

Attendance

Councillors:

Adam Levett [general secretary]
Mia Campbell [president]
Bridie O'Kelly [assistant general secretary]
Alisa Hamilton [education officer]
Aylin Cihan [welfare officer]
Laura Currie [postgraduate officer]
Rahgev Motani [international officer]
Peter Munford
Mathew Murray
Sameha Emran
Sina Afsharmehr
Daewah Thein
Salma Elmbasher
Dirk Hoare
Bilvika Abburi
Januka Suraweera
Neeve Charlesworth

Observers:

Will Simmons
Nour Al Hammouri
Aidian O'Rourke
Tyberius Seeto
Isabel James
Bianca Drummond Costa

Other:

Kerry Hackett
Biljana O'Connor
Mariah Brown

Zoom:

Adrian Lozancic [councillor]
Jeremy Higgins [councillor]
Mariam Yassine [councillor]
Gokce Caliskan [other]

1. Opening of Meeting **6:11pm**

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country
Mia Cambell delivers acknowledgment of country.

1.2. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies
Mia moves motion to elect adam as deputy chair
Salma seconds

Joesph Naffah proxies to

- 1- Salma Elmbasher
 - 2- Aylin Cihan
 - 3- Mariam Yassine
- Salma accepts.

Jeremy Higgins proxies to

- 1- Daewah Thein
 - 2- Alisa Hamilton
 - 3- Samiha Emran
- (proxy withdrawn by councillor on zoom)

1.3. Introduction to Council/President's Welcome

Mia delivers president's address, speaks to UTS operating as collaboratively with students, specifically in relation to SA/SH response. Mentions the university of La Trobe as a gold standard. States to have "clear ideas" for what UTS should implement. Within the student's association- second goal is mitigating the way we run collective as they're not running operatively at the monment due to lack of activity from office bearers. Speaks to wanting to look into whether this is a structural problem, poor office bearer activity, remnant from covid ect, and will focus on this issue the coming semester. Speak to "The supposed goal of collectivises [which] is to elevatre minority groups and have voice be heard". Third big goal improving student voice beyond 25 representatives and have more input from students outside of that and look into how we outreach this semester and figure out what students are complaining about. "If we're not representing wider student body than we're not succeeding as a union". Speaks to the importance of councillors outreaching to the president, and that since there's so many new people there's no shame in outreach.

1.4. Confirmation of previous minutes

Previous minutes not accepted

2. Appointment of the Returning Officer

2.0 appointment of the returning officer

Motion:

- 1- That the UTSSA commence with the appointment of the returning officer
- 2- That the UTSSA approves an immediate payment of 100\$ to the returning officer immediate duties at the January council meeting

Moved: Mia Campbell

Seconded: Alisa Hamilton

No dissent

Kerry Hackett [observer] elected as returning officer

2.1. Tabling of the Election Report

Mia Campbell and Mariah Brown speak to election report

2.2. Business, on notice, required to be discharged for the purpose of the Meeting.

General business moved after 4.4

3.0 Election of internal positions

Motion to ceded chair to returning officer

Mover Alisa Hamiton

Seconder Mathew Murray

Moved without dissent

3.1

Returning officer declares positions vacant:

Ethnocultural officer

Salma Elmbasher nominates, no other nominations

Salma Elmbasher expresses why they would be a good fit for role and speaks to proud Palestinian heritage, as a Gazan Palestinian Muslim women speaks from unique perspectives, as well as personal experience with a migrant background. Intimately aware of local culture whilst featuring unique viewpoint, speaks to experience as sitting president of UTS Palestinian society, speaks to experience in

high school which has given them experience to represent cultural groups. Speaks to the need for ethnocultural safe space and events across the university.

Nominator: Bilvika Abburi
Secunder: Mariam Yassine

No dissent- elected unanimously

3.2

Returning officer declares position vacant:

Disabilities officer:

Sameha Emran nominates, no other nominations

Sameha Emran speaks to disabilities as a broad community and challenging stigma and areas which are ignored such as learning about invisible disabilities, wants to make a more inclusive environment, fight effectively for rights and needs of disabled students, speaks for need to educate students outside of autonomous group so students know how to deal and interact with disabled students. Speaks to the responsibility of running collectives, and past experience in club executive roles. Speaks to the diversity which UTS holds and the rich tapestry of backgrounds which UTS holds. Speaks to the unique perspective of each students' needs and their own experience as a vocational trainer with international students. Speaks to teaching English at a vocational level and the intersectionality of language barriers. Concludes by overviewing that UTS should be accepting to its disabilities community.

Nominator: Daewah Thein
Secunder: Mathew Murray

No dissent- elected Unanimously

3.3

Returning officer declares position vacant:

queer officer

Daewah Thein, They/them, speaks to last year being a hard time for queer community and that if elected they'll try hardest to make UTS a safe space for queer people so they queer people can live life without fear of prejudice or hatred. Talks to 2024 and the rhetoric that will be at forefront with us election and have impact on the mental health of queer students in Australia. Wants to make queer space inviting for all LGBTQIA+ students

Nominator: Mathew Murray
Secunder: Laura Currie

No dissent- elected unanimously

3.4

Returning officer declares position vacant:

Environmental officer

Jermev Higgins nominates, no other nominations

Jermev Higgins expresses brief apology for not attending in person from hometown in midnorth coast and thanks Labor left for putting him up as enviro officer, looks forward to collaborating with students and staff of science faculty; and students and staff of students association to reestablish presence of the enviro collective, in conjunction with Mia's goals of revitalising collectives. Speaks to studying science and BCII and wants to put forth his experience and deliver practical outcomes. Thanks everyone for their support ahead of student term.

Nominator: Bridie O'Kelly
Secunder: Mathew Murray

No dissent- elected unanimously

Returning officer opens nominations for director of student publications
Gokce Caliskan [observer] nominates, no other nominations.

Gokce Caliskan speaks to being vertigo student news editor for 2023, speaks to being excited to work with 2024 vertigo team.

Nominator: Marium Yassine
Secunder: Samiha Emran

No Dissent, elected unanimously

4. General Business

4.1 Student Learning Hub Posters – Funding Approval

Preamble:

The Student Learning Hub posters are designed to increase awareness of student leadership from UTS Council, the UTSSA and ActivateUTS. As a key UTS stakeholder in the student experience, it is important that we are represented alongside UTS Council and ActivateUTS so that students know where to go not just for fun but also when they have an issue. Having these posters in the Student Learning Hub helps to maintain a visible and accessible presence within our academic community. The posters also foster a culture of transparency, ensuring that the UTSSA remains a recognisable and approachable entity. Hopefully, these posters will also inspire engagement and promote active participation in student governance.

Motion:

That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$100 for the continuation of the 2023 posters featured in the Student Learning Hub, updated to feature the current UTSSA President.

Moved: Mia Campbell
Secunder: Peter Munford

Mia speaks to motion, the student learning hub posters last year, originally against that it looked idealistic, and that it did increase visibility of Nour, speaks to going to update information on collectives, this will also be a reduced launch compared to last year. Will go over caufliutes if we wanna do that in the next meeting

No Dissent- Passes unanimously

4.2 Pres Summit – Funding Approval

Preamble:

The National Union of Students Presidents Summit presents invaluable opportunities for growth, networking, and representation of the UTSSA. Ideally the summit will also provide a platform for sharing insights, collaborating on advocacy efforts, and staying aware and involved in national student issues. The financial allocation of this motion covers the ticket cost for the President, General Secretary, and Assistant General Secretary, reflecting the association's commitment to fostering informed, engaged, and proactive student representatives. Further, to mitigate the financial burden associated with travel and accommodation, this motion proposes an additional budget of \$600, allocating \$200 each for the President, General Secretary, and Assistant General Secretary. This serves to facilitate broader access to the summit, ensuring that financial considerations do not hinder the participation of UTSSA representatives in this crucial national discourse.

Motion:

1. *That the UTSSA approve $\$395.50 \times 3 = \$1,186.50$ for tickets for the President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary to attend the 2024 NUS Presidents Summit.*
2. *That the UTSSA approve $\$200 \times 3 = \600 to cover flight and/or accommodation costs for the President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary to attend the 2024 NUS Presidents Summit.*

Moved: Salma Elbasher
Secunder: Aylin Cihan

No dissent- passes unanimously

4.3 O'Day – Collective Spending

Motion:

That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$150 per Collective to be spent on materials for O'Day 2024

Mia Campbell speaks to the motion, proposing to any councillors rough costings additional is needed

Moved: Bilvika Abburi

Seconded: Bridie O'Kelly

No dissent- passes unanimously

4.4 financial reports:

Motion:

That the UTSSA approval the amount of \$10,000 to engage with Trood, Pratt and Co to complete and produce the 2023 financial reports.

Amended by mover to

That the UTSSA approves the amount of \$10,000 including gst to engage with Trood, Pratt and Co to produce a complete audit; including a financial report for 2023.

Mover: Bilvika Abburi

Seconder: Alisa Hamilton

No dissent- passes unanimously

General secretary asks whether there is any other general business:

Mia Campbell addresses the sheets being handed around for getting access to utssa offices, also speak to the need for O'week sign up.

Adam Levett speaks to handbook extension to 5th of February. Ideally before then in the end of January because there will be a process to format it

Close meeting at 6:50pm