

# MAY 2025 SRC MINUTES

28/05/2025 | 6:30pm | CB10.03.490

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## 1. Opening of meeting at 6:37pm

### 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)
<b>Mia Campbell</b>	President
<b>Januka Suraweera</b>	General Secretary
<b>Aryan Sharma</b>	Assistant General Secretary
<b>Neeve Nagle</b>	Welfare Officer
<b>Samiha Emran</b>	Education Officer
<b>Olivia Lee</b>	Women's Officer
<b>Daewah Thein</b>	Queer Officer
<b>Sina Afsharmehr</b>	Environment and Technology Officer
<b>Amelia Ireland</b>	Disabilities Officer
<b>Salma Elmubasher</b>	Ethnocultural Officer
<b>Jermaine</b>	Indigenous Officer

<b>Natasha Abdulghani</b>	Councillor
<b>Amelia Raptis</b>	Councillor
<b>Eamonn Ryan</b>	Councillor
<b>Lucia Thornton</b>	Councillor
<b>Yasmine Johnson</b>	Councillor
<b>Elliot Kameron</b>	Councillor
<b>Ella Haid</b>	Councillor
<b>Omar El-Sobihy</b>	Councillor
<b>Dirk Hoare</b>	Councillor
<b>Biljana O'Connor</b>	Staff
<b>Eryn Yates</b>	Vertigo
<b>Mayela Dayeh</b>	Vertigo

## Proxies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Proxy Accepted By</b>
<b>Harshvardhan Suvarna</b>	<b>Januka</b>
<b>Chloe Ferreira</b>	<b>Neeve</b>
<b>Eamonn Ryan</b>	<b>Sina</b>
<b>Vaishnavi Omar</b>	<b>Mia</b>

## 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

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

### 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No Matters Arising from the April Minutes.

### 4. Correspondence

**Mia:** Explains the series of Correspondence attached to notice, will go into detail on them during their Report

### 5. Office Bearers' Reports

#### 5.1. President

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

Speaks to being exhausted with the university consistently making harmful decisions.

Speaks to campaigns she will focus on throughout the remainder of the year including Against Sexual Violence, More on SSAF for Students, UTSSA Policy Reform and Welfare initiatives.

Mentions will be prioritising their time more effectively by reducing attendance to certain meetings with the University that consistently discuss issues that have little effect on the student experience. Speaks to having placed a GIPA request regarding the Sexual Violence Campaign. Alongside attending the meeting with the lawyer from Bartier Perry, while she was assisted by Thalia Anthony from the Faculty of Law.

**Yasmine:** Asks about meeting with Bartier Perry Lawyer.

**Mia:** there are detailed notes she is happy to provide

Clarifies it was more about how the UTSSA can make their protests safer with less controversial questions. They seemed to think and imply that the UTSSA didn't represent Jewish students. Speaks to not have been contacted by any Jewish students about complaints. Defends how representative they are as students can reach out through many means if they have issues with how the UTSSA acts and so is disappointed to be criticised on that as they had also implemented every possible safety measure.

Speaks about upcoming crackdown on the indoor protests.

## 5.2. General Secretary

**Januka** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report.

Speaks to focusing on the Handbook over the next couple months in order to create a more effective format for engaging Students in learning about the UTSSA

## 5.3. Assistant General Secretary

**Aryan** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report.

Speaks to having learnt much having come into the role and interest in continuing to engage.

## 5.4. Education Officer

**Samiha** report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Samiha submits their report in writing to Januka and reads this aloud.

**Yasmine:** Raises question on prioritisation in terms of the reports included in the Vertigo editions not significantly mentioning the budget cuts campaign.

**Samiha:** Clarifies that is a priority and that she has been working to establish a understanding of the cuts and developing an approach to them.

**Yasmine:** Says this should be more publicly advocated and be a focus for the Education Officer.

**Samiha:** Reiterates that it is a priority.

## 5.5. Welfare Officer

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

Speaks about an injuring her foot meaning she could attend all her originally planned meetings as she could not walk for a significant period.

Still met with UTS Health Service to discuss and review issues with the service, especially relevant as it is the only nearby bulk billed doctor for many students.

Speaks to also attending the meeting with Vice Chancellor Andrew Parfitt with Mia and was also extremely disappointed in the meeting.

Explains the UTS Housing survey has now closed now and she is now in the process of attempting the University to give her access to the results.

## 5.6. Women's Officer

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

Mentions that the Period Product Survey received good responses. Most important elements were that both it was regularly understocked and that many people didn't know about the service. Received positive feedback from those who were able to access the service.

**Samiha:** Asks if there was feedback with requests for broader range of products.

**Olivia:** Answers that they did not get a significant amount of feedback mentioning that.

## 5.7. International Students' Officer

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

## 5.8. Indigenous Officer

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

## 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

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

## 5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

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

Mentions writing a paper addressing racism on campus and lack of ethnic representation on senior management. Mainly to implement changes to recruiting practices and is working with Council Undergraduate Representative Chloe to do so.

Announces that as of May 31<sup>st</sup> has cut their MOU with the Israeli Institute of Technology and thanks everyone for their help. Although mentions more work towards also ending weapons ties.

Speaks to continues conversations with Amy Persson, focused on ensuring multicultural people on campus feel safer. Alongside other general work such as electing a collective convenor and becoming a

person of contact for the Centre of Social Justice and Inclusion.

Mentions that Amy had heard complaints about the UTSSA.

**Mia:** Explains that there are regularly complaints that are never directly told to the UTSSA which do not reach the level of Misconduct but are used against the SRC.

**Mia:** Was told a pain point for the University is just receiving a bunch of emails about an issue and forces them to act. Mentions it would be useful to also implement spam emails in campaigns.

**Neeve:** Talks about mass sending email services.

**Salma:** Also speaks to the legal review she participated in with Yasmine.

**Yasmine:** Describes the interview was more direct questions compared to Mia's about chants and how long they had used it.

**Salma:** Seemed that he hadn't done any research asked very basic questions.

## 5.11. Disabilities Officer

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

Has had a lot of medical appointments, working on disabilities pride month creating a design brief for it.

Commends and will create graphic regarding the ADHD reforms by the NSW government which will allow easier access instead of 200-300 dollars for specialist appointments.

## 5.12. Queer Officer

**Daewah** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report.

Speaks about their meeting of their and El Potts with Centre for social justice and inclusion's LGBTQI+ Project Officer to discuss upcoming Purple Day in August and potential event in November.

Also focused on preparing for pride month and looking to work on collaborations.

## 5.13. Environment Officer

**Sina** speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report.

Speaks about recent events like the recent Movie Night, Gardening, Board meetings, Interview with the



herald about issues with how the University conducts exams with ProctorU. Will continue to keep up pressure on the University.

## 6. Other Reports

### 6.1. Vertigo Report

**Mayela:** Reports on having received submissions for Technicolour edition alongside having started on fourth volume. Speaks about successful Launch party.

### 6.2. Staff Reports

**Biljana:** Reminds everyone about Oday and anyone who wants help to please let her know. Also speaks about the recent Job notice for another receptionist.

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

### 7.1 Insurance Premium Charges

**Preamble:**

Historically UTS Students' Association was never charged for insurance premiums. This is the first year that UTS are on-charging the premium cost to the entities under the VC's direction. This was communicated to UTS Audit and Risk Committee in 23/24 and to each entity in 2024 during the insurance session.

**Action:** That the UTSSA SRC:

Approves a payment of \$7,561.66 for Insurance Premium Charges for 2024-2025

**Mover: Samiha**

**Seconder: Neeve**

Mia: Explains that the University is increasingly desperate to find savings and so is charging organisations including Activate more insurance premiums, still likely cheaper than the Union finding its own insurance.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.2 Ethnocultural Collective Convenor Approval

**Action:** That the UTSSA:

1. Confirm Anan Ahmed Mustaqim as EthnoCultural Convenor for 2025 following the internal election results from the EthnoCultural Collective meeting held on 26/05/25

**Mover:** Salma

**Seconder:** Olivia

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.3 Postgraduate Collective Convenor:

**Action:**

Action: That That the UTSSA confirm Manasvi Menon as the Postgraduate Collective convenor for 2025, in accordance with the internal election results from the Postgraduate Collective meeting held on 17/05/25.

**Mover:** Olivia

**Seconder:** Januka

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 7.4 Education Conference Funding:

**Preamble:**

The National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference is an annual gathering for student representatives and activists across Australia to participate in workshops, plenaries, and collaborative sessions that support student unionism and advocacy.

To facilitate UTSSA involvement and national engagement, this motion approves funding for representatives to attend the 2025 NUS Education Conference, while aligning with the UTSSA Conference Attendance Policy.

**Motion:** That the SRC:

1. Approves funding for **up to ten UTSSA representatives** to attend the 2025 NUS Education Conference, to be held at the Australian National University in Canberra from Monday 23rd June to Thursday 26th June 2025.
2. Approves the reimbursement of the following expenses per attendee:
  - Up to \$100 in **transport costs** to and from Canberra (including petrol for carpooling or train fare);
  - Up to **\$300 per person for accommodation**, including the night prior to the start of the conference;
  - The **\$80 conference ticket fee**.
3. Notes that **meals and other food costs are not covered** and are the responsibility of individual attendees.
4. Requires that all reimbursed attendees:
  - Are SRC members and approved to attend as official representatives by the UTSSA President, through nominating **over email** to the President by Friday 6th June;
  - Comply with the **UTSSA Conference Attendance Policy**, including:
    - Attending a minimum of 80% of conference sessions and activities;
    - Upholding the UTSSA Code of Conduct;
    - Submitting a post-conference report (200–500 words) to the July SRC meeting.

**Mover: Neeve**

**Seconder: Amelia Ireland**

**Mia Proposes Amendment:** *To increase the representatives funded from 10 to 12 such that it now reads.*

*“Approves funding for **up to twelve UTSSA representatives**”*

**Is Amenable to Mover**

**Neeve:** Asks if we want to include Student Media

**Mia:** Asks Vertigo Representatives at SRC if there is interest.

**Mayela:** Some interest not a major focus for Vertigo

**Mia:** explains that there isn't much benefit for Student Media at Edcon in comparison to Natcon. Leaves it open for Vertigo to express interest for approval at a later Executive Meeting.

**Yasmine:** Asks how the reimbursement process mentioned in the motion functions.

**Mia:** Explains either it can be individually purchased or with a single buyer using a list sent to Mia prior.

**Amelia Ireland:** Raise issue with current reimbursement amount as prioritising options not on the BDS List will lead to increased costs.

**Mia:** Questions on whether there are other options.

**Salma:** Explains Airbnb is a target boycott.

**Mia proposes amendment:** *Change to \$400 for accommodation.*

*"Up to \$400 per person for accommodation, including the night prior to the start of the conference;"*

**Is Amendable to Mover.**

**Neeve:** Reiterates to everyone that they will still be covered by the UTSSA code of conduct even if they are not paid with the UTSSA.

**Yasmine:** Asks if this motion only covers elected representatives.

**Mia:** Yes because there is enough interest from currently elected members. Natcon is different because people have just been elected and many outgoing members are still interested.

**The motion passes unanimously as amended.**

## 7.5 Vertigo: CONSPIRACY launch party expenses,

<b>Preamble:</b>
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In preparation for the *Vertigo: CONSPIRACY* launch party, there was a miscommunication between the editorial team and some of the talent regarding compensation.

A *Vertigo* correspondent failed to communicate with two artists, who were sharing a 1-hour set, that talent would be paid to the act per the hour. Through this unintentional omission, the two-person act came to believe that they would be paid \$100 each for their hour-long set, as opposed to the approved \$100 hour for the duo (\$50 each). The duo act has invoiced \$200 for the hour-long set.

While Nathan Halward (known as Rexrot) was required to play for an extra hour due to logistical mix ups with the venue management team — to adequately compensate him for his time, the team would like to pay him an additional \$100 (our hourly rate for all the DJs).

Additionally, the venue allowed the bar tab to run over without informing the *Vertigo* team, in spite of the fact that earlier, the team was very clear that they were not able to increase it. As a result, Bianca Drummond Costa was required to pay the additional tab (\$101.61) upfront, as they would not allow *Vertigo* to invoice them for it post-event.

### **Platform.**

In the interest of not undermining the artist's contribution to the event and preserving *Vertigo's* reputation as a publication of integrity amongst UTS's — and wider Sydney's — creative scene, we would like to pay the act the amount that they expect for their performance.

While we understand that this is an additional expense in relation to the *Vertigo: Conspiracy* launch that we have failed to account for, the party has still generated over \$700 in profit. As such, this money will come out of the profits raised by *Vertigo* from the event's ticket sales, and will not cost the UTSSA any extra money.

### **Action:**

1. That the UTSSA approve an additional \$100 spending to compensate The Whitehouse Twins (Leo and Oli) in accordance with their invoice.
2. That the UTSSA approves spending for an extra \$100 for Nathan Halward's DJ services (meaning his total payment is \$200)

3. That the UTSSA approve a \$101.61 reimbursement to Bianca for the additional bar tab.

**Mover: Januka**

**Seconder: Amelia Ireland**

**Mayela:** Explains it was a series of mistakes that lead to increases expenses, luckily, they made profit so there should be no issues.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8. Other Business Arising on Notice

### 8.1 The UTSSA Condemns the Minns government's Attacks on Workers Compensation

#### **Preamble**

The Minns government's attack on workers' compensation is just the latest addition to a right wing record that would be the envy of any class-crusading Liberal. Half way through his term Minns' major political achievements include the suppression of public sector wages during a cost of living and rental crisis, and the repression of pro-Palestine activism whilst the people of Gaza are subject to a genocide by Australia's closest ally. Now Minns seeks to hack and slash a key institution of workers' welfare – the NSW workplace health and safety laws and workers' compensation scheme protect more than 3.6 million workers.

Compensation for psychological injury is particularly in the firing line. By raising the level of impairment threshold needed to claim workers' compensation the reforms would make receiving workers' compensation for psychological injury virtually impossible. This comes at a time when the Unions NSW Cast Adrift report, has revealed the depths of the crisis in workplace psychological health and safety. Out of 10,000 respondents 60% reported exposure to trauma and traumatic events, while bullying (44%), hazardous

physical working environments (30%), workplace violence (28%) and harassment, including sexual harassment (22%), were alarmingly common.

It's clear that while workers are able-bodied and able-minded, the government views them as the necessary human material to keep the economy turning. But the moment they're injured they become a financial burden, and Minns is eager to cut that burden loose.

### **Platform**

1. The UTSSA condemns the Minns Government's attack on workers' compensation
2. The UTSSA supports the Unions NSW campaign against the attacks

### **Action**

The UTSSA will reshare information from the Unions NSW Instagram page informing students about how they can support the Unions NSW campaign against the attacks.

*Salma requests procedural:*

**It is put that the discussion of motion be:**

*One mover, one seconder, one against with 1 min each and 30 second right of reply for the mover.*

**Mover of Procedural: Salma**

**Secunder of Procedural: Sina**

**Procedural Passes.**

**Mover of Motion: Elliot**

**Secunder of Motion: Lucia**

**Elliot:** Speaks to background to the motion and the changes to mental health compensation changes. Opposing the government's cost saving argument because they participate in what is creating the mental health issues .

**Lucia:** Reiterates it as an appalling attack, to go after compensation, reflective of what the Minns government has been doing regularly attacking the working class such as nurse wages.

**Neeve:** Is for the motion but has interest in amending it.

**Neeve proposes amendment to:**

Change Platform point 1 to:

*"The UTSSA condemns the New South Wales Treasurer, Daniel Mookhey's proposed reforms that will attack New South Wales compensation."*

Change Platform point 2 to:

*"The UTSSA supports the Union NSW's campaign against the proposed attack on worker's compensation."*

**Neeve:** Speaks to the amendments as they will be more specific to who the campaign is fighting, fits more in line with the unions campaign and make sure the platform is specific.

**Neeve:** Clarifies she has no issue with criticising the government but is more effective to focus on the individual who is pushing the change.

**Yasmine:** Not in favour of the Amendment due to other members of the Labor government indicating support, important to oppose it as a whole and the Labor government.

Amelia Ireland: Suggests criticising both.

**Neeve:** Reiterates not opposed to criticising Minns, but important to recognise that there were Labor government members who oppose the changes too.

**Yasmine open to changes.**

**Yasmine and Neeve work towards combined motion.**

**Neeve reads new combined amendments.**

Changes to :

*8.1 Platform:*

*1. The UTSSA condemns the Minn's Labor Government's proposed reforms by NSW Treasuer Daniel Mookhey that will attack NSW workers' compensation.*

*2. The UTSSA supports the Unions NSW campaign against the proposed attacks on workers compensation.*

*Action:*



*The UTSSA will reshare information from the Unions NSW Instagram page informing students about how they can support the Unions NSW campaign against the attacks and encourages SRC members to join the petition.*

**Mover is amenable.**

**The motion passes unanimously as amended.**

## 8.2 UTSSA stands against the cuts to Australian Universities

### **Preamble**

Australian universities are facing significant attacks on staff and student conditions across the country. Much like at UTS, several universities are undertaking restructures to cut millions from their operating budgets in order to boost their financial position. These cuts are coming at the cost of sacking, cumulatively, thousands of university workers who have had no say in these plans. Additionally, tens of thousands of students will be negatively affected as universities move to decrease their study choices through subject and degree cuts.

At Western Sydney University, 400 full-time-equivalent jobs are being axed, a figure that amounts to 10% of the entire workforce. This will likely affect far more than 400 individuals as the university can consider several casual workers' cumulative work as the equivalent of just one full-time worker.

At ANU, management have threatened to cut a whopping \$250M from their annual budget, including \$100M in staff expenses - the equivalent of 638 staff jobs.

Macquarie University is slashing \$8M from their Arts faculty. The 48 first year subjects which are currently available across the Arts faculty will be reduced to just 8 mandatory subjects that all students, regardless of their major, will be required to take. This is on top of the fact that Macquarie is home to Australia's worst staff to student ratio, at 1:50!

The University of Wollongong has already sacked over 90 staff members this year, with another 181 job cuts in the pipeline.

Across Australia, students and staff shouldn't have to pay the price of management's economic plans. The devastating impact these cuts will have on staff livelihoods, student

study choice, student support services and access to research is all the more reason to fight against a Higher Education run for profit.

### **Platform**

The UTSSA opposes the attacks on students and staff being carried out across Australian Universities, including UTS, ANU, WSU, MQU and UOW.

### **Action**

1. The UTSSA will publish a graphic to its social media indicating its solidarity with other campuses facing cuts.

**Mover: Ella**

**Second: Lucia**

*Lucia waives time to Ella*

**Lucia:** Talks about the importance of UTSSA standing against the cuts by universities, mentions to the cuts proposed at ANU.

Describes these cuts following the Melbourne model where undergraduate degrees become extremely general which forces students to get postgraduate degrees to specialise. Will be prepared to attack cuts next sem.

**Mia:** Explains she has been frustrated by Universities ability to sidestep all the usual processes to stop damage, so there will be avoiding accountability protocols that would have prevented mass culling at the university.

**Mia:** Speaks to being overwhelmed by other equally important campaigns and would be good to have collaborative effort on this issue.

Mentions NTEU Review as a meeting anyone could indicate to attend hoping to plan with the NTEU on the semester break on what they can do.

**Neeve:** Talks about the issue of building 6 being shut down at night 10am to 6am

Explains that it is unreasonable to close these buildings at night since it clearly doesn't need that much security. Students need to access these services to do their work with equipment that they in the building.

**Mia:** To ensure this content is created quickly, seeks to establish the understanding that mover of

the motion should be responsible for creating the specific content unless it was understood that the Education officer would do it.

**Ella:** Volunteers to create the content.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.3 UTSSA to Become a BDS-Aligned Organisation

### **Preamble:**

The Palestinian Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a global, Palestinian-led initiative that seeks to end Israel's occupation, apartheid, and settler-colonial regime while advocating for the recognition of Palestinian rights under international law. It targets institutions and corporations complicit in human rights abuses and war crimes, utilizing strategic and sustained pressure campaigns, similar to the global efforts that helped end apartheid in South Africa.

Given recent rulings by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)—which have recognized the plausibility of Israel committing genocide and issued arrest warrants for Israeli officials—the ethical imperative for the UTSSA to align itself with the BDS movement is stronger than ever. As a registered charity and student union that represents a diverse body of students, many of whom are directly affected by or connected to the ongoing genocide in Gaza, UTSSA has a responsibility to uphold the values of justice, solidarity, and human dignity.

### **Action:**

That the UTSSA:

1. Formally declares itself a BDS-supporting organisation:  
The UTSSA commits to supporting the principles of the BDS movement, as outlined by the Palestinian BDS National Committee. The UTSSA will include this commitment in its internal policy platform under Policy 7, and announce this declaration through a public social media post.
2. Adopts a policy to boycott, divest from, and refuse partnerships with BDS-targeted corporations. The UTSSA will refrain from engaging with corporations and entities listed as BDS targets due to their complicity in Israeli war crimes,

including but not limited to:

2.1 Consumer boycott targets: PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Burger King, Yum! Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell), Domino's Pizza, Hewlett-Packard (HP), Disney, Airbnb, Unilever, and SodaStream.

2.2 Israeli companies: In accordance with BDS guidelines.

2.3 Office bearers during events and O-Day stalls: Office bearers must comply with BDS guidelines by refraining from distributing BDS-targeted products during UTSSA events, including but not limited to O-Day stalls.

2.4 Collective spaces compliance: Office bearers are encouraged to avoid stocking or promoting BDS-targeted products within their collective spaces, ensuring these environments are more aligned with the principles of justice and ethical practices.

3. Establishes a policy for reimbursement: UTSSA office bearers and members shall not be reimbursed for purchases of goods or services from the above-listed companies unless no viable alternatives are available.

3.1 Exceptional circumstances: In such cases, approval must be sought in writing from the UTSSA Executive, who will evaluate the feasibility of alternatives and ensure the purchase aligns with the broader principles of the BDS movement.

4. UTSSA will prioritise sourcing ethical, sustainable, and non-complicit alternatives for products used at UTSSA events, meetings, and initiatives, ensuring that the procurement process aligns with BDS principles.
5. The UTSSA will support education and implementation efforts to ensure that affiliated societies, collectives, and publications align their procurement and sponsorship practices with BDS guidelines.
6. The UTSSA commits to regularly reviewing and updating the list of companies targeted by the BDS movement, using the BDS Australia website and global BDS

Movement resources as the primary reference points.

7. The UTSSA affirms that this motion is not just a bureaucratic exercise but a moral commitment to justice. It is a tangible way for UTSSA to stand with oppressed communities worldwide—especially those in Gaza, who are currently facing mass slaughter and displacement.

**Motion is withdrawn for further improvement.**

## 8.4 UTSSA Endorsement for Twenty 10

### **Preamble:**

The UTSSA provides many services and resources to students on campus however there are some situations where more specialised resources are needed to give proper and create care. Many on the far-right have used the elections of Donald Trump to legitimacy and legislate anti-queer and anti-trans policies. With the same attitudes spilling into Australian politics, such as the banning of HRT for anyone under 18, many within the LGBTQIA+ community feel their very right to existence threaten. The UTSSA has a duty to create a safe and inclusive space for people of diverse backgrounds and should support any route that can help in this endeavour. Twenty10 is an organisation that provides support, counselling, housing assistance, and community programs for LGBTQIA+ young people aged 12 to 25, as well as training and advocacy aimed at building safer and more inclusive spaces across society. Many LGBTQIA+ students at UTS, particularly those from regional, multicultural, or religiously conservative backgrounds, face intersecting challenges including social isolation, mental health difficulties, family rejection, discrimination, and housing insecurity—issues which are directly addressed by the work of Twenty10. It is critical that services such as these are made aware and available to all students of diverse gender and sexual backgrounds. Endorsing Twenty10 would align with the UTSSA's values of equity, diversity, and student welfare. This endorsement will strengthen the support for students of the LGBTQI+ community

### **Action**

- 1) Enables the Distribution of Twenty10 resources such as flyers or contact details for services in Queer Space or other UTSSA office spaces
- 2) Enables the Queer Officer to post events link to Twenty10 on the Queer Collective social media

**Mover: Daewah**

**Seconder: Samiha**

**Daewah:** Speaks on the background of the motion and the Twenty 10 group as a group that provides assistance to LGBTQI+ Students.

**Samiha:** Adds on that this service is more professional and more then what we do currently provide.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 9. General Business

**Mia:** Raises the importance of keeping the new activist space clean, explains that the process of moving items in the space from when it was the old office is still in process.

## 10. Close of Meeting at 7:53pm

## Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

### 1. President

This month involved strategically refining some of the work and projects I have been doing from the start of the 2025 term in order to focus on the campaigns that mean the most to me. Aside from finishing off furnishing the new office, and continuing to lead the Special Considerations Working Group alongside 10-15 other staff and students, the work that I have been doing this semester is as follows:

#### *Meeting with the Vice-Chancellor*

During my meeting with the Vice-Chancellor on May 9<sup>th</sup>, I raised key concerns about UTS's ongoing failure to implement student-focused reforms around sexual violence and misconduct. These include inconsistent processes across UTS and ActivateUTS, lack of communication with victim-survivors, the non-release of the 2025 Angela Hill follow-up report, and overall inaction on past recommendations. I stressed that UTS is not currently on track to comply with the draft National Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence (likely to be effective Jan 2026). The VC said that there was a full review of the misconduct and complaints processes underway. The VC recognised the fundamental disconnect between immediate incidents and systemic governance failures, clearly indicating that SCLG should not bear responsibility for managing sexual harm cases. While unable to comment on specific cases, the VC deemed the current lack of process transparency unacceptable and committed to addressing these procedural deficiencies.

I also addressed concerns over UTS's protest policies, including opposition to a proposed ban on indoor protests, and urged transparency around UTS's legal engagement with Bartier Perry. The VC confirmed the university's stance on not adopting the IHRA definition unless legally required.

On SSAF, I reiterated that UTS must develop a transparent student consultation process for internal allocation of funds.

#### *Campaign against Sexual Violence at UTS*

Aside from meeting with the VC, I also filed a GIPA request seeking access to various documents summarised as follows:

- The full Angela Hill report from the review conducted into UTS' response to sexual violence in 2024-2025
- Documents relating to the SSAF-funded safety caseworkers

- Communications between UTS and ActivateUTS relating to responding to sexual violence
- Correspondence relating to the UTSSA SCLG 24/3 paper
- Information on student misconduct processes.

Additionally, I met with Steve Drissell, who is conducting the VC's internal review into UTS's complaints and misconduct systems.

### *Responding to Crackdowns on Protests*

I attended a meeting with James Mattson, external legal counsel engaged by UTS, to provide context around the National Day of Action protest organised by the UTSSA on March 26th. The meeting largely focused on the SA's role within the protest and "safety".

Key points discussed included:

- I explained the functions of the SA, the role of elected office bearers, and the processes through which events are endorsed and organised, including this event.
- I confirmed that the SA had endorsed the event, liaised with UTS security, and was responsible for promotional materials (e.g. tote bags and flyers). While there was no formal paperwork submitted in advance, security was consulted and sent the usual Form 1.
- I clarified that counter-protests are common and that the individuals involved in this instance were known to organisers. I rejected the suggestion that the counter-protest was incidental.
- In response to questions about particular speakers, I made clear that the event was co-organised by several groups including UTS Staff for Palestine and PalSoc. While a staff member invited Peter Slezak, I noted that it was not the UTSSA's role to police speech when speakers are reflecting on lived experience.
- I strongly contested any suggestion the protest was unsafe or confrontational, stating that it was a peaceful, well-organised and typical event. I expressed concern about the university initiating an external investigation in the absence of any complaints at the time or breaches of conduct.
- I also raised broader concerns about the fairness of the university's response, particularly in contrast to how other events – such as IDF-affiliated visits to campus – are treated.
- James did not comment on the content of the protest but stated that his focus was on ensuring safe environments and helping the university balance its commitment to free expression with its duty of care.

The tone of the meeting was civil, but I emphasised that the process felt politically motivated and inconsistent with the university's usual approach to student-led events.

I also co-signed a letter with the President of the NTEU (UTS) branch opposing proposed changes to UTS Campus Policy that would ban indoor protests. We argued that this



violates freedom of expression and replaces cooperative risk management with restrictive and ambiguous prohibitions. The university responded but is proceeding regardless with these changes.

### *SSAF Campaign*

This month, I also co-authored a joint paper with ActivateUTS titled "*SSAF: Governance, Compliance and Strategic Reform*", which will be tabled at the June Student/Council Liaison Group meeting. The paper identifies significant compliance, governance, and transparency issues in UTS's current SSAF allocation model and outlines proposals to bring the university into alignment with national legislation and its own strategic goals.

Key risks identified include:

- Compliance risk due to a lack of genuine student consultation as required under the Higher Education Support Act and SSARA Guidelines;
- Governance and transparency gaps stemming from opaque UTS internal allocations with limited student oversight;
- Strategic misalignment between UTS's student-centred branding and actual SSAF decision-making practices;
- Funding equity concerns due to the absence of a contestable process and growing imbalance between UTS and student-led organisation allocations;
- Use of SSAF to backfill operational budgets, undermining the intent of the fee.

The paper recommends a full governance review and the establishment of a student-majority SSAF Governance and Oversight Committee with authority to review all funding proposals, including those from UTS units. It also proposes the creation of a contestable funding pool and annual Council review of the SSAF consultation process. These reforms are proposed for implementation by the 2026 SSAF cycle.

## 2. General Secretary

Throughout May, my work has focused on completing administrative responsibilities as the semester concludes to leave me in a good place to begin working on initiatives for semester 2.

A major focus this month has been preparing for the end-of-semester Office Bearers Reviews. I have worked to prepare a meeting time for the review and that early reviews of reports to ensure Office Bearers have the reports completed on time. I have been working alongside Aryan to continue to ensure internal documents are being brought up to date. While also completing general work like assisting the Postgrad officer in running their Convenor elections.

I have also continued working with *Vertigo* towards ensuring their third edition provides a lot of value to students and will be meeting with them at the Working Group Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May where I hope we can work together collaboratively to ensure this.

Looking ahead now that for the large part the back log of internal administrative work is completed, I can put much more of my time into larger initiatives, including a refresh of the *UTSSA Handbook*. This will involve working with other office bearers to ensure all important information of the Union is presented but also ways at which the handbook can be done differently. Although currently the Handbook as a Diary is more useful to students than the older standalone handbooks, I want to look at methods where students are encouraged to actually learn about the UTSSA. If anyone has Ideas they wanted to share, feel free to let me know.

In addition, I'm looking at possible improvements to our start-of-semester engagement, which may be implementable for Semester two or at least leave concrete plans for next year. With a particular interest in improvements to our free food services like *NightOwl Noodles*. This is mainly looking at how we can better collect data for pushes to expand services, improvements to how we can promote campaigns through it and how we can integrate utensils to limit the current confusion/friction of students who only bring bowls.

Overall, May has been a productive month of getting much more used to the general functions of the role in order to be in place where I can complete those administrative tasks and begin to contribute much more effectively to the initiatives of the Union.

### 3. Assistant General Secretary

This month has been a really productive introduction to my role as Assistant General Secretary. While I only joined recently, I've already had the chance to get involved in some key responsibilities and begin understanding the inner workings of the UTSSA.

One of the first major tasks I took on was helping to update and maintain internal documentation. This included replacing outdated records with updated versions, uploading a new preamble section to relevant documents, and updating financial reporting documents with figures that had been pending since the beginning of the year. It was a great way to see how structured and detailed the backend of the Association is, and how much goes into keeping things running smoothly.

I also worked on creating a social media post in response to UTS' proposed ban on indoor demonstrations. Using Canva, I designed a post based on the letter sent to the Chief Operating Officer and collaborated with Mia to finalise and publish it on the UTSSA Instagram. It's been exciting to contribute to campaigns that directly affect student rights and voices on campus.

Beyond tasks, I've spent time getting up to speed — attending regular meetings with Januka, gaining access to and learning the website backend with Biljana, and going through core governing documents to better understand my responsibilities.

It's been genuinely fulfilling to experience this kind of involvement during uni. Being part of the Students' Association has made me feel more connected to the university and I'm proud to support the decision-making and representation that helps shape student life. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow in the role and contribute wherever I can.

#### 4. Welfare Officer

This past month has been somewhat slower than anticipated for the welfare portfolio due to a personal foot injury, which unfortunately led to several meetings being postponed. I had originally scheduled meetings with Mariah, the UTSSA Executive Officer as well as with the staff members of our Bluebird Brekkie and Night Owl Noodles initiatives but was unable to attend due to limited mobility. I intend to reschedule and conduct these meetings in the coming month.

Despite these setbacks, I was fortunate to participate in an external review of the UTS Health Service. Many students who have accessed the service will be familiar with ongoing issues such as limited appointment availability, late cancellations, and at times, less-than-ideal advice from medical staff. I'm pleased that the welfare department was able to contribute meaningfully to this review, and I'm hopeful that our involvement will lead to improvements in the service offered to students.

This month, I also took part in the National Union of Students (NUS) nationwide welfare survey, which I have shared through my social media channels. I'm hopeful that the results will reflect the lived experiences of UTS students and contribute to broader national advocacy on student welfare.

Additionally, my article on UTS housing and the UTSSA's work in that space was recently published in Vertigo. It was also fantastic to see a separate piece written by Vertigo news editor Eryn Yates, which highlighted the permanent food spaces initiative – another

important welfare project currently underway. It's encouraging to see increased coverage and recognition of these efforts.

Looking ahead, the second meeting of the Student Council Liaison Group is less than a month away. At this meeting, we will receive formal responses from UTS to the two papers I submitted in March. In response to the housing paper specifically, UTS launched the UTS Housing 2025 Resident Survey. Notably, no such survey was conducted in 2023 or 2024. It appears the university is seeking to collect its own data to frame a response to the UTSSA's advocacy. While we will be receiving formal replies to both papers regardless, I will also be requesting access to the survey results directly from Sarah Lok, Director of the UTS Student Services Unit, and Matthew Bowerman, Manager of the UTS Housing Service.

In addition, I will be following up with UTS Legal regarding proposed amendments to the current licence agreement for student housing. While this matter is not yet time-critical, the September deadline is approaching, and it is important that we keep this moving forward.

I'm also currently preparing a workshop for the upcoming Education Conference (EdCon) and look forward to sharing that space with many of you next month.

## 5. Women's Officer

In May I worked on the Period Products Campaign, having held multiple organising meetings and creating a survey with the help of Mia and recommendations from WoCo, I spent early May poster and making social media promotion for the survey.

The survey ended on the 26th of May. It was extremely successful, receiving 312 responses which will be used to push harder for more funding toward the period product service at UTS. This is the main goal for next month

I also held a banner painting session and attended the National Day of Action against Gendered Violence run by What Were You Wearing. This was an extremely important event to attend. We heard some powerful stories from victim survivors about their experiences interacting with the system and the shameful failures of institutions that are supposed to protect us.

Finally, I contacted the DVC Kylie Readman and RNA on making a statement around the recent femicide of UTS student Audrey Griffith and the continuing rise in femicide since January 2024. I also contacted RNA about working on in-person consent training for clubs and societies. This was a motion I had passed at NatCon last year and so I am hoping to work toward this at UTS.

## 6. International Students' Officer

### 1. Invitation to Discuss Refugee Student Settlement Pathway (RSSP)

In early May, with the endorsement of Ashlyn (National NUS President), I extended an invitation to key university stakeholders to participate in a meeting to discuss the new Refugee Student Settlement Pathway (RSSP). This initiative aims to support displaced students from regions such as Malaysia, India, and Thailand. The RSSP includes a peer-to-peer model with support activities such as airport pickups, welcome arrangements, study acclimatisation, campus orientation, and fundraising (approx. \$1000 per student). A poll was distributed to coordinate availability for a mid-May meeting:  
<https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/bkXD1gvd>.

### 2. Student Media Connection - 12 May 2025

On May 12, I assisted two international students in connecting with a local news agency. They were able to share their personal stories and settlement experiences, helping to amplify student voices and raise awareness about challenges faced by displaced learners.

### 3. RSSP Introductory Meeting - 16 May 2025

On May 16, I participated in a preliminary meeting to further introduce the RSSP to relevant university stakeholders. The meeting offered an opportunity to discuss the logistics of student support, share feedback, and align institutional efforts in welcoming the new cohort of refugee-background students.

### 4. Planning Meeting with NSW ISRC Chair - 19 May 2025

On May 19, I held a planning session with the NSW ISRC Chair regarding the upcoming student visit to the University of Newcastle. This visit, hosted by the university, will serve as an opportunity to foster inter-campus community building and showcase student leadership at the state level.

### Conclusion

May 2025 was a month of meaningful engagement, focusing on inclusive support mechanisms for international and refugee-background students. Through collaborative meetings and media engagement, we have continued to build awareness, prepare for upcoming visits, and enhance the visibility of student-led support programs. These

initiatives lay the groundwork for deeper cooperation and more resilient student communities across NSW.

## 7. Indigenous Officer

This month, with reconciliation week coinciding with AFL indigenous round, I have focused has focused on encouraging cultural awareness and community engagement through two key initiatives aligned with both events.

### Indigenous Round – GWS Giants Student Ticket Initiative

To provide affordable access for students to attend the Indigenous Round AFL match and engage with Indigenous culture through sport.

I coordinated with the GWS Giants to secure a special ticket offer for students at UTS to get \$10 tickets to indigenous round. This was promoted through student network as I have dialed back on social media.

### Reconciliation Week – Photographic Exhibition Tour

With the objective to deepen student understanding of Indigenous history and storytelling through visual art, I am in the process of organising a guided group tour for students to attend the Photographic Exhibition by Aunty Barbara McGrady.

Scheduled the tour for Saturday 31 at 2:00 PM during Reconciliation Week meeting at the bottom of Yura Mudang.

I look forward to the coming months with NAIDOC week vastly approaching!

## 8. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Progress:

- Facilitated Convenor Election for the Postgraduate Collective:

Organised the internal election meeting held on Monday, 17th May via Zoom to appoint the new Convenor for the postgraduate collective. Coordinated the voting process,

introduced candidates, and ensured election transparency. Manasvi was elected as the new Convenor, with participation from 17 postgraduate students.

- Collaborated with Monash University on the Health, Family and Finances Survey: Actively promoted the inter-university survey among UTS postgraduate students, encouraging participation to identify key wellbeing concerns. Coordinated with the UTSSA for newsletter circulation.
- Continued online engagement and support through the Instagram channel: Maintained regular interaction with postgraduate students through posts about services, events, and mental health support. The page has now grown to over 400 followers, creating a steady platform for communication and outreach.

Upcoming Plans:

- Analyse responses from the Monash Survey and share with the UTSSA to understand the needs and requirements of the students to help them better.
- Initiate planning for Spring 2025 O'Day and collective meetup.
- Collaborate with newly elected Convenor and other collectives to host cross-cultural, career and academic support events for postgraduate students.

## 9. Ethnocultural Officer

### **SCGL Paper on Racism & Representation**

The SCLG paper addressing racism on campus and the severe lack of racial diversity in UTS leadership has now been drafted and submitted for initial feedback. The report outlines the structural and cultural barriers facing BIPOC students and staff, and puts forward a series of recommendations for improving meaningful inclusion in university governance. This has been a collaborative effort with Chloe Ferreira, and will be shared once refined post-exams.

### **Campaign to Cut Ties with Israeli Institutions**

I have been working to liaise with key figures at UTS regarding the process of formally cutting institutional ties with Israeli universities and companies complicit in the occupation of Palestine. UTS is now on track to become one of the first universities in the Western world to make such a move, and we are currently pushing for full transparency around the timeline and announcement of this divestment. This work builds on student protest, submissions, and continued lobbying since October 2023.

### **Accountability Meetings with UTS Leadership**

Over the past month, I have participated in a number of meetings with senior UTS staff, including those from CSJI and the VC's office, calling for urgent action in response to the genocide in Gaza. One key demand is for a university-wide email acknowledging the impact of the genocide on Palestinian students, staff, and their families, as well as the



Islamophobic backlash that has followed. UTS must be consistent in addressing global issues that impact its community, and cannot remain silent on Palestine.

### **Vertigo Podcast on Ethnocultural Student Life**

I have begun working with the Vertigo editorial team to produce a podcast focused on the experiences of ethnocultural students at UTS. This project will spotlight student voices and offer space for critical conversations about race, identity, and activism on campus. The podcast is currently in pre-production and will feature interviews, lived experiences, and cultural commentary.

### **Election of a Convenor**

A convenor has now been elected for the Ethnocultural Collective to support events, meetings, and administrative duties.

### **Palestinian Refugee Student Support**

I am now a designated point of contact for Palestinian students arriving at UTS on humanitarian or refugee scholarships. This includes offering cultural and academic support, liaising with services, and ensuring that their transition into the university community is met with dignity, safety, and care.

### **Follow-Up on Anti-Palestinian Racism Submission**

I am still awaiting a response from Amy Perrson (PVC, Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion) regarding the detailed report I submitted on incidents of anti-Palestinian racism at UTS. The report calls for a standalone statement recognising anti-Palestinian racism without relying on antisemitism as a point of comparison or validation. Recognition must be rooted in our own experiences, not measured against someone else's.

### **Legal Review & IDF Incident**

Alongside Yasmine Johnson, I contributed to the recent legal review connected to the National Day of Action (NDA) rally. While the focus of the review was framed around student protest, we were told that the IDF event held on campus is not currently under investigation—despite the harm and retraumatisation it caused for Palestinian students. I raised this concern and stressed the need for equitable scrutiny and transparency.

## **10. Disabilities Officer**

May has been a quieter month for the Disabilities Collective. This month largely has been spent preparing for the NUS Education Conference as well as completing the End Of Semester Disabilities OB Report. We have attempted to hold our fortnightly coffee catchups, however these have had a much lower attendance due to exam season, but is still



a great way of catching up with the collective, and hearing their ideas and goals for the collective in an informal setting.

I have also been working on a variety of materials for the launch of the Sunflower Scheme at UTS as well as Disability Pride Month coming up in July. I have also been in communication with Hannah from Disability Pride Sydney about the UTS Disabilities Collective's involvement in Disability Pride Sydney, and she has passed on a design opportunity for banners to be displayed across Sydney CBD.

I have also continued to work on the UTS Disabilities Collective Guide to Accessibility Master document, and have been adding to this throughout the month, particularly with information regarding organising protests and actions and accessible social media practices.

## 11. Queer Officer

At this stage, progress has been steady but limited. We are currently in discussions with the LGBTIQ+ Project Officer of Centre of Inclusion to plan and coordinate events for Wear It Purple Day in August. These events aim to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of inclusion and visibility. The Centre for Inclusion are thinking of doing a lecture or cultural performances to discussion trans visibility, life experiences and the colonial impacts within these spaces around November during Trans Week of Awareness. This will not only include members of UTS but also include collab with other university and community members. We discussed how we could collaborate with other faculties to help promote and educate people with the border issues around trans visibility, health and wellbeing.

In addition, I have reached out to Twenty10, an organisation that offers a wide range of free support services for LGBTQIA+ youth. Their services include health and mental health counselling, advice on general wellbeing and short-term housing for those in need. We are exploring the possibility of collaborating with them to provide information sessions or providing information to their services.

Looking ahead, June is Pride Month, and we are excited to be planning a number of events in celebration. These events will be designed to foster community, celebrate diversity, and strengthen the visibility of LGBTQIA+ students on campus. One key event currently in development is the Queer Ball—a collaborative effort between the Queer Collective and UTS Darlings. Hopefully this event will highlight UTS efforts to provide and build a safe and inclusion space that celebrates all differences and diverse backgrounds.

## 12. Environment Officer

The enviro collective has had a very busy ending to the semester.

#### Events:

We ran our final gardening session and movie night on the 7th of May. both events were quite successful and saw good turnout, with both seeing new members coming to an Enviro event for the first time. I hope to continue the relationship with Ultimo community garden into semester 2 with new projects to help out the garden such as helping them with cleaning up their shed.

#### Sustainability steering committee:

I have updated the sustainability steering committee about the work that the collective has been doing and that we now have an active membership

#### AI operations board:

I attended a meeting of the AI operations board this month, I raised concerns students had about using AI chatbots provided by the uni, particularly around the confidentiality of any information provided.

#### Sydney Morning Herald Interview:

I spoke to a reporter from the Sydney Morning Herald/Age about concerns students have had about AI invigilation in exams, especially when it comes to being falsely flagged for misconduct by proctoring software