

March 2025 SRC MINUTES

26/03/2025 | 6:30pm | CB11.04.202

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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

Neeve Nagle	Welfare Officer
Samiha Emran	Education Officer
Olivia Lee	Women's Officer
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Harshvardhan Suvarna	International Student's Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	Environment and Technology Officer
Amelia Ireland	Disabilities Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Eamonn Ryan	Councillor
Dirk Hoare	Councillor
Alessio Maiese	Councillor
Lucia Thornton	Councillor
Yasmine Johnson	Councillor
Elliot Kameron	Councillor
Ella Haid	Councillor
Omar El-Sobihy	Councillor
Bianca Drummond	Vertigo
Jonnie Jock	Vertigo
Lisa Windon	Staff
Adam Levett	Observer
Tyberius Seeto	Observer

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Bhargav Choudhari	Postgraduate UTS Council Representative

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Elliot Kameron	Yasmine
Chloe Ferreira	Neeve
Vaishnavi Omar	Januka

1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

No one makes any declarations.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Mia: Asks if anyone has issues with any of the minutes up for approval,

Neeve: Checks whether collective minutes needs to be approved.

Mia: Confirms Collective Minutes do not need to be confirmed by SRC

2.1. February 2025 SRC Minutes

2.2 January 2025 SRC Minutes

2.3 Reps Elect 2025 SRC Minutes

2.4 November 2024 SRC Minutes

All minutes above are confirmed as a true and accurate records.

2.1. Executive Business

Januka tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from several Executive Meetings.

2.5 04.02.2025 Exec Minutes

2.6 14.02.2025 Exec Minutes

2.7 03.03 2025 Exec Minutes

2.8 16.03.2025 Exec Minutes

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Mia: states she will address issues in her report

4. Correspondence

No correspondence received at time of meeting.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Mia: explains flight cancellations prevented her from returning from a trip and without her laptop was unable to submit on time.

Mia's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Mia submits their report in writing to Januka and reads this aloud.

Lucia: asks whether Mia meant the Uni had stated that classes with under 100 students enrolled per session would be changed to only run once a year.

Mia: Confirms that this is the current plan and has been working to challenge this. While also pushing to get democratically elected Student Representatives to be involved in this process.

Jonnie enters room at 6:49PM

5.2. General Secretary

Role had been resigned at time of the Meeting.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Januka takes report as read.

5.4. Education Officer

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

Speaks to upcoming Special Considerations Working Group, mentions if anyone has any suggestions they wanted to share to please email her.

Also attending Accident Inclusion plan meeting, the same group that did SRC accessibility design training and mentioned it would be great for other SRC members to join.

Makes a point relating to that accessibility training, wanted Officers to make sure they were following readability accessibility for social media posts.

Will create a schedule for the Know your rights campaign and share that so that it can be completed prior to Stu Vac.

Lucia: Asks about action over budget cuts and how they can get involved.

Samihha: Is currently speaking with students to gather names of supportive lecturers ahead of time, so they can approach them without catching them off guard. Asked the group if anyone has ideas for identifying or contacting lecturers.

Neeve: Speaks to doing a relevant degree but that is still primarily word of mouth with it still difficult to find emails for tutors.

Johnnie: Mentioned knowing faculty members who are opposed to the cuts and who run large classes. Suggested creating a shared document of lecturers.

Mia: Explained that so far, most outreach is through word of mouth. Mentioned that getting emails is the toughest part but if anyone had any the UTSSA could reach out. Agreed with creating a shared document and asked if Samiha could do that.

Samiha: Confirmed she would create the document.

Bianca: Suggested that people can email heads of faculties. Added that you can search staff online for particular faculties and find their names.

Mia: Explained that with their names we can attempt sending emails to `firstname.lastname@uts.edu.au` and while some emails may not be correct it will have some effect.

5.5. Welfare Officer

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

First went to the SCLG meeting, Was received well but was given the excuse of not having heard of the housing issues previously, as there is no avenue to communicate with housing management.

Had a meeting with Facilities management, they did give them options for a new space. Suggested three options, the first the current pantry space but that would have blocked one of the only areas with student accessible microwaves. Second place was near the underground, at the old food court. Was dark, unfurnished and unclean.

The option that was acceptable was the space in the concourse where the vending machines currently are, which will hopefully become the permanent space.

Bianca: Asks how it would look.

Mia: That it would primarily look similar, but would be a storage place for permanent services as currently a large amount of time is spent setting up which without would allow the service to run for extended periods. Also allows space for fridges so potential for the expansion of food options.

Neeve: Also mentions meeting Mia had with Housing Management reflective of ongoing discussions to make improvements.

5.6. Women's Officer

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

In terms of events, on Friday Collaboration with the Public Speaking Society and then on Sunday walk for Endometriosis.

Speaks to working on the Period Product survey to be completed for next month

Also mentions working on NDA, commends everyone who took part and speaks to the importance of protecting Academic Freedoms at University.

5.7. International Students' Officer

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

Mentions upcoming workshop with the Fire department to be in May. Took part in a meeting with the Australian Human Right commission where discussion centred around Asians students being exploited as cash cows.

Speaks about trips with collective and delays, talks about working to Collaborate with Postgraduate Collective to assist it in growing.

Has been working hard with Raghav and SUPRA to get the NSW International Students Representative Committee Registered as an official organisation.

Speaks to continued focus on Opal card program and asks for assistance from SRC in getting the required petition signatures while working with other universities.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

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

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

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

Samiha: Asks questions about report.

Brings up concerns with the meeting with the Indian Consulate General which was included in the report as work in her capacity as Postgraduate Representative, asks what was discussed.

Mia: Suggests in Vaishnavi's absence that those questions could be sent to her via Email.

Harshvardhan: Mentions that he was also at the meeting. Raghav had gone to it last year and this was a follow up, primarily an introduction with a discussion of agenda for future meetings.

Mia: Express that Samiha can still email any remaining concerns to Vaishnavi for further answers.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma: Speaks to difficulty in remembering to submit her report on time due to being focused on the NDA and at the same time going through Ramdan.

Salma's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Salma submits their report in writing to Januka and reads this aloud.

Salma: Asks for anyone who witnesses/faces any issues relating to Palestine but also any form of discrimination to let her know to be potentially be a part of the Inquiry.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

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

Keen to discuss further during the upcoming motion about the sunflower campaign, something she has been focused on in order to bring the University up to the standard of most other Universities.

5.12. Queer Officer

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

Mentions last Monday they held a Collective meeting to elect the Queer convenor and two social Media officer. While during previous meeting there was discussion on events over the coming year.

Also flags that there will be a National Day of Action for Trans Visibility day on Sunday 30th 2pm, Pride Square, Newtown.

5.13. Environment Officer

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

Speaks to success with Bi-weekly gardening.

New collaboration with Cornerstone to compost coffee grounds, while also collaborating with Clean up Australia. While difficulties with Red Cross Society Collaboration due to their president changing.

Mention work on AI board is progressing slowly because discussion is over issues six months down the line.

Tyberius: Asks about AI operations board regarding whether the issue of the use of AI on the environment is being brought up.

Sina: Says he will ask in future, but main focus is on the AI services and the potential for students to be punished for using them.

Mia: Explains the board is more about the Academic implications of AI.

Sina: Agrees only and adds that usually the only other issues brought up are staff issues.

6. Other Reports

6.1 Vertigo Report

Bianca: Speaks to production of the next edition being nearly complete for April,

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

No reports requested or required.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1. Banner Paint Dinner Reimbursement

Action: That the UTSSA reimburse Mia Campbell \$203.49 for dinner obtained for attendees during the Banner Paint for Palestine held on Thursday, 20 March 2025.

Mover: Neeve

Second: Olivia

Mia: Reads Motion.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.2. Queer Collective Floor

Action: That the UTSSA approve \$4,125 for the cost of replacement carpeting in the Queer Collective space, as per attached quote from Allan's Floor Covering.

Mover: Daewah

Second: Olivia

Mia: Explains motion adding that the current space's carpet is extremely old.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.3. Queer Collective Sink Removal

Action: That the UTSSA approve \$814 for the cost of removing the sink in the Queer Collective space, as per attached quote from Robinson Plumbing.

Mover: Mia

Seconders:

Mia: As mover withdraws motion for further consultation with Queer Collective before approval.

Motion withdrawn

7.4. Enviro Collective Convener

Action: That the UTSSA confirm Rose Saskena as the Enviro Collective convener for 2025, in accordance with the internal election results from the Enviro Collective meeting held on 15/03/25.

Mover: Sina

Seconders: Olivia

Sina: Explains that Saskia was elected convener at the last collective meeting.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.5. Enviro Collective Expenses

Action: That the UTSSA approves a budget of 300 dollars for gardening expenses over semester 1 2025 in accordance with the vote to approve the spending at the Enviro meeting held on 15/03/2025.

Mover: Sina

Second: Neeve

Sina: Explains Gardening every two weeks requires varied expenses, sunscreens, gloves and other unexpected spending so an upper spending is included.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.6 Queer Convener Confirmation

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Confirm El Potts as Queer Convenor for 2025 in accordance with the internal election results from the Queer Collective meeting held on 24/03/25.
2. Confirm Maxie D'Ambrosio and Matthew Egerton as Social Media Officers for 2025 accordance with the internal election results from the Queer Collective meeting held on 24/03/25.

Mover: Daewah

Second: Neeve

Mia: Reads out Motion

Neeve: Mentions it was rushed due to need to get it in by 6:30pm, mentions mistake with the Collective meeting minutes. Accidently says El had been elected Ethnocollective officer.

Mia: Makes it clear that collective meeting minutes do need to be approved by SRC, noting that it was rushed because she got stuck in Perth and Neeve had to come in to do it last minute.

The motion passes unanimously.

Johnnie: Asks about clarification of roles including Convenor and Social media officer.

Mia: Explains the role of Convenor as a role required for all collective focused on the collective rather than student representation. Then explains that last SRC Social media officer was created at and was elected at the last Collective Meeting. Mentions all collectives can create new roles but need to be approved by SRC.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. UTSSA Condemns Management for Banning Anti-Sexist Poster

Preamble

Two days before International Women's Day, UTS management banned a poster which had been advertising a meeting titled "Why are teenage boys so misogynistic?". This meeting had been organised to discuss rising sexist attitudes among teenage boys, who, in recent times in particular, have drifted to the right. Numerous recent findings point to this, such as a recent Monash University study which reports that female teachers and students in Australia are facing an alarming rise in sexist behaviour from male students. This is particularly inspired by the online "manosphere" led by notorious misogynists like Andrew Tate - whom 25% of teenage Australian boys claim as their role model.

Our meeting also pointed to the fact that, across the world, a political divide is growing between young men and women, with young men increasingly supporting the notion that women's rights have gone "too far" or "far enough".

Not least, we noticed a particular confidence for young men to assert their support for Donald Trump and heckle left-wing students for handing out flyers for this event on campus. We spent a week facing group after group of young men who confidently asserted their love for the racist, sexist, American president - in fact several of these young men were proud to label themselves as sexists.

At the meeting, a first year student described how only a few weeks prior male students had been using the zoom chat function to comment "attractiveness scores" such as "6/10" each time a woman spoke in a business lecture.

On the day of our meeting, UTS management were contacted by at least one male student on campus who complained that he felt "unwelcome and stereotyped" by the presence of these posters. The next morning, UTS management directed us to take all of our posters down immediately, as they risked causing further distress to teenage boys. What should be shocking to any student unionist is that management justified this directive by claiming that it contradicted UTS' equity policy.

We reject the use of policies, which should be in place to respond to discrimination on grounds such as sexism, racism, and homophobia, now being used to silence female students for holding a meeting about the real rise in sexist ideas. The fact that our university is more concerned about protecting the feelings of men who don't like the sight of an anti-sexist poster, than the actual rise of misogynist ideas itself, is reprehensible.

The politics of anti-sexism and solidarity should be foundational in student unionism. In this vein we thank the President of the NTEU for attending the Speakout Against Sexism and for contacting the University requesting an explanation and apology for their actions.

Platform

The UTSSA condemns UTS management for banning this poster, and for siding with sexist students instead of defending anti-sexist student activists.

Action

1. The UTSSA President will write an email to management informing him of our stance and requesting an apology

2. The UTSSA will share this motion to its social media

Mover: Ella

Seconder: Lucia

Ella: Background to the motion is a meeting which was called Why are teenage boys so misogynistic? Regarding the rise of right-wing politics around young men.

However two unknown young men complained about the poster saying it made them feel unwelcome

Mia: One of those was like 50.

Ella: This would be funny if it wasn't for Management siding with them. With Security taking down posters.

With management arguing that equity meant no one should feel uncomfortable even if it is fighting against oppression.

They held a rally in response and faced huge backlash from young men defending Andrew Tate when advertising.

Rally was successful with Staff in attendance but was disappointed that no one else but organisers from SRC was there, important that there is a left-wing presence to oppose misogynists.

Lucia: Disappointing rise in right wing teenagers, has been flyering in preparation for this meeting and was constantly harassed by men saying they love Trump. Represents worries development in the world with a move towards to the right. Was disappointing to see management side with these groups and reiterates the importance of SRC members joining to oppose these forces.

Mia: Explains speaking list.

Mia Speaks for: Is for but only requests that the Mover or Seconded can write the letter mentioned in the Motion as she is focused on other important issues that she is already in the process of working on. Otherwise, letter will take longer to be sent out.

Alessio Speaks Against: Begins by stating gender equality is important and a priority.

But that he is only opposed to the motion on the basis that it is Socialist Alternative being upset about getting in trouble, and opposed to the precedent, that whenever they get in trouble in becomes the UTSSA's problem.

Mia: responds on behalf of UTSSA

That on this issue everyone can recognise this is an issue effecting everyone, If the University's view is that anything that makes someone uncomfortable is banned regardless of whether it's fighting oppression it affects everything the union does and is not just a political issue relating to Socialist Alternative. Maintains that this is not a purely political motion and would not be precedent for protecting Socialist Alternative in the future.

Amelia Ireland: Agrees with motions, rejects Alessio statement and states that opposing misogyny is a Union issue. Is apologetic for not making the rally and sorry that Socialist Alternative faced those issues. Compliments advertising for the Rally and commends motion.

Mia: asks for more speakers against, there being none allows Neeve to speak for.

Neeve speaks for: Mentions she would have been at the Rally but needs to work full time which something that would have prevented many SRC members.

19 Votes in Favour:

1. Mia Campbell
3. Januka Suraweera (Holding Vaishnavi's Proxy)
5. Neeve Nagle (Holding Chloe's Proxy)
6. Samiha Emran
7. Olivia Lee
8. Daewah Thein
9. Harshvardhan Suvarna
10. Sina Afsharmehr
11. Amelia Ireland
12. Salma Elmubasher
13. Omar El-Sobihy
14. Lucia Thornton
15. Yasmine Johnson (Holding Elliot's Proxy)
16. Elliot Kameron
17. Ella Haid
18. Eamonn Ryan
19. Dirk Hoare

1 Vote Against:

1. Alessio

Abstentions:

None

The motion passes.

8.2 A Fighting Fit Unionist- Solidarity with Mathew Jeffery

Preamble:

The UTSSA condemns the recent removal of Matthew Jeffrey - the democratically elected President and Chair of the University of Newcastle Student Association (UNSA), by the University of Newcastle (UON) and the CEO of UNSA.

Matthew Jeffrey is a staunch and determined unionist that was dedicated to transforming UNSA into a fighting fit student union that actively fought for and represented students at the University. He constantly pushed back against University inaction and UNSA CEO interference to enact real reform to strengthen the union.

Committed without any proper notice or input to the rest of UNSA and the students at UON, the removal constitutes an unprecedented and unconstitutional attack on a unwavering voice that completely undermines the democratic will and decision of students. It is a shameful and naked abuse of power by unelected individuals to silence and halt staunch unionism.

The UTSSA stands in full solidarity with UNSA President Matthew Jeffrey and the students at UON affected by this undemocratic attack by their University and their

UNSA CEO. It calls on the University of Newcastle to reverse its decision and reinstate Matthew Jeffrey as President and Chair of UNSA.

Platform:

That the UTSSA:

1. Resolves to stand in solidarity and in support of Matthew Jeffrey, the democratically elected President and Chair of UNSA.
2. Acknowledges and condemns the inherent danger and precedent this sets for staunch and critical unionism.
3. Acknowledges that in reference to the UNSA Constitution point 42.4; "The directors cannot remove a director or auditor. Directors and auditors may only be removed by a Voting Members' resolution at a General Meeting", the removal of Matthew Jeffrey as President and Chair of UNSA is unconstitutional.
4. Calls on the University of Newcastle and the University of Newcastle Student Association to reverse their decision, and reinstate Matthew Jeffrey as President and Chair of UNSA.
5. Calls on the National Union of Students to support Matthew Jeffrey and their efforts to reverse the decision of the University of Newcastle.

Action:

1. UTSSA will send a copy of this motion to the following organisations;
 - a. The University of Newcastle Student Association
 - b. The National Union of Students
 - c. Any other affected and relevant parties as determined by the UTSSA

2. UTSSA will publish the preamble of this motion on social media.

3. The UTSSA will encourage all elected representatives to sign the open letter using the following link. Sign the letter here.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFfcd9Bfl-ecAs3Mg-oWgQfQ-rfZhPZUNB9wg96k1AGIPdAg/viewform?fbclid=IwY2xjawJN0ntleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUf15XM57iPt8HRm4sqpuu8wyOtzryM95CINHoxCwv61zPRdqn4iHUbEMg_aem_kuB3qWMhzeC7jEaTIUI0cg

Mover: Ameila

Second: Daewah

Amelia Ireland Explains motion is solidarity with Matthew, who was democratically elected and removed by CEO and has been interfering with his Campaigns.

Says removal of democratic president is an dangerous president for all unions. Removal of a President should have been done by the constitution and removed by the SRC. Instead removed by undemocratically by the CEO completely disregarding the constitution.

Neeve: Asks for reasons for removal given by the University as there was confusion.

Amelia Ireland: He was facing academic caution and was removed by the CEO on that basis. Argues that a caution alone does not constitute enough to remove an elected president and ignoring the constitution.

Alessio: Asks for amendment would support if Amended:

Amend platform point 2 to read "Acknowledges and condemns the inherent danger and precedent this sets".

Motion is not Amenable to mover, does not get a seconder.

Amendment not adopted.

Lily: Speaks Matthew having being involved in Palestinian protests, suggested it was actually a targeted attack and the academic stuff was only smoke screen reflective over general University crackdowns on Palestine activists. States Matthew has been long-term activist with the left and that it is important we show support.

Mia: Speaks to the importance to help other student unions become like USYD, UTS AND UNSW. In that they act independent from management, and that Matthew was trying to do that.

19 Votes in Favour:

1. Mia Campbell
3. Januka Suraweera (Holding Vaishnavi's Proxy)
5. Neeve Nagle (Holding Chloe's Proxy)
6. Samiha Emran
7. Olivia Lee
8. Daewah Thein
9. Harshvardhan Suvarna
10. Sina Afsharmehr
11. Amelia Ireland
12. Salma Elmubasher
13. Omar El-Sobihy
14. Lucia Thornton
15. Yasmine Johnson (Holding Elliot's Proxy)
16. Elliot Kameron
17. Ella Haid
18. Eamonn Ryan
19. Dirk Hoare

1 Vote Against:

1. Alessio

Abstentions:

None

The motion passes.

8.3. Partnering the UTSSA with the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

Preamble

A goal of the Disabilities Collective for 2025 was to partner the UTSSA with the Hidden

Disabilities Sunflower. The UTS Disabilities Collective recognises the need for the UTSSA to partner with the scheme, to raise awareness for hidden disabilities, to improve outcomes for disabled students and to ensure that the UTSSA is holding UTS to the same standard of disability inclusion as other universities.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is a globally-recognised symbol for non-visible disabilities, also known as hidden disabilities or invisible disabilities. It raises awareness for Hidden disabilities, which often go unnoticed or ignored in students and staff as they are exactly that; hidden. Increasing awareness of invisible disabilities will improve the lives of students and staff living with a hidden disability, by ensuring that the wider student and staff population are aware of what the sunflower represents, and acts as a way of expressing the needs of students without having to verbally disclose a disability.

Students with disabilities make up 6.3% of people attending university or other higher education, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. In 2021, 10% of domestic undergraduate higher education students aged 15 and over self-identified as 'having a disability, impairment or long-term condition'. Students with disabilities are a large portion of higher education students, and they deserve better. Partnering with the sunflower scheme would help support these students through; awareness from staff and other students, feeling as if they have a place at university and make sure that students with disabilities are able to access the same standard of education that a non disabled student would.

Many universities across the country and around the world have partnered with the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme to improve the lives of students with disabilities.

These include multiple Australian universities: The University of Sydney, The University of NSW, Australian Catholic University, RMIT, Deakin University and the University of Queensland, among many others. Four out of Eight of the Group of Eight Universities are partnered with the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower. Partnering UTS with the sunflower scheme would bring it to the same standard as other universities on disability inclusion.

It is the opinion of the 2025 Disabilities Officer and Disabilities Collective, that the \$1000 Professional plan would best suit the UTSSA. The Professional Plan includes; full sunflower training, a sunflower location map, webinars and disability resources like the Invisible Disabilities Index and a 10% discount on sunflower products such as the lanyards, pins and wristbands. This plan would allow the UTSSA and the UTS Disabilities Collective to give out Sunflower products for free to students and staff with disabilities. We believe that the professional plan best suits the UTSSA due to its status as a not for profit organisation, as opposed to a corporation. The price difference of \$1500 between the corporate and professional plans does not seem to be worth the unspecified 'features' and extra 5% discount.

Below is a table for price comparison. More information can be found [here](#).

Plan Type Price Includes

Basic \$500 • Full sunflower training

- Sunflower location map
- 5% Discount on Sunflower Products

Professional \$1000 • Full sunflower training

- Sunflower location map
- Webinars
- Invisible Disabilities Index
- 10% Discount on Sunflower Products

Corporate \$2500 • Full sunflower training

- Sunflower location map
- Webinars
- Invisible Disabilities Index
- Inclusion tips
- Features
- 15% Discount on Sunflower Products

Partnering the UTS Students Association with the sunflower scheme would improve the lives of so many students at UTS.

Action

That the UTSSA:

1. Approves spending of \$1000 to partner with the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme Professional Plan.
2. Commits to renewing this subscription annually, ensuring that the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower remains accessible to students with disabilities.

Mover: Amelia Ireland

Second: Daewah

Amelia Ireland: Explains the motion

Brings out lanyard with sunflowers as something she always keeps and to talks to the importance of increased resources to give out lanyards for free with the partnership.

Speaks to work on the project as her brainchild over the past couple months. States motion follows other universities to improve inclusion and is a step in the right direction.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

Mia: Speaks about large volume of work with University delaying her in responding to emails, especially recent difficulties of being stuck in Perth. Mentioning a need to prioritise issues from students over internal UTSSA emails alongside that she has the right to disconnect outside of office hours.

Discussion on whether Cameras should be installed in Old UTSSA Office

Mia: Then mentions incident of ripped down posters within the SA office. Had talked to security and is looking into who has done it, may be an issue with door being left open.

Security mentioned possibility for camera, which previously was not used as the room always had a receptionist. Mentions Camera is not monitored only to be looked at if issues occur and will not have sound. Wanted to bring this idea to SRC for discussion.

Neeve: Speaks to it being a good safety measure since there is no sound, especially with a large amount of student use it could be important if something happens.

Mia: Mentions Staff concern that it could make SA liable if things occur that anything against UTS policy occurs in the room.

Yasmine: Concerns of management seeing breaches of policy with camera, example of teenage boys posters being removed. Concerned with Security not being always friendly and it would risk the independence of the union.

Mia: Suggests Idea for UTSSA to have its own camera where only the SRC has access to footage.

Salma: Suggest if we cannot get our own camera, there could be strict rules on closing the doors to

succeed.

Mia: Also room for a contract with security to define what video can be used for.

Omar: mentions the concerns with things like campus access possibilities limiting students freedom, if the cameras cannot be UTSSA run .

Amelia Ireland: Speaks to the importance of maintaining control over Camera or contract but is worried about the student safety so not opposed to a camera.

Mia: Will look into quotes for installing a Camera.

Discussion on Rules around Filming on Campus

Mia: Moves on to potential new rules by Security against filming on campus.

Mia: Does not want a new rule to hinder the Union but recognises that recording others is currently a intimidation tactic used against members of the SRC

Yasmine: Speaks about Security claims that they cannot be recorded and that in many cases rules are just used against students.

Omar: Its seems unacceptable to have a policy against recording Security since they can record students, in terms of policy however since they are already looking at making a rule it may be better for us to be involved.

Neeve: Commends the importance to balance power with the university, if there is going to be a policy important that UTSSA has an input.

Salma: Speaks to having faced the situation of being recorded as intimidation. Still considers it important to be able to record students who are being violent to ensure their own safety.

Omar: We are agreed we need to engage with Security but may be good to hire external service to get advice on appropriate way to deal with the issue.

Mia: Will look into it in general alongside reaching out to see if any Staff want to assist.

Lily: Refers to free speech in general under attack, the University brining in policy will likely not be good for students. Mentions the Right has been doing it for a long time and has concerns there is not much that can be done about it. Previously they have solved this by pushing people out of

rallies. Using security to decide this is risky as to who's side they would take.

Salma: Doxxing in relation to recordings, and it's important to get recorders to stop is something that security can do, which is why they talked to security.

Johnnie: Should be clear to allow recording of stalking harassment etc. with clear categories although concedes it is tough for to be clear.

Chole: Mentions potential to have the focus on what is done with the recording, not recording itself, so that you can raise it when it was improperly.

Salma: Mentions the issue is people can lie about who did, refers to example when inappropriate recording occurred the people who filmed denied it but later it ended up on the AJA.

Mia: concludes opinion of SRC is that we are opposed to the policy because it would likely be used against us.

Discussion on SRC Volunteering

Mia: Refers to previously passed motion about SRC volunteering at Bluebird Pantry or Cooking classes. That people need to ensure they make the time they selected or at least let them know when they cannot make it. Will be sending request for Volunteers again

Discussion on Director of Student Publications

Tyberius: Asks whether the DSP position has been dissolved?

Mia: Responds no one ran for it as due to the reform the General Secretary handles production and so it is unlikely anyone will run for it again.

Discussion on Wikipedia Page

Alessio: Brings up the UTSSA Wikipedia page being out of Data.

Mia: Responds the Wikipedia page was set up by a former Councillor and not a official page of the UTSSA, therefor any member such as Alessio can update it.

Discussion on Afterpay Stall

Tyberius: Brings of the recent Afterpay stall at UTS and whether the UTSSA was planning a response

Mia: Expresses opposition to the stall as it encourages students into debt and states she is open to anyone writing a motion on the issue.

10. Close of Meeting at 8:24pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

President's Report – March 2025

Campaign for Palestine

I'm so proud of the work that was done by members of the SRC in the lead up to the National Day of Action for Palestine today. We had the largest turn out for a rally that we've had in a really long time, and I thought that the rally itself was empowering and showed strength in the campaign.

At Academic Board this morning, I raised concerns regarding the UA definition of antisemitism, particularly the claim that antisemitism includes "calling for the elimination of the State of Israel." I noted that this aspect of the definition has been labelled "dangerous" by the Jewish Council of Australia and that no state has a legal right to exist under international law. I questioned whether UTS could commit to not punishing students or staff for calling for the elimination of the State of Israel and whether UTS would resist any attempts by a future Liberal government to implement the IHRA definition through the Higher Education Standards Panel.

The Vice-Chancellor responded that UTS will continue to support freedom of speech. The Vice-Chancellor also said that UTS has not adopted any definition of antisemitism to date. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that the IHRA definition and the French Model Code on Academic Freedom are in conflict, and this would need to be resolved before any adoption. There was recognition that academic freedom includes legitimate debate on the State of Israel and its government's actions. The VC also mentioned that the National Student Ombudsman (NSO) has indicated they will adopt the IHRA definition.

I will continue monitoring discussions on the adoption of an antisemitism definition and academic freedom policies.

UTS Budget Cuts Campaign

The NTEU rally on March 12th was another successful rally that I was happy to be involved in speaking at and organising for. I have sent the open letter that the SRC decided to create and promote at December SRC to the VC and am awaiting a response.

At the Teaching and Learning Committee meeting last month, I raised concerns about the lack of planned student consultation on key academic decisions. While the Faculty Courses Committee will be consulted on course cuts,, this committee does not include democratically elected student representatives, meaning there is no formal avenue for student input. In discussions on class reductions, it was noted that larger class sizes are unlikely, but faculties and schools will need to reassess how underperforming subjects are delivered. For courses with enrolments of up to 100 students, offerings could be reduced to just once per year. I challenged this, noting that it was inconsistent with my experience in that a lot of classes are already only offered one semester per year. I asked whether student feedback would be considered in decisions about course offerings, particularly for electives that consistently receive poor feedback. The response was that student satisfaction scores (SFS) are only one of many factors considered, alongside fail rates and enrolment trends. I also questioned whether democratically elected students would ever have a structured opportunity to voice concerns if SFS was not a primary consideration, and was told that this is not currently planned but that this was possible.

Further, data to note from this morning at Academic Board – UTS said that despite recent legislation on student visas not passing, across the sector applications have dropped by 20% across international students and visa approvals have decreased by 26%.

Sexual Violence at UTS

UTS has recently conducted another external review of its student misconduct processes, which identified significant gaps in clarity, procedural fairness, and institutional response mechanisms. The review found that the Student Rules are complex and difficult to navigate, contributing to delays and confusion in handling student behaviour concerns. It also highlighted the lack of an internal investigative capability, inconsistent policies, and insufficient resourcing to support

misconduct case management. To address these issues, the review recommended clearer definitions of misconduct, a coordinated approach to case management, improved procedural fairness, and a whole-of-institution strategy to create a safer community. While these findings reinforce the need for urgent reform, it remains unclear how effectively UTS will implement these recommendations to prevent further harm in student spaces.

This is very timely as yet again, I have been made aware that delays in formal processes in these situations have prevented immediate action to protect those affected. This has led to ongoing distress, forced interactions between complainants and the respondent, and a broader impact on student wellbeing. This particular situation highlights ongoing systemic issues in how UTS handles these matters, particularly in student-led spaces, despite clear evidence that these environments pose significant risks. I have called for urgent intervention from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Director of Student Services and Respect.Now.Always to address these concerns and ensure better protections for students.

Setting up the New UTSSA Offices

This past month, I've also been moving everything into the new UTSSA offices and trying to arrange the set up in CB01.03.60. Once again, I encourage everyone to reach out to me if they would like to have input in this process. Ideally I would like the new offices to be ready at the end of next week for OBs to start working from.

2. Assistant General Secretary

Throughout March, I continued my work on social media, with posts supporting the push back against cuts alongside updates to the website. I supported the upcoming

NDA, not only by attending the banner paint but also creating material. I also served as the returning officer for the enviro collective and kept financial records up to date.

I created a series of graphics for an Instagram carousel and story explaining the situation around UTS's planned cuts alongside Mia's petition which went up after the last SRC meeting. Alongside this I've been preparing to include my "Meet your collectives" as video's featured on each collective's page to serve as a permanent interactive introduction to the collectives for students to view.

Otherwise, I spent time attending the NDA planning meeting and banner paint in support of the ongoing effort to the protest. I also created material specifically for

engineering students in order to attempt to engage a different segment of the student population with the protests.

I also continued general work in keeping financial records of the funding passed at the SRC meetings, which I will be doing an analysis of for future SRC meetings so that we can better assess the funding required for different events and other regular SRC expenses.

In terms of assisting collectives with their internal elections I assisted Sina for the Enviro collective's election as the returning officer and I have met with Vaishnavi about running the Postgrad collective's internal elections. I will also be serving as the returning officer for the Postgrad Collective as the returning officer for over the next month.

3. Education Officer

Know Your Rights Campaign

The script for the 'Know Your Rights' campaign has been finalised and reviewed by caseworkers Lisa, Jennifer, and Christina. Planning has commenced, and the campaign rollout is scheduled to begin at the end of next week, aiming for release the following week. This timing aligns well with the week before STUVAC, ensuring maximum student engagement.

Access and Inclusion Plan

Reflecting on my previous term as Disabilities Officer, I was involved in the accessibility plan and will be attending the Access and Inclusion Plan Co-design Session 2 next

month. This session will provide insights into the progress made, and I encourage SRC members to join, as student voices are particularly valued in this committee compared to others.

Special Consideration Policy Reform

One of my key long-term priorities is reforming the Special Consideration policy. We have established a working group for this initiative, and I have drafted initial proposals for discussion and development, which is taking place tomorrow.

Budget Cuts

In response to recent budget cuts, we attended the NTEU protest and created graphics for our social media platforms to amplify awareness. Additionally, our social media

accounts are now active. I am collaborating with a contact who has compiled a list of compulsory subjects from the DAB and FASS faculties. This will enable targeted lecture bashing, as many students remain unaware of the impact of these cuts on their courses.

National Day of Action Strike

We participated in the National Day of Action strike, standing in solidarity against ongoing genocide in Palestine. As part of this effort, I have created graphics to raise awareness, ensuring that students remain informed and engaged in these pressing issues.

Intersectionality and Education

A post has been published on our social media discussing the intersectionality between Gazans' education and collective struggles. This highlights the broader systemic

barriers faced by marginalised communities and emphasises the importance of educational access and equity.

Next Steps

- Finalise filming dates for the 'Know Your Rights' campaign rollout
- Continue research on how better I can execute STUVAC study giveaways
- Attend the Access and Inclusion Plan Co-design Session 2
- Further develop proposals within the Special Consideration working group
- Organise lecture bashing sessions to inform students about budget cut impacts
- Continue social media advocacy on how to further advocate for Palestine and HOW TO: manage all forms of hate from antisemitism, Islamophobia to xenophobia that is uprising.

4. Welfare Officer

This month has been a productive one for the Welfare Collective, with significant progress made behind the scenes.

Securing a Permanent Space for Food Services

We met with UTS space developers to discuss securing a permanent location for our food services. While the meeting was constructive, we were again offered two

unsuitable spaces. One was the Blue Bird Pantry space, which we firmly rejected as unrealistic. Placing food services there would restrict student access to microwaves during peak periods, directly undermining its intended function. The second option was in the former food court near UTS Underground, which we deemed too hidden and lacking visibility.

We were then presented with an alternative space within the Concourse. While this is not the retail space we originally aimed for—since UTS plans to lease that to a commercial seller—it is still a viable option. We are open to exploring how this space can be developed to meet the needs of students.

Student Council Liaison Group Meeting

Mia and I attended the Student Council Liaison Group meeting to push forward our two previously tabled papers. The discussion was largely positive, though frustratingly, UTS Housing once again claimed they were unaware of key student concerns—particularly regarding fee increases and the revocation of licence agreements. Given that UTS

Housing is the only student accommodation option available, it is unacceptable that students have no structured avenue to voice their concerns.

Moving forward, Mia and I are working towards securing a dedicated meeting with Housing management to address these issues properly. I also want to acknowledge Mia's contributions, especially in meeting with Housing representatives when I was

unavailable. This campaign would not be possible without her dedication, and I hope we can maintain this momentum in April.

Looking Ahead

Both of these key campaigns—securing food service space and addressing housing concerns—are slow-moving but essential. Our goal is to achieve tangible progress on

both before the end of the year, and we will continue pushing for meaningful action from the University.

5. Women's Officer

Coffee and Chat event

On the 2nd of March, I held a Coffee and Chat event for WoCo at Two Chaps in

Marrickville. Unfortunately I had a lot of people drop out. However it was lovely to get to meet the one person that attended and she is keen to get a lot of her friends involved in STEM at UTS involved.

WXSTEM and WoCo IWD Picnic

On the 9th of March, WXSTEM and WoCo held a picnic for IWD at the Botanical Gardens. It was a lovely day out and it was great to make new friends. I am hopeful that the women from WXSTEM will come to more WoCo events.

Mic and Muse

The collaboration between PSS and WoCo is FINALLY happening! On the 28th of March from 6pm-9pm we will be holding an open mic night where people will be sharing stories about inspirational women in their lives.

Walk for Endometriosis

On the 30th of March, WoCo will be doing a Walk for Endometriosis and will be encouraging donations to be made towards Endometriosis Australia. We will be doing the Barrenjoey Lighthouse walk. I will also be promoting the event with informative posts around Endometriosis.

Period Products Survey

This is something I intend to focus on for April. I hope to get the promotion set up and distributed both online and in person.

6. International Students' Officer

March was an eventful month with significant developments in student advocacy, safety initiatives, and policy discussions. Below is a summary of the key activities and achievements for this month.

1. International Student Voice Conference – 5 March 2025

I attended the International Student Voice Conference at the University of Sydney, where

student leaders, academics, and policymakers discussed international student advocacy, representation, and support. The discussions focused on affordable housing, employment rights, mental health, and transport concessions. I contributed by sharing UTS initiatives and engaged in meaningful discussions to improve international student welfare. This event was an excellent platform to network, exchange ideas, and collaborate with key stakeholders.

2. Fire Safety Workshop Planning – 19 March 2025

In collaboration with Lauren Murty, I scheduled a fire safety workshop for international students. The session, to be conducted in May, will be an important initiative to educate students on fire hazards, safety precautions, and emergency response.

3. Interview with Australian Human Rights Commission – 20 March 2025

I participated in an interview with the Australian Human Rights Commission to discuss racism faced by international students and how students are often treated as cash cows and exploited in various sectors. This discussion provided a crucial platform to voice the challenges faced by international students and advocate for stronger protections and policies.

4. Meeting with Australian Human Rights Commission – 27 March 2025

I will be participating in a meeting with the Australian Human Rights Commission as part of their study on racism in Australian universities. The research focuses on the experiences of Asian and international students and staff, with the aim of developing actionable policy recommendations.

The team, convened by Think Change Resolve, is conducting focus groups for this project. We are working closely with The Ethics Centre to ensure a safe and respectful discussion environment, while managing data with care and sensitivity.

5. Meeting with Postgraduate Officer – 29 March 2025

I have scheduled a meeting with the Postgraduate Officer to discuss plans for the upcoming

international students' trip during STUVAC (Study Vacation). This initiative aims to provide students with an opportunity to explore, relax, and foster community engagement before exams.

6. NSW International Students Representative Committee Registration – 18 March 2025

Throughout February and March, I worked towards registering the NSW International Students Representative Committee as an official organization. On 18 March 2025, we successfully achieved registration—a major milestone for international students in NSW. This is a significant step in ensuring better representation, advocacy, and support for international students across the state.

Conclusion

March 2025 was marked by strong advocacy efforts, collaborations, and policy discussions.

The successful registration of the NSW International Students Representative Committee stands out as a key achievement, alongside meaningful engagements with human rights organizations, policymakers, and student leaders. Moving forward, our focus remains on enhancing student welfare, increasing awareness, and fostering a more inclusive university environment.

7. Indigenous Officer

Enter Announcements

8. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Progress:

1. Organised the first Networking event of Postgraduate Collective.
2. Connected with over 50 postgraduate students to understand their experiences and to help them with their concerns.
3. Attended the meeting at Consulate General of India to represent the students' association alongside other university representatives to put forward the

concerns of students.

4. Started planning and organising resources for the upcoming career workshop for postgraduate students, in collaboration with UTS careers and UTS alumni.

Upcoming Plans:

1. Organise career workshop for postgraduate students to give them the opportunity of interacting with industry professionals.
2. Organise a one-on-one interaction with career coach for postgraduate students to get resume help.
3. Organise a second networking event for postgraduate students which would be more focused towards professional interaction and building a professional community.
4. Start the process for convenor elections for the Postgraduate collective.

9. Ethnocultural Officer

Ethnocultural Officer Report for SRC (March 2025)

Introduction

March was a busy and challenging month for the Ethnocultural team, as we focused on planning the National Day of Action (NDA) for Palestine, advocating for Palestinian student rights, and dealing with some unexpected setbacks. Along with these efforts, we've been working closely with Mia from APAN on the People's Inquiry into Restrictions on Free Speech on Palestine.

1. National Day of Action for Palestine

Our main priority this month was organizing the National Day of Action for Palestine, an event aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing support for Palestinian students on campus. We worked with the National Union of Students' Ethnocultural Officer to coordinate efforts nationally and share resources for the event.

However, the planning wasn't without its challenges. One of the biggest issues we faced was the removal of our NDA posters, which were ripped down multiple times across campus. We've reported the incident to UTS Security, and an investigation is currently underway. This situation was frustrating, as it hindered our ability to promote the event, but it also reinforced the hostile climate around Palestinian activism on campus.

2. Working with APAN

We've also been working alongside Mia from APAN on the People's Inquiry into Restrictions on Free Speech on Palestine. This initiative is focused on exposing how Palestinian voices are being silenced, not just on campus but in wider political spaces. We've contributed to gathering testimonies, organizing meetings, and preparing evidence for the inquiry, which is something we'll continue to focus on in the coming months.

3. Palestinian Advocacy and Security Concerns

Throughout the month, our attention was squarely on the NDA and addressing security issues, including the destruction of our posters and the broader safety of Palestinian students on campus. These challenges continue to highlight the need for stronger protections for student activism and free speech.

Conclusion

March was a month where we pushed hard for Palestinian student rights, despite facing obstacles like poster vandalism and ongoing security concerns. Our work with the NUS and APAN remains vital to making sure Palestinian voices are heard and respected, both at UTS and in broader discussions. We'll continue to advocate for the protection of free speech and work towards creating a safer environment for all students.

10. Disabilities Officer

March has been a productive month for the Disabilities Collective, with finally

holding a quorate meeting and regular coffee catchups. We have been receiving regular website signups due to the posters around campus and regular coffee catchups at Cornerstone Cafe. In preparation for the National Day of Action for Palestine, the Disabilities

Collective compiled a range of accessibility information and a route map for the protest, allowing students with disabilities to better access activism on campus. The disabilities Collective will continue to do this for further actions.

I have also worked with the President and the Collective on the Sunflower Scheme Campaign. We have put up a motion for the March SRC meeting to be discussed by the SRC on affiliating with the sunflower scheme. A goal of the Disabilities Collective for 2025 was to partner the UTSSA with the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower. The UTS Disabilities Collective recognises the need for the UTSSA to partner with the

scheme, to raise awareness for hidden disabilities, to improve outcomes for

disabled students and to ensure that the UTSSA is holding UTS to the same standard of disability inclusion as other universities.

I have also continued to send out monthly newsletters to update members on the upcoming events, campaigns and meetings of the Disabilities Collective, and the feedback from these has been great.

11. Queer Officer

Last Monday 24th we elected our queer convenor for the collective as-well as our two social media officers. I wanted to congratulate El, Maxie and Matthew for their

victory. The previous meeting on Monday 17th we discussed things we wanted to do

with the collective. Some of those included events and renovation works within the collective.

There will also be a national day of action for Trans Visibility day on Sunday 30th 2pm, Pride Square, Newtown.

12. Environment Officer

I have been involved in quite a few things this month, mostly actioning what I was planning to do last month and planning out new projects for next month.

Community gardening:

We have started to regularly do the gardening every two weeks now. I had to overcome a few challenges to get to this point but the main ones were having a system for rotating volunteers because the garden only has capacity for five at a time and making sure appropriate preparation is made for different weather

conditions.

We have also started picking up coffee grounds from Cornerstone Cafe and they have been really good to work with so far. Because of this success, I want to look

into other food waste that we can use for compost on campus in the future beyond just coffee grounds.

Clean Up Australia:

The Enviro Collective attended Clean Up Australia day 2025. Besides the obvious benefits of the volunteer work, this was a great opportunity to meet and build relationships with other groups on campus such as UTS Red Cross and the Hiking Society.

Meetings:

The enviro collective had two successful meetings this month. I am very happy to see that members are interested in getting positions in the collective and running events.

AI operations board:

I attended the first meeting of the year this month. As UTS begins to roll out new technology such as AI chatbots into courses, I will try my best to advocate for students.