

Minutes of the September Meeting of the UTSSA 15th September 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)
- Zebadiah Cruickshank (Indigenous Officer)
- Cal McKinley (Queer Convenor)
- Eshna Gupta (Womens' Officer)
- Jeylan Riza (General Councillor)
- Juneyt Cihan (University Council Representative – Undergraduate)
- Anna Thieben (Enviro Convenor)
- Will Simmons (Education Convenor)
- Hawa Mohammed (General Councillor)
- Mehmet Musa (General Councillor)
- Nick Allison (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)
- Anna Thieben (Enviro Convenor)
- Angela Jin (Vertigo)
- Erin Ewen (Vertigo)
- Rachel Percival (Vertigo)
- Bailey Riley (Observer)
- Jayden Field (Observer)
- Holly Hayne (Observer)
- Chloe Rafferty (Observer)
- Lucia Thornton (Observer)
- Meg Cooke (Observer)
- Mackenzie Baran (Observer)
- Bridie Macken (Observer)
- Vanessa Lim (Observer)
- Cat Doherty (Observer)
- Miles Carter (Observer)
- Tara Frawley (Observer)
- Nikhil Prasad (Observer)
- Elijah Holleroo (Observer)

- Shaheen Boaz (Observer)
- Melissa Sukkarieh (Observer)
- Aston Brown (Observer)

Agenda:

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1. Opening of Meeting

Meeting opened 5:40pm

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

Aidan delivers Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Election of Deputy Chair

Erin elected as deputy chair unopposed.

1.3. Apologies and Proxies

Lina apologises and proxies to 1) Sabrina. Sabrina accepts.

Charlie apologised after the deadline.

Erin has to go early, will proxy when they leave.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

None

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Camille flags concerns about Aug 19 meeting. Will send Erin details, minutes to be accepted next meeting when edited

2.1 Executive Minutes

Minutes accepted

2.2 Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes accepted

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

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Sabrina

Motion carried unanimously

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Funding Agreement Campaign

Aidan: Explains reasons for item. Welcomes suggested courses of action.

Chloe: You're saying the uni has drastically slashed the funding for the UTSSA, repressed the activist collectives. UTSSA has done nothing in terms of fighting this? VC is cutting staff, EAG has put on protests, forums etc. Have you done anything to communicate this to students? This is your job Aidan. What have you done?

Aidan: A number of issues there. Firstly, funding agreement was only agreed to just before last SRC. We have made a decision to continue fully funding regardless of uni cuts. Collectives can be funded in the case that they are compliant. Funding cuts on 2019 is approx. 22%. Large degree of funding cuts has been due to fall in overall SSAF. This is disproportionate, however. This is about campaigning for a fair share of SSAF so we can operate with a degree of security since the level of deficit for this next year is unsustainable in future. I would appreciate this being as constructive as possible.

Ellie: Would second everything Chloe has just said. It needs to be one that is very transparent and tells students what has happened. Not just negotiating with VCs who are attacking staff. In order for Collectives to support and participate in, we need funding.

Eshna: Totally agrees with Chloe. Way too much time to get agreement, Collectives have had no funding. There should be some guarantee for Collectives to receive funding. Not just funding for BB and not us.

Aidan: Funding agreement is for all UTSSA services, including BB and Collectives. Don't want to be distracted from the more important aspects. This conversation is about our plans going forward as the UTSSA and our communication to students. We need to work out how we're going to communicate and what our response is etc.

Melodie: We can get Biljana to make graphics or liaise with some of us to make the graphics

Eshna: Wanted to clarify what Collectives will get funding. We need funding and all that, we will only help if we will have funding afterwards.

Aidan: Access to funding is guaranteed in bylaws. They specify what funding you have and what rules you have to abide by. In the case you're not following by-laws, no funding.

Chloe: I didn't realise, but you've already signed this agreement? So undemocratic, can't believe it. This is the biggest cut in funding in years, and you've gone and signed it without communicating this body. Should have been running a campaign for months while in negotiations. Now you've signed and are coming to us now to get us to fight it. This is a massive failure to usher though in your Presidency.

Aidan: Firstly, uni will only negotiate with us when we have audit reports, which were supplied circa 4 months ago. In terms of how the discussions went, I offered a number of options which were rejected. We can't run a union without money in the bank. We have staff and services that we need to pay for. Spoke to EO, best strategy was to sign and deal with this going forward. This is about approach for next year's funding agreement.

Camille: Have had a couple of ideas, but this seems to be such a contentious issue now, so not sure about raising them. I agree this would have been best to be done before signing. A lot of things I don't know about that I can't speak on. Bluebird and Night Owl are the most easily accessible things we provide and can't downplay how important that is. It has huge impacts on the students, especially those with more limited access. In saying that, this has to be the cornerstone of our campaign, especially given covid restrictions and given how popular it is. A good approach could be personal testimonials from the thousands of students who use these services. Pointing out how heartless it is is a good option if people are comfortable. A few months ago, we had media training, including housing campaign etc. Media training expressed great interest in this saying it would attract external media attention. Housing buildings have just been sold. Pointing out that UTS is cutting funding leaving students homeless as well as hungry.

Eshna: Have a question. Right now Collectives are supposed to have 1500 each. With this campaign, will that bank of money go up?

Aidan: In the by-laws, extra money above the upper spend can be allocated to collectives above that with a vote of council.

Eshna: In that case is all Collective spending discretionary?

Aidan: Above 1500 it is, otherwise, no it is automatic.

Eshna: Don't see why Collectives would be willing to help with campaign if we're not being funded. Can't see OBs supporting without them getting more funding too.

Erin: Refusing to support the UTSSA or back your union is being a scab. Regardless of whether you're being funded or not, you should support this fight. Disgusting to propose not doing that until your collective benefits directly.

Melodie: Have an idea that would strengthen Camille's response possibly. Activate had a \$1 joining fee for clubs initiative the other week. If Activate can just throw around money like that, it's pretty shameful on the Uni. Activate is constantly wasteful of money and spends heaps, but cry poor. Should campaign on this line.

Ellie: Had response to Erin. Similar to what you were saying, pretty disgusting that you're suggesting that Collectives are in it for themselves. WoCo, Enviro, Ethno, Ed all run campaigns. Really insulting to suggest we're selfish for wanting funding for Collectives. This isn't a situation where the UTSSA or Collectives have to have funding.

Erin: Clarifies that point was that it is pretty mercenary to refuse to help out on the campaign unless you're getting more money directly. You have access to your budget if you comply with the directions of the SRC and the by-laws, which you have refused to do.

Mehmet: Was going to talk about funding. Collectives know what they have to do to get funding. Back to the campaign, agree with Camille's idea. Bombarding Shirley with personal letters about how UTSSA services affect people's lives. Was unfairly dismissed in March, relied on UTSSA support services. Can't make campaign solely about BB/NO. Has to also include casework, legal, etc. We're in competition with a corporation for money. They're inflating their numbers, can do market research.

Aidan: Have taken these down, encourage that people continue to contribute. Next Funding Agreement won't be well into next year.

Mehmet: Would like the Executive to be empowered in the interim?

Motion: That the Exec be empowered to consider proposals for the campaign for SSAF next year.

Moved: Mehmet

Seconded: Erin

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence

Aidan: Not a lot of correspondence in the last month. Notably the NUS sent information regarding SS4C in October. Exec resolved yesterday to support and share. Also, correspondence with regard to Grievance and Election from external people too.

Ellie: Just wanted to say have since Exec realised that we passed motion about SS4C which is Enviro issue without inviting them along. Apologises to Enviro for voting on it. Should have been invited

Will: Enviro doesn't have a monopoly on the environment

Damien: No but if we are the only one that will action it then maybe yes

Will: It's not an autonomous collective, this motion was a good thing why is this a topic of concern?

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1 President

Aidan taken as read. Summarises report to council. Amends report to update.

5.2 General Secretary

Erin taken as read. Also notes a lot of business wasn't supplied on time. Really disappointing, items supplied late can't be circulated and therefore can't be dealt with properly since people haven't had a full chance to get across them.

5.3 Assistant General Secretary

Camille: Provides report to SRC. Finance Committee already discussed. Also good to have more people come to panel. Things were great with that. Executive met, started comms campaign about happiness challenge.

5.4 Education Officer

Ellie taken as read. Will also note forum was very successful. 50 staff and students came to that. Lots of information out to staff and students. Concerning that staff are losing jobs. Should be funded to continue that fight.

5.5 Welfare Officer

Sabrina: Handed in late. Provides a report. Panel was very successful, lots of students present, also able to support lots of students one on one. Able to refer them to people who can support. Running e-request/special consideration campaign in next few weeks. Wants to acknowledge the challenges we're facing. Several motions on notice regarding further support.

5.6 Womens' Officer

Didn't send report. Did panel, was good. Sad not to see more SRC members there. Also working on campaign on NSSS, doing event with UTS counselling, collaborating with USyd WoCo too.

5.7 International Officer

No report supplied; Officer is not present to deliver report.

5.8 Indigenous Officer

Report was late. Collective has finalised submission for policy platform, includes a lot about racism, decolonisation, etc. Going to have trivia this Friday, other social events planned and keeping catching up since we can't do things in person.

5.9 Postgrad Officer

Didn't write report. Not much to report other than UTS council stuff. Atilla leaving as VC at end of October, Andrew taking over as acting VC. Council is progressing that search, recruitment meetings happening currently. New Dean of Health is coming to us from Griffith too.

5.10 Ethnocultural Officer

Didn't write report. Agrees with everyone about the panel, it was really good. Had good discussions, panellists were great. Thought it was very healing. Ethno is planning a panel on covid based racism, not just anti-Asian sentiment but also anti GWS racist/classist sentiment. Unjust differences in restrictions and enforcement of this, disproportionately affecting migrant communities and communities of colour.

5.11 Accessibility Officer

Vacant

5.12 Queer Officer

Cal issues report. Report wasn't submitted on time. Have been very busy as Collective, also attended and collaborated on panel. Having weekly meetings, also weekly book clubs. Discussions coming out of that have been really good. Intersectional reading has been good. Pride week is next week, encourage everyone to come along to the events. Some are non-autonomous, so anyone can come. Queer sex ed workshop, coming out by cake, prison abolition from queer indigenous lens, author of the book in book club is also coming, workshop on makeup and gender expression, having TERF spotting, YCAT, Drag workshop. Everyone should come support this event. Would be good for UTSSA to share on FB. Outside of Pride Week, also running more panels. Working with DEIFY about racism panel, which will be touched on. Also planning on running radical gender roundtable.

5.13 Enviro Officer

Damien: Gives report. Enviro is doing great. Even through lockdown, enviro has hosted forums and events, co-hosting cross campus forum. This forum was held with intention to strong student support. Over 60 people. Running stop Adani and getting them to divest from Siemens. Campaign has been going on for ages. Hundreds and hundreds of signatures, 20k students reached on social media. Thank you everyone for your support. VC, 2 DVCs, Anna, and Damien met. Millionaires. Majority of demands were met, have to enforce this publicly. Good connection made with the DVCs, several questions were raised about this. Shirley supports Collectives, are unsure why Damien and Anna aren't on sustainability committee. Without knowledge of us, Exec passed motion. Collective power and autonomy was dismissed. Looking forward to upcoming election where Enviro is up.

Erin leaves the meeting and proxies to Will. Camille is elected Deputy Chair and begins taking minutes

Aidan opens the floor for questions.

Holly speaks to Education Officer's report and speaks about recent EAG activity and ongoing repression of activism within the SA. Holly speaks to the formation of the grievance committee and thinks it's anti-democratic. Holly believes there will be an ongoing struggle against the right-wing student union with regards to the upcoming election restrictions.

6. Other Reports.

6.1. Committees

None

6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.

None

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements

None.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice.

Aidan moves a Procedural Motion to hear 8.1 – 8.3 en bloc as they pertain to the same document.

Motion: That the following items be heard en bloc.

8.1. Appointment of the Returning Officer

8.2. Election Regulation Amendments

8.3. Calling of Election and Opening of Nominations

Moved: Aidan.

Seconded: Mehmet.

Passes unanimously.

Chloe dissents. Aidan asks whether a councillor would like to dissent. Chloe asks for clarification re: whether we are also voting en bloc for motions 8.1 – 8.3. Aidan confirms. Chloe thinks it's unacceptable to move 3 motions without individual discussion. Aidan clarifies that any councillor can make an amendment or remove any of the amendments to the 3 motions in questions. Ellie asks for clarification as to the regulation changes set out in 8.1 – 8.3. Aidan summaries changes to the regulations with regards to paper ballots changes, and the election running above the line. Ellie asks for information about the implications of running an election above the line. Aidan explains the difference between above the line and above & below the line voting. Camille asks for difference between last year's election and this year's election. Aidan believes there will be more than one ticket running in the election this year in contrast with last year's single ticket. Believes the election running above and below the ticket would confuse/frustrate voters and running the election above the line will increase voter turnout and engagement and historically when given the option in past elections, most voters chose to vote above the line. Chloe believes choice is more important for voters and seeks clarification on how a single person running for a single position would fare with this system. Aidan says this won't affect individuals that are running and points to the positions of President, General Secretary, Education Officer etc being individually contested. Chloe asks if you can run as independently for NUS or SRC. Aidan confirms that you can. Anna has an issue with independents having to run lowest on the ballot. She believes this system will disadvantage independents and speaks to the Zoom chat activity that states that the system used during the upcoming election is incapable of running both above and below the line voting. Anna asks if this is a human issue or a system issue. Aidan states that it is the system that is being used, the GSU system is antiquated, and it cannot run above and below the line simultaneously. The choice was made to use above the line voting. Historically nearly everyone votes above the line. Anna asks that going forward, more information is provided to potential candidates so there isn't confusion this close to an election. Miles asks if it is above the line, can independent candidates be randomly dispersed throughout the ticket options. Aidan says that this system is replicating past voting structures to make it easier for students to vote with minimal disruption whilst following bylaw election rules. Miles feels like randomisation would be ideal, so candidates aren't always in the same order to not favour specific tickets. Aidan says that the draw is already randomised and televised. Melodie asks whether there is a possibility for there to be a random draw for both tickets and individuals. Aidan would need to consult voting instructions to see if that is possible, but that randomising it wouldn't change or influence results. Aidan summarises important election dates.

Motion: That the motions en bloc be approved

Moved: Sabine.

Seconded: Mehmet.

Passes unanimously.

8.4. Appointment of the Election Tribunal.

Currently no one on election tribunal. If anyone wishes to nominate themselves, they must be independent from running tickets. Camille asks for information about roles and responsibilities of the Election Tribunal. Aidan provides in chat. If no one nominates before the necessary time, an emergency SRC or Exec meeting may be called to find appropriate candidates. Camille asks how students can nominate themselves. Aidan says people can nominate themselves via email or on the floor during meetings.

14. ELECTION TRIBUNAL

14.1 The Election Tribunal comprises a chair and 2 members who must be appointed by the SRC before the close of nominations for the Annual

Elections.

14.2 The Chair of the Election Tribunal must be a member of the academic staff of the University and a legal practitioner.

14.3 The 2 members of the election Tribunal must be members of the Association, not otherwise involved in the election (as candidate, nominator, deputy or assistant returning officer etc)

14.4 A meeting of the Election Tribunal for the exercise of its powers is constituted by the presence of 2 out of 3 members.

14.5 The Election Tribunal must deal only with complaints under the Regulation.

14.6 The chair of the Election Tribunal alone is to determine any question of law or any question of the interpretation of the Constitution of this Regulation.

14.7 The whole of the Election Tribunal is to determine, by majority, any question other than a question determinable by the chair alone.

14.8 The Election Tribunal must conduct its meetings and decision making in accordance with the principles of fairness and natural justice.

14.9 Every complaint must be submitted to the Secretary of the SRC who must immediately forward them to the chair of the Election Tribunal.

14.10 The chair of the election Tribunal may dismiss the complaint as frivolous or vexatious without hearing the complainant.

14.11 If a complaint is not dismissed as frivolous or vexatious the Election Tribunal must, within 14 days, given an opportunity to be heard to: -

- (i) The Complainant;
- (ii) The respondent;
- (iii) Any other person it deems necessary or desirable to hear.

14.12 The Election Tribunal may accept the complaint and

- (i) dismiss the Returning Officer and any or all Deputy Returning Officer or election assistants/polling clerks;
- (ii) appoint a new Returning Officer for the remainder of the election in question or for any new election;
- (iii) Vary or overturn any decision of the returning Officer made under 15 Section 17.4.1. of these Regulations;
- (iv) Remove any person from office within the Association;
- (v) Disqualify any person from voting or nominating as a candidate in any election for a period of not more than 3 years

14.13 The SRC is to hear and determine any appeal made in writing against a decision of the election Tribunal within 7 days of the decision being made.

14.14 In hearing and determining an appeal, the SRC is subject to the same rules, mutatis mutandis, as the Election Tribunal.

8.5. Grievance Committee

Motion:

- 1) That the SRC appoint the following to the UTSSA Grievance Committee:
 - a. Simon Fletcher, as the independent person; and
 - b. Christina Markovska, as a staff member.
- 2) That the SRC empowers the Grievance Committee to reasonably expend funds necessary to resolve matters referred to it, by majority agreement.

- 3) The SRC notes that the full composition of the UTSSA Grievance Committee shall be:
 - a. Simon Fletcher;
 - b. Mariah Brown;
 - c. Christina Markovska;
 - d. Erin Dalton; and
 - e. Sabine Yassine.

- 4) The SRC notes that any participant of the UTSSA may lodge a Grievance through the Chair or the General Secretary.

Holly believes that the appointment of Erin as a member of the Grievance Committee is inappropriate. Holly doesn't trust anyone on the Committee can be truly objective and doesn't believe anyone should be able to submit grievances against council members to stop them from running in the upcoming election. Holly believes that the premise of the committee is a farce and will be used against candidates.

Chloe also believes it's disturbing that Erin will be a member of the committee given they removed a member of Honi Soit from the meeting and in collaboration with Aidan, called security in a previous SRC meeting on other students. Chloe believes that the fact that students outside of SRC aren't made aware of meetings beforehand and this points to a lack of transparency. Chloe points to the fact that any SRC member with a grievance made against them is obliged to change their password and provide access to emails and believes this is indicative of oppression of student activists. Chloe believes anyone that considers themselves to be left-wing should not give any credence to the Grievance Committee.

Aidan clarifies that both Erin and Sabine will not be hearing any grievance matters concerning current members of the SRC and will only be heard by the other 3 committee members.

Eshna asks why Erin and Sabine are members of the committee at all.

Aidan says it is a bylaw that there needs to be 2 student members of the committee, but it is against the bylaw for them to hear any grievances for which they have a conflict of interest.

Eshna believes that because the committee was not elected, the formation of the committee is undemocratic and policing other students arbitrarily for factional benefit.

Lucia believes the formation of the committee is to suppress student activists that aren't part of NLS or Unity.

Ellie agrees with what everyone else has said and believes grievance committees in and of itself aren't bad but doesn't believe this one can be unbiased. Ellie says she has been threatened all year due to going against Unity and that student activism should not be restricted by the union itself. Ellie echoes other students' sentiments that this is completely undemocratic that the committee could kick students out of their positions.

Aidan summarises grievance committee powers. Aidan thinks people who don't follow rules shouldn't be student councillors and representatives. Aidan believes the magnitude of a student's actions is important and the conduct would have to be serious and ongoing to be presented to the committee. Aidan points to the code of conduct for information about what is deemed unacceptable and examples of unacceptable behaviour.

Mackenzie responds to the matter of satisfying requirements to be put towards the Grievance Committee and believes it should be for students to decide who is worthy of being a student

representative. This is Mackenzie's first meeting and they have found it very shocking and undemocratic. Mackenzie points out that even in federal elections, candidates can nominate themselves from jail.

Aidan thinks it's a matter of setting standards. Aidan believes as this council was elected by students, and that it is the council's view that behaviour has been unacceptable, as representatives, we need to come to a resolution which reflects why we were elected. Aidan believes this is an example of representational democracy.

Sabrina wants to make it clear that her place on the Grievance Committee will be recused if the matter surrounds anyone presently on SRC as a conflict of interest.

Ellie – responding to Aidan saying that students will only be submitted to Grievance Committee for serious and ongoing offences – Ellie says she has been consistently told throughout her term that she will be referred to the Grievance Committee. Ellie points to council previously attempting to suspend her honorarium and summarises similar threats to other council members. Ellie believes her actions as Education Officer do not meet the requirement of "serious and ongoing offences" and points to the removal of EAG funding, access to spaces and general restriction of activism.

Aidan points out that he is not on the Grievance Committee and so the relationship between EAG and Unity will not influence their decisions.

Eshna believes that the structure of the Grievance Committee and Aidan's role in forming it will have influence on the committee's decisions. Eshna summarises reasons she was given for being potentially referred to the Grievance Committee which she believes are unfair. Eshna believes these are examples of serious threats made against herself and the Wom*n's Collective. Eshna explains to the council and observers present that she was elected as part of NLS and was given no instructions on how to run her collective or how SRC procedures operate.

Aidan believes he hasn't made threats to Eshna about submitting her to the Grievance Committee. Aidan considers his past statements as 'warnings'. Aidan believes it would have been unfair to him to not notify Eshna and Ellie about how their behaviour is against bylaws. Aidan says he is happy to go through bylaws to provide more clarity to anyone that needs it.

Camille – in response to Aidan saying he hasn't made direct threats to anyone about Grievance Committee – Camille believes warning is just another way of saying threat, and that many other people present have heard Aidan say to Ellie and to the group either consistent direct threats of submission to Grievance Committee or allusions to threats of submission to Grievance Committee.

Aidan concedes that he has said he will be submitting Ellie to Grievance Committee but contests that he has never said she will be removed from her position. With regards to Wom*n's Collective, he doesn't believe he has ever made threats to Eshna about her collective or her position.

Eshna – directly responding to Aidan – Eshna says that even though Aidan has never directly told her he will be submitting her to Grievance Committee, that the threat has always been present. Eshna says that Damien has directly contacted Aidan to ask why Eshna wasn't given a proper handover and that Aidan's response was that NLS should have given her the handover as she ran as a member of NLS.

Meg believes that the reasons given for submitting Ellie or anyone else to Grievance Committee is totally out of proportion. Meg believes the student body of UTS wouldn't have a problem with Ellie's actions and that they would actually support those actions. Meg asks for further clarification on

whether Sabrine and Erin will see any matters on Grievance Committee concerning current SRC members.

Aidan believes he can't be any clearer with regards to Sabrine and Erin being on the Grievance Committee and reiterates that they will not see matters concerning current SRC members.

Melodie wishes to contextualise the purpose of the Grievance Committee and would have appreciated such a committee last year when she experienced misogyny and ableism from another SRC member.

Will says Eshna has never reached out for help and that NLS did reach out to her for assistance. Will believes that it has been Aidan's fault that he did not set up a handover day.

Eshna says she was clear that she wanted a proper handover and that Aidan said it was NLS's responsibility. Eshna asks how Aidan can expect people to run a collective in alignment with the bylaws if an appropriate handover is not conducted.

Aidan agrees and apologises and says he is working on better handover procedure for the next term.

Melissa – directly responding to how Eshna has been treated – Melissa believes that NLS and Unity are just deflecting blame onto each other. Melissa points to the fact that Eshna wasn't paid for months, and that Erin requested work from her when she hadn't been paid. Melissa states that when Eshna contested the idea that she should be doing unpaid work, that her position was threatened.

Elijah states that they wanted to say that Aidan's continual inability to claim accountability is indicative of how toxic the current SRC environment is. Elijah wants it to be noted that the hospital trip they endured in April was significant and impactful. Elijah points out that the bylaws are inaccessible and feels like they are deliberately confusing which means that students with no prior experience on SRC struggle to understand their positions.

Aidan says that he wants it to be clear that bylaws are sent to everyone for guidance. Aidan says that there was an email sent twice about Eshna's pay. Aidan believes it is against union fundamentals to remove or deduct someone's pay and points out that Ellie's stipend wasn't taken away.

Melissa states that it was Aidan's and other SA staff member's responsibility to make sure Eshna is prepared and paid and that Eshna had notified Aidan that she wasn't receiving emails. Melissa states that accountability is important and hasn't been taken.

Aidan says every effort was made to contact Eshna. Aidan says he replied to Eshna's email, and that Mariah followed up. Aidan believes that they did everything they could on their end and believes situations like this are why the Grievance Committee has been formed.

Chloe begins to speak and is muted.

Holly points out that Unity did write a motion to remove Ellie's honorarium.

Eshna says she wasn't told anything about how SRC and collectives work and that her mistakes are now being used against her. Eshna believes she is being demonized when she wasn't given any information and was thrown in the deep end.

Aidan believes he was following correct protocol and procedure when making sure everyone had access to their emails and stipend.

Moved: Mehmet.

Seconded: Jared.

Dissent is noted.

15 for, 3 against.

Motion carries.

8.6. One More Week

Motion: That the SRC President write an open letter to the DVC requesting an extra week to study for assessments/exams. In the event the demands of the letter are not met, the President and Welfare Officer Sabine Yassine will sanction a petition to be distributed across UTSSA channels and across the University to be presented to management. The Executive can also make additional directions to this campaign due to the time sensitive nature of such.

Moved: Sabine Yassine

Seconded: Will Simmons

Sabine summarises the motion.

Chloe asks in chat whether the NTEU has been consulted.

Will speaks to the motion. Will says they will consult with the NTEU at some stage. Will wonders why they need to be involved.

Aidan thinks it's a great motion.

Ellie thinks its important that the NTEU is consulted as they're the ones teaching the classes. Ellie points out that we've already seen so much underpaying and overworking so they should be consulted first. Ellie suggests tabling until consultation with NTEU.

Nick supports the motion and wants Honours students should get special consideration as many of them cannot complete important work to complete their degrees as they approach the end of the year.

Mehmet speaks to the motion as well. Mehmet agrees that the NTEU should be consulted but doesn't think students can wait as exams are coming up soon.

Melodie also believes the NTEU be consulted.

Motion: That the NTEU be consulted before the letter is actioned.

Moved: Melodie.

Seconded: Ellie.

Motion carries unanimously.

8.7. Academic Penalty Motion

Motion: That the UTSSA President and General Secretary request the University to meet the demands of the motion and allow students to withdraw from their subjects during the teaching period without penalty. The Executive can also make additional directions to this campaign due to the time sensitive nature of such.

Nour speaks to the motion.

Moved: Nour.

Seconded: Peter.

Aidan says he has spoken preemptively to Shirley about this and will be following up with her shortly. Aidan wants to continue momentum as it's important.

Camille and Melodie believe this is a great motion.

Mehmet points out that students were initially not told the semester would be held on campus so where unable to make an informed choice.

Motion carries unanimously.

8.8. Extension Requests Motion

Policy:

1. The UTSSA believes all students should have easy automatic access to extensions on request.
2. The UTSSA notes the difficulties facing students during extended lockdown and the impacts that this can have on their learning and ability to complete tasks on time.

Actions:

1. The UTSSA advocate for all students regardless of degree to have access to 1-week automatic extensions on assessment tasks on request.

Moved: Nour.

Seconded: Sabine.

Nour speaks to the motion.

Mehmet thinks it's a good idea considering it's difficult to sometimes open up about their circumstances to get special consideration. Mehmet points out that other universities have easier access to extensions. Mehmet speaks to personal experience trying to get special consideration and the restrictive nature of trying to get an extension.

Melodie believes this is a great motion.

Peter thinks it's a really great motion considering many students have adverse mental health issues given the current unexpected extended lockdown.

Erin reiterates previous councillors' comments about how difficult it is to currently justify the reasons for extensions. Erin believes having an automatic presumption towards an extension request is sympathetic and will allow students to feel comfortable enough to request one.

Melodie agrees with previous comments. She thinks having to prove mental health distress to get an extension is in and of itself distressing and counterproductive.

Motion carries unanimously.

Erin resumes deputy chair and taking of minutes.

8.9 Opt-in WAMnesty Motion

Motion: That the policy be adopted

Moved: Will

Seconded: Sabine

Erin: Explains the context for this push and models other universities have adopted.

Aidan: As said, raised with Shirley today slightly pre-empting SRC, was one of the suggestions being looked into, will send motion now that it is passed. Will compliment the campaign being done by the UTSSA.

Nour: I really need this motion. Trying to learn anatomy through a screen just doesn't work and my marks are reflecting that

Motion carried unanimously

9. General Business

Erin: Motions should have been provided on notice. Anything that isn't essential won't be passed now and will be deferred to next SRC.

Chloe: For fuck's sake. This is bullshit. The Ed motion is essential.

Erin: Apparently not so essential that it was submitted on notice. SRC deserves a fair chance to review motions that we're being asked to vote on.

Cal: Apologises for sending motions in late. Will drop it into the chat.

Motion: That the Queer item be discussed.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Melodie

Motion carried unanimously

Cal: DeiFY is a queer collective group in Canberra that does great work around anti-racism and intersectional issues. Looking forward to running this workshop.

Moved: Erin

Seconded: Melodie

Erin: Amending to match format required by SRC.

Motion: That the SRC approve an upper spending limit of \$300 for the DeiFY workshop.

Motion carried unanimously

Cal: Would we maybe be able to post meeting details on Facebook.

Erin: We can potentially do this going forwards.

Eshna: Need to recognise our convenor

Aidan: That absolutely requires notice to the SRC. Need to provide full details of minutes etc. Also proof of notice.

Eshna: These were provided.

Aidan: Only notice that was valid was the one sent on the 24th, other meetings didn't have correct notice. Happy to work with you to rectify this, but it can't be fixed in this meeting.

Eshna: Can we at least recognise the Collective as active?

Aidan: I can follow up on that after this meeting. Will need to arrange a time to do all of this.

Anna: Have a motion from the Enviro meeting. Can that be discussed?

Erin: Depends on length of motion. Can it be dealt with later?

Anna: Supplies motion to chat. Summarises motion related to Siemens and Adani, damage to land, partnerships with other universities too. Had meeting with Atilla and DVCs. They are committed to putting pressure on Siemens. Would like UTSSA to stand behind this.

Motion: That the motion be discussed in General Business

Moved: Eshna

Seconded: Ellie

Motion carried unanimously

Holly: Thinks it's important to campaign against any mining sites, uni has very dubious corporate links with weapon manufacturers, Myanmar and Israeli universities. Australia is the biggest coal exporter, top 3 fossil fuels. Important that we have an oppositional stance. Only just this year, Labor announced that they plan to export coal after 2050. Total façade that they support any action on climate.

Meg: Thinks it is really important that students protest against links to fossil fuels. Universities play this role of contributing to disruptive industries. Students should oppose these and uni links to them.

Lucia: UTS has so many ties to so many horrible incriminating things. Weapons manufacturers, police, US military, Israel. UTS has its hands soaked in all these crimes. Not surprised that it has ties with Adani.

Melodie: Supports the motion, stop Adani.

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Eshna

Seconded: Melodie

Aidan: Vertigo should be dealt with at an Exec. A very significant spend shouldn't be done in General Business.

Motion: That the Executive consider the Enviro motion

Moved: Aidan

Seconded: Erin

Motion carried unanimously

Ellie: Has general business. Quite urgent and pressing. The EAG had a forum recently and were speaking in classes. Staff in FASS were given a directive to not allow people to speak in classes. Huge attack on freedom of speech alongside attacks on jobs. Management called security on EAG trying to attend staff forum on job cuts. Thinks it is important to support unequivocal freedom of speech.

Will: Can we limit discussion to 1 for 1 against since meeting has gone on too long?

Motion: That the motion be discussed

Moved: Will

Seconded: Melodie

Motion carried unanimously

Motion: That the policy be adopted.

Moved: Will

Seconded: Melodie

Lucia: UTS right now is facing some pretty severe cuts that we need to be campaigning around. This is a massive infringement of freedom of speech and ability to organise. Reminds me of a certain few people.

Chloe: Aiden you have no commitment to free speech, you cut funding to the EAG over blue tack

Motion carried unanimously.

Chloe: Has a motion about Afghanistan.

Meeting descends into mindless recriminations

Camille: Have any Afghan students been consulted?

Chloe: This is ridiculous. Why should we have to consult the community since this is about the war. It's a ridiculous notion.

Camille: Last time, you presented a motion about Palestine with no consultation of Palestinians or their safety.

Chloe: and it was too anti-Zionist for your faction to vote on

Nour: It wasn't anti-Zionist; I am a Palestinian and the motion you drafted would have put me into peril and Afghan students into peril. You mentioned that Labor people support the Afghani war, and I'm disgusted that you'd suggest that me as a Muslim would support that war.

Bailey: SALT loves their performative activism

Melissa: Makes sense to consult people about the motion if the motion isn't just support of refugees. Don't think you have to gain consensus or involve people. Syria has the largest refugee population, and we think

Sabrina: As a Muslim woman you saying that I'm for the Afghanistan war goes against everything I believe in, please take a second to think who you might be addressing

Camille: Just want to clarify, I'm not against the motion at all, it's just important to consult the people who will be most affected by things like this before speaking for them.

Aidan: Thinks a compromise would be to consider this at next meeting. That way everyone can talk to who they want to and consider the motion.

Eshna: Will this be Exec or SRC?

Aidan: Can be either.

Motion: That the Executive be empowered to consider the motion

Moved: Camille

Seconded: Erin

Chloe: Thinks it is cynical politics for Labor to not discuss this now.

Nour: The amendment did last time. Just wanting to ensure that no people of the Afghanistan diaspora are put in danger.

Will: Imagine not understanding how the ALP works. just pathetic

Nour: As a note, Sabine and I have been talking to Afghani students here and will continue to do so.

Melodie: I don't support the Labor party either, but the accusations coming from SALT to Muslim and middle eastern members of the party are disgusting. Check your privilege before opening your mouth. It's horrid to accuse members of those marginalised communities of this. We didn't make these decisions 20 years ago and we don't make them now.

Camille: Very much not a supporter of Labor. Very important that we don't talk over people's identities. You may not see what this may do to, but people do.

Meg: Wait so if you're not directly affected by oppression, you can't speak out against the oppressors?

Bailey: maybe you should consult with the oppressed?

Erin: You can speak out in solidarity, not speak over the community you claim to support

Meg: There's such a thing as solidarity. We're demanding solidarity with Afghan refugees. There's also not a hegemonic group to consult. Would make no sense to consult all women about abortion rights, this is the same.

Nour: Well, we don't even know the different opinions with the lack of consultation.

Sabrine: Please again, check your privilege

Melodie: Solidarity only works when the thing is lead by the group. It doesn't work when you choose to speak for them. Check your privilege. It's really interesting that you're this shit still. Do some thinking.

Nick: Just quickly, in terms of this. This isn't my place to say this or judge the intricacies or complexities of a 20-year war. For the millions of people who are affected.

Erin: Talks about actual concrete help for asylum seekers and says it is most important. Notes their volunteering with ASC, which isn't a lot but actually helps people in their lives, asks what the trots have ever concretely done to help asylum seekers or refugees.

Melodie: Some of us are working class.

Motion carried unanimously

Meeting descends into shouting.

10. Close of Meeting

Meeting is closed at 9:00pm