

October 2025 SRC Minutes

29/10/25 | 6:30pm | CB04.03.341

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1. Opening of meeting at 6:32pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Mia delivers the acknowledgement of country, acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora nation upon whose ancestral lands UTS stands, and extends respect to elders past, present and emerging and any Indigenous people present today. Mia acknowledges that sovereignty was never ceded, and that this always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

Mia calls for nominations for Deputy Chair. Januka nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so Januka is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Januka Suraweera	General Secretary
Aryan Sharma	Assistant General Secretary
Neeve Nagle	Welfare Officer
Olivia Lee	Women's Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Amelia Ireland	Disabilities Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	Environment Officer
Yasmine Johnson	Councillor
Omar El-Sobihy	Councillor
Ella Haid	Councillor
Lucia Thornton	Councillor
Elliot Kameron	Councillor
Amelia Raptis	Councillor
Sreekar Reddy	Postgraduate UTS Council Representative
Chloe Ferreira	Undergraduate UTS Council Representative
Lisa Windon	UTSSA Staff
Bianca Drummond Costa	Vertigo Editor in Chief
Jonnie Jock	Vertigo General Editor
Andrew	Observer
Jono	Observer

Apologies

No apologies.

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Harshvardhan	Olivia
Chloe Ferrari	Amelia
Vaishnavi	Neeve
Dirk	Omar
Eamonn	Sina
Yasmine Johnson	Ella Haid

1.4. Declarations of Interest

Mia calls for declarations of interest to be made for this meeting.

Mia declares interest in 7.8 as she is volunteering as part of the student engagement team assisting refugees

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from September are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

2.1. Executive Business

Januka tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meeting held on 21.10.2025.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No Matters Arising.

4. Correspondence

No Correspondence received.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Mia speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

NSO should be getting back to her with results of investigation into UTS. Important as precedent.

SSAF paper has been responded to, some wins, some things to push back, SSAF survey results came back and UTSSA services were generally well liked. Explains the new committee process to give students voting rights, will be good.

Improved Special consideration process. Has been fighting for this for some time. Currently endorsed will require more work till implementation.

Upcoming is training and handover. Also, inquiry into the university sector is coming up and mentions the VC has been lying in budget estimates.

Raising the Survey that the UTSSA did, some of the responses were that students feel confident in the SRC, with up to 80%. However, students are not familiar about who their student leaders are. Survey reports that several of the UTSSA's campaigns are well known to students, the most being the Cuts campaign likely due to Ella's work. Lots of people haven't heard about any of the collectives. Is thinking about ways to improve SRC transparency. Work of student's association feels relevant to students which is great. Will keep survey open to get more response.

Neeve: Touching on fair day as huge success, commends Ella and says she can speak on the event. Great to have so many people come around, likely more people than the protests.

Ella: They got lucky the hot wind came in later, success in getting people to come who hadn't heard about it in advance, got a few hundred flyers out and chatted to people about the cuts. Staff speaker, who was made the redundant on the same day came and then spoke about it. NTEU is planning to escalate, and we should focus our attention on it.

Neeve: Asks about EBA process upcoming and running campaign about supporting tutors striking.

Mia: Agrees we have to oppose the misinformation that the Uni will make blaming the NTEU for strikes.

5.2. General Secretary

Januka takes report as read.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Aryan takes report as read.

5.4. Education Officer

Samiha is absent.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Neeve speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Is writing a formal written response paper to the University, gives an example of some students being worried about accreditation. Please let her know if there's anything unique you want added to the document.

Mia: mentions update to space campaign, in continuous discussion with Activate and Facilities to get the space sorted.

5.6. Women's Officer

Olivia speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Mentions how good the Fair day Against the Cuts was, was happy to participate and hoping to see a similar event run in future.

Mia: Yes, but please plan earlier in future.

Yasmine: The students want student life

5.7. International Students' Officer

Harshvardhan is absent and so their report is taken as read.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

Jermaine is absent and so their report is taken as read.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Vaishnavi is absent and so their report is taken as read.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma takes report as read.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia takes report as read.

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah is absent and so their report is taken as read.

5.13. Environment Officer

Sina speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Everything wrapping up as the semester ends, mentions last of the gardening events, has produced Stop the Cuts badges.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Vertigo Report

Bianca: Oddity went on stands last week, has been pretty good, lots to do putting out rest of the articles till December, will be doing launch party soon, design competition wrapping up. In final stages of the vertigo library collab. One will live in library one in the UTS office.

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

No reports.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1. October SRC 2025 By-Law Changes: Vertigo Stipend Structure

Preamble:

A concern has been raised this year about the difficulty caused by Vertigo's current pay structure in which the entire stipend is paid at the end of the year. This has been an accountability measure in order to ensure that Vertigo produces content throughout the year and doesn't receive their stipend if they choose not to do so. This reform aims to balance these two concerns while alleviating some of the pressure on Vertigo by providing an opportunity for them to be paid half their stipend halfway through the year for a total of two instalments. This will also be connecting it the existing End of semester Evaluation process to ensure accountability and more integration between SRC and Vertigo.

This is reform will allow Vertigo to get paid sooner for their work while still ensuring this is based on whether they have completed the work during the semester as other forms of payment schedules might allow a Vertigo team to get paid without producing any editions. Although it does not limit a Vertigo team who is able to catch up and still release 5 editions by the second semester from receiving their full stipend. It is also important to note that this change does not impact the amount of stipend Vertigo will receive only the structure in which they will receive it.

Action:

1. Renumber 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 as 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 respectively.
2. Amend 1.4.3 to insert 'that the total of the unpaid stipend is' reading:

1.4.3 **that the total of the unpaid stipend is** to be paid to each editor as a single sum within one month of publishing the last issue of Vertigo (as contemplated by the Election Regulations); and
3. Insert a new 1.4.2, reading:

1.4.2 half the sum is to be paid to each editor within one month of UTSSA Executive's end-of-semester evaluation in the case that it determines that the Vertigo Editorial Team has published at least two editions that semester; and
4. Amend 1.8 to insert 'During this evaluation it will also be determined whether the Vertigo Editorial Team has published at least two editions that semester.', reading:

1.8 The UTSSA Executive will conduct an end-of-semester evaluation with the UTSSA Executive Officer to ensure recipients of an honorarium have fulfilled their roles and responsibilities. Office Bearers will be notified at least four weeks before the end of the semester that the evaluation process is approaching. Each Office Bearer must submit a comprehensive end-of-semester report detailing the tasks they have completed, including any supporting documentation. **During this evaluation it will also be determined whether the Vertigo Editorial Team has published at least two editions that semester.**

Mover: Neeve

Seconder: Olivia

Mia: Explains motion as improvement to the way Vertigo is paid, better than lump sum while avoiding other potential issues.

Mia: raises amendments to wording.

1.4.3 to be reworded to:

“the remaining unpaid stipend is to be paid to each editor as a single sum within one month of the publication of the final issue of Vertigo for that year (as contemplated by the Election Regulations)”

1.4.2 to be reworded to:

“half of the total Vertigo Editorial Stipend is to be paid to each editor within one month of the UTSSA Executive’s end-of-semester evaluation, provided that the evaluation determines the Vertigo Editorial Team has published at least two valid editions that semester.”

Reword the insert to 1.8 to read in full:

*“The UTSSA Executive will conduct an end-of-semester evaluation with the UTSSA Executive Officer to ensure recipients of an honorarium have fulfilled their roles and responsibilities. Office Bearers will be notified at least four weeks before the end of the semester that the evaluation process is approaching. Each Office Bearer must submit a comprehensive end-of-semester report detailing the tasks they have completed, including any supporting documentation. **During this evaluation, the UTSSA Executive will also determine whether the Vertigo Editorial Team has published at least two valid editions during that semester for the purpose of assessing eligibility for the mid-year stipend payment.**”*

Neeve is amenable.

The motion passes unanimously as amended.

7.2. October SRC 2025 By-Law Changes: Collective Elections

Preamble:

Currently the UTSSA By-Laws do not specify the process for how elections of Collective Convenors should occur when there are multiple candidates, and no candidate receives a simple majority of votes in the initial ballot.

This change establishes a clear elimination process that can function in elections run by both show of hands and secret ballots. Under this process, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and the election is reconducted with the remaining candidates until either one candidate receives a simple majority.

Action:

1. That the UTSSA renumber existing Schedule 2, section 5.6 subsections (iv), (v), and (vi) as (v), (vi), and (vii) respectively.
2. That the UTSSA insert new subsection 5.6 (iv) to read:

(iv) In the event that there are more than two candidates for Convenor and no candidate receives a simple majority of votes in a ballot, the following elimination process shall apply:

1. The candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and the ballot reconducted with the remaining candidates.
2. If multiple candidates tie for the fewest votes, the elimination shall be determined by random selection among those tied candidates.
3. The elimination process shall repeat until either one candidate receives a simple majority of votes or only two candidates remain.
4. When only two candidates remain, the candidate who receives the most votes shall be elected, provided they receive a simple majority of votes of those present in the meeting.

Mover: Neeve

Second: Sina

Januka: Explains it is a basic reform.

Januka raises amendment for in (iv)

The word Convenor to be replaced with "A Collective Position"

Neeve is Amenable

The motion passes unanimously as amended.

7.3. UTSSA Handovers

Preamble:

Section 14 of the UTSSA By-Laws specifies that handovers must be prepared by all outgoing Office Bearers and Members of the Executive.

For Members of the Executive, the handover must include, but is not limited to:

1. Summary of all completed and uncompleted campaigns worked on that year by the Member of the Executive; and
2. All usernames and passwords for relevant social media accounts held under the Member of the Executive's title.

For Office Bearers, this must include:

1. Up-to-date email list for current members of the collective.
2. Summary of all campaigns worked on during the term of the Office Bearer.
3. All usernames and passwords for social media accounts.

Action: That the UTSSA specifies the date of Friday, 7 November 2024 for handovers to be due from all Office Bearers and Members of the Executive. These must be sent to Januka, and must include all information as outlined in section 14 of the By-Laws. As per section 14.5, failing to provide this document by the date specified will result in a suspension of the member's honorarium until the handover document is provided.

Mover: Olivia

Seconder: Sina

Mia: Explains the handover process, will be going on. Mentions to put in as much info as you can about different campaigns you've run.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.4. NatCon Registration Motion

Preamble

The National Union of Students (NUS) National Conference (NatCon) is an opportunity for student representatives from around the country to shape the policies and campaigns by the NUS for the preceding year.

The NUS is the peak representative and advocacy body for almost 1 million students. The NUS is established on the principles of student unionism and our primary objectives include working for the interest of students in improving quality of education, academic freedom, access to education, social security, health and welfare. NatCon provides an opportunity for student representatives to upskill, network and deliver initiatives alongside other accomplished student unionists.

This motion is made in accordance with section 4 of the UTSSA Policy related to Conferences.

Motion:

1. That the UTSSA will purchase the NUS National Conference ticket (inclusive of accommodation and meals) for each of the following:
 1. The seven elected NUS delegates, or a person nominated to attend on their behalf;
 2. The seven accredited observers nominated by the delegates to the President;
 3. The incoming/outgoing UTSSA Executive members who are not delegates or observers; and
 4. Up to two student media observers, nominated by Vertigo to the President.
2. In accordance with the UTSSA Policy on Conference attendance, that the UTSSA will reimburse each attendee listed in item 1 of this motion:
 1. Up to \$400 per person for travel to and from the conference; and
 2. Up to \$250 per person for accommodation immediately prior to the conference.
3. That the observers or proxies for delegates are nominated to the President before 12pm, 14 November 2025.
4. That all attendees be reminded of the UTSSA Policy regarding conferences, especially the following sections:
 1. Representatives must adhere to the UTSSA Code of Conduct throughout the conference;
 2. Representatives must attend a minimum of 80% of conference sessions, workshops and conference activities;
 3. Representatives must submit a post-conference report to the following SRC meeting. The report should be between 200 and 500 words and must detail the representative's experiences, contributions, and any relevant outcomes from the conference; and
 4. Representatives must submit a reimbursement claim within 30 days of the conference's conclusion, including receipts or proof of payment for all expenses claimed.

Mover: Neeve

Second: Olivia

Neeve: Standard, 7 delegates, 7 observes, 2 student media. Incoming or outgoing execs can choose to go but can not be proxied.

Mia: we can change to get more people, but we want people to start buying now otherwise costs will blow out.

Jono: Think it's good for the UTSSA to reregister, that the UTSSA and every student union does, important left-wing campaigns run by the NUS, such as the referendums.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.5 Plant a tree day spending

Action:

That the UTSSA approves a budget of 400 dollars for expenses relating to the Plant a Tree Day on October 5th in accordance with the vote to approve the spending at the Enviro meeting held on 26/10/2025.

Mover: Sina

Second: Neeve

Sina: Explains the tree planting event.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.6 QC: Trans Day of Resistance Rally and March

Preamble:

On the 24th of November, Pride in Protest (PiP) and the University of Sydney's Queer Action Collective (QuAC) will be running a Trans Day of Resistance Rally and March. UTS's Queer Collective

has been invited to co-host this event, which we as a Collective accepted through a motion in our last meeting (on 17/10/25).

The Queer Collective has thereby decided to allocate its funds to contribute to this event, as agreed through an additional motion passed during that same meeting. These funds will be used to promote the event through the printing and distribution of flyers and posters, as well as to compensate Aunty Rhonda Dixon Grovenor, a Gadigal Elder who will be performing a Welcome to Country ceremony. Aunty Rhonda will issue an invoice for \$500 to Pride in Protest, who can then invoice collectives \$250 each with the attached and processed invoice from Rhonda and a receipt of the transfer.

Action:

That the SRC approves the following upper spending limits of the Queer Collective's own funds (totalling in \$300):

- \$250 to compensate Aunty Rhonda
- \$50 to print flyers and posters

Mover: Amelia Ireland

Seconder: Yasmine Johnson

Andrew: Talks in support. Mentions importance to continue protests as Queer rights still under attack.

Neeve: Will echo that it is important to fight for the Queer people, wishes it was on campus and followed our internal event policy.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.7 Vertigo x UTSSA Handbook Collaboration

Preamble:

The UTSSA's Handbook and Vertigo's first edition are two major student publications that play essential roles in informing, engaging, and new UTS students. The Handbook provides crucial information about student rights, services, and representation, while Vertigo serves as the creative and editorial voice of the student community.

In recent years, both publications have faced logistical and production challenges, including overlapping timelines, design workload pressures, and distribution delays. To address these issues, and to improve efficiency and visibility for both projects, it is proposed that the UTSSA Handbook be produced in conjunction with Vertigo's first edition.

Under this collaboration, the UTSSA Handbook will comprise half of the publication counting towards the usual “Student life/news” article requirement in their editions. Vertigo’s first edition will form the second half. The cover will feature shared branding as “Vertigo x UTSSA Handbook” to highlight the partnership and strengthen student media visibility.

Vertigo’s design team will handle the visual production of the combined publication, while the General Secretary be responsible for compiling and providing all UTSSA Handbook content to Vertigo.

This partnership will:

- Help Vertigo efficiently complete its first edition of the year.
- Ensure the timely and high-quality release of the UTSSA Handbook.
- Strengthen collaboration between Vertigo and the SRC.
- Allow for the production of a larger Quantity of the combined edition than the Handbook or Vertigo edition alone would have.

Action:

1. That the SRC endorse the proposal for the 2026 UTSSA Handbook to be produced in conjunction with the 2026 Vertigo team’s first edition.
2. That Handbook Content will count as meeting the “Student Life/News” article ratio requirements usually required for their editions, although Vertigo still has the choice to include further “Student Life/News”
3. That the final layout of the collaboration will be decided after discussion between the General Secretary and the Vertigo Team
4. That Vertigo’s oversee the design of the joint publication while consulting with the General Secretary on the Handbook sections and covers.

Mover: Januka

Seconder: Neeve

Januka: Speaks to the collaboration as improvement on the way both Vertigo’s first edition and the handbook are produced.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.8 Support for the Refugee Student Settlement Pathway and Fundraising for Student Welcome Groups

Preamble:

The *Refugee Student Settlement Pathway (RSSP)*, delivered by Skill Path Australia Ltd, is a charitable initiative supporting refugee students as they begin their higher education journey in Australia. Skill Path is a registered charity and Public Benevolent Institution (PBI), operating under Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) obligations.

In 2026, the program will welcome its first cohort of 20 refugee students to universities across Australia. Each student will be connected with a Student Welcome Group (SWG) — a volunteer-based peer support group offering academic guidance, social connection, and assistance with the practical aspects of settling into student life. The initiative aligns closely with the UTSSA's values of inclusion, equity, and social justice. Supporting the Refugee Student Settlement Pathway provides an opportunity for UTS students to contribute meaningfully to the success and wellbeing of refugee peers and to gain skills in leadership, cultural competency, and social impact. Skill Path has invited the UTSSA to partner in promoting and supporting the establishment of a Student Welcome Group at UTS and to assist in approved fundraising activities under Skill Path's charitable authority.

Action: That the SRC:

1. Endorses the *Refugee Student Settlement Pathway* and the formation of a UTS Student Welcome Group (SWG) in partnership with Skill Path Australia Ltd.
2. Approves the UTSSA to support fundraising activities for the UTS Student Welcome Group, provided that:
 - a. All fundraising activities comply with Skill Path's Fundraising and Grants Policy;
 - b. All funds are raised through Skill Path's approved charitable fundraising channels (e.g. official donation portal);
 - c. The UTSSA does not independently solicit or receive donations on behalf of Skill Path without prior written approval via the required Fundraising Request Form; and
 - d. All funds raised are used for approved settlement support purposes consistent with Skill Path's charitable objects (e.g. textbooks, transport, living essentials).

3. Commits to working collaboratively with Skill Path and the UTS Centre for Social Justice to promote awareness, inclusion, and volunteer participation in the program.

Mover: Olivia

Seconder: Sina

Mia: Speaks to the program as a system that will help refugees get set up in the country including getting residency.

Mia: Asks the UTSSA to endorse so that when fundraising for this begins, the UTSSA can assist. Max amount of \$2000 for 2 and half students to help them get set up as it isn't instant to get a job when you arrive.

Elliot: Thinks it's a good motion, issues with the approach, it's a pretty corporate NGO, more of a refugees to fill skill shortage, not helping refugees. These refugees, have to pay international fees.

Mia: corrects that these are coming through the permanent pathway.

Mia: Agrees this is not a solution to the refugee crises, but the plan is that this program grows, not particular skill shortage filling, varied degrees, obviously the new refugee path is to pitch it as something with benefits. That's maybe why you hear this rhetoric, won't take away from the other ones without that pitch just a small thing individuals can support.

Ella: Raises, mission statement, mainly the mention of productivity gap and skills gap. More so saying current status quo is to approach refugees with how useful you are. Believes the organisation is actually taking a right-wing stance in its mission statement because it only talks about refugee's value to productivity. Important to have a wider outlook even if they will support it because it will help a few refugees.

Mia: Definitely this wouldn't be the organisation she'd set up because it agrees so much with the status quo, but it definitely does sound like they struggled to work with the government and settled on pandering to productivity, important to support individual people coming not the mission statement.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.9 Issue 05: Oddity Launch Party

Preamble

Following the successes of our *Conspiracy* and *Technicolour* launch parties, as well as our on campus launch event for *Egg*, *Vertigo* would like to host a final party to promote the launch of our fifth and final volume for the year, *Oddity*.

This event will raise *Vertigo*'s profile among UTS students from all faculties, offering a social opportunity for students to engage with the publication – whether as readers or contributors – at the Oxford Art Factory (Gallery Bar). It will also serve as a vital community-building occasion for humanities and arts students, who are particularly affected by the proposed budget cuts, while helping the team distribute more copies of the magazine before the end of the year and our term.

The *Vertigo* team has been in contact with the Oxford Art Factory in Darlinghurst and have secured a booking for takeover of their Gallery Bar with the total capacity being 150 people. We have access to the venue between 7pm - 12am, with time for bump in beforehand.

The venue has been confirmed as of 6th November, and does not require payment up-front, but they will be taking roughly \$3 from every ticket sale. The event has a high likelihood of selling out, as our past two launch parties have sold roughly 250 and 160 tickets respectively. In the event that we do sell out, the event should make \$1890. Hence, although the budget appears to be asking for \$1290, we are requesting an upper spending limit of \$1500 in case any additional costs end up coming up.

Action

That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$1500 to be spent on the Oddity launch party.

The budget spreadsheet can be found [here](#).

1	DJs		5	\$ 150.00	\$ 750.00
2	Decorations			\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
3	Set and Forget' Fee	Instead of hiring an AV tech, the venue will the up the equipment for us and calibrate everything beforehand		\$ 55.00	

4	Venue fee per head	*Fee quantity subject to the number of tickets sold	130	\$ 1.10	\$ 143.00
5	License Fee per head	*Fee quantity subject to the number of tickets sold	130	\$ 1.90	\$ 247.00
Sum of Event					\$ 1,290.00

Mover: Salma

Second: Neeve

Bianca: Speaks to oddity launch party next week. Self-explanatory expenses included, is asking for an upper spending limit because they often go over. Will be paid by ticket costs. SRC should come.

The motion passes unanimously.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1 Restoring Accessibility and Structure in UTS's Subject Information System

Preamble

The UTSSA ran a survey between 18-24 February 2025 to gather feedback on the new Subject Information System (SIS), which replaced the long-standing Subject Outlines available on Canvas. The survey collected 46 responses and overwhelmingly demonstrated student frustration and dissatisfaction with the new system. Of the respondents:

- 36 students (78%) reported difficulty finding weekly content.
- 31 students (67%) struggled to locate assessment due dates.
- 29 students (63%) had trouble downloading or saving the information.
- 27 students (59%) found assessment information difficult to find.
- 22 students (48%) could not easily find professor contact details.
- 19 students (41%) experienced difficulty accessing reading lists.
- 18 students (39%) reported that they did not understand how the new format works.
- 14 students (30%) had trouble navigating Canvas to find the Subject Information.

→ Only 1 respondent reported no issues at all.

Students emphasised that the new Subject Information System lacks the depth, clarity, and structure of the old Subject Outlines. The current system only includes:

- a. Subject description
- b. Learning outcomes
- c. Teaching and learning strategies
- d. Overview of Topics
- e. Assessment structure
- f. Academic policies

In contrast, the old Subject Outlines provided a comprehensive, accessible structure, including:

- A week-by-week scope and sequence of topics, lectures, and tutorials;
- Assessment due dates and release schedules, clearly outlined in advance;
- Required and recommended reading lists, including textbook references;
- Contact details for subject coordinators and teaching staff; and
- Support resources and key university links for accessibility and academic integrity.

Students reported that under the new system, vital information including topic breakdowns, assessment timelines, and reading lists is missing or difficult to find. The format is poorly optimised for mobile use, often slow to load, and lacking a printable version, making it harder to plan and study effectively. The web-page format also allows subject coordinators and other UTS staff to update information without alerting students.

The survey data clearly indicates that the removal of structured and accessible Subject Outlines has harmed the student learning experience, particularly for those balancing study with work or caring responsibilities.

Platform

The UTSSA affirms that all students should have equitable, consistent, and accessible access to subject information that allows them to plan, prepare, and succeed academically.

We believe that:

- Students must be able to access complete subject information in a single, searchable, and downloadable format.

- Every subject should include a scope and sequence (weekly schedule of content, readings, and assessments).
- The Subject Information System should not diminish transparency or accessibility compared to the previous Subject Outline model.
- Consultation with students must occur before any significant changes to learning systems are made.

Action Points

That the UTSSA:

1. Formally acknowledges the strong student dissatisfaction with the new Subject Information System as evidenced in the February 2025 survey.
2. Advocates to the UTS Teaching and Learning Committee for the restoration of essential content and structure, including:
 - A weekly scope and sequence, clearly outlining topics, readings, and assessments.
 - Assessment due dates, task descriptions, and weightings clearly presented in one accessible view.
 - Contact details for coordinators and tutors in every subject listing.
 - Required and recommended readings, including textbooks and online materials.
3. Calls for the introduction of a downloadable, searchable PDF version of Subject Information, similar to the old Subject Outline format.
4. Urges UTS to improve mobile accessibility, reduce loading times, and simplify navigation (e.g. fewer embedded tabs).
5. Requests that UTS consult directly with student representatives before implementing further changes to the SIS.
6. Recommends UTS consider offering both systems in parallel (the new SIS and the old PDF outline) until usability issues are resolved.
7. Publishes this motion summarising these findings and actions, to keep students informed and included in the advocacy process.

Mover: Amelia

Second: Neeve

Amelia: self-explanatory, fed up with the new system with no significant benefits compared to old systems, seems minor in comparison, it still is important to change, not currently accessible and could have been made to be a lot easier. Coming off the back of a survey organised by Mia and Amanada White. Hoping it's something the current and future education officers can focus on.

Neeve: Could be doing wrap ups on the website.

Neeve: Another thing to raise is current accessibility requirements, asks for previous pdf of subject outline to be sent to them, can't actually save them as pdfs anymore

Chloe: Has had friends who had the subject outline change mid semester, they could in the past fight with the subject outline, but this no longer something that can be saved.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2 Support the campaign to defend student democracy at Newcastle Uni

Preamble

Student unionism is under attack at the University of Newcastle Student Association (UNSA). Matthew Jeffrey, the democratically elected President of UNSA is preparing to wage a legal battle over the efforts of the CEO and board of the student association to discipline Matt for his political positions, namely his outspoken opposition to UNSA's democratic backsliding, his campaigning against course cuts, and support for the Palestine solidarity encampment. Matt was told to resign by the CEO earlier this year, and has now been "expelled" from the association altogether.

These unprecedented manoeuvres by corporate bureaucrats are an attack on the kind of democratic, fighting student unions we need to stand up to university management. Should any of this go unchallenged, an alarming precedent will have been set to allow these bodies to be above criticism. Matthew's campaign must be supported by our union.

Action Points

That the UTSSA will:

1. Share the Gofundme for Matt Jeffrey's legal campaign to its social media accounts:
<https://gofund.me/0b802704f>
2. Write to UNSA with a message of support for Matthew Jeffrey, and a condemnation of the University's attacks on student unionism.

Mover: Ella

Seconder: Salma

Ella: Brief explanation has been some attacks on student unionism, Matt has been removed twice, due to do CEO and corporate board, important student unions stay independent, compared to unis like MQ. It's more likely he was removed because he's fighting for a left-wing cause.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.3 The UTSSA condemns Prime Minister Albanese's visit with Donald Trump.

Preamble

On Monday the 20th Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited US President Donald Trump in the White House. During this visit Albanese and Trump signed agreements expanding the export of critical minerals from Australia to the United States and the securing and expansion of AUKUS.

The outcome of this meeting was simultaneously both the strengthening of Australian and US militarism as well as the Australian mining industry. The AUKUS pact will cost Australia \$368bn to acquire nuclear submarines from the US, this money should not be spent on weapons of war, but instead on social infrastructure working class people need. The critical minerals element of this deal will also see an increase in Australian government contracts to the mining industry.

This meeting takes place in the broader context of the rise of the far-right, a global increase in militarism, the genocide in Gaza and run away climate change. It is totally reprehensible that Albanese has assiduously sought out this meeting with the far-right US president Donald Trump in order to bolster Australian and US imperialism and the Australian mining industry.

Platform

1. The UTSSA condemns Prime Minister Albanese's visit with US President Donald Trump on Monday 20th October
2. The UTSSA opposes the continuation or expansion of the AUKUS pact.
3. The UTSSA opposes the expansion of the Australian mining industry.

Action

1. The UTSSA will put out a public statement on its social media pages condemning Prime Minister Albanese's meeting with US president Donald Trump.

Mover: Yasmine

Second: Ella

Jono: On 20th of Oct Albo met with Trump to secure US alliance and AUKUS. Appalling due to rising militarism and took place right after his attacks on the LGBTQ+ people.

Neeve: understands where this motion is coming, Trump is terrible, but at its core just Albo meeting with Trump is just doing your duty as a leader of a country, probably not fun to meet to Trump but at its basis can't just condemn its leaders for meeting politically.

Yasmine: There are situations where you can condemn leaders for just meeting, like meeting Netanyahu. considering that they took a selfie, and Trump has praised Albo. Yes, that is how politics work but that's bad and the student union should oppose that.

Sina: Mainly, about opposing the mining industry, not all of the mining industry is coal, there are some mining which is good, like nickel cobalt, that help with the energy transition, and it isn't good to do a blanket opposition.

Andrew: We are seeing climate change's harmful effects, workers around the world have an interest in seeing mining stop no matter, as currently is just making the global crisis worse. UTSSA must oppose this.

Sina: How do you suggest we take action on climate change if we can't take action towards the transition, mining is needed for this transition.

Ella: The expansion of the mining industries that is being done by Albanese is actually the expansion of mining for exports, cover to say it's just for renewables.

Mia: People have different opinions on what diplomatic relations in action looks like.

Yasmine: It important to oppose Fascism, there are other countries who Australia has ties which it shouldn't.

Mia: On its face doesn't support condemning meetings with the leader of the USA.

Elliot: Believes Albo is not actually squeezing the most out of this meeting for Australia, and that AUKUS expansion is pointless.

Votes in Favour:

1. Lucia
2. Yasmine
3. Ella
4. Elliot
5. Amelia Ireland

Votes Against:

1. Mia Campbell
2. Januka Suraweera
3. Neeve Nagle
4. Olivia Lee
5. Salma Elmubasher
6. Sina Afsharmehr
7. Omar El-Sobihy
8. Amelia Raptis
9. Chloe Ferreira
10. Eamonn (Proxy)
11. Dirk (Proxy)
12. Vaisnavi (Proxy)
13. Harshvardhan (Proxy)

Abstentions:

1. Aryan Sharma

The motion fails.

8.4 The UTSSA endorses the blockade of the Indo-Pacific Weapons Expo

Preamble

Palestine Action Group and Students for Palestine have called a blockade of the Indo-Pacific Weapons Expo at the ICC on Tuesday, November the 4th.

The Indo-Pacific Weapons Expo is an exclusive gathering of the world's biggest weapons manufacturers and military officials from across the region. Some of the companies in attendance include Lockheed Martin who design and produce Israel's primary jet the F-35, Israel's biggest weapons company Elbit systems who only two months ago signed a twenty million dollar deal with Australia and Thales who produces explosives for Israel, helps design their drones and has a partnership with UTS. Our universities are also attending the weapons expo, UTS, Macquarie, USYD and UNSW all have stalls where they'll mingle with the companies who have armed a genocide for two years and attempt to strengthen their ties to the weapons industry.

The NSW Labor government is also an important co-sponsor of this event, helping to make it happen but also hosting a number of sessions about expanding the Australian weapons industry and the Australian government collaborating more with the American arms industry. Inviting the very companies who have profited off of arming Israel's genocide to have mixers and networking events right in the heart of Sydney is disgraceful but it is right in line with Labor's policy on Israel. Labor, both federally and in NSW have talked about how they oppose civilian deaths and recognise a Palestinian state but in action they have backed up and helped to arm Israel for two years and

strengthened their relationships with the companies who have armed the genocide this has included striking a \$917 million deal with Elbit systems.

The Blockade of the Weapons Expo will be important to show that we won't let arms dealers get away with facilitating a genocide, that it's unacceptable that Labor has invited these people into Sydney, and that we won't stand by as our universities try to deepen their ties with the weapons industry. As a left-wing student union, The UTSSA should support the protest and work to get as many people as possible along in order to actually disrupt the expo and not allow these war criminals to conduct their business in peace.

Platform

1. The UTSSA supports the 4 Nov 2025 Blockade of the Indo Pacific Maritime Exposition at the ICC.
2. The UTSSA condemns the Minns Government's facilitation of the 4 Nov 2025 Indo-Pacific Maritime Exposition.

Action

1. The UTSSA will reshare the instagram tile posted by the Palestine Action Group with details about the protest against the Indo Pacific Maritime Exposition on November 4

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Elliot

Elliot: November 4 its happening, Australian government is currently universities expanding ties with these weapons ties. Dozens of the war criminal executives will be there in the middle of the city, important to shut it down to say Sydney is antiwar mongers.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

9.1 In Support of Kevin Rudd's Emotional Well-being (and Basic Dignity) Following Trump's Outburst

Salma submits motion to Januka as follows:

The UTSSA notes with deep concern (and mild disbelief) the recent verbal tirade and scolding launched by U.S. President Donald J. Trump against our former Prime Minister, the Honourable

Kevin Rudd, now Australia's ambassador to the United States and part-time X (formally known as Twitter) philosopher.

We condemn, in the strongest yet most diplomatic terms, this unprecedented attack on a man who once declared climate change "the greatest moral challenge of our time". The man who dared to hold the Israeli government to even the bare minimum standard of accountability.

The UTSSA recognises that political beef between elderly men across hemispheres can be emotionally taxing and calls for compassion, mindfulness, and perhaps a well-timed holiday for Mr Rudd.

Action:

1. Silently express solidarity with Kevin Rudd in this difficult time of cross-Pacific shade-throwing.
2. Send a strongly worded email (drafted but never sent) to Donald Trump reminding him that bullying is not part of the UTS values statement.

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Neeve

Lucia, Yasmine, Ella and Elliot leave the Meeting.

Mia calls for a vote on whether the matter is urgent and should be allowed to go to a vote.

The motion is unanimously agreed to be heard.

The motion passes unanimously.

10. Close of Meeting at 8:10pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

UTSSA Fair Day

The UTSSA Stop the Cuts Fair Day was a huge success! We had a dunk tank, snow cones, popcorn, stalls and plenty of opportunities for students to learn more about the campaign and get involved. It was quite a logistical effort to deliver an event of this scale on campus - especially in getting things like a dunk tank. It was fantastic to see such strong student engagement and support for staff. I think this style of event/protest should definitely be done again in future - just maybe with more planning time!

Update on NSO Investigation

The NSO has advised that their investigation report is likely to be finalised this coming week.

SSAF Allocation and Transparency

Since the paper I presented to the Student/Council Liaison Group (SCLG) in June, there has been significant progress in reforming the SSAF process to improve transparency, governance, and student input.

The SSAF Committee has undergone a major review and now has clearly defined Terms of Reference, nine voting members, and a formalised process for consultation, decision-making, and reporting. Key reforms include:

- **Governance and Compliance:** Draft ToR amendments clarify the Committee's role in setting priorities, expand student and faculty representation, and require the University Council to review the consultation process annually.
- **Student Voice:** The first SSAF Student Survey (508 responses) has been completed and will now be conducted annually, with results publicly communicated. Structured mechanisms for student feedback — such as surveys, web forms, and pre-meetings — have been introduced.
- **Transparency of Allocations:** Committee approvals are now documented, all partner budgets (UTSSA, ActivateUTS, UTS) are formally approved, and there are plans for clearer impact reporting and student-facing communication.

- Student priorities identified in the survey (including food security, study spaces, international student support, and access to period products) have already directly informed funding allocations.

Additionally, the Committee will now meet at least four times per year (previously two), publish agendas and minutes on SharePoint, and record all circular resolutions for accountability. The Committee will also review its Terms of Reference annually, ensuring that SSAF governance remains genuinely student-centred. These are major steps forward in embedding transparency and accountability into the SSAF process.

Special Considerations Paper

The Special Considerations Working Group, which I have been leading throughout 2025, has successfully delivered a comprehensive paper that was endorsed by the Teaching and Learning Committee this month.

The paper proposes a full redesign of UTS's special consideration process to make it student-centred, trauma-informed, and accessible. Key principles include:

- A student-centred and trauma-informed approach;
- Flexibility, standardisation, and transparency;
- Equitable access to support; and
- Clear and simple processes for students and staff.

Implementation will occur across three phases from late 2025 into 2026, beginning with improvements to website information and documentation requirements, followed by system redesign and a full rollout supported by a university-wide communications campaign. This work represents a significant win for students, ensuring that special consideration is no longer a confusing or inconsistent process but one that genuinely supports students in times of need.

Upcoming Work

In the coming weeks, my focus will be on:

- Planning training for the incoming student representatives and Vertigo team, with a focus on practical skills, collaboration, and a strong culture of respect and accountability.

- Presenting at the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the University Sector – representing UTS students and highlighting key issues around university governance, funding, and student wellbeing.
- Creating a comprehensive and useful handover for Neeve as the 2026 UTSSA President!

2. General Secretary

This month has been busy with various work, including preparing for the upcoming handover. I also took part in the Cuts' campaign open forums, producing a graphic in relation to it. I've been at work preparing for next year's handbook in relation to the motion in this meeting over the collaboration with Vertigo. I'll be continuing to work on content for it over the next month. Alongside the motions this meeting, the by-laws changes will be at this meeting. While I've otherwise continued general admin work for the association.

In terms of work with Vertigo work relevant to SRC, I approved their final edition and am glad that we've had quite a productive working relationship this year which can hopefully continue next year. The next working group will be on Wednesday where further discussion with Vertigo will occur on several points but relevant to council is the updates on the Tote Bag design Competition alongside feedback for how Vertigo can approach its own handover to next year's team.

3. Assistant General Secretary

October was a relatively quiet month overall, mainly due to the UTSSA election period, which naturally limited the usual level of operational activity. With most attention focused on campaigning and election processes, the workload in my role was lighter than usual.

During this time, I focused on maintaining a baseline level of engagement through social media and communications. This included preparing a detailed Instagram carousel post using content shared by the National Student Ombudsman (NSO) to support student awareness and information sharing. I also assisted with the UTSSA "Cuts" campaign by supporting story engagement tools, such as adding question boxes to encourage student feedback and participation.

These smaller tasks helped keep UTSSA's communication channels active and ensured ongoing student engagement during the quieter election period.

4. Welfare Officer

Cuts Feedback Sessions

Recent feedback sessions have highlighted many concerns we were already aware of, alongside emerging fears around accreditation requirements for certain degrees. I am currently compiling comprehensive feedback from the UTSSA, capturing both overarching concerns about the cuts altogether and critiques of how they are being communicated to students. Particular attention will be given to the rationale behind subject reductions, with a focus on the School of Public Health and Education degrees, both of which are critically important and high-demand degrees that serve vital needs for the country. Additionally, the significant reduction of social justice subjects will be highlighted as a major concern. This report will be finalised and presented by the end of the month, please get in touch promptly if you would like any specific issues included that you believe I may have missed.

GBV Mapping Session

The mapping session itself was productive, with good conversations being had across university. Although implementation testing has faced significant challenges. The reporting form has been largely inaccessible. This work is ongoing as we continue efforts to align the university with the national code, a complex and uphill task. I will continue attending these sessions to provide consistent feedback alongside Mia and other student representatives.

Update on Permanent Spaces

We have received initial blueprints for our upcoming permanent food space and have been engaging with all relevant stakeholders in the concourse area. Our focus is ensuring that the facility is accessible and usable not only for the UTSSA but for other university bodies as well. I am actively advocating for UTSSA priorities, including free food services over commercially driven alternatives such as private operators. This permanent space represents a significant opportunity to expand these services and strengthen our presence on campus.

UTSSA Elections

Finally, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the recent SRC elections. Many members of this SRC participated, with several achieving success. Congratulations to all elected representatives, I am very excited to work with you in the coming term.

See you next month for our final SRC meeting.

5. Women's Officer

This month, WoCo participated in the UTSSA's Stop The Cuts Fair Day. The day was very successful as it engaged students on campus in an extremely fun way around the recent cuts to our education. WoCo was very happy to participate, having multiple conversations with students around the cuts as well as WoCo and we were able to get a number of signups as a result.

I also am happy to report that WoCo members Elspeth Mackensie and Elizabeth Cullen had their articles published in Vertigo's final edition 'Oddity'. Elspeth and Elizabeth, in collaboration with Vertigo editors, wrote fantastic articles around reproductive health and how student activists have engaged with the issues on campus.

Finally, we have heard back from Student Services at UTS regarding period product supply, while we will still be sorting some funding issues, I am hopeful we will achieve a better supply by the end of this year.

6. Ethnocultural Officer

This month, I've been continuing to push management to formally acknowledge the genocide in Gaza and to take a public and moral stance in line with international human rights standards. Students deserve clarity on whether the university intends to posture itself above the UN's recognition of the situation, and I've been communicating this directly with UTS's senior leadership.

Alongside this, I've been meeting with students and cultural collectives to discuss ongoing racism on campus and the urgent need for a proper reporting and accountability framework. Right now, the complaints system fails to protect students—especially those who are Palestinian, Muslim, or visibly from minority backgrounds—and I've made that clear to management.

Moving forward, my focus is on ensuring that anti-racism isn't just a statement but backed by real institutional action and transparency. Students need to see that UTS stands for something, not just when it's convenient, but when it truly matters.

7. Disabilities Officer

This month was pretty quiet in the Disabilities Collective. I have been working on the UTS Disabilities Collective Guide to Accessibility Master document, and have been adding to this throughout the year, with the most recent additions regarding types of accessibility needs and how to accommodate them when holding meetings.

DisCo has been participating in Access' 'Connected Minds' support program for autistic students and assisting UTS Accessibility where possible in fostering the disability community

at UTS. I have also continued to work with students on the 'Paint out your Neurodivergent Minds' Project, which is a painting workshop for neurodivergent students at UTS. This initiative has been a work in progress and had our first successful workshop in October.

Most of my time this month has been spent working on my Office Bearer Handover in preparation for the incoming SRC team and Disabilities Officer.

8. Environment Officer

October was a very busy month for the Enviro Collective, with many milestones being hit and preparations beginning for next year.

Community Gardening:

We continued with our gardening sessions at the Ultimo Community Garden and had our largest session of the semester on the 21st. This concludes our gardening sessions for the year but we have discussed more plans for gardening next year, with goals such as helping them with organising and cleaning up their shed in Semester 1 next year.

Plant a tree day:

We had our last plant a tree day session on the 5th in collaboration with the Red Cross Society. The gardening location was facilitated by Canada Bay Council and the trees were sourced from Sutherland Nursery. This time, we also used some of our remaining budget to buy lots of gloves, gardening tools and sunscreen so that we don't have to worry about these things going forward. I hope that this will make the job of future Enviro Officers.

Stop the Cuts Fair Day:

The Enviro Collective ran a stall for the Stop the Cuts fair day in order to express our opposition to sustainability courses being cut by the university. I made some special badges for the event that quite a few people took. I was happy to see so many collective members get involved with running our stall and I hope that we can continue to do more activism focused activities going forward.

Plans for November:

While the semester is ending and many of our volunteering activities will be winding down, I hope to continue my involvement on the university boards that I am a part of so that I can keep representing students. I am also hoping to support the Rising Tide Activism at the end of the month.