

# JUNE 2024 SRC MINUTES

26/6/2024 | 6:30pm | CB11.03.400

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## 1. Opening of meeting at 6:38pm

### 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Adam 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

Chair cedes any nominations for deputy chair, as all other members of executive are online

### 1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
<b>Adam Levett (Chair)</b>	General Secretary
<b>Mia Campbell (Zoom)</b>	President
<b>Daewah Thein</b>	Queer Officer
<b>Rahgav Motani</b>	International Officer
<b>Joesph Naffah</b>	General Councillor
<b>Dirk Hoare</b>	General Councillor
<b>Januka Suraweera</b>	General Councillor
<b>Aylin Cihan (zoom)</b>	Welfare Officer
<b>Adrian Lozancic (zoom)</b>	General Councillor
<b>Samiha Emran (zoom)</b>	Disabilities Officer
<b>Neeve Ann Nagle (zoom)</b>	General Councillor

<b>Mariam Yassine (zoom)</b>	Women's Officer
<b>Bilvika Abburi (zoom)</b>	General Councillor

### Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)</b>
<b>Laura Currie</b>	Postgraduate Officer
<b>Jeremery Higgins</b>	Environment Officer
<b>Mathew Murray</b>	General Councillor
<b>Bilvika Abburi</b>	General Councillor
<b>Kurt Cheng</b>	UTS Council Undergraduate Representative
<b>Peter Munford</b>	UTS Council Postgraduate Representative
<b>Bridie O'Kelly</b>	Assistant General Secretary

### Proxies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Proxy Accepted By</b>
<b>Laura Currie</b>	Daewah
<b>Jeremery Higgins</b>	Samiha
<b>Mathew Murray</b>	Proxies not accepted
<b>Bilvika Abburi</b>	Aylin
<b>Kurt Cheng</b>	Januka
<b>Peter Munford</b>	Dirk
<b>Bridie O'Kelly</b>	Neeve

## 1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

No one makes any declarations.

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### 2.1 (April 2024 Amended)

**Mover:** Rahgav

**Second:** Aylin

Previously identified issues with April meeting minutes amended and resubmitted with corrections:

### 2.2 (May 2024)

**Mover:** Dirk

**Second:** Daewah

The minutes from May 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 presentation with academic board, invites office bearers to share anything with the university. Another thing with the head of space management, all of level 4 building 3 will have move, projected we move to current UTSSA reception space. The old activate space, that would be really ideal. Women's collective and queer collective space having to share.

**Adam:** Asks why the collectives can't be moved to old active space

**Mia:** Responds Old space above ramp is one big office, dividing those two (collectives) would be best case scenario. If it was the same space we'd have the same problem of a shared space.

### 5.2. General Secretary

Adam takes report as read.

### 5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Bridie takes report as read.

### 5.4. Education Officer

No report received on notice

### 5.5. Welfare Officer

Aylin takes report as read.

## 5.6. Women's Officer

No report received on notice

## 5.7. International Students' Officer

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

First week elected convener, two candidates standing, another item, finalising constitution for NSW institutional student formation, first meeting to be held in July to be held, thanks Mia for assistance. Meeting with Greens senator on overseas amendment bill, on pros and cons, took testimony from collective to get perspective, also meet with consulate general of India, asks for document for international student perspective, to reach counterparts at federal government, especially regarding Visa reforms. Roundtable meeting set up for July.

## 5.8. Indigenous Officer

No report received on notice

## 5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No report received on notice

## 5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

No report received on notice

## 5.11. Disabilities Officer



Samiha takes report as read.

## 5.12. Queer Officer

No report received on notice

## 5.13. Environment Officer

No report received on notice

# 6. Other Reports

## 6.1. Committees

No reports from committee

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

No reports requested or required

# 7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

No relevant motions this month to be considered by SRC.

**Adam:** Reminder that the executive has passed a motion increasing the Edcon flight budget by an additional 150\$, so if your flights exceeded the original 650\$ amount passed last month, you will be entitled to that. We also passed an upper spending limit of 300\$ for costs associated with accommodation.

## 8. Other Business Arising on Notice

### 8.1. By-Law Change- Vertigo Reforms

**Preamble:**

The following changes to the By-laws attempts to streamline the process which Vertigo is written and approved and make sure physical magazines reach a wider pool of the student body than the current physical editions do. The proposed alterations to clause 2.3 (action point 2) attempts to diversify the range of articles published in Vertigo magazines, reflecting a wider range of student interests. In a standard issue of Vertigo containing 20 articles, the new requirements will require that; no fewer than 8 articles cover non-fiction related to UTS, no more than 5 articles cover student showcase work such as creative writing and visual art, and that no more than 7 articles cover other non-fiction pieces, such as articles related to society and culture, politics, other universities, etc. The decision to prioritise non-fiction related to UTS was made to reflect a stronger association with the University within magazines present on campus. These changes also reflect the qualitative results of the 2023 Vertigo research commissioned by the UTSSA which highlighted “community and university events” and “student life and experiences” as student interests for Vertigo.

**Action:**

1. Remove clause 2.3 and 2.4 of the UTSSA By-Laws.

2. Insert clause 2.3:

2.3 No less than 40% of the total articles in each physical edition of Vertigo must cover non-fiction content related to the UTSSA, UTS faculties, UTS Clubs and societies, or any other past or developing events directly related to UTS. No more than 25% of the total articles in each physical edition of Vertigo can be student showcase work, and no more than 35% can be miscellaneous non-fiction unrelated to UTS. Articles must have a minimum word count of 300 words to qualify towards the percentage allocations specified.

3. Insert clause 2.4:

2.4 Vertigo must not publish any written work, in whole or in part, that has previously been submitted as an assessment task to UTS or any other academic institution. A written

assessment task will only be approved for publication if it has been separately disclosed to the General Secretary and deemed valuable by them to the wider student body. This restriction applies exclusively to physical editions of Vertigo.

4. Insert clause 2.5:

2.5 Physical editions of Vertigo must only be distributed during the Autumn and Spring sessions. Distribution should commence from the academic semester dates designated by UTS as “Orientation” and conclude on the dates designated by UTS as “Formal classes end”. Editions leftover from the semester can remain on stands during semester breaks, but no new volumes should be placed on stands.

5. Insert clause 2.6:

2.6 The following procedure must be followed for the Executive Officer to provide funding for the printing of physical editions:

2.6.1 The Vertigo team must provide the General Secretary with a full timeline for publication prior to the commencing calendar year.

2.6.2 The Vertigo team must provide a complete transcript of articles to the General Secretary, including a breakdown of how the edition will comply to percentage thresholds under clause 2.3. At least two business days must be allowed for the General Secretary to review content.

2.6.3 The Vertigo team must provide a finalised soft copy to the General Secretary to be approved. After approval, it will be the responsibility of the General Secretary to notify the Executive Officer that funding for printing may be approved. At least two business days must be allowed for the General Secretary to review the edition.

2.6.4 If the General Secretary receives a complete edition of Vertigo which fails to comply with the UTSSA by-laws, payment for printing must be withheld for that issue until alterations are made. If the Vertigo team does not wish to make alterations, they may choose to publish that edition entirely online.

6. Insert clause 2.7:

2.7 The General Secretary must not unreasonably withhold approval when exercising decisions under section 2.6.2 and 2.6.3. Decisions by the General Secretary are reviewable

by the Executive or SRC on request of the Vertigo Editorial Team. If the General Secretary is accused of unreasonably withholding approval on more than three occasions, the General Secretary may be referred to the Grievance Committee for unacceptable behaviour.

7. Insert clause 8.2.7:

8.2.7 produce an orientation edition of Vertigo to be circulated physically during orientation week for Autumn session;

**Suggested Amendment to 2.3 is read in full:**

'No less than **50%** of the total articles in each physical edition of Vertigo must cover non-fiction content related to **student life and university news**. No more than **20%** of the total articles in each physical edition of Vertigo can be student showcase work, and no more than 30% can be miscellaneous non-fiction unrelated to UTS. Articles must have a **minimum length of half a page** to qualify towards the percentage allocations specified'.

Amendable to mover: **Samiha accepts**

**Mover:** Samiha

**Seconder:** Aylin

**Discussion on Motion:**

**Adam:** explains the reasoning behind these percentages, and the allocation made to

**Ty:** Had long discussion about the motion, some editorial team is quite unhappy with the motion, outcome we were not wanting to head towards, understands why it is being put forward but some editorial team not happy

**Mia:** fully recognises that it is a big change, it will require quite a substantial effort from future, teams but worth it to match the result based on survey, so we do have to make changes based on it. Speaks to wanting to disassociate from articles, will be a process of trial and error, understands why vertigo way be shocked to it

**Adam:** speaks to the changes being consolidated by research

**Ty:** something I raised, we were concerned with those 500 people would be Vertigo readers,

**Mia:** the results were vertigo readers because it was only UTSSA student media but on all media, so 50% of the people surveyed were Vertigo research, and they provided figures on what vertigo should look like, and 13% were people who read most recent.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.2. By-Law Change- Adjustment of Stipends

### **Preamble:**

The growth in the Association's stipends is tied to the CPI index. Due to recent inflationary pressures in the economy, the Association has experienced an unusually high growth in stipends compared to wage growth.

Despite this, the Association significantly under-compensates the President, who receives less than the full-time minimum wage. Moreover, there is no effective price signal to the General Secretary as to the time spent in the role – noting that the stipend is not viewed as a system of pay for hours worked per s 1.9 of the By-Laws.

The changes recommended below in the 'Action' are summarised below:

1. The President is paid the full-time equivalent (FTE) minimum wage. This reflects the hours worked by the President and the additional duties they may accept due to the modification of stipends throughout the Office-Bearer Team. A change from a fixed amount adjusted by CPI to one set by the Fair Work Commission will induce sustainable stipend growth to a level that reflects the broader economy as a proxy to the funding growth for the Association.
2. The General Secretary is paid 50% of the (FTE) minimum wage. In addition to the above reasoning, this reflects that the General Secretary should on average work about half of the time as the President – 2.5 days per week (19 hours) on average, noting that the workload for the General Secretary is front-heavy and tends to be lighter towards the end of the year.
3. Assistant General Secretary has their stipend reduced in line with other Executives.

4. Office Bearers have their stipend reduced to reflect annual stipend growth of approx. 3.33% annually between Dec 2021 and Dec 2025, compared to general wage growth of less than 2.7% for all other workers and 5.2% growth annually in Association stipends in FY 20-21 through FY 23-24. In FTE terms, an average of between 4.7 and 5.6 hours/week of work across the year or an average of one full day's work across 33 weeks.
5. Vertigo has their stipend returned to \$40,000.

**A table of current stipends is as follows:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Proposed Amount p.a.</b>	<b>Current Amount p.a. (Jan'24)</b>	<b>Adj. Current Amount w/ CPI est. 3.5%*</b>	<b>Change on adj. current Amount p.a.^</b>
President	FTE Minimum Wage (\$47,626.80 p.a. as of Jul '24)	\$37,940.41	\$39,154.83	+\$8461.97
General Secretary	0.5 FTE Minimum Wage (\$23,813.40 p.a. as of Jul '24)	\$26,266.43	\$27,185.76	-\$3,372.36
Assistant General Secretary	\$7,000 (~0.15 FTE/5.6hrs)	\$9,339.18	\$9,666.05	-\$2666.05
Education Officer	\$7,000	\$7,004.38	\$7,249.53	-\$249.53
Welfare Officer	\$7,000	\$7,004.38	\$7,249.53	-\$249.53
Women's Officer	\$5,900 (~0.125 FTE/4.7hrs)	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Indigenous Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Postgraduate Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28

International Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Environment Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Queer Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Disabilities Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Ethno-Cultural Officer	\$5,900	\$5,836.99	\$6,041.28	-\$141.28
Vertigo	\$40,000	\$46,695.88	\$48,190.55	-\$8,190.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$179,640.20</b>	<b>\$180,946.58</b>	<b>\$187,026.49</b>	<b>-\$7,386.29**</b>

\*Estimated figures for stipends from July 24.

^Note, this shows the forecasted difference in Stipends between June 2024 and commencement. The forecasted fortnightly change for a non-Executive Officebearer is - \$13.13.

**Further Notes:**

1. All figures not defined by the National Minimum Wage would be subject to future CPI increases from 1 July 2025.
2. A negative (-) indicates savings.
3. CPI figures used:

Year	CPI YoY
Jun 2021	3.8%
Jun 2022	6.1%
Jun 2023	6.0%
Jun 2024**	3.5%

\*\*Forecasts of CPI YoY to June 30 2024 range from 3.5% to 4%. The RBA May 2024 Statement forecast table puts CPI for 30-Jun-23 to 30-Jun-24 at 3.8%. This CPI outcome would create a deterioration, compared to the proposal, of \$8,182.35.

**Action:**

1. That the UTSSA amend the table of stipends under clause 1.5 of the By-Laws as follows:

1.5 The rates of payment of honorariums and stipends for the term commencing Sunday, 1 December 2024 will be:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Amount</b>
President	\$47,626.80 per annum
General Secretary	\$23,813.40 per annum
Assistant General Secretary	\$7,000 per annum
Education Officer	\$7,000 per annum
Welfare Officer	\$7,000 per annum
Women's Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Indigenous Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Postgraduate Officer	\$5,900 per annum
International Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Environmental Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Queer Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Disabilities Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Ethnocultural Officer	\$5,900 per annum
Vertigo	\$40,000 per term divided by the number of elected editors that have completed their term to a maximum of \$5,000 per person.



2. That the UTSSA amend clause 1.9 of the By-Laws to read:

1.9. The honorarium is not a system of wages for hours worked. Rather, it is granted to allow students the time to concentrate upon their office bearer responsibilities. Whilst Office Bearer positions receive an honorarium, these roles still rely on some volunteer time of the person holding the position. Any indexation, reference or comparison to the FTE pay (in part or whole) or the National Minimum Wage under the Fair Work Act is used as a guide only in determining Honorariums from time to time, and is not indicative of an employment relationship or determinative in deciding future by-law amendments in respect to Honorariums.

3. That the UTSSA insert clause 1.11 of the By-Laws to read:

1.11. To avoid exploitation of the finances of the UTSSA, any changes to stipend rates under clause 1.5 of the By-Laws will not take effect until the beginning of the second term following the term in which the changes are approved.

4. That the UTSSA insert clause 1.12 of the By-Laws to read:

1.12. All proposed increases in stipends under clause 1.5 of the By-Laws must be justified with a detailed report outlining the need for the change and must be approved by an absolute majority vote.

**Mover:** Dirk

**Secunder:** Daewah

**Suggested Amendment 1.1 to now read in full:**

'To avoid exploitation of the finances of the UTSSA, any changes to the stipend of Executives under clause 1.5 of the By-Laws will not take effect until the beginning of the second term following the term in which the changes are approved'.

**Adam:** speaks to amendment, so Vertigo can be reformed if Vertigo's roles change significantly.

**Aylin:** change cpi in accordance with inflation and minimum wage of 2024

Amendable to mover: **Dirk accepts**

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.3 Appointment of Returning Officer

**Preamble:** Each year, the SRC must appoint a Returning Officer to administer the election of the student representatives. The Returning Officer is responsible for running the elections fairly and impartially, and independently from staff and student representatives of the UTSSA.

**Action:** That the UTSSA appoint Philip Binns as the Returning Officer for the 2024 SRC Elections.

**Mia:** returning officer 2019-2022 returning officer was the same person, 2023 was difficult for staff to manage, reached out to all student unions in NSW and got no responses from other student unions or on seek. Mia fields questions, hard to find anyone with this skills set in this field

**Adam:** asks situational with the returning officer

**Mia:** they have been paid

**Adam:** just because we had to make them an employee of the UTSSA but as a one time thing.

**Mover:** Rahgav

**Seconder:** Sina

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.4 Approval of Election Dates

**Action:** That the UTSSA approves the following dates for the 2025 SRC, NUS and Vertigo elections:

- Opening of Nominations: Friday 6th September
- Close of Nominations: Friday 20th September
- Campaigning Opens: Monday 30th September at 5pm
- Voting Days: Tuesday 15th October – Thursday 17th October

**Adam:** Reads out motion in full, opens floor to any further questions if necessary

**Mover:** Joseph

**Seconder:** Januka

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.5 UTSSA Campaign for Palestine

**Preamble:**

In the Working Bee held by the UTSSA on June 12, the UTSSA attendees and other interested groups agreed to hold a number of events in the Spring Semester to continue the campaign for UTS to disclose and divest from weapons manufacturers and Israeli institutions.

Alongside these events, and following the success of other similar campaigns at USyd, UQ, University of Melbourne and Curtin University, it is important for the UTSSA to first reach an agreement with UTS management for the disclosure of relevant information.

This will enable us to secure transparency about the nature of partnerships that UTS currently holds.

**Action:** That the UTSSA supports the following direction of this campaign:

1. The UTSSA President will develop a list of demands to take to UTS management, in accordance with the above preamble and SRC's previous statements on this campaign made at the May 2024 SRC and the November 2023 SRC.
2. The UTSSA President or a delegate will reach out to the UTS Muslim Society, the UTS Palestinian Youth Society and various staff representatives to work together on this list of demands.
3. The UTSSA President will bring any draft MOU before the SRC for approval.

**Mover:** Joseph

**Seconder:** Daewah

**Mia:** update on what's happening with campaign, probably seen at other uni, MOU with other unis, and shutdowns of encampments on the condition that they disclose information. Direction I want to head in, hard to build a huge student campaign when nobody's here over holidays. Speaks to working bee and the attendees, speaks to disappoint in other student groups who did not attend

in mass despite being vocal on it, appreciates UTSSA being behind it. The actions that I want from this motion are because we didn't get that many people, its difficult to create huge movement from people outside this group. Drafting up a list of demands, reach out to different societies because at other unis it shows that having other groups involved doesn't juys show that this is a radical student politics thing. Lastly will bring whatever draft MOU to SRC so we can approve it. Speaks to the spending xxx.

**Ty:** will the Mou be binding? If management doesn't give into demands, will we see something similar to USyd were we have other demands such as XXX to Palestine as a win.

**Mia:** I wouldn't take either strictly, anything is a win, but mainly information being revealed as transparency is a win, but that doesn't mean we stop working on goals. Any solution would be good way to progress campaign.

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 8.6 Confirmation of International Collective Convener

### **Preamble –**

During the month of June we conducted the election in the International collective for the International collective convener where we had 9 International students on the zoom meeting and two candidates from which Shaurya Sharma was elected as the 2024 International Collective Convener.

### **Action –**

1. That the SRC approves the newly elected International Collective Convener Shaurya Sharma elected by the International Students' Collective.

**Mover:** Dirk

**Secunder:** Joesph

**Rahgav:** Self-explanatory, result of elections held this month

The motion passes unanimously.

## 8.7 HIV Self-Testing Machine

### **Preamble:**

ActivateUTS would like to collaborate with the UTSSA on the MyTest pilot project, a NSW STI Programs Unit initiative which aims to increase access to confidential HIV self-testing for populations who are at risk of HIV and either infrequently or never test by making HIV self-testing kits available to them from vending machines.

Traditional healthcare settings, such as sexual health clinics and general practitioners, may not be easily accessible for all students due to Medicare ineligibility, as well as structural and cultural barriers. By offering a self-test vending machine, the UTSSA would prioritise the privacy and convenience of the UTS community, enabling them to access vital sexual health services without the hurdles they might otherwise face.

This initiative aligns with the efforts of the NSW STI Programs Unit and its partners, who are piloting similar vending machines across Southwest and Western Sydney. These machines are being placed in community health centres, universities, libraries, and other community service buildings, providing up to four HIV self-test kits per person, along with necessary referral pathways and information services to support users in interpreting their results and seeking further healthcare if needed. Implementing an HIV self-testing machine on campus would not only enhance health service accessibility but also demonstrate the UTSSA's commitment to the welfare and inclusivity of all students.

The collaboration with ActivateUTS will involve organising which organisation (us or ActivateUTS) will enter the contract with NSW Health, and where the machine would be located (as it is trickier to put it in a general UTS space as opposed to in our UTSSA space). We will also customise the branding of the machine alongside ActivateUTS and their graphics team, and work with ActivateUTS to promote the initiative.

**Action:** That the UTSSA will:

1. Work with ActivateUTS to determine the specifics of our collaboration as organisations.
2. If agreed upon with ActivateUTS, enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Health Administration Corporation as represented by the NSW STI Programs Unit in order to facilitate this program.

3. If agreed upon with ActivateUTS, approve \$1 to be paid to the Health Administration Corporation for the lease of the HIV Self-Test Vending Machine.
4. Approve an upper spending limit of \$1300 (incl. GST) for the marketing costs associated with running this program. This cost was calculated through:
  - a. Estimated printing cost of \$100
  - b. Estimated signage on the Vending Machine at \$600
  - c. Estimated cost of a social media campaign at \$600

**Mover:** Dirk

**Seconder:** Daewah

**Mia:** we will have to negotiate the exact details, but we will need approval first,

**Adam:** is the \$1 a mistake

**Mia:** it will be basically, but there are mutually expected obligations, e have to give dollar for it to be a real contract

**Adam:** as we are doing marketing will be done by us are other associated costs being done by activate.

**Mia:** less costs, for example we don't need to pay for a graphics team. It will also be branded under us, so this will be something I look for under negotiations, as it is being under our office under our services,

**The motion passes unanimously.**

## 9. General Business

No motions are raised.

General discussion over recent scam emails sent to UTSSA members:

**Adam:** warns for scam email, warns attendees not to respond

**Ty:** asks how Vertigo was linked to emails

**Mia:** know that it was a security breach because our emails are public on UTS websites, we haven't been alerted of any security breaches. We don't know how vertigo got involved

**Samihah:** asks if security did anything about it

**Mia:** since its public we cant track who took the emails.

## 10. Close of Meeting at 7:23pm

## Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

### 1. President

#### **Campaign for Palestine**

This month has been large for the campaign for Palestine. Following the disappointing and vague response by UTS management during the Student/Council Liaison Group meeting on the 4th of June, UTS management provided an updated response on the 11th of June detailing the current position of the university on partnerships with weapons manufacturers and institutions complicit in the current genocide in Gaza. We then had the Working Bee on the 12th of June, which was a great opportunity to discuss with all interested parties our strategies and plans on this campaign moving forward. I had a meeting with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education & Students), Kylie Readman, on the 17th of June where we discussed future pathways for resolution of these student concerns, which I felt was positive. I suggested developing a memorandum of understanding alike to that developed at other universities between management and students (such as at UQ, Curtin University and University of Melbourne) and proposed some potential terms related to disclosure that could be implemented at UTS. I am yet to hear back on these suggestions following our meeting.

#### **Issues in the Faculty of Engineering and IT**

As mentioned at May SRC, I've been discussing with various students issues in FEIT relating to undergraduate tutors. Following this being raised with the Deputy ViceChancellor back and forth a few times, the Faculty has agreed to the following actions to resolve the concerns:

- UG students should only be employed as casual tutors as a last resort when no other casual academic staff are available,
- UG students must be assessed as suitable for undertaking the work of a subject tutor, including being assessed as having appropriate knowledge and skills required to undertake this activity,
- UG students are not to be employed as subject coordinators,
- UG students are not to be employed as markers,
- There must be a minimum of 48 credit points between the credit points completed by the UG student and the progress of students enrolling in that subject in the standard program - the credit points completed by the UG student must be those generated from engineering and/or IT subjects only,
- The subject coordinator remains responsible for all aspects of the subject, and



they must run regular and frequent (i.e., at least every two weeks) tutor meetings and be available to work closely with the tutor as needed, and

- UG students are not to have access to any student records or systems.

The Faculty also has to obtain approved from the ADTL before issuing a casual academic contract to a UG student. This is a big win, but as these changes don't address all the student concerns, Januka has created a google form to gain feedback from FEIT students so that we can collect a bit more data on what students are concerned about in this area, and what value UG tutors could provide.

### **UTSSA Presentation to Academic Board**

Each year, the UTSSA presents a 10-15 minute summary of their activities to Academic Board. I am working with Biljana to develop this. All OBs will need to send me a summary of their activities and stakeholders that they've engaged with so that I can include this as well.

### **Internal Governance, Policy and Training**

Along with the by-law changes being put up for consideration at this SRC, I have been familiarising myself more with the Constitution and By-Laws to try to work out where the UTSSA can improve its engagement and productivity. As I've mentioned before, I strongly believe that this union functions best when student engagement is at its highest – we hear about more issues within the university then, and can more effectively campaign for change. I want to be able to put in place more structure, guidance and training for incoming SRCs and Vertigo teams so that from the start, people can get into their roles with more ease and understanding of their powers and limitations. Please let me know if you have any feedback or opinions on what would have been useful to know when you started your role.

### **Room Changes**

Myself and Mariah had a meeting with the Head of Space Management at UTS, who let us know that due to renovations and relocations happening on Level 4, Building 3, we will have to move our Queer Collective and Women's Collective spaces. Current suggestions for where they could be re-located include in the current UTSSA Reception/President + GenSec's offices, if these could be moved to the old ActivateUTS room at the top of the ramp on Level 3, Building 1. This requires quite a lot of people to agree and is not necessarily likely. I will keep the SRC updated with this, as I do not intend to let these important spaces go to worse locations on campus.

## 2. General Secretary

Understandably coming to the end of semester, a lot of Office Bearers including myself have had a lot of additional workload with assignments and exams. Regardless as General Secretary I have been focusing this month on a couple of key areas of priority.

- 1- Throughout this past month, my main priority has been centred around drafting reforms concerning Vertigo, which Mia and myself have been working on quite extensively. The final by-law change motion regarding various editorial reforms to Vertigo will be brought forward and this council meeting, after over a month of working with staff and Vertigo to refine and amend these changes. Further changes concerning Vertigo team structures and election regulations are still under the early process of consultation and will be brought forward sometime before the upcoming 2025 Vertigo election. The changes being brought forward this SRC reforming content and editing of physical magazine are one of the more significant internal reforms we will be tabling this year, and I'm quite proud to have been involved with drafting it. Going forward, my main priority with Vertigo will not only involve drafting further reforms to come in effect this year, but also working closely with the current editorial team to ensure that adjustment to significant by-law reforms has a smooth and nonobstructive transition.
- 2- This month the UTSSA also held the working bee for Palestine, which was quite successful, and had various valuable input from councillors, other students, and a couple members of staff at UTS. I now believe that the UTSSA has a firm and consolidated idea on the direction we want this campaign to take, and in the coming month of July executive will likely convene to approve further spending to achieve our goals. Obviously compared to comrades at USyd, UOW and other unis across Australia, the UTSSA has yet to start a significant campaign. But I am very optimistic that the significant amounts of planning and consulting we have done on this issue will result in a unique, memorable and most importantly effective campaign.
- 3- I would also like to note that this month scam emails have been sent out to councillors and Vertigo under my name. This is not the first time this has happened this year with fake emails from UTSSA leadership, and thankfully nobody has fallen victim on this instance as far as I'm aware. A reminder to be cautious when receiving emails from Office Bearers or other UTSSA employees sent from emails not attached to our website

### 3. Assistant General Secretary

With the semester drawing to a close, student activity has slowed down. I thought I would take the opportunity to share some plans for the UTSSA social media in Semester 2.

By now you should be familiar with 'Meet your Student Reps' social media series in Semester 1. This was a great way to not only familiarise students with the leadership team of the UTSSA, but also increase viewership and engagement across the platform.

Next semester, I am planning a weekly 'Executive Update' social media series from each of the execs and office bearers to inform students about the events and progress made with various campaigns throughout the semester. Please keep an eye on your inbox at the start of next semester from me with a weekly roster for next semester social media series.

Have a restful break!

### 4. Education Officer

No report received on notice

### 5. Welfare Officer

As we head into June the semester is officially over and students are well into way with their exams and studies. With this in mind this month has generally been slower than the others for the welfare collective, however we'd like to think that this semester has been a great one for the collective. As we have been able to take part in multiple projects and initiatives such as the CSJI led program to record the acknowledgment of country in different languages to ensure that UTS has accessible procedures and encapsulates the diverse nature of the Uni and society as a whole. The welfare collective was also involved in student partners project grant process where we decided which student led initiatives could be given funding to improve student life and also took part in determining who become the new director of student experiences at UTS. Overall, the semester was successful, and we look forward to what comes next to ensure that we continue to cater to the needs of our students.

## 6. Women's Officer

No report received on notice

## 7. International Students' Officer

### 1. Election of International Collective Convenor

This month marked a significant step forward for our International Collective with the election of a new convenor. The newly elected convenor will play a crucial role in supporting the collective's advocacy efforts, event planning, and other activities. Their leadership will be pivotal in enhancing the collective's influence and effectiveness in addressing the needs and concerns of international students. This election was conducted with 9 International students on the zoom meeting, ensuring that all voices within the collective were heard and considered.

### 2. NSW International Student Committee Formation

We have made substantial progress in forming the NSW International Student Committee. The constitution for the committee has been drafted and is currently under review. We are focusing on making minor adjustments to ensure it meets the needs of our diverse international student community. The aim is to establish this committee by the end of July. Once established, the committee will serve as a formal body to represent the interests of international students at the state level, providing a structured platform for advocacy and dialogue with policymakers.

### 3. Engagement with the Greens Senator on the Overseas Amendment Bill 2024

A notable highlight of this month was our meeting with a Greens Senator to discuss the Overseas Amendment Bill 2024. This meeting was an opportunity to deliberate on the potential impacts of the bill on international students. We analysed both the pros and cons, considering feedback from the international student community. Following this discussion, we are preparing a comprehensive document that will outline our collective stance and suggestions regarding the bill. This document will be submitted to the relevant legislative

bodies, ensuring that the voices of international students are heard and considered in the policymaking process.

#### 4. Meeting with the Consulate General of India

We also had a productive meeting with the Consulate General of India. This meeting focused on addressing various issues faced by Indian international students. Key topics included challenges related to visas, accommodation, academic support, and cultural integration. The Consulate General expressed a strong commitment to supporting our efforts in conveying these concerns to the federal government. This partnership aims to facilitate better support mechanisms and policy changes that will improve the overall experience of Indian students studying in NSW.

#### Conclusion

June has been a highly productive month for our collective, marked by significant advancements in advocacy, governance, and international engagement. The election of the International Collective Convenor, the formation progress of the NSW International Student Committee, our legislative engagement with the Greens Senator, and the collaborative meeting with the Consulate General of India are all crucial steps towards enhancing the support and representation of international students.

Moving forward, our priorities will include finalizing and launching the NSW International Student Committee, continuing our legislative advocacy efforts, and strengthening our partnerships with consular offices and other international student bodies. These initiatives are integral to our mission of ensuring that the international student community is well-supported and effectively represented at all levels.

## 8. Indigenous Officer

No report received on notice

## 9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

No report received on notice

## 10. Ethnocultural Officer

No report received on notice

## 11. Disabilities Officer

At the end of May, I attempted calling two collective meetings - which did not meet quorum. With some members we had started planning for Semester 2, as we would not have engagement during the break. We plan to get our social media active and become more of a 'how to design for\_\_'.

We are in the process of finalising a room for our movie event, there is a lot to take into account for that such as wheelchair accessibility as well as how many people to expect, so there are some challenges I have faced for this.

We aim to market this to tutors for subjects in faculties such as FASS, especially core subjects like 'Digital Literacies' where accessibility is one of the topics, hoping tutors are on board, we hope to get a good turnout.

Other than that, I have joined the working group for a halal meat grant working group for the Blue Bird Pantry, to find suitable suppliers and what things need to be taken into account.

## 12. Queer Officer

No report received on notice

## 13. Environment Officer

No report received on notice