

SEPTEMBER 2024 SRC MINUTES

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

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1. Opening of meeting at [6:37pm]

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.

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Mia Campbell	President
Adam Levett	General Secretary
Alisa Hamilton	Education Officer
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Mariam Yassine	Women's Officer
Rahgav Motani	General Councillor
Januka Suraweera	General Councillor
Neeve Ann Nagle	General Councillor
Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor
Joesph Naffah	General Councillor
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Aylin Cihan	Welfare Officer
Omar El-Sobihy	Observer

Lisa Windon	Staff
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Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Kurt Cheng	Undergraduate UTS Council
Peter Munford	Postgraduate UTS Council
Adrian Lozancic	General Councilor

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Kurt Cheng	Dirk
Peter Munford	Neeve
Adrian Lozancic	Alisa

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

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

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from minutes.

4. Correspondence

No Matters arising from the minutes

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

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

No updates for campaign for Palestine from university which is frustrating, waiting for response from kylie reedman, had some good fundraising events, good to have community side of campaign while bureaucracy is not progressing. Speaks to successful banner drop on 12th of September

SPA main chunk of work, with me and Rahgav doing monthly meetings

LSS changed constitution in line with UTS' mandate for other clubs and organisations, highlights two and a half year long process and there was no dissent within LSS once raised

NUS reform working group, a lot of dissent to motion I put up but all got passed as well. Received response from NUS Gen Sec saying pay fees, everyone should have on their minds how much we should be paying, charging us more than usual but difficult to implement change when we have no money

Finally work in academic administration working group, really pushing for feedback on final exams beyond what we have achieved, best forum I have found this year to achieve academic reforms in particular.

Aylin Cihan enters zoom meeting at 6:43pm

5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes report as read

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Bridie *delivers spoken report*: email to all Office bearers for events for rest of semester, let me know 2 weeks in advance for advertisement on Instagram. Thanks Rahgav for filming perspective 'where is' series. Highlights the need to keep students aware that services are available. One thing to keep an eye out for is post next week with academic achievements to be posted by the UTSSA, requests support for this posts

5.4. Education Officer

No report received

5.5. Welfare Officer

Aylin takes report as read.

5.6. Women's Officer

Report in minutes received after notice

Mariam Highlights relationship with RNA and looking to capitalise on collaboration together to achieve policy.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Raghav takes report as read, highlights:

Workshops done with AusLeap, got chance to support international student education

Meeting with director of experience where we got International students to speak on experience, and understand what they are facing on management level

Meeting on Monday with study UNSW, on how to further progress with ISRC, and get potential subsidies from state government, highlights importance to utilise connections with other universities

5.8. Indigenous Officer

No report received

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No report received

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma takes report as read; extends invite to every POC in the meeting to come by Ethno-room, highlights campaign with center for social justice and inclusion, researching how racism impacts people on campus and the differences between teachers vs students

Pushing for consent matters type model for racism, worried they'll take that idea from myself and take credit

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Samaha Takes report as read: speaks to inquiry on CSJ on behalf of someone who went, great insights into student voices in university level, more accessible teaching resources and services, and utilises best of our preexisting systems right now

5.12. Queer Officer

Daewah delivers spoken report: queer general meeting on 17th, one big thing is reimbursements for events, queer collective convener morgan sent receipts through nothing has not gotten back,

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

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

Lisa: highlights issues surrounding feedback for exams, but do students know that students can receive appointments to have feedback reviewed.

Mia: meetings I had revolved stuff that tutors are meant to be doing what haven't been. Something I want is having social media campaign of simply publishing University policies students don't know. Highlights course work assessment policy and many overlooked policies that students don't know, and if student awareness is increased it can put pressure on academic administration and tutors.

Samihah: Speaks to experience of assignment during stuvac and moved it from Friday to Sunday.

Mia: some stuff we call the university out and they don't expect for us to notice. With the meeting someone mentioned that they purposely don't send results, have it on the website, but don't send it out when results are ready. Reiterates the importance of providing that kind of content

Lisa: affirms Mia's statements

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

No motions on notice

8. Other Motions on Notice

8.1. By-Law Change: Tidy up

Action

1. That the UTSSA amend section 1.5 of the By-Laws to replace 'International Officer' with 'International Students' Officer'.
2. That the UTSSA amend section 1.1 of the By-Laws to read:
 1. Subject to this clause 1, the Association will pay to an honorarium to the persons holding the following designated offices:
 - 1.1.1 President;
 - 1.1.2 General Secretary;
 - 1.1.3 Assistant General Secretary;
 - 1.1.4 Education Officer;
 - 1.1.5 Welfare Officer;
 - 1.1.6 Women's Officer;

- 1.1.7 Indigenous Officer;
- 1.1.8 Postgraduate Officer;
- 1.1.9 International Students' Officer;
- 1.1.10 Environment Officer;
- 1.1.11 Queer Officer;
- 1.1.12 Disabilities Officer; and
- 1.1.13 Ethnocultural Officer.

Mover: Salma

Second: Joesph

Mia: literally just changing the apostrophes and consistency with grammar in constitution

The motion passes unanimously

Rahgav leaves room: accepts proxy from Bridie at 6:57pm

8.2. UTSSA Partnerships Policy

Preamble:

Recognising the increasing expectation for UTSSA representatives to support various university initiatives, it is crucial to delineate the scope and nature of our collaborations to ensure they align with our objectives and capabilities.

The UTSSA objectives are defined in section 2 of the UTSSA Constitution as follows: a) to identify, advance and promote the interests of the students of the University; b) to afford a recognised means of communication between the students and the academic and administrative arms of the University;

c) to represent or arrange representation of any student or group of students before any authority of the University or other authorities;

d) to support students, affiliated student organisations and other appropriate bodies within the University;

e) to provide students with goods, services and information relevant to their tertiary education;

f) to promote the active participation of students in, and the consideration of, matters affecting their interests; and



g) to concern itself with any other matter incidental to the above objectives.

The goal of this policy is to foster partnerships that enhance our ability to serve and support the student body effectively, while also maintaining appropriate boundaries. This policy addresses partnerships with external entities *and* university groups such as ActivateUTS, clubs and societies, faculties and different university departments, ensuring that such collaborations do not lead to an overextension of our resources or a misperception of our role as merely an extension of the university's operational framework.

By implementing this policy, we aim to uphold our commitment to student advocacy, ensure equitable engagement, and protect the integrity of our operations. Each partnership or request for support will be carefully reviewed to balance our responsibilities and optimise our contributions without compromising our core objectives.

Action:

1. That the UTSSA omits section 2.2.5 from the UTSSA Policy.
 2. That the UTSSA inserts section 5 – Partnerships into the UTSSA Policy as follows:
5. Partnerships Policy

5.1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to cultivate partnerships that strengthen our capacity to serve and support the student body effectively, while also maintaining appropriate boundaries and avoiding an overextension of our resources.

5.2. Scope

This policy covers partnerships with both external organisations and internal university groups, including organisations/groups external to UTS, but also ActivateUTS, clubs and societies, faculties, and various university departments.

5.3. Upon being presented with an opportunity or partnership to the Students' Association, Vertigo or UTSSA Collective, Student Representatives (including the Vertigo Editorial Team) and Staff of the Association must complete the UTS Students' Association Partnerships Policy Form (at **Appendix 1**). This form and any relevant attachments are to be submitted to the UTSSA President and UTSSA Staff as specified on the form.

5.4. The UTSSA President has the authority to review and approve or reject partnership proposals with the UTSSA based on alignment with UTSSA's objectives and resource capacity. When evaluating proposals, the President must consider the strategic value of the partnership and ensure it does not result in an overextension of UTSSA's resources.

5.5. However, if a partnership proposal is submitted by a UTSSA collective or Office Bearer and the Collective/Office Bearer intends to advertise the partnership solely under its own name (and not as an official UTSSA endorsement), the President must not reject the proposal unless it conflicts with UTSSA's objectives.



5.6. The UTSSA President and UTSSA Staff will review the partnership criteria each year to ensure it remains relevant and effective in addressing evolving circumstances and aligning with our organisational objectives.

APPENDIX 1: PARTNERSHIPS POLICY

The UTS Students' Association (SA) has adopted a Partnerships Policy, confirming its commitment to encouraging strategic partnerships to achieve positive welfare outcomes for students.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

ALIGNMENT WITH OBJECTIVES	Is the proposal consistent with the objectives of the SA? (<i>Objectives can be found in section 2 of the UTSSA Constitution</i>)
QUALITY OF PROPOSAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly stated objectives and outcomes • Achievable timeline • Student benefits offered
RISK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall risk profile of the proposal. • Demonstration of appropriate risk allocation and mitigation strategies.
SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the proposal improve or enhance an existing service? • Does the proposal meet a new service or need in the student community?
RESOURING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the proposal require an allocation of funds? • How simple or complex is the proposal? • What level of resourcing is likely to be required by the SA?
STUDENT OUTCOMES	<p>Will the proposal contribute to any of the following student outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced health and well-being • Improved accessibility for students with disabilities • Increased educational opportunities • Greater sense of community and connectedness • Overall improvement in the student community



**ENVIRONMENTAL
AND
ETHICAL
CONSIDERATIONS**

- What are the environmental impacts of the initiative or project proposed, and how will these impacts be managed?
- How does the initiative address and incorporate principles of social equity and justice within its scope and activities?
- What are the ethical considerations related to the products, services, or processes involved in the initiative?

PARTNERSHIPS FORM

The **UTS Students' Association Partnerships Policy** establishes a framework to assess if there is a genuine benefit to the student community and if the partnership provides mutually beneficial outcomes. This form is to be completed by anyone presenting an opportunity or partnership to the Students' Association. Please ensure all sections of this form are adequately addressed. Additional information can be provided as an attachment. This form and any attachments are to be submitted by email to Biljana.oconnor@uts.edu.au and president@utsstudentsassociation.org.

PROJECT TITLE OF PROJECT CONTACT: FULL NAME DATE: DAY/DATE/MONTH EMAIL:

PROPOSED

PARTNER

PROPOSAL

Background

Who is the target audience?

Key Objectives

Proposal Details

How does this

partnership meet the assessment criteria?

Students – specify undergraduate/ postgrad etc.

<i>What are we trying to achieve e.g. awareness, action</i>	
Support documents Notes	
<i>Any relevant supporting files need to be attached the email</i>	

Mover: Neeve

Second: Dirk

Mia: included because current partnership policy is unclear, form for partnership is not on website, and only available on request. Applies to UTSSA, Vertigo and Collectives including staff for any partnerships. Draft form in this motion similar to last one. Different groups reached out to office bearers and myself for partnerships, but they had no benefit for students. We should have vetting process, so we aren't doing free labour for the university or random groups. Applies to us working with activate, faculties and any organisation externally. I don't have discretion to cancel anything, can send it through to us for the UTSSA to outline what they expect from us and how it benefits students. "I don't think we should do labour for organisations who just put pressure on us to do work for them only so they can look good". A lot of this stems from Salma's experience with Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion, and other rejected partnerships this year.

Salma: is there something we can send to people we are partnering with so there is accountability?

Mia: I would send last two pages. Vertigo has already done this this week, so we know it's a trial initiative

Rahgav: will there be an online version?

Mia: I will send to everyone so there is an easy copy off website

Motion passes unanimously

8.3. UTSSA Partnerships Policy

Preamble

This policy is grounded in the commitment to sustainability, fair labor practices, and support for movements that align with the UTSSA's values, including but not limited to, human rights, environmental protection, and social justice. The UTSSA encourages ethical purchases considerations, particularly adherence to the BDS movement, within all of its elected representatives and staff no matter the setting. However, the below policy only outlines scope which is to be enforced within the UTSSA as an organisation internally.

Action

The UTSSA will implement the following 'Ethical Purchases Policy' into the February 2024 policy guidelines document.

6. Ethical Purchases Policy

6.1 Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all purchases of goods and services made within the UTSSA reflect ethical standards and commitment to wider external movements which a majority of the UTSSA has voted to support.

Section 65.4 of this policy contains objective/s which the Ethical Purchases Policy will apply to, it may be reviewed or overturned at any time by a majority of SRC to remain relevant to the priorities of established movements. The current objective of this policy aims to ensure that no purchases are made from companies complicit in human rights violations in occupied Palestine as defined by the **Boycott Divest Sanction** movement.

6.2 Formal Scope

6.2.1 The formal parameters of this policy apply to

a) food and drink items purchased and brought to UTSSA offices spaces b) food and drink items purchased and brought to UTSSA collective spaces c) food and drink items purchased and brought to official UTSSA meetings d) food and drink items purchased and brought to UTSSA ran events



e) physical items including clothing or accessories which elected representatives bring into permanent UTSSA spaces or UTSSA meetings and events as defined within above sections a-d.

f) items purchased and brought to conferences in which the attendant is a representative of the UTSSA.

g) items purchased and brought to external events by an elected representative which the UTSSA has voted to attend as a contingent.

6.2.2 The parameters of this policy do not apply to

a) Goods and Services purchased by paid representatives of the UTSSA in a personal capacity outside of a university setting.

b) goods and services purchased by elected representatives in a personal capacity from vendors on UTS campus.

c) Physical items owned and brought onto UTS premises by elected representatives outside of UTSSA spaces or functions.

d) goods and services purchased by elected representatives whilst attending Activate club and society events.

e) items purchased in a personal capacity during interstate travel paid for by the UTSSA (e.g. during NUS conferences outside of formal conference hours).

6.2.3 Further exceptions to this policy include.

a) Flight and accommodation purchases requiring reimbursement from the UTSSA.

b) <200\$ items which elected representatives require to fulfill their role within UTSSA spaces and/or events (e.g. computers and smartphones).

c) Goods and services which the UTSSA requires to maintain the function of day-to-day operations within office spaces,

d) permanent security measures installed into UTSSA office spaces.

e) goods and services purchased to assist another individual during an injury or medical emergency.

6.3 Enforcement

6.3.1 Minor and infrequent breaches of these policy guidelines may result in elected representatives receiving informal warnings from the President or other executive members of the SRC.

6.3.2 Frequent breaches of these policy guidelines may result in elected representatives receiving a formal written warning from the UTSSA President or Executive officer, containing a list of past instances where policy guidelines have been ignored.

6.3.3 In instances where multiple formal warnings are continually ignored, further action may be taken on the discretion of the President or Executive officer, including, loss of access to UTSSA spaces, and removal from UTSSA meeting notices.

6.3.4 General warnings may be provided by the President or General Secretary in instances where multiple elected representatives have breached similar policy guidelines.

6.3.5 Immediate action may be taken against breaches of this policy which appear to be excessive, deliberate, or a politically motivated act of dissent against policy positions voted for by the UTSSA SRC.

6.4 Current Objectives

6.4.1 The Boycott, Divest, Sanction movement, as defined by;

a) OHCHR List of companies conducting business in illegal Israeli settlements

b) Retail and service companies operating trade within Australia including: Puma

Airbnb

Spotlight

Anaconda

Harris Scarfe

Obela Hummus

Red Rock Deli

Pepsi Co

Coca-Cola

HP

Mia: moves procedural to move motion 8.3 tabled to future meeting

Mover: Neeve

Second: Januka

Mia: I want this redrafted, so that it reflects a list that we can put into action, if we have ethical partnership policy we need something else to ensure that it is easily amendable, will be on agenda for next meeting.

Rahgav: Where did the policy come up,

Adam: speaks to motion, however due to short notice for consultation many reflections implemented last minute, if we are tabling I would like item 6 in policy document to remain for future moving, so any future policy motion will be 7.1

Salma: speaks to experience products at events, speaks to other issues where companies are profiting off of

Mia: we need something like this, but we need to have a really good think about

Adam: another consideration could relate to people who attend our events, but also how do we enforce that?

Mia: anything we're supporting as an association should not be out of line with the policy

Neeve: since Liberals are running in future, they won't support this policy

Adam: we can't control what they do, but we can enforce internal penalties within the union

Neeve: Raises concerns that future conservative councilors could abuse this policy in certain spaces, and impact on values such as free speech, which is something we need to consider

Salma: When you're apart of a structure that is so pro-Palestine, in a space where they're deliberately doing it, it would be weird to say this is an infringement of my free speech

Alisa: Since parties who would object to this policy are running in a minority, whilst it likely won't be overturned but we should have something as strong and enforceable as possible.

Mia: I want this to be clear as possible, why I think we need to have as clar as possible so people can't pretend they don't know, we cant hold people to a standard that requires people to do external research.

Procedural to move discussion to general business

Procedural passes unanimously

Daewah leaves room at 7:16 and proxies to Alisa

Mia: have another conservation about this in general business

8.4. Attendance at NUS Disability and Ethnocultural Conferences

Preamble:

The National Union of Students (NUS) Disability Conference and Ethnocultural Conference are vital forums where student leaders and representatives from across the country come together to collaborate on campaigns related to disability and ethnocultural issues. These conferences are important for ensuring the UTSSA plays an active role in national student advocacy and contributes to addressing key issues faced by students in these areas.

Considering these conferences are to be held at Western

Sydney University this year, the UTSSA should be able to approve a decent attendance considering the lack of costs for accommodation and flights.

In accordance with the UTSSA Conferences Policy (Section 4), which outlines the responsibilities and expectations of UTSSA representatives at such events, this motion seeks to approve the attendance of up to 10 UTSSA representatives (including, as stated in the policy, any UTS student in attendance who participates in discussions,

sessions, or activities, is a member of the UTSSA) for each conference. Some attendees may choose to participate in both conferences, and this is encouraged for those who can.

UTSSA representatives attending these conferences are expected to adhere to the UTSSA Code of Conduct and participate actively in conference sessions and activities, as outlined in the Conferences Policy. Additionally, they must submit post-conference reports to the SRC and fulfill all other responsibilities as stipulated by the policy.

Action: The UTSSA:

1. Approves the attendance of up to 10 UTSSA representatives at the NUS Disability Conference and up to 10 UTSSA representatives at the NUS Ethnocultural Conference, with the understanding that individuals may choose to attend both conferences if they wish.
2. Approves the reimbursement of ticket expenses and travel costs to and from the conference (up to \$30 per person per day) for approved representatives.
3. Directs all approved representatives to submit a 200–500 word post-conference report to the next SRC meeting, detailing their participation and contributions at the conferences.
4. Encourages interested UTSSA representatives to notify the UTSSA President of their interest in attending by **Friday 4th October** to ensure tickets can be approved before the conference dates.

Mover: Rahgav

Second: Joesph

Mia: should be sending as many people to conferences as possible,

Adam: will this apply to just UTSSA representatives,

Mia: If you have people in collectives who want to attend let me know, 10 people for each but let me know if we want to go to both

Salma: can people from collective attend

Mia: yes, on action point 4, need to notify president before October 4 (next Friday), first come first service but OB and people with collectives have priority. Speaks to 30\$ a day travel expenses for uber petrol ect for travel to Penrith,

Motion passes unanimously

8.5. 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.

Mia: moves procedural to next meeting

Mover: Salma

Second: Joepsh

Mia: SPA partners only gave 2 hours notice for review from UTSSA, which is not in line with our own governance, what they sent not worth signing because they took the bones out, and the full document not on notice

Motion passes unanimously

8.6. Election Tribunal

Action:

1. That the UTSSA elect Professor Jennifer Burn as the Chair of the Election Tribunal.
2. That the UTSSA elect Anmol Kamath and Francesca Harrison as student members of the Election Tribunal.

Mover: Joesph

Second: Daewah

Mia: reads out action point and guidelines stating that it has to be legal practitioner for chair, two students filled out expression of interest

Motion passes unanimously

8.7. UNITU Trial

Preamble:

The UTSSA is committed to amplifying student voices, improving the effectiveness of student representation, and closing the feedback loop between students and the university. However, like many student unions, the UTSSA faces challenges in managing its representation system, maintaining high levels of student engagement, and ensuring that student feedback leads to meaningful outcomes.

Unitu offers a solution designed to address these challenges through a suite of tools that enhance feedback collection, streamline student voice, and generate actionable insights. With features such as 'Boards' for real-time feedback and 'Pulse' for gathering immediate feedback through custom surveys, Unitu provides student representatives

and staff with the resources needed to act on student concerns more efficiently and effectively.

A number of student unions, such as Swansea University and others, have successfully implemented Unitu, resulting in improved engagement and significant outcomes based on student feedback. A one-year trial with Unitu will allow the UTSSA to assess the effectiveness of the platform in enhancing our student representation system and fostering a more visible, relevant, and influential student voice.

This trial aligns with the UTSSA's strategic priorities of increasing transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to student concerns, and will enable the association to make informed decisions about continuing or expanding the use of Unitu in the future.

Action: The UTSSA:

1. Approves a one-year trial of Unitu's services including their **Boards** and **Pulse** tools, to enhance the UTSSA's student representation and feedback system.
2. Approves a refundable deposit of \$50 to be made to join Unitu's Partner Programme.
3. Authorises the UTSSA President to enter into an agreement with Unitu for the trial period (agreement attached).
4. Requires the collection of feedback and data from both student representatives and the broader student body throughout the trial period, ensuring comprehensive assessment of Unitu's impact on student engagement, representation, and the feedback loop.
5. Directs the UTSSA President (or staff or student delegate) to present a detailed report on the outcomes of the trial at the end of the one-year period, including insights gained from the Unitu platform, representative feedback, and recommendations for future use.

Mover: Neeve

Second: Sina

Mia: 6 months for emails, originally it had lengthy cost but now we have free trial, supposed to raise accountability for student reps and streamlining feedback, asked to come to meeting and present on it but I thought it was 'a bit much'. Had in person meeting with them as they happened to be in Sydney even though they're a UK based company. Should have comprehensive training before next term

Januka: what is cost after trial?

Mia: Likely 300-600\$ per month, we'll need to collect feedback throughout trial period.

Alisa: as it takes student feedback, are there measures to protect student data,

Mia: part of the agreement is that we have to stick to Australian privacy act with our data, but we won't be storing it UNITU will. NUS using for Discon and Ethnocon as well. Any third parties have to apply to either agreements, which is to report breaches straight away.

No dissent or abstentions

Mia: my biggest issue with this is it's only as good as the amount of engagement we get, pulse is like a survey and generates report for us automatically.

Motion passes unanimously

9. General Business

Salma: requests that motion be heard on urgency

Mia: I have seen motion and it can't pass on urgency, we need to discuss it in October, as it is relation to operations and procedures.

Alisa: (*in relation to 8.3*), in terms of layout we could have a list of guidelines, if we include examples instead of companies, then it could be adapted based off that precedent,

Mia: it would be good next year to have simpler motions more frequently related to current events

Salma: when listing obvious examples that are popular, do we need to add reasoning, I do have concerns if we add a criteria for reasoning it could make it limiting

Mia: my opinion would be no, because reasoning would be preamble

Alisa: having different categories, and having examples of companies that have to fall into this category,

Mia: even UTS has no partnership with tobacco and gambling

Adam: Samiha has also raised having different categories for example having multinational companies vs Australian operated businesses, so we're not just grouping everything as 'Israel bad'

Mia: we should be clear that for example we define whether coca-cola the multinational company and everything they own, or coca-cola the product

Samaha: I want people to take the approach of my motion, important that we have anything directly contradicting our activism

Alisa, Samiha, Mia and Salma raise that they would like to be part of further consultation

10. Close of Meeting at 7:48pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

This month I have felt very worn down by the university and have been more focused on our internal processes. Nevertheless, here is a summary of the work I've been focusing on this month:

Campaign for Palestine

There has been no progress since our August meeting on the MOU sent to me by Kylie Readman on 19.08.24. I am still awaiting a response to my email sent on 21.08.24 and have followed up on this – it is very frustrating to me that the university is dragging its feet with this and it definitely feels like it's on purpose.

In the meantime, the Art + Action event on the 27th of August raised \$1,745 for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund and was a great event – I have been pleased that many people have approached myself and the UTS Staff for Palestine group following this event saying that the event was the first time that they realised the ties that UTS has with genocide. The fundraiser which the UTSSA promoted for UTS Staff for Palestine on the 7th of September (which Salma MC'd) also raised over \$10,000 for the Palestinian Australian New Zealand Medical Association – I am very happy with this. The event was an excellent opportunity to come together as a community with staff and students, and Salma was a fantastic MC.

I was also an MC for the launch event for Global Goals Month alongside Stuart White from the Institute of Sustainable Futures. Despite being told by the organisers to speak less about Palestine and limit my speech to "one example of what is going on in Gaza" alongside some extra, more trivial/feel-good content about the Bluebird Pantry, I stuck to my initial choice of content and received great feedback by the staff in attendance. The UTSSA also participated in the banner drop organised by Students Against War on the 12th of September and I spoke on the importance of building awareness within the student community of partnerships UTS maintains which I believe are breaches of not only our human rights obligations but also UTS' own policies.

Student Partnership Agreement

Over the past month, I have participated in weekly meetings with ActivateUTS and university management to renew the Student Partnership Agreement for 2025-2027. This process is still being negotiated, as I do not believe the most recent version from the university provided enough concrete action for students. Ideally, this can be approved in the UTSSA's October meeting.

Sexual Harm Reporting Reform

The Law Student's Society approved my motion to change their Constitution to be in line with all other ActivateUTS clubs and societies and in line with the university's policies on responding to sexual harm. This means that LSS club executives will no longer be managing reports of sexual harm perpetrated by/against their members! This is a great win, as this policy has been causing significant harm to students for the past 2 years since its adoption.

NUS Reform Working Group

On the 4th of September, the motions I drafted in collaboration with students around the country in the NUS Reform Working Group were passed in full at the NUS National Executive. This is a great success, and I am determined for these changes to be fully implemented prior to the next National Conference. There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that these conferences are accessible for all attendees and productive for students, but I am glad that this is progressing.

Academic Administration Working Group

Following the successes reported on last meeting, I have been continuing to push in this group for better feedback on assessments (including feedback for final exams) and a standardised process for assessing Special Considerations applications across faculties. I will continue to update the SRC with any progress in this area, and encourage anyone who has ideas that they want me to focus on to let me know.

2. General Secretary

Info Night: This month the UTSSA held its election information night for candidates for SRC and Vertigo. Overwhelmingly the event was attended by potential candidates interested in Vertigo over the UTSSA, which demonstrated to me that this year's reforms to Vertigo roles have been successful in amplifying engagement amongst ordinary and independent students interested in writing for the publication.

Other Vertigo: This month volume 4 for Vertigo also hit stands, complimentary to volume 3 which has proven to be quite sought after amongst students, likely due to its engaging cover and corresponding material beginning engaging with real student issues (which further exists in volume 4).

BDS: This month we have also been working on a policy to fully implement subscription to the Boycott Divest Sanction movement within our internal policy framework document which was passed at the start of this year. It will be positive for the UTSSA to finally monitor BDS, and other politically ethical goods and services choices within our organisation internally.

3. Assistant General Secretary

N/A

4. Education Officer

N/A

5. Welfare Officer

We are now well into the middle of the semester and students are rightfully occupied with numerous assignments, mid-sems and quizzes. The welfare collective acknowledges that this is a stressful and tough time on many UTS students and aims to remind others of the many services that we provide such as counselling, peer support and free food services such as night owl noodle and blue bird brekkie to relieve some of these pressures.

The current food services provided by the UTSSA are not considered a permanent service and can be cancelled by the university depending on budgeting discretion. As such the welfare collective is devising a report to discuss the importance of these programs to hopefully achieve a permanent space for blue bird brekkie and night owl noodle as many students rely on the free food to assist with the current cost of living crises. As such the welfare collective welcomes any feedback from students so that we can make a comprehensive report that covers all the issue with the current structure of the program and the benefits of having a permanent space.

6. Women's Officer

Past Events/Initiatives Summary:

Throughout the month of September, the Women's Collective engaged in these activities:

Collaboration with Dominique Spanos:

- o Continued communication with Dominique Spanos to explore potential partnership opportunities. Discussions focused on developing new initiatives aimed at empowering women in leadership roles and enhancing opportunities for professional development.

Partnership with St. Vincent de Paul:

- o Began working with St. Vincent de Paul to organise a social media campaign, focusing on new governmental policies. This initiative is a part of our broader effort to support vulnerable members of the community and raise awareness about homelessness and poverty among women.

Respect Now Always (RNA) Talks:

- o Continued talks with RNA to further enhance joint campaigns focusing on ending sexual harassment and violence on campus. These conversations aim to build on past successes and introduce new strategies for addressing these critical issues in more impactful ways.

Handover Document Creation:

- o Started drafting a comprehensive handover document in preparation for the next leadership transition. This document will serve as a guide for future collective leaders to ensure a smooth transition and continuity in advocacy and event planning efforts.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

Empowerment Workshop:

- o Planning an empowerment workshop in collaboration with Dominique Spanos. This event will focus on building confidence, leadership skills, and resilience among students with an emphasis on navigating challenges in both academic and professional settings.

RNA Collaborative Event:

- o Hosting an event in partnership with RNA focusing on sexual consent education. The event will include interactive sessions, discussions, and resources aimed at fostering a safer and more inclusive campus environment.

Tasks for the Upcoming Month:

◎ Finalising the Handover Document:

- o Complete the handover document to ensure the next committee receives clear and detailed guidance on how to manage the collective's operations, projects, and partnerships. This will be crucial for ensuring ongoing progress on the initiatives we've launched.

◎ Membership Engagement:

- o With over 500 members we will initiate a targeted engagement campaign to encourage participation in upcoming events. This includes launching new

social media outreach efforts and hosting smaller as well as more intimate events to foster a stronger sense of community among members.

7. International Students' Officer

1. Conclusion of AusLeap 2024 Workshop

This month, we successfully concluded the AusLeap 2024 workshop, which was a significant event for our international student community. The workshop saw the participation of over 150 international students, marking it as one of the largest events we have partnered with this year. The workshop focused on three key areas: communication skills, career building, and volunteering.

Students were introduced to essential communication techniques to improve their interpersonal skills, both in academic and professional settings. Additionally, the career-building segment provided valuable insights into job-seeking strategies, resume building, and interview techniques specifically tailored for international students navigating the Australian job market. The volunteering part was particularly impactful, as it encouraged students to get involved in community activities, emphasising the importance of networking and building connections. This not only helps them integrate into Australian society but also fosters friendships and strengthens ties within the international student community. Feedback from participants was positive, with many students expressing interest in further workshops and opportunities to stay engaged.

2. Participation in UTS Students Forum & UTS Management Feedback Workshop

We have continued our active involvement in the UTS Students Forum, playing an important role in representing international students' needs and concerns. Throughout the month, we contributed to various discussions, ensuring that the unique challenges faced by international students were brought to the forefront. These contributions focused on areas such as academic support, mental health resources, and financial aid, all of which are crucial for enhancing the international student experience at UTS.

By consistently advocating for international students in these forums, we aim to ensure that their voices are heard in the decision-making processes. Our participation has also helped build stronger ties between different UTS Managements, fostering collaboration and mutual support in addressing the common challenges faced by all UTS students. Moving forward, we will continue to prioritise key issues such as visa-related concerns, housing, and employability in these discussions.

3. In-Person Meeting with StudyNSW (Investment NSW)

Another major highlight for September was our in-person meeting with StudyNSW, a branch of Investment NSW, where we discussed several key areas of collaboration between StudyNSW and the NSW International Students Representative Committee (ISRC). The meeting was productive, as we explored potential partnerships to enhance support for international students across the state.

StudyNSW shared insights into current initiatives aimed at supporting international students, including mental health support, employment services, and community integration programs. We discussed how the ISRC could become actively involved in these projects, providing a platform for international students to contribute their

perspectives and experiences. One of the key points of this meeting was the agreement to involve the ISRC in StudyNSW's board meetings, giving international students a formal voice at the state level. This is a significant step towards ensuring that international students are not only represented but are also actively engaged in shaping the policies and initiatives that affect their lives.

Conclusion

September has been a month of progress and collaboration for the International Students Office. From the successful conclusion of the AusLeap workshop, to our ongoing involvement in the UTS Students Forum, and the productive meeting with StudyNSW, we have made significant strides in advocating for and supporting international students. Our focus on career building, communication skills, and community engagement continues to drive our efforts to enhance the international student experience at UTS.

As we look ahead, we will continue to prioritise partnerships with key stakeholders like StudyNSW and work towards expanding the range of opportunities and support available to international students, ensuring their voices are heard at both university and state levels.

8. Indigenous Officer

N/A

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

N/A

10. Ethnocultural Officer

In September, the Ethnocultural Collective centred its efforts on the Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism (CDAR) campaign. This involved interviewing students of colour (POC) about their experiences with racism on campus, collecting crucial data to better understand the challenges they face.

The collective has been focusing on building interpersonal connections with students to foster a more inclusive environment. The insights gained from these interviews will help shape future initiatives aimed at tackling racism and promoting cultural diversity within UTS. These efforts have created momentum that will continue to inform our actions going forward.

Since the room has been cleaned and decorated, it has been utilised as a safe space for BIPOC people at UTS

Future Goals

Looking ahead, the collective's main focus is preparing for Ethno-Con, which will take place on October 30-31. This event will provide a space for students from various cultural backgrounds to connect, share experiences, and work toward collective goals. We aim to expand the CDAR campaign by continuing interviews and presenting our findings to the university administration. Strengthening these initiatives will be key in pushing for meaningful change on campus.

11. Disabilities Officer

This month we were able to get our Social Media up and running, we now have 3 very informative posts including;

- Accessibility in Education: Alternative Text and Image Description
- A Short Guide to Making Accessible Social Media posts
- Models of Disability: Social vs Medical

The username is @utsdisabilities. There is a previous inaccessible one, so please don't get confused. We are hoping to continue rolling these out and continue growing the page and as well as on Facebook.

With October coming up, we are planning an event as it is Hidden Disability month to do with sunflower lanyards and actual sunflowers too.

I wasn't able to attend the Access and Inclusion Plan two weeks ago that was run by the Centre of Social Justice, but we had a member of the collective attend (more details will be given in SRC).

12. Queer Officer

N/A