

# MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE UTSSA – 25TH MAY 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. Legal Service Tender
  - 8.3. Disability Collective name change - By-Law amendment
  - 8.4 Solidarity motion - The Philippines
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
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
Georgia Pond	Observer
Kurt Cheng	Observer
Peter Mumford	General Councillor
Antona Bursa	International Officer

## MINTUES

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Meeting opens at 6:40

#### *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*

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

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

Mia who proxies to 1. Sabrina, 2. Nour 3, Rufus. Sabrina 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 April Council meeting and emergency meeting are taken as a true and accurate record.**

Moved: Sabrine

Seconded: Nour

*Passed unanimously*

### 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

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement ('SPA') summarised in report

#### *5.3. Assistant General Secretary*

Report is taken as read.

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement addressed by General Secretary

#### *5.4. Education Officer*

Report is taken as read.

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement addressed by General Secretary

#### *5.5. Welfare Officer*

No report

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement addressed by General Secretary

#### *5.6. Women's Officer*

No Report.

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement addressed by General Secretary

#### *5.7. International Students' Officer*

No Report.

#### *5.8. Indigenous Students' Officer*

Vacant

#### *5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer*

No Report.

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement addressed by General Secretary

#### *5.10. Cultural Diversity Officer*

No Report

→ Speaks to the Student Partnership Agreement addressed by General Secretary

Asks question to Kurt Cheng (Observer), Why does the SPA exist?

Kurt: A SPA exists in 4 universities in Australia, and they all came from the SRC within the respective universities. It is about formalising the role of our leaders and outlining a collective approach to student engagement at UTS. The UTSSA has not historically worked with Activate and academic board as closely and this community report council. The report is renewed every 2 or 3 years to negotiate what you want from the university.

Suzu questions the opportunity for the university to water down the association's stance.

*Move this discussion to general business*

#### *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 Clubs Day - Marquee spending motion*

**Motion: That the UTS SRC approve \$3,029.85 to hire and set up a Marquee for Clubs Day.**

Anna: Explains situation re activate

Nour: Activate is only hosting clubs' day for one day

Discussion ensues about tabling it for exec as the marquee cost may not be worth a single day and we need to be updated on the situation

Sabrina, lets collective know to make sure that they have a meeting to pass spending for any items they want to purchase for O'Day, and to keep an eye out on the deadline for submitting requests for marketing material.

### **Motion is tabled**

#### *8.2 Legal Service Tender*

Discussion Agenda Item

Anna, council should think about possible legal services we could use outside UTS that are less costly and that can run for 5 days.

#### *8.3 Disability Collective name change - By-Law amendment*

##### **Motion:**

1. **That section 7.2.3. of the By-Laws be amended to add 'known as the "Disabilities Collective"' after 'Collective'.**
2. **That section 11.5 of the By-Laws be inserted to read: "The Accessibilities Officer may be officially recognised as the 'Disabilities Officer'.**
3. **That schedule 2 section 1 be amended to delete 'Accessibilities'; replace with Disabilities**

Moved: Cal

Seconded: Elijah

*Passes unanimously*

#### *8.4 Solidarity motion - The Philippines*

**Motion: That the SRC stands in solidarity with Filipino peoples and the Filipino diaspora against breaches of democracy, and against the forces of disinformation, authoritarianism, and corruption. The SRC stands in solidarity with Filipinos, both in the Philippines and abroad, in rejecting the fraudulent Marcos-Duterte election result.**

Moved: Mia

Seconded: Adrian

*Passes unanimously*

## 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

### **Continued discussion of SPA**

Kurt: If you have particular collaborative priorities and they are a part of the SPA then whoever is the president or any member of SGLC you can continue to refer to those priorities along with the key action items. The agreement also gets renewed every three years.

One of my first projects was improving accessibility in building two when it was first built. E.g installing the wide door in the library for accessibility. As expected, having something in writing gives you

something to refer to. This SPA is coming from Shirley's office, in a university context this is sent to every staff member, union etc... It's about momentum.

Suzy, my concern is the interests of students in terms of standing with staff and their rights and interests. Solidarity with them.

Sabrina, I understand but the SPA and standing in solidarity with staff are not competing interests, solidarity with staff versus us putting our 3 ideas in the agreement aren't in conflict with each other, if anything we can strengthen those interests by putting them in the agreement.

Kurt, those are genuine concerns which is why staff have been approached, staff with strong views, e.g [staff member] gave the provost a bit of a mouthful. If anything, it's about students working more closely at the table. Staff has been consulted and this should always be the case.

Gracie, are we just chatting about a hypothetical is that date has passed and we're not contributing. I think for me something that I find interesting is that even though this is a discussion, if its retrospective it may not be as productive. I feel like it would have been great to go to the collectives and each prepare an issue. Just because we have disagreements within the universities it should not cut off all opportunities for collaboration. I haven't gone to the queer collective or represented the queer voice yet, but we need to renew that discussion. If it's not the SPA what are we going to do, protest or strike? We are a very small group of people, but Elijah and I can't speak for the whole collective.

Anna, all those issues they are all really important and we already had an avenue to address them through me and Shirley

Eshna, I think taking it to Shirley is a bit different than the agreement but can't this shut out our other avenues. Even if I'm in that room that doesn't necessarily mean they are going to hear me or listen to me.

Sabrina, If you're talking about protests, campaigns etc.. on the same issues we put in the SPA, then definitely not, that wouldn't stop us from any of that. The SPA is not about what it can do for the association but rather the value we can contribute in directing management's attention to the real issues that students face, not the ones they just read off their surveys

Anna, is a retrospective discussion?

Kurt, Gracie, thanks for your work within the queer collective, I appreciate your input. The deadline was Friday for the contribution. Should council decide, I am very open to liase with GSU and Andrew to allow an extension for contributions. However, this project was mapped out 8 months ago.

Sabrina, it would have been forward thinking of us to have included a promise of certainty about our SSAF funding each year to management, which would remain in writing for the associations foreseeable future.

Peter, I want to start by expressing my extreme disappointing in not acting on this Anna. In failing to do so you have failed in your obligations and failed the sanctity of this council. I don't get where the issue on staff is coming from. I am struggling to see the issue that staff would have and how this would prevent us from standing in solidity with staff. You need a dose of reality about how visible the SA is. I am yet to see anything from the student association reach council, ever. To not contribute is actively choosing to not have any visibility to the highest level of management in this University, and a failure to fulfil our defining role in representing students. If this was to come to councils' eyes there could be visibility to the highest governing body, which is an incredibly missed opportunity.

Rufus, I do not want to pass up the opportunity that we have to work with other faculties. Currently what we're doing isn't working too much which we can very much see. The SPA allows us to advocate and bring attention to those serious and solid issues. It may not be the be all end all in getting these issues resolved

but it can start the conversations. Plus, everyone has to compromise agreement that's what agreements are for.

Melodie, I'm really disappointed and saddened by this direction, I understand that it's not going to be the best, but it is something. Not only does this affect our council this year but affect years to come. For issues like accountability down the line and the university being like oh we already did this. It would be hard to narrow down three issues but there are so many we could have campaigned on. Mourning the loss of that for this council.

Mia, we need to get out of our echo chamber, were making our selves obsolete by continuing to debate about identify polices. As a student whose encountered bureaucratic processes, this could have been a really good opportunity for all of us to work together and hone on the things we want to get done. Issues we have with wording in constitutions and phrases that go to actual action with issues that students face in thier day to day lives. I think that if we do have the opportunity now to really seriously talk about that as an SRC. As people have said, good is better than nothing, it may not be perfect, and it still needs a lot of work but we will have a document that keeps management accountable rather than do nothing. This would be us throwing our hat in the ring and telling students that we don't really care.

Suzy, I really appreciate your point, I think I'm willing to change my stance on this. I hadn't considered a lot of what has been brought up.

Eshna, I think its misrepresentation to say I'm thinking about identity politics.

Mia, this is the opportunity that we could use to voice the issues with SASH report on campus. From experience, it has led me nowhere. I just think this is the place where we have an opportunity with this.

Suzy, it is disappointing.

Eshna, in terms of that first of all I think that the things that we are demanding are going to be watered down.

Sabrina, how can you make those assumptions when we haven't even begun to try yet. How can you say management is not going to do anything with this. The whole point we're making is that yes, they might, but why would you rule out an avenue before you even tried it. That would be such a massive disservice to students. If I thought the agreement was going to do harm then I wouldn't want to sign it, but it's not, like we've been saying its not an obligation for either party, management or us, but it gives us a standing to put those issued in writing and reference.

Melodie, Anna key role is to advocate and liase for us, this was not done.

Melissa, in the point about the NTEU and how its going against them; there is a 70% casualisation rate and we put up motions about students and protecting them, that's what we stand for, what does this paper do? Also, what's been said about collectives is undermining the work that people have been doing.

Sabrina, I don't think that was the purpose of what they said more to show this gives us another avenue.

Zeb, how would this affect an enterprising barning agreement?

Melissa, representing the needs of student align with staff so we need to stand in solidarity as staff are the priority.

Zeb, yes but how does signing this mean that we don't stand in solidarity with staff?

Mia, are you saying we align more with the staff than the student body,

Melissa, I meant more with students.

Mia, is not a question about we support the staff, though this avenue that has basically been gifted us, this is opportunity where we can formalise that support and solidarity.

Zeb, they are going to have a case at the fair work commission and the university SPA.

Melodie, there are so many opportunities to be strategic with how we can support staff with this. I agree that we should be supporting staff, and this doesn't mean we can't??

Cat, have you talk to the NTEU as an organisation, or have you just talked to individual staff members?

Kurt, the answer is I haven't spoken with the NTEU as a whole. I've spoken to staff members that are apart of the NTUE that have been at your rallies, strikes and gatherings. They are part of the organisation and have shown support. And many of these staff are the ones that come from FASS etc..

Harry, I wanted to make a point about what happens if we don't take this agreement. The status quo is not working, most of the student Populus don't even know we exist. They think activate is the real student union, currently most of the protests we've gone to that have large numbers are cross-campus. The ones that we do ourselves are like 20/30 people which is pathetic. If our cause was so righteous why is there only 30 people. I hate to be blunt but were running this SRC into the ground. You've given away the most influential partnership agreement.

Melissa, the reason that we don't have a lot of power in what we do, is because of our lack of funding.

Mia, are we going to pay more people to go to protests? If we had the extra 150,000, the money is not the issue, it's that we are fundamentally not having productive forward thinking and marching conversations.

Eshna, come to the solidity protests if you're worried about numbers.

Harry, clearly that has missed the point about the wider student Populus, you're doing way too much virtue signalling,

Rufus, I think it goes past funding, there are problems with motivation from the wider student body in activism, collective turnout is low. That is what this SPA needs to do.

Cat, Anna is trying not to bend over backwards to management. As activist collectives, signing partnerships doesn't make sense.

Gracie, who's to say that if we enter an agreement, it would be discrediting our work. This is a university with the opportunity to present ourselves at a university level. There is no endpoint to this discussion. We are not like activate; it is a shame that they are taking our spot. You are a part of the union when you come to UTS but if we don't contribute and let activate take our spot, then again that is a disservice. WE SERVE the students not staff. Something else I want to say as student representatives is that we know the union in the way that the average student does not. I think its selfish for us to not contribute and acknowledge. What about mental health services, thats why I ran on council. I would never want something to come between me to come between an opportunity like that, it a massive disserve to students. Also, I don't think we've asked Kurt enough questions.

Melodie, yes there are the collectives and the work that activists have done for years, I don't think the Spa undermines it but adds to it.

Kurt, thank you everyone for your insightful comments. I think I might just start off by asking Melissa how long left you have in your degree. How many years have you been involved with the union?

Melissa, a couple years.

Kurt. The SPA is meant to live on past your years in uni. Think about the reps that that came before you and what they've left behind. These contributions will live on for the next two years until they are renewed, and outcomes are updated. To wrap up, the SPA is going to be signed off and at that ceremony the agreement will come to effect for the next two years. To Harry's point, you need visibility. Activate has been very supportive about this agreement even though their board also got heated when deciding out outcomes. I'm not asking for you to come to the table above and beyond but I'm asking you to contribute what you want in the discussion.

Sabrina, Anna would you be willing to take contributions.

Anna, when do we need to have them in by.

Kurt, One week from that by the 10<sup>th</sup> of June for GSU.

### **Next SRC Meeting**

Sabrina speaks to the fact that it would be very anti-student union to have an SRC meeting during students' holiday so the meeting will be called next week for the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

Understands it the last week of exams so proxy if need be but it should be after exam times and wouldn't imagine it would be a 15-point agenda.

There is no SRC July meeting as per our constitution.

### **Labor Win**

Sabrina, I can't not end this meeting with a congratulations to Anthony Albanese and the Labor party getting elected to government, here's to a federal ICAC, better action on climate change, stronger superannuation and finally, finally implementing the Uluru statement of the heart. And one final cheer to getting rid of scomo.

## **10. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Meeting closes at 8:14pm