

Minutes of the August Meeting of the UTSSA 19th August 2021.

Attendance:

- Aidan O'Rourke (President)
- Erin Dalton (General Secretary)
- Camille Smith (Assistant General Secretary)
- Sabine Yassine (Welfare Officer)
- Peter Munford (Postgraduate Officer)
- Nour Al-Hammouri (Welfare Convenor)
- Ursula Aczel (General Councillor)
- Melodie Grafton (Ethnocultural Officer)
- Cal McKinley (Queer Convenor)
- Eshna Gupta (Womens' Officer)
- Lina Min (General Councillor)
- Jeylan Riza (General Councillor)
- Juneyt Cihan (University Council Representative – Undergraduate)
- Anna Thieben (Enviro Convenor)
- Will Simmons (Education Convenor)
- Nick Allison (General Councillor)
- Charlie McLean (General Councillor)
- Clodagh Maclean (Queer Convenor)
- Mariah Brown (Executive Officer)
- Jared Turkington (General Councillor)
- Abdulrahman Kandil (General Councillor)
- Saumyaa Shukla (General Councillor)
- Damien Nguyen (Enviro Convenor)

Agenda:

1. Opening of Meeting
 - 1.1. Election of Deputy Chair
 - 1.2. Acknowledgement of Country
 - 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies
 - 1.4. Declarations of Interest
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 - 2.1. Executive Business
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Office Bearers' Reports
 - 5.1. President
 - 5.2. General Secretary
 - 5.3. Assistant General Secretary
 - 5.4. Education Officer
 - 5.5. Welfare Officer

- 5.6. Women's Officer
- 5.7. International Students' Officer
- 5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer
- 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer
- 5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer
- 5.11. Accessibility Officer
- 5.12. Queer Students' Officer
- 5.13. Environment Officer
- 6. Other Reports
 - 6.1. Committees
 - 6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.
- 7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.
- 8. Other Business Arising on Notice
 - 8.1. SRC Afghanistan and Lebanon Solidarity
 - 8.2. Support our Students
 - 8.3. Queer Spending
- 9. General Business
- 10. Close of Meeting

Minutes:

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened at 7:25pm

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

Aidan delivers Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2 Election of Deputy Chair

Erin elected deputy chair unopposed.

1.3 Apologies and proxies

Noted on page

1.4 Declarations of Interest

None

2. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Erin: Minutes of 6 Executive Meetings, 1 SRC meeting.

Motion: That the minutes be accepted as true and accurate records.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Sabrina

Motion carried unanimously

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Correspondence

Aidan: No Correspondence from NUS since last meeting, have yet to receive anything about Afghanistan. Some correspondence from CISA regarding international students. Also from tenants' association, regarding survey, shared to Welfare. Also received correspondence from ACRI Questions or copies, let me know.

5. Office-Bearer Reports

5.1 President

Aidan's report taken as read, except total figure for Executive spending amended to match \$3600 in GenSec's report.

5.2 General Secretary

Taken as read.

5.3 Assistant General Secretary

Taken as read.

5.4 Education Officer

Taken as read.

5.5 Welfare Officer

Taken as read.

5.6 Women's Officer

Eshna: was late, didn't submit report, but provided one to council. WoCo has grown immensely. We have 20-30 new members. Since last SRC have started reading groups. Meetings have grown in attendance too. RNA campaign is taking most of our time. Collaborating with Catharine on new posters. Radical Rants has started too after meetings, has been controversial but good. Panel next Friday with other autonomous Collectives.

5.7 International Officer

None provided.

5.8 Indigenous Officer

Taken as read.

5.9 Postgraduate Officer

Peter: Quick update on UTS Council. Met yesterday by Zoom. UTS has made 110 million in savings over last financial year. Greatly improved in Global Rankings, top tech university in Australia, 9th in World. Federal Govt minister has said no support outside of research. Obsessed with Freedom of Speech, concerned about foreign interference. UTS is watching situation closely with regards to both opening up and welcoming new International Students. Dean of Science foreshadowed staff and course cuts. VC search is currently underway, Peter is also on panel.

Ellie: Reporting total of 45 staff cut across Science and FEIT.

Peter: Also asked about graduations. Significant backlog but actively planning to resume graduations when possible. All students will be given opportunity to.

5.10 Cultural Diversity Officer

Melodie supplied report late. Provided verbal report to Council.

5.11. Accessibility

Vacant.

5.12 Queer Officer

Taken as read.

5.13 Enviro Officer

Anna: Enviro has had a couple of meetings, looking forward to the semester.

6. Other Reports

6.1 Committees

Finance:

Erin: Reported on finance meeting, noted funding wasn't what we asked for, included a significant drop in allocations in specific areas in particular. Really disappointing.

Aidan: Made a proposal to move to a different funding model with a 3-yearly model. Proposal was not accepted but is under consideration. I imagine that this guaranteed model is something we will be picking up next year and giving us the security to run our services.

Cal: What does this mean for the Collectives and our funding?

Aidan: Per by-laws, as long as all criteria in by-laws are met, then Executive must approve.

Ellie: What kind of campaign?

Aidan: Open that up to Council. Please formulate what you'd like to see us do and get back next SRC.

Erin: Plan was that it would be a matter arising on next SRC.

Aidan: Will have Exec in 2 weeks on Tuesday, please attend and we can discuss this then too.

Eshna: Two questions. Wanted to clarify about what was said with relation to Cal's question.

Without signing the guarantee, can the Collectives that haven't signed get spending?

Aidan: No, Council has removed the ability from the Executive to approve. As far as the Association is concerned, the WoCo is inactive. Once you provide those things, we can start having discussions about funding.

Eshna: I've done all that. I'll send it today. If I do that, do I still need to sign the guarantee to get the funding?

Aidan: Unclear, will need to look at minutes.

Eshna: Not sure we should be framing campaign around why we need the money more than Activate.

Aidan: Was anticipating that would be the rough model. Since we're a democratic student body, we deserve a fair share of the SSAF pie.

Ellie: My position as a member of the Executive is that the WoCo is active.

Cal: Would like to second that statement. WoCo is doing a great job.

Eshna: Was confused as to how to send minutes and notice etc.

Grievance:

Erin: Grievance has met, I am currently chair. Have drafted procedures which we will be using to deal with grievances internally. They'll be tabled at next SRC.

6.2 Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff

None

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends, and Reimbursements

None

8. Business Arising on Notice

8.1 Afghanistan and Lebanon Solidarity

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Sabine

Seconded: Nour

Sabine: Hopefully everyone is aware of the situations in both Lebanon and Afghanistan. Thousands of people are displaced, with significant issues. Lebanon has no power, food, water, fuel, economic crisis, Lebanese pound worth almost nothing. Motion is for the UTSSA to formalise support for both of these communities and provide support where we can.

Aidan: Happy to reach out to Shirley with regards to if there are any special considerations for Lebanese or Afghan students that are specific and responsive to this.

Motion carried unanimously

8.2 Support our Students

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Sabine

Seconded: Peter.

Aidan: Summarises motion. Speaks to the lacklustre response by the government. Motion calls on UTSSA to support vaccine rollout. Condemns Libs and Nats, encourages and supports ALP for their pushes.

Ellie: It is very clear that this is political support for the ALP, which is pretty clearly inappropriate. Also clear the ALP doesn't care for minorities. Motion is bad, shouldn't be passed.

Camille: Agrees. Also suggests that members of SRC who aren't in Labor aren't doing anything. Thinks it could be best amended to note the UTSSA supports etc

Erin: Amendment to remove "the Australian Labor Party to continue" and replace with "Any organisation that continues". Amenable to mover.

Aidan: I did write the motion. Must confess that he loves the ALP, and the party is the largest progressive party in the country. Thinks calling on the ALP is alright. Does recognise that ACOSS and other organisations do incredible work in this space too. Also wants to shout out to the National Welfare Officer of the NUS with regards to their continued work. Great that they're Unity.

Ellie: Reminds Aidan she is on speaking list.

Aidan: Speaking list will be cut there. Will move to a vote.

Erin: Moves motion of dissent in the chair. Takes the chair, while Aidan becomes the Chair in Dissent. Asks Aidan if he would like to justify decision before motion is put.

Procedural Motion: That the motion be put.

Moved: Aidan

Seconded: Sabine

10 to 6, 1 abstention, motion carried.

Motion: That the chair's ruling be reversed, and that Ellie be permitted to speak.

6 for, 10 against, 1 abstention, motion failed. Aidan resumes the chair.

Motion: That the policy be adopted as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Queer Spending

Cal: I think the ALP is stinky, would like to say how good the Queer Collective is. Motion is for Pride Week spending. Reads preamble and summarises goals. Notes coming out by cake unlikely to be possible.

Aidan: Spending allowing any number of people in queer to attend?

Cal: Yes

Erin: Coming out by cake not happening, workshops on Zoom?

Clodagh: Yes, that's right.

Motion: That the expenditure be approved as amended.

Moved: Melodie

Seconded: Erin

Motion carried unanimously.

9. General Business

Erin: There is an item of spending that wasn't circulated on notice. Motion to discuss it.

Motion: That the item be discussed.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Sabine

Motion carried unanimously

Erin: Motion is for a spend of \$3600 to add Accessibility Toolbar to our websites.

Motion: That the SRC approve an upper spending limit of \$3600 to add an Accessibility Toolbar to the UTSSA and Vertigo websites.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Sabine

Motion carried unanimously

Camille: Seriously disgusted with the behaviour of Aidan and the rest of Unity. Thinks it is disgusting, and shows why people

Cal: Going off Accessibility discussion. Have been considering other options for live captioning etc in Zoom. Using OtterAI for live transcriptions. Would that be something that the UTSSA would consider buying or campaigning for the university wide option.

Aidan: If you send an email with the details of it to Aidan and Erin, we can investigate.

Erin: Seconds what Aidan said, also notes Google Meets is a possibility. Doesn't support dynamic renaming but does have good transcripts.

Eshna: Had a contact from an alumna (TW Sexual Assault). When I became Womens Officer I wasn't given information on resources or stuff about Sexual Assault. Person has come to Eshna for support regarding Sexual Assault.

Erin: If assault happened at UTS, can be referred to UTS, otherwise can find external resources.

Jeylan: Just putting my 2 cents in on Support Our Students motion. Thinks it is important that we don't degrade other people's political opinions. Wastes time and isn't worthwhile. Point of motion was to condemn Libs.

Ellie: Would like to respond to that. Political affiliation is something to be discussed in here. If meeting time is precious, Aidan shouldn't have gone on rant about ALP then cut speaking list. ALP sucks.

Will: Well, it was a provocative part of the motion, that was clearly its intention, SRC has a right to respond

Eshna: Our "precious meeting time" shouldn't be used to talk about how great the Labour Party is for 3 minutes either.

Camille: If someone can spend time talking up the Labor party, we can spend time talking about how it's shit.

Cal: I would also like to add that it felt a little insulting to have alp people clearly messaging each other in a group chat and laughing while I was giving the queer motion

10. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed 8:24pm