

October SRC MINUTES

30/10/2024 | 6:30pm | CB11.04.300

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1. Opening of meeting at [6:38pm]

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. **Adam** nominates as Deputy Chair. There are no other nominations for Deputy Chair, so Adam is confirmed as Deputy Chair.

Mover: Salma.

Seconder: Neeve.

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Adam Levett	General Secretary
Raghav Motani	International Students' Officer
Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor
Samaha Emran	Disabilities Officer
Bilvika Abburi	General Councillor
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Alisa Hamilton	Education Officer
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Peter Munford	Postgraduate Council
Neeve Ann Nagle	General Councillor

Adrian Lozancic	General Councillor
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Januka Suraweera	General Councillor
Mariah Brown	Staff
Amelia Ireland	Incoming General Councillor
Omar El-Sobihy	Incoming General Councillor
Eryn Yates	Incoming Vertigo Editor

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Joesph Naffah	General Councillor

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Joesph Naffah	Salma

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from **September 2024** are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Sina

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from minutes

4. Correspondence

No correspondence to report

Daewah enters room at 6:39pm.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Mia: highlights update on working group to reforming sexual misconduct process at UTS, full review of how complaints are handled through misconducted system. Consultation with RNA, case workers at UTS and students who had raised issues with us. Speaks to annual mechanism to review reforms once they are put in place. Obviously with national code UTS should have guidance as well .

Mia: Work on my part for Palestine rally, work from myself, Palsoc and S.A.W, speaks to occupied building eleven and speaks to importance for students to see something like that which surprised the university. Haven't received any misconduct. Speaks to letter to Vice Chancellor written by herself and the president of the NTEU. The response was vice chancellor was UTS and NTEU can continue to flyer and that the word genocide is not censored, we will continue to use it, even though we weren't going to stop using this language anyway. But now we have confirmation which we can show to security.

Mia: Also speaks to disclosure on UTS partnership website, DVC still working on collating. Also planning another community event in December, university wants us to have more events in summer semester to get more international students before caps.

Mia: Speaks to Academic Administration working group, will continue next year and move to priority of special consideration 1st special considerations, 2nd feedback, 3rd mandatory attendance.

Mia: Opens floor to council to suggest items to be raised at working group on the behalf of president and ed officer.

Mia: Briefly speaks to training.

Mia: Speaks to Reps elect on 4th of December.

Adam: This is different from last year, will there be an ordinary SRC meeting in January?

Mia: gives OBs two months of term to plan 0'day stalls,.

5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes report as read.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

No report received.

5.4. Education Officer

Alisa Takes report as read: speaks to academic grouping work.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Mia takes report as read on **Aylin's** behalf.

5.6. Women's Officer

No report received

5.7. International Students' Officer

Raghav takes report as read: Speaks to UTS student forum with a lot of engagement, feedback from management. Honor to host consulate general of India, who spoke to services which embassy provides. Speaks to cybercrime workshop in October, touched on housing safety. Attended very first Welcome university submit in Australia specially made to prove that university's are welcoming to international students. UTS proudly hosted this. 25th October Fair Work conducted workshop at UNSW, different international representatives from different universities came to workshop.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

No report received.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No report received.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma: speaks to social political science class with Blackrock this Monday, emailed them alongside staff for Palestine, within hours they pulled Blackrock out. Speaks to issues with the investments of Blackrock as a company.

Mia: Heartwarming Salma can send email and get immediate response, speaks to removing head of black rock Australia.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Samaha takes her report as read.

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah delivers spoken report: Speaks to EGM for Mardi Gras committee, and 40\$ concession, allies welcome, politics of it pride and protest and trots are in this board.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

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

Peter delivers Postgraduate council report: Speaks to having meeting last month, my final ever meeting of UTS council, focus right now is 2027 strategy, and moving to 2030 strategy, keeping current themes of this strategy to affirm the financial state of UTS, which is running at significant defect due to covid and international student caps. This will see more offerings in off-shore course offerings and domestic course offerings, one thing we will see is merger of DAB and FASS, to form 'creative industries faculty', doubt will be the last merger of faculties. Wishes best for remaining councilors.

Mia: thanks work peter has done for the past four years, and get continuous report backs as an active member of SRC.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

No procedural business on agenda.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. Renewal of Student Partnership Agreement

Preamble:

In July 2022, the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) signed its first Student Partnership Agreement (SPA), which established a formal framework for collaboration between student leaders and the university. The agreement was designed to recognise students as key partners in decision-making processes, particularly in areas that directly impact the student experience. The SPA was signed by representatives from UTS, the UTS Students' Association,

ActivateUTS, and a student representative from the Academic Board. Its primary aim was to strengthen student involvement and ensure that their perspectives are considered in shaping university policies and initiatives. Over the last two years, I have seen a lot of the demands from the original SPA take shape – particularly those relating to UTS' response to sexual harm reports.

The SPA is subject to biennial review to ensure that its priorities remain relevant to the evolving needs of the UTS community. Myself and Raghav have been participating in the review process for the last few months alongside Hannah Cerezo, the ActivateUTS President, and Sabine Yassine, the student representative from Academic Board.

The updated agreement for 2025-2027 introduces new collaborative strategies focused on **Partnerships, Wellbeing, Belonging, and Academic Engagement**. I believe that the new agreement gives the UTSSA an excellent opportunity to drill in key campaign goals that students have asked for for years, such as improvements to UTS Counselling, permanent spaces for our free food services, and high quality learning opportunities at UTS. Given the changes in the renewed SPA, it is important for the UTSSA to reaffirm its role within this partnership and continue to advocate for students through the structures established by the agreement.

Action: That the UTSSA:

1. Approves the signing of the renewed Student Partnership Agreement (SPA), ensuring the UTSSA's continued involvement as a key stakeholder in decision-making processes at UTS.
2. Authorises the UTSSA President (or their delegate) to sign the renewed SPA on behalf of the UTSSA, in collaboration with the other student bodies and university representatives.
3. Will ensure that the UTSSA's representatives and office bearers are informed about the SPA and its significance, and encourage their active engagement in working towards the goals and collaborative strategies outlined in the agreement.

Mover: Peter

Seconder: Raghav

Mia: myself and Raghav have been working on this with the university, wanted to put last month but received not much notice so it pushed back a month. Real value is the university are forced to continue to work with us, from their side and ours. Report backs are required for various committees which provides active progress.

Speaks to new student experience framework, speaks to work from 2022 finally being implemented under 'wellbeing' heading. Progress was made to exact documents in this agreement. Another thing relevant is support in food security, which includes permanent placement for UTSSA student services. A lot of work done by Activate on this document.

Raghav: Happy they were ready to listen and implement the views of international students on there, more progress from last review of SPA in 2022 where no international students were considered.

Mia: Speaks to difference of having two UTSSA representatives in meeting and have other people in room who are disagreeing.

Salma: speaks to it being easier to dissent to university with UTSSA and Mia's leadership as a barrier

Peter: in my first two years I never heard from the UTSSA on council apart from a negative light, now we are shown that UTSSA is delivering as part of strategies and the SPA has been a vehicle for that. Being able to negotiate and build negotiations has been effective to organise outside of simply protesting.

Mia: highlights key point of considering more representation for international students, including terms of reference for faculty board, that would require international students (similar to how one has to be undergrad and one has to be postgrad).

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2. 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.

Furthermore, NatCon provides an opportunity for student representatives to upskill, network and deliver initiatives alongside other accomplished student unionists.

Following reforms that the UTSSA President had approved by the NUS National Executive in September, this motion is made with the hope that these reforms will be applied and will operate effectively enough that the National Conference will be a safer and more productive environment than in previous years.

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

Action:

1. That the UTSSA will purchase the NUS National Conference ticket (inclusive of accommodation and meals) for each of the following:

- a. The seven elected NUS delegates, or a person nominated to attend on their behalf;
 - b. The seven accredited observers nominated by the delegates to the President (must be incoming or outgoing members of the SRC);
 - c. The outgoing UTSSA Executive members who are not delegates or observers; and
 - d. 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:
- a. Up to \$400 per person for travel to and from the conference; and
 - b. Up to \$200 per person for accommodation immediately prior to the conference.
3. That the observers or proxies are nominated to the President before 12pm, 15 November 2024.
4. That all attendees be reminded of the UTSSA Policy regarding conferences, especially the following sections:
- a. Representatives must adhere to the UTSSA Code of Conduct throughout the conference;
 - b. Representatives must attend a minimum of 80% of conference sessions, workshops and conference activities;
 - c. 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
 - d. 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: Salma.

Amendment to Section B to remove "(must be incoming or outgoing members of the SRC)", amendment is accepted by the mover.

Mia: outlines number of people who can attend.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.3. Outgoing Office Bearer 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, 8 November 2024 for handovers to be due from all Office Bearers and Members of the Executive. These must be sent to Adam 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: Salma.

Seconder: Raghav.

Mia: Reads action point in full, as it was omitted from notice.

Adam: Do we have to do a handover if we are continuing our role.

Mia: No, but would recommend that you complete previous campaigns.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.4. Motion for Marginalised Consultation Requirements

The principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us" is a foundational tenet of inclusive and representative governance. It asserts that no decisions should be made about marginalised groups without their direct input and consultation. At UTS, where student activism and advocacy play a significant role in shaping campus culture and policy, it is crucial that

this principle is upheld to ensure that the voices of those directly affected by decisions are heard and respected.

Ongoing activism at UTS, particularly around issues of the ongoing Genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, has highlighted the need for proper consultation with Palestinian students. However, this necessity extends to all marginalised groups on campus, including but not limited to queer students, students with disabilities, women, and BIPOC communities. This motion seeks to institutionalise the requirement of consultation with these groups before any SRC motion concerning them is passed, ensuring that decision-making is grounded in lived experience and authentic representation.

By passing this motion, the UTSSA SRC commits to upholding the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us" and ensuring that the voices of marginalised groups, particularly Palestinian students are centred in all relevant decision-making processes. This approach strengthens the SRC's commitment to inclusivity, equity, and genuine representation in student governance.

Clauses:

1. Consultation Requirement:

a. The SRC must consult at least one member of any marginalised group before passing motions or making decisions that directly impact that group. This consultation ensures that the voices and perspectives of those affected are heard and incorporated into decision-making processes.

2. Palestinian Representation:

a. Any motion concerning Palestinian issues, activism, or policies must involve consultation with at least one active UTS student of Palestinian descent. This consultation can occur through:

b. A member of the SRC who is of Palestinian Descent.

c. A member of the Palestinian Youth Society at UTS.

d. Any other active student of Palestinian descent, as long as they are engaged with the UTS community.

3. Queer, Disability, Women, and BIPOC Representation:

a. For motions impacting queer students, students with disabilities, women, or BIPOC students, the SRC must ensure consultation with at least one representative from the relevant group. This can be done through:

b. A member of the relevant autonomous group or collective.

c. An active student who identifies as belonging to the group in question.

d. To qualify as a representative for consultation, individuals must be actively engaged within the UTS student body, either through SRC participation, autonomous collectives, or other campus groups relevant to the motion at hand, this is to ensure that on the off-chance it needs to be verified, it can.

i. While this motion sets a minimum requirement for consultation, the

SRC is encouraged to seek broad consultation within the relevant communities wherever possible, ensuring diverse perspectives and inclusive decision-making processes.

Mover: Salma.

Seconder: Neeve.

Salma: Motion creates rule on the basis of nothing.

Adam: Under section 2 D who determines Palestinian what is activate?

Salma: We could change it to UTS student of Palestinian decent.

Amendment proposed to clause 2, which will now read:

2. Palestinian Representation:

Any motion concerning Palestinian issues, activism, or policies must involve consultation with at least one active UTS student of Palestinian descent. This consultation can occur through:

- a. A member of the SRC who is of Palestinian Descent.
- b. A member of the Palestinian Youth Society at UTS.
- c. Any other active UTS student of Palestinian decent, individuals must be actively engaged within the UTS student body, either through SRC participation, autonomous collectives, or other campus groups relevant to the motion at hand, this is to ensure that on the off-chance it needs to be verified, it can.

Amendment is accepted by the mover (Salma).

Neeve: what do we do if this isn't followed?

Mia: This is a guideline to follow we can't enforce it onto councilors.

Adam: Would this go in policy document?

Mia: yes it would, and be numbered as such.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.5. Approval of Office Signage Payment

Preamble:

The purpose of the following spending motion is to pay for UTSSA signage, which will be installed over the old Activate UTS office. The corresponding invoices have been circulated to councillors alongside the notice for this motion.

Action:

1. That the UTSSA approves \$400 to pay Aaron Salvador for signage design
2. That the UTSSA approves \$1312.30 to pay Inkwell Signs for signage installation

Mover: Salma.

Seconder: Sina.

Mia: speaks to stickers on location on old activate office.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.6. Approval of Distribution of Survey Incentive Prizes

Preamble:

Late in 2023, Jessica and Jennifer received a grant from UTS Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion (CSJI) to do a survey on Welfare Activism in the student space. The survey was run on campus and online for two weeks from 16th August, Spring Semester 2024, weeks 2-4. The results are nearly finalised ready for submission to the CSJI team, however we also need to distribute the randomly drawn prizes to the three winners (x3 \$100 grocery gift vouchers). This was an incentive to encourage students to complete the survey. Expenditure on an incentive was included in the grant application we made to the CSJI.

Action: That the UTSSA approves the expenditure of the CSJI grant funds obtained from the Welfare Activism survey for the distribution of three \$100 grocery gift vouchers to the randomly drawn prize winners.

Mover: Neeve.

Seconder: Peter.

Mia: this is about survey ran with grant for center of social justice and inclusion, money is coming from them but we still have to approve that it is being approved this way.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.7. Reimbursement for the Cost of National Week of Action

Action: That the UTSSA reimburse Mia Campbell \$49.60 for printing costs of flyers and posters for the National Week of Action

Mover: Neeve.

Seconded: Sina.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.8. Reimbursement for Cost of Lanyards for UTSSA Elections

Action: That the UTSSA reimburse Mia Campbell \$117.76 for the costs of lanyards provided by the UTSSA during the 2024 elections.

Mover: Peter.

Seconded: Sina.

Mia: we have a lot left now so hopefully these can just become a part of the UTSSA resources.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.9. NUS Affiliation

Preamble:

The UTSSA seeks to reaffirm its support for the National Union of Students (NUS) through a \$35,000 + GST affiliation fee for 2025. This allocation reflects the same level of financial commitment as in the previous year, despite a higher request from the NUS and a substantially lower amount than the full affiliation fee of \$72,466 calculated on EFTSL enrolment. This proposed reaffiliation amount aligns with our ongoing commitment to ensuring that the NUS remains accessible and accountable to its member unions, addressing crucial concerns around transparency, accountability, safety, and effectiveness.

In the past year, the NUS Reform Working Group, led by the UTSSA President and actively supported by the UTSSA, has championed and seen the approval of vital reforms aimed at improving NUS governance and creating safer, more effective representation for students. These reforms were recently ratified by the NUS National Executive, setting a new course for the NUS's operational and ethical standards. However, implementing these changes

meaningfully requires adequate financial support, without which the NUS cannot fully realise the reforms we've collectively worked toward.

By continuing our affiliation at the proposed amount, we contribute to the NUS's capacity to effect real change, champion student interests nationwide, and ensure accountability in its practices. This affiliation will allow UTSSA to remain an influential voice within the NUS while safeguarding student interests at a federal level.

Action: That the UTSSA approves \$35,000 + GST for affiliation to the National Union of Students for 2025.

Mover: Neeve.

Secunder: Dirk.

Mia: Speaks to reform working group and things I like did get put up on exec, and we did as much as we did. More is to come is to come at Natcon, but we can't implement these changes if they have significant money taken away and we aren't there. NUS does good work and accredits results of the accords process, speaks to the experience of conferences.

Mia: Speaks of the lowest possible amount offered in invoice.

Salma: Speaks to UTS participation on panel.

Mia: it is great that UTS has a big share of conference participation and leadership in NUS, so it would be a detriment to leave.

Samihah: Speaks to panel about intersectionality between disabilities and Palestinian, and other insights offered in workshops.

Mariah: Issues reminder to conference attendees to send reimbursements asap.

Dirk: would be good to have a review, to get a good reason to attend, general consensus that affiliation is kind of just automatic.

Mia: Next month or next year I want KPIs for the NUS, and what we want the NUS to do to continue reaffiliation. Speaks to form completed post-Natcon and email in January to president and general secretary of NUS.

Adrian: would we be prepared to disaffiliate if milestones for reform are not met?

Peter: Mentions that if you want to disaffiliate formally you have to have a referendum.

Mia: I am prepared to significantly lower the cost then.

Mariah: In some years unions have paid just a dollar.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

Mariah: One of Vertigo editors was never recorded as officially being in the team because the past RO did not write this down, which causes problem that they get paid.

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

Mover: Dirk.

Second: Neeve.

Passed without dissent.

Motion as follows

“That the UTSSA recognises that Amanda Patmore has been a member of the Vertigo team since the start of the 2024 term in December 2023, and that she was elected as part of the Ambivert team which won the 2024 Vertigo elections, and accidentally left off the 2024 SRC, Nus and Vertigo election result”

Mover: Sina.

Second: Peter.

Passes without dissent.

10. Close of Meeting at 7:44pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

Reform of Sexual Misconduct Processes at UTS

This month, I have put a lot of time towards working on a paper to present to the Student/Council Liaison Group requesting a full review of how sexual harm reports are processed through the Student Misconduct system at UTS. The current process has significant gaps in procedural fairness, transparency, and student support, which leave many victim-survivors feeling unheard, retraumatised, and disempowered. My paper emphasizes the need for a trauma-informed, student-centred approach to restore trust in the system and ensure that students who report incidents are treated with fairness and respect.

Through the proposed reforms—such as implementing clearer communication standards, procedural fairness, and accountability measures—the paper calls on UTS to create a safer and more supportive environment for all students. As we approach the review of the Student Rules, this is a timely opportunity to make substantial improvements that reflect student voices and prioritise their safety and well-being.

Campaign for Palestine

This month, a lot of time also went into the Campaign for Palestine. Alongside Salma and members of PalSoc, as well as members of Students Against War, we had a rally as part of the NUS and BDS Youth National Week of Action last week. This rally went really well, and it was incredible to see the power of students coming together in Building 11 to protest the Faculty of Engineering and IT's relationships to Israeli institutions like the Technion and weapons manufacturers like Thales.

Alongside the President of the NTEU Sarah Attfield, I also wrote to the Vice-Chancellor to raise concerns over recent actions by UTS campus security, who stopped students from distributing pro-Palestine materials, citing instructions from the Vice-Chancellor. In two incidents, students were threatened with disciplinary action unless they stopped handing out leaflets; in one instance, security classified the term "genocide" as hate speech, insisting it be removed from the materials. The letter argues that "genocide" is a legitimate legal term, supported by recent International Court of Justice findings on Gaza, and that banning it limits freedom of expression at UTS. The letter requested clarification on the Vice-Chancellor's role in these directives, along with a reaffirmation of students' rights to political expression on campus.

Professor Parfitt's response clarifies that the UTS Students' Association and NTEU have the freedom to conduct activities on campus, including distributing materials. He explained that on October 16th, UTS Security temporarily halted the distribution of certain leaflets because of a health and safety assessment, noting that the leaflets contained election-related material on one side and "the promotion of a public forum on the other". Further justification can be found in the letters attached. Importantly, Parfitt

clarified that the term "genocide" is not banned at UTS, and staff and students do not need permission to distribute leaflets.

In the last two weeks, UTS has also published disclosure of their defence-related partnerships here: <https://www.uts.edu.au/about/university/defence-related-partnerships> . I do not think that the current information provided related to the UTS-Thales partnership is sufficient, and will be raising this with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Hopefully, we will also be having another community event in early Decembr like the Banner Paint + Food + Music event we had earlier this semester.

Academic Administration Working Group

The changes reported on last month have been approved and are set to be implemented by Autumn 2025 (simple extensions, capped 5% late penalties and standardised 11:59pm submission times). Now, the working group has moved on to the priority areas of:

Special consideration

Compulsory classes and class participation

Timeliness of feedback

Appealing results

Faculty protocols (consistency and transparency)

Misconducts

I encourage all SRC members to raise any particular focuses that they would like me to bring to these meetings.

Training of New SRC

A lot of time this month has been put into planning the training for the new SRC and Vertigo representatives for 2025. I will shortly be sending an email to all newly elected members with details of the training to be completed in the first week of December this year.

2. General Secretary

Alongside election, this month has been occupied by a couple of major commitments for Office Bearers including myself. In addition to day-to-day duties required for my role, significant output this month includes...

UTSSA Elections: Throughout this month campaigning and voting for UTSSA elections commenced. From a student body perspective, this election saw significant engagement compared to my previous years involved at UTS; both in the number of students nominating for positions as well as the number of ballots cast. Reforms to Vertigo passed by Mia and Myself earlier this year have also had a positive impact on Vertigo elections, with targeted dedicated roles for students to nominate for, in addition to changes which have made it easier for independent students outside of a ticket to nominate and get elected. Hopefully this, alongside other content related reforms passed this year, will lead to significant improvements Vertigo as a publication more broadly.

Palestine Activism Developments: The National Week of Action for Palestine commenced this month and UTS, alongside many other campuses across Australia, held rallies in support of this cause. I would particularly like to acknowledge the ongoing work from Mia and Salma not only at said rally, but also their ongoing dedication to this campaign.

Along with other outgoing and incoming councillors, I would also like to express my concern regarding the actions of UTS Security in relation to this campaign. Specifically, the censoring of the word 'genocide' on material related to the national week of action handed out to students the week prior. The accusation that this poses a safety risk on campus is not only unfounded and cowardly, but also an admission of guilt from the university itself who have failed to meaningfully respond to the accusations made throughout this campaign.

NUS Disabilities Conference. At the time of writing, the NUS disabilities conference just concluded its two day duration, with the following two days dedicated to Ethnocultural conference. Due to its location at UWS' Penrith campus, attendance at these conferences has admittedly been hard for many people, especially when scheduled around other commitments elsewhere in Sydney (I myself missed a majority of the first day due to a single in class assignment). However the experience for portions of the conference which I did attend were overall positive and constructive.

3. Assistant General Secretary

N/A

4. Education Officer

N/A

5. Welfare Officer

As the semester comes to an end students are well underway with their studies in preparation for final assessments and examinations. During this time many students can really feel the pressure and stress in ensuring that they complete and do well in their studies, however it is the Welfare collective's obligation to remind all students that support services are still available during this time and that individuals can seek counselling, peer tutoring and free food services to keep them going. The welfare collective believes it is crucial that students do not neglect their mental health especially during the busy exam season as it

becomes easy to delve into studies without concern for oneself and students should also emphasise a balance

by making time for things that students enjoy. All in all this month has not been particularly busy for the welfare collective as many are concerned with their assignments and finishing off the semester.

6. Women's Officer

N/A

7. International Students' Officer

This October, the International Students' Collective of UTSSA led impactful initiatives, fostering engagement and advocating for the needs and well-being of international students across several key areas.

1. UTS Student Forum

The UTS Student Forum was a highlight of this month, witnessing a strong turnout from the international student community. The forum provided a platform for students to voice their opinions directly to UTS Management, offering valuable insights into student life, challenges, and aspirations. Additionally, international students contributed to discussions on the UTS Sustainability Goals 2027, demonstrating their commitment to long-term environmental goals within the UTS framework. This initiative not only empowered students to influence university policy but also encouraged active participation in shaping a sustainable future at UTS.

2. Visit of the Consul General of India in Sydney – 8 October 2024

We had the honour of hosting the Consul General (CG) of India in Sydney, allowing for an enriching dialogue between international students and the CGI. The event, open to international students from universities across Sydney, was an invaluable opportunity for students to learn about the services and support the CGI offers. The Consul General engaged with students, listening to their personal stories and experiences in Sydney, which fostered a meaningful exchange on challenges and opportunities in Australia. This session was pivotal in strengthening ties between the Indian community and the broader network of international students, enhancing their support structure in Sydney.

3. Cybercrime and Scam Prevention Workshop with NSW Police – 18 October 2024

In collaboration with the NSW Police, we organised a workshop on cybercrime and scam prevention tailored to international students. Attendees were educated on identifying and preventing cybercrimes, understanding housing safety, and navigating relevant legal rules. The NSW Police's insights helped address the unique safety challenges international students face, providing them with practical skills and knowledge to safeguard their digital and physical well-being in Australia. Feedback from attendees reflected a sense of empowerment and improved awareness of the available resources and support systems.

4. Welcoming University Summit – 22 October 2024

The UTSSA International Students' Officer represented UTS at the inaugural Welcoming University Summit, a nationwide event bringing together universities to discuss fostering inclusive and supportive environments for students from diverse backgrounds. During the panel discussions, our officer emphasized the experiences of international students, focusing on their unique challenges and suggesting strategies for universities to strengthen their role as pillars of support. This summit was an important step toward establishing best practices across Australian universities to ensure international students feel welcomed, valued, and supported throughout their academic journey.

5. Fair Work Australia Workshop – 25 October 2024

In a first-of-its-kind event, the International Students' Collective organised a workshop with Fair Work Australia for representatives from six universities in New South Wales. The workshop aimed to equip these student representatives with the knowledge and tools to navigate employment rights and resources effectively. The session covered critical areas such as wage rights, workplace protections, and dispute resolution processes, empowering representatives to share this information widely within their university communities. This initiative has laid the groundwork for broader understanding and advocacy around fair workplace practices among international students.

In conclusion, the activities this October have significantly enhanced student engagement, support structures, and advocacy for international students at UTS and beyond. Through partnerships with key stakeholders and proactive workshops, we continue to build a stronger, more inclusive environment for the international student community.

8. Indigenous Officer

N/A

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

N/A

10. Ethnocultural Officer

and discrimination on campus. We spoke with 30 students to gather their perspectives, focusing on anti-Palestinian racism and experiences of marginalization. These insights are guiding our initiatives to create a more inclusive and just university environment. At the CSJI Student Showcase, we presented our initial findings, emphasizing the importance of addressing the ongoing genocide and its impact on students and their families. During the presentation, a student made baseless accusations of antisemitism against me for discussing the genocide. I stood firm in highlighting that these conversations are crucial, as people like me, along with countless others who have had family members victimized in Palestine and the occupied territories, deserve recognition and justice. It is vital to bring

these issues to light for healing and awareness. A significant achievement this month was silencing BlackRock, a company heavily invested in Israel's genocide of Palestinians. We successfully prevented their participation in a panel for a Social and Political Science degree by sending a well-supported email to the subject coordinator, urging for ethical considerations. This was after POC students reached out. In preparation for next month, we are organising an Ethno Con workshop on anti-Palestinian racism and human rights issues. Additionally, I am meeting with Francesca to advocate for special consideration processes for students facing loss and bereavement."

11. Disabilities Officer

October we've been able to continue our amazing 'How To's Posts on Instagram and continue growing our online presence. We've been able to engage with a few people and this is something I aimed to get the collective going at considering we've been quiet on socials in the previous year.

This month we attended the NUS Disability Conference and aim to use that to shape the future of the collective, for next year - leaving it on a good and impactful note

12. Queer Officer

N/A