



src activism
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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 1st regular meeting of the 95th SRC held on **Wednesday the 1st February 2023**. Meeting held in the Abercrombie Business School Lecture Theatre 1050, and via Zoom.

A quorum count was called at 6:12

The meeting was found quorate.

A. Meeting open at 6:13pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Tiger Perkins be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

B. Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land (Sydney), the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We stand on this land today as beneficiaries of an uncompensated and unreconciled dispossession that occurred over 200 years ago. Many of the descendants of those dispossessed live just down the road in abject poverty, and as young people it is important to recognise how this history of dislocation and disenfranchisement has contributed to the inequality we observe in modern society. We acknowledge both our privilege and our obligation to redress the situation as best we can: to remember the mistakes of the past, act on the problems of today, and build a future for everyone who now calls this place home, striving always for genuinely practical and meaningful reconciliation.

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Emily Mackay

Eliza Crossley to Iggy Boyd

Bryson Constable to Alex Thevenon

Owen Marsden Readford to Tom Williams

Annabelle Jones to Rose Donnelly

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The apologies were accepted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Report of the Electoral Officer

Riki Scanlan briefly spoke to the report and the recommendations within asked for questions.

Motion: to accept the report of the Electoral Officer

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

E2. Consideration of any resignations

Belinda Thomas to Grace Porter

Lauren Lancaster to Amelie Roediger * awaiting resignations from ticket members

Lia Perkins to Simone Maddison

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations, except Lauren Lancaster till all ticket members had confirmed they did not want the seat.

Moved:

Seconded:

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of the Representatives Elect meeting of the 95th SRC held on 19th October 2022 and the 10th Regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on the 3rd November 2022 were circulated.

It was noted there was a typo in the end time of the Representatives Elect meeting.
It was corrected.

Motion: that the minutes of the Representatives Elect meeting of the 95th SRC held on 19th October 2022 and the 10th Regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on the 3rd November 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

H. Question Time of 15 minutes, which may be extended by resolution for a further 15 minutes.

Satvik Sharma asked about the expenditure report and when it would be presented to council.

Lia Perkins explained it will be presented when the audit and the acquittal have been completed –

this is expected to be in April.

There was a question about website and its updates, noting that some information has not yet been updated/corrected.

It was noted that the website just launched and was still being updated.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

Procedural to limit speaking time to 2.5 minutes for this agenda item

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

The Fellow of Senate, Ben Jorgenson spoke to the council and thanked them for the 2.5 min speaking time. He spoke about his election platform campaigning for better flexibility in education, accessibility and that that would be his agenda to be pursued for the next two years. Asked if there are ever any questions or concern please get in touch.

Ben also spoke about the responsibilities of being on senate and the universities accords and what they mean for the sector, adding that much of the content in senate meetings are confidential noting that this will mean responses may be vague.

Hersha Kadkol said that senate meetings should not be confidential to student representatives and that it was outrageous.

Ben Jorgenson responded saying all the impacts on students are delivered to students and others are confidential by law, adding if anyone had issues with that they would need to take it up with the court.

Motion to accept the report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Thomas Thorpe

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

K. Elections

K1. Election of 4 Frist Nations' Officers **

Nomination: Benjamin McGrory

Benjamin McGrory spoke to their nomination

There being no other nominations Benjamin McGrory was declared elected unopposed as the First Nations Officer for the 95th SRC.

K2. Election of 4 Mature Age Students' Officers

There were no nominations

K3. Election of 3 Ethno-Cultural Officers **

There were no nominations

K4. Election of 2 Queer Officers **

There were no nominations

** Affirmative action and Active member requirement provisions apply
(Part 1 section 4 and 4A, of the regulations)

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 2nd December 2022 to the 9th January 2023

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 2nd December 2022 to the 9th January 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 1st December 2022 to the 31st January 2023.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Lia Perkins tabled a written report:

The last two months as SRC President have been great. This report outlines what I've been up to.

Activism

Invasion Day

I attended the fantastic Invasion Day rally, and assisted the organisers with marshalling on the day. The SRC also did a significant amount of printing to go into building the rally.

Office Bearers + Collectives

I've been going to collective meetings where I'm available, and offering support to OBs in their roles. It's good to see Office bearers getting ready for Welcome Week, which I hope will be an exciting affair where we can get lots of new signups! Congrats to all of the OBs and collective members who have been working hard on publications! They look amazing.

Activist Training Day

In December we ran the Activist Training Day. Thank you to Riley for their fantastic presentation on action media, and all of the Office bearers for their participation throughout the day. If you have any suggestions for further training for OBs and collective members please let me know!

Covid protest fines

Many of the fines given under Covid anti-protest laws were deemed unlawful, and have been returned to the recipients. As the SRC Education officers ran a fundraiser that indicated that any leftover money would be returned to the SRC 'for future protests', we have received reimbursements for this. We are currently working out the best way for this to be accessed by student activists, and will pass any policy regarding this at the next council meeting.

Projects

New website

The new SRC website is now live! Thank you to SRC Publications managers Amanda and Mickie for all of their work on the site. The site has all of the same important information as the old site, but includes many more functions that will be useful for OBs and students. Over the coming weeks we will be preparing OBs on how they can use the site to its full potential - uploading reports, events, and photos.

Welcome Week

Preparation for Welcome Week is going smoothly. The General Secretaries have put a lot of work into the tote bags and ensuring everything is ready on time. I can't wait to get more students active and involved in student unionism! I am speaking at various student welcomes, to let students know about our services and collectives.

Outreach: Newsletter + President Consultation Hours

I'm grouping these together because they're part of my broader strategy to increase the amount of students engaged and interested in the work of their student union. I'm in the process of putting together a fortnightly newsletter, which will include a short report, featured campaigns, collective events and more. The first newsletter should be sent out in week 1. I've organised President Consultation Hours, when any student can drop by the office (or zoom) and raise problems, ideas or projects they'd like the SRC and its office bearers to consider. In Semester 1 these hours will be Monday 11-1 and Wednesday 3-5. I'm available by email anytime, particularly

to Office bearers, but these will be times dedicated to meeting with and communicating with students.

FoodHub

In December, the Vice Presidents and I met with the USU to discuss plans for FoodHub in 2023. We hope that the USU's support will ensure the hub has adequate funding and resourcing, and that the SRC and SUPRA can play a role in its ongoing success. In a cost of living crisis with inadequate support from the Federal Labor government, students should not be going without food, or struggling to pay rent - and we will continue to push for change on both a federal and state level.

Office space

I spent some time updating the office space to get ready for the year. The 'OB room' has now been updated to reflect the name change, and there is a sign 'Ish Varlin room'. All OBs have signs for their desks, and the waiting room at the front of the office has updated resources and reading material. The resource space is almost functional, and certainly will be by the time semester begins.

Base + contestable SSAF application

We have a number of projects that we will be applying for in the SSAF application happening in April. It may appear premature but I've started working on these applications. I met with Riki to discuss their report and what SSAF is required to fund an in person election, particularly considering inflation increases.

Committees and meetings with the University

I've attended numerous committee meetings and meetings with the University so far, as a representative of Undergraduate students. In Feb there will be some of the larger committee meetings which have more student reps on them, and I've set up pre-committee meetings with students so that we can review the agenda and for students to feel confident speaking up from their positions.

UE Education

- We have been approved in a SSAF infrastructure request to be relocated. I am going to be in ongoing correspondence with the University over where this will be, to secure us the best possible space on campus. Ideally somewhere more accessible and not with mould issues!

Academic Board Undergraduate Studies Committee

- At the first meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee some relatively minor course changes were proposed. It was unfortunate to see the effects of Future FASS to units in FASS which justify a need for "sustainability" over education.

Welcome Week Implementation

- I've been to a few of these. The most relevant thing to report is that the Uni is planning a big Welcome to new students on Wednesday Feb 15th, where myself and Weihong (President of SUPRA) will be introducing our student organisations - hopefully to quite a large audience which will boost numbers at our stall!

SLTCP

- I can't remember what the full acronym means, but this is the meeting where we talk with other student organisations and the Uni about the free trainings they are offering

General SRC work

Casework Selection Committee

Unfortunately we were unable to find a suitable applicant in our first round of interviews, and over the break we have re-advertised the positions. The application closed on Monday, and we are interviewing at the moment.

Social media intern

The executive has begun the process of getting a selection committee together to hire a social media intern.

Farewell to Lorna

Last week we said farewell to one of our amazing caseworkers, Lorna, who is on leave to work elsewhere for a year. Thank you to Lorna for all of the support and advice you've provided students! Best of luck in your new role.

Casework return to office

Casework and policy officers will be working from the office every Tuesday from week 1. We will continue to review this policy and hope to ensure students are easily able to access the casework service and face to face appointments can return where suitable.

Other things

Thank you to Tiger for covering as President while I was away for a few days.

The Executive have been very responsive to circulars, which I greatly appreciate. We are setting a regular exec meeting time, but I don't currently have one as I write this.

In December I attended Natcon, and on Thursday 2nd I'm going to Melbourne for the Presidents' Summit.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to her report and covered its main points.

Deaglan Godwin asked Lia about the President's Summit and what questions and issues was she going to raise at the summit.

Lia Perkins said she hasn't been able to prepare much yet but will be discussing the accords, the cost-of-living crisis, and the need for a treaty in the lead up to the voice to parliament vote.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Iggy Boyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Daniel Bowron and Rose Donnelly tabled a written report:

Hello all and welcome to the first ordinary meeting of this 95th Council! This year is promising to be action-packed and we are hoping to make the most of our time here, building on the efforts of previous years and leaving foundations in our wake for future years.

Cost of Living Crisis Campaign

During 2023 we will work closely with the Welfare Collective on a Cost of Living Crisis campaign. We believe this is one of the most pertinent issues affecting students today, and hope that this campaign can change University policies, as well as affect change by building a broad coalition that fights for financial security for students. According to a survey conducted in October 2022 more than half of students who live out of home to study aren't able to access youth allowance. Additionally, 110,000 students are attempting to live on a mere \$26 a day. Please check out the Welfare Collective's flyer in your welcome week bags for more information.

To start out, we will set up social media accounts to raise the voices of students and document student experiences. Some issues we hope to flesh out are rising rents, the unreasonably high age of independence that precludes students from accessing even in cases where students are not supported by their parents. Further, a large component of the campaign will be lobbying the University to decrease costs associated with degrees that are not covered by HECS/ HELP loans and increase student services like CAPS, which currently stands at just six sessions. Please read *'The University's failing counselling and mental health services'* by Jack Scanlan in Honi Soit 2022 for more information on this.

Students can participate in this campaign by supporting the upcoming events:

The Rally for Housing Justice Banner Paint- Tuesday 7th of February 3:00pm Carslaw Library, University of Sydney

The Rally for Housing Justice- Saturday 11th February 12:00pm Location: Sydney Town Hall

Demands: Eliminate homelessness now, defend and extend public housing, end no fault evictions
+ more

National Day of Climate Action Friday 3rd March 11:00am University of Sydney

FoodHub

Following on from FoodHub's successes last year, we are planning to retain the previous hours of 10am - 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Semester. We are hoping to introduce a steady supply of toiletries, sanitary products and other non-food (but essential) items to complement the existing service.

Our efforts to continue and expand FoodHub will be assisted by the USU's support of its operations. The USU was allocated \$75,000 in SSAF to run FoodHub and we have opened dialogue with its key stakeholders to discuss any future changes to operations, sourcing, and staffing.

A key part of FoodHub's evolution will be the continual gathering and analysis of feedback from its users. We are currently organising an initial survey of prior users to see what worked well and what didn't, as well as what they want to see in the coming year. This process will continue through the year, ideally through a basic suggestion box (and, obviously, telling us personally when we are there) in FoodHub itself and then a communication channel such as a Facebook page where news can be announced and links to surveys posted.

Overall, there is a lot in the pipeline and we are looking forward to working with all OBs, Councillors, and students more broadly to refine and focus our efforts where they are needed most.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly spoke to the report covering its main point and highlighting the upcoming events.

Daniel Bowron spoke to the report focussing on the FoodHub program.

Rose Donnelly added that for the cost-of-living crisis campaign they are hoping to get testimonials from students to highlight the issues student are facing so if anyone would like to be involved or knows someone who would be interested in participating that would be great.

Alex Poirier asked for more details on the money from the USU.

Rose Donnelly said the USU were going to hire someone to run the FoodHub rather than relying solely on volunteers.

Daniel Bowron added that some money was also going to supplying non-food essentials.

Yasmine Johnson asked about the cost-of-living campaign and what the impact of the Labor government would be on the campaign considering the VPs are members of the party.

Rose Donnelly said that the political party affiliation was something outside the SRC, and that they can advocate to the government as members, but also campaign externally.

Deaglan Godwin asked about how they manage participation.

Rose Donnelly said that if you are asking about the campaign, it's about protest if you are asking about us personally we can also work within the party separate to our work at the SRC.

Victor Zhang asked about the volunteers and where information to sign up was.

Daniel Bowron and Rose Donnelly said it was on the SRC website and they will be promoting it at the start of semester.

Satvik Sharma asked about the state election campaigns.

Daniel Bowron said he had no information about state elections.

Motion: that the report of the Vice Presidents be accepted.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes per person.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Rand Khatib

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Jasmine Donnelly and Tiger Perkins tabled a written report

The first two months of our term have been landing some blows planning Welcome Week (15-17 Feb) and organising this year's activism with 2023 OBs.

Welcome Week Bags + Stall Rosters

We've ordered the 2023 SRC totes, designed by the talented Ellie Stephenson (Council to murmur in admiration). We will be sending out rosters for packing these over the next few days, as well as

shifts at the SRC stall. We would be very grateful if you could find the time to make it! We will give you a sherbet stick as a treat

Welcome Week PARTYYYYY

Known as the event of the season, albeit its infamy, we have successfully secured funding from the Welcome Week Grants committee at Student Life to hold the highly anticipated Welcome to Uni party. It will be **raucous**, it will be **lively**, it will be **radical-chic**. This will be held at Hermann's on the 17th of February from roughly 6-8, with free pizza and drinks available (unfortunately aforementioned drinks are not alcoholic as Student Life is praying on our downfall every minute of daylight. thank you for the money.) Definitely rock up to this event of the season.

Handbooks

We've done the handbook, many thanks to Ishbel and Yasmine for their collaboration. Also thank you to Lia and VPs for their work on this, as well as all of our writers (including casework and legal), SRC publication managers Amanda and Mickie, and lovely Honi Soit for letting us use their office and for the layup advice. We sent this off to print on Monday, and are very happy to not use InDesign for at least a fortnight.

Other Activities

We've been working with the OBs across various initiatives and campaigns and getting excited about their goals for the year! We also love your merch

We both attended the Invasion Day rally, which was great, and have been on the grind with VPs to kickstart a campaign centred around the cost of living crisis and its impact on university students.

Stay prepared and prospering, Tiger and Jaz

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins spoke to the report and covered its main points.

Jasmine Donnelly spoke to the report and focused on the Welcome Week Party.

Satvik Sharma was named by the Chair

Madeleine Clark spoke about the March 3 NDA and asked if there would be leaflets in the Welcome Week bags to build the NDA.

Jasmine Donnelley and Tiger Perkins responded saying they need to be sent the leaflets to include them, and they also have extra pages in the handbooks for a full page add if anyone want to contact them about that.

Simon Upitis asked about how Tiger Perkins feels about the cost-of-living campaign in relation to the Labor government and what the SRC should be doing.

Tiger Perkins responded saying the SRC should be holding the government to account for the crisis, and would be advocating for direct opposition to the government's lack of action to the crisis.

Hersha Kadkol said there are 2 things the SRC should be working on is cutting through with messaging on climate while the government shows continued support of the fossil fuel industry there needs to be a move to build the climate actions coming up and there also needs a bigger action against the cost of living action as well as backing the EAGs campaigns. Asking what are the General Secretaries going to do to back up these key priorities?

Tiger Perkins responded saying their role is supporting the other OBs in their campaigns and works and this involves assisting with projects as well as putting aside time to help Office Bearers troubleshoot and plan.

Hersha Kadkol was named.

Motion: that the report of the General Secretaries be accepted.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Rand Khatib

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Ishbel Dunsmore and Yasmine Johnson tabled a written report

We're looking forward to kicking off a new year of education activism, in particular around USYD's appalling extended partnership with the weapons manufacturer Thales.

Invasion Day

We spent January building for the Invasion Day rally on January 26th. We had some successful leafleting sessions and helped organise the SRC contingent on the day. Given the new Labor government's continued attacks on Indigenous rights - the fact that they are now overseeing racist police violence and child removals, lack of access to healthcare, massive disparities in poverty rates, and so on - it was positive to see a large mobilisation for Invasion Day. Real changes in terms of any of these issues will only be won by fighting the current government. We'll continue to mobilise students in fighting for Indigenous justice over the course of the year.

Welcome Week

We're preparing to meet new students who want to get involved in education activism at Welcome Week. We've received some of the wonderful new merch we ordered already, and we have bags on the way. We'll be talking to students about the fight for quality, free education, the strikes we helped build in 2022, and our new campaign against Thales and the university's ties with them. We're planning a working bee to prepare for this on Tuesday Feb 8 at 4pm. Also keep an eye out for word about our Week 1 open meeting! Date TBA.

Counter course

The EAG's annual welcome week handbook, Counter course, should be off to print by the time of this SRC meeting! We received a large range of political articles, and we're excited to share the final product with students during Welcome Week. It will be made available online via issuu around mid-February, and physical copies will be found in the SRC tote bags, so be sure to pick up a copy (especially on account of my InDesign-induced psychosis)!

Cut Ties with Thales - Books Not Bombs USYD

We're kicking off a campaign against the December 2022 renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between Thales and the University of Sydney. Thales have provided weapons to major world powers to be used in a variety of conflicts over recent decades, and they produce many of the arms used by the Australian military. We believe that universities should be about education, not about furthering militarism. The demands of the campaign are:

- Tear up the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with Thales
- Sack Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson
- Kick Thales off campus – get rid of all courses, projects, research or partnerships with Thales
- Redirect funding from military and corporate partnerships into free, quality tertiary education for the good of humanity.

We now have social media accounts for the campaign and will shortly be launching a petition against Thales influence on campus. We're planning an action for Thursday February 23rd. We'd encourage all office bearers and council members to come along to EAG organising meetings in the leadup to help us organise and build this, and help shape the future of the campaign.

Keep up with our socials here:

https://www.instagram.com/thales_off_campus/

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089635484707>

UK University Strikes

Workers at over 60 campuses across the UK are planning to take strike action for 18 days. We stand in solidarity with their fight against insecure contracts, high workloads, and management's refusals to grant pay rises, issues which are also faced by uni staff in Australia.

We've certainly had our work cut out for us, but we're keen to see some fresh faces in EAG meetings, rallies and so forth in the coming month. Hope to see you soon!

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the report and covered the main points of the first half of the report.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the report and covered the second half of the report.

Ishbel Dunsmore added there were materials arriving for welcome week.

Tom Williams spoke about the Thales campaign and the work that Thales does around the world and asked why the University would have a working relationship with such a company.

Yasmine Johnson responded by saying the University want to do what works for the Australian government and for profit, adding that many senior management serve on the boards of these companies.

Thomas Thorpe asked about what the impact would be for students who rely on scholarships from Thales?

Ishbel Dunsmore said we should be fighting for free education for all regardless.

Yasmine Johnson also responded saying that research should not be done for the military but for the good of humanity.

Angus Dermondly asked how members of Socialist Alternative can agree to the selling of arms to Ukraine if they oppose arms development companies

Yasmine Johnson responded saying they support the right of those under occupation/attack to defend themselves.

Motion: that the report of the Education Officers be accepted.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Iggy Boyed and Alev Saracoglu tabled a written report

It's a busy time of year! It's a busy time of year! The Women's Collective has been building for Invasion Day - flyering at Glebe Markets and promoting on socials. Another priority of the

collective around this time has been working on our annual publication Growing Strong in order to get it finished by the end of January. Pieces started rolling in, editors have been working hard and laying up in the Honi office, and we've reached out to artists as well. We are hoping to celebrate its publication by throwing a Growing Strong launch party in the near future, so keep your eyes peeled for that! We also had our first meeting with Jenny Leong to discuss the upcoming activation of an anti-college campaign through a roundtable. We are hoping to hold this within 4-6 weeks time and follow it up with a campaign strategy day. This will be a really important opportunity for us to reconnect with past WoCo convenors and continue to pass down institutional knowledge that has been lacking. This is also meant to serve as a launch pad into a larger housing campaign. Plans are also starting to materialize with Welcome Week and merchandise is looking like it'll be finalized soon.

Growing Strong

Yesterday Growing Strong was sent to print and we're very proud of how our efforts have paid off. We've got articles about the white supremacy of the beauty industry, abortion accessibility, the Iranian Feminist movement over the years and many more so please check out if you have the chance! Special shout out for both Julia and Mickie who were both a huge help in an area we were relatively unfamiliar with before now. We'll be handing them out during Welcome Week so make sure to stop by if you're around.

Invasion Day

We spent January building for Invasion Day and it was brilliant to see a large range of WoCo members attending on the day. Invasion Day is always a particularly large and moving rally and it was great to once again see that this year with a very strong turnout which reflects just how much people want to see true Indigenous justice in this colony. The Womens' Collective should always be a bulwark for Indigenous sovereignty in so-called "Australia" and we're proud to be able to uphold that legacy.

Welcome Week

Welcome Week planning has been going swimmingly and merch is starting to trickle in. Our shirts just arrived yesterday and we're very happy with them so feel free to wear one around campus to make us look good! Stickers should be arriving soon and we've prepared all our printing for Welcome Week now, continued work will include organising a banner paint for the stall and preparing possible informational material. It will be great to be able to get back on campus and start meeting more with the Collective for a new year of activism.

End the Colleges Campaign

We met with Jenny Leong's office on the 23rd to continue working on the anti-colleges campaign and organise a Roundtable discussion which would ideally involve a number of current and past campus figures as well as expanding the campaign beyond simply the USyd Colleges but to all University housing that is on public land but controlled neither by the public or students. The anti-

Colleges campaign at USyd will continue to burn as always, whether it burns bright or burns low, and we will continue to fight that fight but an expansion of this campaign could be a very positive move for re-invigorating in this campaign and extending it to other campuses who possess systems not dissimilar to the Colleges here.

Discussion:

Iggy Boyd spoke to the report covering its main points.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke about the protest against George Pell's funeral and asked of the Women's Collective will be promoting that as well as speaking about the upcoming day of the unborn child.

Alev Saracoglu said the protest has been shared on the collective's social media.

Iggy noted that there was a placeholder event for the day of the unborn child. We are also developing a flyer for the collective to hand out about the day, and about abortion accessibility.

Motion: that the report of the Wom*n's Officers be accepted.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Disabilities Officers

Greetings everyone!

We at DisCo have had a restful Christmas, Western and Lunar New Year!

We will be setting up a joint SRC stall with Sydney University Postgraduate Students' Association (SUPRA) for Welcome Week called 'Disability Hub'. We will also be distributing the landmark Disabilities and Higher Education in Australia Report by the National Union of Students (NUS), Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) and the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA).

We strongly recommend that everyone reads through the report, sobering as it is, as it is vital that our universities' (including Sydney) structural ableism be addressed and dismantled. There remains a significant gap between the retention rate and degree attainment rate of disabled and non-disabled students, this must change. From the still physically inaccessible SRC Office, a delayed Disabilities Space, still broken promises over tactile routes and the prevalence of SASH on campus accommodations – it is a lot and can seem overwhelming. But we must take action and

force universities to listen to students with disabilities because action matters far more than PR, marketing and words.

That, and a state and federal government that has yet to pick up the Disability Royal Commission with serious steam at this time of the year. The Royal Commission may be in September, but given barely any attention. The most recent NDIS Commission 'Own Motion Inquiry' Report saw major power imbalances and abuse experienced by disabled people – including young people our age – in supported housing. The State and Federal governments needs to wake up and

We will be hosting a DisCo Welcome Picnic on Week Two of Semester and will be hosting a number of reading groups throughout. We are also organising together with the NUS Disabilities Officer Isabella Harding and other campus Disabilities & Accessibility Officers for a national campaign against in-person learning and are aiming for it to be in the first week of March. We hope that you will come to this action in solidarity with DisCo.

Our learning conditions are inseparable from each other. The anti-student and medical ableism behind the aggressive transition back to in-person learning scapegoat behind academic integrity as a means for universities to justify caring less about student welfare, not only for disabled students but all students.

We wish you a happy 2023, once again. Our resolution for this year is: nothing about us without us.

Khanh Tran and Jack Scanlan

Discussion:

Khanh Tran spoke to the report covering its main points.

Jack Scanlan spoke about doing a lot of collaboration with SUPRA and the NTEU and tracked down a Disability Pride flag for the collective.

Motion: that the report of the Disabilities Officers be accepted.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Alex Poirier

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

Resistance across the world continues despite increased repression by oppressive states. In Iran the regime has executed 4 protestors after deeply rigged show-trials. Despite this, the protests

continue, with students and workers, young and old all coming out on the streets to demand the overthrow of the dictator. Young people continue to stand in the middle of highways with banners demanding their rights, continuing to demonstrate the inspiring role students and their student bodies can play in drawing people out to resist against the government.

In Palestine, Israel's national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has ordered a ban on Palestinian flags in public spaces. This is another abhorrent attack on the rights of Palestinian resistance, as the Israeli occupation forces continue to evict Palestinians, destroy their houses and murder them in broad daylight. Only one month into 2023, Israeli forces have murdered 30 Palestinians. 9 Palestinians were murdered in such an attack on the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank. Tens of thousands have protested across Palestine in response. At the National Union of Students National Conference, both Deaglan and Jasmine were part of moving and supporting motions pushing for the NUS to officially support Palestine. Student unions need to continue to show solidarity with Palestine, and concretely organise activism around it.

This month Jasmine and Deaglan have helped the Education Action Group kick start their campaign against the universities renewed contract with weapons manufacturer Thales. Thales has played a particularly sinister role in partnering with Elbit Systems, an Israeli weapons manufacturer, to create the surveillance drones used to oppress Palestinians.

The increased drive to militarisation is being led by the Labor government today, with Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong ironically recently citing that the point of nuclear submarines is to strengthen their anti-nuclear pact. Australia is increasing its defence spending to strengthen its position in the Indo-Pacific region against China. Students and workers have no interest in this heightening of imperialist conflict and we refuse to support either of the imperialist camps.

In France, over 1 million people have marched against the planned reintroduction of pension reforms which would raise the age of retirement from 62-64. Every union joined in on the call for a general strike, and university and high school barricaded and picketed their campuses. This follows similar rolling strikes in 2019-20 over similar reforms to a pension system won through decades of workers' struggle. France demonstrates what an actual fighting union movement can do, compared to ours, which is wholly subordinated to the interests of Labor state and federal governments. It also illustrates the positive role student militancy can play in contributing to a greater political crisis for the government. Both of these are lessons this SRC should heed and take up.

As Global Solidarity Officers, we want to argue that the SRC should not only take up an activist approach but should organise activism which coheres left-wing opposition to the current Labor government. This government is no friend of students or workers, either in Australia or globally. A left-wing SRC won't just ignore this government, but organise against it, both to defend from attacks but also to demand more for students and workers. Those other left-wing factions should also take up this approach.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report and covered the main points in the written report and noted that the SRC should build a student movement which is oppositional to governments and not depend on governments to make change they have no incentives to make.

Cooper Gannon gave a verbal report saying that the world is still in one piece so global solidarity continues.

Satvik Sharma gave a verbal report saying that investment bankers and lawyers are still working too many hours a week, and we should not be allowing such things to happen and need to be able to change this we need to deregulate the financial markets and elect a liberal national state government in March.

Jack Scanlan asked why Satvik Sharma and Cooper Gannon were so concerned that their names were not on the website but did not submit a written report to this meeting?

Cooper Gannon responded saying he was waiting till he could be sure the world was not fractured when the report was being made.

Satvik Sharma said it was more efficient to give a verbal report.

Simon Upitis asked Deaglan Godwin what have students in France done to oppose changes to education there and what can students here learn from that here.

Deaglan Godwin responded saying that we need to build a movement by prosecuting an argument that is contra to everything that is being presented by governments, one that is pushing for actual change and building it from the bottom, and we should be trying to play a similar role, or we will never see a replication of the actions taken by French students.

Motion: that the report of the Global Solidarity Officers be accepted except the verbal reports.

Moved: Alexander Poirier

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

05. Report of the Inter-Faith Officers

Thomas Thorpe gave a verbal report:

- Spoke about the results from the census on religious affiliation from 2022
 - 93% responded to the question of religious affiliation

- 43.9% Christian
 - 38.9% No religion
 - 3.2% Muslim
 - 2.7% Hindu
 - 2.4% Buddhism
- Spoke about the National Church Life survey of 2022 which showed that church attendance has increased since 2016 and one in 5 Australians attending church at least once a month, and there has been an increase in teenagers attending church at least monthly.
 - Thomas Thorpe quoted from the book of Perter about the importance fo kindness and invited everyone to join Christianity.

Discussion:

Jack Scanlan asked why there was so much focus on Christianity on the report and only specific statistics were quoted.

Thomas Thorpe responded saying that the statistics were a broad range, and there are 3 other interfaith officers and they would have other perspectives but they are not present at the meeting. Adding that there was more to say but there was time restrictions.

Eddie Stevenson said that quoting statistics is irrelevant when there is a celebration of George Pell with disregard to his actions towards child sexual abuse.

Thomas Thorpe said that he had not been invited to the funeral and noted that George Pell had been acquitted. Responded to comments about the misogyny in the church saying that Jesus first reveled himself after resurrection to 3 women and god chose to send Jesus to earth not as a fully grown man but to be born by a woman in Mary.

Michael Grenier asked if Thomas Thorpe believed that as an interfaith officer of a certain faith and as a body that represents all students, if having an atheists as an interfaith officer was appropriate.

Thomas Thorpe responded saying that atheism and agnosticism is a form of faith and so has a place but likewise as a person of Christian faith it is important to have the pluralism of faith represented.

Motion: that the report of the Inter-Faith Officers be accepted.

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Cooper Gannon

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

O6. Report of the Intercampus Officers

Welcome to our first intercampus report of the year! I can't think of the last time that the Intercampus Office actually wrote a report, other than suddenly to Honi - and this is my (Alex's) third term in this position. We're always in a bit of an awkward spot with this Office, as the sole remaining undergraduate satellite campus in 2023 is the Conservatorium, which means a lot of our work often crosses over with their student union, the Conservatorium Students' Association (CSA); because of this, we are discussing a few changes to the nature of the position.

The Con Welcome Day is going to be held on 13 February, starting at 8:30am-9am, ending around 5pm. This event is being organised with the CSA (of which Theresa and Alex are Secretary and President), the Con School, and the USU. The first hour is the introductory welcome lecture, during which Alex will give a talk summarising student culture on campus: the CSA, USU, SRC and collectives, and other societies. Following is a singing activity ("Con Sings"), department welcomes run by the CSA, and then three hourly sessions from which students can choose where to go.

The options in these sessions are:

- Disability Support Workshop
 - This is run by the CSA Vice-President and Disability Officer Isabella Chiper, alongside Disability and Inclusion Services
 - It will be a mixture of explaining avenues for support and accessibility, activism and representation, and finding community
- How-to-study Workshop
 - This is run by the CSA and the library
- Amazing Race around the Con
 - Students race to win tickets to major ensemble concerts around Sydney, going to major places and actively learning of the different aspects of their life at the University

The SRC will have a stall during the start of the day, next to the CSA/registration desk in the flyer of the Con, right as students enter. We are still figuring out whether we would like to include the SRC as a stop in the Amazing Race, but if people are willing to stay for the day, it would be very appreciated.

Tote bags are being given to every student, containing merch from the CSA, free coffee vouchers, sheet music for Con Sings, and a welcome pack with support resources. These bags are being packed on 8 February, so if you would like to include anything from your office/collective, please get it to one of us (preferably Alex) before that date.

If you also generally have any additions you'd like to include in the Con Welcome Day, please let one of us know and we can see what we can do.



Theresa and Alex hard at work in the Lawbry to organise the Con Welcome Day - truly inter-campusing.

We are also looking into a musical unionism series to put on at the Con alongside the CSA, looking at what a union is, the history of music and unionism, major events, how students can join them, and how they can stand up for themselves in negotiating work, contracts, and payments. Many Con students don't know anything about the context or the reasoning behind the recent NTEU Strikes, and whilst generally supportive (or ambivalent), can get a tad annoyed at the cancellation of classes. This series will also be a major opportunity for us to teach students at the Con, and get more support for the strikes going forward.

The CSA is looking into finally renovating their Common Room and offices, with grants located from *somewhere*. This will be a welcome addition, after recently removing the biohazard couches, there will be no more carpet-worm infested flooring, avant garde black mould roof art, and convict-era brick dust falling from the heritage listed roof.

Recently a new sound-proof pod seemingly appeared into the library of the Con, with the unique intention of enabling students to practise in the library without disturbing others. This is a strange inclusion from Student Life as there are already many practice rooms throughout the Con, that are properly soundproofed and don't have a chance of disrupting students - the initial test with a trombone caused a few students to immediately up and leave. After further inspection, these pods are not very sound-proofed, with basic conversation being able to be had at least 10 metres away.

Instead, it has been discussed with the library staff that these pods could be good sound-isolation pods for students who might have sensory processing difficulties. They work quite well for that purpose, and could be a good location for students who just need a space to get away from others for a short moment. There is a also fully isolated space in one of the turrets of the Castle, but that is far away and may not always be needed.



The mysterious booth-cum-fishtank.

The recent changes to online learning policies from the University (from Government requirements) are a major concern for us, with the “online campus”. Only having in-person or proctored exams and lectures unfairly impacts students with disabilities, mature-aged and working students, students who live far from the city, and international students, and the SRC should be looking into and campaigning how the Uni can best support these students.

In Con-clusion, thank you for reading through our first ever report - we hope you enjoyed it.

- Lydia Ellis, Rheu Hou, Alexander Poirier, Theresa Xiao

Discussion:

Alex Poirier spoke to the report and covered the main points.

Motion: that the report of the Intercampus Officers be accepted.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Welfare Officers

In the past few weeks, some Welfare Officers and WAG Conveners have been preparing materials for O-week to give away to students during the stall days. The next few weeks will involve filling our Welfare tote bags with little activist goodies, namely stickers, badges, informative flyers, and some sweet treats. Many thanks to Jordan Anderson (student housing officer) and Harrison Brennan for their work in preparing these materials. We are excited to get students involved in activism through the Welfare Action Group (WAG) as the cost-of-living crisis - among a slew of other issues - plague NSW and Australia more broadly. It is our hope in the first few weeks of the semester to revitalise WAG with fortnightly meetings to prepare for upcoming rallies and campaigns throughout the year.

We'd like to recognise the work of the brilliant activists and organisers who put together the Invasion Day rally on the 26th of January, which sported a massive turnout. Sovereignty was never ceded, and invasion should not be celebrated.

In the next couple of weeks, WAG will be working with the Vice Presidents to improve and curate a volunteer base for Food Hub to keep up with the soaring demand.

Over the past decade, we have seen an increasing attack on public and social housing, particularly demolitions in areas such as Glebe, Forest Lodge and Waterloo. This land is then sold to private developers for profits, developers who build poorly made apartment complexes. Further, tenants in NSW have endured ceaseless suffering as the cost of renting soars. In NSW no-cause evictions are rife and not illegal, a lack of stringent regulation in the rental application process has led to instances of rent bidding despite its illegality, and the cost-of-living crisis has been seen in the annual rise in the median rent price of approx. 14%. WAG has organised a banner paint for February 7th at 3pm outside Carslaw in preparation for the February 11th Housing Justice Rally in Town Hall, you can find the event on Facebook. We invite all to attend and help build for this important rally.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the report covering the main points.

Ella Haid spoke about the cost-of-living crisis and the lack of support for public housing and the lack of social housing included in new developments while so many are waiting for public housing. Adding that the government is propping up the housing for profit market.

Satvik Sharma asked what will be happening to fight the radical left agenda.

Ella Haid responded to Satvik Sharma's comment saying his question was a waste of the councils time.

Motion: that the report of the Welfare Officers be accepted.

Moved: Iggy Boyd

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O8. Report of the Environment Officers

Over the summer, we have been busy organising activism for the year ahead. We want to mobilise students for action now and make a clear statement against Labor's greenwashing.

Because of this we are organising a March 3 walk off, in collaboration with collectives in the Cross Campus Enviro Collectives (CCEC) group and the National Union of Students. This date also coincides with a Sydney School Strike for Climate, which we will link up with on the day.

This is all the more important with the state of the climate today. After a lull in fossil fuel emissions over lockdown, fossil fuel emissions are now reaching record highs. Climate disasters continue to affect the lives of thousands of people around Australia. The worst flooding in Western Australia's history recently left communities in the Kimberley isolated for days. Insurance companies are charging ever greater premiums to households in flood prone areas or refusing to pay out victims of climate disaster. The Climate Council says that half a million properties are predicted to be uninsurable by 2030.

Instead of taking the drastic action necessary to address this crisis, the Labor government is expanding the fossil fuel industry in Australia. For example, the Beetaloo Gas Project is expected to emit 130 million tons of CO2 over its lifetime. The carbon credits scheme encapsulates Labor's approach to the climate- that is, pretending like they are taking action, while green lighting fossil fuel expansion.

These profits of fossil fuel projects are prioritised over Indigenous rights as seen with the Santos mine being approved in the Narrabri. We stand in solidarity with the activism of the Gomerroi people who are fighting against the tribunal ruling that stated that the "public good" of this mine is more important than their land rights, their self- determination and over the harm this mine will cause to the climate.

Another project we have been working with is raising awareness and protesting the NSW anti-protest laws introduced last year. We helped organise a protest on December 17th against Violet Coco's bail hearing. Violet Coco and others are facing up to 3 years in prison and fines of up to \$22

000 for “disrupting” business as usual. These laws are politically motivated to prevent climate and other activism.

A small example of this is the fines that were handed out to one of our enviro officers Maddie Clark, when she was fined over \$400 for leafleting at the protest against the International Mining and Resources Convention (IMARC). Maddie is fighting these laws with the Environmental Defenders Office as they were illegally used to intimidate activists at that protest.

The Enviro Collective is supporting a forum that Violet Coco is speaking at, on this Saturday (4th) at Sydney Uni. It’s important to keep discussing these laws and how we can fight them as they will be an aspect of us organising activism this year and in the years ahead.

In January we had our first meeting for the year and are having a banner paint in preparation for Welcome Week. We are planning on having an open organising meeting in Week One to invite all the new members of the collective to come along to. We have also organised merch for our Welcome Week stall, including bucket hats, totes, stickers and our yearly publication, Combust.

We are excited for a year ahead of activism. Climate change is consistently an issue young people care about and we have the capacity to lay the basis for a left wing and anti- Labor, protest culture at Sydney Uni. This is a project that all the office bearers and collectives can be a part of and we hope to work with you all in the year ahead.

Discussion:

Simon Uptis spoke to the report, and the lack of change in the last years, the ongoing consequences and challenges faced by people from increasing natural disasters, and the role of the government in greenwashing their projects which continue to expand fossil fuel development. Saying that the most important thing to do is point out the blame is with those in power and not enough has been done to challenge that lack of action by any major political group.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the report and focused on the upcoming protest and what is going to be on the agenda for those protests and about the importance of rebuilding the protest movement and highlighting the green washing of the Labor government and their continued lack of action. Concluding that the environment is still the number one issue for students.

Satvik Sharam gave a verbal report and wanted to condemn the Labor government for not stopping climate change and then spoke about the weather for the week and further condemned the federal government for not managing the weather calling it a disgrace.

Jordan Anderson asked if Satvik Sharma understood the difference between weather and climate.

Akee Elliott asked about the occupation happening in Germany in response to the reopening of a mine and what we could learn from that occupation.

Simon Upitis responded saying there is much that can be learnt, and that students can in an increasingly unstable world, push against the focus Australia has spent on profits and expanding the fossil fuel industries

Jack Scanlan asked Satvik Sharma if he will be contributing to the work of the Environment collective or if he will resign.

Satvik Sharma responded saying he would attend the collective meetings and continued to talk about Albanese being responsible for the weather and asked everyone to vote for a Liberal/National government at a state level to hold the Labor Party and federal government accountable.

Yasmine Johnson asked the officers about the Santos gas mining and the lack of respect for first nations land rights.

Madeleine Clark responded saying that Albanese saying he supported land rights means nothing when these developments continue to occur despite opposition from First Nations. Many opposing these developments with climate change as a reason for their opposition. Also noting that Labor says they are going to green light these fossil fuel projects and they need to be opposed and called out for their duplicity.

Motion: that the report of the Environment Officers be accepted.

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

09. Report of the Social Justice Officers

This January Julius, Eddie and I began the year by campaigning for Indigenous rights. This is a key issue for us because whether we are under a Liberal or a Labor government, there is no justice for first nations people. On Invasion Day, we protested with thousands of others who are angered by the treatment of the Indigenous. To build for this protest, we handed out leaflets at Newtown station, and sought out those who agreed that this racist day should be abolished to bring along. We also stuck up posters with the details for the event in the suburbs Newtown, Glebe, and Redfern, and painted three banners to bring along to the protest. In a country where the mega wealthy are only getting richer at the expense of the exploited and oppressed, it is a total lie that unity can be found in simply being members of the 'Australian nation.' Protests like these are important because it is only through protests and strikes that Indigenous rights have been won in

the past, and the same is true today. Labor PMs are no service to this cause, including Kevin Rudd, who gave his 'sorry speech' even as he continued the Northern Territory intervention.

Currently, the police, courts and prisons are being given ever greater powers to persecute Indigenous people. One example is Queensland's Labor government, who are ramping up policing, building two new youth detention centres, and raising the penalty for crimes like stealing a car. Policies like these disproportionately affect Indigenous youth, and other oppressed and working people.

But resistance is possible. This year, the mostly indigenous prisoners of the WA Banksia Hill youth detention centre burnt a prison building to the ground, and climbed the perimeter fence. It was an act of resistance against their conditions where teens are regularly held down and forced into solitary confinement. When Labor's response to previous Banksia Hill riots was just to send the perpetrators to a maximum security prison, it is clear that it is only resistance and action that can stand up to this violent system.

Responses like that make it clear that the Labor Party is an enemy to indigenous people, and therefore an enemy to anybody who cares about indigenous rights. This SRC should not just hang tight and hope that Labor could still turn out more progressive than the last government, especially when they prove every other day that it's business as usual. Nor should it aspire to get a seat at table with Labor behind closed doors, as if the institution of Australian racism can just be talked away. If the left wants to take Albanese and Labor to task for this, that means doing so seriously, with a strategy of activism that prioritises mobilising students rather than fawning over Labor.

Discussion:

Julius Whittfoth spoke to the report and about the motivations for the protests upcoming and the action of the Labor Party in upping the police force in the Northern Territory and the impact on First Nations' communities. Concluding by speaking about the importance in placing energies and resources into supporting activism.

Kiera Garland echoes Julius Wittfoth's comments and spoke about the actions of the Labor government only assisting private housing owners and doing little for those who are in need and that people should engage in the ideas and arguments being made by Socialist Alternative.

Eddie Stephenson spoke about her work down at the courthouse that day opposing the attempted ban on protesters at Pell's funeral tomorrow, and that they were able to gain the right protest and will be protesting tomorrow. Also spoke to the report and the importance of fighting the Labor government and the importance of building an activist SRC by building the NDA.

Motion: that the report of the Social Justice Officers be accepted.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O10. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers

The international persecution of refugees continues, recently [the United States under Joe Biden has moved](#) to further restrict border crossing and expel more immigrants as part of plans to “fortify” the US border. Deportations continue to rise under Biden’s administration with [4.7 million immigrants](#) facing deportation procedures in 2022. Despite an influx of refugees from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the [European Union continues its hardline policies](#) of Fortress Europe, with the new far-right Italian government planning to implement a [naval blockade of refugees](#). At home in Australia, the Albanese government is disgracefully continuing to [hold refugees in offshore detention](#) and eagerly supporting the policy of [turning back refugees at sea](#). The continued inhumane treatment of refugees by both forces of the right, centre, and centre-left shows their common commitment to the use of refugees as scapegoats and the “security” of national borders over the dignified treatment of refugees.

We’ve been actively building this year’s Invasion Day protest. It’s really good that it’s now the norm for thousands across the country to protest this day that not only represents the racist core of Australia; founded on the genocide and dispossession of indigenous people, but also against the ongoing racist crimes of the Australian state.

On February the 4th, the Tamil Refugee Council will be rallying in commemoration of the [75th Anniversary of Tamil Oppression Day](#). Within Sri Lanka the Eelam Tamil population is nationally oppressed by the Sinhala-Buddhist government, who have violently suppressed Tamil resistance and enacted a brutal regime of Sinhala-Buddhist supremacy. Tamil lands have been seized and placed under military occupation, while all levels of the government from the police to the schools discriminate against the Tamil people. This oppression has forced many Tamils to flee the country and seek asylum overseas. Yet the Australian government is an active and vocal supporter of the Sri Lankan regime, providing foreign assistance to the Sri Lankan military to track Tamil refugees and stop them from fleeing the country. The Refugee Rights Office and SRC should stand in solidarity with the Tamil struggle against their oppression and oppose our own government’s collaboration with the Sri Lankan regime.

If we’re going to win real justice and freedom for refugees, the student union has to be clear that the Labor Party is not on our side. It is the Labor Party who are the refugee torturers in Chief leading the Government right now. Already in Albanese’s few short months as Prime Minister, numerous boats of refugees have been turned around, hundreds remain locked up and thousands are still on temporary visas devoid of basic human rights. A student union that is committed to

fighting for the end of this bipartisan torture system is only going to win if it takes an approach of building a fighting student union that is oppositional to the Labor Party. Appealing to and trying to get Labor on side has gotten refugees nowhere and even worse, has led to the normalisation of the torture of refugees. Student unions have a responsibility to lead in mobilising the majority of students and ordinary people who are disgusted by Australia's treatment of refugees.

We're also excited to support the campaign being started by the Education Action Group, "Cut Ties with Thales USYD". The weapons manufacturer Thales has been responsible for arming almost every military conflict in the past few decades, including the criminal Australian invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, with the weapons Thales producing displacing millions. Furthermore, in an example of brutality double-dipping, the security and surveillance technologies Thales engineers produce are then used to track and detain the very same refugees its weapons have caused.

Discussion:

Akee Elliott spoke to the report covering its main points, speaking about continued work of the Australian government in the offshore detention of refugees and how the rest of the world looks at the way Australia treats refugees, and that it informs the hard right globally.

Lydia spoke to the report echoing Akee Elliott's comment and spoke about fighting to refugee's rights and working with other refugee organisations to fight for change that the government will never give willingly.

Motion: that the report of the Refugee Rights Officers be accepted.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O11. Report of the Queer Officers

QuAC is Back

Excited to be back on campus and seeing familiar faces again – QuAC is gearing up for a few projects both old and new. We aim to hit the ground running at the O-week stall, having recently made a queer guide to campus, highlighting some of the resources and processes relevant to the community at USyd. At the end of welcome week we are co-hosting a community Mardi Gras Rally with Pride in Protest, an event we are particularly keen on. Thinking about projects throughout the year, we will be doing a second gender affirmation supply initiative after the positive feedback from last semester and are planning to hold a monthly non-autonomous meeting to include allies

to the community in our political work. Additionally we will continue our collaboration with the queer societies under the USU to maintain the Queer Space as the centre of queer student life.

Thinking about the context we are organizing it, on the university's page for LGBTQI+ community it reads "The University of Sydney celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer or questioning staff and students because of the unique lived experiences they bring to our workplace and classrooms." How on earth can this institution claim to support the Queer community when it will not listen to the people they claim to be allies to. Time and time again management refuses to address workers demand for Annual Gender Affirmation leave, the USU has repeatedly used the autonomous Queer Space as a first aid site despite all queer student groups on campus opposing such action, and the means to change one's name in the university systems is an arduous process that is often only achieved through filing formal complaints with the university.

Motion: that the report of the Queer Officers be accepted.

Moved: Honey Christianson

Seconded: Rand Khatib

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Procedural motion to move directly Q9 and then R10, that Q2, Q3, and Q4 be moved on Bloc, and moved to the end of R. General Business

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The procedural motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to agenda item Q9.

Q9. The SRC will actively support the March 3 Climate National Day of Action

Preamble

In the nineteen months up to October last year, Eastern Australia experienced five major waves of floods. Research conducted by the Climate Council has found that one in 25 homes will be "effectively uninsurable" by 2030 due to the risk of climate disasters.

While the lives of working class people are being destroyed by these disasters, our government is committed to expanding the fossil fuel industry, greenlighting 114 new fossil fuel projects so far. And while the government has given very little to disaster-affected communities, it has given billions in subsidies to the companies responsible.

We urgently need more protests to force the Labor government to change its climate-destroying policies. Groups like School Strikes for Climate, who organised massive protests against the Liberal government in 2019, have called very few under the Labor. The Albanese government has faced next to no pressure to take any real action in reducing Australia's emissions.

Student unions should organise climate protests. At the NUS National Conference last year, members of Socialist Alternative, NLS, and the Grassroots passed a motion to call for a National Day of Action on climate change in March. Rallies which are well-built and draw in as many people as possible are essential to reviving a culture of protest. The SRC should play an active role in connecting with students on issues that matter to them - like the climate crisis - and encouraging them to take part in activism. This looks like building and supporting the March 3 Climate National Day of Action.

Platform.

1. The SRC opposes Labor's expansion of the fossil fuel industry.
2. The SRC supports protests called by the National Union of Students (NUS) and reaffirms its commitment to climate activism.

Action

1. The SRC will share promotional material for the rally from its social media pages.
2. Each SRC councillor and OB commits to attending the March 3 NDA.
3. Office Bearers and Councillors will commit to attending at least one NDA building event.

Discussion:

Simon Uptis spoke to their motion and covered its main points.

Tamsyn Smith spoke to the motion and the investment being made by the government in fossil fuels and putting the profits of these companies over the health of the planet spending more in subsidies than on public education.

Tiger Perkins spoke about being asked to comment on these motions when his positions on them is clear. Adding he will be attending the NDA and helping to build the movement and will be supporting the motion.

Lydia Elias said that attending is not enough, and that people need to do more. Also speaking

about actions of the government and about the importance of continuing of organising and building protests.

Angus Dermond spoke about the motion and that there is a weird sectarian jab included in the motion and concern that there is no mention of the global climate strikes , and there should be an amended to endorse the March 3rd schools Climate strike and global climate strikes

Amendment: to add to action point 2 :

“That the SRC support the School Climate Strike on March 3rd and the global climate strikes”
It was amenable to the movers.

Madeleine Clark spoke about the actions that people need to take to build these action and the importance of the climate movement and the importance of rebuilding the activist presence.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion, saying that the SRC shouldn't being encouraging people to leave their classes for a climate strike that does not benefit their education and asked why student money is being put into a left wing campaign that pushes for the nationalisation of energy.

Tiger Perkins wanted to say there is nothing more important and valuable to be learn that the ecological crisis we are facing, adding that he has been doing more than attending, including suggesting to Officers to include flyers in the Welcome Week Bags and working on other departments campaigns.

Moved: Simon Upitis

Seconded: Tamsyn Smith

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to agenda item R10.

R10. Go to hell George Pell: protest his funeral!

Preamble:

Cardinal George Pell was a revolting bigot and champion of right-wing conservatism in Australian society. He crusaded against the rights of women, gay and transgender people, and was complicit in a culture of systematic child abuse within the church.

Wealth, power and connections allowed Pell to promote his bigotry widely. His funeral service at St Mary's Cathedral is no exception, set to be attended by some of Australia's most powerful and influential politicians, including Opposition Leader Peter Dutton and ex-Prime Minister Tony Abbott. These people want to carry on Pell's legacy by attacking LGBT rights and women's rights.

Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) organised a protest against Pell's funeral service to take a loud stance against everything Pell stood for and continue the fight for LGBTI rights, women's rights, and justice for survivors of abuse at the hands of the church."

Shamefully, NSW Police attempted to prohibit the right of activists to protest within sight or earshot of funeral attendees, citing safety concerns under section 25 of the NSW's Summary Offences Act.

This attempted police repression did not deter CARR protest organisers; they refused to accept these conditions and prepared to fight it out in NSW Supreme Court. This defiance against appalling police censorship and its ensuing publicity has secured a victory for the right to protest and the fight against bigotry. The police have been forced to concede and allow activists to march on their intended route, in clear view of the funeral service.

All progressive people are encouraged to join the rally opposite St Mary's Cathedral tomorrow, at 10.30am Thursday the 2nd of February.

Platform:

1. The SRC welcomes the death of arch-bigot Cardinal George Pell
2. The SRC supports the protest of Pell's funeral organised by Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) at 10.30am Thursday the 2nd of February.
3. The SRC opposes the attempts of NSW Police to use anti-protest laws to censor activists and repress the right to march.

Action:

1. The SRC will share promotional material for the rally through its social media pages.
2. The SRC encourages each SRC councilor and OB to attend the protest.

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion and highlighted its main point and the history of Pell's words against the LGBTI+ community and his history with investigations into childhood sexual abuse in the church. Concluded asking everyone to attend the rally tomorrow.

Yerin Park spoke to the motion, talking about how Pell's life did not occur in a vacuum and the actions of religious school firing LGBTIQ+ staff and claiming that they are not discriminating against their students is a continuation of marginalisation and oppression of members of the LGBTI+ community.

Thomas Thorpe spoke against the motion and said that there was no one in history more oppressed than Jesus Christ who was crucified, and that George Pell was acquitted. Adding that the rate of sexual abuse in the catholic church is lower than in public schools according to a report from Duke University, adding that no one is perfect and quoted 2 Corinthians.

Emma Garrett spoke to the motion saying that restricting protest is restricting speech and there is no reason to not allow people to protest and express their opinions on the matter.

Satvik Sharma spoke about the far right and said that the liberal party is not a far-right party saying that Robert Menzies believed in progressive policies and was not fascist. He spoke about the actions of Dominic Perrottet has increased funding to the Jewish Museum an band Nazi symbols in NSW. Adding that the party with the First Aboriginal Senator and Frist Aboriginal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs shouldn't be considered far right.

Iggy Boyd said Menzies supported apartheid South Africa, adding saying that talking about Pell being acquitted is ridiculous as he was still found to have moved members of the church around to cover up abuse, concluding by encouraging the council to support the motion.

Cooper Gannon against the motion saying that most Australians wouldn't agree that there are no times in which you can't protest and that a funeral would be considered one of them, and responded to the note on the that people should be able to hire or fire who they choose in line with the organisation

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Noted Votes Against:

Satvik Sharma

Thomas Thorpe

Cooper Gannon

Alex Thevenon

In line with the regulations there was a 15 min break at 8:46pm

A quorum count was called at 9:05pm

The meeting was found quorate

Meeting resumed at 9:07pm

Q1. Endorse the joint NUS, ALSA and AMSA Report on Disability and Higher Education

Preamble:

In November last year, a joint research report on disabilities and higher education was released by the National Union of Students (NUS). Australian Law Students' Association (ALSA) and the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) highlighting the persistent discrimination and barriers facing students with disabilities.

The report was endorsed by more than 30 organisations including Women with Disabilities Australia, First Peoples Disability Network, People with Disabilities Australia and many other community organisations and individuals such as Grace Tame.

At USyd alone, at least 6.5 per cent or nearly 5,000 of all students are disabled – all but guaranteed to be an underestimation given that 1 in 5 Australians are disabled and that communities such as international students are less likely to identify as disabled due to varying levels of understanding on what constitutes disability and coming out as disabled particularly for those with invisible disabilities.

As *Honi Soit* and *Woroni* recently reported, the report outlined significant incidents of sexual assault and harassment (SASH) and lower university participation and attainment compared to non-disabled people. We need to take this report seriously as a student union if we are to address the systemic discrimination still facing disabled students and people in this country.

For universities, that means:

- a. Push for universities to address the financial disadvantage that many disabled students, including everyone
- b. Push for a safe ratio of disability services staff-to-disabled students ratio of at least 12:1 as recommended by the submission to the Disability Royal Commission by the NUS at USyd and across all Australian universities.
- c. Push for tactile routes (otherwise known as tactile paving) around campus as promised by USyd as of 2020 and upgrading all existing buildings up to accessibility standards. The SRC remains not as accessible as we prefer due to university inaction for years despite Wentworth being increasingly structurally unsafe.

For staff, that means:

- a. Push for an increase to the number of staff with disabilities and especially retention of staff with disabilities. The number of disabled staff at USyd and NSW's major universities are shamefully low – sitting at 2.7 per cent of all staff. For academics, this number is even lower.
- b. Push for proactive anti-ableist training for all levels of university administration and academics. Plus implementing universal design for learning. Our university lags behind in disability support by planning curriculum around non-disabled people rather than implementing accessibility design right from the get-go than asking disabled students to go through often lengthy academic adjustment processes.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC endorse the recommendations of the 2022 Disability & Higher Education research report by the NUS, ALSA and AMSA.
2. The USyd SRC posts about the motion on social media and distributes the digital copy of the research report on its social channels.
3. The USyd SRC will push for proactive anti-ableist to be implemented at the University across the board beyond online training modules.

Discussion:

Grace Wallman spoke to the motion covering its main points and spoke about the 94th Exec endorsing this last year but wanted to bring it to the new council and spoke about the challenges faced by disabled students and encouraged everyone to read the report.

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion and also encouraged everyone to read the report. Spoke about the differences between how provisions are provided when it impacts able-bodied people and when it only impacts disabled students, noting that many of the decisions made around covid and its impacts were only taken on and considered when they impacted able-bodied people and does not account for those who are always living with disability and who are continually at risk.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion and spoke about the University have only taken on changes to make spaces accessible when pushed and 'commit' to supporting these in principal, but it is still very difficult to get them to put these into action. Adding that many of the recommendations in the report can be applied to SRC departments as well. Concluding saying that the USU has approved funding for accessibility initiatives and will be creating an action plan to enact the recommendations of this report

Moved: Khanh Tran

Seconded: Grace Wallman

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q6. Cut Ties with Thales - Books not Bombs USYD

In December 2022, Sydney University renewed their partnership with one of the world's largest arms manufacturers, Thales. Thales have been partnered with the university since 2017, and have provided funding for PhD research. Sydney University Chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson, is also chair of the board of Thales. But the extended deal will allow them further space to conduct research into high-tech weaponry and military systems on campus, and allow integration into new faculties.

Thales are responsible for providing the weaponry used to cause enormous levels of destruction the world over. Their technology has been used in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, East Timor, and West Papua. And as one of the largest defence contractors in Australia, Thales is involved in every Australian military operation. Every person greeted by the barrel of an Australian Army soldier has seen first-hand the products of Thales. They produce the primary gun for the Australian Army, as well as a range of munitions and powders. They produce transports to send troops into other countries to commit atrocities like those detailed in the Brereton report. They develop advanced technology which has a range of military applications, from flying attack helicopters to commanding battlefields. This same technology is used to surveil Palestinians and deny safety to refugees.

Students are now forced to play a part in this militarism. Even seemingly harmless coursework well outside of obviously militaristic projects may involve training AI or developing some part of a military system. We come to university to learn, not to prop up a private weapons manufacturer. The university should play no part in providing research to increase the number of lives lost or destroyed in murderous wars and military interventions across the world.

The Education Action Group has launched a campaign in opposition to the renewed agreement between Sydney University and Thales. On Thursday February 23rd a speakout has been planned to kick this off.

The Education Action Group demands that USYD:

- Tear up the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with Thales
- Sack Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson
- Kick Thales off campus – get rid of all courses, projects, research or partnerships with Thales
- Redirect funding from military and corporate partnerships into free, quality tertiary education for the good of humanity.

Platform

1. The SRC opposes the 2022 Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Sydney and Thales
2. The SRC demands that the Memorandum be torn up, that all Thales influence on campus be eradicated, and that the Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson be removed from her post
3. The SRC stands for free, quality university degrees geared towards education, and research for the good of humanity, not for military and corporate partnerships

Action

1. The SRC endorses the Cut Ties with Thales - Books not Bombs USYD campaign
2. The SRC will share the Cut Ties with Thales campaign information on its Facebook and Instagram pages
3. The SRC will promote the February 23rd rally against Thales' influence on campus

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion and covered its main points and spoke about the campaign and the fight to fire Belinda Hutchinson fired, and that education be for the benefit of staff and students and not the military industrial complex.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying that students should be able to engage with education as a social good and not be unwittingly forced to aid in weapons development due to the University's partnerships aided by Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson who sits on Thales board.

Satvik spoke against the motion saying that is disgraceful these people are against Australian and do not want to support the national security of Australia and that the publicly funded university should be invested in national security and the far left activist are not representative and are only interested in the fall of western civilisation and capitalism

Kiera Garland spoke to the motion and said this is a campaign against militarisation and management of the university and we should be looking to other student campaigns who were able to removed management and fight against wars like seen in the student movement against the Vietnam war.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion and responded to Yasmine Johnson's comments on those who have had to look down the barrel of Australian infantry guns asking if that also applied to Germans and Japanese during WWII. Adding that when we are dragged into a war and cannot compete with foreign defence systems, and saying that when external fascists take over Australia you will not be able to even speak about this as the SRC wouldn't even exist

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying that the Australian Military has never been a progressive organisation, and the weapons we distribute are attacking civilians, and the movement to develop more weapons to force a war which will be detrimental to everyone.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to one minute

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Thomas Thorpe

Procedural was put and **FAILED**.

Michael Grenier asked a few questions of the movers: saying that it was great to see speakers from the sciences speaking for the motion and saying that he agreed on the demilitarisation aspects but had concerns about the motions comments on AI, speaking about what the assignments on these things involve and that students are not the ones creating AI for military use. Adding that you can't redistribute the funding that doesn't exist once cut off.

Ishbel responded saying that as an engineering student she has heard they of people who have been creating code that can be used in weapons management, and that is taken and applied. Adding that and other programs that are adopted for other uses, so while it can seem innocuous the connections do aid these weapon manufacturers.

Yasmine Johnson noted that they can suggest that it's not for nefarious reasons, such as taking over the MyKey transport ticket system in Melbourne, and while it may just look like making people pay for public transport it is also used in the military industrial complex. Concluding that the funding this refers to is not the funding provided by but the money directed to.

Cherish Kuehlmann spoke to the motion saying that these companies make huge amounts of money and access to the resources of the university, and it's seen at other universities as well. Adding that having university management so clearly associated helps create a clear target and there is a long history of university management having connections to war, seen in the past in chemical developments for the Vietnam war and also apartheid South Africa.

Procedural motion to limit speakers to 3 for and 3 against for the remaining motions

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Alex

Procedural was put and **FAILED**.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion saying as an engineering student doing their thesis there is great concern by many of his fellow students in how their research is being used. Many students participate in these programs because it offers a number of funding opportunities which are hard to pass up, but are not wanted in their connections.

Angus Dermondly spoke to the motion but noted you can't support the selling of arms to Ukraine while pushing them off campus and weapons need to be opposed in all areas, and there need to be consistency in opposing Thales.

Emma Garratt spoke to the comments about the work on research and that there needs to be more money for research into healthcare and into saving lives not into weapons development.

Yasmine Johnson responded to Angus Dermondly's comment saying it is possible to oppose weapons on campus and the development of new weaponry, and also support people in the defence of themselves against direct military oppression. Responding to Satvik Sharma's and in response to Satvik that she does support the tearing down of Australia and all borders and

allowing people to move across borders to get a better life and flee conflict and oppression and that people who have more information on the process to come to the campaign meetings.

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Votes noted against:

Copper Gannon

Satvik Sharma

Q7. February Council Motion: Building a campus shut-down and mid-semester SGM

Preamble:

Staff at the University of Sydney are currently preparing to vote on plans to take industrial action during the coming semester, to continue their fight for fair pay, job security and important workplace rights. This follows a commitment last year at an NTEU members meeting to escalate the fight with not just strikes, but an intention to hit the university with marking bans following an upcoming protected action ballot. We cannot leave staff isolated when they are fighting for our learning conditions. We must make sure they are in as strong a position as possible to fight a no campaign against a non-union agreement.

As students, we must also build a fighting campaign of our own, to support USYD staff and win a more free and fair education system for all. Staff working conditions are student learning conditions - this is not just a slogan but a reality, and it means we need students to be directly invested in the fight across this entire university. This is why as students we bound ourselves to act last year.

In the November 2022 meeting of the SRC, the Council (including many of this year's Councillors) committed to building a broader education campaign through mass open faculty meetings and a mid-semester Student General Meeting. Specifically, the Council voted to support:

“the strategy of organising faculty-specific open meetings for the first weeks of Semester 1 2023, to help mobilise more students around clearer demands within the strike campaign... [and] the idea of holding a Student General Meeting in mid-Semester 1 2023 to vote for a student walk-off for the demands established by the open meetings.”

If we are to build a campaign that truly shows our solidarity with staff and has a chance of winning real change, we must begin mobilising now for a mass walk-off in the later weeks of this Semester.

Students and staff of each faculty must have the opportunity to formulate their own demands for this walk-off – their own vision of a free and fair university. Councillors must follow through on the commitment to organise open meetings in as many departments of the university as possible. These open faculty meetings should be held in Weeks 2 and 3 of the semester.

These meetings should work to formulate specific demands. Students and staff should have the chance to speak on the issues that affect them directly, and thorough discussion should be had on how to build out the campaign further amongst fellow students and colleagues who share these concerns.

These demands can then be endorsed by an SGM later in the semester, to be put to management directly as a comprehensive ‘student log of claims’. The SGM must be called now for Week 6 if it is to be built effectively and achieve these goals.

The SGM should vote on motions opposing USYD management, endorsing the demands of the faculty meetings, and calling a mass student walk-off. This walk-off will ideally align with further NTEU industrial action.

These actions should be coordinated by students of the EAG. To carry out the detailed work required to convene open meetings, specific department or faculty sub-committees of the EAG should be formed at the next meeting of the collective, led by students of each respective faculty or department. These sub-committees can report to the EAG, while Education Office Bearers can provide updates to Council in their regular reports. The dates and agenda of each faculty meeting can be decided by these sub-committees, and should be reported in Honi Soit.

This strategy, if executed with the full commitment of sitting Councillors and Office Bearers, has the potential to enliven the student body and build a true mass movement of students around specific, clear demands. It can build confidence amongst members of the USYD NTEU branch, who will know they have the backing of a fighting student body.

This motion seeks to concretise the practical commitments needed from the Council in order to carry out the strategy and actions above.

PLATFORM:

- This meeting of the SRC endorses the timeline of actions as outlined above, and recommits to the education campaign strategy endorsed by the previous Council.
- Education Officers endorse the strategy of organising open faculty meetings through delegated committees of the EAG.
- This meeting of the SRC supports the call for a Student General Meeting in Week 6 of Semester 1 2023, to vote on the following proposed motions:

- The student body declares a vote of no confidence in the USYD Vice Chancellor and management more broadly, who have undermined the working and learning conditions of all staff and students.
- USYD students stand in solidarity with NTEU members, and commit to supporting any industrial action with action of our own (e.g. joining picket lines, boycotting assignments during marking bans, etc)
- Students of USYD declare our commitment to walk-off campus if our demands (as below) are not met
- This Student General Meeting endorses the grassroots demands of each university faculty and department as specified in the 'Student Log of Claims'.

ACTIONS:

- Councillors each commit to helping organise open meetings of their faculty, through the relevant EAG subcommittee.
- Education Officers commit to forming faculty-based subcommittees of the EAG at the next meeting of the collective, with delegates of each committee to report back to the EAG. The officers also commit to including regular updates on this organising work in their reports to Council.
- This motion calls on the President of the SRC to convene a Student General Meeting, to fall in Week 6 of Semester 1 2023, to vote on the motions specified above.

Discussion:

James Sherriff spoke to the motion and covered its main point and the importance of building this and campaign and the meetings leading up to the planned campaign and expanding it and building support for the campaign and we need to be expanding the fight against management in more ways and supporting staff in building better faculties, and focus on getting historically less engaged faculties involved.

Lia Perkins resigned the chair to Tiger Perkins.

Alev Saracoglu spoke about the impact and success of faculty focused campaigning and getting people engaged not only with the issues they know about in their faculty, but also into broader issues facing the University.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion saying that turning this University into a hell scape of strike after strike when ordinary students are over it.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke against motion saying while it rebuilds the movement and solidarity with staff and students, but asked that if there are motion that pertain to the education activism it should first got to the EAG and encourage the movers to bring tit to a meeting to the collective

can discuss it ahead of time.

Yasmine Johnson responded saying that this motion is phrased as advice to the EAG from those absent from the EAG meetings of the last few months and we need to be serious about what we are proposing for the campaign.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion and saying that this doesn't reflect the student body and while there are some, there are many who will not be interested in activism and will not be presented at the student meeting. Asking students to show up to a meeting on this issue will only get a certain group, which will not be reflective of the student body.

Jack Scanlan spoke against the motion and while agreed in principal and there are different tactics to get different faculties involved but the EAG should organise their events and not be dictated to.

Harrison Brennan spoke against the motion saying while in principal he agreed the EAG is spread thin as it is and this created a more bureaucratic processes and encourages people attend the EAG rather than activism from above.

James Sherriff spoke to the motion and responded to comments, saying that it's important to recognise that when there is a big job to be done - the work needs to be done. Adding that there is a lot of work and things shouldn't be reliant on last minutes calls so there needs to be ongoing build to be ready. Concluding saying we should be having these debates here and building the movement while the EAG does have independence for overall strategic plans for campaigns it doesn't mean the council shouldn't get involved.

Thomas Thorpe spoke against the motion saying that as an engineer the right to protest is fundamental, but asked what are you protesting for, noting that no engineers participated in the strikes because they have better things to do. Adding that his teacher said he was already overpaid and noted that this only impacts jobs that aren't transferable into an industry and you should think about your degree if the skills aren't transferable.

Alev Saracoglu responded to comments saying that the motion is not an attack, and that this debate shows how the EAG space is hostile for many students and why this motion was presented here first. This motion is about garnering support for a tactic and not dictating to the EAG.

Deaglan Godwin responded saying this motion isn't about garnering support its about attacking Socialist Alternative and those who called strikes with only one week notice were the right of the union who wouldn't allow for building support and knowledge. Adding whatever we do here in this council will not be able to build a staff strike, motions like this obscure and don't build anything.

Moved: James Sherriff

Seconded: Alev Saracoglu

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Q8. Critical scholarship and freedom of speech

Preamble

Australian universities are under increasing pressure to adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. This definition, which is not fit-for-purpose, has been described as “vague to the point of being unusable” by Jewish scholars Neve Gordon and Mark LeVine.

The majority of examples included in the working definition on antisemitism refer to Israel. For example, under the IHRA definition, making the statement that “Israel is a racist endeavour” is considered antisemitic, dangerously exceptionalising Israel by shielding it from criticism despite the determination of Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, and Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations that Israel is an apartheid regime.

Human rights lawyers, including Geoffrey Robertson AO KC, are deeply concerned that the definition stifles discussion about Palestinian human rights. Just recently, four Australian-based Jewish groups, including the Australian Jewish Democratic Society, Independent Australian Jewish Voices, Jews against the Occupation, Loud Jews Collective, and Tzedek Collective, expressed concerns that this definition limits freedom of speech, joining tens of other Jewish groups worldwide opposing the definition. On 3 November 2022, 128 scholars of Antisemitism, Holocaust Studies, Modern Jewish History and related fields, including professors from Israeli universities, urged the UN not to adopt the IHRA definition, noting concerns of its weaponization against legitimate and urgent critiques against Israel. This follows the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary racism, urging the UN to also refrain from adopting the definition after being tasked to investigate global antisemitism.

Globally, 122 Palestinian and Arab academics have also expressed their concern on adoptions of IHRA at academic institutions, stating that:

“The fight against antisemitism must be deployed within the frame of international law and human rights. It should be part and parcel of the fight against all forms of racism and xenophobia, including Islamophobia, and anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism. The aim of this struggle is to guarantee freedom and emancipation for all oppressed groups. It is deeply distorted when geared towards the defence of an oppressive and predatory state.”

In recognition of these issues, the NTEU recently passed a motion opposing adoption of IHRA on university campuses. We welcome the NTEU motion and stand in solidarity with academics who have opposed the adoption of this definition due to the threat it poses to their academic freedom.

We maintain that the IHRA definition is designed to censure legitimate criticism of Israel by deliberately conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism and Judaism with Zionism. Universities play a crucial role in providing vital and crucial discourse around challenging but important international issues. We must defend the rights of students and scholars to critically discuss Israel and Palestine.

This motion was drafted in consultation with Palestinian and Jewish academics and students, and with the support of the Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network.

The USyd branch of the NTEU have written to Vice Chancellor Mark Scott expressing their concern with the IHRA definition. The SRC should join calls from the NTEU and NUS and write to Vice Chancellor Mark Scott expressing this position.

Platform

1. USyd SRC opposes the adoption of policies that prohibit criticism of Israel by any Australian academic institutions, including the IHRA definition of antisemitism

Action

1. USyd SRC will write to the NTEU, to offer our solidarity and affirm our support for this position
2. USyd SRC will write to the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor of the University of Sydney expressing our opposition to IHRA.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion and spoke about the motions history being moved first at NUS and now here.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion and spoke about the issues with adopting the IHRA and its impact on the ability to criticise the state of Israel as well as prevent Palestinians from speaking about the experiences.

Michael Grenier spoke against the motion saying that the academics mentioned and the Jerusalem definition are not the mainstream or accepted but only from fringe groups.

Yasmine Johnson spoke in favour of the motion, saying the right to describe the conditions of Palestinians is crucial, as well as the right so say they stand against these conditions. When the IHRA have been adopted it has been used to shut this debate down.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion and saying that the movers of the motion were just against Jewish people. Adding that seemingly the one group of people who are not allowed open

borders according to some or a right to exist in their ancestral land are Israelis.

Unnamed student spoke to the motion noting the largest population of refugees are Palestinians, they are the ones who have been ethnically cleansed from their land and are in refugee camps around the world and denied the right of return.

Cooper Gannon was named

Michael Grenier spoke against the motion

Thomas T spoke against the motion

Satvik spoke against the motion

Hersha spoke to the motion

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Votes noted against:

Cooper Gannon

Satvik Sharma

Michael Grenier

Tiger Perkins returned the chair to Lia Perkins

Q10. The campaign against in-person learning

Preamble:

The National Union of Students (NUS) and Dis.Co are planning a suite of actions, including a protest at TEQSA's office across the country, against its announcement last year that all students must return to campus for in-person learning.

This is followed by regulatory alignment in other countries such as China where bans on recognition of remote learning qualifications are pushing immunocompromised students to cope with COVID-19 and many under-prepared international students to rush to return to campus.

In light of a worsening student housing crisis in Sydney, Melbourne and major cities across the country, this is a profoundly bad situation for not only students with a disability but international students who will have to fend for expensive rooms in a tight housing market here.

We are also seeing an increasingly uncreative and hostile university sector pushing for in-person exams and reduction of accessibility learning technology (ie. Recorded lectures, paper examination, submission of hard copies for assignments) premised on academic integrity. We should be very alarmed at these anti-student moves because they reduce the accessibility of academic life for both students and staff. At Sydney University, ProctorU have a sordidly low incident detection rate of 1%, demonstrating USyd's aggressive but ineffective presumption against its own students.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC endorse the NUS National campaign against in-person learning and calls for all universities to implement hyflex learning as an option.
2. The USyd SRC condemns TEQSA and Federal Education Minister Jason Clare for mandating all students to return to campus.

Discussion:

Grace Wallman spoke to the motion and highlighted frustration that many have spoken about weaponry in WWII but will not speak about an issue that could see many of their peers forced to drop out of university

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion saying that the removal or remote learning leaves disabled students with too few choices, drop out or risk their health. There is so little support for disabled students at the Uni, the NDIS, though Medicare and or the SRC, where people speak and it gets voted on then nothing happens.

Jordan Anderson spoke to the motion

Ben McGrory spoke to the motion

Emma Garrett spoke to the motion

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion

Cooper Gannon spoke to the motion

Moved: Khanh Tran

Seconded: Grace Wallman

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N. General Business

R1. Subway cookies for Honi Soit

WITHDRAWN

R2. SRC should be against killer robots

Background

Chemists fought chemical weapons, biologists fought biological warfare, physicists fought against nukes. They fought against it because these weapons would kill millions if unchecked. Now computer scientists are warning about a new weapon designed to dehumanise and cause killing and harm autonomously.

Autonomous killing or harming by machine in warfare, policing, border control and other circumstances is dystopian and if left unchecked will lead to the killing and destruction of large populations and communities.

These “Killer Robots” (It’s a more catchy name than autonomous killing machines) are currently being designed, tested, and rolled out to turn war into an automatic meat grinder of despair.

But it wasn’t just nerds who fought against these weapons, it was activists and campaigners. Political nerds like the ones reading this right now. These weapons are being developed and the Russo-Ukrainian war is a perfect example of them being tested and used. Autonomous drones being used in the middle east to automate war crimes being spearheaded by the AUKUS partnership.

We are seeing the gatling gun of automated killing, and soon with more capital, labour, and time it will be refined into a machine gun and refined and refined like every other weapon to become a mechanism of mass killing.

The University of Sydney and many other universities because of capitalist and government pressure via the military industrial complex are adding in research and development of these weapons. The SRC should stand against this and no autonomous weapons should be developed anywhere, especially on our campus.

We should have had a Haroshima to make us understand that nukes are bad, and we should not wait till there is an army of killer robots waiting at the front door before we fight them.

Platform

- The SRC will adopt the position of opposing killer robots
- The SRC will be against all research and development of “Killer robots” or any element to help their development
- The SRC will acknowledge that any advancement in killer robots will be adapted by police forces to automated policing and help to further police overreach and a spy state
- The SRC will stand against any partnership with the defence industry or agency and the university

Actions

- The SRC will attempt to sign up as a member organisation to “Stop Killer Robots” campaign
- The SRC will encourage support the education action group to hold a workshop in collaboration with “Stop Killer Robots”
- The SRC will denounce and attempt to protest and organise against any research, collaboration, and
- The SRC will encourage and support the education action group and other organisations in any organising attempts against killer robots or any other defence research

Discussion:

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion and explained the name, and spoke to the motions main points.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion

Yasmine Johnson put an amendment to the platform to remove point 1 and it’s sub points

There was a discussion and the amendment was changed to be:

“ the SRC will adopt the position of opposing killer robots”

It was amenable to the mover

Julius Wittfoth spoke in favour of the motion

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion

Carter Chryses to the motion

Victor Zhan spoke to the motion saying as someone who is capable of building killer robots he does not like killer robots.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Annabelle Jones

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R3. Messages on City Road

Background

You know that railing in front of the SRC? Yeah the prime real estate in front of the city road and the USyd bus stop? Yeah, let's use that to spread the SRC's message.

Platform

- The railing is our platform  (vertical platforms for the win)

Action

- The SRC will place up banners and statements on the railing in front of the SRC offices such that:
 - It is large and visible to the bus stop across the road
 - The banner does not cover any part of the rail to not impede people with mobility issues
 - The banner be linked into campaigns the SRC is doing
 - Swap the banner every now and again for different campaigns and events the SRC is doing

Discussion:

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion saying it was a great location to promote the SRC and events that the council should take advantage of.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion saying the SRC shouldn't put up banner to support the radical left as it not relevant to students.

Thomas Thorpe was named.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Annabelle Jones

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R4. The SRC supports the voice to parliament

Background

On 30 June 2005 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission was abolished under the Howard government. It was replaced by the National Indigenous Council, which was designed to

run until 31st of December 2007 but was shamefully abolished on the 15th of January 2008. Following this abolishment, the Indigenous Advisory Council was established on 5 December 2013. The body has not been useful because of its intrinsic link to administrations that care more for optics than preservation and continuation of Indigenous culture. So, we unearth a pattern, Indigenous advisory bodies set up by one administration, and abolished by the next, replaced to suit the party in power's needs at that time.

The creation of the Uluru Statement is unprecedented and long overdue. The Uluru statement from the heart and the voice campaign is supported by 250+ indigenous voices from across the country. 13 dialogues were organised across Australia, to get the ideas, the voices, and the concerns from Indigenous leaders across the country. The document argues for an independent voice for First Nations people to be enshrined in the Australian Constitution. A voice that no government can remove, silence, side-step or meddle with.

The Voice to Parliament will mean the Government will have better quality information about First Nations communities and issues, delivered directly by a body of First Nations representatives. Detailed and nuanced information from communities themselves will result in better quality laws and policies. Upon the principle of self-determination, we believe the SRC should ensure the referendum for the voice succeeds. A central aspect to continuing memory and culture is self determination. This is what the majority of First Nations people in Australia have determined to be the next step to preserving culture and improving conditions for Indigenous people. We, the SRC, move that our responsibility is to promote the success of the referendum.

“In 1967 - we were counted. In 2017 - we seek to be heard.” - Uluru statement from the heart

Platform

- The SRC will support the voice to parliament campaign in printed, digital, and every other type of mediums
- The SRC acknowledges that the voice to parliament will not solve all Indigenous issues, but it will mean that indigenous voices cannot be ignored and side stepped in the parliament
- The SRC will accept that voice, treaty, truth, is the order that 250+ indigenous leaders and around 87% indigenous people support

Action

- The SRC will campaign for the Voice to parliament when appropriate
- The SRC will encourage, support, and help to create student action and student campaigners for the voice
- The SRC will encourage and promote students to gain the skills to help and campaign for the voice to parliament

Discussion:

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion covering its main points.

Rose Donnelly (took Annabelle's speaking rights as seconder) spoke to the motion.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion

Jasmine Donnelly spoke to the motion

Hersha Kadkol spoke against the motion

Bryson Constable spoke against the motion

Shovan Bhattarai spoke against the motion

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion

James Sheriff spoke against the motion

Ben McGrory spoke to the motion

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Annabelle Jones

The motion was put and **FAILED**

Votes noted For:

Jack Scanlan

Michael Grenier

R5. Fight for more than the Voice and oppose the racist No campaign.

Preamble:

Despite fifteen years of government talk of "closing the gap", the oppression of Indigenous people has entrenched and worsened. The police and courts harass and lock up Indigenous people at a disproportionate rate. This has led to over 500 deaths in custody since the 1991 Royal Commission. Australian Indigenous people are the most incarcerated people in the world. Land

rights are trampled in favour of the profits of mining corporations. For example, the Native Title Tribunal ruling against the Gomeroi people in favour of gas giant Santos in Narrabri. The rate of child removal from Indigenous families now surpasses that in the Stolen Generations and outcomes in health and education are lower than the rest of the population. Both Liberal and Labor state and federal governments are responsible for this state of affairs. Successive governments have ploughed money into the police and prisons instead of funding initiatives that could genuinely close the gap, and have made clear their commitment to developing mining and fossil fuel industries regardless of the consequences for land rights.

The proposal for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament will not address these structural issues. The Labor government has been clear that the Voice is an advisory body with no power over parliament. Its implementation in no way implies the granting of concrete reforms to address Indigenous poverty, to change racist inequality in the criminal justice system, or even deliver symbolic victories for protest movements such as those to remove Australia Day from January 26. This is not only inadequate but could become a barrier to real justice. The Voice is useful for the Labor government as it will provide the illusion of consultation and representation for Indigenous people, so as to deflect any left-wing criticism. This was seen in the recent coverage of Invasion Day, with Albanese answering by talking about the Voice instead. It is a centrepiece policy of the Albanese Labor government because it combines progressive gloss with no meaningful change.

This left-wing critique of the Voice to Parliament shares nothing with the No campaign of the right. The Nationals and One Nation have been long-term enemies of Indigenous rights. Peter Dutton and the Liberal Party right now are whipping up a scare campaign about alcohol-fuelled crime in Indigenous communities like in Alice Springs, to push for greater powers and funding for the police. The conservative right upholds an unapologetic Australian nationalism which is proud about its oppressive and racist nature. The left should totally distance itself from these people, who would also oppose any positive reforms which we would demand in place of the Voice.

The SRC should demand reforms from state and federal governments to improve conditions for Indigenous people, and protest the injustices of the police and prison system. The level of support for the Voice amongst ordinary people represents more general support for Indigenous rights and opposition to racism. The problem is that the Voice channels that anti-racist statement into empty symbolism. While supporters of Indigenous rights including SRC members may vote either Yes or No on an anti-racist basis, for the SRC to actively campaign for the Voice would be to bolster Labor's attempt to build credibility on Indigenous issues. Instead, the SRC should mobilise this sentiment into building up resistance to racism through involving students in left-wing protests around Indigenous issues, such as the recent Invasion Day rally. Therefore, the SRC should not join the official Yes campaign or run its own campaign for a Yes vote for a Voice to Parliament, but instead support and seek to involve students in the rallies and activist campaigns organised in Sydney against Black deaths in custody, to end police guns in Indigenous communities, to demand land rights, and other issues that may arise.

Platform

1. The USyd SRC reaffirms its commitment to fighting to end Indigenous oppression. The SRC supports campaigns and protests against Black deaths in custody, to abolish Australia Day or against the trampling of land rights.
2. The USyd SRC recognises that the Albanese Labor government is complicit in the ongoing oppression of Indigenous people.
3. The USyd SRC rejects the Voice as a solution to ending Indigenous oppression. The SRC recognises that the Voice will provide progressive gloss to the Albanese Labor government without delivering meaningful change to the lives of Indigenous people.
4. The USyd SRC rejects the right-wing No campaign led by the National Party, One Nation and figures like Indigenous Country Liberal Party senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.

Action

1. The SRC will not campaign for a Yes vote for a Voice to Parliament in the upcoming referendum.
2. The SRC will endorse and use its resources instead to build protests against Indigenous oppression, which demand real justice and real improvements in the lives of Indigenous people.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion

Satvik Sharma proposed an amendment to the second sentence of point one of the platforms

It was not amendable to the movers

The amendment failed to get a seconder and so **LAPSED.**

Another amendment was presented to add:

“The SRC Will not campaign for a Yes vote for a Voice to Parliament in the upcoming referendum, while it remains the wish of First Nations activist communities”

Moved: Rand Khatib

Seconded: Tiger Perkins

The debate continued on both the motion and the amendment simultaneously.

Rand spoke to her amendment

Bryson Constable said he agreed with the amendment and the action points but not the motion. Asked if anyone in the council could explain why crime has risen in the Northern Territory.

Jack Scanlan spoke against the motion, saying that at the referendum there are only two options yes or no, you can't add an alternative.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion and ask if any member of Socialist Alternative wanted to join the Liberal party.

Benjamin McGrory spoke against the motion and asked why none the various factions reached out to Indigenous students to attend and speak on these motions.

Angus Dermondy spoke to the motion reading out a quote and how those in support of the Voice campaign are also only listening to some voices in Indigenous communities and not to radical activists who are opposed to the Voice.

Jasmine Donnelly spoke against the motion and the hypocrisy of Angus Dermondy saying that those in support of the Voice campaign are ignoring Indigenous activists while also ignoring the voice of the SRC First Nations' Officer

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and against the amendment.

Rose Donnelly spoke against the motion

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion

Ben McGrory spoke about the debate on the motion and the lack of Indigenous voices present and the lack of consultation with First Nations students on campus.

Procedural motion to lay the motion (and foreshadowing motion) on the table for the next council meeting

Moved: Rand Khatib

Seconded: Alex Poirier

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Rand spoke to the procedural motion.

Deaglan Godwin spoke against the procedural motion.

Satvik Sharma was named a second time.

Debate was halted, and the motion held over till the next meeting.

R6. Wearing a Nazi costume is no "mistake"

Preamble:

NSW Liberal Premier Dominic Perrottet announced in January that he had worn a Nazi costume for his 21st birthday party. Despite protests that this act had caused him “anguish” and “anxiety”, Perrottet has no excuse for wearing such an offensive costume. Perrottet said he “was just naive and didn’t understand” the gravity of his actions at the time.

But dressing up as a Nazi is not “funny” or “edgy” - it shows a blatant disregard for the magnitude of Nazi crimes and the victims of antisemitism. The Nazis carried out the single most harrowing atrocity in human history, the Holocaust. Nazi regalia remains a potent symbol of the far right, which is a threat to democracy and to the oppressed in many parts of the world today. These symbols of far right politics have to be denounced wherever they come up, not normalised or apologised for.

Two years after the incident, Perrottet became the leader of the NSW Young Liberals. That Perrottet could countenance at any point in his career wearing a Nazi uniform is part of his commitment to conservative right-wing politics and involvement in the ecosystem of the right, which harbours a far right element. The SRC aims to push back the right wing in politics.

Platform:

- 1) The SRC condemns Dominic Perrottet for wearing a Nazi uniform.
- 2) The SRC acknowledges the horrific pain and suffering the Nazi regime caused, and the continued threat from far-right politics today, and in particular those who take inspiration from the Nazis.

Action:

- 1) The SRC will commit to opposing far right politics and Nazism wherever they come up.
- 2) There SRC unequivocally opposes antisemitism wherever it comes from

Discussion:

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion covering its main points.

Julius Wittfoth spoke to the motion.

Michael Grenier proposed an amendment add:

“ 2) There SRC unequivocally opposes antisemitism wherever it comes from”
It was amendable to the movers.

Moved: Tamsyn Smith

Seconded: Akee Elliott

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to move directly to R9.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

R9. A home? Not in this economy and not with this government!

Preamble:

Housing in Australia, and in NSW particularly, has become an increasingly precarious commodity. This basic human right has been subject to hoarding, intentionally kept out of the market to artificially inflate prices. Further, accessible and affordable housing options have been subject to demolition - land which is sold to private developers and replaced with expensive private apartment complexes known for paper-thin and highly flammable walls - prioritising profit motives over tenants. This housing crisis, amidst an already strenuous cost of living crisis, has thus continued to wreak havoc on the lives of students and non-students.

Amidst a cost of living and housing crisis, it would be expected that a government steps up and introduces radical reforms and fixes the slew of issues that pervade the housing sector. Yet, what residents have received is the diametrical opposite. Rather than rent freezes, increases to social security payments, and a planned substantial investment in *public* housing and/or social housing options that keep up with a waiting list exceeding 50,000 people in NSW alone, the government has shamefully resorted to demolishing existing public housing sites. Areas like Waterloo and Glebe in particular have been both subject to and under threat of demolition. The NSW government cannibalises their public housing and subsidized social housing, selling the land to private developers who receive substantial profits by building private apartment complexes.

Renting too is rife with injustice. With a 14.6% increase in the median asking rent and given the unaffordability of first-home buying, rental prices have soared with landlords raising the price of tragically maintained properties given the soaring demand. The process of getting a rental is an odyssey, with rent bidding, whilst illegal, used by landlords to leach more out of tenants, negatively affecting students applying for homes in the inner-west. This is a product of poor rental laws, which also permit landlords to terminate the lease of tenants on no grounds or without good reason. Both the Labor and Liberals shot down the NSW Green's bill to end these no-grounds

evictions, exhibiting their pro-landlord stance. Today, we are still one of very few OECD countries where no-cause evictions remain legal, verifying the indifference of the government to this crisis.

Musing on both the blaringly dire housing crisis and the inevitable difficulty of first years (and beyond) finding appropriate accommodation adjacent to campus, it is clear that urgent and transformative reforms to the student accommodation sector are required. Regardless of whether a student resides in university accommodation, privately owned student accommodation, or private rentals, the capitalistic exploitation of students and the reprehensible living and financial conditions perpetrated by accommodation are inescapable constants.

Unprecedented rises in rent driven by profit motives coupled with increased demand have all but locked students out of a financially stable living situation. Private accommodation suppliers, namely Scape, Igloo and UniLodge, have similarly followed this trajectory, with Scape charging \$419 weekly per person for a Redfern medium twin apartment. For many students, this accommodation proves as the most viable option to be close to campus and interact with their peers (particularly if a student has previously lived outside of Sydney); thus, suppliers exploit these pressing needs which makes it near impossible for students on low incomes to not experience rent stress or crisis.

However, the university doesn't seem to be phased by this crisis - USyd, in their transparent endeavours to prioritise profits over the livelihoods of students and staff, has recently sold off affordable accommodation near the campus. The state government also demonstrates an apathetic unresponsiveness to the evident housing shortage, selling off \$3 billion worth of social housing, thus affecting the availability of student accommodation.

International students are disproportionately affected by this impenetrable housing market. Yet, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency has mandated that international students are to return to campus in 2023 - a rebarbative subversion of their purported agenda to improve students' "education quality." These struggles are amplified by additional financial burdens, including inflated university fees and the inability to use concession opal cards, hence reaffirming the dysfunctional nature of the student accommodation market.

Any declaration related to student accommodation also requires a condemnation of the colleges which continually perpetuate misogynistic and elitist cultures that tangibly affect students, the socio-political zeitgeist of campus and beyond. Burn the colleges!

Platform:

- The SRC supports activist initiatives in the fight for housing justice.
- The SRC advocates for the construction of more public, social housing and subsidized housing options amid a cost-of-living crisis.

- The SRC supports pro-tenant policies during this cost-of-living crisis, such as rent freezes and the eradication of no-grounds evictions.
- The SRC opposes Liberal and Labor government approaches to this housing crisis, particularly their opposition to no-cause eviction laws and their poor investment in the substantial construction of new public homes.
- The SRC strongly believes that shelter is a human right, and should not be treated like a commodity to profit from.
- The SRC opposes TEQSA's mandate that international students must return to campus for in-person study which completely ignores the ongoing housing crisis amongst a slew of other issues.
- The SRC acknowledges that the housing crisis disproportionately affects different minority groups and activist measures should recognise this.
- The SRC vehemently opposes the discriminatory institutions that are the colleges and endorse their elimination in favour of affordable student accommodation.
- The SRC believes that the onus lies with the university, with their record profits, to provide more affordable and university-owned student accommodation options, as opposed to relying on private accommodation providers like Scape, Unilodge and IGLU which exploit domestic and international students.

Action:

- The SRC will share on its social media the upcoming WAG Banner Paint in preparation for the Housing Justice Rally.
- The SRC will share on its social media pages the upcoming Housing Justice Rally event scheduled for the 11th of February 2023.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion covering its main points.

Jordan Anderson spoke to the motion on behalf of Khan Tran who had to leave saying the university is disregarding the needs of students in favour of profits.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion and about the cost of living and housing exponentially increasing in the last 20 years with nothing being done but Liberal or Labor governments to support the people who are spending sometimes more than 60% of their income on housing alone, and instead tax cuts for the rich rather than putting that money to public housing. Concluding that we need a strong campaign around housing that students will get behind.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion and spoke about the alternatives for increasing housing supply, and that there are policies to achieve this, such as redevelopments to

increase the zoning laws to create higher density housing, saying that much of the housing that exists is full of mould and needs to be redeveloped.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion noted that there is plenty of money in this country to fund housing for everyone, there is money in the hands of government, the university and landlords who are letting places sit empty rather than lowering rent and giving people places to live.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Noted votes against:

Satvik Sharma

Cooper Gannon

Bryson Constable

In line with the regulations not new agenda Items may be discussed after 12:00am.

All incomplete agenda items will be carried over to the next Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 12:08pm.