

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF THE UTSSA – 15TH JUNE 2022

AGENDA

1. Opening of Meeting
 - 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country
 - 1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair
 - 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies
 - 1.4. Declarations of Interest
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 - 2.1. 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.
 - 7.1 Queer Collective reimbursement
8. Other Business Arising on Notice
 - 8.1. Clubs Day - Marquee spending motion
 - 8.2. Election of Returning Officer
 - 8.3. Student Partnership agreement
 - 8.4. Vertigo Campaign
 - 8.5. Government Child Care Policy
 - 8.6. Handbook designer spending motion
 - 8.7. Dishwasher spending motion
 - 8.8. NTEU - Right for industrial action
9. General Business
10. Close of Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Anna Thieben	President
Sabrine Yassine	General Secretary
Melissa Sukkarieh	Assistant General Secretary
Cat Doherty	Education Officer
Nour Al-Hammouri	Welfare Officer
Harry Ryan	Postgraduate Officer
Suzy Monzer	Ethnocultural Officer
Zebadiah Cruickshank	General Councillor
Bailey Riley	Environment Officer
Cal Mckinley	Accessibility Officer
Vanessa Lim	General Councillor
Mia Campbell	General Councillor
Gracie Abadee	Queer Officer

Rufus Dadd	General Councillor
Saihej Bhangu	General Councillor
Aidan O'Rourke	Past President
Sara Chaturvedi	General Councillor
Georgia Pond	Observer
Kurt Cheng	Observer
Peter Mumford	General Councillor
Holly Hayne	Observer
Vinil Kae	Observer
Macka Baran	Observer
Lucia Thornton	Observer
Joseph Chalita	Vertigo
Joseph Hathaway-Wilson	Vertigo
Siena Zadro	Vertigo
Andy Lee	Vertigo

Alexander Mortensen	Vertigo
Mariah Brown	UTSSA Staff
Christina Markovska	UTSSA Staff

MINTUES

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting opens at 6:34

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

Anna delivers Acknowledgment of country

1.2 Election of Deputy Chair

General Secretary remains chair

1.3 Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Junejt who proxies to 1. Peter, 2. Sabrina, 3. Nour. Peter accepts

Antona who proxies to 1. Nour, 2. Mia, 3. Saihej. Nour accepts

Adrian who proxies to 1. Gracie, 2. Melissa, 3. Harry. Gracie accepts

Simashee who proxies to 1. Vanessa, 2. Sara, 3. Cal. Vanessa accepts

Melodie who proxies to 1. Gracie, 2. Bailey, 3. Zeb. Bailey accepts

Elijah who proxies to 1. Cal, 2. Vanessa, 3. Eshna. Cal accepts

Rufus who proxies to 1. Nour, 2. Sabrina, 3. Mia. Rufus attends meeting

1.4 Declarations of Interest

None

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the previous May Council meeting are taken as a true and accurate record.

Amendments to be made and TBC in next SRC

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4. CORRESPONDENCE

5. OFFICE BEARERS' REPORTS

5.1. President

Report is summarised

5.2. General Secretary

Report is summarised

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Report is taken as read.

5.4. Education Officer

Report is taken as read.

Question from Holly to Cat, I think its excellent that there is going to be a strike by the NTEU. On Sydney university's campus there was a heart picket line and there was a really good example about the.

How do you think this student union is supposed to defend the interests of staff and students when they are going to agree on shared goals between university management and staff and students?

5.5. Welfare Officer

No report

5.6. Women's Officer

No Report.

5.7. International Students' Officer

No Report.

5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer

Vacant

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No Report.

5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer

No Report.

5.11. Accessibility Officer

Report is taken as read.

5.12. Queer Students' Officer

No Report.

5.13. Environment Officer

No Report.

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 Indigenous Officer election

Motion: That the UTS SRC agrees to hold an election for the vacant position of Indigenous Officer per Section 13.2 of the UTSSA Constitution.

Moved: Sabrine

Seconded: Zeb

Passes unanimously

8.2 Election of Returning Officer

Motion: That the UTS SRC elect Philip Binns as the returning officer for the election of the vacant position of Indigenous Officer.

Moved: Sabrine

Seconded: Zeb

Passes unanimously

8.3 Student Partnership agreement

- 1. That the UTSSA endorses the Draft Student Partnership Agreement (SPA).**

2. That the President of the UTSSA will sign the final UTS SPA.
3. That the President may refuse to sign if and only if:
 - a. an absolute majority of councillors object in writing to the President; or
 - b. changes to the UTS Student Partnership agreement that are materially different from the draft directly contradict standing UTSSA policy; or
 - c. the UTS SPA materially undermines the ability of the UTSSA to conduct criticism of University activities or implementation of the agreement;and the President;
 - d. informs each councillor in writing (notice of refusal); and
 - e. issues the notice of refusal five days before signing or within three business days of receipt of the final version, whichever is sooner.
4. That, although not permitted, if the President refuses to sign for any other reason, they must inform each councillor of their reasons in writing and allow at least five business days for Councillors to respond.
5. That an absolute majority of Councillors may override the decision of the President not to sign in any circumstances, for any reason, by writing to the President.
6. That the UTSSA notes the definition of 'absolute majority' from the [UTSSA standing orders](#).

Moved: Sabrina

Seconded: Nour

For: 13

Against: 10

Motion passes

Anna, speaks to our lack of understanding about what this agreement can do for us and how it can tangibly help or hurt students.

Kurt, addresses that there is a difference in perspectives within the council. Notes that students coming here on a Wednesday night during university break shows each person's commitment. *I want to give a bit of context; this has come through hours and hours of negotiations. As a whole this agreement is for the student union, it is an acknowledgment of your role at the university. No matter what areas you are representing you all hold a vote. There may be different views about the SPA but we are all here for students. E.g activism, support of the NTEU and bluebird brekkie to help elevate the UTSSA.*

Questions previously on notice

How binding is this agreement?

Answer by Kurt: Essentially should the organisation sign it they will be a party of the agreement meaning that they agree promote and support the agreement and work on the initiatives included.

Can you retract the signature?

Answer by Kurt: Parties can terminate themselves from the agreement if you wish. If the SRC next year wants to change the agreement, then they can. Flexibility provided.

Joey, where does vertigo fit into this agreement?

Answer by Kurt: On page 5 of the agreement. There are specific collaborative priorities about delivering quality student services.

Cal, speaks to the fact that the agreement is a watered down version of our contributions.

Lucia, finds the agreement to be a joke and that is it appalling that there should be a partnership with management, who are the people who have been making the cuts but are the same people that will be worked with. Finds that the whole point of management is to work against our interests.

Melissa, stated that before the agreement has been signed it's been watered down, notes that the word NTEU was taken out. Finds that every tangible thing has been taken out. Questions how as we a union can sign onto a deal with management in a strike year.

Suzy, states that in being honest she thinks that as we say terms like union and right-wing people begin to panic. Continues in saying that when it comes to the ethnocultural collective, the interests of students should be at heart. Disheartening to see that the one opportunity that everyone saw as different ended up being the same. Finds that if management cared about students that much then we wouldn't have to bring these issues to management.

Macka, finds that it is a massive misconception that student and management have a common interest, speaks to the history of management and acts against students.

Cal, questions if the agreement can stop us from certain activism on campus or protesting in our own way about the same initiatives that were put into the agreement.

Sabrina, answers Cal's question – notes that in this same meeting we are condemning management as we sign this agreement.. Explains that it proves that we can do all the work we usually do without opting out of representing students, and finds if we take the approach of never working with management because of the things we don't like about them ego triumphs and the union will never achieve results for students. Notes that many of the points discussed are repetitions of the through discussion had last meeting.

Vinil, finds that this agreement is a power fantasy about the seat at the table. Notes that on campuses around the county there are consultation process where student representatives see their role as working alongside management to get things done, however this is the antithesis of a student union. Finds that the entire point of the agreement is an attack on student unions.

Harry, asks to be sent sources, reports and files and statistics because he finds that the essence of what has been stated is based on the foundation of fear mongering and creating a union in someone else's vision. Points to the purposes of union which are essentially to represent and negotiate for better outcomes for students which is the purpose of the agreement.

Anna, expresses that she is not in support of the agreement, and the result of this motion will mean her signing a document that she does agree with the premise of and what it means. Explains the options we are already taking as a union that don't require working with management.

Sabrina, questions who has read the agreement in full and explains the contents align with what the union has been attempting to achieve in its lifetime of operation. Points to the lack of tangible disadvantages and the advantages of the agreement as a tool and point of reference for managements accountability.

Holly, finds that there is no version of the student partnership agreement that is acceptable because the premise of the agreement is to work with management. Notes the 500 staff jobs cut and the wage crisis. Explains the distaste of working with management as a foundation of the union.

Procedural Motion: That the question be put

Discussion ensues about the mechanics of the motion and opportunities to speak.

Moved: Peter

Seconded: Nour

For: 13

Motion passes

8.4 Vertigo Campaign

Motion: That the UTSSA endorses the Vertigo campaign for more funding for student media at UTS.

Motion: That the UTSSA condemns UTS management for violating the independence of the UTSSA by stipulating where we can allocate our budget and therefore outright refusing to fund the Vertigo magazine enough to print their full suite of issues for 2022.

Moved: Melissa

Seconded: Sabine

Passes unanimously

Joe, summarises the situation Vertigo has faced with funding cuts this year, and what the existing campaign has done. States that he agrees with some of the reasons Shirley doesn't like Vertigo however states that a posse of suits making decisions for the magazine isn't appropriate. Finds that this issue is larger than Vertigo seen in the way NUS running its campaigns.

Campaign objectives stated:

Attain minimum \$170,000 funding for Vertigo in 2023

Acquire \$25,000 of immediate funding for the 2022 editorial team to complete the current suite of magazines.

Sabrine, speaks in support of these objectives as achievable and persuasive.

Joe, states that these objectives have been drafted with the knowledge that they will likely be watered down significantly in conversations with management (should those conversations arise). Notes that student media is vital to any university setting and Vertigo as a core function. Wishes for the union that this motion passes unanimously.

Vinil, question to Joe: What is your opinion of the SPA?

Joe, finds that to remain objective in a journalistic capacity he cannot comment.

Holly, frames that the issue of Vertigo's funding is related to the SPA.

Joe, finds that this is stepping outside the boundaries of the motion and that managements position towards Vertigo has been a longstanding issue.

Bailey, question to Joe: What were the issues Shirley brought up that you said you agreed with?

Joe, speaks to Vertigo's cost as a result of high production value, and the large design aspect which is a natural result of requiring a visually striking publication. Finds that these changes can be made if given notice of funding allocation however many of these aspects are a part of the nature of Vertigo.

Suzy, expresses her support of Vertigo and speaks to her experience of being a student journalist finding that it is important to have a non-bias partisan view on campus. Engages others to support the motion.

Joey, understands that there will be compromise as there is in any negotiations due to the necessity of having a meeting of the minds with Shirley and finds there may be other avenues for those. Has concluded as a result of the campaign that has been run that student need and value a voice and the objectives being worked towards are reasonable.

Holly, states that that the funding cuts to the UTSSA are very very bad. Points to the cuts as an attack on student media and that it is an important part so the student union. Notes the differences in opinion on how funding is going to be achieved. Explains that the student union needs to stand up to management.

Peter, notes that the way student unions improve their economic circumstances is through building community support while negotiating and strategizing to obtain results.

Anna, notes that other avenues can be used such as her meetings with management and that negotiating with Shirley is an end goal, but it comes from a community and a campaign push. While negotiation works it works because we have community backing it.

Macka, expresses that Vertigo is great as it is a quality publication, and they should not bind to the argument that vertigo is very expensive. Notes the \$200,000 is a relatively small amount of money for students.

Mia question to Vertigo: I want to ask in terms of staying relevant and accessible to students was there a plan to move online etc.. This can be a part of the negotiation strategy and can cater to the wider student body.

Joey, communicates that this situation has been a massive wakeup call and he recognises the challenges faced. Notes the changes that have been made this year in catering to groups such as International and Postgrad students. Speaks to the support of Vertigo that this campaign has revealed from old editors and other stakeholders. Also notes that having a printed version of Vertigo is key to the feel of the magazine and what it symbolises.

Joe, expresses that the 12-month process is difficult and the funding process. In answering Mia's question, states that there are many things set in place however due to the situation they aren't sure what can come into fruition. Speaks to challenges faced by previous teams, and what is different this year.

Sabrine, expresses that she is glad to see a productive discussion and considers steps forward for the campaign that will need council's involvement.

Lucia, communicates that the reason why managed has done over vertigo is because they want to shut down student journalism, notes we need a fighting student union.

8.5 Government Child Care Policy

Motion: The UTS SRC endorse and recognise the merits of the newly elected Albanese Labor Government's new childcare policy.

Moved: Harry

Seconded: Bailey

Bailey, moves amendment (amenable to the mover) that the motion platform includes **That the UTSSA calls on free childcare for university students.**

Holly, expresses that there can be no illusions on how to win childcare. Finds that the Labor party's childcare is about improving the economy.

Zeb, recommends that the Labor childcare policy linked in the motion should be read to have a knowledge understanding about the positive future of childcare.

Holly, expresses that the Labor party goals of having cheaper child care is to get women in the workplace as a method of capitalist exploitation. Notes that the increase in enough minimum wage is not good enough.

Vinil, expresses that the Labor policy is a handout to the private/corporate sector. Describes it's pro-business lens.

Harry, question to Vinil: Do you honestly believe that not having cheaper childcare is worse and that women should not be working?

Vinil, expresses the Childcare policy come from right-wing origins.

[heated discussion follows, ineligible conversations across the room]

Mia, expresses that the discussion is becoming overstimulating, and that much of the yelling is unnecessary.

Bailey, moves amendment (amenable to the mover) that the motion platform includes **That the UTSSA support free publicly owned childcare.**

Motion: The UTS SRC endorse and recognise the merits of the newly elected Albanese Labor Government's new childcare policy.

- That the UTSSA calls on free childcare for university students.
- That the UTSSA supports publicly owned childcare.

Motion passes unanimously

8.6 Handbook designer spending motion

Motion: That the UTS SRC approve \$200 to pay the Handbook designer for works completed on the second-round printing of the 2022 Handbook.

Moved: Zeb

Seconded: Sabrina

Passes unanimously

8.7 Dishwasher spending motion

Motion: That the UTS SRC approve \$11,764.50 for a new dishwasher, including a heat recovery system, for Bluebird and Night Owl

Moved: Zeb

Seconded: Peter

Passes unanimously

8.68 NTEU - Right for industrial action

Motion: That the UTSSA supports the right of the UTS NTEU members to take industrial action.

Moved: Cat

Seconded: Melissa

Passes unanimously

Holly, notes the 122-million-dollar budget surplus that the University has, expresses disappointment in how Shirley has moved all FASS lectures online and how continual online university is about undermining is an attack on staff and teaching. Communicates that it would be great if the UTSSA can support and put resources towards the staff strike. Finds that high participation from staff and students is important and the right-wing SPA agreement is undermining staff fights.

Nour, notes that as well as staff the union has a duty to students to act on their welfare and concerns. Explains that the contribution to the SPA does not mean there needs to be a decision made between prioritising staff or students and management.

Melissa, expresses support of the motion and agree with Hollys statements. Considers that the SPA demands were watered down which leaves little to work with in terms of supporting staff. Expresses that the student force that needs to be behind supporting the strike, as staff may not be in the secure position to say what they would like to. Also notes there must be a strong social media presence.

Lucia, expresses gladness that there will be a strike at UTS. Speaks to the experience at Sydney University and conversations had with students and stopping students from entering the University to keep the picket line strong. Echo's Melissa's expressions that we need a strong student force as a show of solidarity.

Cat, Agrees with what previous speakers have expressed. Notes the hope that those who vote for the SPA will support staff for furthering industrial action and the solidarity movement [met with replies of support for the motion and standing in support of staff]. Recommends the book 'How Labor built neoliberalism' by Elizabeth Humphrys to having a present-day contextual understanding.

Vinil, expresses that they agree with Holly, Lucia's points. Notes that using the EAG to mobilise students has a positive impact on staff morale when fighting for better conditions. Questions why we are passing a motion for the right to strike. Points towards anti-strike rules and Labor and the Rudd governments involvement.

Moves to vote

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cal, speaks to the intensity of the meeting and the conduct. Expresses that although points may be valid the interjecting and interrupting has to stop as it creates accessibility barriers. Speaks to the general accessibility concerns of the meeting and the obstacles that many students can face in a space such as this.

Gracie [on zoom], agrees with Cal's points on accessibility, notes how overwhelming the meeting could be. Glad that people used the mic however the conflict could be overwhelming which creates a hesitation to contribute. Expresses sympathy for those in person as the audio was overstimulating in itself.

Holly, rejects the claims made by Cal and Gracie finding that the nature of council is adversarial.

Mia, agrees that council can get heated however accessibility and general wellbeing needs to be taken into consideration, also seems to be many direct attacks on students.

Sabrina, notes that more respect has to be given to Anna as the chair as directives and speaking orders weren't respected and expresses that some of the conduct observed was disappointing in this meeting.

Sara, thanks everyone for coming out on a Wednesday evening. Notes disappointment in the lack of attendees for collective events, expresses that attendance should be at marches rallies and education events.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closes at 8:46