

March UTSSA SRC Meeting 29.03.23

6:30pm Minutes

Attendance:

- Members
 - Will Simmons (General Secretary)
 - Nour Al Hammouri (President)
 - Zebadiah Cruickshank (Assistant General Secretary)
 - Kurt Cheng
 - Peter Munford
 - Mia Campbell (Welfare Officer)
 - Harry Ryan
 - Rose Mores
 - Alylin Cihan (Women's Officer)
 - Jacqui Bodill
 - Rose Mores
 - Joseph Naffa
 - Saihej Singh
 - George Pond (Disabilities Officer)
 - Boris Tam (Environment Officer)
 - Sara Chaturvedi (Queer Officer)
 - Adrian Lozancic
 - Mariam Yassine
 - Bailey Riley (Indigenous Officer)

- Observers
 - Alisa Hamilton
 - Joe-Hathaway Wilson (Vertigo)
 - Daewah Thein
 - Adam Levett
 - Dirk Hoare
 -

- Other
 - Biljana
 - Jennifer
 - Fran
 - Lisa

Proxies Received

1. Areejz Slamang
 - 1.1. Anna Thieben
 - 1.2. Sara Chaturvedi
 - 1.3. Boris Tam
2. Bailey
 - 2.1. Will Simmons
 - 2.2. Zebadiah Cruickshank
 - 2.3. Harry Ryan
3. Laura Currie
 - 3.1. Harry Ryan
 - 3.2. Zebadiah Cruickshank
 - 3.3. Will Simmons
4. Anna Theiben
 - 4.1. Sara Chaturvedi
 - 4.2. George Pond
 - 4.3. Boris Tam
5. Joy Xu
 - 5.1. Mia Campbell
 - 5.2. Saihej Singh
 - 5.3. Rose Mores
6. Ali Sobh
 - 6.1. Adrian Lozancic

Agenda:

1. Opening of Meeting
 - 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country
 - 1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair
 - 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies
 - 1.4. Declarations of Interest
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 - 2.1. January (RepsElect) SRC Meeting
 - 2.2. Emergency SRC Meeting
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Office Bearers' Reports
 - 5.1. President
 - 5.2. General Secretary
 - 5.3. Assistant General Secretary
 - 5.4. Education Officer
 - 5.5. Welfare Officer
 - 5.6. Women's Officer

- 5.7. International Students' Officer
- 5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer
- 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer
- 5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer
- 5.11. Disabilities Officer
- 5.12. Queer Students' Officer
- 5.13. Environment Officer
6. Other Reports
 - 6.1. Committees
 - 6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.
 - 6.3. Vertigo Report
7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.
8. Other Business Arising on Notice
 - 8.1 Handbook Reprint
 - 8.2 Vertigo Research
 - 8.3 Committees
 - 8.4 Food Pantry
 - 8.5 Condemn Hate Motion
 - 8.6 No Extra Charge for Alt. Milks Motion
 - 8.7 Hybrid learning campaign Motion
9. General Business
10. Close of Meeting

Minutes: 6:34pm

1. Opening of Meeting: 6:34 pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Given by Nour Al Hammouri.

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

Motion: to elect Will Simmons as Deputy Chair

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Bailey

Dissent: n/a

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Will: I have received four proxies and apologies:

- Kurt Cheng
 - **Mariam Yassine (accepts)**
 - Mia Campbell (Mia)
 - Nour Al Hammouri
- Peter Munford
 - **Saihej Singh (accepts)**
 - Rose Mores
 - Mia Campbell
- Harry Ryan
 - Laura Currie
 - Zebadiah Cruickshank
 - **Will Simmons (accepts)**
- Ali Sobh
 - **Adrian Lozancic (accepts)**

1.4. Declarations of Interest

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes 6:36pm

2.1. January (RepsElect) SRC Meeting

Motion: to confirm the updated minutes of the January (RepsElect) SRC Meeting

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: George Pond

Dissent: n/a

2.2. Emergency SRC Meeting

Motion: to confirm the updated minutes of the Emergency SRC Meeting

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Bridie O'Kelly

Dissent: n/a

2.3. February SRC Meeting

Motion: to confirm the previous minutes of the March SRC Meeting

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Bailey Riley

Dissent: n/a

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

n/a

4. Correspondence

Nour: accessibility has cut funding for peer tutoring, they are coming to the UTSSA, we don't have the tools, brought it up with CSIJ, HEP funding was cut, so accessibility was cut, offered us disability training, they are giving us some of their tutors, this came up this

Geroge: Can I attend in the future?

Will: can we take that service?

Lisa: this deserves it own meeting

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Take as read
See Appendix

5.2. General Secretary

Take as read
See Appendix

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Taken as read
See Appendix

Zeb: supporting the voice to parliament, coalition building for it, Gong is supporting our motion. Now that state election is over we will begin focusing on that.

5.4. Education Officer

Taken as read
See Appendix

5.5. Welfare Officer

Taken as read

See Appendix

Mia: reminder we are running a wellbeing walk during stuvac, I'd encourage people to come along.

5.6. Women's Officer

Taken as read

See Appendix

Aylin: we had our women in media, it will be detailed in next report.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer

No report was received

Bailey: voice campaign is kicking off, running specialized training, online and in person, we should put our efforts into that.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

5.12. Queer Students' Officer

Take as read

See Appendix

Sara: it has been a scary time for queer people, with Posie Parker, and rise of religious extremism, cancellation of rallies with safety concerns, trans day of visibility will be this saturday, trans people deserve our support.

5.13. Environment Officer

Take as read
See Appendix

6. Other Reports 6:46pm

6.1. Committees

n/a

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

Biljana's Report

Report: Student Engagement and Project Update

This report outlines the recent student engagement and outreach activities of our organisation. It focuses on the outcomes of our first newsletter campaign, social media performance, and new sections added to our website.

Newsletter Campaign Engagement:

In March, we sent out our first newsletter to approximately 10,000 UTS students. The open rate for this campaign was 40%, which is above industry average. The students were most engaged with content about the Pantry and Women's Panel event. We received positive feedback from the students regarding the content, and they showed a keen interest in upcoming events and updates.

Social Media Performance:

Our organisation is active on various social media platforms, and we have been successful in reaching out to the student body. Our most engaging post in the last month was 'Meet Your Student Reps – in partnership with Night Owl,' which reached over 1600 people. Additionally, our 'back on campus' post for Bluebird and Night Owl reached over 1700 students.

Website Development Projects:

In the last month, we have added two new sections to our website. The first section is for SRC case studies, highlighting the work SRC and Collectives do that have a positive impact on students. This will provide more visibility to the work we do and inspire students to become more involved. The second section is for Volunteering at the Bluebird Pantry. This section aims

to encourage students to volunteer and support our initiative, which provides food assistance to students in need.

Conclusion:

Overall, our recent student engagement and outreach activities have been successful in generating interest and participation from the student community. We will continue to develop our outreach strategies and welcome any contributions from SRC members and Collectives.

Mariah's Report

March 2023 has been a busy month with a return of students to campus and all services (aside from Bluebird Brekkie) being more in demand than ever. Night Owl has seen large amounts of patrons with routinely 500 – 700 students attending each event. An issue with unreturned bowls and cutlery (more than 200 items each night) has forced the event to go entirely BYO (container and cutlery) from next week. This does fit with the sustainability aspect of the event and we hope students embrace this change.

From an administration point of view our annual audit is complete and the auditors are finalising the Financial Report. This will be presented in next month's SRC to review and approve. The migration of UTS Student Legal Service to UTS is now complete.

Fran: stats from reception, 82 misc.emails, case worker 76, 74 peer tutoring - march is historical high, group collective we had 27, office visits 93,

Lisa: outline of what we do, 60 exclusions jan-feb, we provided drop in sessions, had 50 students, 37 new misconduct matters,

Idea of what students come to see us about - ramp up on HDR, supervisor issues, scholarship appeals, late withdrawal, recognition of prior learning, seeking course advise, census date, results.

Lot of different reasons

Nour: increase in ChatGTP?

Lisa: not yet. Lots of Quilbot.

6.3. Vertigo Report

Joe speaks to his report

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements. 6:56pm

n/a

8. Other Business Arising on Notice 6:56pm

8.1 Handbook Reprint

Motion: to approve \$2000 for a reprinting of roughly 200 copies of the UTSSA 2023 Handbook, with an additional payment for Designer Mary Morrish of \$300.

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Harry Ryan

Will Simmons' Amendment: 'that the utssa approve \$2000 for a reprinting of roughly 200 copies of the UTSSA 2023 Handbook, with an additional payment for Designer Mary Morrish of \$300'

Amenable to mover: Yes

Dissent: n/a

Procedural Motion: to have a 20 minute recess for Iftar

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Mariam Yassine

Dissent: n/a

Meeting is resumed at 7:17pm

8.2 Vertigo Research

Motion: to approve an upper spending limit of \$30,000 for a research project into the future of Vertigo and UTS student publications.

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Zebadiah Cruickshank

Dissent: n/a

Biljana speaks to the value of the research

Will speaks to the funding number

Nour reads the research quote:

Jacque: how well defined is the project scope? Consultancies are looking to minimise the scope to do less work.

Biljana: it is very defined to sample size, and weighting, and deliverable.

Nour: we will circulate this.

8.3 Committees

Motion: *That the UTSSA elect this ticket (Rose Mores, Harry Ryan, Joseph Naffah) as the Policy Review Committee.*

Moved: *Will Simmons*

Seconded: *Rose Mores*

Dissent: *n/a*

Peter leaves at 7:24pm no proxy

Peter returns 7:25pm

Sara: What policies, is it our policy?

Nour: yes this is our policy, and keeps track of our policies.

Motion: *That the UTSSA elect this ticket (Bridie O'Kelly, Harry Ryan, Saihej Singh) as the Finance Review Committee.*

Moved: *Rose*

Seconded: **Joseph**

Dissent: *n/a*

Motion: *to appoint Natasha Lloyd and Eliza Lo Russo to the Grievance Committee as the student members.*

Moved: *Will Simmons*

Seconded: *Mariam Yassine*

Will's Amendment: *'that the utssa appoints Natasha Lloyd and Eliza Lo Russo to the Grievance Committee as the student members.*

Amenable to mover: *Yes*

Dissent: *n/a*

8.4 Food Pantry

Motion: *to approve \$500 a week for the next 10 weeks (\$5000) for the operation of the food pantry, totalling \$6000 for the semester.*

Moved: Will Simmons

Seconded: Zeb

Dissent: n/a

8.5 Condemn Hate Motion

Motion: The UTSSA endorses the upcoming Trans Day of Visibility, and condemns hate-speech on campus.

Moved: Sara Chaturvedi

Seconded: Geroge

Sara's Amendment: 'That the UTSSA endorses the upcoming Trans Day of Visibility, and condemns hate-speech on campus.

Amenable to mover: Yes

Dissent: n/a

Sara speaks to the motion

Nour reads the amendment.

8.6 No Extra Charge for Alt. Milks Motion

Motion: To engage in a campaign for no extra charge for alternative milk on campus.

Moved: Boris

Seconded: Geroge

Dissent:

Nour: let's not repeat the mistakes of the past and waste time arguing about milk

Will: If you want to move this motion I suggest an amendment to make it broader and call for a price cap on all Activate food and drinks.

Peter: From my experience, Activate will not care about this

Bailey: UQ offers \$2 coffee, we should do something similar

Nour: alternative cost extra because alternative milk costs extra,

Mia Campble leaves at 7:35pm proxies to Bridie

Boris: Is there is wider support for a price cap campaign?

Will: you can get broader support.

Zeb: While I personally think we should support dairy farmers, we should support the undermining of Activate.

Boris withdraws motion.

Motion is Tabled

8.7 Hybrid learning campaign Motion

Motion: *To support the NUS collaborative hybrid learning campaign*

Moved: *George Pond*

Seconded: *Boris Tam*

Georges's proposed amendment: *'That the UTSSA support the NUS collaborative hybrid learning campaign*

Amenable to the mover: *Yes*

Dissent: *n/a*

Mia returns at 7:38pm

George: NUS is launching a campaign.

Procedural Motion: *to take a recess*

Moved: *Will Simmons*

Seconded: *Zebadiah Cruickshank*

Dissent: *n/a*

Meeting Resumed at 7:40pm

Sara reads the preamble of the motion.

George moves amendment

Bailey: learning needs to be accessible, we need more options for students, we need to do this to achieve equity,

Peter: on hybrid learning, the council has discussed there is a need to retain online learning, your student reps are looking to retain it

9. General Business 7:43pm

n/a

10. Close of Meeting 7:43pm

Appendix

Collated OB Reports March SRC

Nour Al Hammouri President's Report

Meeting with VC Andrew Parfitt

- On the 13th of March, Will and I had the opportunity to meet with Andrew and discuss the UTSSA with him.
- We had great discussions about UTSSA's direction for 2023, with which he sounded very pleased.

- I did bring up our BlueBird Brekky funding, Will and I felt that he supported more funding for that service, but we would have to work on it through a different lens.
- Will got to speak with Andrew about the future directions of Vertigo, the archiving and the formation of our new Vertigo Committee. It affirms our position in wanting to upgrade Vertigo.

Meeting with Kylie Readman

- Kylie focuses quite keenly on the new AI challenges that have arisen and has begun forming working groups to which students will make significant contributions. I'll keep you guys updated on that and will disseminate info if spots open in any of those areas.
- I also mentioned Vertigo with her once again, and she also sounded quite keen on the new Vertigo Committee that we're forming and would appreciate it if we focused on research. Kylie is interested in Vertigo's ability to respond to student needs.

Meet Your Reps

- We've had two Meet Your Rep events held at Night Owl this month! Thank you to everyone who helped out. We saw massive lines at those past two Night Owl Noodles, with over 500 people each night — tremendous efforts by all staff and people involved.
- We heard a lot of positive comments about the services and differing perspectives on how the UTSSA should be operating, which is always good conversation.
- We'll be relaunching this event, but we're partnering with members of the UTS Council, ActivateUTS and Us with the new corflutes we've printed. This should help elevate our voices.

Launch of #RacismNotWelcome campaign at UTS

- A little bit ago, UTS launched the #RacismNotWelcome campaign. We've become the first university in Australia to adopt this, so we should be happy with that.
- However, we can't let them stop there - so I will be liaising with CSJI on the direction forward and see what more we can do.

Will Simmons General Secretary's Report

In my last report I mentioned the Vertigo/NEWSWIT Archive project with the library. Since then we have had some promising updates. Firstly, Simon Cootes (Manager, Collections and Discovery) and Julie-Anne Marshall (Repository and Digital Preservation) have taken a look at our collection and are very keen to pursue the project. We had an individual from the Canadian Centre for Architecture asking us to reproduce some material from an issue from 1976, which clearly demonstrates an international appeal for this project, and the value of preserving our history. This year marks the 50th anniversary of our student magazine, we can ideally have the 1973 issues digitally preserved relatively soon. This might drum up some attention to fighting for more vertigo funding.

The Vertigo Committee is set to meet for the first time this week Thursday, and I am looking forward to working together to better Vertigo, and secure its place in the future of UTS.

Myself, and Nour have met with Andrew Parfit, President and VC, the meeting was relatively successful and he showed a keen interest in the possibility of a 3 year funding agreement and providing more resources to food services. Hopefully, Kylie is open to this as well.

I would also like to note the acceleration in anti-trans, fascist organising on the streets of Sydney and Melbourne in recent weeks. Student Unions must commit by any means necessary, to fighting fascism and bigotry. In the streets, in our parliaments, and in our classrooms. In doing so express my solidarity to the trans community.

Zebadiah Cruickshank Assistant General Secretary's Report

Not received

Anna Thieben Education Officer's Report

TD Electives update:

Transdisciplinary mandatory electives have been introduced to students in the science and FASS cohorts in second year this year. These electives focus on exploring real world issues and solving problems posed by community stakeholders using group work. These will be introduced to all students (with some exclusions such as those doing the BCII degree and students doing double degrees e.c.t) within the next few years. The EAG has discussed concerns with the introduction of these electives with a focus around their mandated nature. We have spent the last few weeks gathering more information on TD electives and putting together a student survey.

I met with staff in the TD school to discuss these electives. They explained that university management made the strategic decision to introduce these to all students. They have developed quite a strong system for student feedback and were interested to get students more involved in planning the new elective courses. So far they have found students quite receptive. The EAG will have to discuss this further. If you are studying these subjects and have any feedback please let us know.

Staff Strikes:

The NTEU at UTS has endorsed their agreement after a 20 month long campaign and multiple strikes in 2022. They have won 110 new permanent jobs to current casual academics, gender affirmation leave, 3% Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander employment targets, 10 day domestic violence leave for casual staff and workload protections. They were fighting for a pay rise, which they got, however it is not in line with inflation. Staff down the road at USYD are still fighting management in their EBA. It was good to see members of the UTS EAG on the pickets line a fortnight ago. We will continue to show our support for actions in the coming weeks.

Mia Campbell Welfare Officer's Report

In March, we held our first meeting for the year, where we discussed our plans for the upcoming semester/month. The meeting was well-attended, and we received valuable feedback from members of the collective about the direction that the collective will be heading in this year, and what events we will be planning.

Coming up, we have made plans for a Wellbeing Walk for World Health Day, which will be held on April 13th. The Wellbeing Walk is aimed at supporting students' mental health during stuvac and providing a space for first-year students and other new students to meet new friends and get involved in the UTSSA. We believe that this event will be well received and will provide much-needed support to our members during a challenging time.

In addition, we plan to create a video that will show students where the Bluebird Pantry is. This video will help students locate the pantry easily and access the resources they need. If anyone else is interested in being involved in the creation of the video showcasing the Bluebird Pantry, please let me know.

We still have several goals that we aim to achieve for the current semester, including increasing membership and improving communication. There are several challenges that we may face in achieving our goals, such as a lack of student recognition of the collective. To overcome these challenges, I plan to be a bit more active on our social media platforms to get their name out more.

Aylin Cihan Women's Officer's Report

The Women's Collective had an amazing start to March this year by holding an informative giveaway of baked goods with tea and coffee to raise awareness for International Women's Day on March 8. This year's theme was all about embracing equity as opposed to equality as equal opportunities aren't enough and so true inclusion and belonging requires equitable action. We were able to get over 100 signs up for the collective and created a trivia game where we would ask women the importance of IWD and which organisation could help women and gave away prizes to those who answered correctly. Certain prizes include pads, tampons, lotions and an orchid. We had been able to give away so many baked goods as we had received a lovely donation from a bake shop called Cornucopia Bakery located in

Naremburn to support the cause. Overall we had an amazing IWD and were able to spread this year's theme to many students at UTS and raise awareness for the amazing charities out there that can help women.

This month on the 28 th of March we will also be holding our Women in Media panel in collaboration with the Journalism Society and Communications Society. We were able to secure 4 amazing panellists to come speak at our event and give mentorship advice to women who may be entering into that industry to create networking opportunities. I was also able to chat with an SBS producer for a program called insight where they are creating an episode discussing how consent education has change. I was given the opportunity from the producer to connect her to some students at UTS who are willing to chat about consent education and even go as far as be interviewed to go on the program to create connections in that industry. Ultimately, the Women's Collective this month has been able to create many opportunities for women on campus and further the initiative to bridge the gap between students and the workforce by establishing new connections and networking prospects.

Joy Xu International Students Officer's Report

Not received on time

In March, I conducted multiple media interviews in the capacity of international students' officer at the UTS student association, to address collective concerns over opal concession, support from UTS, a pathway to permanent residency and so on. I have also attended the public hearing on the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Department of the House of Representatives. I referred to multiple suggestions on UTS's submission and answered the questions from the Chair and the members on Australia's higher education system.

The social media of International collectives is keeping growing and attracting more members joined.

Bailey Riley Indigenous Officer's Report

Not received

Laura Currie Postgraduate Officer's Report

In the past month, I have liaised with Biljana alongside members of the SRC and HDRs to spark some ideas for the postgraduate collective. As the postgraduate collective has not had much major works in the making over the past couple of years, I am working towards some bigger aims to expand the collective and to provide some initiatives for postgraduate students.

Firstly, by spreading the word of the collective and to inform postgrads that we exist, and are here to make some changes for the better, and to give some ideas on how to do this. Alongside

spreading the word, I am working on recruiting postgrads to join the collective and help make a change towards improving facilities available for us.

Secondly, Biljana and I have thought of a major work to aim towards regarding a combination of magazine/newspaper especially curated for showcasing achievements of postgraduate students to motivate them in their research/work as they will have the potential of being published on our articles. This will be on trial this year and we are aiming to print these out per-semesterly to gauge the costs and success of our motivation.

Thirdly, I will be in liaison with HDR student association to think of some potential collaboration and to receive some ideas on what we can work towards this year to improve HDR student life, motivate them in their research, alongside potential collaborations in hosting talks and networking sessions for postgraduate students wanting to get a foot in the work field, as well as offering some internship opportunities from external faculties where possible.

A QR code and link to the google forms and promotional materials for abovementioned postgraduate article submissions will be worked towards in the next month, and update will be provided in the next OB report.

Arjeez Slamang Ethnocultural Officer's Report

This month was a little bit more active for the ethnocultural collective. At the start of the month I attended the Sex Work Decriminalisation rally alongside our Queer Collective and Environmental Collective officers which was being run by the National Union of Students, USYD Women's Collective and USYD Queer Action Collective.

The rally aimed to demand the reforming of the anti-discrimination act, right to work for migrants and international students, WHS in the sex industry and ultimately, full national wide decriminalisation — I believe it was important to show support for these efforts as they ultimately have a significant impact on our poc communities.

Later in the month I was in contact with Elaine Laforteza from UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion who gave us the opportunity to attend and be apart of her anti racism events on campus in celebration of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the event due to personal reasons.

I've also been reaching out to a few scholars who focus on racism and anti racism in hope of having an educational panel where we can hear their experiences with racism in the workplace and educational spaces and learn how they over come it and address these issues. I believe this event will greatly benefit our students of colour.

George Pond Disabilities Officer's Report

Over the month of March I have called another meeting with the disabilities collective which will happen on Monday the 27th.

I have met with Isabella Harding again in regards to the hybrid learning campaign as well as the rally itself that happened in Bankstown on the 10th of March. It was not the most successful campaign as many people could not attend. The campaign is instead going to make a turn towards an online approach to accommodate more people and hopefully be more successful. This would involve mass emailing, phone banking and a petition that would be submitted to the minister of education.

In addition to the collaborative hybrid learning efforts I have also been in touch with the UTS Academic Liaison Officers (ALOs). It is their job to act as a middleman between accessibility and the faculties they serve under, ensuring disabled students get the best possible access to education at UTS. I emailed all of them and several have gotten back to me with more information on how hybrid learning is being run between faculty or course. Others I have set up meetings with to further discuss this and other issues.

I had a zoom meeting with the ALO of accounting which went very well, he is now bringing our concerns to the associate Dean of business and will update me later this week with more information.

I have also met with the ALO of Communications and she had suggestions, with the addition of reaching out to accessibility and requesting an invitation to the ALO forum which is a forum that happens at UTS after each teaching session to discuss accessibility in the past and future.

Sara Chaturvedi Queer Officer's Report

It's been a scary time for Queer students this month, with the presence of Kellie-Jay Keen in Australia, resurgence of neo-Nazis, and a trend of rising violence against the queer community. The Queer Collective emphasises now more than ever, the importance of trans rights and protection. Recent rallies and protests have been cancelled as a result of safety concerns and growing hateful sentiments have been seen in media. On the 22nd of March, UTS FASS held an event featuring guest speaker Peter Boghossian, long-time collaborator with white supremacist Stefan Molyneux, and whose career is entirely based in academic fraud in gender studies. The UTS Dean of the Arts who facilitated the event is a proud transphobe, condemning trans activists for pushback against Kellie-Jay Keen, and reposting fear-mongering and harmful articles against trans people. The Queer Collective alongside the Disabilities Collective managed to book out bulk of available tickets beforehand. Majority of collective members did not attend, save for a few members who attended to deliver an open letter to Boghossian, critiquing his viewpoints. The letter is yet to have a response. This, alongside transphobic comments made by USYD emeritus staff Bronwyn Winter and

Colin Wight show that this is not an issue outside of university. This is happening on campuses, and it is happening to us. The Queer Collective will continue to provide a safe space for students who are impacted by the current trend of events. Trans Day of Visibility is coming up on the 2nd of April, and I hope to see many of you at the rally!

Boris Tam Environment Officer's Report

The start of the month began with the first climate centered rally and march of the year. The turnout was admittedly mild, however, it was very encouraging to see a handful of students attend as a result of reading the leaflets that were being distributed in front of B1. The intention is to signify that there is a space for climate activism at UTS, and that this message spreads to other students that may be interested.

Following this, the Enviro collective held its first official meeting, which reinforced the notion that the profile of the collective is rising. In this meeting we reviewed the building for the March 3rd Climate Rally, and how it can be improved, and planned ahead. The upcoming events we focused on was the Violet Coco rally and Green Week. The rally for Violet Coco was built through social media promotion and our capacity to create social media graphics are improving with more member participation, which was delegated during the meeting. For Green Week, we are holding a stall, as well as a movie screening. This was decided on during the meeting. A workshop was held on Tuesday the 21st of March to inspire and educate members on zine creation, and we will distribute these zines at Green Week, along with other designs from the collective, such as placards and posters.

There was a respectable turnout to the workshop and there is a clear passion for radical zines, however I misjudged the time commitment and mental creativity required to make a zine and some zines were left unfinished. I will learn from this for the next event by providing more prompts to facilitate the zine making. A protest held on the same day also impacted event participation.

Upcoming, we are excited to participate in more upcoming protests, however as a general observation, the increasing volume of action is dividing up the commitments of members, and as such I have low expectations for event participation. This also coincides with a busy period in the academic calendar for assessments.

Vertigo Team's Report

Over the past month, the Vertigo Editorial Team has continued our roll-out of Vol. 1. At the time of writing we have successfully put just over 75% of copies on stands. This experience has also been highly useful for gauging which student publication stands are best situated around campus and which ones can be relocated.

The VET have also discussed and finalised the logistics for our 2023 printed suite. We expect to print five issues throughout the year, with release dates set for February, April, June, August and October. We have had funding approved for four of these issues and will request funding for the fifth and final issue with the rest of our semester two budget midway through the year.

Meanwhile, all other efforts have been put towards heightening digital engagement with the publication. Over the past week, VET members have been studying the minutes of previous team meetings with BigFish (our website providers) and have arranged another meeting with the planned outcome of redesigning our website to be more accessible. Additionally, *Vertigo* will soon be launching two new weekly series through Instagram Reels, one with a focus on the professional and creative endeavours of individual students, and another, more comical series examining the fads and fashions of student life around campus.

We have also begun collaborating with the UTS Library student life podcast, Student Hacks, who plan to feature VET members regularly on the bi-weekly. We have also discussed the possibility of co-hosting a podcast that highlights the feats of various academic staff and/or honours and masters students.

Collated Motions March SRC

8.1 Handbook Reprint

Motion: to approve \$2000 for a reprinting of roughly 200 copies of the UTSSA 2023 Handbook, with an additional payment for Designer Mary Morrish of \$300.

8.2 Vertigo Research

Motion: to approve an upper spending limit of \$30,000 for a research project into the future of Vertigo and UTS student publications.

8.3 Committees

Policy Review Committee

Preamble: The following have nominated for the Policy Review Committee as a ticket for the election.

1. Rose Mores
2. Harry Ryan
3. Joseph Naffah

Motion: That the UTSSA elect this ticket (Rose Mores, Harry Ryan, Joseph Naffah) as the Policy Review Committee.

Finance Review Committee

Preamble: The following have nominated for the Finance Review Committee as a ticket for the election.

1. Bridie O'kelly
2. Harry Ryan
3. Saihej Singh

Motion: That the UTSSA elect this ticket (Bridie O'kelly, Harry Ryan, Saihej Singh) as the Finance Review Committee.

Grievance Committee

Motion: to appoint Natasha Lloyd and Eliza Lo Russo to the Grievance Committee as the student members.

8.4 Food Pantry

Motion: to approve \$500 a week for the next 10 weeks (\$5000) for the operation of the food pantry, totalling \$6000 for the semester.

8.5 Condemn Hate Groups/Hate Speech and Support Queer Students

Motion: The UTSSA endorses the upcoming Trans Day of Visibility, and condemns hate-speech on campus.

Preamble: Hate groups have been increasingly visible in and around Sydney, causing safety concerns for queer students and staff at UTS. In response to this rising current of far-right hate, we must send a message of support to students at UTS and emphasise that the SRC echoes their concerns. Any presence of these hate groups and their attitudes are not welcome, and students should feel safe to express their identities without the threat of violent retaliation. The UTS Dean of the Arts has repeatedly shared transphobic articles on LinkedIn. This is shameful, and a spit in the face to the vibrant queer community in FASS who fill his pockets.

Action:

1. Promote Trans Day Of Visibility and rally on UTSSA socials
2. Condemn UTS Dean of the Arts for transphobic sentiment

8.6 No Extra Charge for Alt. Milks

Motion: To engage in a campaign for no extra charge for alternative milk on campus.

Preamble: The extra charge for alternative milks on UTS Campus is difficult to justify for those that avoid dairy for dietary, environmental or health reasons. It alienates staff and students; especially as alternative milks are increasingly popular. The increasing charge in recent years is also incongruent with students' concerns with increasing cost of living. This is an issue of student welfare as well as the environment. To action this motion we will lobby Activate to no longer charge extra for alternate milks. This follows the same action by food chains like Starbucks and it would allow UTS to set an example to other institutions, and indicate to students that UTS is aware of their needs and concerns.

Action:

1. Contact Activate and submit proposal for no extra charge for alternate milks

8.7 Hybrid Learning Campaign

Motion: To support the NUS collaborative hybrid learning campaign

Preamble: The NUS is currently running a campaign around hybrid learning. The goal of the campaign is to pressure the government and higher education institutes into mandating hybrid learning, as currently universities are moving away from online options entirely and only offering in person options which disproportionately affects disabled students. This comes after the TEQSA statement about students from overseas having to return to in person learning after July 2023. This statement has led many learning institutes such as UTS completely scrapping online

learning for the majority of its degrees. This has a catastrophic effect on the health of disabled students.

Action:

1. The UTSSA shares all material related to the NUS hybrid learning campaign on its social media and website.