

JULY 2024 SRC MINUTES

31/07/2024 | 6:30pm | CB11.03.206

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1. Opening of meeting at [6:36pm]

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 (Chair)	President
Adam (Elected Deputy Chair)	General Secretary
Daewah Thein	Queer Officer
Alisa Hamilton	Education Officer
Salma Elmubasher	Ethnocultural Officer
Neeve Ann Nagle	General Councillor
Mathew Murray	General Councillor
Dirk Hoare	General Councillor
Januka Suraweera	General Councillor
Sina Afsharmehr	General Councillor

Rahgav Motani	International Officer
Jeremy Higgins	Environment Officer
Aylin Cihan (zoom)	Welfare Officer
Bridie O'Kelly (zoom)	Assistant General Secretary
Bilkika Abburi (zoom)	General Councillor
Tyberious	Vertigo
Mariah	Staff
Biljana	Staff
Olivia	Student Observer
Amelia	Student Observer
Yasmine	Student Observer
Tom	Student Observer

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Kurt Cheng	UTS Council Undergraduate Representative
Peter Munford	UTS Council Postgraduate Representative
Adrian Lozancic	General Councillor
Joesph Naffah	General Councillor
Mariam Yassine	Women's Officer
Laura Currie	Postgraduate Officer

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Kurt Cheng	Neeve
Peter Munford	Januka
Adrian Lozancic	Alisa
Joesph Naffah	Salma
Mariam Yassine	Dirk
Laura Currie	Daewah

1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

No one makes any declarations.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Mover: Mathew

Seconder: Januka

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

2.1. Executive Business

No new Executive minutes to discuss during this month's SRC.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from minutes

4. Correspondence

No correspondence to report

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

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

Speaks to items not covered in report but present in motions. HIV self testing machines, the contract will have our name on it and it will be one of our services. Activate developing graphics and design on machine, faculty of health also supporting initiative.

Academic administration working group, Alisa and myself in group chaired by kylie reedman, hopes to achieve election goals such as standardised election regulations. Massive win if we can secure extra multifaith room. Another factor various light penalties for late submissions. I believe the standardised penalty should be 5% per day. Opens suggestions for academic policies from councillors to Herself and Alisa. Law and engineering setbacks in strict restrictions particularly

Uni2, UK tech company pilot program for tools to increase student voice, questioning whether cost benefit is worth it per monthly fee

5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes report as read.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

No report received on notice

5.4. Education Officer

Alisa takes report as read.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Aylin takes report as read.

5.6. Women's Officer

Mariam takes report as read.

5.7. International Students' Officer

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

Summarises edcon, and workshop in collaboration with Deakin university. Regular collective meeting along with pro vice chancellor Jackie White. Meetings scheduled in November. Round table meeting with consulate general of India, and how to support international students at federal level. Meeting with fair work Australia, workshop for separate student representatives. International student project for communities.

Mia: shoutouts Raghav, extra 250 people joined collective today and total of close to 750 in WhatsApp group

5.8. Indigenous Officer

No report received on notice

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Laura takes report as read.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Salma takes report as read.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

No report received on notice

5.12. Queer Officer

Delivers spoken report

Daewah: Summarises, room changes getting finalised, moving within the end of semester. Queer collective behind idea of being part of Mardi Gras parade.

5.13. Environment Officer

Jeremy: Speaks to resigning from enviro officer, thanks exec for support since elections and especially councillors. Gotten a lot out of it and appreciates opportunities to sit on committees. To prepare handover document for next paths of action.

Mia: appreciates work you've done on sustainability committee and vending machines for return and earn. Thanks Jerney for upfront about capacity and transparency and honesty.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

No reports from committee

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

NUS Education Conference 2024 – Group Report

From 1 – 4 July, myself (Mia), Adam, Neeve, Raghav and Laura attended the National Union of Students Education Conference. For the purpose of transparency into these conferences, and also our own accountability as SSAF money was used to send us to this conference, we have drafted this summary report of our time at NUS EdCon 2024.

It is clear from the onset that NUS conferences are an unforgiving atmosphere, but they are not without the ability to be an extremely educational experience. While certain workshops lacked conclusion or recommendations on how to fix the issues we all agreed upon, I'm happy to report the majority of workshops I (Neeve) attended provided tangible solutions to problems our unions face or allowed me to reflect on the workings of our own Student's Association.

A few workshops stood out with their content, including a workshop regarding

'Accessibility in Student Unions and Politics.' The entire workshop was extremely educational, and I've brought back a list of recommendations to help make the UTSSA far more accessible for disabled students, including training for all OB's and general councillors, providing accessibility improvements on our website and social media accounts, and analysing whether our student news reporting is accessible in its current form.

Another workshop run to 'Explore Welfare Programs in Australian Universities' was also extremely beneficial to compare our current welfare programs to our neighbours at UNSW. I was intrigued by their use of a triage system, with an emergency line or online form from 09:00-17:00 each day to assist with mental health matters, by calling within 24 hours to assess the best way forward for the student and how the university can assist by triaging to multiple locations based on need. Comparing the programs at our universities shows need for improvement for both campuses but that UTS is falling behind in the simplicity of the systems at other universities for students to use. These were only two of the several workshops I attended most of which proved to be extremely educational. While it was a bumpy experience, EdCon 2024 was generally an extremely educational experience but highlights the need for serious reform for the NUS.

Raghav's presentation regarding supporting international students at university was also a highlight of the trip. Alongside Aastha from Deakin University, Raghav presented on the challenges faced by international students in Australia and proposed solutions. They both highlighted issues such as cultural adjustment difficulties, transportation and mobility challenges, homesickness, legal and visa issues, and accommodation problems. Specific concerns included navigating city transport, the impact of sudden visa policy changes, and the housing crisis affecting students in NSW. Their proposed solutions included welcome initiatives with comprehensive guides for international students, activities to combat loneliness, workshops on legal and visa matters, and guidance on safe and affordable accommodation. They also emphasized the importance of educating students on their workplace rights through initiatives like a migration survey and workshops with Fair Work Australia. The presentation provided actionable insights to improve the international student experience, making it an extremely valuable session for student representatives around the country.

I (Mia) also presented a workshop titled "Feminist takes on NUS NatCon: How do we make this a safer space for all?". This workshop centred on how the student representative space is not always a safe or inviting space for women and other marginalised demographics at university, and offered solutions to the NUS on how this could be remedied at their yearly National Conference. Following the workshop, it was great to hear that other students shared my concerns about the NUS and also wanted to work towards improving the space.

I (Mia) am proud of the effort that UTSSA representatives put in to the 2024 NUS Education Conference and feel glad that we not only are taking back useful suggestions from other student unions, but that we also contributed to the conference in a meaningful way and shared things that the UTSSA is doing well.

Future Work

Following EdCon, I am feeling even more passionate about the significant reform that the NUS clearly needs and the importance of trying to fix these issues to avoid a situation of mass disaffiliation and union breakdown. I have established a working group with people who expressed interest over the course of the conference and will keep the UTSSA in the loop about this as the work progresses. I believe this is especially important considering the discussions that will be coming up regarding NUS affiliation fees later in the year. If any of you would like to be involved in the group, or would like to send through any recommendations for what this group might like to focus on, please let me know.

The priorities that the group decided on at the first meeting are as follows:

1. Accessibility
2. Governance Reform
3. Communication
4. Consequences/Enforcement Mechanisms
5. Leadership
6. Improving OB Roles

- Report drafted with info from Mia, Neeve and Raghav

Mia: Report on Edcon prepared by Myself, Neeve and Rahgav. Think that it is a good standard to report after each conferences. Ideally it will be in the bylaws.

Neeve: speaks to Mia's workshop at Edcon and accessibility workshops which can be transferred to UTS documents and social media Mia: speaks to much bigger WA presence.

Rahgav: very good first experience to deliver workshop and help student leaders.

Mia: Feels proud of us over at Edcon, other good workshops were explored workshops run by Oliva (observer in meeting). Speaks to UNSW 24 mental health systems based on need that can be transferred to UTS. Need for significant reforms and established reform working group, opens invites to all councillors and motions to draft at NX. Future motions to pass that will need UTSSA support. Brings up reaffiliation and thinking about what benefit NUS brings to this student union.

6.3. Vertigo Report.

Ty: speaks to Amendments in bylaws and disappoint, although hopes it may increase readership and wants to work with UTSSA despite our disappointment with By-Law reforms passed in June.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

No items on notice

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. Usyd Campus Access Policy `

Preamble

Between now and the time the UTSSA SRC last convened, the University of Sydney launched perhaps one of the largest attacks on free speech and campus democracy we have seen at an Australian University Campus in recent memory. Sydney University's Campus Access Policy (C.A.P) mandates 72 hours for all demonstrations on campus. The policy further defines "Activities that require approval" from the University, which include banal actions such as displaying banners, using megaphones, handing out flyers and erecting temporary tables.

If enforced unamended, the C.A.P will severely restrict the voices of student activists and trade unionists on campus, particularly those who share opinions which differ from the interests of University bosses. The timing of the C.A.P is also blatantly a response towards the Gaza solidarity encampment, and other pro-Palestine activism which has been prominent at the University of Sydney throughout the past few months.

Opposing the C.A.P is not merely an act of cross-campus solidarity, as the successful implementation of such a policy at the University and Sydney sets a frankly dangerous precedent which could affect any activist at any university, including at UTS.

Action

- 1) That the UTSSA endorses the Sydney University Education Action Group's ongoing "Scrap the C.A.P" campaign.
- 2) That the UTSSA authorises elected representatives to participate in "Scrap the C.A.P" campaign projects officially coordinated by the Sydney University SRC and its collectives.

This can include participation in public demonstrations, petitions, joint statements or social media campaigns.

Mover: Daewah

Secunder: Mathew

Adam: speaks to what this motion empowers, empowers UTSSA to participate in activism related to C.A.P, including on behalf of the UTSSA or their Collective. Only for action taken by Usyd SRC or Education collective, does not include similar protests held by partners in the campaign such as Union's NSW's Young Workers Hub campaign or Socialist Alternative Students for Palestine. Decision made based off consolidation with Usyd General Secretary

Yasmine (observer): Speaks in support of the motion, and against attacks of freedom of speech on campus. Speaks to success of unauthorised stalls day. Demonstrates that in this instance going against policy explicitly proves success through "mass show of defiance". Sets bad precedent and has also had reported flow on effects already in Melbourne.

Mia: will let people know if anything like this happens at UTS. Passed: without dissent or abstentions.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2 'I Voted' Cards Spending Motion

Preamble:

To increase awareness of our elections without generating a huge amount of waste or having stickers end up all around the university, I would like to trial business cards that say 'I Voted' on them. These could also include contact information for the Returning Officer for anyone with any questions about the elections. Ideally students can show them to campaigners during the voting period to show that they've already voted.

Action: That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$250 for 'I Voted' business cards for the UTSSA SRC, NUS and Vertigo elections.

Mover: Mathew

Secunder: Neeve

Mia: pretty simple, I want I voted stickers but I don't want them stuck all over the university.
Another measure to ensure not repeating campaigning to people multiple times

The motion passes unanimously.

8.3 O'Day Collective Spending

Action: That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$150 per Collective for costs of materials for the Spring Orientation Day UTSSA collective stalls.

Mover: Dirk

Secunder: Salma

Mia: would have been good to have this passed before today, same amount passed for autumn O'day.

Tom (observer): Will this apply to our collective?

Mia: budget already for collective events

The motion passes unanimously.

8.4 UTSS4P Petition

Preamble: The 19th of July findings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held that Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territory constitute the crime of apartheid in violation of states' obligations under the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. UTS, as an institution dedicated to social justice and the upholding of human rights, must respond.

UTS Staff for Palestine has released a petition demanding a response from UTS, as the ICJ ruling clarified that the obligation of states not to engage in economic relations that serve to entrench Israel's illegal activities, extends to international organisations. As stated in the petition, "This clearly proscribes trade relations with entities involved in the provision of arms and other technologies used by Israel in the furtherance of its illegal occupation." Given this declaration, it is clear that UTS cannot continue to partner with organisations and entities that provide or manufacture weapons or technology used to further the Israeli occupation in Palestine.

The UTSSA should support the UTS Staff for Palestine petition, which can be found in full here:

<https://megaphone.org.au/petitions/act-now-uts-response-to-icj-sverdict-on-israel-s-illegal-actions-in-palestine>

Action: That the UTSSA:

1. Endorses UTS Staff for Palestine's petition to Vice-Chancellor Andrew Parfitt titled 'Act Now: UTS Response to ICJ's Verdict on Israel's Illegal Actions in Palestine'.
2. Commits to resharing this petition on the UTSSA Instagram.

Mover: Salma

Second: Mathew

Mia: establishes speaking list

Mia: support for staff strike for Palestine to officially endorse staff for Palestine petition to make sure it is officially endorsed by UTSSA

Ella (observer): Supports motion, speaks to recent news of Albanese holding drone made by drone-shield, UTS company, speaks to reasons for UTS students to loudly and proudly speak for Palestine.

Adam: Informally requests that observer give name and pronouns before speaking to assist with the accuracy of minutes

Mia: Goes back to correspondents UTS has already sent this year, making me think these are flat out lies. Speaks to memorandum of understanding held at UTS, the precedent for which usually concluded after an encampment. Makes it sound like a full on lie that university was not making direct contributions.

Yasmine: submitted freedom of information request for investments and there was no response. Submitted request for investments and received over 500 partnerships.

Mia: when did you file request? Yasmine: 8 th of this month

Mia: APAN filed one on 17th of June, I've consulted with them and we've already put up quite a bit on our own activities. If they're compiled for this month it should be in pretty soon. The DVC forwarded her email to others shared to university stakeholders, obviously they'd be careful with email, but reassuring knowing this stuff gets passed onto leadership team

The motion passes unanimously.

8.5 International Collective Day Trips to Wollongong

Preamble

In partnership with HiveX (UTS Startup Company), I have organized a day trip to Wollongong, available on 11 August and 18 August 2024. We aim to have 30 international students on each day making it 60 (30 + 30) students by the end of 18 August. We will be charging the students \$6 + BF for the ticket as it will cover the lunch cost. The main reason we are changing \$6 + BF is to

avoid having unused tickets, as free tickets are often purchased but are not used by students. The transport expenses are to be borne by the International students.

Action

1. That the UTSSA approves the International Students Collective charging a \$6 + BF ticket fee for the lunch cost on the trip

Mover: Rahgav

Seconder: Dirk

Rahgav: Not first time we've done this trip, last time gotten 57 international students, small amount of fees are making sure people show up. Even if 10\$ is paid there is higher turnout. Provides incentive for turnout when limited spots provided. \$6 with lunch nothing excess for profit, rest from collective funding.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.6 Appointment of Grievance Committee

Action: That the following people be appointed to the UTSSA Grievance Committee for the remainder of the 2024 term: Lisa Windon, Jennifer Willis, Devashkar Naidoo and Chloe Ferreira.

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Neeve

Mia: needs to be done every year, two staff, two students and one independent depending on expertise in areas that arise. Motion for everyone expect independent. No grievance currently being held so no need to appoint. Students from faculty of law. Checked for conflicted already by sending full list of people on council.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.7 NUS Conference Accessibility

Action:

That the University of Technology Sydney Students' Association:

1. Take into consideration the extensive accessibility concerns raised at the most recent National Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference, noting that accessibility concerns have been previously raised at multiple NUS conferences by students across the country, including UTS's own NUS delegates and attendees.
2. Affirms the importance of student representative spaces being accessible to all students in order to ensure equal representation in political spaces, particularly for disabled students who are an underrepresented minority in the tertiary education space.
3. Calls on the NUS to implement measures to safeguard the wellbeing of all attendees and delegates at conferences and events organised by the NUS.
4. Directs the UTSSA President, in consultation with the Disability Officer, to write to the NUS National President, NUS National General Secretary, National Welfare Officer and National Education Officer calling for the National Executive to implement and adhere to accessibility measures for the 2024 National Conference.

A) Directs the President to report to Council on the response received from the NUS.

Mover: Neeve

Seconder: Salma

Neeve: Known that within student space form attendees that cross functionally accessibility is not taken into consideration. Many workshops also held on accessibility. Speaks to difference between Natcon and Edcon. Very clear that Edcon not accessible to many students 'pretty violent space to be in'. Including walkouts, confinement to rooms and uncomfortable for students. Unfair to UTS students that we don't represent student and disabled students. My faction (unity) did really try to make changes. Reaction quite well when grievances raised. Accessibility concerns raised so taking it into consideration and affirming importance. Wants to call on NUS to safeguard wellbeing of all attendees. Reads action point in full.

Mia: gives shoutout to UWA access officer and that a lot of student unions take a lot of consideration to this

Amelia (observer): Speaks to motion, first NUS conference and 'nothing short of shocking' as a disabled student, burnt out from Edcon. Heard about last year Natcon and other events, motion is good to put forward.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.8 Motion to Condemn Violence Against Student Protesters in Bangladesh

Action

1. That the UTSSA firmly stands in solidarity with the student protesters in Bangladesh and condemns the relentless violence perpetrated by the Bangladesh Government, through the student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of the ruling party, alongside the Bangladesh Police.

2. That the UTSSA endorses the letter written by UTS Bangladeshi Society and UTS International Collective below condemning the “violence against Bangladeshi students”:

" The UTS Students' Association (UTSSA) firmly stands in solidarity with the student protesters in Bangladesh and condemns the relentless violence perpetrated by the Bangladesh Government, through the student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of the ruling party, alongside the Bangladesh Police.

We are profoundly alarmed by the ongoing brutality faced by peaceful demonstrators advocating for reforms in the government's job quota system. The aggressive actions of the BCL and the police against these students represent a gross violation of democratic rights and an attempt to silence those seeking justice and equality.

As a representative body of students at UTS, we strongly denounce these violent acts. The continued hostility, resulting in numerous injuries and loss of lives, signifies a disturbing trend of quelling dissent and undermining fundamental human rights. We urge the Bangladeshi authorities to immediately cease these violent actions, ensure the protection of all students, and hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions.

On 16th July, six students were killed by the Bangladesh Police and BCL. Since then, the death toll has risen consistently. On 18th July, at 8 pm, internet connections were blocked nationwide, and this blackout remained for the next six days. Even now, the bandwidth is extremely low, and all social media are blocked for the general public. This is a direct violation of human rights according to the United Nations.

During this nationwide internet blackout, the ruling party, AL, deployed the army and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on the streets of Bangladesh and declared a nationwide "shoot on sight" curfew, which is still in effect and will remain so until further notice. The official death toll as of now is around 200; however, due to the lack of communication caused by the internet blackout, it is estimated that nearly 1,000 people have been killed and countless others injured.

Numerous videos have gone viral where military and police helicopters are seen shooting at the general public on the streets. Tanks and other heavy artillery have been deployed. The government fails to acknowledge the deaths caused by its own forces, instead blaming opposition

parties. What began as a peaceful, apolitical protest for quota reform has now escalated into a civil war.

Even now, the BCL and the Bangladesh Police are allegedly raiding people's houses and checking their phones to see if anyone is sharing pictures or videos of the mass murders. Additionally, the police are forcefully arresting people from their residences, and numerous students have disappeared, leaving their loved ones in a state of distress and uncertainty about their fate.

The nationwide blackout meant that international students had no way of contacting their friends and family back home, causing panic and stress. Even now, communication is only possible using VPNs. This situation affects not only the people in Bangladesh but also Bengalis living abroad, including those in Australia. The inability to communicate with friends and family in Bangladesh has a significant impact on the Bengali diaspora. The uncertainty about the safety of their families and the wellbeing of friends involved in the protests takes a considerable emotional toll on Bangladeshis living overseas.

The right to peaceful protest is a fundamental aspect of a democratic society, and its suppression through violence is unacceptable. We call on the Bangladeshi government to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and meritocracy, and to create a safe and supportive environment for all citizens to express their views and pursue their aspirations. "

Mover: Rahgav

Secunder: Mathew

Rahgav: Occurred when Microsoft outage happened, and Bangladesh international students still could not speak to family even after outage was restored. International collective to support, drafted letter which will be published formally through UTSSA. Whole letter is 'quite terrifying' but whole issues of shooting at normal civilians and going into houses and private internet access. 'Not something world should go towards, not something we should see'. Especially against student protesters. Speaks to Bangladesh government response that led to student protests.

Mia: UTS Bangladeshi society reached out to us but we would have done this anyway, but consultation is a good thing

Ella (observer): Students in Bangladesh absolutely heroic, UNSW protest tomorrow with Bangladeshi society, ARC and socialist club. 1pm outside library Passed without dissent or abstentions.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.9 Ethno-Space Spending Motion

Preamble:

The Ethnocultural collective space is outdated and pretty cluttered. Although some furniture is in decent condition, others are unwelcoming, full of dust, and in poor/ very old condition.

We plan to utilize the existing \$1400 from our budget to furnish the Ethnocultural safe space, creating a comfortable and welcoming environment for all BIPOC students using it. This will involve purchasing new, more inviting furniture and cleaning supplies to address the current state of the space. Any remaining funds will be unspent to ensure financial responsibility. To maintain transparency, I will prepare a detailed list of items to be purchased, which can be shared upon request. This approach will help avoid any issues and ensure our expenditures are clear and justified.

We plan on taking a sustainable route and buying most items secondhand, but we may purchase new items if necessary (e.g., secondhand items in poor condition, not found, etc.).

Mover: Salma

Secunder: Neeve

Salma: straightforward spending motion, ethnocultural space furniture pretty unclean, remainder of budget to spend on this. Will take sustainable route. To keep detailed list of everything that is being spent

The motion passes unanimously.

8.10 Change of Women's and Queer Collective Space

Preamble:

In light of the upcoming renovations to Building 3, Level 4 at UTS, which necessitate the relocation of the UTSSA's Women's and Queer Collective spaces, the following motion seeks the SRC's approval for the proposed new locations and the rationale behind these changes in accordance with the goals of section 3.5.6 of the UTSSA Policy.

The relocation is unavoidable due to the university's renovation plans, which will displace the current Women's and Queer Collective spaces. This restructuring presents an opportunity to not only preserve these essential spaces but also to enhance their accessibility, safety, and utility.

Consultation with Collectives: UTS originally proposed that the Women's and Queer Collective could share our current UTSSA Office in CB01.03.22 and that this office could move to the space at CB01.03.060 (ActivateUTS' old office). Upon consulting with the Queer Collective and Women's Collective, significant concerns were expressed regarding the proposed shared space at

CB01.03.22, primarily due to the compromised privacy and security for both groups. The Queer Collective, in particular, emphasized the importance of a discreet and secure location to maintain a "safe space" for LGBTQ+ students, which is compromised in highly visible or shared environments. The proposed shared space did not offer adequate privacy or separation, which could undermine the autonomous nature of each collective's activities and their members' sense of safety.

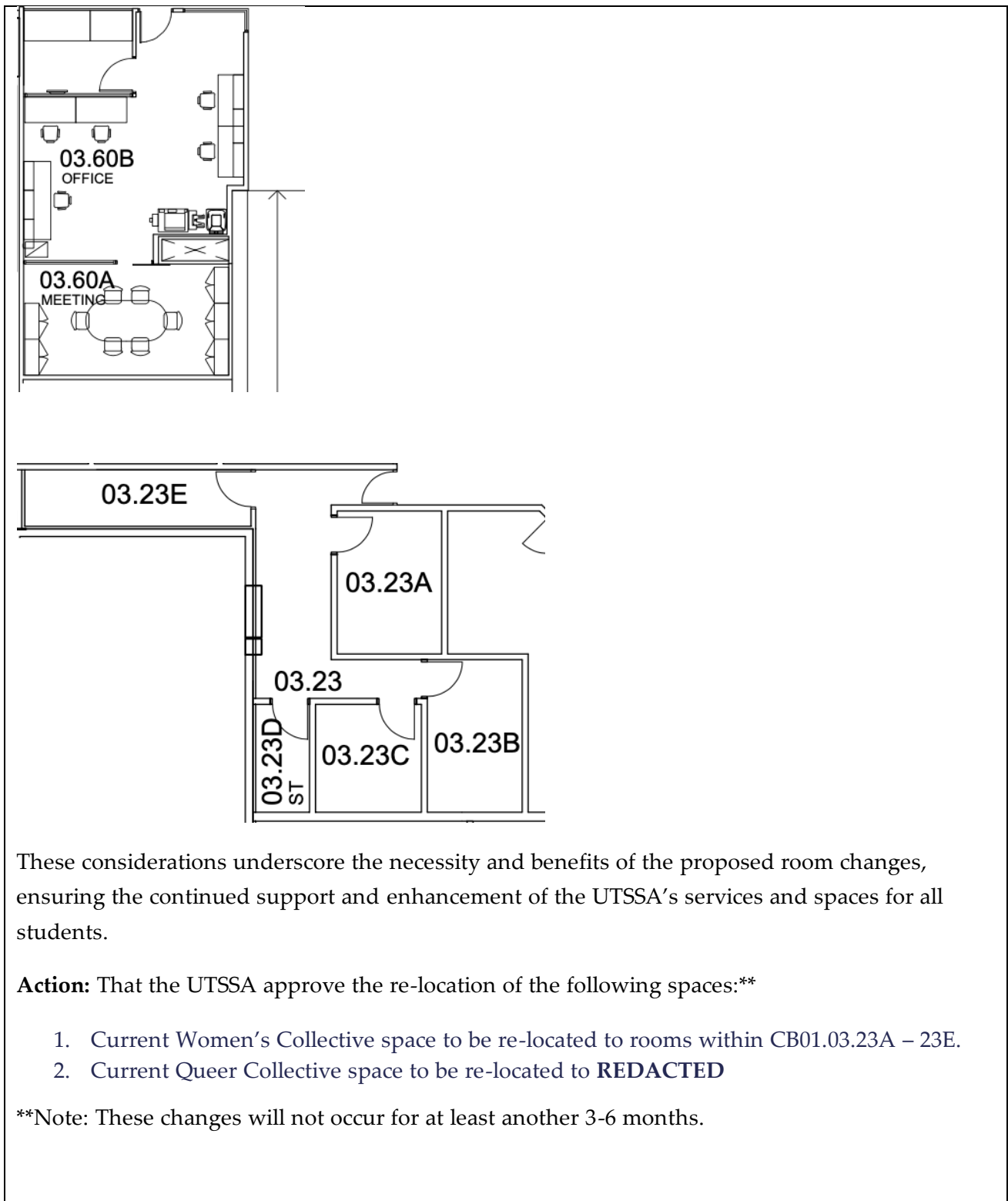
Enhanced Proximity to UTSSA Services: Relocating these spaces to the proposed new locations (Queer Space to **Redacted** and Women's Space to rooms within CB01.03.23A – 23E) allows them to be in closer proximity to other UTSSA services, including the Bluebird Pantry, UTSSA reception, and President's office. This proximity, along with the presence of UTS Security on Levels 3 and 4 of Building 1, will enhance the perceived safety and accessibility of these spaces for students.

Additional Community Benefits: The relocation of the Women's space to somewhere within CB01.03.23A – 23E opens the possibility of supporting additional student demographics, such as providing a mini library, kitchenette, quiet study area, and much-needed prayer space. This addition would address concerns raised by the UTS Muslim Society regarding the inadequate prayer facilities on campus. While the use of these new rooms will have to be a longer-term project, the floorplan is below so that all student representatives can begin to think about how these spaces can best be utilised for the Women's Collective and potentially other demographics.

Future Use of Other UTSSA Spaces: The existing UTSSA Office (CB01.03.22) will be repurposed to serve as a chill space for UTSSA student representatives, facilitating informal meetings and work. The room will also continue to provide necessary facilities such as a kitchen, lunchroom, and storage for UTSSA resources, including Vertigo archives. REDACTED will be transformed into the new Queer Space, REDACTED, The UTSSA Reception and student representative offices will move to CB01.03.060 (ActivateUTS' old office).

New Spaces:

UTSSA Office and Reception:



These considerations underscore the necessity and benefits of the proposed room changes, ensuring the continued support and enhancement of the UTSSA's services and spaces for all students.

Action: That the UTSSA approve the re-location of the following spaces:**

1. Current Women's Collective space to be re-located to rooms within CB01.03.23A – 23E.
2. Current Queer Collective space to be re-located to **REDACTED**

**Note: These changes will not occur for at least another 3-6 months.

Mover: Daewah

Secunder: Sina

Procedural to removed queer collective room from published minutes and motion

Mover: Daewah

Secunder: Jermey

Procedural passes unanimously.

Mia: taking away queer collective room and women's collective room. Best case scenario is this complicated move around of offices. Reason this is going up is that office changes can't be made through SRC without council support as of policy doc. Changes not to occur for another 3-6 months

Ty: will there be temporary office will renovation is happening

Mia: our offices moving to old activate space, no space is being removed from us. No time where we don't have office but ideally done in holidays.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.11 By-Law Changes

Preamble: As we amend the by-laws from time-to-time, some sections end up making less sense. This is just to tidy things up to increase readability.

Action: That the UTSSA By-Laws be amended as follows:

1. Amend section 1.3.1 of the UTSSA By-Laws to read:

3.1.1 For positions elected in 2024, to be paid in the amounts set out in clause 1.5;

2. Remove the words 'required to' from section 8.2.5 of the UTSSA By-Laws.

3. Remove the words 'be required to' from section 8.2.4 of the UTSSA By-Laws.

Mover: Salma

Secunder: Sina

Mia: tidying up bylaws, no substantive change

The motion passes unanimously.

8.12 Election reg Changes

Preamble:

Action: That the Election Regulations be amended as follows:

1. That regulation 5.4 be amended to allow for varying methods of submitting nominations, reading:

5.4 Receipt of Nominations The Returning Officer must determine the method for receiving nominations, which may include email, web form, or at the Association office.

2. That regulation 10.7 be amended to change Building 10 to Building 8, reading:

10.7 The Returning Officer is to arrange for voting places at a prominent and accessible location in the Tower Building 1, Building 2, Building 8, Building 11 and Building 6.

3. That regulation 10.22 be amended to read:

10.22 The Returning Officer is to cause the sealed ballot boxes containing the votes to be held in a locked room, accessible only to the Returning Officer or a person authorised for the purpose by the Returning Officer, until the close of voting.

4. That regulation 10.24 be amended to read:

10.24 The Returning Officer is to cause the sealed ballot boxes containing the votes to be held in a locked room, accessible only to the Returning Officer or a person authorised for the purpose by the Returning Officer, during any adjournment of the count until every election has been declared and, if the subject of complaint, determined by the Election Tribunal.

5. That regulation 10.16 be amended to read: 10.16 The Directions to voters must:

1. (a) Specify the date, time and place at which the completed voting papers must be post marked and received by the Returning Officer, which must not be later than 5:00pm on the last day of voting; and

2. (b) Direct the voter to put their name, student number and signature on the envelope addressed to the Returning Officer

6. That regulation 13.15 be deleted, and replaced with:

13.15 Powers of the Returning Officer

The Returning Officer may order at their discretion:

- (a) any individual candidate and/or list agent, within 24 hours of the close of voting, to submit a statutory declaration to the Returning Officer stating that they have not engaged in any practice prohibited by these Regulations,
- (b) receipts of payment for any stationery, equipment, and supplies, including online materials and promotion, utilised by a candidate or list, and
- (c) reasonable action permissible by law or the University rules to investigate and determine an alleged prohibited practice.

7. That regulation 3(a) be amended to read:

- (a) the calling of nominations is to be during a session of teaching and followed by the close of nominations within 14 to 21 days;

8. That regulation 5.12 be inserted to read:

5.12 Number of Nominations A candidate cannot nominate for more than five positions, excluding the election of Delegates to the NUS. A candidate cannot nominate for the Vertigo Editorial Team and a position on Council.

9. That regulation 7.1 be amended to read:

7.1 Candidates who have nominated and wish to be identified as a member of a list on voting papers shall inform the Returning Officer of this in writing prior to the close of nominations. This correspondence must be signed by all candidates who wish to be so grouped and must indicate the name of the group. A list must be more than two candidates. Candidates for a position where there is only one vacancy may join a list and have a list name appear below their name on the ballot if a signed notice by the candidate and list agent is provided to the Returning Officer before the last date to voluntarily withdraw.

10. That regulation 10.8 be deleted, and replaced with:

10.8 Section 10.7 does not apply to the election of any casual vacancy, except an election for any number of casual vacancies that includes the vacancy of President or General Secretary. Where section 10.7 does not apply, a single voting place is to be arranged by the Returning Officer in a prominent and accessible location in the University or by an electronic voting system as determined by the SRC.

11. That regulation 13.7 be amended to read:

13.7 Overspending Using funds, stationery, equipment, supplies, including online materials and promotion, to the value of more than:

1. (a) \$150.00 per candidate regardless of the number of nominations to the Executive or Office Bearer positions; and
2. (b) \$150.00 per candidate nominated for the election of a General Councillor, or \$1000 per list, whichever is lower; noting
3. (c) lists with the same or similar name across the election for Councillors or the NUS shall be considered one list for the purpose of interpreting this section.

12. That Schedule 1, regulation 3.1(a) be amended to read:

(a) Candidates who have indicated that they wish to be identified as members on voting papers, shall be grouped together in the order they indicate. All other candidates are to be grouped as a single list in an order determined by lot, but in a form where voters must vote for candidates below the line.

13. That regulation 13.21 be inserted to read:

13.21 Campaigners must display UTS student ID cards at all times while campaigning, with the intention that it is visible to students including other campaigners and the Returning Officer, and must provide these if requested to the Returning Officer or a person authorised for this purpose by the Returning Officer. The UTSSA will provide two lanyards per candidate or 25 lanyards per list, whatever is lower. The cost of additional lanyards shall not be included as a cost for the purpose of regulation 13.7.

14. That regulation 9.1 be inserted to read:

9.1 Vertigo Candidates for the Vertigo Editorial Team may be grouped on a list or listed individually. Where there are multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, candidates will be elected based on proportional representation of votes, as set out in schedules 1 and 2 of these Regulations.

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Dirk

Mia: amendment 3g 'Vertigo is to publish election details either in a physical or online edition preceding the first day of the election by 4 to 21 days; and' rather have amendment to make it easier, have it be done easier than consistently broken

Amendment reg 7.3A 'which is either identical with, or so similar as to be likely to be confused with, the name of a previously accepted list in any other (including past) election, without the written consent of the candidates in the previously accepted list. This applies even if those candidates or list agents are not running in the current election, provided they remain members of the Association; or'. Something we

previously discussed with RO. If there is a ticket that always runs and isn't running that the name continues to belong to rights holder

Mover: for amendment Salma

Seconder: Neeve

Amendment passed without dissent or abstentions

The motion passes unanimously.

8.13 Vertigo Position Changes

Preamble: This motion has the following intentions:

1. Ensuring that the election process for the Vertigo Editorial team is accessible for students who do not run on tickets, intending that students from across the university can now nominate for the position that they are interested in without having to be part of a friendship/faculty-based group.
2. Following the Vertigo changes from June SRC, ensuring that the Vertigo team can work towards the new percentage breakdowns of content which include a stronger focus on student news and university life.
3. Ensuring better delegation and working relationships between members of the Vertigo Editorial Team, stronger understandings of roles before entering the team, and more accountability within the team. Please note, I intend to move a motion at August SRC which better defines these positions following consultation across the university. These will be defined in a 'Schedule 4' of the UTSSA By-Laws, which will include other regulations like a Vertigo purpose and vision, requirements for training and development of future Vertigo teams, and policies on the accessibility of print and online content.

Action: That the UTSSA By-Laws be amended as follows:

1. Amend section 2.1 of the UTSSA By-Laws to read:

2.1 The production and content of Vertigo (including the production of the election edition) shall be the responsibility of an editorial team annually elected by the student body in accordance with the Election Regulations and Schedule 4 of these By-Laws. This team will include the following positions (defined further in Schedule 4):

2.1.1 Editor in Chief

2.1.2 Managing Editor

2.1.3 News Editor (x2)

- 2.1.4 Features Editor
- 2.1.5 Creative Editor
- 2.1.6 Social Media Director
- 2.1.7 Designer
- 2.1.8 General Editors (x2)

Mover: Salma

Secunder: Dirk

Mia: making sure independent can run for vertigo and that positions are set. Mains to minimise not being able to delegate in the term further.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

Salma: on campus recently a few complaints about anti-Palestinian racism “sometimes its subtle sometimes it’s not” Met with security and they concluded that it needs to be brought to them immediately for their record. There is a record for antiSemitic things which are horrible, but that there is no record for anti-Palestinian racism, which need to be reported as much. If people need anyone to speak to, particularly about anti Muslim or Palestinian racism, please come to me. University quicker to combat antisemitism. Speaks to panel on 12th of August with racial commissioner, Mia told them I would be a good speaker for this panel, reached out to Rahgav and Samiha and didn’t reach out to me, which is weird because it was sent in a block. Rumours going around about why they did it and suspension based on the fact I’m Palestinian. When they did reach out to me they seemed panicky. If you go on ticketing website my name isn’t on event name, but it is on ticket description. Today O’day incident happened where student came up to Omar from Palestinian soc and asked if Hamas was part of our culture.

Mia: Expresses concern for Salma’s activate society and community globally. Speaks to needing to report stuff for consistently and recording.

Mathew: Does security have an obligation to report these things?

Salma: You fill out incident report and if nothing comes out there is still a record. Palestinian society also has regular meetings with security

Daewah: confirming refences for queer collective has any room description

Adam: Based off the redactions to this meetings minutes the only a way to lead to the conclusion is if somebody did a process of elimination with all other spaces that the UTSSA operates in, which based off probably would require you to have knowledge of the organisation

Mia: take out identifying line about activist space

Rahgav: international students complaining about UTS careers, even UTS management thinks it's my problem. Making survey for international students what experiences they have. It will not be confidential and will be taken to senior staff. A lot of students have lost hope in UTS careers.

Mia: A lot of different jobs have requirements for permanent residency and citizenship, UTS careers doesn't make an attempt to distinguish or promote applications appropriate for international students. A lot of different career advise is as basic as "join extra curriculars"

Rahgav: meeting with Jackie Wise. If you're on activate board you can have it on your UTS statement, it would be nice to have it on your academic transcript for UTSSA. Get if OB and Exec could get it.

Salma: Soul sent email out to collective on how to register to Soul.

Mia: volunteer hours for councillors should count to soul, streamlined process would be useful and give back to general councillors who don't get paid, also could increase engagement with the UTSSA.

Mariah: does it have to be paid?

Mia: APEG statement would be paid, different rewards programs like soul and Brennan would be for general councillors

10. Close of Meeting at 8:05pm

Meeting closed at 8:05pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

HIV Self-Testing Vending Machine

I have been working with ActivateUTS to get the HIV Self-Testing Vending Machine onto campus in early September. Ideally this will be in CB01.03a near the UTSSA office. The UTSSA will enter into the contract, and ActivateUTS will be managing the development of the graphics and design for the machine. The Faculty of Health is now also supporting this initiative.

UTSSA Spaces Update

The UTSSA has secured a few new spaces following the removal of the Queer Collective and Women's Collective spaces from Building 3 due to building renovations. These include CB01.03.060 and CB01.03.23A-23E. Ideally over the summer holidays, we can begin to move into these spaces and re-develop/renovate them. This is explained further in one of the motions going up for consideration.

Campaign for Palestine

In my July meeting with Kylie Readman (DVCES), I provided Kylie with a letter drafted by UTS Staff for Palestine to the Vice-Chancellor in light of the recent findings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding Israel's illegal policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territory. Further, I was informed that UTS has agreed to enter into an MOU with the UTSSA on some of our demands relating to the ongoing campaign for Palestine. I provided Kylie Readman (DVCES) a list of demands similar to what has been agreed upon at other universities last month, and should be receiving a first draft of the university's proposal in the next week. I expect the UTSSA will then negotiate with UTS Management to reach an agreement that suits the UTSSA's positions on disclosure of research, partnerships and programs at UTS.

Academic Administration Working Group

Myself and Alisa have been participating in the Academic Administration Working Group chaired by Kylie Readman over the last month. This group will ideally allow the UTSSA to push forward some of our key goals in standardising assessment policies across the university. Some other goals I have for this group are:

- Securing a simple extension process
- Mandating late penalties at 5% per day
- Standardised 11:59pm submission times

Unitu

This month I've had two meetings with Anish and Jeremiah from Unitu, a UK tech company who have developed these two tools 'Pulse' and 'Boards' for student unions that have been rolled out in the UK. They're doing a pilot program in Australia with 3

student unions and I'm interested in the UTSSA participating, because I think the tools can help increase student voice but also OB accountability. I will continue to keep everyone updated as my discussions with Unitu progress.

NUS Reform Working Group

I have started an NUS Reform Working Group with a bunch of students from different unis following the NUS Education Conference. The goal of the group is to draft up a number of reforms to hopefully make the NUS better for student unions and safer for students. The group's priority areas are, in order:

1. Accessibility
2. Governance Reform
3. Communication with member unions
4. Consequences/Enforcement mechanisms
5. Leadership
6. Improving NUS OB Roles

If anyone is interested in joining, let me know. I think NUS reform is a vital conversation to have before we discuss NUS re-affiliation later in the year.

2. General Secretary

As was my vision within the first half of my term as General Secretary this year, my main priority for activism and change will centre around incremental and tangible developments at a campus level. A significant priority, as it directly relates to my role, will be continuing to reform Vertigo prior to the induction of next year's editorial team; as well as working with this year's team in an attempt to steer the magazine in a quality and efficient direction. Other areas of focus in the coming months will include Palestine campaigning and activism against the University of Sydney's Student Access Policy (C.A.P).

Since the last time we convened myself, and half a dozen other UTS Students attended the National Union of Student's education conference at Curtin University in Perth. NUS conferences will always have a reputation for featuring intense debate between political groups; but it was positive to see minor adjustments aiming to make conference a better experience. For instance through a more properly enforced code of conduct, and respect for accessibility requirements taking into greater consideration by conference organisers and a majority of conference floor. I would also like to issue a general reminder that all Office Bearers must send reports every council meeting. Upon familiarising myself with the nuances of the preexisting bylaws, I've come to realise that the rules currently state that reports need to be sent through 25 hours prior to a meeting (motions are also required 49 hours prior to meeting). This will give myself adequate time to include all reports in notices on time, so these deadlines will be the new standard, unless exceptions are made with due notice.

3. Assistant General Secretary

No report received on notice

4. Education Officer

This month I attended the second meeting of the Academic Administration Working Group, a working group I am a part of alongside the UTSSA President Mia regarding changes to extension policies, special consideration, and attendance requirements for students. Automatic extensions have been a great interest of mine throughout my term and something I have been campaigning for, so I am glad to see that this working group is quite keen to implement this system and reform the university's extension policy more generally.

A lot of my time was also preoccupied with preparation for my O'Day stall. At the time of writing this I am unsure of the results of the stall, however, I am hoping for a good response. My two main goals this O'Day are to engage with the student community to boost membership for the Education Action Group, as well as to get feedback from the current student community on what issues they may be having in their classes. My hopes for the next semester are to firstly rebuild and broaden the EAG and get more engagement from students on educational issues. I am hoping to launch an EAG-led campaign in the next month addressing student poverty from educational fees: so watch this space for more updates! I'm looking forward to a productive and student-first spring session

5. Welfare Officer

We are in full swing into our winter holiday break and during this time many students are fortunate enough to take a break from their studies and recoup their energy before the next spring semester begins. The welfare collective advocates for and understands the importance of taking time off to ensure that students mental health does not suffer as the stresses of university can take a toll on many students. During this time the welfare collective notes that students are still able to utilise the counselling services offered at UTS to aid the people during the break. All in all there is not much movement or events during this time with students at university rather it is crucial that people take this break to reflect and relax to ensure that they come back energised and ready for the next semester.

6. Women's Officer

Past Events/ Initiatives Summary:

Throughout the month of July these events and initiatives were undertaken:
 Meetings/communication with the organisation Respect Now Always (RNA) to work on further collaborative events and campaigns. One of them being a Women's Collective/RNA zine at the end of the year that would include physical copies and then also digital copies and social media assets. As well as the postponed feminist movie night in which we will be showing Legally Blonde.
 Planning a free period product marketing campaign that will be released in order to keep supplying UTS students in free period products in the bathroom.
 A giveaway online raffle with Dendy Cinemas for a feminist film premiere.
 Planning a collective meeting

Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

Zine with RNA to be created by members of WOCO
 A feminist movie night in collaboration with RNA
 A period product campaign
 Re-locating the safe space

Tasks that the collective will be doing next month:

A focus will be taken on the period product survey
 Relocating the safe space
 Planning more for the movie night
 Another giveaway
 Planning for the Zine
 Another collective meeting

7. International Students' Officer

This month, a notable highlight was our participation in EdCon 2024 held in Perth. Representing the International Students Collective, In partnership with Deakin University to conduct a workshop focused on helping international students in their transition to Australia. The workshop covered essential topics such as cultural adjustment, academic expectations, and practical tips for living in Australia. This collaboration helped in providing valuable insights and resources for international students.

2. Meeting with the Pro Vice Chancellor (Student)

We had a productive meeting with the Pro Vice Chancellor (Student) to discuss the current progress and challenges faced by international students at UTS. This discussion was centred on identifying areas where the university management can provide more effective support.

3. Roundtable Meeting at the Consulate General of India

The International Collective organized a roundtable meeting at the Consulate General of India, which was attended by various student representatives and consular officials. The meeting focused on critical issues such as the high-interest rates on student loans, the complexities surrounding the 485 visa, and the need for OPAL concession for public transport. Discussions also explored ways to provide financial support to international students facing economic hardships. The consulate showed a keen interest in these issues and assured us of their support in advocating for necessary policy changes at the federal level.

4. Meeting with Fair Work Australia

Another significant development was our meeting with Fair Work Australia. The discussion revolved around how student leaders at UTS can serve as primary resources for international students facing workplace issues. We reached an agreement to organise a workshop for student leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to use tools like the pay calculator and understand workplace rights.

5. Pre-Semester Trip to Manly

In an effort to foster a sense of community and ease the transition for new international students, the International Collective organized a trip to Manly. Nineteen international students participated in this event, which took place just before the start of the semester. The trip provided a relaxed setting for new students to meet their peers, ask questions, and get additional information with their start of studies at UTS. Activities included a tour of Manly, group discussions on adjusting to life in Australia, and Q&A sessions where experienced students shared their insights and tips. The trip was well-received and achieved its goal of creating a welcoming atmosphere for new international students.

Conclusion

July has been an active and impactful month for the International Students Office. From workshops and meetings to community-building activities, we have made significant strides in supporting the international student community at UTS. Our focus has been on providing practical resources, advocating for policy changes, and fostering a sense of belonging among international students. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the coming months, building on the foundations laid this month to further enhance the international student experience at UTS.

8. Indigenous Officer

No report received on notice

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

This past month especially after Education conference 2024 in Perth, I have been made aware of several issues that UTS has been going through that I feel needs to be addressed in the coming months.

Lack of support with UTS counselling services:

It has come to my attention that UTS has implemented a new rule where students are only offered up to 3-4 free counselling sessions throughout their whole journey here at UTS. This was not the case previously as we were able to have indefinite sessions to help support us through our degree and career journeys while studying at UTS. At Edcon 2024, we have had some constructive workshops on welfare of university students where other universities still implement free counselling services indefinitely, or at least up to 5-6 times per year. I feel this is where UTS is now lacking and I will be communicating with SRC on how to bring this to attention, as counselling services and the ability to get special consideration documentation and support in general is very important and integral to the well-being and journey of students.

Accessibility of mature age student entry at UTS:

It has come to my attention that mature aged student entry is not very accessible here at UTS. I have had people come to me for advice on enrolments and admissions, with very disappointing news that ATAR/HSC results are still the main entry scheme for UTS, and including UTS college for people 21+. I feel that this is very damaging to passionate people wanting to start their careers later on in life, and I will be trying my best to discuss and explore ways to mitigate this issue to ensure equity and fairness in giving opportunities to new students.

WhatsApp group for postgraduate students:

Inspired by our amazing international students officer Raghav, I will be trying out creating a WhatsApp group for postgraduate students to give them a platform to express their concerns and creating a close knit group more informally. MS teams is a great platform, but can be seen a bit too formal for some people so I will give WhatsApp a chance.

10. Ethnocultural Officer

Past Progress Summary:

- Ethnocultural safe space is now ready for ethnic students to use as a safe space to disclose any discrimination issues.
 - This includes BIPOC individuals in the UTSSA as a safe space to work on reports, events, etc.
- I was invited to speak alongside the Racial Discrimination officer at a panel on cultivating an anti-racist campus culture on August 12th. The organisers have been acting in a manner that seems to be against having a Palestinian Australian speak at this event, but they ended up putting me on the panel after the president of the UTSSA emailed them about why I was essentially ignored at the time of organising this panel. They have since put me on but are yet to fully update their ticketing website to include me in the event description. It is a very interesting development.

Current Progress:

- Furnish the Ethnocultural room.
- Encourage students to email me for meeting dates and further information regarding reporting any issues with racism.
- Continue to foster an inclusive campus culture and provide a platform for all ethnic students to share their experiences and concerns.

Future Plans:

- I will organise a meeting with Dr. Elaine Laforteza to discuss how to proceed with this semester's racism reporting.
- We will collaborate with UTS Palsoc on a Palestinian games night on August 15th. This Night will include a trivia night and a night when many different ethnic groups will come together to celebrate Palestinian culture.

-Other than the above, the collective has been quiet over the holidays.

11. Disabilities Officer

No report received on notice

12. Queer Officer

Delivered spoken report

13. Environment Officer

No report received on notice