

February 2026 SRC MINUTES

25.2.26 | 6.48pm | CB11.12.13

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1. Opening of meeting at 6.48pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Neeve delivers the acknowledgement of country, acknowledging the Gadigal people upon whose ancestral lands UTS stands, and extends respect to elders past, present and emerging and any Indigenous people present today. **Neeve** acknowledges that sovereignty was never ceded, and that this always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair

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

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Omar El-Sobihy	Ethnocultural Officer
Neeve Ann Nagle	President
Grace Cole	Queer Officer
Eammon Ryan	Environment and Technology Officer
Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams	Disabilities Officer
Cam Perez	Assistant General Secretary
Salma Elmubasher	General secretary
Sina Afsharmehr	Welfare Officer
Liyara Flavel	General Councillor
Yasmine Johnson	General Councillor
Benjamin Grant-Skiba	General Councillor
Aaron Choy	General Councillor
George Tulloch	Post-graduate Officer
Rose Saksena	International Students Officer
Andrew Brogden	General Councillor
Ibrahim Hadi	General Councillor
Amelia Ireland	General Councillor
Emanie Darwiche	Vertigo Editor in Chief
Lauren Lim	Vertigo Editor
Nuha Dole	Vertigo Editor
Simran Shoker	Vertigo Managing Editor

Taya Morante	Indigenous Officer
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Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Rose Sakseena	Sina Afsharmehr
Chloe Ferreira	Salma
Francesca Harrison	Cam Perez

1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

George declares his interest as he receives the stipend from Motion 7.1 and will abstain from voting.

No one else makes any declarations.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

No minutes to be approved.

2.1. Executive Business

Salma tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meetings held on February 9 and 20.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nothing to report on.

4. Correspondence

Neeve speaks regarding an email from University of Newcastle about the post the UTSSA did on the removal of their union's president, and she says that they said he wasn't a student but she will share it next meeting as well with an update.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

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

Neeve congratulates everyone on a big O'day. The Teaching and Learning Committee is only just starting up. And is following everyone up for their collective meetings.

5.2. General Secretary

General Secretary speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Salma says February was difficult, security about support measures for students impacted by the february 9 rally. When Neeve had a conversation with Kylie she didn't take action after being asked for a formal communication regarding what happened.

The Respect Matters course has been launched after 2 years since she had recommended a module like that be put into place.

Salma is updating the UTSSA website, the photos are very dated. She asks that all OB's fill out the form ASAP.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Cam speaks to how she was on leave and therefore did not have a report back.

5.4. Education Officer

Education Officer speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

The biggest thing that happened was the February 9 protest, supporting students that have been mobilising for the palestine movement. 10,000s people coming was very powerful. Ella also highlights that she was interviewed for ABC's 4 Corners segment on the cuts.

5.5. Welfare Officer

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

Trying to order culturally diverse food for bluebird pantry. There have been some struggles. All orders have been made. Mariah suggested doing a survey; setting the precedent that this is wanted so we can continue to do it.

FESS reported their own issues with clothing bins. You get more clothes that you assume you will and need intense systems to filter ongoing clothing. The Red Cross has been really helpful in filtering it. Sina continues to ask for advice on what kind of bins we should have.

5.6. Women's Officer

Francesca was not in attendance therefore her report is taken as read.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Rose was absent at this time. So her report was taken as read.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

Indigenous Officer speaks to her report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Taya says that \$50, 000 for a yarnning circle has been granted.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Postgraduate Officer speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

International and Postgraduate collective have organised 42 internships. 50 students rocked up to their joint event.

Positive masculinity course done as a partnership with Respect. Now. Always. Two courses; positive masculinity and NSO ones.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

The Ethnocultural Officer takes this report as read.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Disabilities Officer speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

There have been no responses to the survey, the social media has been updated.
Organised a coffee catch up for Friday. Had a meeting with Biljana about strategy.
Proposing monthly meeting and

Meeting with Francesca Harrison to continue collaboration.

5.12. Queer Officer

Queer Officer speaks to their report, highlighting the following aspects from their report:

Big thanks to Rowan and El who have helped massively. **Grace** also highlights that the first collective meeting was successful.

5.13. Environment Officer

The Environment and Technology Officer speaks to their responsibilities.

Have nailed down a meeting with the collective. Green week is a potential as ActivateUTS has pulled out. Community Garden potentially coming up.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

No reports

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

No reports

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1. Advocating for Fair and Liveable Student Research Stipends

Preamble

The SRC recognises that Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students form a critical component of the academic, teaching and research workforce of the University. HDR candidates undertake substantial research output,

contribute to undergraduate teaching, and enhance the academic reputation of UTS.

The SRC further notes that current Commonwealth Research Training Program (RTP) stipend rates and equivalent scholarships remain below the living wage in Sydney, a city with one of the highest cost-of living rates in Australia. Inadequate stipend levels contribute to financial stress, housing insecurity, reduced research productivity, and inequitable access to research degrees, particularly for students from working-class, regional, and marginalised backgrounds.

The SRC affirms that financial precarity undermines both student welfare and the University's stated commitment to equity, research excellence, and widening participation.

Consistent with section 3 of the UTSSA Constitution, which empowers the SRC to determine and direct policy affecting the interests of UTS students, the Association has a responsibility to advocate for fair and sustainable research conditions.

Platform

1. The UTSSA supports the establishment of research stipends at or above a recognised living wage benchmark for Sydney.
2. The UTSSA supports indexation mechanisms that reflect real cost-of-living increases rather than CPI alone, where CPI lags rental and housing inflation.
3. The UTSSA affirms that access to postgraduate research must not be contingent on private wealth, family support, or secondary employment incompatible with research workloads.

Action

1. That the UTSSA formally write to the UTS Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) calling for:
 - a. A review of HDR stipend levels at UTS;
 - b. Exploration of university-funded top-ups to bring stipends in line with a Sydney living wage benchmark; and

c. Public reporting on stipend adequacy and HDR cost-of-living impacts.

Neeve reads the motion in full.

Mover: George Tulloch

Second: Cam Perez

George speaks to the motion.

The motion goes to a vote.

Votes in favor:

1. Cam Perez
2. Isabella Taylor
3. Amelia Ireland
4. Grace Cole
5. Ibrahim Hadi
6. Andrew Brogden
7. Aaron Choy
8. Benjamin Grant-Skiba
9. Yasmine Johnson
10. Ella Haid
11. Jonathon Waters
12. Liyara Flavel
13. Sina Afsharmehr
14. Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams
15. Eammon Ryan
16. Omar El-Sobihy

Votes against:

Abstained:

1. George Tulloch

The motion passes.

7.2. UTS Students' Association Disability Collective – Coffee Catch Up, 27 February | Free Coffees for Members

Preamble:

Providing complimentary coffee to members attending the Disability Collective Coffee Catch Up reduces financial barriers to participation, supports inclusive engagement, and encourages community-building within the Collective. This initiative aligns with UTSSA's commitment to accessibility, student wellbeing, and fostering supportive peer networks.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Sets an upper spending limits of \$50 for covering coffee orders for UTSSA Disability Collective members who attend the Coffee Catch Up on 27 February.

Mover: Amelia Wilson Williams

Seconder: Amelia Ireland

Amelia Wilson-Williams says she is effectively trying to try and reinvigorate the collective and to remove barriers from people participating.

Amelia Ireland speaks to the motion and says she used to pay for it herself because nobody showed up.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.3. VERTIGO BUDGET

1. Print Magazine Budget

Print quantities are intentionally structured around observed student engagement trends across the academic calendar. Standard print runs are set at 1,000 copies per issue to balance accessibility with cost efficiency. While readership remains consistent, physical pick-up rates fluctuate during peak academic assessment periods. Issues 2, 3 and 5 fall within high workload periods where students spend less time in communal campus spaces, resulting in slower off-shelf movement despite strong engagement and readership quality.

O-Day editions are printed at 1,500 copies due to significantly higher campus foot traffic and immediate distribution demand. Historically, O-Day copies distribute at a substantially faster rate than standard semester issues.

Printing quotes are based on A4 size, 130gsm internal– 150gsm external Gloss stock, maintaining durability and visual impact consistent with Vertigo's publication standards.

Issue 2 –	1000 copies –	7,840.35
Issue 3 –	1000 copies –	7,840.35
Issue 4 –	1000 copies –	7,840.35
Issue 5 –	1000 copies –	7,840.35
Subtotal:	31,361.40	

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CzubsRuExndk-Qpw0qZ7k2NfMb6ds-t/view?usp=share_link

MAGAZINE QUOTE

2. Digital Content & Platforms

Digital infrastructure ensures equitable access for students who do not engage with physical copies on campus. Online publication allows for community reach, accessibility for part-time and remote students, and permanent archival of all editions.

Issuu membership produces seamless digital distribution of each edition. Website hosting ensures long-term visibility, institutional legitimacy, and an accessible archive of Vertigo's work.

Item	Description	Cost
Issuu Membership	Online magazine hosting	\$1,550.00
Website Hosting	Vertigo webpage hosting	\$960.00
Subtotal		\$2,510.00

3. Administration & Operations

Administrative costs directly support the operational continuity of the publication. This includes day-to-day printing requirements, draft proofing, meeting materials, and internal documentation necessary for smooth editorial workflow.

Cloud storage ensures secure archiving of high-resolution design files, contributor submissions, and historical records. G-Suite provides professional communication infrastructure, official email domains, shared drives, and collaborative tools for the editorial team.

Item	Description	Cost
Google Drive Storage	Cloud storage for design files and archives	\$150.00 Per month = 2tb is 3.80 for first 3 months then 15 each after
G-Suite	Emails + workspace tools for editorial team	\$1,600.00
Subtotal		\$1,750.00

4. Promotion & Advertising/ social media budget

Promotion is essential to maximise student awareness, contributor engagement, and launch event attendance. A3 posters are printed at approximately \$2.25 per unit, with 15 posters allocated per issue to ensure visibility across key campus locations.

Social media campaigns are strategically targeted to UTS students. Each edition is allocated \$75 for a five-day campaign, with estimated reach between 11,486–21,332 students. Launch event campaigns range between \$22–\$45 depending on duration (2–3 days), ensuring flexibility while maintaining strong engagement metrics.

Category	Description	Duration	Cost per Unit	Units	Total Cost	Estimated Reach
Edition Promotion	Targeted proportion for the next edition to 500 \$	5 days per edition	\$75	3 editions	\$225	11,486 – 21,332 per edition
Event/Launch Promotion (Max/Ideal)	University-related events, full coverage	3 days per event	\$45	5 events	\$225	6,892 – 12,799 per event

Event/Launch Promotion (Min/Reduced)	University-related events, shorter coverage	2 days per event	\$22	5 events	\$110	2,984 – 5,872 per event
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Total Social Media Budget

Maximum / Ideal:

Edition Promotion (\$225) + Event Promotion Max (\$225) = \$450

Estimated Reach: Edition reach + event reach = ~55,430 – 111,905 total reach

Minimum / Reduced:

Edition Promotion (\$225) + Event Promotion Min (\$110) = \$335

Estimated Reach: Edition reach + event reach = ~41,438 – 74,868 total reach

Edition ads are fixed at \$75 × 3 editions = \$225, as submissions are a priority.

Event ads are flexible:

Max scenario: \$45 × 5 events = \$225, 3-day campaigns for maximum exposure.

Min scenario: \$22 × 5 events = \$110, 2-day campaigns for lower cost but still targeted exposure.

Reach estimates scale proportionally with duration and cost of campaigns.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-LDcXV-VR23ymGYcKRxtw_dNYNFpd4jZ/view?usp=share_link submissions

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GYQpQJ4Mb50DsZabRZV-VLSQWSTUN9DY/view?usp=share_link maximum

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LIUzxaRfuE4VS8OAAH51skJE4FGG7P4t/view?usp=share_link Minimal

RHODE MICROPHONE KIT- WIRELESS MICROPHONE 300

<https://www.jbhifi.com.au/products/rode-wireless-go-compact-wireless-microphone-system-3rd-gen>

<https://www.jbhifi.com.au/products/dji-mic-mini-2-tx-1-rx-charging-case>

Action:

1. That the UTSSA President and General Secretary work with the whole 2026 team to discuss printing viability for the next issue in time for Sem 2.

Mover: Ibrahim Hadi

Secunder: Amelia Ireland

Emanie speaks to the budget needing a targeted social media submission and events budget. These are significantly lower (\$12,000 lower) than last year's budget.

Neeve says the Issuu membership will be sunsetted starting now.

Neeve moves to amend the budget to cut Issuu's archive as we can now transfer it to Google Drive and subsidise it for per month. She amends to approve the budget until June. Neeve claims that the ads budget is unnecessary and UTSSA does not do this for itself.

George says Meta's targeted ads aren't accurate to audiences under 100,000 users.

Emanie says Vertigo 2025 had paid ads. Last year \$300 was allocated.

Simran says G-Suite storage is around \$16/month

Eamonn states Meta as a poor organisation to put money to.

Neeve reminds everyone of the SSAF legislation for us putting money to targeting students. All SSAF money legally must go to UTS Students.

Neeve is moving a procedural to take a 20 minute break at 7.35pm

The meeting is reopen at 7.57pm.

Salma says we should not throw money at Meta and affirms Eamonn's point.

George affirms Salma and Eamonn, stating Facebook and Meta have increased the far-right's reach.

Neeve questioning if we are BDS compliant? And what are the ethical implications of financially supporting Meta?

Simran reinstates how important getting the microphone is.

Simran moves to amend the motion to have UTSA Exec decide the details of the Vertigo budget.

Neeve proposes an amendment to

"add an action point that the UTSSA President and General Secretary work with the whole 2026 team to discuss printing viability for the next issue in time for Sem 2."

That is amendable to the mover.

Emanie & Nuha question how they will push for the following issue without another issue.

Salma suggests putting up posters, QR codes and corflutes with the Social Media funding.

Yasmine asks why have the print issues not been accepted?

Amelia states if we aren't going to print or the g-suite subscription.

Simran says the current Issu subscription stops in June.

Neeve asks if the current issue on Issu?

Simran confirms that it is not.

Jono says this sets a poor precedent, as the UTSSA can just stop the print.

Nuha says the Vertigo team doesn't understand how UTSSA's concerns are being met by the issue not going to print.

Emanie states that the UTSSA saves \$30,000 by not printing and asks where this money would go?

Neeve argues that due to SSAF negotiations it is important to show UTS management that our funding is efficiently spent.

Yasmine says I don't think it's a good defense of meetings to say we have defunded, management will continue removing this.

Neeve says she is liable in a way that Vertigo is not working in a way that is safe.

Rowan asks when the SSAF negotiations were starting?

Neeve says they happen every three years, the first SSAF committee meeting took place on O'Day.

Mia Campbell says it is not unreasonable for Vertigo to be held back, considering the Vertigo team has been discussing these issues extensively over the past three months. Whether the content is being restricted due to political censorship or poor quality is not relevant.

Simran affirms that with Entree (Issue 1) coming out a lot of issues occurred. Ai was flagged to Vertigo and it has not been removed from Entree. The working relationship with the SRC did deteriorate.

Neeve moves to amend that the print magazine section be removed.

Mover: Neeve

Seconder: Grace

Votes in favour:

1. Cam Perez
2. Isabella Taylor

3. Amelia Ireland
4. Grace Cole
5. Ibrahim Hadi
6. Aaron Choy
7. Liyara Flavel
8. Sina Afsharmehr
9. Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams
10. Eammon Ryan
11. Omar El-Sobihy

Votes against:

1. Yasmine Johnson
2. Ella Haid
3. Jonathon Waters
4. Ben Grant-Skiba
5. Andrew Brogden

The motion passes.

7.4. The UTSSA Condemns One Nation and the Growth of the Australian Far Right

Preamble

The last few months in Australian politics have seen massive growth in the popularity of Pauline Hanson, One Nation and racist, far right politics in Australia. Recent polls in Victoria ahead of the state election in November have One Nation with a higher primary vote than both Labor and the Coalition. One Nation represents the far right of Australian politics and extreme racism and Islamophobia, summed up by Hanson last week stating "I'm sorry, how can you tell me there are good Muslims."

The rise in support for One Nation hasn't come from nowhere. The traditional Liberal-voting right wing of Australia has radicalised to more far right politics, driven by successive crises in the Liberal party and inspired by the politics of Trump and the far right in Europe. They have driven increasing anti-migrant sentiment, and recruited from the racist 'March for Australia's rallies. But Labor is also complicit in the growth of the far right. Right now Labor is taking part in an Islamophobic media campaign about so-called 'ISIS brides'; Labor has flaunted with international student caps and restrictions, lining themselves with the politics of the right that argue immigrants and international students cause the housing crisis; and only two weeks ago Albanese invited Israeli President Isaac Herzog to Australia, prompting Chris Minns to send riot cops to attack praying Muslims. All of this creates the political environment where far

right politics thrive.

Labor aren't fighting the far right - the UTSSA should.

Platform

1. The UTSSA opposes the racist rhetoric of Pauline Hanson and the far right in Australia, in particular the intensification of Islamophobia in recent weeks.

Action:

1. That the UTSSA fund after executive approval \$50 worth of A3 posters opposing Islamophobia to be put on notice boards around the university.

Mover: Jonathan

Secunder: Ben

Jono stating One Nation is topping polls. We need to do something about it.

Ben stated Labor's involvement with the Far Right in Australia.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.5. UTSSA Opposes Islamophobia and Supports the Student Strike

Preamble

Islamophobia is rapidly on the rise across Australia. The Islamophobia register has recorded a 720% increase in reports in recent months, alongside violent threats made against mosques and the Muslim community.^[1] High profile racists have been given a platform by the media for racist remarks that normalise this hatred, such as Pauline Hanson's comment "How can you tell me there are good Muslims?"

As large numbers of students continue to mobilise against Israel's genocide in Gaza, there has been a concerted effort to conflate the movement for Palestine with terrorism, and to demonise pro-Palestine activists. Comments made by South Australian Labor Premier Peter Malinauskas about the Palestinian writer Randa Abdel-Fattah are an abominable example, likening her to a far-right, terrorist sympathiser "speaking hateful rhetoric". These comments serve only to reinforce the rise of Islamophobia.

The UTSSA must continue to be an anti-racist institution that refuses to be intimidated. At a time when the far right is on the attack, our union must take a clear stance

against Islamophobia and actively support the continuing Palestine solidarity movement, including the nationwide student strike on March 11th.
(<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/02/islamophobia-surged-bondi-attack-australia-muslim-community-ntwnfb>).

Action:

1. The UTSSA will share graphics about the strike on its social media
2. The UTSSA will email students encouraging them to attend the strike - The UTSSA will allocate \$250 for the printing of leaflets and \$500 for the printing of posters promoting the National Day of Action.

Mover: Cam

Seconder: Yasmine

Yasmine proposes an amendment to increase funding from \$250 on posters to \$500.

This is amendable by the mover.

Yasmine speaks to the motion saying the responses to the protest were disgusting.

Ella proposes an amendment for a change of title to *"UTSSA Opposes Islamophobia and Supports the Student Strike"*

The motion passes unanimously.

7.6. Funding Support for Muslim Students' Association Iftar Program

Preamble

The UTSSA is committed to supporting the welfare, inclusion and cultural needs of the diverse UTS student community. Ramadan is a significant religious observance for many Muslim students, during which daily fasting is broken at sunset with an iftar meal. The Muslim Students' Association (MSA) plays an important role in fostering community, belonging and peer support among Muslim students on campus. Providing accessible and affordable iftar events supports student wellbeing, helps address food insecurity and promotes cultural inclusion at UTS.

Action:

That the SRC:

1. Approves an allocation of \$2,000 to the Muslim Students' Association to support the provision of iftar meals for UTS students during Ramadan.

2. Notes that funds are to be used solely for food and directly associated event costs for on campus iftar activities.
3. Requires the Muslim Students' Association to acknowledge UTSSA support in promotional materials where practicable.

Mover: Salma

Seconder: Liyara

Salma states It is important to be supporting Muslims at this point in time especially due to the rise in support for Pauline Hanson.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.7. Settlement of AFP Image Claim (Vertigo)

Preamble

UTS Vertigo has received a copyright claim from Agence France-Presse (AFP), administered via PicRights, relating to the historical unauthorised use of an AFP image on the Vertigo website. The parties have negotiated a settlement to resolve the dispute without admission of liability. Under the proposed Settlement and Release Agreement dated 19 February 2026, Vertigo will remit a one-off payment of A\$288.00, after which AFP will release Vertigo from claims relating to the past use of the identified image.

The payment is a condition precedent to the release taking effect and is intended to fully resolve the matter. The image has been removed and Vertigo has confirmed it will not make any further use of the material without appropriate licensing. Prompt settlement is in the best financial and reputational interests of the Association.

Action:

That the SRC:

1. Approves payment of A\$288.00 to PicRights Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Agence France-Presse to settle claim reference 3310-3795-7304.
2. Authorises the President and Executive Officer to execute the Settlement and Release Agreement and process payment.
3. Notes that Vertigo has removed the relevant image and will ensure appropriate licensing processes are followed for future third-party content.
4. Requires Vertigo to review and strengthen its editorial and publishing compliance processes to minimise future copyright risk.

Mover: Grace Cole

Secunder: Amelia Ireland

Neeve speaks on how these people can be kind of scammy. Going through UTS Legal to get more information.

Rowan asks who were the people?

Neeve replies the AFP.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.8. Support for NTEU Industrial Action and Approval of Student BBQ

Preamble

The UTSSA recognises the ongoing industrial action being undertaken by members of the National Tertiary Education Union in response to concerns about job security, workloads and the broader impacts of university restructuring on staff and students. The Association affirms that staff working conditions are student learning conditions, and that visible student solidarity strengthens sector-wide advocacy for properly funded, high-quality public education. The UTSSA is committed to supporting students to engage with campus industrial activity in a safe and accessible way.

Actions

1. That the UTSSA publicly express solidarity with NTEU members participating in the upcoming industrial action.
2. That the UTSSA encourage students to attend and support the strike and associated activities.
3. That the UTSSA host a free BBQ for students attending the strike to support turnout and accessibility.
4. That the UTSSA approve an upper spending limit of \$500 to cover BBQ costs including food and consumables.

Mover: Salma

Secunder: Ella

Ella speaks to this and talks about covering the cost of encouraging students to come to the protest.

The motion passes unanimously.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. The UTSSA endorses the Education Action Group's "Students Support the Staff Strikes" campaign

Preamble:

A core part of work for the Education Action Group this year will be the campaign to support UTS staff on strike. It goes without saying that the past year has been a monumental attack on student and staff conditions at this university. The Operational Sustainability Project will see hundreds of staff members sacked and many more will have their working conditions degraded as the surviving staff take on burdensome workloads. University jobs should be secure and well-paid.

Academic staff deserve the right to do their teaching, research and administration work with adequate time, pay and resources. Non-academic staff deserve sustainable workloads and the right to take part in the decision-making on improvement of the university. The better their conditions, the stronger the precedent to defend our university as an institution of learning and research, not an addendum to the needs of business.

The campaign will raise awareness of the cuts amongst students while arguing to them that they shouldn't go to class on strike days, but instead join the picket lines with staff. We'll be producing digital and hard-copy content on why students should support the union, and why staff's interests are aligned with ours. The Education Action Group will hold its first meeting on Thursday February 26 at 1pm in the activist space so that we can hit the ground running when staff need our support.

Action:

1. The UTSSA will co-post the Education Action Group's forthcoming campaign announcement.
2. The UTSSA will share the details of the NTEU's strike if one is announced and will encourage students to join the picket lines on these days.

Mover: Ella

Secunder: Yasmine

Ella speaks to the motion stating It is an important principle to stand by. Ella has bought shirts. Every department has been partially gutted. It is good to oppose this. Lots of first years that knew about it. There are more evening classes, not sure if this is anecdotal.

International student communications to be raised as there is more confusion there.

The motion passes unanimously.

Omar moves a procedural to move motions 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4 on block.

Cam seconds.

The procedural passes unanimously.

8.2. SRC to approve additional internal positions in the Queer Collective for election – Digital Affairs Officers.

Preamble

The Queer Collective is looking to hold and elect internal positions for digital affairs, replacing the internal position for Social Media Officers. This change aims to clarify the responsibilities of a role that encompasses both internal and external communications. Internal communications would involve moderating and administering the Collective's Discord server, as well as collaborating to organise and manage a shared cloud folder for storing the Collective's files. External communications include managing the Collective's social media pages. Social Media Officers currently moderate the Collective's Discord server (internal communication) and manage its social media pages (external communication). The title of 'Social Media Officer' creates confusion regarding these internal and external distinctions. As a result, Collective members – especially newcomers – may not understand that the person they are electing will have the authority to moderate the forum for internal communication, which comes with specific responsibilities that need to respect the will of the Collective. The Collective supports up to 2 Digital Affairs Officers for responsive operations.

Action

That the UTSSA

(1) approves the additional internal position in the Queer Collective for election – the Digital Affairs Officers;

(2) that the position fills up to 2 vacancies; and

(3) accepts the proposed role description for the Digital Affairs Officers:

Digital Affairs Officers (1 or 2 people).

The Digital Affairs Officers' role is to (1) maintain internal communications – they're added as collaborators, via the Officers' personal student email, to assist in organising and administering shared cloud folders (excluding that which include files disclosing personal and contact information of members) for the Collective to store files; the Officers are moderators of the Collective's Discord server; the Officers assist in producing the Convenor's regular collective newsletter updates and, if an internal email broadcast needs to be sent, they liaise with the Office Bearer, and the message is sent out via the Officers' personal student email, copying in the Collective's email. (2) Digital Affairs Officers maintain external communications – assisting in managing the Collective's social media accounts for Instagram, Twitter or Bluesky, and Facebook, and producing, or assisting Collective members in producing, material for the social media pages.

8.3. SRC to approve additional internal position in the Queer Collective for election – Events Officer.

Preamble:

The Queer Collective has been looking to organise various internal and external events that have struggled to get off the ground. Some proposed ideas include an internal collective excursion to the Australian Queer History archives and an external open forum for community legal education, in collaboration with the Inner City Legal Centre, covering self-identification laws and the process of updating one's name and/or gender marker in NSW. The Collective supports holding a position for an Events Officer to manage specific responsibilities related to scheduling and event planning. The

delegation of the Events Officer helps set an intention on implementing proposed events and ideas.

Action

That the UTSSA

(1) approves the additional internal position in the Queer Collective for election – the Events Officer; and

(2) accepts the proposed role description for the Events Officer: Events Officer (one person).

The Events Officer's role is to organise and schedule regular, recurring events for, or hosted by, the Collective. The Events Officer drives the management of operational, logistical, risk assessment requirements for events and activities. These do not include organising protests or protest actions on-campus or in Sydney – on issues concerning the Collective or that which a protest is called for and the Collective will co-host or endorse – these are collectively organised by the Collective. With assent from the Collective and final approval from the Office Bearer and Convenor, the Events Officer organises events, collaborating with other organisations that like to co-host an event with the Collective, and coordinates with venues that the Collective, or organisations collaborating with the Collective, would like to book for an event.

8.4. SRC to approve additional internal position in the Queer Collective for election – Publications Editor.

Preamble:

The Publications Editor is a delegated role to distribute responsibilities of the Queer Collective that are often overbearingly placed onto the few holders of elected positions like the Convenor and Social Media Officers. With this proposal, the Collective commits

to relaunching production of an annual publication by the Collective; the Publications Editor would handle the focused responsibility of managing the production of that publication. The Publications Editor may also (depending on the year's plan for Vertigo) coordinate with the Vertigo editorial team and the UTS queer student body on publishing a Queer edition.

Action

That the UTSSA

(1) approves the additional internal position in the Queer Collective for election – the Publications Editor; and

(2) accepts the following role description for the Publications Editor: Publications Editor (one person).

The Publications Editor's role is to assist in production of circulars, managing an annual Queer Collective publication, and coordinating a Queer edition of Vertigo with the Vertigo editorial team, and members of the queer student body. E.g., the Publications Editor coordinates a meeting with Vertigo and interested queer-identifying or questioning students to be involved in writing submissions and direction for production for Vertigo editors and designers. Separate to a Queer edition of Vertigo, an annual publication, specifically by the Collective, may be produced for UTS O'Days.

Mover: Grace

Seconder: Cam

Grace speaks to the motion stating, this is helping the Queer collective to be more organised.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.5. Partnership with Unions NSW for International Student Workplace Rights Event

Preamble:

The UTSSA is committed to improving student welfare, particularly for international students who may face heightened vulnerability in the workplace due to visa conditions, lack of familiarity with Australian labour laws, and barriers to accessing

legal support. Unions NSW, through its Migrant Services Project, provides specialist education and legal assistance on workplace rights, visa protections and pathways to secure employment. Partnering with Unions NSW to deliver an information session will provide UTS international students with timely, practical and free access to expert advice, including one-on-one legal consultations.

Action:

That the SRC:

1. Endorses a partnership between the UTSSA and Unions NSW to deliver a Workplace Rights and Visa Information event for UTS international students.
2. Authorises the President and relevant Office Bearers to work with Unions NSW to finalise event logistics, promotion and delivery.

Mover: Neeve

Secunder: Amelia

Neeve speaks to the fact this is a beginning of a larger relationship to offer refugees and migrants larger knowledge for these communities and gig work.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

Solidarity Photo from Yasmine regarding?

Yasmine speaks to the motion.

Mover: Yasmine

Secunder: Eammon

The motion passes unanimously.

10. Close of Meeting at 8.54pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

President's Report – February 2026

This month has been productive, noting that I was on a period of leave for part of the reporting cycle. Despite the shortened month, significant progress was made across

a number of priority areas.

A major focus was the successful delivery of UTSSA O'Day. This was an important early-semester engagement and a key opportunity to reconnect with students on campus. The day saw strong engagement with UTSSA stalls and services, with particular interest in our support, advocacy services and upcoming campaigns. O'Day continues to be one of the most effective touchpoints for reaching new and returning students, and I want to acknowledge the considerable work of staff and volunteers who ensured the day ran smoothly. Feedback gathered during the event will inform our campaign priorities and service delivery over the coming months. I attended the Teaching and Learning Committee for the first time in my capacity as President. At this meeting I raised a number of substantive student concerns, particularly in the context of ongoing subject enrolments. These included the student impact of course and subject changes, the need for clearer communication to students about academic restructuring, and the importance of maintaining teaching quality during periods of institutional transition. I emphasised the need for genuine student consultation and evidence-based decision making. I will continue to use this forum to advocate strongly for student interests and to seek greater transparency from the university.

Following the protest against Israeli President Issac Herzog on Monday 9 February, I met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor specifically to discuss the university's support services for students who experienced harm. I sought clarity on what outreach had occurred, what reporting and wellbeing pathways were available, and how the university was proactively communicating these options to affected students. I emphasised the importance of visible, student-centred responses in moments like this, so that students feel supported rather than left to navigate complex systems alone. The DVC committed to putting out a statement with services which I have been following up. Externally, I met with Unions NSW to progress discussions around a potential partnership with the Migrant Services Centre. This proposed collaboration is aimed at strengthening support for international students, particularly in relation to workplace rights education, visa-related vulnerabilities and access to trusted advice pathways. Initial discussions were constructive, and there is strong alignment around the need for targeted support in this space. Further work will occur in the coming weeks to scope delivery options and confirm next steps.

I also met with Sarah Lok to progress two key UTSSA welfare campaigns. The first was the Period Products campaign, where discussions focused on expanding access, strengthening the evidence base and identifying implementation opportunities across campus. The second was the UTS Housing heat and ventilation campaign, which remains a significant student welfare concern, particularly in the context of Sydney's increasingly extreme heat conditions and the realities of high-density student accommodation.

A substantial portion of the month was dedicated to ongoing and detailed discussions with Vertigo regarding long-term viability and sustainability. These conversations have necessarily been thorough and frank, focusing on the UTSSA's financial position, governance arrangements and future operating models. The objective remains to ensure that Vertigo can continue to function as an independent

student publication while operating within financially responsible parameters. This work is complex and ongoing, and further recommendations will be brought forward to the appropriate bodies as options are refined.

Overall, even with some time on leave, February was a busy and productive month across governance, partnerships and student welfare work. There is good momentum heading into March, with a clear focus on rolling out key campaigns, keeping the pressure on the university where it matters and continuing the work to secure a sustainable future for Vertigo.

2. General Secretary

The beginning of February was, for a short period, largely a one-person operation as we transitioned into the new working year and prepared for the semester. Despite the slow start, significant groundwork has now been laid for the months ahead.

In anticipation of possible safety concerns following the events of 9 February, I met with UTS Security to discuss risk mitigation and support measures for students and staff who may be affected. I also requested, to Kylie (raised during a meeting by Neeve), that the University issue a formal statement. While I do not expect such a statement to change the underlying circumstances, it could provide reassurance, guidance, and access to support resources for those impacted. Based on past experience, the lack of follow-through is unfortunately not unexpected, as a number of matters previously raised remain outstanding.

I have also been in contact with Amy Persson (PVC CSJI) regarding counselling access for students who have recently arrived from Gaza who have joined our community. I requested that priority, streamlined pathways be made available to ensure timely support. I have since been advised that this has been implemented, which is a positive outcome. This followed a meeting with our newly arrived members of the Palestinian community who have requested this support. They also have floated an idea for a UTSSA x Palestinian Youth Society collab to help get them settled and supported.

In addition, we are currently working on a draft resource for newly arrived students from Gaza to provide a practical orientation to studying and living in Sydney. This will include guidance on navigating UTS systems, HECS and fees, accessing services, understanding student life and their protest rights, and general information about living in Australia. I am super keen on this idea and encourage others to attend and support this initiative!

I am pleased to report that the Racism Action Plan and the Respect Matters module have now been implemented, approximately two years after they were initially proposed. Still, it is encouraging to see tangible progress in this space. Additionally, the launch of the CDAR program led by Dr Elaine Laforteza has been a strong step forward. Dr Laforteza has consistently demonstrated meaningful support for anti-racism work on campus and has remained engaged with student representatives seeking institutional change.

O-Day was highly successful, with strong student engagement across UTSSA stalls. The atmosphere was energetic and welcoming, and it was encouraging to see both new and returning students actively connecting with the Association and its collectives.

Operationally, the early part of the month involved a high administrative load alongside O-Day preparation and coordination. This included handbook preparation, which presented additional challenges following the transition of responsibility from Vertigo to UTSSA. I have also liaised with the Vertigo editorial team regarding the publication budget for the semester to ensure

clarity around allocations and processes moving forward.

Ongoing matters relating to Vertigo required considerable time and attention and impacted capacity for routine administrative work. While these issues are being managed through appropriate channels, the work around getting issue 1 out and what followed, contributed to an unusually demanding start to the semester. As the semester settles, I anticipate a more stable workflow moving forward.

I am currently in the process of updating the UTSSA website. Councillors and Collective representatives are requested to submit updated information and materials by Friday so the site can be finalised in a timely manner

3. Assistant General Secretary

N/A

4. Education Officer

Education Officer's report Feb 2026 - Ella Haid

One of the most significant events of this month was undoubtedly the nation-wide protests against the state-sanctioned visit of the Israeli President, Isaac Herzog. The evening of February 9 saw tens of thousands of anti-war, pro-Palestine protesters drawn out to protest in Sydney and Melbourne, with thousands more in other cities and towns across the country. I congratulate all those who came out to oppose the visit of a man who has spent the past two years leading Israel's genocide on Gaza in which over 70,000 people have been murdered.

The repressive response of the NSW Minns Government's police to Sydney's protest has been rightly condemned. Their violent crackdown on peaceful protesters through thuggish force and brutality is an outrageous attack on basic civil rights. Over a dozen people were arrested with no charge while a 69-year-old Palestine Action Group marshal was hospitalised with four broken vertebrae after Police violently pulled her out of the crowd. The outrage at this injustice was palpable at both O-Week days. While staffing the Education Collective's stall, we were inundated with young people who were moved to become activists for Palestine and students' rights after watching the previous night's events unfold.

I also had several meetings with ABC journalists for their upcoming Four Corners episode investigating university governance in Australia. This consisted of a few preliminary meetings and a subsequent time for filming in which I gave an interview in my capacity as a UTS student involved in organising the Stop The Cuts UTS campaign and as the UTSSA's Education Officer. The bulk of the discussion was on the UTS cuts, the growth in all universities' uses of external consultants such as KPMG or Nous Group. I also spoke about the ongoing bipartisan underfunding of tertiary education in Australia. This episode is due to air on Four Corners on March 30 for those interested.

Myself and fellow members of the Education Collective attended the aforementioned protests against Isaac Herzog as well as the the Sunday February 2 rally for Palestine organised by the Palestine Action Group which had called for Herzog's invitation to be rescinded.

Last Monday I attended the most recent meeting of the UTS' NTEU branch and spoke on the impact of the cuts on students' degree progression. UTS has officially confirmed that 121

academics will be sacked as part of the ongoing Operational Sustainability cuts, all of whom have now taken a “voluntary” redundancy - which isn’t very voluntary at all. This includes the gutting of the public health department from 15 staff members down to 7. Several departments will be merged into what is effectively a “what’s left over” grouping, most of which will seemingly stop existing as students are taught out over the next year. The vague nature of UTS’ most recent announcement is an indictment of management's near-complete exclusion of staff and students from the decision-making process at this university. The Education Action Group will hold its first meeting at 1pm on Thursday Feb 26 in the activist space; those who want to participate in the campaign against the cuts and to support UTS Staff Strikes should come along.

5. Welfare Officer

February has been a very busy month for me, with the work being spread out over a number of different areas that I have been focusing on.

Health services survey:

The health services survey has been open for around a month now, with the International and Postgraduate Collectives promoting it on their O’day stalls. The survey has already received quite a few responses and I will continue to promote over the month and half that it still has left. Once the survey is done in April, I will begin processing the responses to use them to run a campaign to improve on campus healthcare, and there are already issues with staff professionalism and appointment availability that are becoming clear from the responses so far.

Diverse Pantry Food:

The first order of culturally diverse pantry food has been completed and funding has been approved. As the food comes in I will try to promote the different items, reaching out to different cultural clubs on campus to raise awareness of them being in stock. This first order includes some Ramadan themed food and will run for four weeks, however, I am treating it as a trial run to work out how longer term implementation of culturally diverse food from a wider range cultures can be implemented over the course of the year.

Ramadan Extension of Night Owl Noodles: I have spoken to Mariah about extending the Night Owl Noodles by an hour over Ramadan, so

that fasting students can have free halal and vegan dinners on campus after they have broken their fast. The current plan will extend the hours for the coming week and if that gets enough traction we can try extending it for the rest of Ramadan. If this program is successful, it can be used to justify more funding for Night Owl so that this can be done every year.

On campus clothes bins:

I have spent this month having quite a few meetings with different people about what the implementation of this would look like. Speaking to FESS, they informed about some issues that could come up, with the main ones being that clothes bins often get more donations than they expect, so I will need to have an agreement with a charity so that I can regularly move the clothes from the bins to them to distribute, with unusable donations being discarded along the way. I have spoken to the Red Cross, who would be happy to do this for us, with the clothes being stocked in the Ultimo Red Cross store. They will also be advising about the kinds of bins to get and how to label them. While some other distributors use large and heavy metal bins, red cross prefers plastic bins which are lighter, and more importantly for us, quite a bit cheaper. The next step from here is that UTS Red Cross will be speaking to Activate to see if we can use their spaces for the bins. As soon as the placement issue gets sorted, I can move forward with the

procurement of the bins and the promotion of them. Both Red Cross and FESS are happy help with the promotion of the bins and I look forward to doing that work with them.

6. Women's Officer

N/A

7. International Students' Officer

Monthly Report: February 2026

Prepared by: Aditi Rose Saksena, International Students Officer

Date: February 24th, 2026

The month of February was slower but very productive.

1. NSW ISR meeting- 4th February, 2026

An NSW wide ISR meeting was held on 4th February, where we discussed multiple initiatives taking place across all universities in NSW including Usyd's Career fair, UNC's health initiatives etc.

2. O week stall- 11 and 12th February, 2026

The ISO O-Week stall ran on 11–12 February in UTS Building 2. Across the two days, we delivered two engagement activities: "I Am Here," where international students wrote the phrase in their native languages (with the aim of continuing this at future events) as part of a giveaway, and a geography-based trivia game. The stall also drove strong community growth, with around 200 sign-ups to the International Collective.

3. SLCG training- 17th February, 2026

SLGC training was held to help us understand better what SLGC is and the decorum expected by the members of the committee.

4. Main Character Event- 19th February

We co-hosted Main Character Energy: Startup Careers with the Postgraduate Collective at UTS Startups, attracting around 160 students. Not only did the event have a full house attendance from the students, but also generated strong startup engagement, resulting in 21 startups offering 40 internship opportunities to students. The event will now be followed by "Internship Pitch Day" where the startups would be pitching their internship positions to the students actively and proceed to award students the internship.

Conclusion

In all, February has been a really strong month in terms of visibility as well as event outcomes.

8. Indigenous Officer

Over the past reporting period, I have focused on strengthening cultural spaces on campus, increasing student engagement, and developing long-term initiatives to support First Nations law students and the wider Indigenous student community.

I met with Daniel and Michael from the UTS Library and successfully secured a \$50,000 SAF bid to establish a yarning circle on campus. This is an important step toward creating a culturally safe and visible gathering place for First Nations students. We are currently deciding on a location, with the yarning circle likely to be situated either in the

Quad or on the street frontage between Buildings 10 and 11. We are also reviewing cultural and environmental guidance on native plant selection to ensure the surrounding landscaping reflects Country in a respectful and sustainable way. This will follow the framework set out by a First Nations academic at usyd. I have begun the early planning process and plan on continuing consultations with relevant stakeholders as the project develops. I have attempted to contact the Local Land Council but have not received any response as of yet.

It appears that the Collective space will need to be reapplied for through the Students' Association, as the Library is no longer able to assist with securing a permanent space. I plan on working with the executive team to prepare and submit a strong application so that First Nations students have a dedicated and culturally appropriate place on campus.

During Orientation Week, I hosted stalls for the Indigenous Collective and created original artwork to showcase First Nations student culture and identity. The stalls were well received and resulted in several new students joining the Collective, strengthening our community and improving outreach to incoming First Nations students.

Our Instagram account continues to grow and currently has 132 followers, which will help us share events, opportunities, and resources with students more effectively.

I plan on hosting a Collective event in the coming weeks and continuing to engage with relevant stakeholders regarding securing a Collective space. I have also begun speaking with barristers and other legal professionals about establishing a First Nations law student mentorship program, which I plan on developing over the course of the year to support career pathways, networking, and community connection for Indigenous law students

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Since our last meeting, I have prioritised practical outcomes, particularly when academic study aligns with career opportunities. I am committed to ensuring that students' investment in advanced education leads to beneficial outcomes.

At O'Day, I registered 26 new postgraduate members to the collective. Many HDR and coursework students expressed a need for stronger community links and clearer industry pathways. Following this, I met with a postgraduate Academic Board representative and proposed a solidarity motion supporting efforts to increase research student stipends at UTS in line with cost-of-living and minimum wage standards.

We co-hosted Main Character Energy: Startup Careers with the International Collective at UTS Startups, attracting around 50 students. The event featured open discussions with founders on student experiences, startup work, risk-taking, and rapid learning in early-stage companies. Twenty-four internship roles were announced that evening. We have also planned a follow-up event where startups will pitch directly to students. These direct industry links help students develop skills and retain talent locally. In concluding the event, I spoke about how unions and employers need to work together to build a future made in Australia.

Some international students expressed frustration that the main UTS Careers Fair did not address visa concerns or emerging industries. This feedback is important. Our programs must

reflect the realities of the job market. The postgraduate cohort rejects 'job-ready graduates' and will keep collaborating with students and employers to create genuine employment opportunities, rather than implementing top-down or patronising solutions.

I advanced the Positive Masculinity pilot with senior stakeholders, and it is now pending submission to the UTS Executive. Additionally, I contributed a Vertigo article on campus safety. Economic opportunity and cultural leadership are interconnected and form part of our common responsibility.

10. Ethnocultural Officer

It has been a wonderful start to the year for the Ethnocultural Collective.

O-Day

- O-Day went well and it was great to talk to/meet all the enthusiastic students who came by the stall.
- We had 45 sign-ups to the collective from O-Day and keen to keep this number growing throughout the year.

Multi-Faith Working Group

- I have begun working with Neeve in relation to laying the foundations for our soon to come Multi-Faith Working group that will comprise of a number of elected student representatives from different faiths/religions that will meet regularly in order to establish and map out some key concerns that students who identify as being part of a faith might have on campus.
- I will be meeting with the multi-Faith chaplain soon and will begin putting the plan into motion in order to get this working group up and running soon, with the help of Neeve and others.
- Will provide further details and updates as they arise accordingly.

Ramadan + UTSMS Collab

- The month of Ramadan brings a lot of specific needs that the Muslim community at UTS requires, as such, Sina from Welfare alongside myself with the help of our wonderful staff and Neeve have been working with the UTSMS to get our Ramadan tailored adjustments underway.

These include:

- Extending Night Owl noodles closing time so that students that are fasting on campus have access to our food services.
- Expanding the Bluebird pantry range to include more Halal-friendly options.
- Providing students who express their interest for the Night Owl noodle extension free dates/UTSSA merch.
- Assisting the UTSMS financially with their provision of free iftars on campus every week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (for the month of Ramadan).
- Doing promotional work with the UTSMS to spread the message around.

I hope that this increases the visibility of the UTSSA to those who might not have realised what services we provide, whilst also creating a positive impact to our Muslim community on campus who want to feel looked after during the month of Ramadan.

11. Disabilities Officer

Disabilities Officer Report – Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams

1. Promotional Materials and Collective Visibility

During February, I prepared and finalised a promotional poster for the Disability Collective to strengthen visibility and awareness of upcoming initiatives. The poster was designed to improve outreach and ensure students are aware of opportunities to engage with the Collective in an accessible and welcoming format.

Eamon's stall displayed the Disability Collective poster and spoke about the Collective with any prospective students, ensuring that accessibility supports and the Collective's role were visible to incoming students. This representation helped maintain continuity of advocacy and awareness in my absence.

2. Disability Collective Coffee Catch Up – Cornerstone Café, 27 February at 12 pm

On 27 February at 12pm, the Disability Collective will host a Coffee Catch Up at Cornerstone Café. The event is designed to be low-pressure, informal, and in a social environment which encourages connection among members and reduces barriers to participation.

The catch-up has formed part of a broader strategy to prioritise in-person engagement and rebuild active community participation within the Collective, noting there have been efforts to rebuild the Collective since 2022. Creating consistent, accessible social opportunities remains a key focus moving forward. I drafted a spending motion for approval at the executive meeting held the week of February 16

2026. The motion was for complimentary coffee to be provided to members attending the coffee catch up, to reduce financial barriers to participation, and support inclusive engagement, as a means of encouraging community building within the Collective. The motion had an upper spending limit of \$50 to cover the coffee orders. As it stands, 1 person has registered for the event.

3. Marketing Strategy Meeting – Biljana O'Connor, UTSSA Staff, 23 February at 12:30 pm

I met with Biljana to discuss marketing approaches for the Disability Collective. This meeting focused on strengthening communication channels, improving student reach, and refining strategies to increase awareness of disability-related initiatives across campus. We discussed social media strategy, and incentivising events to ensure larger turnouts.

We discussed methods to ensure messaging is clear, consistent and accessible, with a focus on building sustained engagement rather than one-off interactions.

We discussed the 2026 initiatives for the year, and Biljana suggested adding a 'short win', since the initiatives are all larger, complex goals. This will create momentum and further engage participation in Collective events.

We discussed creating a campaign around a short-term initiative focused on something the UTSSA has control over, given that is more immediately achievable.

4. NUS Disabilities Introductions – Mia Williams

Mia Williams, NUS Disabilities Officer emailed me to introduce herself. Advised Mia of my plans for the 2026 tenure, and indicated that it would be beneficial to work with OB's from other Universities when I focus my efforts on initiative 3 (when exploring ways to better centralise disability services across Universities).

5. UTSSA Website & Disability Collective Facebook Page Update

Updated UTSSA Disability Collective page, and Facebook Page with new graphics for the Collective, alongside an amended bio with the 2026 initiatives on the UTSSA Website.

6. Cross-Portfolio Collaboration – Francesca Harrison, Women’s Officer, March Meeting Francesca and I are organising a date to discuss shared advocacy priorities. The meeting will focus on structural and policy-level issues currently under review, including MyTimetable functionality, the operation of grievances processes, and the implementation of special considerations policy.

7. Liaison with UTS Accessibility – Liz Penny, Accessibility and Financial Assistance Administrator, 5 March at 12:30 pm

I have organised to meet with Liz, to discuss alignment between the Disability Collective and UTS’ Accessibility Service. Our discussion will focus on strengthening communication pathways, improving awareness of available supports, and identifying opportunities for collaboration throughout the year.

Maintaining a constructive working relationship with Accessibility Services remains a priority to ensure student advocacy is informed, practical, and responsive to existing institutional frameworks.

12. Queer Officer

O’Day’s; planning + execution

During the month of February myself along with the help of the wider queer collective pulled off a very successful O’week! I ordered progress flag pins which were handed out to people who signed up to the queer collective and by the end of the two days we had gained over 50 new members! I also spoke to members during these days and devised a loose plan on how to get the collective up and running by mid-March which will be exciting to see!

Meetings + Planning

I had a meeting with the current LGBTQIA+ project officer with the Centre for Social Justice and Inclusion at UTS, Jet. We spoke about what they’d been working on and any ventures I’d potentially need a hand with. It was great to put a face to a name and understand how UTS can potentially help with campaigns.

Liaising with collective + Potential campaigns

I’ve been working with some members of the collective since December on collective specific motions to bring with the SRC. This aligns with my goals of making sure that the collective is mostly run by its participants and I just help out and advocate where possible. As for potential campaigns, I am planning to reach out to one of the NUS queer officers to talk about a campaign surrounding the Sex Discrimination Act 1984. It would be great to work on this at a national and cross-campus level so will see where it goes!

Collective content creation

The Queer Collective does have a position for social media assistant to the OB but seeing as we have not done the 2026 internal elections, I have been creating awareness graphics that have been being posted to the QC Instagram! One was for Asexual spectrum awareness week and the other was for the upcoming Mardi Gras parade!

13. Environment Officer

N/A