

[May] SRC MINUTES

29/05/2024 | 6:42pm | CB11.05.202

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1. Opening of meeting at [6:42pm]

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. **Adam** nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so **Adam** is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

Mover: Mathew

Second: Mariam

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Adam Levett	General Secretary
Bridie O'Kelly	Assistant General Secretary
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Mathew Murray	General Councillor
Jeremey Higgins	Environment Officer
Bilvika Abburi	General Councillor
Mariam Yassine	Women's Officer
Neeve Ann Nagle	General Councillor
Joesph Naffah	General Councillor
Aylin Cihan	Welfare Officer

Raghav Motani	International Student's Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Januka Suraweera	General Councillor
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Samaha Emran	Disability Officer
Jermaine Petterson-Heard	Indigenous officer
Isabel James	Vertigo
Tyberious Seeto	Vertigo
Biljana O'Conner	Staff
Jennifer Willis	Staff
Nour Al Hammouri	Observer
Yasmine Johnson	Observer
Lily Campbell	Observer

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Peter Munford	Postgraduate Councillor
Alisa Hamilton	Education Officer
Laura Currie	Postgraduate Officer
Adrian Lozancic	General Councillor

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Peter Munford	Salma Elmubasher
Alisa Hamilton	Daewah Thein
Laura Currie	Jeremy Higgins

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from previous meeting [April] are withheld until following meeting.

2.1. Executive Business

No executive business to report.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

N/A, no minutes are tabled at meeting

4. Correspondence

No correspondence

5. Office Bearers' Reports

Standing Orders s 6.7: (a) If an Office Bearer report is received by the General Secretary before the deadline and has been circulated to members of the Council, then the Office Bearer may read their report, speak to their report, or take their report as read without requiring a vote .

(i) Office Bearers are able to add or amend their report during the delivery of their report to Council.

(ii) If the Office Bearer is absent the report shall be taken as read, unless that Office Bearer nominates a Councillor to read the report and that Councillor accepts that nomination.

(b) If an Office Bearer report has not been circulated to Council, the report must be submitted in writing during the meeting of Council and read aloud. The report cannot be taken as read.

Insert one of the following under each heading:

[Name] takes report as read.

OR

[Name] reads their report.

OR

[Name] speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report: [details]

OR

[Name] is absent and so their report is taken as read.

OR

[Name]'s report was not circulated to Council, and therefore [Name] submits their report in writing to [Adam] and reads this aloud.

5.1. President

Mia delivers spoken report:

- 1- Speaks to Sexual harm response, really good wins, meeting with Sarah Lachlan disclosed revised draft for reporting form, Draft pretty bad and send 6 pages of notes
- 2- Speaks to the funding for two different case managers who are doing full time work for sexual harm. Speaks to 2022 motion to SPA and sexual harm response, really proud to see SSAF committee to this. Three news roles (two people full time on managing sexual harm complaints to UTS because system is 'really bad') based on what La Trobe and Monash already have. Obviously first step but there are "now people paid to do that work not students finding out how hard it is due to experience". Promoting that as well so people know where to go to.

Other little things: financial assistance, opal concession campaign. Lots of engineering and IT students have come to me with particular bad reports. Undergraduate tutors and the low standard, opens offer to councilors.

- 3- Speaks to campaign for Palestine. I got a response to SCLG paper I put up in February. Didn't address actual concerns in the paper, didn't mention Israel, didn't mention Thales, didn't mention any examples in paper. Unsure whether that is the complete response. Hoping there is more in writing that goes with it. "really fails to grasp anything that any of us are talking about" speaks to need to address companies "partnering in genocide". Speak to motion 8.7. To work on methods (for campaigning) at the working bee.
- 4- Speaks to extra 91K at SSAF committee going towards welfare (bluebird brekkie and cooking classes partnering with OZ Harvest). Pay for employees
- 5- Speaks to commentary made by Vice Chancellor about the conflict "if you want to call it a conflict" being worked in SCLG, "it's all been very vague" "the indicator of what UTS is willing to do will be next Tuesday

5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes report as read

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Bridie takes report as read: Speaks to what Mia said about disappointing response from Jo Haylen which was supplemented by student testimony.

5.4. Education Officer

No report received

5.5. Welfare Officer

Aylin takes report as read

5.6. Women's Officer

Mariam is unable to take report as read, as it was received after deadline.

Speaks to work with RNA throughout past semester- two upcoming events (feminist movie night). Speaks to getting uninvolved people active in RNA. Wrote a submission against Sa/SH on campus. "many committees and not much action". Free period products scheme delayed due to busyness. Speaks to survey to be circulated.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Raghav speaks to report: Quite busy two weeks. Student VISA from 55 to 35. Apply to all universities across Australia, yesterday government changes yesterday. UTS started to identify students, Meeting with DVC and vice chancellor for students, figuring out how changes can be done but "federal government not that keen, mixing housing crisis into account". For students we need results to be prioritized. Meeting with senator, wanting to understand how international students are exploited in various areas of employment. Attached to the issue of gig economy and the exploitation of international students in the sector. Not in the report, next coming weeks all coming from different unis, having meeting to form separate international orgs into one collective. After opal concession understands that for international students some changes Aus Government not willing to do. "There needs to be separate way to work it out or the government is not going to look into it".

Mia: if any students have any issues on Visa changes bring it to us, some students are really in strife for students over 35 and difficulties graduating.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

No report received.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Adam takes Laura's report as read on her behalf.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma delivers spoken report:

Speaks to getting room (safe for collective space) cleared out. Talking to cleaners and cleaning out the room, Speaks to Vertigo archive being moved to activist space.

Campaign for Palestine, especially important with ongoing bombings on refugee camps in Rafah.

Visiting the USyd encampment and providing Palestinian cooking, speaking to Samiha about offering gift to encampment on behalf of UTSSA

Activate posted sponsorship with Coca-Cola "heavily Zionist company actively committing genocide" when I commented on that post they deleted comments and not responded. Heard nothing about retracting sponsorship.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

No report received

Samiha: Speaks to difficulties related to low collective meeting attendance

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah delivers spoken report: Speaks to pride month happening next week. Campaigning with people to see what University wants to do.

5.13. Environment Officer

Jeremey unable to take report as read, as it was received after the deadline.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

No committee reports.

6.2. Reports from Councillors, Conveners and Staff

No reports required.

6.3. Vertigo

Tyberious delivers spoken report for Vertigo: speaks to continuation of the UTSSA x vertigo Working Group.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

None required.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. By-Law Change

Preamble:

If approved during the May 2024 SRC, the following bylaw change will require Collective Office Bearers to disclose any spending partaken by their corresponding Collective in their Office Bearer report from the following meeting (June 2024). This change attempts to make it easier for UTSSA Executive and staff to manage financials for collectives, whilst simultaneously respecting the confidentiality of any autonomous collective which does not wish to disclose their full meeting minutes with the SRC.

If approved, these bylaw changes will bring-forth additional transparency only and will not entitle The UTSSA Executive or any student representative to any extra authority for decision-making over Collectives. Spending disclosed by a Collective, undertaken in line with the UTSSA's governing documents, is to be respected by UTSSA representatives; and not be taken to any subsequent vote during SRC. Any misappropriated or improper expenses will as-per-usual be dealt with in accordance with pre-existing measures in the UTSSA bylaws or constitution.

Action:

1. That Schedule 2 section 9.7 of the UTSSA bylaws titled 'Fundraising or levying fees', be relocated to an additional section 9.8 in section 2.
2. That the UTSSA insert section 9.7 into Schedule 2 of the UTSSA bylaws: 'Any spending approved by a collective must be disclosed in the report of the responsible Office Bearer at the next SRC meeting after approval'.

Speaks to transparency and collective autonomy

Mia- speaks to extra level of accountability within office bearer reports, extra level of transparency.

Mover: Mathew

Seconder: Joesph

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2. NUS Education Conference

Preamble:

As is standard, the UTSSA will cover certain costs relating to student attendance at this year's NUS Education Conference, to be held at Curtin university from Monday the 1st of July to Thursday the 4th of July. Due to the additional expenses required to cover flights from Perth compared to previous events held in New South Wales, Victoria or Queensland; The UTSSA will be funding at most six representatives.

Action:

- 1- That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of 650\$ per person for return flights to Perth, for no more than six students to attend the 2024 NUS Education Conference.
- 2- That the UTSSA approve 6x75\$ (450\$), for General Admission tickets for the 2024 NUS Education Conference.

Adam: speaks to less people being sent this year due to cost of going to Perth.

Lily: asks who decides who is going

Mia: people being sent are on expressions of interest. Always a member of SRC.

Mover: Neeve

Secunder: Aylin

Passes without dissent

The motion passes unanimously

8.3. Vertigo ISSUU Expenses

Preamble:

Due to an unforeseen price increase, we [vertigo] did not accommodate for the additional cost in the annual budget for our online publisher ISSUU. Without the premium service only 5 digital versions of Vertigo will be viewable for readers. Additionally, the premium service removes external ads.

Action:

1. The UTSSA approve a change in the Vertigo budget from \$740 to \$797 to accommodate for the price increase.

Tyberious: speaks to unforeseen price increase, told by Mariah that account currently on starting package. All issues prior to 2023 are no longer viewable.

Adam: Speaks to increase caused by increase to USD, proposes a higher upper spending limit.

Amendment tabled to change action point 1 to: **“The UTSSA approves a change to Vertigo budget to \$730 to \$1500 to account for price increase and US dollar exchange rate accounting for US Dollar exchange rates”**

Mia: Upper spending limit of 1.5K fine, as the money won't be able to be spent elsewhere by vertigo

Amendment Mover: Daewah

Amendment Secunder: Mathew

Mover: Dirk (for motion as amended)

Secunder: Sina (for motion as amended)

The motion as amended passes unanimously

8.4. Queer Convener

Action:

That the UTSSA confirm Morgan Schwigtenberg as the Queer Collective convenor for 2024, in accordance with the internal election results from the Queer Collective meeting held on 08/04/24.

Mia: Queer convener sent me motion I am happy to pass on behalf, I've seen the minutes, we don't have any reason not to approve this, so Morgan can have access to this

Mover: Daewah

Secunder: Mathew

The motion passes unanimously

8.5. Marketing Spending

Action:

That the UTSSA approves the following costs for new signage (as per the attached quotes):

1. \$400 for design of glass signage for Bluebird Pantry and the bookstore.
2. \$120 for designing a banner for UTSSA welfare services
3. \$200 for reskinning (printing) an old banner for UTSSA welfare services.
4. An upper spending limit of \$2800 for the printing and installation of glass signage for Bluebird Pantry and the bookstore.

Mia: speaks to the invoices circulated on notice, reads out the motion in full.

Mia: speaks to amount and classes hard to identify on bluebird at UTSSA, so people can identify it and associate it with US "necessary evil".

Adam: speaks to all quotes and breakdown of costs in the email

Mover: Jermey

Secunder: Rahgav

The motion passes unanimously

8.6. Marketing Spending

Preamble -

During March and April, we [International Students' Collective] had various events, which included a Newcastle trip and a cybercrime workshop. In the March monthly meeting, the International Collective approved the expenditure for the Newcastle trip and students' rights workshop, amounting to \$250 each.

Action -

1. That the SRC approves a cost of \$30 spent on food cost for the Newcastle Trip after deducting \$135, which was the total ticket amount received for the Newcastle trip.
2. That the SRC approves a \$214 spent on food for the Cybercrime Workshop for International students.

Mia reads out motion in full

Rahgav: speaks to monthly meeting with collective and the money that was charged to students.

Speaks to two motions passed at International collective to breakdown food costs for New Castle trip (past) plus Cybercrime event (upcoming).

Mover: Rahgav

Secunder: Daewah

The motion passes unanimously

8.7. UTS Campaign for Palestine

Original motion on notice

Preamble:

The images coming out of Gaza this week have formed some of the most horrific and shocking documentations of the genocide in Palestine in the past eight months. The continuous human rights violations and mass killings committed by the Israeli government towards innocent Palestinian civilians has been recognised as an "unfolding catastrophe" by United Nations General Secretary, Antonio Guterres. Despite the International Court of Justice on the 26th of January declaring a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza, and ordering on the 24th of May 2024 for Israel to stop its military offensive inside Rafah, Israel has not complied. This has resulted in a death toll of approximately 35,000 people, a majority being women and children. The death toll in Gaza continues to climb at a rate faster than any other 21st century conflict, as Israel relentlessly and indiscriminately bombs civilians, uses famine as a weapon of war and blocks humanitarian aid.

As an activist organisation, the UTSSA recognises the serious violations of international law that are being committed in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories and urges the Australian Labor government to use their voice on the international stage and call for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in accordance with the International Criminal Court.

The UTSSA reaffirms its Statement on Palestine from the 15th of November 2023, and calls on all students and young people in this country to demand a stop to the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. As a student union with a proud history of anti-war organising and involvement in the global pursuit of social and political justice, the UTSSA stands in solidarity with all those affected by this genocidal regime, including the students at universities around the world who have been subject to disciplinary action for protesting the genocidal regime of the Israeli government. The UTSSA will continue to advocate for UTS to take a strong stance against the Israeli government's genocidal regime, including by disclosing and divesting all relationships between UTS and Israel.

Action:

- 1-That the UTSSA post the above preamble statement on its social media platforms.
- 2- That the UTSSA establish an official campaign for Palestine, demanding from UTS:
 - a. Complete disclosure of all relationships between UTS and Israel.
 - b. Complete divestment from all relationships between UTS and Israel.
 - c. Publicly call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and condemn the Israeli government's occupation, apartheid and genocide in Palestine.
- 3-That the UTSSA approves an upper spending limit of \$500 for promotional materials for this campaign.

Mia: speaks to approving official campaign for Palestine. Mia speaks to the eternal work being done on this. "High time to start a public campaign on this". "I'm going to put this up, even though it's not going to be contentious". Mia speaks to wanting to have councillors be on the same page and amend sections of the preamble to be posted as a statement.

Mia: second part of motion is about actually goals, wondering about wording on this. As a motion we will have a set budget, but if anyone is uncomfortable about that we can speak to it more.

Adam: asks whether budget will come out of marketing or education budget or somewhere else

Mia: I assume marketing and various collectives

Biljana: a collective would have to pass it, I would recommend you allocate who determine where that money will be spent.

Adam: I think executive would be able to decide.

Mia: if its approved now I can decide, but I am open to changing it to executive.

Raises **amendment** to insert into **Action point 3,**

"The breakdown of which to be determined by executive at a future meeting"

Mover: Mathew

Seconder (to amendment): Aylin

No Abstentions or dissent: Amendment passes

Mia: proposes that future amendments to preamble be collated to the end of the discussion and moved on block

Mia, opens one minute speaking time

Aylin: asks what it will be spent on

Mia: postering, painting, the reason why motion so vague is because we haven't decided, but it will be for material expenses

Mover waves speaking rights.

Neeve: can we do advertisements on social media?

Adam: Meta is quite strict on advertising. This likely isn't possible

Yasmine: good that students association is taking account and UTS having connections to companies such as Thales. Seen hundreds of UTS at student strike for Palestine and at weekend rally. What's happening at Sydney uni shows it needs to happen on campus as well.

One thing in terms of wording is something about current Labor government complicity in genocide.

Adam: change wording to be included in final amendments

Dirk: is it just UTS or do we have funding for initiatives in Gaza

Mia: It would be better if its targeted

Dirk: speaks to international students worried about visa, and that events outside of uni such as small businesses more accessible for international students

Mia: There are some people who won't be able to put themselves on the line at risk of deportation,

Ty: does this count activate?

Mia: Activate is its own legal entity, they are not binding to this, any wider changes would be UTS management as a corporate entity. We can definitely include something about activate and clubs. Clubs might be an easier win to get as well.

Bilajna: clubs have a lot of sponsors, and they probably fall into unethical

Mia: speaks to SCLG to circulate statement with UTS staff for Palestine, pending what happens in that meeting, if staff and management make a commitment, I will be open to not adopting this is they agree to make changes. After that I will send out details of the working group to everyone.

Working group will focus on logistically approving goals today.

Neeve: Speaks to coalition making Visa changes, asks for mention of international students and protection to them for speaking their voice

Mia: good consideration we have higher international students than many others, we have many students who would be put at risk in a campaign like this.

7:47pm: Daewah leaves room, proxies to Mathew: Mathew Accepts

Rahgav: thanks the UTSSA for considering international students within this motion

Collated Amendments

Insert to preamble: "That the UTSSA condemns State and territory Labor governments across Australia for their ongoing refusal to meaningfully act on the genocide in Gaza"

Insert to preamble: "This also includes, but is not limited to, international students facing residency and visa concerns due to their commitment to solidarity. The UTSSA recognises the potential risks that may arise as a

result of international students participating, and does not expect these students to put their livelihoods or greater education on the line in pursuit of this campaign”

Remove: “'s” from action point

Insert into preamble: “and the Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant”

Changes amendable to Mover: Mathew approves all amendments.

Motion as amended now reads

The images coming out of Gaza this past week have formed some of the most horrific and shocking documentations of the genocide in Palestine in the past eight months. The continuous human rights violations and mass killings committed by the Israeli government towards innocent Palestinian civilians has been recognised as an “unfolding catastrophe” by United Nations General Secretary Antonino Guterres.

Despite the International Court of Justice declaring a plausible risk of genocide in Gaza on the 26th of January, and ordering for Israel to stop its military offensive inside Rafah on the 24th of May, Israel has not complied. This has resulted in a death toll of over 35,000 people, a majority of whom are women and children. The death toll in Gaza continues to climb at a rate faster than any other twenty-first century conflict, as Israel relentlessly and indiscriminately bombs civilians, uses famine as a weapon of war, and blocks humanitarian aid.

As an activist organisation, the UTSSA recognises the serious violations of international law that are being committed in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories. The UTSSA condemns state and territory Labor governments across Australia for their ongoing refusal to meaningfully act on the genocide in Gaza, and calls for the arrest of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, in accordance with orders of the International Criminal Court.

The UTSSA reaffirms its Statement on Palestine from the 15th of November 2023, and calls on all students and young people in this country to demand a stop to the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

As a student union with a proud history of anti-war organising and involvement in the global pursuit of social and political justice, the UTSSA stands in solidarity with all those affected by this genocidal regime, including the students at universities around the world who have been subject to disciplinary action for protesting the genocide regime of The Israeli government. This also includes, but is not limited to, international students facing residency and visa concerns due to their commitment to solidarity. The UTSSA recognises the potential risk that

may arise as a result of international students participating, and does not expect these students to put their livelihoods or greater education on the line in the pursuit of this campaign.

The UTSSA will continue to advocate for UTS to take a strong stance against the Israeli government's genocidal regime, including by disclosing and divesting from all Israeli institutions.

Action

- 1-That the UTSSA post the above preamble statement on its social media platforms.
- 2- That the UTSSA establish an official campaign for Palestine, demanding from UTS:
 - a. Complete disclosure of all relationships between UTS and Israel.
 - b. Complete divestment from all relationships between UTS and Israel.
 - c. Publicly call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and condemn the Israeli government's occupation, apartheid and genocide in Palestine.
- 3-That the UTSSA approves an upper spending limit of \$500 for promotional materials for this campaign. The breakdown of which to be determined by executive at a future meeting

Mover: Mathew (to motion as amended)

Seconder: Jermery (to motion as amended)

The motion passes unanimously

Mia asks Vertigo to withhold discussion on this motion until next Tuesday after statement is published by UTSSA "we are handling this delicately not loudly"

8.8. UTSSA Spaces Policy

Action:

That the UTSSA adopts, in line with the By-Laws, the following policy:

3. UTSSA Spaces Policy

3.1. Objects of the Policy

The UTSSA Spaces Policy aims to establish effective guidelines regarding the use and maintenance of UTSSA Spaces. Appropriate use of UTSSA spaces involves behaviour that is respectful, safe and considerate to other members in the space and the space itself.

3.2. Scope

This policy applies to all UTSSA spaces, including but not limited to:

- a. CB01.03.22 UTSSA Office (inclusive of the UTSSA President's Office and Vertigo Archives)
- b. CB01.03.18 Activist Space
- c. CB03.02.14 Marketing Manager's Office
- d. CB03.02.15 Executive Officer's Office
- e. CB03.02.16 Caseworker's Office
- f. CB03.02.17 Caseworker's Office
- g. CB03.04.32 Women's Collective
- h. CB03.03.27 Ethnocultural Collective
- i. Queer Collective Space

3.3. General Rules

3.3.1 All users of UTSSA spaces must ensure that the area is left clean and tidy after use. This is inclusive of but not restricted to:

- a. Disposal of waste in appropriate bins
- b. Ensuring no personal items are left behind
- c. Wiping down surfaces after use

d. Returning furniture to its original position if rearranged

3.3.2 The use of all UTSSA materials and property must be treated with care.

Any damage or misuse of property can be subject to the user paying for or replacing the damaged item. Further penalties for damage or misuse of property may apply pursuant to section 3.4, depending on the severity or continuity of the damage or misuse.

3.3.3 Acts of vandalism, including graffiti and intentional damage, will result in penalties pursuant to section 3.4.

3.3.4 The following activities are prohibited within UTSSA spaces:

- a. the consumption of alcohol;
- b. the use of illegal substances; and
- c. other inappropriate conduct. Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not limited to, disruptive behaviour, harassment, or actions that compromise the safety or comfort of other members.

3.3.5 Users of UTSSA spaces must ensure noise is kept to a reasonable level at all times. Severe noise complaints may be subject to penalties pursuant to 3.4 of the policy.

3.3.6 All users must conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful to others. Harassment, discrimination, or any form of inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

3.4. Enforcement

3.4.1 Failure to comply with the UTSSA Spaces Policy may result in:

- a. A verbal or written warning
- b. Temporary or permanent suspension of access to UTSSA spaces
- c. Other disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by the UTSSA President and the Executive Officer. These may include cleaning the misused space, mandatory training sessions on appropriate conduct or referral to UTS Student Misconduct.

3.4.2 If any issue or dispute cannot be resolved through the enforcement methods outlined in this policy, it shall be referred by the UTSSA President or the Executive Officer to the Grievance Committee in accordance with Schedule 3 of the UTSSA By-Laws.

3.5. Autonomous Safe Spaces

3.5.1 For the purpose of this section, the space referred to includes the Queer Collective, Women's Collective and Ethnocultural Collective.

3.5.2. Users must ensure that only authorised individuals have access to the UTSSA spaces. Sharing of key cards or propping open doors to individuals who do not have access is strictly prohibited to ensure the privacy of the members in these autonomous spaces.

3.5.3 All discussions and activities within autonomous safe spaces are to be kept confidential. Members are expected to respect the privacy of others and not disclose any information shared within these spaces without explicit consent.

3.5.4 UTSSA student representatives and staff, and collective members granted access to the Queer Collective are expected to keep its location confidential to ensure the safety of others and avoid unnecessary breaches of privacy.

3.5.5 Activities within these spaces should promote community building, support, and advocacy.

3.5.6. Changes to the purpose of these rooms must be approved by a simple majority vote of the SRC.

Aylin: speaks to adding rules to UTSSA and Collective spaces.

Bilvika: speaks to general things added to the motion such as improper use of spaces and potential removal, good to have enforceability there

Mia: speaks to “changes to vertigo spaces but just general” we don’t have the queer collective room due to request. Accountability measures for SRC to prevent people from changing spaces, changes will happen at SRC.

Lily: asks who grants authorisation for to who brings people into the room

Mia: the way that it works is if you’re part of the collective, then you send through your details to Mariah who sends them security. To continue to use these spaces we have to have security. Swipe access also gives us data as to how people use these spaces.

Mathew: autonomous groups aren’t difficult to access, you just need to get in touch

Mia: identify as part of that group

Lily: then how do you sign up

Mia: sign up portals,

Mover: Aylin

Second: Neeve

Amendment is raised to amend 3.5.6 from “simple majority” to “absolute majority”, amendment is accepted by the mover.

The motion passes unanimously

9. General Business

Mia: Speaks to SSAF committee and academic board coming up, if anyone wants to attend In SSAF board raised 40% board, they said activate and UTSSA is already receiving 40%

10. Close of Meeting at [time]

Meeting closed at 8:06pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

Delivered spoken report

2. General Secretary

For a month where many of us has been quite preoccupied with exams and major assessment tasks, we still had a generally successful month, with much more work still to be done.

- 1- Budget: This month, various student representatives from the UTSSA, including myself, attended the National Union of Students Protest on Budget Day in Canberra outside Parliament house. Whilst pretty weak in many areas, this year's budget contained considerable detail for students compared to previous budgets under Albanese's government. HECS indexation reforms and \$319 and week paid placements are modest starts to much larger issues effecting the Universities sector in Australia we at the UTSSA hope to see further action on under this government. Investments in 'purpose built' student accommodation and the announcement of a Higher Education Gender-Based Code are other particular highlights for students. I am also cautiously optimistic about the announced 40% SSAF requirements towards student organizations and what impact this will have on the future of the UTSSA beyond my term.
- 2- Palestine Activism: This month we have begun to gear up for more Palestine activism at the UTSSA. From attendance at the Usyd encampment by UTSSA Representatives, to events held at our own campus, we have increased participation in this movement which has swept across university campuses in Australia and globally. We hope to do more however, and I hope that as a start we will be able to pass motion 8.7 unanimously this meeting and formulate a quality statement for our goals and objectives in the future of this campaign.

3. Assistant General Secretary

With the commencement of exam season marking the fast approach end to semester, student activity has slowed down. The UTSSA's digital presence has, however, remained active.

During the month of May, I have worked on the following projects.

Get to know your Students Association – social media series

(ONGOING:

This has been a semester-long social media campaign that has familiarised students with whom their student representatives are. The series has increased the UTSSA's Instagram and Facebook pages metrics and overall viewership.

We are approaching the end of this social media campaign and are looking to do something similar next semester. If you have any ideas, please reach out!

Student feedback campaign:

The student feedback posters have been plastered in bathrooms across campus buildings. We have received responses but would love it if you could raise this in conversation with fellow peers too!

Once we collate responses, we will report back to the SRC in order to provide the

UTSSA with greater direction about the issues we should focus on.

Concession opal card campaign (ONGOING):

Earlier this month I published an article to the UTSSA website following up on the transport concession campaign. It detailed the response received from Jo Haylen, Minister for Transport and included three testimonials from international students about their burdensome daily commute.

This was supplemented with an Instagram post with the above information.

The purpose of this article was to keep students updated following the petition in March.

Financial Assistance:

This week I worked on uploading a carousel post that promoted the various ways UTS provides financial assistance to students. They currently are offering financial assistance gift cards for opal cards and food. Students can book an appointment with Financial Assistance through Student Services reception.

This service is especially important as students battle with cost-of-living pressures.

You can find more information about UTS financial help here:

<https://www.uts.edu.au/current-students/support/financial-help/financial-assistance-programs>

4. Education Officer

No report received

5. Welfare Officer

As the autumn semester for 2024 comes to an end students are well underway with studies and preparation for their exams. This month as the welfare officer I was able to take part in a program run by the centre for social justice and inclusion. It is an ongoing project apart of the UTS Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism action plan to help diversify how the acknowledgment of country is delivered at UTS by having students of non-English speaking background record the acknowledgment. As someone from an immigrant background I am fortunate enough to know another language, being Turkish, and assist in this great initiative. I believe this program provides a practical resource to UTS and celebrates everyone's mother tongue by recognising that Australia is a multicultural nation with a rich indigenous history. I was also a part of the partner project application grant panel, which is the first time that this has been done at UTS to provide funds to students looking to research and better the culture at our university. Ultimately, this month has gone well for the collective by being able to take part in projects run by other organisations to ensure the well-being of students on campus.

6. Women's Officer

Past Events/ Initiatives Summary:

Throughout the month of May these events and initiatives were undertaken:

1. Planning a free period product marketing campaign that will be released in order to keep supplying UTS students in free period products in the bathroom.
2. Conducting an interview with the UTS soul team in order to see how we can best empower students.
3. Meetings/communication with the organisation Respect Now Always (RNA) to work on further collaborative events and campaigns.
4. Making a submission to the Law Reform Commission into justice responses to sexual violence.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

1. A feminist movie night in collaboration with RNA
2. The period product campaign
3. Further collaboration with one of the guest speakers on the women in media panel to host an event on tips and tricks for women to excel in their professional lives

Tasks that the collective will be doing next month:

- Membership outreach programs: since WOCO has over 400 members and relatively high engagement on social media we hope to utilise that further.
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- Further collaborations with other societies, perhaps even an intervarsity event between women collectives.
- Planning further events for semester two.

7. International Students' Officer

Overview

This month has been particularly significant for international students at UTS due to recent changes in visa regulations and ongoing advocacy efforts. The following report outlines key activities and initiatives undertaken to address these challenges and support our international student community.

Early Release of Results for Affected Students

Due to recent changes to the 485 visa, many international students have been impacted, particularly those close to graduation. In response, we held a meeting with UTS management to discuss measures to support these students. The primary outcome of this meeting was an agreement from UTS to expedite the release of final results for students graduating this semester. UTS management has begun the process of identifying affected students and is working closely with faculty members to ensure their results are processed and released as soon as possible. This step will enable students to apply for the 485 visa with old requirements without unnecessary delays, thereby facilitating a fast visa application done before 1 July.

Petition for Transition Period on 485 Visa

In light of the changes to the 485 visa regulations, which now impose an age limit of 35 years, a petition has been initiated to request a transition period for current students who are above this age limit. As of 26 May 2024, the petition has gained over 9200+ signatures from international students across various Australian universities. This strong response highlights the widespread concern and the critical need for a transition period that would allow affected students to apply for the 485 visa under the previous criteria. The petition is submitted to the federal government, aiming to secure a fair transition period for all current students affected by these changes.

Meeting with NSW Senator Tony Sheldon

I, along with Sabrina, had a great meeting with NSW Senator Tony Sheldon to

discuss the exploitation of international students in the Australian job market. This issue has become increasingly important, particularly within the gig economy, where many international students find employment. Our discussion focused on the need for stronger policies and protections to prevent exploitation and ensure fair treatment of international students.

As a result of this meeting, we have agreed to conduct a comprehensive survey and further research into this issue. The survey will target international students currently employed in various sectors, particularly gig economy roles, to gather data on their experiences and challenges. The findings will be used to advocate for policy changes and the implementation of protective measures at both the state and federal levels. This initiative aims to enhance the working conditions and rights of international students, thereby improving their overall experience and well-being while studying in Australia.

Conclusion

This month has been marked by significant advocacy and support efforts for international students at UTS. The early release of results for graduating students and the petition for a transition period on the 485 visa are crucial steps in addressing the immediate needs of our International student community. Additionally, our ongoing dialogue with policymakers, such as Senator Tony Sheldon, and the planned research into student exploitation, demonstrate our commitment to long-term improvements in the treatment and welfare of international students.

Moving forward, we will continue to monitor the implementation of these initiatives and actively engage with stakeholders to ensure that the rights and needs of international students are prioritised and addressed effectively.

8. Indigenous Officer

No Report received

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Not much to update from last month, still organising to set meetings with Postgraduate Business school based on feedback by students, as well as reaching out to Postgraduate Law school when uni starts back again.

Some initiatives for weeks to come:

- Organising some events with new members of the collective this year
- Finding organised events liaising with HDR committee to put our funding into good use and help students in need
- Reaching out to coordinators to organise workshops that are useful for postgrad students across different faculties
- Organising better communication platforms for stipend and scholarship information for students as it is a major issue right now especially in the

research faculty

- Building collaborations and partnerships with other universities and reaching out to other postgrad officers, have done this with a couple

10. Ethnocultural Officer

Spoken delivered during council

11. Disabilities Officer

Spoken report delivered during council

12. Queer Officer

Spoken report entered during council

13. Environment Officer

Past events summary

1. 14/05 | Enviro Meeting

a. The Collective met to approve motions in support of the Mateship and Borrow Cup campaigns that are to be run in campus in the second semester

2. 20/05 | Sustainability Steering Committee (SSC)

a. At the second quarterly SSC meeting of the year, members and attendees discussed topics that are of key interest to the Enviro Collective and the SRC.

This includes:

- i. Frances Flanagan's address on UTS and other universities' ties with fossil fuel corporations. She outlined what relationship UTS has with such firms (very little) and what could be done to build on this impressive record. Flanagan's work on fossil fuel partnerships could be built upon in other areas of partnership and investment that UTS has with other firms not aligned with student values.
- ii. UTS Sustainability has released the Sustainability Impact Dashboard, which is now live, making UTS among the first of Australian universities to publicly release such data in this way.
- iii. Support among UTS staff on the SSC particularly Sustainability Lead Danielle McCartney, COO/VP of UTS Glen Babington and Professor in production economics Paul Brown for the Borrow Cup Start Up. Support from academics and executives like those mentioned above will be crucial for a future campaign.

Upcoming events.

1. Global Goals Month | September

a. Led by UTS sustainability and UN SDGs at UTS lead, Alex Fransen. Global Goals month will be a time for the University to showcase how the UN SDGs are being implemented at UTS and a chance for the Enviro Collective to reach out for student engagement.

