

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF THE UTSSA - 27TH APRIL 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. Convenor Confirmation's (Queer, Ethnocultural, Enviro and Accessibility)
 - 8.2 UTS Student Partnership Agreement
 - 8.3 Food Co-Op Committee
 - 8.4 Queer collectives' internal positions
 - 8.5 Queer Vertigo
 - 8.6 May 6 Climate Strike
 - 8.7 NUS Affiliation
 - 8.8 USYD NTEU Strike
 - 8.9 Condemn penalties for protestors
 - 8.10 Accessibility collective name change
 - 8.11 Accessibility collectives' internal positions
9. General Business
10. Close of Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Anna Thieben	President
Sabrina Yassine	General Secretary
Melissa Sukkarieh	Assistant General Secretary
Cat Doherty	Education Officer
Nour Al-Hammouri	Welfare Officer
Harry Ryan	Postgraduate Officer
Eshna Gupta	Women's Officer
Zebadiah Cruickshank	General Councillor
Christina Markovska	UTSSA Staff
Cal Mckinley	Accessibility Officer
Vanessa Lim	General Councillor
Saihej Bhangu	General Councillor
Sara Chaturvedi	General Councillor
Rufus Dadd-Daigle	General Councillor

Adrian Lozancic	General Councillor
Elijah Hollero	General Councillor
Melodie Grafton	Observer
Aiylin Cihan	Observer
Olivia Garcia	Observer
Rihannon Solomon	Observer
Georgia Pond	Observer
Kurt Cheng	Observer

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

Moved: Peter

Seconded: Bailey

Passed unanimously

1.3 Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

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

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

1.4. Declarations of Interest

None

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1. Confirmation of previous minutes

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

Moved: Sabrine

Seconded: Eshna

Passed unanimously

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Anna gives a summary of correspondence to the UTSSA

We have had correspondence from Shirley about a funding agreement, where we have been given a minimum funding. They were willing to give increased funding for bluebird if we can run the service x5 a week however that is not possible on our budget and we lack the funding needed in most other areas.

Sabrine speaks to the funding situations and options from here on out. We would have to run a campaign, but it needs a pointed message that isn't a personal attack but targets the need for better funding for unions, an unachievable campaign is an unpersuasive one.

Option 1: Spend out of reserves but risk losing our independence

Option 2: Or run a campaign to get this funding back

Holly, speak to the fact that as student activists we need to rebuild unions. Disagrees with Sabrine point about toning down the message.

Sabrine, there's nothing about "toning down" it's about setting achievable goals, that will actually get us the funding we need so Shirley can sign off before she leaves. We need to comprehend how dire our situation is, there will be no union if we can't achieve any level of funding.

Bailey, while Holly's ideals are fine about unions needed more funding, we are a half dead union anyway, we are still re-building after the past 10 years after covid. We have to move forward with a specific plan. It needs to be pragmatic and clear, we don't have the power that unions did two years ago, we need to make a strong case as to why we should fight and why management needs to give us more funding.

Melodie, we can be both radical and pragmatic. It's about being specific and having a plan set out and being direct about the plan is something that we should really consider. With SSAF money it would be worth talking to activate about SSAF, they are not our friends as we are competing with activate for our money, so it is worth asking about what SSAF funds are being used for in activate. It is really sad but we can be pragmatic and idealistic.

Peter, I think we have to be realistic about what this campaign can achieve and tread with a bit of caution. If we can target our campaign towards bluebird then that something the university can act on, seeing its importance.

Cal, we're talking around a lot of things due to different political perspectives. I get achievable goals; as this is a dire situation. But we should not give up on our long-term goals. The things we are saying shouldn't be mean and targeted, but we should think about how committed we're going to be to the actual campaign. But we have to be unrelenting in what we are doing.

Melissa, we are saying similar things that we do need a campaign as this year could set the precedent for every other council getting a bad budget every year.

Eshna, Shirley is leaving at the end of the year so we do need to take action quick. The mere existence of a union is antithetical to management. We should do a town hall, and we should think pragmatically but doesn't mean we need to take a soft approach.

Adrian, we need realistic and pragmatic goals. I hope we can convince management through diplomatic means. Antagonizing management may serve as a detriment to future and current negotiations however we should still have a stop campaign and find common ground where possible.

Holly, a honi soit article or public shaming is what we can work towards since management would just prefer activate to have all the money. And how would the town hall actually work?

Clarified to Holly that this is not about "public shaming" as that would be antithetical to getting Shirley to sign off on giving us funding, which is the entire goal of this campaign

Eshna, The way that town hall works is putting political pressure.

Harry, essentially no one is really talking about the impact on students. It's such a tightrope, it can't be that "these are a bunch radical asking for money" with nothing in return, we have to play the long game. We cannot ask for something arguably unreasonable.

Bailey, can I suggest we discuss this at an emergency SRC.

Sabrina, agrees, as now we have a common understanding, we need actionable steps.

Holly, asks questions as to the funding.

Melodie, management are not our friends but in the real world you have to work with people who are not your friends, you can't just yell at them and expect them to hand everything to you.

Mariah, speaks to clubs day and how we are going to spend our money.

5. OFFICE BEARERS' REPORTS

5.1. President

Report is summarised

5.2. General Secretary

Report is taken as read.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Report is taken as read.

5.4. Education Officer

Report is taken as read.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Report is summarised.

5.6. Women's Officer

Report is summarised.

5.7. International Students' Officer

No Report, extenuating circumstances are accepted.

5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer

No Report.

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

Report is taken as read.

5.13. Environment Officer

Report is taken as read

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 Committees

Motion: That the last two sentences of the SSAF committee be struck off with the understanding that the committee meetings operate with the function to hold recognised meetings.

Harry, clarifies that members did not unanimously agree for committee meetings to be working bees

Anna, apologies that the end of the meeting must of been rushed and it's fine to be stricken off

Sabrina, clarifies that committee's purpose is to remain as committee not as working bees, as it defeats the purpose of having a committee

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

7. OPERATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL BUSINESS, STIPENDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS.

7.1 Queer Picnic Reimbursement

Motion: That the UTSSA reimburse Olivia \$24.59 for buying snacks for our Trans Day of Visibility banner paint

Moved: Zeb

Seconded: Melissa

Passes Unanimously

8. OTHER BUSINESS ARISING ON NOTICE

8.1 Convenor Confirmation's (Queer, Ethnocultural, Enviro and Accessibility)

Motion: That Elijah is confirmed as the Queer Collective Convenor

Motion: That Mariam is confirmed as the Ethnocultural Collective Convenor

Motion: That Vanessa is confirmed as the Enviro Collective Convenor

Motion: That Georgia confirmed as the Disabilities Collective Convenor

Moved: Melissa

Seconded: Bailey

Passes unanimously

Procedural motion to move to the Queer Vertigo spending motion (agenda point 8.5):

Moved: Melissa,

Seconded: Zeb

Passes unanimously

8.2 UTS Student Partnership Agreement

Motion: That the UTS SRC discusses, considers and agrees on three key projects or issues to be included within the UTS SPA and empowers the President to engage in discussions to progress the SPA.'

Moved: Sabrine

Seconded: Nour

Passes unanimously

Kurt Cheng, presents the SPA and speak to its purpose, function and use for the UTSSA.

Melissa, speaks to the fact that this agreement should benefit us not just management.

Sabrine, this is not about just benefitting the UTSSA this is about what the UTSSA can do for students, namely speak on their behalf in situation with management such as these where we can actually have a say in what students think are the most important issues on campus not what management thinks students might think. But we can also use this agreement to our advantage, by including something about funding etc..

Anna, thinks signing this agreement will be mixed messaging and we need to wait until we have proper funding. And university media around student partnership may not be good media for us necessarily.

Cat and holly speak to not coming to the table with management and this may lead to negative consequences for the UTSSA and lock us into something we don't like.

Sabrine, Peter, Zebadiah and Nour speak to the purpose of the SPA in not only holding management accountable and to advocate for specific issues and receive a commitment from the university to respond to these issues we point out. We're not certified a good result, but this is still an opportunity we should not ignore.

Peter, this is a fantastic opportunity for the association to get its point across directly to university management about what we want for students

Eshna, we are in formal positions already and I'm not sure why we need to formalise our positions in an agreement. And they say they want to work with student leaders, and I know Anna has also had many meeting with managements and nothing much has happened.

Yes, this is why putting something in writing works to our advantage and allows us to hold them accountable in future.

8.3 Food Co-Op Committee

Motion: That the Student Representative Council to establish a formal committee regarding the development of the new UTSSA Food Pantry service.

Amended motion: That the Student Representative Council to establish an open committee regarding the development of the new UTSSA Food Pantry service.

Moved: Melodie

Seconded: Bailey

Passes unanimously

Melissa, I don't think setting up a committee works. I think it excludes non council students

Sabrine, anyone can attend an open committee

Eshna, I don't like the word committee might scare students.

Sabrina, you can call the committee whatever you like if it seems overwhelming to you

Eshna, does open to all mean staff.

YES

Anna, does not think we need three voting members, that should not prohibit that meeting from happening. But we do need to organise our procedures better.

Sabrina, yes exactly, a post on Facebook doesn't count as notice and we need minutes available for student who can't attend meetings due to work, classes etc..

Melissa, the last SSAF meeting we only had quorum for a section of the meeting. These meeting can only happen if council can come.

Georgia, I'm kind of against the committee, I think we can just keep functioning how we have so far.

Melissa, considering the nature of the project I feel like we should pass a motion to have minutes at any future meetings

Mel, this is a union and an independent organisation, we can't not have any unaccountable bodies

Sabrina, this is basic, standard procedure. We need names attached to decisions in the event that something goes wrong, or we just need to look back and see how decisions are being made.

Adrian, I agree with the idea of a committee as it creates accountability and transparency.

SRC discusses that a committee would work however should review its structure before next meeting.

Motion; That the UTSSA table this motion the following meeting.

Moved: Melodie

Seconded: Eshna

Passes unanimously

8.4 Queer Collective's internal positions

Motion: That the Queer collective creates a community outreach role and merges the social media and graphic design roles.

Moved: Zeb

Seconded: Bailey

Passes unanimously

8.5 Queer Vertigo

Melodie, I believe in queer Vertigo but considering the situation there may have to be a compromise we can agree on.

Peter, in the situation we find ourselves in we have to be realistic about what we can print, and that is a realistic amount to what we can afford as an association

Melissa, puts forward the idea of delaying budget approval

Olivia, understood there was a high chance that we would need to compromise. We wouldn't need money until to august. We are happy to table the budget discussion for the moment.

Melissa, pro-funding and supporting queer vertigo.

Sabrine, I think most of us here want to see a Queer Vertigo happen, we still cannot yet justify spending large amount until we know our funding situation. Also are you sure you don't want to pass at least any amount of money now so you can get started? Also if were looking at reducing costs does page count affect thing?

Joey, confirms that less pages affect costs, also support Queer Vertigo

Olivia, would like to get the entire team on the same page and get them involved before another amount if agreed.

Melodie, asks about fundraising however the UTSSA cannot accept fundraising money or donations

Motion is tabled.

Holly, can Vertigo publish something about management.

Joey, Vertigo has done this.

8.6 May 6 Climate Strike

Motion: That the UTSSA endorses, publicised and encourages students to attend the May 6th Climate Strike.

Moved: Vanessa

Seconded: Bailey

Passes unanimously

Kurt, is the climate strike with other universities?

Holly, it is worth saying the last climate strike was really great and it still the key issues today. The key messaging of the liberal is horrible.

Bailey, For the climate strike we're planning flyering at night owl noodles. We've got a stall on Friday, and everyone should come along as we continue to build.

8.7 NUS Affiliation

Motion: That the UTSSA will review their affiliation with the NUS pending structural reform to the accountability mechanisms within the NUS.

Moved: Cal

Seconded: Eshna

Melodie, this motion was one sentence long that Anna submitted.

Holly wants to clarify that we should not disaffiliate from the union as it provides key resources.

Sabrina, what is the purpose of this motion?

Peter, ANU put a motion like this in 2015 and a year later they disaffiliated from the NUS. The NUS does great work and it is a strong activist body.

Cat, from what I gather my interpretation of this motion isn't to disaffiliate or condemn the organisation as the NUS has done a lot of really important things but I do think there is a deep issue with factionalising at the NUS and how much certain faction controls of the NUS.

Sabrina, yes and on the topic of accountability, we need to look at accountable practices in our own organisation e.g creating committees with minutes where decisions made are transparent. There's no use talking about NUS's accountable practices when we can't embody that in our own organisation.

Holly, it is an outrageous waste of student money to not organise activists' campaigns and I think the Labor factions run it to build their careers and not as an activist organisation.

Eshna, we pay a disproportionate amount of union dues to the NUS

Eshna amends motion to **That the UTSSA will review their financial connection with NUS**

For: 7

Against: 17

MOTION FAILS

8.8 USYD NTEU Strike

Motion: That the UTSSA endorse the upcoming strike by the USYD NTEU on May 11-12, and that the UTSSA encourages the UTS NTEU to take industrial action when possible.

Moved: Cat

Seconded: Cal

Passes unanimously

8.9 Condemn penalties for protestors

Motion: That the UTSSA condemns the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 passed in NSW Parliament, that increases penalties for protestors.

Moved: Cat

Seconded: Eshna

Passes unanimously

Kurt, asks what the real-life purpose is of passing a motion such as this is

Cat, describes that it shows that as a union these are the values we stand for

8.10 Accessibility collective name change

Motion to be tabled for next meeting as by-law changes need 7 day's notice

8.11 Accessibility collectives' internal positions

Motion: That the SRC recognises the establishment of the following Disabilities Collective internal positions alongside the current Convenor and Officer positions

- **Social media officer**
- **Creative director**
- **Secretary**

Moved: Cal

Seconded: Melissa

Passes unanimously

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closes at 8:40