

March 2026 SRC MINUTES

25.03.26 | 6.38pm | CB04.03.331

Agenda

1. Opening of meeting at 6.38pm.....	3
1.1. Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
1.2. Confirmation of Deputy Chair.....	3
1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies.....	3
Attendees.....	3
Apologies.....	4
Proxies.....	4
1.4. Declarations of Interest.....	5
2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes.....	5
2.1. Executive Business.....	5
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.....	5
4. Correspondence.....	5
5. Office Bearers' Reports.....	5
5.1. President.....	6
5.2. General Secretary.....	6
5.3. Assistant General Secretary.....	6
5.4. Education Officer.....	7
5.5. Welfare Officer.....	7
5.6. Women's Officer.....	7
5.7. International Students' Officer.....	7
5.8. Indigenous Officer.....	7
5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer.....	7
5.10. Ethnocultural Officer.....	7
5.11. Disabilities Officer.....	8
5.12. Queer Officer.....	8
5.13. Environment Officer.....	8
6. Other Reports.....	8
6.1. Committees.....	8
6.2. Reports from Councillors, Convenors and Staff as requested or required.....	8
7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.....	9
7.1. Reimbursement for more Students Support the Staff Strikes printing.....	9
7.2 Night Owl Noodles Reimbursements.....	9
7.3 Motion to Approve Funding for Welcome Event for New Students Arriving from Gaza... 10	10

7.4 UTSSA and Students For Palestine Support the Global Sumud Flotilla.....	11
7.5 Entree Glass Launch Party.....	13
8. Other Business Arising on Notice.....	15
8.1. Confirmation of Welfare Collective election.....	15
8.2. Motion Condemning UTS Protest Application Form and Absurd Institutional Restrictions on Protest.....	16
8.3. Responding to Australian Human Rights Commission Report and Supporting Students Experiencing Racism.....	19
8.4. UTSSA condemns arrests at Queensland Student Strike for Palestine.....	21
8.5 The UTSSA Condemns Australia’s Involvement in the US War On Iran.....	22
9. General Business.....	24
10. Close of Meeting at 8.21pm.....	27
Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports.....	28
1. President.....	28
2. General Secretary.....	28
3. Assistant General Secretary.....	28
4. Education Officer.....	28
5. Welfare Officer.....	28
6. Women’s Officer.....	28
7. International Students’ Officer.....	28
8. Indigenous Officer.....	28
9. Postgraduate Students’ Officer.....	28
10. Ethnocultural Officer.....	28
11. Disabilities Officer.....	28
12. Queer Officer.....	29
13. Environment Officer.....	29

1. Opening of meeting at 6.38pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

1.3. Attendance, Apologies and Proxies

Attendees

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Neeve Nagle	President
Salma Elmubasher	General Secretary
Cam Perez	Assistant General Secretary
Sina Ashfarmeher	Welfare Officer
Ella Haid	Education Officer
Francesca Harrison	Women's Officer
Taya Morante	Indigenous Officer
Rose Saksena	International Student's Officer
Eamonn Ryan	Environment & Technology Officer
Isabella Taylor	General Councillor
Yasmine Johnson	General Councillor
Liyara Flavel	General Councillor
Andrew Brogden	General Councillor
Benjamin Grant-Skiba	General Councillor
Amelia Ireland	General Councillor
Mariah Brown	UTSSA Staff
Emanie Darwiche	Vertigo
Simran Socker	Vertigo
Nuha Dole	Vertigo
Teagan Nguyen	Vertigo

Mariam	Vertigo
Oscar Favelle	Observer
Daewah	Observer
Estelle Ferguson	Observer
Ari Segelov-Smith	Observer
Zack Hossain	Observer
Lauren Finlayson	Observer
Caitlin	Observer

Apologies

Name	Position (Councillor, Student Observer, Staff)
Salma Elmubasher	General Secretary
George Tulloch	Postgraduate Officer
Chloe Ferreira	UTS Council UG Representative
Aaron Choy	General Councillor
Ibrahim Hadi	General Councillor
Amelia Wilson Williams	Disabilities Officer
Grace Cole	Queer Officer
Omar El-Sobihy	Ethnocultural officer

Proxies

Name	Proxy Accepted By
Salma Elmubasher	Cam Perez
George Tulloch	Taya Morante
Chloe Ferreira	Neeve Nagle
Aaron Choy	Liyara Flavel
Amelia Wilson Williams	Sina Afsharmehr
Grace Cole	Eamonn Ryan
Omar El-Sobihy	Lana Rumman
Ella Haid	Yasmine Johnson
Francesca Harrison	Isabella Taylor

1.4. Declarations of Interest

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

Ella declares her interest to motion 7.1 as it is about her reimbursement. She is to abstain from motion 7.1.

Sina declares his interest to motion 7.2 as it is about her reimbursement. He is to abstain from motion 7.2.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from Reps Elect 2025 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

The minutes from December 2025 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

The minutes from January 2026 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

2.1. Executive Business

Neeve tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meeting held on 15/03/2026.

Neeve tables the Executive minutes attached to the meeting notice from the Executive Meeting held on 08/03/2026.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No Matters Arising from the Minutes.

4. Correspondence

Neeve raises communication from Jackie Wise received this month regarding the Protest Application Form Letter we have sent through. The UTSSA is in ongoing conversations with the University.

5. Office Bearers' Reports

5.1. President

Neeve's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore Neeve submits their report in writing to **Cam** and reads this aloud.

Mainly engaging with governance, regarding student rules changes. Went to Student Council Liaison Group Meeting, raised the issue of air conditioning in Student Council and discussed Student Food Services, which are estimated to open 2027. Also raised the issue of the Reports from the National Student Ombudsman. UTSSA will ensure the university follows through on its

commitment to implement the recommendations of the review. Had a meeting with Felix, NUS President, to work together on National Campaigns. Neeve also attended the most recent staff rally, demonstrating the UTSSA's ongoing commitment to and relationship with the NTEU.

A significant part of Neeve's work this month has been responding to the introduction of the protest application form. Neeve is opposed to the University's attempt to move from students having to notify UTS when holding a protest to requiring students to request permission to hold a protest. This shift fundamentally threatens freedom of speech on campus. Requiring students to do risk assessments regarding the psychosocial impacts of protests contradicts UTS's own policies regarding not having students act as police or regulators on campus.

The University is claiming they have consulted students on this, which is not true. Previous discussions between the UTSSA and Management regarding a protest form have never involved discussion of the possibility of requiring psychosocial risk assessments. The UTSSA is seeking legal advice regarding this measure, and is planning to have a meeting with management regarding it next week.

5.2. General Secretary

Salma is absent and so her report is taken as read.

5.3. Assistant General Secretary

Cam takes their report as read.

5.4. Education Officer

Ella Haid sent their report into **Salma** & highlights the use of psychosocial safety as language claimed by anyone. The building student mobilisation at the strike was very impactful. **Ella** encourages other councilors to leaflet and participate in more demonstrations.

5.5. Welfare Officer

Sina Afsharmehr sent their report into **Salma** & highlighted their work on night owl noodles, running the Ramadan time extension to allow students participating in Ramadan to come later and break their fast. **Sina** has also been running the health services survey, which has been very successful. Sina is also doing a stall next week to promote the survey. He also had a collective meeting, with a very good turnout.

There is a petition; a call out for councilors to get people to help with promoting the survey.

5.6. Women's Officer

Francesca did not send in her report and read it aloud.

It's been a very busy month. This month we are progressing with the period products campaign. It is looking like the current supplies aren't working out long term, with potential suppliers being knocked out due to the price not being feasible.

Looking at putting up potential space to put up a condom vending machine. Putting together a meeting to elect a convenor in the next fortnight for the Women's Collective.

5.7. International Students' Officer

Rose is absent so we take her report as read.

5.8. Indigenous Officer

Taya's report was not circulated to Council, and therefore **Taya** submits their report in writing to Cam and reads this aloud.

Taya has had a pretty slow month. She is expected to express exclusion to non-indigenous people to the yarning circles. She would like to plan a movie night, to be with the collectives and the collective to vote on a charity they would like the donations to go to.

5.9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

George is absent and did not submit a report.

5.10. Ethnocultural Officer

Omar is absent so their report is taken as read.

5.11. Disabilities Officer

Amelia Wilson-Williams is absent, so her report is taken as read.

5.12. Queer Officer

Grace is absent and has not submitted a report.

5.13. Environment Officer

Eamonn takes their report as read.

6. Other Reports

6.1. Committees

A meeting notice for not the finance committee

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

None given.

7. Operational and Procedural Business, Stipends and Reimbursements.

7.1. Reimbursement for more Students Support the Staff Strikes printing

Preamble

The other print job was originally 300 A4 sheets which would have produced 600 A5 leaflets but print services asked for this to be A5 formatted and we didn't change the print request so we only ended up with 300 leaflets. We ran out of these early on Tuesday so Ella Haid printed more at Officeworks to use for leafleting on Wed and during the Thurs strike.

Action

1. Reimburse Ella Haid \$79.20 total for the printing.
2. This was done in two identical jobs which were 180 pages of double-sided A4 B&W leaflets each.

Neeve reads the motion in full.

Mover: Sina

Secunder: Yasmine

Abstentions:

1. Ella

The motion passes unanimously.

7.2 Night Owl Noodles Reimbursements

Preamble

During the last week of Ramadan, Night Owl Noodles were extended in order to accommodate fasting students. As a part of the promotion of this extension, there were dates handed out during the last hour of Night Owl noodles on days when the extension was running. Any remaining dates will be handed out at Blue Bird Pantry.

Action:

1. The UTSSA will reimburse Sina Afsharmehr for the cost of the dates, paper bags and shipping totalling 171 dollars.

Neeve reads the motion in full.

Mover: Liyara

Secunder: Taya

Abstentions:

1. Sina

The motion passes unanimously.

7.3 Motion to Approve Funding for Welcome Event for New Students Arriving from Gaza

Preamble

The UTSSA has a responsibility to ensure that all students, particularly those arriving from conflict-affected regions, are meaningfully supported as they transition into university life. Students recently arriving from Gaza are likely to face significant social, academic, and systemic barriers, including unfamiliarity with university structures, available support services, and student representation.

Providing an intentional and welcoming environment is critical to ensuring these students feel safe, supported, and connected within the UTS community. This includes introducing them to key UTSSA services such as peer tutoring, academic support pathways, misconduct and grievance processes, and the broader role of the Students' Association as their representative body.

It is also important that these students are aware of community spaces available to them on campus, including collectives and student groups that can provide ongoing support and connection.

Beyond university systems, newly arrived students may also face challenges navigating life in Sydney more broadly, including housing, transport, cost of living, and accessing local services.

Providing practical guidance in this area is essential to supporting their overall wellbeing and adjustment.

A structured “crash course” style session, followed by a social games night, will facilitate both the dissemination of important information and the building of community in a way that is accessible, engaging, and supportive.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Approves funding of up to \$250 for catering/food for a welcome event for students recently arrived from Gaza.2. 3. 4. Notes that the event will:
 - a. include a “crash course” style session introducing students to UTSSA services, including peer tutoring and academic support;
 - b. outline student rights, including misconduct and grievance processes;
 - c. explain the role of the UTSSA as a representative union body;
 - d. provide practical tips on living in Sydney, including navigating housing, transport, and local services; and
 - e. be followed by a social games night to foster connection and community. Notes that the event will be delivered in collaboration with the Ethnocultural Collective and the Palestinian Youth Society (PalSoc). Affirms the importance of ensuring newly arrived students from conflict-affected regions are supported both practically and socially within the university environment.

Mover: Lana

Second: Liyara

Lana speaks to the motion in agreement, to share resources and information to students coming from Gaza.

Liyara says Salma mentioned that everyone would like to know if anyone would be interested in people coming along to help out.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.4 UTSSA and Students For Palestine Support the Global Sumud Flotilla

Preamble

Last year the Global Sumud Flotilla became a lightning rod for the Palestine movement around the world as Palestine activists tried to reach the shores of Gaza by boat and were kidnapped by Israel's state forces. Supporters of Palestine not on the Flotilla were moved to take action in support of the Flotilla with protests taking place around the world with the greatest mobilisations being the Italian general strikes for Palestine.

The Global Sumud Flotilla is once again rallying support from around the world to attempt to sail to Palestine. Activists from all around the world participate in the Flotilla as a call for international solidarity with the people of Palestine as they face ongoing genocide, apartheid, land seizures, and starvation at the hands of Israel which is being aided by its allies such as the US and Australia.

This year Ethan Floyd, a member of Students For Palestine, is participating in the Flotilla as a representative of the youth wing of the Palestine movement here in Australia. The UTSSA should endorse the Global Sumud Flotilla and help fundraise for it as a part of an ongoing commitment to solidarity with Palestine.

Action:

The UTSSA approves up to \$600 in funding for a BBQ event on campus to raise awareness about the Global Sumud Flotilla, based on the spending proposal below.

Budget use proposal - \$565	
Halal sausages (x200)	\$9 for 10 beef (\$90) \$12 for 10 chicken (\$120) Total \$210
Onions	\$20
Sauce	\$40
Bread	\$100

BDS-friendly drinks	3x24pack Salaam Cola (72 cans for \$90) \$60 to other drinks
Foil containers	\$15
Foil	\$10
Serviettes	\$10
Garbage bags	\$10

Mover: Andrew

Seconder: Ben

Andrew proposes an amendment to strike out 'and fundraise for' and replace it with 'raising awareness about'.

Andrew speaks to the motion as this is one of the missions to give support to Palestine activism and broader global solidarity movements, especially with the expansion of the war.

Neeve clarifies that this is still pending ActivateUTS approval, however it should be on next Tuesday.

Zach speaks on how it is important for all members of the council to get involved.

Neeve speaks to the motion; as we are bound by SSAF legislation we can't directly put money to charities. The money we raise will go directly to the Flotilla.

Eamonn asks about a potential double entry in the budget, with there being two entries for drinks.

Yasmin clarifies that 90 dollars within the 150 dollars is going to Salaam Cola and that the 90 dollars is not in addition to the 150 dollars.

The motion passes unanimously.

7.5 Entree | Glass Launch Party

Preamble

Recognising the importance of celebrating and promoting student publications, and that a launch event provides an opportunity to build community, showcase contributors, and increase visibility of the

magazine; and noting that the release of the second edition and launch alongside the first edition is a key moment to maintain momentum and engagement whilst saving costs.

Action:

That the Council approves funding for the launch of the magazine's first & second edition at Lord Gladstone, with an upper *spending limit* of \$1000 to cover event costs which will be paid back with the tickets, as per the table below:

Item	Cost
Decorations	\$200
DJ's (4)	\$300 (\$100 per hour/set) split across the DJ set times
Payment to the venue	(\$2 off each ticket) \$0
Ticket pricing:	First Early Bird - 40 tickets: \$10 Second Early Bird - 40 tickets: \$12 The rest is \$15
Videographer? - could talk to Freya (@fr3yonfilm)	\$220 \$150 first 3 hours +\$35/hr after that +\$15/hr after midnight More rates for editing if needed
AV tech	\$250
Total	\$970

Mover: Amelia Ireland

Second: Taya Morante

Movers cede their speaking time to Simran.

Simran says this is to build community and contributors, event space doesn't charge, they take a percentage of ticket sales.

Neeve suggests making it an upper spending limit, raising questions regarding design costs.

Simran answers Neeve's question.

Sina moves an amendment to change the budget of \$970 to an upper spending limit of 1000\$.

Amendment:

To alter "the budget of \$970" to "an upper spending limit of 1000\$".

It is amendable to the mover.

The motion passes unanimously.

8. Other Business Arising on Notice

8.1. Confirmation of Welfare Collective election

Preamble

The Welfare Collective held a meeting to elect a Collective Convenor on Friday 20th March 2026.

Action:

The UTSSA recognises William Healy(Reid) as the 2026 Welfare Collective Convenor in accordance with the result of the meeting on the 20th of March.

Mover: Sina

Seconder: Eamonn

Sina speaks to the motion, Welfare Collective has now elected a convenor.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.2. Motion Condemning UTS Protest Application Form and Absurd Institutional Restrictions on Protest

Preamble

The right to protest is a fundamental democratic freedom and a core component of student organising and union activity. Universities have historically been sites of

political expression, resistance, and collective action. UTS' introduction of a protest application form represents a clear escalation in the regulation of student protest. The requirement for prior approval, advance disclosure of protest content, and administrative oversight imposes barriers that are incompatible with the nature of protest as a responsive and collective form of expression.

The justification provided by the University, particularly references to "psychosocial safety", is deeply concerning. This framing has not been applied consistently across all forms of student protest and appears to be disproportionately invoked in relation to protests advocating for Palestine. Recent student protests on campus have broadly fallen into two categories: those addressing staff cuts and university restructuring, and those advocating for Palestine. Despite this, rhetoric around "psychosocial safety" has not been meaningfully applied to protests concerning cuts, raising serious concerns about selective enforcement.

This selective application disproportionately targets Palestinian advocacy and disregards the lived realities of Palestinian students on campus. Palestinian students are not only engaging in political advocacy, but are also experiencing ongoing grief, trauma, and distress in light of current events, alongside instances of racism and hostility within the university environment. This is further underscored by findings from the Australian Human Rights Commission, which identified that Palestinian students reported the highest rates of racial harm, with 90.2% indicating they had experienced racism. These findings highlight the urgency of ensuring that institutional responses do not further marginalise or silence already impacted communities. Further, UTS' communication regarding the protest application process has been vague, inconsistent, and at times dismissive in tone, as reflected in the correspondence attached to the SRC notice. This lack of clarity and transparency has only heightened concerns around the intent and application of these measures.

This approach reflects a broader pattern of institutional responses that suppress and delegitimise certain student voices under the guise of safety and compliance.

The UTSSA, as the peak representative body for students, has a responsibility to defend the right to protest and to challenge institutional overreach that restricts student organising.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Condemns the introduction of the UTS protest application form as a restrictive and unnecessary barrier to student protest and political expression.
2. Condemns the University's justification of these measures, including the selective use of "psychosocial safety" as a rationale for restricting protest.
3. Notes that:
 - a. recent student protests have primarily focused on staff cuts and on advocacy for Palestine;
 - b. the framing of "psychosocial safety" has not been applied consistently across these issues, and appears to disproportionately target Palestine-related protest;
 - c. such selective application raises serious concerns about censorship, bias, and institutional overreach;
 - d. Palestinian students are navigating ongoing grief and distress while also experiencing racism and hostility on campus;
 - e. the Australian Human Rights Commission has found that Palestinian students reported the highest rates of racial harm, at 90.2%; and
 - f. UTS' communication on this matter has been vague, inconsistent, and dismissive in tone, as demonstrated in the correspondence attached to the SRC notice.
4. Affirms that students have the right to organise and participate in protests without undue administrative barriers or prior approval requirements.
5. Calls on UTS to:
 - a. withdraw the protest application form;
 - b. cease the application of "psychosocial safety" to restrict forms of protest; and
 - c. engage in genuine consultation with student representatives regarding any policies impacting student protest.
6. Commits the UTSSA to:
 - a. continue to actively oppose and challenge restrictions on student protest;
 - b. advocate for the protection of student organising and political expression;
 - c. support students and collectives impacted by these measures; and
 - d. actively support and promote the current student campaign, including encouraging students to sign the open letter/petition and amplifying this through UTSSA platforms and social media.

Secunder: Amelia

Movers cede their speaking time to Neeve.

Neeve speaks to the motion, we would be lying to ourselves if we didn't say this wasn't about Palestine. Hopefully the call with the lawyer tomorrow goes well.

In the event of the strike the UTSSA isn't going to use it. It is not an application to protest, it is a notice.

Sina speaks to the motion, UTSSA has also been running a petition against the introduction of the form. They will put the petition in the SRC chat.

Neeve even if we don't win the battle with the administration. We will not use the form in future. It is not a legitimate thing. Uni@racism reported 90.2% of palestinian students experience racial discrimination in universities.

Elliot says the NTEU didn't get asked to use the PAF. It is about protesting about Palestine on campus. It is not to say they won't use it for something else in future. It is obvious that they target Palestine.

Yasmin speaks to the motion. They asked for pamphlets; as a basis for what you could censor a protest as an administration?

Yasmin proposes to amend a motion in 5B to remove 'selective' before 'application of "psychosocial safety"'

Amendment:

To remove "*selective*" before '*application of "psychosocial safety"*'

Yasmine speaks to the amendment, and says the uni will just claim there not to apply it selectively. Psychosocial safety could be used against anything on very arbitrary grounds, someone will always be offended no matter how righteous the cause.

This is amenable to the mover.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.3. Responding to Australian Human Rights Commission Report and Supporting Students Experiencing Racism

Preamble

The findings of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) report into racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and the experiences of First Nations people within universities are extremely concerning.

The report paints a grim picture of the reality for many students, particularly those from racialised and marginalised communities, who continue to experience racism on campus in ways that are ongoing, systemic, and often inadequately addressed.

These experiences are not isolated. They reflect broader patterns of harm that impact students' sense of safety, belonging, and ability to fully participate in university life. UTS has historically discouraged complaints by making it extremely frustrating and traumatising for complainants, or not following up at all.

Many BIPOC students who have raised concerns or made complaints about racism have reported feeling dismissed, unsupported, or that their experiences have not been taken seriously, further eroding trust in institutional processes.

At a time when students are navigating these realities, it is critical that the Students' Association steps up in a clear and tangible way, not only acknowledging these findings, but actively supporting students and advocating for them.

The UTSSA has a responsibility to act as a union: to stand with students, to back them, and to ensure they are aware of their rights, reporting pathways, and the support available to them.

Action:

That the UTSSA:

1. Acknowledges the findings of the Australian Human Rights Commission report into racism and discrimination within universities and publishes a public statement across social media platforms to promote awareness.
2. Notes that the findings reflect a grim reality for many students, particularly those from BIPOC and marginalised communities, who continue to experience racism on campus.
3. Affirms the role of the UTSSA as a representative union committed to supporting students experiencing racism and advocating on their behalf.
4. Calls on UTS to:
 - a. provide a clear and public response to the AHRC report;
 - b. take meaningful, tangible action to address racism on campus; and
 - c. ensure that student complaints of racism are taken seriously, handled appropriately, and do not result in students feeling dismissed or unsupported.
5. Commits to:
 - a. actively support students who experience racism through advocacy, casework, and referral pathways;

- b. promote awareness of reporting mechanisms, including incident reporting processes and complaints pathways;
 - c. encourage students to report experiences of racism where they feel safe to do so; and
 - d. work alongside collectives and student groups to ensure students feel supported and represented.
6. Supports a student-led campaign to:
- a. raise awareness of the AHRC report findings;
 - b. empower students to seek support and utilise reporting pathways; and
 - c. reinforce that students are not alone in their experiences and have the backing of the Students' Association.

Neeve reads the motion in full.

Mover: Sina

Second: Liyara

Movers cede their speaking time to Neeve.

Neeve speaks to the motion. Findings are worrying and show that racism is a serious issue on campus. The university has not acknowledged or released any statement on it.

Zack speaks on motion, says it shows that the UTSSA needs to take an explicit position on serious issues. Statistics like that 98% of Palestinian students face racism, show that Palestinians are being vilified on campus.

The motion passes unanimously.

8.4. UTSSA condemns arrests at Queensland Student Strike for Palestine

Preamble

At the Student Strike for Palestine in Queensland on Wednesday March 11, activist Liam Parry was arrested for saying the phrase “from the river to the sea” in a speech. Another person was detained for wearing a t-shirt with the phrase. This comes after the state Liberal government introduced sweeping new hate speech reforms that could see Queenslanders face up to two years' imprisonment for using the phrase.

These laws represent a clear attempt to silence opposition to Israel's genocide in Gaza and the occupation of the Palestinian Territories. These laws raise significant

constitutional and civil liberties concerns about freedom of speech and political expression in this country. Criminalising this slogan is an attempt to intimidate the growing solidarity movement with Palestine and to silence criticism of the Israeli state at a time when its war on Gaza has provoked outrage across the globe. This is a worrying trend which we are also seeing play out on a state level in NSW, and at university campuses.

These new laws must be repealed immediately. Students and the wider community must be able to organise, protest and speak out on political issues without fear of arrest.

Platform:

- UTSSA condemns the Queensland government's new hate speech laws as a draconian attack on free speech and political expression
- UTSSA calls on the Queensland government to repeal the new hate speech laws immediately
- UTSSA reaffirms that pro-Palestine speech, including phrases calling for equal rights for Palestinians, is not antisemitic

Action:

The UTSSA, in an official capacity, will sign on to the open letter by Palestine Action Group demanding that the charges against Liam Parry be dropped.

Mover: Ben

Seconder: Yasmine

Ben speaks to the motion highlights the big attempt to silence the Palestine movement

Yasmin speaks to the motion that the LNP isn't the only perpetrator.

Lauren says the ALP has a level of complicity in racism and migration laws that have been passed by this Albanese government.

Neeve responds that the ridiculous 'globalise the intifada' ban has just made something a bigger, more popular use of the phrase. Criminalising a slogan or words is unconstitutional in this country. The Queensland Government rushing the law through in 30 minutes before the protest clearly shows their intention to suppress free speech. It is just racism, in the way language is racialised.

Yasmine encourages everyone to sign on to the open letter. Link here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSDGz0voMOM2bozryw5qnOrIAUuKaOjaiCUEi-DVLJ2W6HjYO/viewform>

The motion passes unanimously.

8.5 The UTSSA Condemns Australia's Involvement in the US War On Iran

Preamble

Trump's war on Iran is proceeding at a devastating pace. More than 1300 people have been killed in Iran by American and Israeli airstrikes, including at least 100 children after a primary school was obliterated by what the US has now confirmed was a US Tomahawk missile. More than a million people in Lebanon, already impoverished, have also been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of Israel's expansion of the war.

The justifications for the war are a fabrication akin to Bush's "weapons of mass destruction" lies justifying the Iraq war. Bombing civilians has nothing to do with bringing peace and liberation to the people of Iran, rather it is an aggressive attempt to extend US power in the Middle East no matter the human toll.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was one of the very first world leaders to support Trump's deplorable attacks. Albanese has asserted that Australia has "done what we have been asked to do", and confirmed that a surveillance plane sent to the Middle East can be accessed by the US to pinpoint strikes. Three ADF personnel were also on board a US submarine that sank an Iranian warship, killing at least 87 people.

The government's disgraceful hypocrisy has been laid bare with new legislation introduced to block entry into Australia for temporary visa holders from countries like Iran. The government says that 85% of protection visa applications are denied, while some Iranians have lived in limbo in Australia without protection visas for over ten years. The student union must stand with the people of Iran and condemn the government for their actions.

Action:

The UTSSA will post a statement online on its social media accounts condemning Albanese's support for Trump's war on Iran.

Mover: Andrew Brogden

Seconder: Yasmine Johnson

Elliot speaks to the motion. War in Iran is escalating. Australia has gotten involved, sending soldiers to middle eastern countries. Hundreds of Thousands of people have had to flee the way, Australian Government has restricted immigration from refugees fleeing. The Australian Government has been supporting the war rhetorically.

Yasmine speaks to the motion, cites Australia's commitment to the American alliance. Sending Australian troops to assist with US military actions and bombing. Albonesy's justification is that 'this is what was asked of us'. Talks about Peter Malansoukus in South Australia, banning a pro-Palestinian writer from the Adelaide Writers Festival.

Neeve speaks to the motion, says that Trump has lost the plot with this, and it was embarrassing that Australia was so keen to support the war. Clarifies that the motion is calling for a statement separate to the statement already published by the UTSSA, specifically focusing on rejecting Australia's involvement in the war.

Ella asks a question regarding if councillors who are members of the labor party voting for this motion will continue to campaign for the Labor Party.

Neeve answers, cites that the Labor party is not perfect and has many serious problems but is still at its heart the party of the trade union movement. The Labor party continues to represent trade union members and workers. Members are not required to support every position of the Labor Party.

Zack speaks, comments that members of UTS Labor have been campaigning for labor governments. Says that campaigning for the labor party is campaigning for the right-wing stuff the labor party does.

Council engages in a broad debate regarding positions of the Labor Party in relation to migration, role of immigrants in Australian Society and economy.

The motion passes unanimously.

9. General Business

Yasmine and **Neeve** speak on the importance of weapons off campus, how UTS covers up their involvement and ongoing partnership with US weapons companies, particularly Talas.

The NUS will be running a national weapons of campus campaign, which UTS plans to play a key role in.

Eamonn submits motion to Cam as follows:

Preamble

The National Student Ombudsman has recently released reports about UTS' failure to address gender based violence on campus and their refusal to adopt any of the recommendations of their "reviews" on SASH and GBV. Importantly, the report upheld Mia Campbell's complaints about being silenced after she held UTS to account for disgusting and disgraceful acts from UTS management on GBV. UTS's response to the reports has been shameful. The University used these reviews internally as a demonstration that they were taking their concerns seriously, yet the NSO found that 18 of 19 recommendations from December 2023 were still "in progress" and 1 had not yet started. None of the 17 recommendations to better support complainants from the February 2025 review had been completed, despite 14 being urgent. Management's position of minimising the problem of gender based violence is disgraceful. A statement on our social media is vital to raising awareness and publicising Mia's support for all women at UTS and, by extension, women nationally.

Action

The UTSSA will publish another statement about this new report and its implications for UTS students. The statement will include the findings and an analysis of the report, explaining what it means for students at UTS, especially women.

Mover: Eamonn

Seconder: Amelia

Eamonn speaks to the motion.

Amelia speaks to the motion.

Neeve speaks to the motion. UTS never accepts accountability for any harassment that has occurred nor their response to it.

The motion passes unanimously.

Rose submits motion to Cam as follows:

Graduate Research Candidate Approvals and Research Access at UTS

Preamble

Education is a public good and a central purpose of a university. The UTS Students' Association exists to identify, advance and protect the interests of students, and to ensure that those seeking education are not excluded by opaque administrative decisions, institutional retrenchment, or policy settings that undermine opportunity and fairness.

Graduate research students contribute substantially to the University's intellectual life, research output, teaching capacity, and long-term innovation capability. Higher degree research pathways are not only educational opportunities for individual students, but a critical part of Australia's future research workforce, sovereign capability, and public knowledge creation.

Recent concerns raised by students and supervisors suggest there may have been a sudden decline in graduate research candidature approvals, particularly affecting applicants seeking entry into HDR programs. Where there is a material shift in approvals, students are entitled to transparency regarding whether this reflects altered academic thresholds, administrative bottlenecks, supervisory capacity constraints, funding restrictions, or broader institutional financial settings.

Given public discussion around university cost containment and managerial austerity, including measures associated with Vice-Chancellor Andrew Parfitt's current financial settings, it is reasonable for students to seek clarification on whether any reduction in candidature approvals is linked to broader budgetary restraint.

Platform

The UTSSA affirms that:

1. Access to postgraduate research education must not be quietly narrowed without a clear explanation to students and staff.
2. Administrative decisions affecting entry into research degrees should be transparent, evidence-based, and educationally justified.
3. Budget pressures must not disproportionately undermine the next generation of researchers.
4. UTS has an obligation to explain any significant departure from previous graduate research admissions patterns.

Action

That the UTSSA:

1. Write formally to the GRS requesting an explanation of whether graduate research candidature approval rates have materially changed in the past 12 months, and if so:
the scale of that change,
the reasons for it, and
whether funding, supervisory allocation, or faculty-level restrictions have contributed.
2. Request clarification from VC Parfitt as to whether any current university financial restraint measures have directly or indirectly affected HDR admissions, candidature commencement, or scholarship-supported enrolments.
3. Seek publication of aggregate admissions and approval trend data for HDR candidates sufficient to allow student representatives to assess whether access to research studies at UTS is being constrained.

Mover: Rose

Secunder: Sina

Rose speaks to the motions, talks about how the postgraduate and International Students Collective feel the Graduate Research Scheme (GRS) is harming the quality of education at UTS. Students feel like they are not getting the opportunity to engage in research.

The motion passes unanimously.

10. Close of Meeting at 8.21pm

Appendix 1: Office Bearer Reports

1. President

N/A

2. General Secretary

Throughout March, a key focus of my work has been responding to the newly introduced protest application form. I've been working closely with the UTSSA Executive and Yasmine in her role as NUS Education Officer to review the form, coordinate our response, and draft formal correspondence on behalf of the Association. All relevant correspondence has now been compiled and circulated across SRC. The form raises some serious concerns around restrictions on student organising and sets a worrying precedent. The initial response we received from the university was also quite dismissive and, in parts, factually incorrect. We've scheduled a meeting with Neeve and university management to discuss this further, and are looking at next steps, including potential public escalation.

Alongside this, I've continued supporting Office Bearers across their portfolios with general operations, helping where needed to keep projects and events running smoothly. I also acted as Returning Officer for the Welfare Collective Convenor election! Was a successful election and keen to see the collective thrive.

In addition, I've been organising the crash course referenced later in the motions, and have started coordinating the planning and delivery for that. My next steps are working alongside the executive team on obtaining legal advice regarding the protest application form as well as seeing what else UTS tries to pull regarding protests and Palestine activism.

3. Assistant General Secretary

Hi everyone!

Over this month I've been compiling information to support a media and flyer design aimed at students who are carers, and have been in contact with office bearers. I've also been working through governance compliance for the UTSSA (the bright reality of an Assistant General Secretary!), and have started collaborating with Amelia (Disabilities Officer) to better collate and communicate guidance around UTS services for student carers.

I've been researching the following support options available to students managing caring responsibilities or other personal circumstances at UTS. There are several forms of academic and wellbeing support designed to provide flexibility and reduce study-related pressure. These include flexible study loads, the ability to withdraw without financial or academic penalty, and adjustments to assessment timelines. Students can also access services such as daycare,

counselling, financial assistance, and health support.

To apply, students need to contact their faculty's Academic Liaison Officer (ALO) and arrange a meeting before the census date. The process requires documentation outlining their responsibilities and the impact on their studies, such as letters from a GP or counsellor, Centrelink or Medicare forms, a Medicare card showing dependents, a list of subjects with course outlines, and a completed application form.

Each faculty has a designated ALO who coordinates this support, and if not listed, students can refer to the UTS ALO directory. External organisations like Carers NSW and the Young Carer Hub may also provide additional support.

I also attended the NTEU strike and had a lovely time talking to people and showing up to the demonstration. It was really insightful to hear from the NTEU members, and wonderful seeing a predominantly women forefront the speakers.

I'm keen for next month to be less about my introductory work and jump into helping OBs strengthen collectives & assist Vertigo.

4. Education Officer

Education Officer's report March 2026 - Ella Haid

This month the Education Action Group launched the Students Support the Staff Strikes campaign out of our 26/02 meeting, in anticipation of industrial action throughout this semester by the NTEU.

I subsequently attended the NTEU UTS branch meeting on 10th March at which staff debated and voted on a 24-hour strike which took place last Thursday March 19th.

In the lead-up to the strike, EAG activists handed out over 1000 leaflets and, cumulatively, had hundreds of conversations with students about the strike. It was notable how many students knew about the cuts, were angry about them, and stated them as the reason that they'd support the staff strike and stand against management. Campus was notably quieter last Thursday, and the reel which we produced garnered over 150 000 views by the time of the strike with 9000 shares and dozens of supportive comments from students and staff, with students encouraging one another not to go to class. This success speaks to the importance of activist-oriented campaigns which seek to engage ordinary students.

Speaking of which, Students for Palestine's National Day of Action for Palestine was a great success, mobilising hundreds of students in Sydney alone including dozens of radical high schoolers. Mobilising and marching on the street remains important in NSW in particular as our right to protest, particularly for Palestine, is regularly encroached upon by the Minns Government. This day also saw the arrest of Liam Parry for using the phrase "from the river to the sea" at Brisbane's leg of the rally. The anti-free speech laws had come into place only half an hour before the rally began, and represents a serious, authoritarian crackdown on the

anti-war movement that has mushroomed in the last two years.

I also attended the Students For Palestine cross-campus organising meeting for the Sydney district on Friday March 13th, where the nation-wide Weapons off Campus campaign was launched. I commend these activists across the country for galvanising the passive pro-Palestine sentiment amongst the student population into something active and participatory for ordinary students. We also resolved to organise a fundraiser for this year's Sumud Flotilla which will take place this Friday night, March 27th at Redfern Town Hall. I extend my solidarity to the flotilla's participants, including Ethan Floyd from the Sydney University Students For Palestine collective, and encourage councillors to promote and attend this fundraiser.

Lastly, I spent more time in talks with the ABC Four Corners team who are finalising their episode on University Governance, set to air next Monday March 30th.

5. Welfare Officer

March has been a very busy month for me, with a few different things going on over the month that I have been working on.

Night Owl Noodles extension:

For the last week of Ramadan, Night Owl Noodles were extended by an hour so that fasting students could pick up some hot food for iftar. I promoted this with the help of MSA and also reached out to a number of cultural societies over the month, including Pakistani and Bangladeshi, who also shared it to their members and helped promote the fact that this was running. In addition to social media promotion, we were also giving bags of dates to people that came to Night Owl Noodles between 7 and 8 pm in order to entice more people to swing by. Overall, this was a very big effort with the Night Owl staff helping a lot with preparing the extra food and handing it out and I am very happy with how everything was ready to go in time for the extension. With current events being the way they are, I think programs like this that support students from culturally diverse backgrounds are especially important right now.

Diverse food in Blue Bird Pantry:

Similar to the Night Owl Noodles, providing culturally diverse food in the Bluebird Pantry is aimed at making students from all backgrounds feel at home. Most of the deliveries came in towards the start of the month and have been stocked since then. Items such as the baklava have been very popular with students who would take them for iftar and I have been very happy to see the reception that the new items have had so far. This order coincided with Ramadan and so many of the items were catered to parts of the world where fasting students may be from, and potential future orders could similarly be directed at students from other backgrounds, with the eventual goal of catering to students from as many backgrounds as possible.

Clothes Bins:

This month, there have been quite a few meetings with Red Cross and with Activate to plan out the implementation of bins on campus. The current plan would be to have bins in the Activate Wellbeing space as well as in the activate space in front of the old office in Building 1 that is

going to be renovated this semester. The clothes will be processed by a roster of Red Cross Society volunteers, with some clothes being given to UTS Students through Activate and the remaining clothes being given to Red Cross in Ultimo. Both Activate and Red Cross preferred plastic bins for this which is from our end as well because they are going to be much cheaper and easier to move around. When the bins are put in place, we will have labelling on them with instructions about what kinds of clothes can be accepted so we are not getting junk and we are not creating too much work for the volunteers. FESS and Red Cross will also help with the promotion of this once the bins are ready to go so that people know about them and what they are allowed to donate.

Health Services Survey:

The survey has a few more weeks to go before it wraps up and I have put up posters about it around campus to raise awareness about it. There is also a 50 dollar giveaway which is aimed at helping us get more responses. We have already gotten quite a few responses and some good insight into issues that students have had with Healthcare services on campus. In the coming weeks I will be doing more to get more responses for the survey, with plans for a stall and handing out flyers at different times on campus. Once the survey is wrapped up I will work towards interpreting the responses to identify common issues that students are having and coming up with recommendations that we as a union can push towards so that we can improve the student experience when it comes to healthcare on campus.

Collective Election and increased active membership This month, we held two meetings of the Welfare collective, with a new collective convenor

being elected and us getting quite a few attendees in both meetings. This is likely the most active and engaged members the collective has had post-COVID and I will be using this membership and our new convenor in particular to help take some of the burden of the workload from me so I don't have to do everything by myself. I am also looking to bring back some of the old projects that the Welfare Collective was going to do before the pandemic such as a planned 'meet your caseworkers' barbeque that never happened in 2020, but could happen now.

6. Women's Officer

Enter Announcements

7. International Students' Officer

Enter Announcements

8. Indigenous Officer

Enter Announcements

9. Postgraduate Students' Officer

Enter Announcements

10. Ethnocultural Officer

This month has been a productive one for the Ethnocultural Collective.

Work has continued behind the scenes on the development of a new multi-faith working group, which I am hoping to launch soon. I will be meeting with the multi-faith chaplain this week to begin establishing the groundwork for this initiative.

Ramadan has been a particularly busy period due to religious commitments; however, Ramadan-focused initiatives across UTS have been highly successful.

In collaboration with UTSMS, and with our support, free community iftars were run throughout the entirety of Ramadan. This was a really meaningful initiative for student welfare, ensuring Muslim students had a consistent and welcoming space to break their fast. Increased access to free food on campus is always a positive, and it was great to see strong engagement and overwhelmingly positive feedback.

I have also been actively working on the upcoming crash course event in collaboration with PalSoc, aimed at supporting newly arrived refugees and helping them feel welcomed into the community.

I anticipate having further updates next month, particularly in relation to the multi-faith working group.

11. Disabilities Officer

Disabilities Officer Report – Amelia Grace Wilson-Williams

1. Disabilities Collective Coffee Catch Up, Cornerstone Café – Friday 27 February, 12 pm
The Disabilities Collective held its first Coffee Catch Up at Cornerstone Café on Friday 27 February at 12 pm. Two attendees registered for the session, with one member attending on the day.

The Catch Up created a relaxed and informal space for discussion, with valuable feedback provided on how to shape future Collective engagement opportunities in ways that feel genuinely accessible and low-pressure.

Key feedback included:

- Affirmed support to connect with Accessibility Services to explore potential collaboration and support, both for initiatives, and for marketing of Disabilities Collective events to reach additional students.
- Recognition that capacity to attend events can fluctuate, and that it can be difficult for students to anticipate what environments will feel comfortable.
- A preference for “low impact” events. We established that coffee is a good base, but pairing it with an activity (e.g. colouring in, visiting a cat café, or other gentle activities) may reduce social pressure for neurodivergent students.
- The idea that purely conversation-based events can sometimes feel like needing to “perform,” particularly when meeting new people.
- A suggestion to provide fidget toys at gatherings to support comfort and regulation.
- Strong interest in a potential “Crafternoon” style event as this is an activity focused, low-pressure social space that allows for organic, smaller chats while providing freedom to engage at one’s own pace.

Feedback emphasised that activity-based events create a safer social structure, allowing students to connect without the expectation of constant verbal participation. It was also noted that once members get to know one another, events can be more easily tailored to shared interests.

The second attendee was emailed a reminder the day of the event but did not see it until after the event had concluded. I will be emailing registered attendees a few days prior to each event to provide gentle reminder notifications in future. This aims to support attendance by reducing load and ensuring students can reassess capacity closer to the date.

I will be organising Coffee Catch Ups on the last Friday of each month, to encourage consistent and meaningful engagement with the Disabilities Collective. By establishing a regular and predictable touchpoint, the initiative aims to strengthen peer support networks, improve continuity of participation across the academic year, and ensure ongoing feedback informs advocacy and governance work. The monthly format also promotes accessibility by offering flexible, community-focused

engagement opportunities for students who may not feel comfortable attending

structured Collective meetings.² Liaison with UTS Accessibility – Marketing Support

I emailed the general Accessibility email address on 27 February requesting that the March events, and Disabilities Collective Sign Up link be emailed out to the students on the Accessibility Services mailing registry. We discussed Accessibility sharing Disabilities Collective events via their mailing list. I will be sending an email each month and Accessibility will be distributing it to their mailing list on my behalf, with promotional material regarding the events the Collective is running.

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

On 5 March, I met with Liz Penny to discuss strengthening collaboration between the Disability Collective and UTS Accessibility Services. The meeting focused on improving communication pathways, aligning advocacy with institutional processes, and identifying opportunities for joint initiatives. We discussed student engagement trends, key areas of concern, and ways to improve awareness and accessibility of existing supports, as well as how we can collaborate throughout my tenure.

My second initiative focuses on improving the visibility of accessibility information within MyTimetable. This includes introducing clear indicators of classroom capabilities (e.g. wheelchair access, recording suitability). Liz noted long-standing advocacy for priority timetabling for Accessibility-registered students, which could streamline support and reduce administrative burden, though system limitations and funding constraints may impact feasibility. A follow-up meeting with Student Administration was identified as the next step.

My third initiative explores centralising disability support across universities. While privacy constraints limit direct data sharing, UTS can accept external Access Plans alongside local documentation. Liz indicated current processes function effectively but agreed

that they could be communicated more clearly to better support students, particularly those facing barriers such as retraumatisation. Accessibility Services are developing visual guides to improve the registration process, with opportunities for student input. Liz said she will add me to the Accessibility Service's student consultation group Slack channel so I can collaborate with the team on the visual guides they are developing.

My fourth initiative addresses inclusive campus design, including the development of sensory and accessible study spaces. Although the Accessibility Service created guidelines in 2019, implementation has been limited. There is potential to establish integrated, inclusive spaces

near the Accessibility Service (e.g. for body doubling and quiet study), though funding and ownership constraints remain. Incremental approaches, (such as repurposing existing spaces and applying for student partnership grants), were identified as practical starting points. The meeting reinforced a constructive working relationship and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for disabled students through both institutional reform and student-led advocacy. I look forward to fostering a positive working relationship with the Accessibility Service throughout my tenure.

4. Student Voices Australia, Student Disability Leadership Collective

I received an invitation to join the SVA Student Disability Leadership Collective from Jen Lowe (Co-Chair, National Student Disability Leadership Collective). I have signed up and look forward to engaging with the Collective. There is an upcoming meeting on 21 April which I plan to attend.

5. Developed Accessibility x Vertigo Resource List

In the lead up to the call with Emanie, the Chief Editor of Vertigo, where we were going to discuss accessibility considerations across both the print and digital editions of the magazine, I created two practical accessibility checklists which may be used in the following contexts:

- Social media posts
 - o Ensuring captions, image descriptions, alt-text, formatting, and content are consistently applied to improve digital accessibility.
- Drafting of Vertigo editions
 - o Providing guidance on layout, language use, readability, colour contrast, and accessibility considerations during the editorial process.

warnings

The checklists are intended to embed accessibility into standard practice rather than treating it as an afterthought. By utilising these guidelines, the initiative would promote accountability, consistency, and alignment with inclusive design principles across student publications.

I took these checklists to the 6 March meeting with Emanie where we discussed their practicality, what Vertigo Editors are already doing, and areas for improvement.6. Accessibility Advocacy & Engagement with Vertigo – Emanie Darwiche, 6 March at 11

am

I met with Emanie, the Chief Editor of Vertigo to discuss accessibility considerations across both the print and digital editions of the magazine. The meeting was constructive and focused on identifying practical, achievable adjustments that would improve access for disabled students while maintaining the publication's creative and editorial integrity. We discussed what Vertigo is already doing in this space, and anything else Vertigo could be doing, especially as the magazine has an interest in producing more social media content for students.

During the discussion, we reviewed a range of accessibility improvements, including:

1. Print design considerations such as font choice and sizing, contrast levels, text alignment, and layout spacing to better support students with low vision and print-related access needs.
2. Digital accessibility measures including properly tagged PDFs, improved screen reader compatibility, and the inclusion of alt text for images and visual content on social media.
3. Broader formatting adjustments aimed at reducing visual and cognitive load, including clearer heading structures and consistent layout hierarchy.

We discussed the editorial guidelines within the UTSSA Constitution & By-Laws regarding minimum font size of 12 point, using clear and easy to read font such as Arial, as well as

ensuring there is adequate colour contrasting between text.

We also explored several immediate-term changes that can be implemented in upcoming editions, particularly relating to digital formatting. The conversation emphasised accessibility as an opportunity to strengthen readership reach and inclusion, rather than as a compliance issue.

We discussed organising a further meeting with the Vertigo team, specifically, with the Social Media Editor and the Design Editors, to discuss the specific accessibility guidelines that may be implemented within their verticals.

This engagement represents an important step toward embedding accessibility considerations within student media practices and ensuring Vertigo is accessible to as many students as possible.

7. Portfolio Check In – Neeve Nagle, UTSSA President, 13 March at 12 pm

I met with Neeve for a portfolio check-in and general strategy discussion. The meeting provided an opportunity to update Neeve on current initiatives, seek guidance on governance processes, and ensure alignment between Disability Collective priorities and broader Association objectives. We discussed current advocacy areas, including accessibility initiatives, cross portfolio

collaboration opportunities, and engagement strategies for increasing participation within the Disability Collective. I also sought advice on navigating sensitive stakeholder conversations and positioning accessibility initiatives constructively within Council and affiliated publications.

The discussion was valuable in clarifying procedural pathways for advancing advocacy items and identifying opportunities for coordinated action across portfolios. It also provided space to reflect on workload, strategic priorities for the semester, and upcoming deliverables.

Regular check-ins of this nature support accountability, ensure consistency across the executive team, and strengthen collaborative governance within the Association.

8. Disabilities Collective Meeting – Friday 13 March, 1 pm

The Disabilities Collective met to discuss key accessibility priorities and strategic planning for 2026. A total of 5 members (excluding myself) attended the meeting.

The Collective discussed the five major initiatives planned for 2026, aimed at strengthening advocacy, community engagement, and structural inclusion across the university. The meeting also discussed a minor initiative regarding the Accessibility x Vertigo Campaign.

Members provided feedback on implementation strategies and identified potential gaps and opportunities of the initiatives. We discussed ways to better engage with Collective members, and how to involve more students on campus.

A motion was also passed for the election of a convenor for the Disabilities Collective. This will take place on 27 March during the Collective's March coffee catch up. Nominations opened on

13 March at 2 pm and will close on 27 March at 12 pm. 9. Cross-Portfolio Collaboration – Francesca Harrison, Women's Officer, 16 March at 12:30 pm

I met with Francesca to discuss shared advocacy priorities. A key area explored was the integration of accessibility data into MyTimetable. We discussed the practical implications of enabling students to view information about classroom features, such as lift access, hearing support infrastructure, and room layout, at the point of enrolment. Improving visibility of this information would allow students to make informed decisions without needing to separately request access details, thereby reducing friction in the enrolment process. We discussed if there was any collaboration between the Wom*ns and Disabilities portfolios. We established I

would work with Accessibility on this initiative, however, other initiatives including initiative three (exploring ways to better centralise disability services across universities) and four (advocating for inclusive campus design guidelines) could have collaborative efforts.

10. Disabilities Collective Coffee Catch Up, The Terrace Cafe – Friday 27 March, 1 pm

The Disabilities Collective will be holding its monthly Coffee Catch Up at The Terrace Cafe. I have created a registration form, which has been distributed to Collective members via email, on the Collective's private closed Facebook page, and public page, and via Instagram. The Collective's convenor election will happen during the coffee catch up, and a Zoom link will be sent out to members in case they cannot attend in person, to ensure inclusivity.

12. Queer Officer

N/A

13. Environment Officer

Connected Intelligence Centre

Meet with Representatives from the Connected Intelligence Centre to discuss AI Policy at UTS. I was able to convey student concerns around the universities current lack of consistency across classes, ie: Student's being told some ai use if allowed but they end up losing marks because they used 'to much', according to an arbitrary boundary. They acknowledged this issue but framed it as a mere lack of communication between policy makers and on-the-ground tutors, which I pushed back on. We are however, collaborating on developing a student survey to be sent out next month to collect more data on student's and staff's experiences with AI in the classroom.

I also joined the AI Operations Board, run by the Connected Intelligence Centre, which oversees the implementation of AI Policies and Tools across the university, and is currently working on providing copilot to all UTS students as part of the universities software package. The University is also developing an internal AI software called Recast, which apparently aims to simulate client interactions for certain degrees. The example that was given to me was for business students recast could be used to simulate other business in a market, allowing students to practise adapting answers and strategies to changing conditions. The practicality of this software remains to be seen.

Sustainability Steering Committee

Unfortunately, I missed the first meeting of the Sustainability Steering Committee due to it overlapping with the student strike for Palestine. Nonetheless, I provided a written submission prior to the is meeting regarding outlining the environmental collective's goals for the year and positions on various issues up for discussion during the meeting, including the university energy use, disclosure levels, and efforts to include sustainability in subject curriculum.

Collective

I am working towards hosting the collective's election next month. In the meantime, I have been contacted by Eco Students Australia regarding the national divestment from fossil fuels campaign they are running. While admirable, I fear their campaign's relevance to UTS may be

limited, as UTS entirely relies on Australian Ethical as it's its investment fund manager, which is a fossil fuel free fund. Nonetheless, I hope to collaborate with Eco Students Australia on other Campaigns during the year.

I was also pleased to help design and print the flyers for the UTSSA's petition against the Protest Application Form, and I hope to involve the collective in our campaign against this censorship by the university.