

Minutes of the June Meeting of the UTSSA 24th June 2021.

Attendance:

- Aidan O'Rourke (President)
- Erin Dalton (General Secretary)
- Camille Smith (Assistant General Secretary)
- Sabrine Yassine (Welfare Officer)
- Peter Munford (Postgraduate Officer)
- Mehmet Musa (General Councillor)
- Anna Thieben (Enviro Convenor)
- Damien Nguyen (Observer)
- Juneyt Cihan (University Council Representative – Undergraduate)
- Lina Min (General Councillor)
- Mariah Brown (UTSSA Executive Officer)
- Melissa Sukkarieh (Observer)
- Vanessa Lim (Observer)
- Ruby Smith (General Councillor)
- Jeylan Riza (General Councillor)
- Cal McKinley (Queer Officer)
- Clodagh Maclean (Queer Officer)
- Melodie Grafton (Ethnocultural Officer)
- Zebadiah Cruickshank (Indigenous Officer)
- Jared Turkington (General Councillor)
- Will Simmons (General Councillor)
- Luna Manandhar (International Officer)
- Nour Al Hammouri (General Councillor)
- Ursula Aczel (General Councillor)
- Eshna Gupta (Womens Officer)
- Nick Allison (General Councillor)
- Abdulrahman Kandil (General Councillor)
- Chloe Rafferty (Observer)
- Lucia Thornton (Observer)
- Holly Hayne (Observer)
- Rodger Liang (Observer)
- Joseph Chalita (Observer)

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
 - 3.1. Palestine Solidarity Motion
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. Audit Report
8. Other Business Arising on Notice
 - 8.1. Bluebird Campaign Expenditure
 - 8.2. UTSSA Kitchen Expenditure
 - 8.3. Collective Expenditure Approval Guidelines
 - 8.4. By-Law Amendment Policy
 - 8.5. Election Regulation Amendments
 - 8.6. NUS EdCon Attendance and Expenditure
 - 8.7. Grievance Committee
9. General Business
10. Close of Meeting

Minutes:

1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened at 6:38pm

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

Ellie apologises and proxies to Camille, Camille accepts.

Eshna apologises and proxies to Camille, her vote lapses as Camille is holding a proxy and her first preferences are invalid.

Abdul apologises and proxies to Mehmet, Mehmet accepts

Camille: Why can't I have two proxied votes? I'm sure I've seen someone hold two proxies before

Aidan: You can hold a maximum of 2 votes, your own, and 1 proxy.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

None

2. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the May SRC and the amended minutes of the April SRC be accepted as true and accurate records.

Moved: Peter

Seconded: Erin

Clodagh: Late but what are the amendments made to April minutes?

Erin: Summarises changes, which can be found noted in May minutes.

Motion carried unanimously

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Palestine Solidarity Motion

Motion tabled at April Meeting

Moved: Mehmet

Seconded: Sabine

Nour: Has an amendment. Thanks everyone for being supportive of him during this time. Reads his amendment as circulated.

Moved: Nour

Seconded Erin

Nour: Also adds action points:

Action Point: That the UTSSA formalises its support for the Palestinian diaspora by conducting further research into the BDS movements, Palestinian Youth Society initiatives and liaising with other Palestinian organisations to understand what forms of support the Palestinian diaspora supports and wants to push forward.

Action Point: That these also be posted to the relevant social media pages.

Amendment carries unanimously

Motion as amended carries unanimously

4. Correspondence

Erin: Just forwarded to everyone. Any other requests please let me know and I can pass on.

5. Office Bearer Reports

Aidan: Reminds the SRC OBs that their reports are required and must be sent to the General Secretary by the deadline set out in notice. A number of OBs haven't been doing this, including paid OBs, which is disappointing.

5.1 President

Aidan summarises his report for council.

5.2 General Secretary

Erin's report is taken as read.

5.3 Assistant General Secretary

Camille's report is taken as read.

5.4 Education Officer

Ellie absent, report submitted to General Secretary after deadline. Erin reads report to council.

5.5 Welfare Officer

Sabrina: Asks her report to be taken as read.

Erin: Can't have report taken as read since it was submitted late.

Sabrina provides a report to council.

5.6 Women's Officer

Eshna absent, no report submitted.

5.7 International Officer

Luna absent, no report submitted.

5.8 Indigenous Officer

Zeb provides a report to council.

5.9 Postgraduate Officer

Peter provides a report to council. Council met last week, eye-opening briefing from Shirley, top of agenda re SMH article. Apparently, timetable was developed during Northern Beaches lockdown hence lack of stuff on council. Presentation from Mark Scott incoming USYD VC regarding landscape of NSW tertiary. Angry at federal government. Atilla says Fed Govt "intransigent" in their consideration for tertiary. Graduation has started, 2 a week every week for the next session. Financial position substantially improved; however, staff cuts not to be reversed. UTS now 133rd in World. Re International students, speculation in media about unis being involved in bringing back

international students. Plan signed off by State Govt. UTS hoping to bring in 250 people as a pilot. Awaiting Fed Govt confirmation.

5.10 Cultural Diversity Officer

Report: Ethno safe space campaign! Thanks to all poc and queer/women's collectives for signing ur support and testimony to our "statements of support" which went to the appropriate University executive members

Queer cabaret- successful cabaret night w the queer collective!

"You can't ask that" anti-racism panel: successful and informative anti-racism discussions made- however we will try to build another panel event for semester 2 focusing on mobilising white ppl in learning more about anti-racism.

In the interim we are organising some lobbying for the freedom of the Biloela family

5.11 Accessibility Officer

Position Vacant

5.12 Queer Officer

Cal delivers a report to council. Since last meeting, informal positions elections held, hopefully enable us to spread work more evenly. Working hard to organise cabaret celebration. Cabaret went well. Now planning for next semester and hoping to build collective.

5.13 Enviro Officer

Damien: Delivers a report to council.

6. Other Reports

None

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1. Audit Report

Audit Report tabled to Council.

8. Business Arising on Notice

8.1 Bluebird Campaign Expenditure

Aidan: Does Biljana want to explain?

Biljana: Bluebird and Night Owl celebrating 10 years, assuming funding approved and covid permitting, hoping on doing something special. Items have been circulated, based on quotes etc.

Aidan: Noting that we may see campaign used to leverage BB and NO for more funding from the uni since funding agreement ongoing.

Mehmet: Wants to express how disappointing it is that management is coming after our money again. On the top of BB and NO being denied proper facilities, shuffled around for years. Uni wants us to burn through our reserves providing these services. They want total control and are shamelessly coming for the food from students' mouths. Important to get the word out and called out for what it is.

Peter: Shares Mehmet's sentiments. As a member if Uni Council, disappointing that Uni hasn't supported this. Shirley talks about how good BB and NO are, and this is shameful. More than happy to be involved in any lobbying and campaign using position on Uni Council.

Sabrina: Being connected to Welfare, want to encourage everyone to take this up and protect BB/NO. All need to come together to fight this issue, will help everyone at UTS, all students in long term.

Motion: That the budget for the Bluebird Campaign as proposed be approved

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Nour

Motion carried unanimously

8.2 UTSSA Kitchen Expenditure

Aidan: Summarises an overview of the motion. Notes that Activate and the uni have made it hard to access dishwasher facilities. Has impacts on sustainability. Total cost is 31k, overall, more cost-efficient way to run service, also an asset for the UTSSA, helps keep focus on sustainability.

Mehmet: shame activate for not wanting to feed students

Will: Activate are scabs

Peter: Expresses his disappointment

Mehmet: activate would rather spend money on bar tabs than feed students

Motion: That the budget be approved for the kitchen as circulated.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Peter

Motion carries unanimously.

8.3 Collective Expenditure Guidelines

Aidan: Erin and I met with Collective OBs in April; this is something that was requested to be codified. Guidelines are explicitly what Exec considers when approving Collective Expenditure in the absence of Funding Agreement. Outlines guidelines to council.

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Mehmet

Motion carries unanimously.

By-Law amendment policy.

Aidan: Also from same meeting, request that By-Law amendments be gazetted earlier than 48 hours. This motion would add appendix to By-Laws to extend to 10 days.

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Sabrina

Seconded: Nour

Mehmet: Agrees with changes. Should have more time to consult stakeholders etc. 10 days is a little arbitrary and thinks that 7 days may be preferable. Proposes amendment to that effect.

Amendment amenable to mover. Motion as amended carries unanimously.

8.5 Election Regulations

Aidan: Reads preamble as it was not included in email. Preamble copy from slides FNORD. Changes showing strikethroughs/changes also distributed to everyone earlier today.

Camille: With regards to email sent around before meeting, given that we didn't have time to read, would like to be tabled and discussed next meeting.

Aidan: Regulations as proposed were distributed with notice. Most changes are straight from Benchmarking as shared in the start of the year or are formatting changes.

Camille: The part I'd like more time to consider is the part that states that a person cannot be considered for an election if in front of Grievance Committee. 5.11

Clodagh: Does election regs apply to Collectives?

Aidan: Clarifies that Collective elections are solely governed by Schedule 2; Election Regs are for UTSSA elections each year for council, president etc.

Damien: Is there a way for someone to submit a grievance against someone just before the election?

Aidan: You can lodge a grievance any time. If accepted by GC, then nomination is withheld, and GC must meet and decide whether nomination can proceed or if it must be blocked pending resolution.

Aidan: Amendment (s 5.11): Add "The Grievance Committee must make a determination within the Nomination period. A nomination must not be withheld unless there is reasonable grounds to do so."

Add: "The Grievance Committee can dismiss frivolous or vexatious claims"

Erin: Rewords to "The Grievance Committee must make a determination on such a matter, or permit the nomination, within the nomination period. A nomination must not be withheld unless there are reasonable grounds to do so. The Grievance committee may dismiss claims it deems to be either frivolous or vexatious."

Amendment amenable to mover.

Camille: Notes this wasn't meant to be accusatory or similar.

Erin: Notes that election regs, alongside all other governance documents, are intended to be long-standing and last between years, not meant to be unfairly targeted at any one person or event.

Aidan: Notes intertextuality between governance documents

Motion: That the regulations be adopted as amended.

Moved: Mehmet

Seconded: Erin

Motion carries unanimously.

8.6. NUS EdCon Attendance and Expenditure

Aidan: Reads preamble. Summarises proposal to council.

Erin: Notes everything is up in the air. No travel no pay.

Mariah: Checking reimbursement is after event.

Aidan: Yep, reimbursement is post conference. Also, noting that the people listed are the only people representing UTSSA. Anyone else may attend but they do so in a personal capacity and will not be reimbursed.

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Sabine

Motion carries unanimously.

8.7 Grievance Committee

Aidan: Reads motion. Notes that this composition of committee will not decide any grievance, and find 3rd party and establish procedure only

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Jared

Seconded: Nour

Motion carried unanimously.

9. General Business

Erin: Sabine provided a motion after the deadline. Provides it to meeting.

Sabine: Summarises motion for SRC.

Motion: That the SRC discuss the policy in General Business.

Moved: Sabine

Seconded: Nour

Motion carries unanimously. SRC now discussing.

Aidan: Thinks this is fantastic, put-up Facebook post on Monday. Important campaign and one at foundation of student unionism for a long time. We all know someone who has been hard done by this requirement. Barriers are ridiculous and block people from access to essential support.

Camille: right behind this Sabine

Peter: Great motion, this greatly affected me when I was younger

Mehmet: Can go to war at 18 get Centrelink much later

Moved: Sabine

Seconded: Nour

Motion carried unanimously.

Aidan: Clubs Day; total of 9 tables. Not everyone can have table. For most Collectives, you'll need to sign written undertaking etc for access.

Nour: What day will we be on?

Biljana: 27th

Aidan: Also has foreshadowed business, as touched on by Damien. All Collectives must have met within 12 weeks, with valid meetings etc.

Clodagh: Clarifying that meetings must then be approved by a subsequent meeting?

Aidan: Yes.

Clodagh: What if we haven't been doing this? Does this make us inactive?

Aidan: Yes.

10. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed 7:51pm