takes it as read

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Takes it as read

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia reports that the current Special Consideration process does not adequately support students. She has a meeting with Kylie to discuss how it could be improved. Amelia has also been working on accessibility checklists for Vertigo.

Cam adds on that they are discussing a carers campaign and possible wellbeing activities on 11 August. These may include a collaboration on accessible, low-impact craft activities.

5.12. Queer Officer

Takes it as read

5.13. Environment Officer

Takes it as read

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

No news.

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

Rohen, Queer Collective Convenor, reports on a national collective meeting with the NUS Queer Officer. One action arising from the meeting was a statement supporting an expansion of the Sex Discrimination Act to remove religious exemptions, particularly in light of the rise of the far right. The collective may also hold a Jackbox games night during the break.

Neeve asks that Vertigo submit its report next month as they did not provide one.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

Eammon moves a procedural to move 7.2 to end of meeting to give more time to talk about it,

George seconds.

Procedural goes to a vote and passes unanimously.

7.1. Welfare Collective Spending

Preamble The welfare Collective, in its most recent meeting on the 17th of June 2026 endorsed spending

on the healthcare services campaign and the clothes bins on campus campaign. Both of these
are campaigns that members of the collective have been very active in helping out with and
spending will allow for them to continue into semester 2, with new bins and more work to push
for better healthcare on campus.

Action
1. The UTSSA approves a 100 dollar budget for reimbursement for the cost of printing flyers for the health services campaign, as well as the cost of the 50 dollar voucher that was given to the winner.
2. The UTSSA approves a 600 dollar spending limit for the clothes bins on campus campaign, which will be used to reimburse the cost of the existing bin and to purchase the larger bin in building 1 that will cost approximately 400 to 500 dollars, as well as the cost of labelling for the bins.

Mover: Sina

Seconder: George

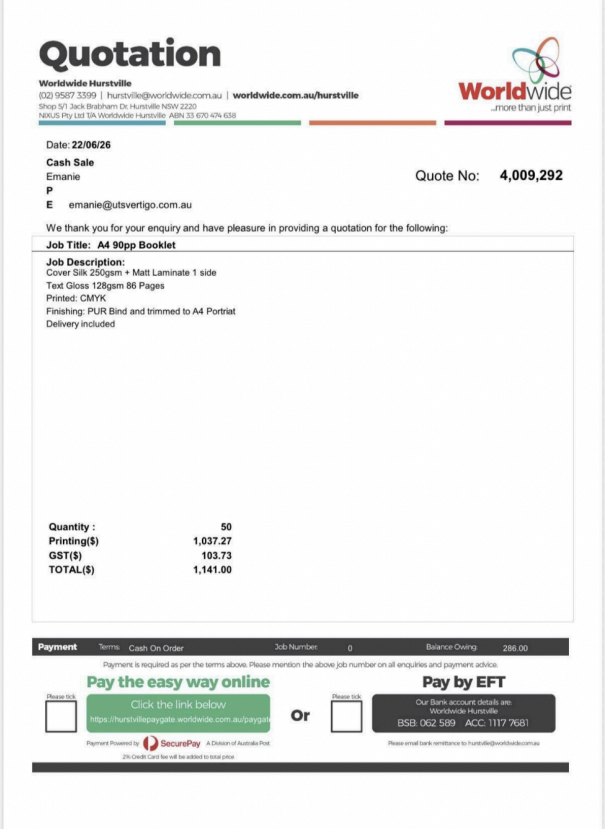
Sina explains that the proposed spending covers the healthcare campaign, the clothing bins and durable labels for the bins.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.3. Vertigo Printing

Preamble
Vertigo seeks approval to resume print publication for its upcoming edition. Attached is a printing quote for the production of the magazine. The editorial team proposes printing 50
copies, which will be distributed primarily to contributors and designers to showcase their work
and acknowledge their involvement, allowing them to take pride in their contribution to Vertigo.

Please see attached below.



Quotation

Worldwide Hurstville
(02) 9587 3399 | hurstville@worldwide.com.au | **worldwide.com.au/hurstville**
Shop 5/1 Jack Brabham Dr, Hurstville NSW 2220
NEXUS Pty Ltd T/A Worldwide Hurstville ABN 33 670 474 638

Worldwide ...more than just print

Date: **22/06/26**
Cash Sale
Emanie
P
E emanie@utsvertigo.com.au

Quote No: **4,009,292**

We thank you for your enquiry and have pleasure in providing a quotation for the following:

Job Title: A4 90pp Booklet

Job Description:
Cover Silk 250gsm + Matt Laminate 1 side
Text Gloss 128gsm 86 Pages
Printed: CMYK
Finishing: PUR Bind and trimmed to A4 Portriat
Delivery included

Quantity :	**50**
Printing($)	**1,037.27**
GST($)	**103.73**
TOTAL($)	**1,141.00**

Payment Terms: Cash On Order Job Number: 0 Balance Owing: 286.00

Payment is required as per the terms above. Please mention the above job number on all enquiries and payment advice.

Pay the easy way online
Please tick
Click the link below
https://hurstvillepaygate.worldwide.com.au/paygat
Payment Powered by SecurePay A Division of Australia Post
2% Credit Card fee will be added to total price

Or

Pay by EFT
Please tick
Our Bank account details are:
Worldwide Hurstville
BSB: 062 589 ACC: 1117 7681
Please email bank remittance to hurstville@worldwide.com.au

Action
Vertigo requests that the SRC approve funding for this print run so copies can be produced
and distributed accordingly.

Mover: Amelia Ireland

Seconder: Ella

Emanie seeks approval to print 50 copies of *Glass*. She says that, even if the edition cannot be funded for general distribution, the editors and contributors should each be able to take home a copy for their portfolios. She says the quote presented is the cheapest available.

Neeve says that printing 50 copies would cost $1,141, or $22.82 per magazine, and asks Vertigo to return with other quotes. She says, "I don't think it is justifiable that we are printing special editions of Vertigo for $22.82 each for contributors and Vertigo editors." Neeve adds, "This is not where you can boost your career." Emanie asks to rephrase, explaining that contributors want copies so they can show their work.

Amelia says she is confused by the price, as she had seen a budget showing that 1,000 copies could be printed for around $8 each. Neeve explains that the cost per copy falls with a larger print run, but says Council resolved in February that *Glass* would not be printed.

Emanie asks to speak again. She says the decision is unfair to James and that, if there is a personal issue, it is affecting five other editors. Salma says the objection is entirely financial, not personal, and that the distinction is important.

Neeve says the decision should not be surprising given Council's February resolution. She reiterates that spending $1,141 to print 50 copies for portfolios is not justifiable. Emanie interjects, "So you can approve $40,000." Neeve reminds her of the standing orders and says the Fair Work Commission spending motion will be discussed in due course. She adds that anyone seeking to reverse the decision not to print *Glass* can to bring a motion to Council.

Taya asks to confirm that the request is for only 50 copies, less than one magazine per thousand students, and says the copies should not simply be for editors' friends and family.

Motion goes to a vote

For: Ella, Andrew

Against:

Cam Perez

Sina Ashfarmeher

Francesca Harrison

George Tulloch

Amelia Wilson-Williams

Eamonn Ryan

Liyara Flavel

Amelia Ireland

Aaron Choy

Lana Rumman

Isabella Taylor

Abstentions: None

Motion fails.

7.4. EdCon Funding

Preamble:
The National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference (EdCon) is the peak annual gathering of student representatives, activists and office bearers from across Australia. The conference provides an important opportunity for student leaders to engage in policy development, skills training, campaign planning and national representation on issues affecting students.

Following a successful tender process, UTS was selected as the host institution for EdCon 2026. Hosting the conference at UTS will bring hundreds of student representatives from across Australia to campus and position both UTS and the UTSSA as leaders within the national student movement.

Hosting a national conference of this scale provides significant benefits to UTS students through increased access to training, networking opportunities, national campaigns and student representative development. It also strengthens the relationship between the UTSSA and the NUS and demonstrates the Association's commitment to student representation at a state and national level.

Venue hire and associated event costs represent a significant expense in delivering the conference. As host organisation, it is appropriate for the UTSSA to contribute towards these costs to ensure the successful delivery of EdCon 2026.

Action:
That the UTSSA:
1. Approve a contribution of up to $10,000 towards the costs associated with hosting the National Union of Students Education Conference 2026 at UTS.

2. Note that the approved amount represents the maximum financial contribution of the UTSSA towards hosting EdCon 2026.

Mover: Amelia Ireland

Seconder: Liyara Flavel

Neeve explains that UTSSA receives complimentary tickets and has negotiated the cost down from $22,000 to $5,000. Neeve notes that ActivateUTS gets so much SSAF so their asks are a bit much.

Motion passes unanimously.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1 Editorial Standards Form

Preamble:
Vertigo is a student publication which operates with editorial independence in accordance with the UTSSA Constitution and accepted journalistic standards.

The UTSSA and Vertigo have a shared interest in ensuring that published material meets appropriate legal and ethical standards and does not expose student journalists, editors, office bearers or the Association to avoidable legal, financial or reputational risk.

The proposed Editorial Standards Form establishes a clear and transparent process for identifying and documenting potential concerns relating to matters such as defamation, privacy, contempt, copyright, accuracy, fairness, conflicts of interest and compliance with the MEAA Code of Ethics. The purpose of the form is not to direct editorial content, restrict political viewpoints, or undermine editorial independence. Rather, it provides a mechanism for identifying legal or ethical risks and, where necessary, documenting conditions required to address those risks prior to publication.

The form expressly recognises and preserves the editorial independence of Vertigo and is intended to protect both the publication and the UTSSA while supporting responsible student journalism.

Action:
That the UTSSA:
1. Note the importance of maintaining the editorial independence of Vertigo.

2. Approve the use of the Editorial Standards Form for all Vertigo print and

online publications during the 2026 term.
3. Note that the purpose of the Editorial Standards Form is to identify and document legal, ethical and reputational risks and is not intended to provide editorial direction or restrict lawful editorial content.
4. Require that any concerns raised through the Editorial Standards Form be limited to legitimate legal, ethical, reputational or professional standards considerations, including compliance with the MEAA Code of Ethics.
5. Direct Vertigo 2026 to utilise the Editorial Standards Form as part of its publication processes for all print and online content.

Mover: Liyara

Seconder: Eamonn Ryan

Neeve introduces the Editorial Standards Form, referring to *Honi Soit*'s recent legal debacle, she says editorial independence is important, but publication can also carry legal and ethical risks. The form is intended to identify those risks, including defamation and compliance with the MEAA Code of Ethics, rather than direct editorial content. Neeve says that she is noting the importance of maintaining the editorial independence in Vertigo, and noting that the purpose is to identify and document legal, ethical, and reputational risks, and is not intended to provide editorial direction or restrict any lawful editorial content.

Neeve also says the idea is that it's going to help protect both the editors and the UTSSA, because the buck does fall on her, but she doesn't get to see any articles, and so it can go to the President, the General Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, or the Director of Student Publications. So, and if every single one of them is conflicted, it goes to the executive officer.

Emanie asks who the Executive Officer referred to in the form is and why Vertigo would be required to use it.

Neeve is shocked that 7 months into term Emanie does not know who the executive officer is, Mariah Brown. Neeve then says that waiting for a defamation claim before acting would be reactive. She hopes to work with Vertigo to improve the form and says that collaboration now would help avoid leaving next year's editors with an inadequate process.

Teagan asks what would happen if Vertigo did not use the form. Neeve says that, if the motion passes, using it would be required under UTSSA's publication processes and that failing to do so would be treated as a serious compliance issue.

Rohen asks whether the form could affect Vertigo's ability to publish criticism of Labor. Neeve says it would absolutely not be used to influence Vertigo's political views or editorial decisions. Content could proceed provided it met legal requirements and the MEAA Code of Ethics.

Emanie says that it amounts to micromanagement. Neeve disagrees, reiterating that Vertigo would continue to edit its content independently. She says the process would not require a 48-hour wait for approval and that, if the motion passes, the form would take effect immediately.

Neeve says if the form is not working as well, we have Vertigo working group meetings, it can come back to Council, it could be amended.

Motion goes to a vote:

Against:

Ella Haid

Andrew Brogden

For:

Cam Perez

Sina Ashfarmeher

Francesca Harrison

George Tulloch

Amelia Wilson-Williams

Eamonn Ryan

Liyara Flavel

Amelia Ireland

Aaron Choy

Lana Rumman

Isabella Taylor

No abstentions

Motion passes.

8.2 UTSSA Opposes Attacks on Abortion Rights

Preamble:
The far right are pushing an anti-abortion agenda across the country. On June 17, Family First MP Sarah Game attempted to pass a bill in South Australia which would have restricted
access to late-term abortion. After passing the upper house with the support of three newly-elected One Nation MPs, this bill was voted down in the lower house. It represents, however, an increasing push to wind back hard-won progressive steps on women's rights and the worrying rise of the far right in Australian politics. Similar bills were voted down by the upper house in 2024 and 2025.
Women should have the ability to control their own bodies and to decide their own futures,
and this bill would have been a dangerous affront to that right. Abortion is widely supported
in South Australia and across the country, with a 2019 study in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health showing 63% support for late-term abortions.
There are already significant restrictions on late-term abortions, with the approval of two doctors required. This bill targeted abortions which are already extremely rarely performed.
In 2024, the South Australian Abortion Reporting Committee recorded that only 48 abortions
were performed after 22 weeks and six days, and they were largely done for physical or

mental health reasons. In rural and regional areas, abortion access is highly limited. The far
right, however, are determined to push back on even these restricted rights.
Labor has refused to show a clear and consistent opposition to these far right attacks. They
continue to allow "conscience votes" on abortion, in an open capitulation to anti-abortion
right-wingers inside the party. Across the Upper and Lower Houses, five Labor members

voted for the bill, including state premier Peter Malinauskas. Many in the coming months will
present Labor as the electoral alternative to the far right. This vote, however, demonstrates
that Labor will not reliably fight the far right's attacks on key progressive measures in society.

Action
1. The UTSSA will support future actions in support of abortion rights by sharing information and petitions among council members

Mover: Ella
Seconder: Andrew

Ella waives her right to speak to Vee (Observer). Vee speaks about threats to abortion access from One Nation and other anti-abortion parties. She says it is disappointing that Labor members were allowed a conscience vote on the issue, describing this as an attack on women's rights at a time when abortion care should be made more accessible.

Ella says the vote is a test of how parties will respond as One Nation gains support. She is concerned about the possibility of Labor working with One Nation and says Labor's decision to allow a conscience vote is shameful. Ella says student unions must defend abortion rights. Ella asks if people who campaigned for Peter Malinauskas would do it again.

Neeve says that she found the outcome disheartening and notes that she was among those in Student Unity who pushed to remove conscience votes.

Motion passes unanimously.

8.3 The UTSSA opposes Waterloo public housing demolitions

Background
Last month, the NSW Labor government began the first stage of its Waterloo South redevelopment plan which would see 750 public housing units demolished. These would be replaced with 3,300 new homes, 30 percent will be social housing, 20 percent will be affordable housing, and 50% will be sold off to private investors, but none of which will be the public housing that the local community has relied on.

The Labor government has justified the demolition with the excuse that the homes are "not functional". The deteriorating condition of Waterloo's buildings is the result of decades of deliberate government neglect and underfunding. Rather than provide funding in the upkeep of homes and combating the poverty in the community, Labor has systematically neglected public housing and is now using this as an excuse to destroy it. Social housing is not synonymous with public housing. Much of it is in the form of 'community housing' which is owned and/or managed by private, not-for-profit organisations. Much of it is built with public money and then handed over to these organisations. The "community" organisations which run social housing are just big companies that, while they might not pay dividends to shareholders, are run like any other business.

Further, 'affordable housing' is nothing of the kind. These properties are rented out to low-to-medium income earners at a discount of 20-25% below market rate. The median rent in Sydney is $750 per week, meaning 'affordable' housing comes in at over $550pw. Most affordable housing programs require the properties to be rented at a discount only for a limited time, usually ten years, after which the owner can charge whatever they want. These demolitions will do nothing to solve the housing crisis. Labor is reducing secure public housing while more than 69,000 people remain on the public housing waiting list. The only benefactor of this project is Stockland, one of Australia's largest property developers, which is projected to make $600 million in profits from the redevelopment project. At a time when students and workers are facing soaring rents and housing insecurity, the attack on Waterloo demonstrates that Labor is not interested in solving the housing crisis, but in protecting profits of developers

.

The UTSSA should demand the government provide funding for the creation and maintenance of real public housing, that Labor end its orientation to neoliberal, market-based social and affordable housing, and we should stand with Waterloo residents resisting displacement and defending public housing.

Action

- UTSSA shares this graphic to its instagram page https://www.instagram.com/p/DZhA6LoEgY-/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==
- The UTSSA will share the Save Waterloo petition on its Instagram page https://actionforpublichousing.org/
- The UTSSA will post an explainer reel to its instagram outlining the differences between public housing, social housing, and affordable housing, and calling on the Labor

government to make massive investments in real public housing, in relation to the waterloo housing campaign.

Mover: Ella
Seconder: Andrew

Andrew speaks in support of the motion. He says NSW Housing Minister Rose Jackson had promised not to demolish Waterloo public housing, but the Minns Government is now proceeding with the redevelopment. He also refers to proposed demolitions at Bellambi. Andrew argues that replacing public housing with a mix of social, affordable and private housing will benefit developers and landlords while displacing tenants. He says housing described as "affordable" remains out of reach for many people on low incomes and points to the projected $600 million profit for Stockland.

Eamonn speaks against the motion. He says he shares concerns about privatisation but disputes the motion's description of the redevelopment. He argues that the number of public housing homes will increase from 750 to approximately 1,000, alongside additional affordable and market-rate homes, and says the increase in overall housing should be recognised.

Rohen raises concerns about housing in Glebe being sold and then listed as short-term accommodation.

For:

Ibrahim

Ella

Andrew

Against:

Cam Perez

Sina Ashfarmeher

Francesca Harrison

George Tulloch

Amelia Wilson-Williams

Eamonn Ryan

Liyara Flavel

Amelia Ireland

Aaron Choy

Lana Rumman

Isabella Taylor

No abstentions.

Motion fails.

8.4 End the Explosives Trade with Israel

Preamble

Despite the Australian government's denial of a two-way arms trade with Israel, it has recently been uncovered that Australia plays another key role in the development of weapons that are supplied to Israel. The UTSSA must take up a principled position against our government's role in the supply chains for these weapons.

In an article by The Shot, it was revealed that Australia produces and exports the explosive materials that are used in the production of bombs being supplied to Israel. Nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, and RDX (known as cyclonite) are all manufactured in two Australian factories; one in Mulwala, NSW and one in Benalla, Victoria. The development of these materials are part of a larger supply chain which stretches through the US and Singapore, and onto Israel.

The government has tried to excuse Australia's role by claiming the explosives are not

sent directly to Israel. This is a cynical deflection from Australia's responsibility; the Australian

government is aware that these explosives are part of a supply chain which is arming the

genocide and occupation of Palestine.

This new role in the production of weapons for Israel is only the most recent to be

discovered. In 2024 the Foreign Minister, Penny Wong, claimed that Australia only supplies

"non-lethal parts" for the F-35 fighter jet. The "non-lethal" parts that she refers to are the

mechanism that releases the bombs, the weapons adapters, and the joint strike missile

integration, most of which are exclusively manufactured in Australia. The F-35 would be

incapable of fulfilling its purpose without these parts. In addition to this, Australian companies

like DroneShield and EOS supply military hardware and weapons such as the DroneGun and

R400 remote weapons system.

We must be clear that playing any role in the supply chain of these weapons makes the

Australian government complicit in the crimes that Israel is carrying out. There are no non-lethal

parts to F-35s, missiles, or explosives. We must demand that Australia immediately ends its role

in the two-way arms trade with Israel.

Action

1. The UTSSA will publish information to its Instagram story relating to the sale of

explosives to Israel by Australia.

Mover: Ella
Seconder: Andrew

Ella waives her right to speak to an observer. The observer speaks in support of the motion and summarises the article cited in its preamble. They say that a further $220 million was

invested in the NSW and Victorian explosives facilities after October 2023, and argue that chemicals manufactured there move through the US and Singapore into weapons supplied to Israel. They say these weapons are used against Palestinians and Lebanese people, including children. The observer adds that the facilities are owned by the Australian Defence Force and leased by Thales, and raises concerns about Thales' links to UTS and its influence in the University's IT and engineering areas.

Andrew says the motion shows why UTSSA must continue supporting the Palestine movement. He argues that the Association should use its resources to keep the campaign active, particularly when there are calls for the issue to be ignored or forgotten.

Salma speaks in support of the motion. She says that, amid the Royal Commission and increasing pressure on universities, it is more important than ever to speak about Palestine, Lebanon and the wider Global South. She asks whether the mover would be comfortable with her taking the motion in full to the UTS partnerships working group with Alana Piper once the group meets. Salma also calls on general councillors to take a more active role: the action should go beyond an Instagram story, and councillors should help campaign on the ground.

Neeve says the issue is extremely important. She refers to her previous concerns about the UTS Vault and weapons-related activity on campus, and says University management has characterised some of that work as a matter of national defence or security. Neeve notes that UTSSA is part of the Weapons Off Campus campaign and is keen to mobilise around the issue. She points to the campaign concerning Technion as an example of what student organising can achieve and says the Association should continue that work.

Nuha asks Neeve about Penny Wong's description of Australian contributions to F-35 fighter jets as "non-lethal components", including parts connected to Lockheed Martin and weapons used by Israel. Nuha argues that there can be no non-lethal part of a weapon of destruction and asks for Neeve's view.

Neeve agrees and calls the "non-lethal" description misleading. She argues that supplying a component used in a weapon cannot be separated from how that weapon is used. She also rejects the distinction between supplying Israel directly and supplying companies within a wider weapons supply chain, arguing that those involved remain responsible for their role in it.

Nuha then asks Neeve to confirm whether she considers the Labor government complicit in the genocide in Gaza. Neeve responds that she has never shied away from expressing her political views.

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion has moved to motion 7.2.

7.2. Fair Work Commission Proceedings

Preamble:

The UTSSA is currently responding to proceedings before the Fair Work Commission. Given the Association's financial circumstances, including ongoing SSAF negotiations, and the importance of protecting the Association's interests and reputation, external legal counsel has been engaged to represent the UTSSA in this matter.

This amount represents a maximum expenditure cap should the proceedings become protracted and is based on the worst-case cost estimate provided by legal counsel.

Action:

That the UTSSA approve an upper expenditure limit of $40,000 for the continued engagement of external legal counsel in the matter of Miss Emanie Samira Darwiche v University of Technology Students' Association and Others.

Mover: Eamonn

Seconder: Liyara

Neeve reads the motion and explains that the proposed $40,000 is an upper limit based on legal counsel's worst-case estimate if the proceedings continue for several months. She says she is hopeful the costs will not reach that amount.

Ibrahim asks to see how the figure was calculated. Neeve says she will go through the cost agreement when the meeting moves into camera. She explains that the agreement is confidential to UTSSA and cannot be discussed in the public portion of the meeting.

Emanie asks why mediation did not happen. Neeve says she is not the applicant to the Fair Work Commission and cannot answer why the matter proceeded to a hearing rather than mediation. She says that, once the application was made, she became responsible for responding to the allegations through the formal process. Emanie says she had not been given an opportunity to mediate before lodging the application.

Neeve responds that Emanie had ample opportunity and could have proposed mediation to Council by moving a motion. She says Emanie instead contacted Executive Officer Mariah and asked her to arrange it, which Neeve says was outside Mariah's authority without a Council decision.Neeve says no mediation motion was brought to Council before Emanie applied to the Fair Work Commission.

Emanie disputes this account. She says she asked for mediation many times but was repeatedly told it would not happen. She questions how she could have expected a motion to pass when she believed the President opposed mediation and Student Unity held a majority on Council.

Salma says that this is not true and asks Emanie what evidence supports those claims, and that they seem rather baseless. Emanie tells her to check the emails. Salma says her reading of the email chain is that Emanie requested independent third-party mediation from Mariah, who explained that arranging it was outside her remit. Salma says Emanie was advised of other pathways and notes that UTSSA's grievance committee includes an independent lawyer which we pay to be on the committee.

Neeve returns the discussion to the spending motion and invites questions about the proposed amount. She says Council should hold the Executive accountable for expenditure of this size.

Ibrahim asks whether there is any way to resolve the matter without spending up to $40,000 and whether the parties could agree to mediation. Neeve says the decision about whether to continue the application rests with the applicant. Salma agrees that avoiding unnecessary legal costs would be ideal, but says the case is now before the Fair Work Commission and Council cannot simply decide during this meeting to replace that process with mediation. She makes clear that this commentary is made with no intention to influence or ask Emanie to withdraw her application.

Omar says that, as he understands it, both Fair Work Commission proceedings and UTSSA grievance processes are underway. He cautions against discussing or trying to secure an alternative resolution informally at an SRC meeting while those processes are active, particularly by referring to the legal proceedings in the discussion.

Ali Al-Lami, speaking as an observer, says Emanie has the right to bring a complaint about bullying, harassment or workplace safety. He objects to UTSSA using student funds for its legal representation, saying, "I don't know, find it from your dad's money or something like that. You gotta find it on yourself. It's my money." Ali refers to his own workplace complaint and asks why UTSSA would approve up to $40,000 in legal costs when students are struggling financially.

Neeve asks Ali to speak respectfully and warns that she will remove him from the meeting if he continues to address people in that manner. She says everyone present deserves respect. Neeve states that the allegations are before the Fair Work Commission and that no finding of bullying has been made. She also says UTSSA sought leave from the Commission to obtain legal representation and that leave was granted. She says that the UTSSA has no choice but to engage in these proceedings, and as a multi-million dollar organisation, she has a responsibility to protect it legally, and in this case this means legal representation in the face of proceedings brought against the union.

Ali asks whether Neeve is an employer. Neeve says the Commission's jurisdiction is one of the issues in dispute and, because the matter is ongoing, she will not comment further on that argument in the public meeting.

Neeve asks whether there are further questions before the meeting moves into camera. Emanie asks why members of Neeve's faction have expressed differing views about jurisdiction on social media. Neeve says her faction is not a party to the Fair Work Commission proceedings. She says confidential information about the case is shared only with those involved and that she does not discuss it with faction members.

Neeve moved the discussion to in-camera.

Council discusses the confidential cost agreement

The meeting moves out of in-camera and goes to a vote.

Motion passes with one abstention:

Ibrahim Hadi

9. General Business

Nothing is raised.

10. Close of Meeting at 8:57PM

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

It's been a big month! This period I've been juggling FWC matters, EdCon logistics, two more Vertigo resignations, a new childcare campaign, HDR advocacy, the protest notification form, a 2SER partnership, media, and more. The UTSSA has been putting in serious work across all of it. Here's the rundown.

PVC Meeting

I caught up with the PVC for Social Justice and Inclusion about the proposed Protest Notification Form. We went through the UTSSA's concerns in detail, our position continues to be that it functions as a de facto approval regime, the definitional issues, and the broader chilling effect on student expression. We pushed hard for real amendments before anything gets adopted. Our formal consultation submission is still live and I'm continuing to advocate for substantive changes.

Post-Graduate Advocacy

I've been corresponding with Professor Penny Martens on two issues the HDR community keeps raising with us:

- Candidature approval rates; the process is creating real barriers for prospective HDR students and we want to see that addressed
- Stipend adequacy; the current rates don't reflect what it actually costs to live in Sydney, and that's both a welfare and an equity problem.
-

I'll keep pushing on both fronts and report back to Council when there's movement.

Vertigo Resignations and Editorial Form

Two more staff resignations from Vertigo this period, which has kept this on my plate. I've been working through a governance review of the editorial standards framework, consulting with former SRC Presidents and Directors of Student Publications to get their input on what a editorial standards form should look like. The goal is something that respects editorial independence while actually meeting our By-Law obligations under Schedule 4.

The FWC anti-bullying application filed against the UTSSA has continued to take up a significant chunk of time this period. I've been managing our legal representation and ongoing correspondence with the Commission. I'll keep Council across any developments as they come up.

Respect Matters Testing

I did a test run of the Respect Matters: Addressing Consent and Gender-Based Violence course (Epigeum/Sage). It's designed to sit within UTS's Respect@Work obligations under the positive duty framework, covering things like bystander action, understanding what harassment actually looks like, reporting pathways, and building a culture where people feel safe to speak up. This has been advising my work with SARC off the back of the NSO recommendations to UTS.

NTEU, UTS Childcare and 2SER

I did a round of media off the back of the NTEU's class sizes survey. Good opportunity to get the student voice into the coverage, we've been raising concerns about teaching quality, staff-to-student ratios, and casualisation for a while now, so it was useful to have the survey data to back it up publicly.

UTS childcare is at risk of losing its funding from 2027, which would be a real blow for student parents. I'm kicking off a campaign to fight for that funding to continue, working with the NTEU and the UTS Community Childcare (UTSCC). Student parents are already doing it tough, losing affordable on-campus childcare would make it significantly harder for them to stay enrolled and engaged.

I also met with the 2SER team to talk through their transition and where the UTSSA fits in. There's a lot of potential here, 2SER is a really important part of the UTS community for student journalists and media students, and we want to be a useful partner through whatever's coming. Conversations were good and I'm working on nailing down what the collaboration actually looks like. More to come.

EdCon 2026 Work

- EdCon 2026 is 29 June to 2 July, roughly 350 people, and it has been an absolute beast to organise. This period has involved:
- Venue - ongoing (and at times painful) negotiations with Activate UTS; DVC Kylie Readman's office has been brought in to help sort out an outstanding funding gap - Catering - logistics across four days for a big group
- Faction liaising - keeping everyone coordinated and across the program - Accessibility - making sure the venue and program actually work for all attendees

The team has worked incredibly hard to get this across the line under a lot of pressure, can't wait to see you all there!

SSAF Negotiations

This month Mariah also worked on the SSAF achievements acquittal doc, which we're submitting to UTS as part of the case for an increased allocation. The idea is to show UTS the actual impact of what we do with SSAF funding, not just tick the compliance box, but make a genuine argument for why our allocation should go up. I'll keep Council posted.
See you all at EdCon!

2. General Secretary

This month has been eventful!

Advocacy

Following discussions between myself, PVC (Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion) Amy Persson and DVC DP (External partnerships and engagement) Alana Piper regarding concerns around UTS partnerships and links to companies involved in the manufacture of weapons used in ongoing atrocities, I have been invited to participate in a UTS working group examining university partnerships. While there is still significant work to be done, this could potentially be a step forward and an opportunity to continue advocating on these issues through more formal university channels.

I was also pleased to be nominated to the CSJI's Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism Board and look forward to contributing to that work.

In related advocacy work, I submitted a proposed definition of Anti-Palestinian Racism to the CSJI for consideration. We are currently awaiting feedback regarding next steps.

Operational

Preparations for O'Day and EdCon are also underway!

A significant amount of time has continued to be dedicated to the Fair Work Commission proceedings involving the UTSSA. The UTSSA is currently receiving legal advice as the matter of *Miss Emanie Samira Darwiche v University Technology Sydney Students' Association and Others* progresses.

Vertigo

Unfortunately, but perhaps unsurprisingly, a significant amount of time has once again been dedicated to matters relating to Vertigo. Since my last report, a further two editors (general editor and managing editor) have resigned, bringing the total number of resignations this year to five. All five resignations have cited concerns relating to inappropriate behaviour, workload delegation, disorganisation, or some form of a combination. We have also had to correct instances where inaccurate or misleading information regarding Executive decisions and the publication's status had been communicated to editors.

Neeve and I also attended a Vertigo Working Group meeting regarding Edition 2, *Glass*. As we approach July, the edition remains unfinished despite submissions having closed in mid-February. Further discussions are now being organised regarding the broader cultural and operational issues contributing to instability within the publication. I am now also reaching out to candidates that were next in line to fill the general editor position.

Given the ongoing instability within the publication, we reaffirmed our position that printing the glass would be inappropriate at this stage. I also proposed alternative O'Day engagement opportunities for Vertigo, including games, prizes, activities and giveaways.

Upcoming Initiatives

- Neeve and I are continuing to push back on the protest notification form in its current form and advocating for changes that better protect students' rights to protest and engage in political expression on campus.
- I will be attending the launch of the UTS Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism Action Plan on 6 July and am looking forward to seeing the next stage of this work and how it will be implemented across the University.
- O'Day preparations will continue throughout the coming month.
- Following my invitation to participate in the UTS partnerships working group, I have followed up regarding next steps and am currently awaiting further information. ● I look forward to receiving feedback from the CSJI regarding the proposed definition of Anti-Palestinian Racism and the broader anti-racism work currently underway.

3. Welfare officer

June has been another active month for the Welfare Collective, with work continuing even though the semester has wrapped up

Clothes bins:
Our clothes bin in Building 2 continues to be running and has gotten quite a bit of promotion from Activate and Red Cross. The bin has filled up a couple of times now and we have a volunteer roster for people to come and process the clothes.
We are also working on the larger bin in Building 1 in the very near future, ideally around the start of Semester 2. Active is supportive of putting up and we are working on obtaining the bin and getting the labelling on it as soon as possible. We are also considering getting plastic bags in bulk and having them near the bins so people can put their clothes in the bags before putting them in bins. This would make the work of sorting and transporting them much easier and that too will be a project for before semester 2.

Health Services Survey:
I had a fairly successful meeting with Sarah Lok on the 12th and we ran through a lot of the recommendations that I am planning on giving SCLG paper .She was quite supportive of a lot of them but I will continue to push for the more contentious ones such as free vaccines for students on placements and more access for international students who are not on medicare. One of my big takeaways from the paper generally was that healthcare is an issue that bleeds into everything else in a person's life, and even if University management wants to focus on areas such as academic performance, healthcare is still essential to that because a student's academic results will obviously be hurt if someone has medical problems that are going unaddressed, and the only way we as a university can make progress on this front is by making sure they have as much

support as possible on campus.

8. Indigenous Officer

Following deliberations with Jumbunna regarding staff availability, student presence and the practicalities of holding events during the winter break, no formal NAIDOC Week celebrations will take place on campus this year. NAIDOC Week is an important celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Its origins can be traced back to the 1938 Day of Mourning, one of the earliest major civil rights gatherings in Australia, and it has since developed into a national week of recognition, celebration and learning. NAIDOC Week remains significant because it highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, culture, community contribution and continuing efforts toward justice and self-determination.

While NAIDOC Week is deeply important, it was agreed that the timing of NAIDOC Week during the university break would significantly limit student attendance and engagement. I will also be away during this period on a student exchange with Jumbunna, which further limits my capacity to support and coordinate events on campus. After looking into costs, I decided that the costs associated with organising the previously discussed NAIDOC Week events, such as hiring dancers and organising speakers, were considered disproportionate to the number of attendees we could confidently confirm at UTS during the winter break. Based off of this, holding formal celebrations during NAIDOC Week would not have been a useful application of our limited resources.
In place of NAIDOC Week celebrations, a small-scale weaving event and paired talk will be scheduled during the spring semester. This will allow the event to be held when more students are present on campus and when there is greater capacity to support meaningful engagement.

The yarning circle project is continuing to progress. I have been contacted by Mandy Kalan, the User Experience Manager for the UTS Library, who will be involved in the project from the Library's perspective. A meeting has been arranged for the 8th of July with Professor Robynne Quiggin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, to discuss the yarning circle and the documentation that has already been prepared. Mandy has also indicated that Maree Graham, Director of Indigenous Students and Community Engagement, may be in attendance. The current goal is for the yarning circle to be built by next year.

An internship opportunity with Penguin Random House Australia was also communicated directly to Indigenous Collective students as a professional development opportunity.

5.9 Postgraduate Officer

The UTSSA's letter to Vice-Chancellor Parfitt on the financial conditions facing postgraduate

researchers was sent on 13 June. The university has agreed to convene a meeting on the issue and is proposing to use one of Professor Penny Martens' regular HDR student forums as the venue, with both the letter and the response circulated to that group beforehand. I have been included directly as the Postgraduate Officer for the meeting.

I also opened a working relationship with the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA). The in-person meeting was postponed because I was ill and has been rescheduled to a Zoom call next week. The purpose is to align UTS postgraduate priorities with CAPA's national advocacy, particularly on the stipend issue, and to make sure the work happening here is connected into the federal-level conversation.

The grant application event for postgraduate researchers, which had been on the back burner, now has a co-organiser. Azra Ghasemzadegan, Social Media Officer of the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA) and a PhD candidate in Civil Engineering, reached out on 19 June after meeting Neeve at the HEDx Conference. I have committed to standing up the planning and to running it jointly with WUPA.

10. EthnoCultural Officer

This month was relatively quiet as I spent much of the period on leave and navigating the assessment period.

Despite this, I remained involved in a number of ongoing advocacy initiatives relating to anti-racism and cultural inclusion on campus. This included contributing to discussions and work surrounding definitions of Anti-Palestinian Racism and broader efforts aimed at strengthening the University's approach to addressing racism and supporting culturally diverse students.

With O'Day preparations beginning, I look forward to returning to a more active workload in the coming months.

11. Disabilities Officer

1. Special Consideration Discussion with Kylie Readman

I contacted Kylie Readman regarding concerns pertaining to the Universities Special Considerations framework and the distinction between Special Considerations and assessment extensions. In particular, I raised concerns that there may be a gap in recognising circumstances where students with disabilities or chronic illnesses have already received extensions or adjustments, but nevertheless experience a material impact on their academic performance due to a serious and unavoidable circumstance.

I noted that the existing Special Considerations framework appears to focus predominantly on remedies such as additional time to complete assessments (extensions) or deferred assessments.

While these accommodations are critically important, there may be circumstances where such remedies are insufficient to adequately address the disadvantage experienced by a student. For example, students may experience an acute deterioration in their health, hospitalisation, or another serious and unavoidable event during an extension period itself, leaving them with limited capacity to perform to their usual standard despite having technically received an accommodation.

I raised the possibility that the University consider whether there should be a mechanism for recognising these exceptional circumstances where the impact on academic performance persists despite prior adjustments having been granted. Such mechanism may look like a moderated scaling or contextual adjustment process where a standardised formula is applied to a student's raw assessment mark to account for the demonstrated impact of exceptional circumstances on their academic performance. The intention would not be to confer an unfair advantage, but rather to mitigate disadvantage where a student has experienced serious illness, disability related exacerbations, hospitalisations, or other unavoidable circumstances that have materially affected their ability to perform at their usual academic standard, despite having already received reasonable adjustments or extensions. Any such process would necessarily require robust evidentiary requirements and clear criteria to ensure consistency, fairness and academic integrity across the University.

More broadly, I emphasised the importance of ensuring that disability related policies are responsive to the lived realities of students with fluctuating and complex health conditions, and that the framework remains equitable, flexible and capable of addressing circumstances that do not fit neatly within existing categories of support. I am meeting with Kylie over the coming weeks to discuss the above issues in greater detail and consider whether there are opportunities for reform within the University's existing Special Consideration framework.

2. Accessibility x Vertigo Campaign

I have been in contact with the Vertigo team to try and organise a meeting to discuss my draft checklists for this initiative. I believe practical accessibility measures and checklists are important to ensure the Vertigo publications remains accessible for all. I have remained in communication with Emanie and the Vertigo 2026 team, regarding implementation of the initiative and have been seeking to organise a meeting with the team to finalise and implement the checklists before next UTS Students' Association meeting in July (29 July 2026).

3. Disabilities Collective Mid-Year Social Event Ideas

I circulated a Google Form seeking expressions of interest for a Disabilities Collective social event. At this stage, one response has been received, indicating they would prefer to attend a movie, in the morning, and would prefer free events.

4. Spring 2026 O'Day

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend Spring 2026 O'Day in person. Alana, the Disabilities Collective Convenor, will also be unable to attend. However, I intend to create disability and accessibility related resources which can be distributed at another UTS Students' Society Australia table on the day, ensuring the Disabilities Collective remains represented.

5. Accessibility Service Collaboration on MyTimetable Reforms & SLAC

I have contacted Chantel Le Cross, Project Coordinator within the Accessibility Service, to strengthen collaboration between the Disabilities Officer and the Accessibility Service and to seek greater continuity on a number of ongoing accessibility initiatives. I requested to be added to the SLAC Slack workspace and regular meeting mailing list so that I could remain informed with Accessibility projects and participate more actively in relevant discussions.
This correspondence also arose following difficulties I had experienced in maintaining regular contact with Liz Penny regarding initiatives, including MyTimetable accessibility reforms. While I had previously met with Liz and undertaken preliminary work in this area, including discussing potential reforms and gathering background information, I had been experiencing difficulties obtaining further responses and progressing the initiative. As a result, I sought to establish an additional point of contact within Accessibility to ensure that projects could continue to progress regardless of staff availability.
I also emphasised the importance of involving the Accessibility Service in future discussions with Student Administration regarding MyTimetable reforms, particularly given the team's institutional knowledge and understanding of funding arrangements and existing accessibility measures. To support these discussions, I provided Chantel with notes from my earlier meeting with Liz, outlining the history of the initiative and potential areas for reform.

More broadly, I highlighted the importance of maintaining a close working relationship between the Disabilities Officer and the Accessibility Service throughout each office bearer's tenure. Given that my term concludes in November, I believe establishing strong communication channels and continuity mechanism is essential to ensuring that longer-term accessibility initiatives are sustained and do not lose momentum between successive office bearers.

I look forward to hearing back from Chantel regarding whether there is scope to establish a more formal working relationship between Project Coordinators within Accessibility and the Disabilities Officer.

6. Meeting with Camila Perez re Carer's Campaign

I met with Assistant General Secretary, Cam Perez, to discuss a Carer's Campaign that we have been working on. We discussed organising an event, which is scheduled for Tuesday 11 August at 11am in the Wellbeing Space. I understand this may serve as the launch event for the Carer's Campaign and could involve collaboration with the Crafter-Noon Club. We are yet to formally

approach the club regarding this possible collaboration. This approach is informed by feedback from Disabilities Collective members, who have expressed a preference for low-impact, accessible and informal activities that do not require significant social or physical exertion. One student specifically suggested a craft-based event, noting that activities which allow students to engage at their own pace can feel more inclusive and less intimidating than larger, structured events. In light of this feedback, I believe a collaboration with the Crafter-Noon club would align well with the preferences and accessibility needs expressed by Disabilities Collective members.
We also discussed the development of pamphlets and information cards containing information relevant to student carers, which could be distributed at the event and more broadly across campus.

Closer to the event date, I intend to discuss the proposed event and associated budget requirements at the next Disabilities Collective meeting, and subsequently seek approval through the relevant UTSSA meeting, including, a spending motion to cover some light refreshments.

I also understand the Meet the Reps event is planned for later in the semester, potentially the following week.

7. Disabilities Collective Coffee Catch Up

The Disabilities Collective was notified via email on 8 May that the next Coffee Catch Up would be held during the Spring University semester.

8. Disabilities Collective Meeting

The most recent Disabilities Collective Meeting was held on 22 May via Zoom. The next Collective Meeting will be held during the Spring University semester.

12. Queer officer

Unfortunately for the majority of May and the beginning of June I had to take sick leave from the UTSSA and on Friday last week I had my wisdom teeth removed. All of this is to say unfortunately the queer collective has not had a very productive two months because of my health issues which led to my absence. I want to give a big shout out to my convenor Rohen who kept the ball rolling as much as possible and held meetings and followed up on queer collective happenings in my absence.

One big thing that did happen was the queer collective held its first event for the year in junction with the darlings club. This was held on Friday the 19th of June and it was an afternoon of video and board games that from what I have heard was quite successful. Another online games night is currently in the works as well with help of our events officer Matthew.

We sent out a semester round up email this past week and in it we included a call out to all of the queer collective for people to put in expressions of interest for an autonomous queer publication which we are hoping to fulfill through vertigo, but conversations about the logistics of this are yet to occur. So, the main goal for this that I have in mind to get the ball rolling as much as possible through July and keep momentum into the second semester so we can hit the ground running on this project with our publications officer Tye.

Overall, we hopefully have some big things coming up in the second semester!

13. Environment and Technology Officer

The most interesting part of this month, apart from normal collective business, has been a meeting of the AI operations board, as well as a handful of strategy meetings in the lead-up, to help formulate a plan regarding the use. of AI at UTS in the coming years.

From a teaching and learning standpoint, the further integration of AI was talked about in terms of staff using AI to reduce time spent on administrative tasks, possibly including course design and material preparation. Optimistically, this was posited as a way to give staff more time to engage with students personally or in small groups. Other implications include plans to incorporate more 'simulations' as a form of teaching and testing, particularly in health and science, and practice exam agents to design an almost unlimited supply of practice questions for students to use for pre-exam study. AI skills will also be included in all degrees. Will be billed as degrees that teach students how to use AI in the workplace, but without making them reliant on it.

In operations, proposals to automate some aspects of student services, mostly email responses, have been billed as a way to cut down on response times to student inquiries. Could work if the priority is student experience and not cutting costs.

I also raised concerns around the roll of conscientious objections, noting that many students are against ai due to moral or environmental concerns. I was assured that unless the subject specifically focuses on AI/computing use, so students will be forced to use AI in a class or assignment.