



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

**Julia Robins**, Secretary to Council  
secretary.council@src.usyd.edu.au

**Students' Representative Council,  
University of Sydney**

Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)  
University of Sydney NSW 2006  
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007  
t: (02) 9660 5222 f: (02) 9660 4260  
int: 12871 www.src.usyd.edu.au  
ABN: 597 391 306 68

---

## MINUTES:

of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of the 94<sup>th</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. Meeting held in the New Law Lecture Theatre 024, New Law Annex Building and via Zoom.

---

*A Quorum count was called at 6:16pm*

*The meeting was found quorate.*

### **A. Meeting opened at 6:16 pm**

#### **A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson**

The Chair moved that Alana Ramshaw 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**

Boao (Alice) Guo to Stephanie Zhang

Aileen Tan

Olivia Mangholi to James Marais

Charlotte Ainsworth to Grace Lagan

Zimeng (Celestia) Wang will be late proxy will be Lily Wei

Ricky Ranga to Grace Hu

The apologies were noted.

### **D. Changes to Membership**

### **E. Electoral Report**

## **E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Victor Ruifeng Liang to Heidi Yue Xin

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.**

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of 94<sup>th</sup> SRC, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February and March 2022 respectively were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February and March 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Yasmine Andrews

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.**

## **I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

## **J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate**

There was no report from the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate.

## **K. Elections**

## **L. Report of the President and Executive**

### **L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 21<sup>st</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 21<sup>st</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The report was circulated and noted.

*The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.*

## **L2. President's Report**

Lauren Lancaster tabled a written /gave a verbal report:

### **1. Back in person - yay!**

- a) This is the first council meeting in person for 2 years. This is superbly exciting. I am endeavouring to get us back into the Professorial Boardroom in the Quad next month.

### **2. SRC Offices**

- a) We have had flooding, offices are still mouldy, and I am very much trapped in the dungeon along with OBs and Honi editors and our staff.
- b) The USU, despite speaking with me at the beginning of semester about potential space for us in Manning House, have since fallen through on that idea.
- c) It is a grave OHS concern to have myself, OBs and editors in a space that has a longstanding mould problem and totally inadequate measures to address it. We can have air purifiers running around the clock but we need a new space. I have approached the Registrar, USU and CIS about this, to no avail. I wish to have that inaction publicly documented.

### **3. Elections**

- a) Appointment of 2022 Electoral Officer (EO) - the SRC Selection Committee met on Monday to interview candidates for the position of 2022 Electoral Officer. We have selected Riki Scanlan, who served as the 2021 Electoral Officer for the SRC Elections, to return this year. They also have experience with state and federal party preselections. As part of my duties, I have to declare they are a current member of the Greens. However, the Committee is fully confident they will, and have the demonstrated experience to, carry out their duties with transparency and impartiality.
- b) Regulations - the EO will also advise the Constitutional Reform Committee as to the plain language redrafting of the SRC Regulations. This will happen in the next week or so.

### **4. Constitution**

- a) We are about 70% through redrafting the main part of the Constitution, having hit a slight bump in the road last week with illness
- b) This week we hope to wrap the main part, and then as alluded to above, move to the Regulations redraft.

### **5. Internal administration**

- a) Chitra, our exceptional Administration Manager, is having a baby! On behalf of the Council and the organisation at large I would like to warmly congratulate her and her partner. We are in the process of hiring a fixed term replacement for her as she takes maternity leave and then a much-deserved rest, returning later in 2023. We will miss her expertise greatly, but we know it is not forever! I along with the rest of the selection committee will meet and draft questions, hold interviews and complete the hiring process in the next few weeks.
- b) I gave the go ahead on drafts of the SRC Welfare Survey - headed by Lorna in the Casework team. This will probably be launched within the next month. It's a short 5 question in 5

minute model, but provides scope for students to expand on their MC answers and add comments etc.

## 6. Activism in March

- a) **Climate Strike:** incredible work by the Enviro Collective with the Climate Strike on March 25th. The speakers at Fisher were excellent, the march down City Road was high energy and catching the train to Kirribilli House was actually so novel! I imagine it was a big shock for the Liberal stronghold of the North Shore to have us all marching down their leafy streets. I was really heartened by the turnout, and the diversity of the speakers at Kirribilli. Thank you to the RTBU for the solidarity move providing us all with free travel for the day.
- b) **Protest laws:** in slightly more macabre news, I am sure many of you are aware of the protest laws hurried through NSW Parliament last week. These are, in my opinion, significant incursions on our freedom of speech that are decidedly fascist in nature. Under legislation that cleared both houses by Friday, people could be fined up to \$22,000 and/or jailed for a maximum of two years for protesting illegally on public roads, rail lines, tunnels, bridges and industrial estates. This comes less than a week after the School Strike 4 Climate Global Day of Action, which coincided with a number of demonstrations by Blockade Australia. Those comrades used lock-ons to disrupt operations around Sydney's Port Botany, the largest container hub in NSW. I was amongst the many people who took City Road and marched to Central. Under these new laws, we could all possibly be charged if we did that again.
  - i. It should be of grave concern to all of us that we have a Coalition government and Labor opposition who both voted up this legislation that criminalises public collective action. Protest is not supposed to be polite or convenient. Our climate strikes and other actions shatter the routine of daily life when threats to our entire future continue to be treated with total apathy by those in power. Now, climate activists can be jailed, fined or deported (if they are, say, an international student or on other visas) for fighting for our future. This is a deeply concerning attack on our political freedoms, and is not motivated by cited concerns for public property damage. We will hear more about this when it comes to the motions tabled tonight.
- c) **NSSS release:** The NSSS was released this month. It painted an unsurprising but upsetting and disappointing picture of sexual harassment and violence at the University. The week of release began with a joint briefing call between many student union leaders across the country, coordinated by the National Union of Students, to discuss the release of the National Student Safety Survey. On behalf of USyd SRC, I asked for a more substantive and radical reflection on what the NUS's position was - particularly noting that creating extra recommendations and waiting for unions to report back on what their university was doing did not seem to be a sufficiently proactive position for the NUS to take. Further, it is not a radical position to particularly demand the dismantling of residential colleges, but rather that this recognises their continued inaction on known patterns of sexual violence. You can see our full statement on the SRC's socials, and please get in contact with the SRC Caseworkers if you have been distressed by its findings. My priority is ensuring survivors are treated with the dignity they deserve by pushing for greater CAPS and Safer Communities resourcing, supporting the Women's Collective protest campaign

and not letting the colleges get away with continued silence and inaction. We deserve better than this. I commend the snap protest yesterday at Town Hall and all attendees.

- d) **Federal Budget:** appalling, nothing new for young people, no mention of students, the only focus on universities is about expanding partnerships with defence.
- e) **Trainings still available:** I also want to remind SRC Councillors and OBs to take up the Responding with Compassion and SASH modules and training offered by the Student Life office - you can find notices in your emails or if you are not an OB, the General Secretaries can forward you the information - please get in touch after council. This is free and useful training.
- f) **RSA:** In the same vein, the University is offering free Responsible Service of Alcohol training with TAFE in the next few months (doing this yourself costs around \$150, so it's a good deal and saves you money) - a very transferable skill that we as student leaders can access, so please also contact us if you are interested. This is more relevant for club and society execs, but we can and should access.
- g) **EAG Forum - earlier today (Wednesday):** I spoke at the EAG forum today about why we should support staff strikes as students. We will hear more political arguments in motions today, but I stressed the importance of supporting the picket line by not crossing it - don't be a scab!

## 7. Committees / Other

- a) **Thematic Review:** I and Elissar Mansour are the student representatives on the Thematic review of the undergraduate curriculum. I am collecting feedback from students about problems with their undergrad courses and have shared a form for you to add your own stories. E.g. coding teaching quality remains consistently low at the University, so people resort in desperation to mates or external companies to help with assignments they cannot code sufficiently well to pass. As soon as you pay or engage someone else in a service like that, you are liable for contract cheating. Then, the academic dishonesty process is pretty nasty, and it is very hard to disprove plagiarism of code. This is at its core an issue with the way coding courses are structured and taught, yet students cop the blame when they get desperate. We can pass this on the Uni and use feedback like this to inform the review.
- b) **Edcon:** The National Union of Students have opened tender applications for the hosting of the Education Conference in July. It's a 3 day conference similar to the NatCon, but with a specific focus on the state and future of university education in Australia. It costs a fair amount to host, but would be a major student political event on campus. Student unionists from across Australia travel to the host university and it's a very high-energy, politically charged and social event. I wanted to get Council's views on whether we should submit a tender to host it at USYD. I am generally in support, I think it is a great way for us to continue reviving campus life and student politics, and won't not submit a tender just because I think it will take some work to organise. But, the expenditure is substantial and it would require factional buy-in across council, so I am not willing to go it alone so to speak. Please weigh in at discussion time.

## 8. Upcoming events

- a) USU Enviro Talks - I am speaking tomorrow 5:30-45 for Enviro Week.
- b) Wednesday next week - 13th April, 1pm- NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR FREE HIGHER EDUCATION - outside Fisher

c) Friday May 6, 12pm - Election Climate Strike.

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her report covering each of its main points.

Jayfel Tulabing Lee asked how much it would cost to host the NUS Education Conference.

Lauren Lancaster responded saying there was some SSAF allocated to NUS, Lauren Lancaster would look into that more and noted that cost could be shared with other universities student organisations.

Mikaela Pappou spoke about the possibility of hosting the NUS Education Conference saying it was a great opportunity to have student unionists from across the country at USyd and it was a great opportunity for bold political debate, and we should at least apply for tender.

Motion to accept the report of the President including the appointment of Electoral Officer Riki Scanlan.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

#### **M. Report of the Vice-Presidents**

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report:

##### **Foodhub**

Further investigation and discussion with the USU has revealed that no SSAF application was made for Foodhub this semester as the USU assumed their ongoing application would roll into this year (which it did not). We plan to complete a joint application between the SRC and USU in the next round of SSAF, and have been evaluating our options in the meantime. Currently our preferred option is to request In-Kind support from the USU so we can use one of their venues to provide a pantry of precooked meals and supplies from FoodBank to students. We are also planning that the ongoing management of Foodhub will be the responsibility of whoever is in Chitra's role and us as the VPs (and there will be several volunteer positions available as well).

We would really like to have a strong working relationship with the USU, however online communication with them throughout this project has proved to be quite ineffective for all parties involved, and has caused a great deal of tension & mis-communication. Moving forwards, we plan to organize a sit down meeting with the relevant parties to discuss a more productive method of communication, where we can pitch our preferred plan for Foodhub and resolve our other ongoing matters.

##### **Welfare**

At the beginning of the year we Informally divided up the collectives between exec to provide oversight to each one and help them stay on top of reports etc. We were allocated to the Welfare Collective as many of our goals as VPs surround student welfare issues (i.e. Foodhub, NUS campaigns, Mental Health Services etc). We met with the Welfare Convenors last week after their

first collective meeting and went through some general planning & goal setting for the year, especially regarding collaboration with NUS and DISCO, the National Day of Action, and issues surrounding special cons and the census process etc.

### **Faculty Society Committee**

As per usual we had our regular meeting with the faculty society committee. It was raised that the rollout of student training has put a lot of pressure on society leaders and SRC execs to enforce sign ups, which has caused a great deal of frustration and has not been very effective. We hope to bring this up with the USU in the meeting mentioned above, where we can discuss more effective methods and channels to increase training sign-ups. It was also discussed that the society leaders will help collate issues to bring up with the thematic review committee.

Discussion:

Emily Story spoke to the report and covered its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **N. Report of the General Secretaries**

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan tabled a written report

### **1. SRC Advocacy and Student Reps Liaison**

#### **Constitutional reform**

We have both been working extensively with the SLC and President to redraft the SRC's constitution and regulations. Our key focus has been to increase the clarity and coherence of the text, while also enshrining important norms like collective autonomy. If you're keen to get involved, please come along to our open meetings: notices have been sent out when the group has convened. Special thanks to members of the Executive and other OBs who have come along to these meetings.

#### **OB Meetings**

We have also been working to restart fortnightly OB meetings. Per the poll conducted amongst OBs, our likely (alternating) times are Tuesday and Friday mornings. Pencil in Tuesday the 12th of April as the first meeting time, with the gcal invite to follow.

### **2. Activism**

#### **Release of the NSSS and related activism**

Wednesday the 23rd of March saw the release of the NSSS results that gave us a horrific but unexpected insight into the rife sexual violence on our campuses. We have responded to this report in several ways:

### 22nd March speakout on campus

We both attended, and Alana spoke at a speakout at Fisher Library the day before the release of the results in order to galvanise students ahead of the release of the survey.

### 21st March meeting with the NUS

We, along with the President, attended a roundtable call with the NUS to get some clarity around the NUS's response to the survey ahead of its release, and reiterate key demands like the dismantling of residential colleges. While we welcome the NUS's endorsement of the Women's Officers national day of action, we will keep pushing for more substantive and radical demands to be adopted at a national level.

### 23rd March release

In response to the release of the NSSS results on Wednesday, Alana with help from Grace and Lia (Education Officer) drafted a statement to be released on SRC social media. This was cosigned by representatives from the Women's Welfare, and Education departments.

### 5th April Protest

As plugged in our *Honi Soit* report this week, we attended the National Day of Action at Town Hall along with representatives from the NUS, and Usyd/UTS/Macquarie Women's Collectives. We heard from a range of speakers across campuses and unions about the consistent failures of universities to protect student safety and guarantee justice for survivors.

### Resources

We note that the release of the NSSS has been very traumatic for survivors on campus. We want you to know that we believe with you, we stand with you, and we share your outrage. Please reach out to our caseworkers if you need support at this time as well as a range of other support services listed below:

Safer Communities Office: 8627 6808 (8:30am – 5:30pm Mon-Fri), [safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au](mailto:safer-communities.officer@sydney.edu.au)

Royal Prince Alfred Sexual Assault counselling outreach clinic: Available via the Safer Communities Office, provides free counselling for students who have experienced sexual assault

1800 Respect – National sexual assault, domestic family violence hotline: 1800 737 732, [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

NSW Rape Crisis Centre: 1800 424 017, [www.rape-dvservices.org.au](http://www.rape-dvservices.org.au)

### **Attendance at the climate strike and EAG forum**

In other activism news, we attended both the 25 March climate strikes, where Alana gave a stirring speech, and today's EAG forum on the importance of student support for staff industrial action. Big shout out to the OBs from both of these SRC departments for their tireless work in the lead up to these events.

## **3. Administration Matters**

### **Staff Selection Committee**



Grace is part of the staff selection committee to appoint a replacement Administration Manager during Chitra's parental leave. The selection process will comprise a significant chunk of her role over the next few weeks, given the importance of the Admin manager role in the organisation.

### **Welcome to Uni Party wrap up**

In other administrative news, Grace completed the final report for the Welcome to Uni party. Photos from the party will be released very soon!!

Discussion:

Grace Lagan and Alana Ramshaw spoke to the report covering each of its main points.

Owen Marsden Readford asked about the if the SRC was going to be running an election campaign, and if the absence of any such campaigns meant the SRC wouldn't be running any campaigns around the upcoming federal election.

Lauren Lancaster repeated the questions for the recording.

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan said there would be campaigning around issues this election based on the NUS and Education Officers campaigns dealing with issues rather than any political party.

Lauren Lancaster echoed these sentiments.

There was a clarification requested from Mikaela Pappou asking if this was in conjunction with desires of the collectives and Office Bearers?

Lauren Lancaster said yes it was based on the work and demands of the collectives and officers not the decisions of the Executive.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O. Report of Committees and Officers**

### **O1. Report of the Education Officers**

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report

Over the past month we have been supporting other rallies and building for our own forum.

Refugee Action

The EAG hosted a flyering event and student contingent to the Refugee Rally on March 20, organised by SRC Refugee Rights Officers and EAG members Andy and Annabel. The millions of

refugees created by the Russian invasion of Ukraine has once again placed refugee politics in the spotlight and the hypocrisy of Western government's openness to them and not to other refugees needs to be highlighted and rejected.

#### Climate strike

We attended the amazing national climate strike on March 25. It was fantastic to see so many students and staff members leave class to attend the important action. Deaglan spoke at the cross-campus contingent at UTS about the need to build a mass student movement for climate justice. The University Senate is home to multiple people deeply invested in the fossil fuel industry, who should not be in charge of an institution like USyd.

#### National Student Safety Survey

The National Student Safety Survey released its results a fortnight ago, and it was unsurprising for many to hear that sexual harassment and sexual assault is rampant on University Campuses and at residential accommodation and colleges. We stand completely alongside the Women's Collective in demanding an end to ALL sexual violence and call on the University to fulfil its empty promises. Full support to the women's collective for their National Day of Action on April 5.

#### Day of the Unborn Child

We both attended the Women's Collective Counterprotest against the day of the unborn child outside St Mary's Cathedral. Lia gave a speech about the need for free, safe and accessible abortion access for those who want it, and reproductive rights for all people.

#### EAG forum

The EAG has a bunch of upcoming events which we have been organising and building on campus! On April 6 we are co-hosting a forum with the USyd NTEU branch titled '**Why Students Should Support USyd Staff Strikes**' and we encourage all students interested in how our conditions are shared with staff to come along. It will also be a space to ask questions about and contribute to building active student support for the strikes. EAG members have compiled a short zine on the same topic which will be out this week!

#### Protected Action Ballot

The Protected Action Ballot has been sent out to all union members and they have until April 13 to vote. We encourage all staff to vote YES- strikes are the only way in which workers can win their demands!

#### National Day of Action with NUS Ed

Additionally, the EAG along with education collectives at other campuses and the National Union of Students, is organising a National Day of Action for Free Education on April 13. It is an outrage that the government can find money for the military or tax cuts for the rich but refuses to fund fully free tertiary education. The protest will also link up with staff rallying to vote YES to strikes later this semester.

#### On campus building

To build support for both the forum and the NDA we have been hosting at least two morning building sessions per week, handing out flyers to students and putting up posters around campus. These have been successful in reaching students across the campus to get the word out. We are

now doing stalls on Eastern Avenue during the day as well. Please join us at a future building session soon!

Discussion:

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin spoke to their report covering all its main points.

Hersha Kadkol said that May is going to be a big month, with the strikes and the federal elections and wanted to know about what the education officers think the main business should be in May, if it will be turning out the student vote for the federal election or mobilising students to be on the picket line as they feel they are campaign pointing in opposite directions and two possibilities for how students should spend their time.

Lia Perkins responded saying that it has been clearly noted that getting student out on strike is one of the core roles of the education officers this year, as that has the biggest impact on student conditions adding that yes the outcome of the federal election is important for students as well, however as there has been very little offered by the major parties on higher education policy other than Labor's policy of more places, which is a drop in the bucket for what students need. It's the picket lines that need more support and it's not just the responsibility of the Education Officers but the whole SRC.

Deaglan Godwin responded echoing Lia's statements that the strikes were a SRC wide campaign that everyone needed to get involved in building. Adding that these were important for workers and also that strikes were how we get change and that strikes here have a flow on effect not just at other universities but in all industries.

Lauren Lancaster also responded saying that pushing for strikes is deeply important and push the discussion in a new direction and push for genuine change.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Felix Wood

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O2. Report of the Wom\*n's Officers**

Madeleine Clark and Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

This past month the Women's Collective has been very active. We've had meetings, reading groups and protests. In particular we had a speak out on Tuesday the 22nd in preparation for the results of the National Student Safety Survey which were released on the 23rd. We had this protest a day earlier because we knew the results would be bad. We've had surveys before and they all tell us the same thing- sexual assault is happening at horrific rates on our campuses. The results of the survey confirmed this. Even though the survey was conducted during the first wave of covid, when students went to online learning, the prevalence of sexual harassment and assault are still too high. Of the USyd students who responded to the survey, 18.5 per cent experienced sexual harassment during their time on campus and 6.7 per cent of respondents have experienced

sexual assault. Both higher than the national average. The response of Sydney Uni has been to sweep these results under the carpet. The truth is they don't care. They can give us consent modules but when it comes to meaningful action like getting rid of the colleges they are silent. It's up to students and activists to draw attention to these issues and show how the university and government benefit off the same system that perpetuates these conditions of oppression. We also co-hosted a National Day of Action with the National Union of Students Women's Department on the 5th of April to keep the pressure up after the release of the survey. This was an important demonstration and was held at 1pm outside Town Hall. We organised it with other Sydney Women's Collectives and heard a range of speakers discussing the issue.

Apart from organising our own events we have been active attending other protests and in other collectives. We were very happy to attend the Climate Strike and we helped co-host a contingent to the Trans Day of Resistance on the weekend. We also co-hosted a student contingent to the Nurses and Midwives Strike last Thursday. This was an inspiring demonstration and it was notable this strike was larger and angrier than the previous one. It is encouraging to see the community support of the strike and it puts us in good stead for strikes on Sydney Uni. With the new anti-protest laws it is demonstrative that industrial action and protests are effective and it is on us as activists to organise and help support them.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to the report and highlighted going to the nurses strikes that has been occurring and the importance of the public awareness of strikes in furthering change. Madeleine Clark also noted she would be resigning as Women's Officer at the end of the month but would continue to be involved in campus activism.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **O3. Report of the Queer Officers**

In the last month QuAC has been engaged in two key areas:

#### **Name Change process at the University:**

This issue had been raised by one of our members early in the semester. Currently, the name change process is two steps, the first being through Sydney Student which is pretty straight forward but only impacts class rosters, canvas, and that platform. The second step is to contact the IT department in regards to email address, the enquiry system, subject specific platforms (such as the Education boards that STEM departments use), and other institutional platforms (such as those used to register for events during orientation). In submitting an enquiry to change one's name on these platforms, a ticket is made which still uses a student's dead name throughout.

### **Trans Day of Visibility:**

Last week QuAC did some building for the Trans Day Of Visibility (TDOV) protest on the second of April. It was great to see so many people out to continue the demands of killing the religious discrimination bill, advocating for sex-workers rights, and defunding the police. There were some great speeches by members of local activist groups as well as some green party members, and there was an in depth forum after the protest which sparked a lot of great ideas for how QuAC can get more involved.

Moving forward, QuAC plans to begin conversations with the University about the name change process, push for momentum behind annual transition leave, and develop relationships with local queer activist organizations.

Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the report going through its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **O4. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers**

Last month, we have finished the marketing plan for SRC by using all the knowledge from the advertising company. This plan is devoted to promoting the publication of information and activities of SRC and USYD as well as some international students may not have a clear picture of SRC and USYD.

Therefore, the plan is not only to inform students about SRC and USYD but also to promote global solidarity, such as dealing with issues about global solidarity. We will post information by using the official SRC account on specific platforms and we will sign up for the official account with the help of President Lauren this month. Moreover, we will draft the monthly calendar in the first week of each month to ensure the representative of SRC, President Laruen is informed of what is going on in that month.

We are looking forward to the good news about this plan and we will try our best to focus on running these SRC official accounts by using all knowledge from works and books.

--

Across the globe there are numerous important struggles breaking out. One of the recent victories for the labour movement in the US is that the first ever Amazon union in the US was formed in Staten Island, New York. Led by activist Chris Smalls, the Amazon labour union was able to defy the most aggressive union-busting efforts from one of the world's most powerful companies. Moreover, In Sri Lanka mass protests have erupted calling for the resignation of President

Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the country had been hit hard by a recent economic crisis. This has fostered widespread anger against the government and the protests have led to the entire cabinet of Gota resigning. This is an important and heroic struggle against the Sri Lankan government, where protests have been taking part in street demonstrations, some leading to clashes between protesters and police. As well, the invasion of Ukraine is continuing to show mass death and destruction where Russian troops have attacked the city of Mariupol and the town of Bucha near the capital Kyiv. We should continue to show support to the people of Ukraine fighting against the invasion and the Russian activists who continue to be repressed and arrested for protesting against the war.

This month, I have been involved in many rallies including a refugees rally, highlighting the oppression faced by refugees from places like Afghanistan and Myanmar, as well as Tamils who continue to be genocide and dispossessed by the Sri Lankan state. I also attended the nurses and midwives strike which was a great show of angry healthcare workers demanding better patient to staff ratios. I also gave a speech at a Palestine Action Group rally about the continued oppression of Palestinians, the continued eviction from Sheikh Jarrah and the dead media silence on the issue. I talked especially about our government's rejection of the amnesty international report calling Israel an apartheid state. Both the Liberal and Labor party have denied such conditions in Israel and continue to back the state and its mission of genocide unconditionally.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the reports focusing on the second and covering its main points.

Lauren Lancaster clarified that the first half of the motion was about re-establishing the SRC WeChat account, less advertising than the report implies.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Julian Alley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes per speaker*

*Moved: Lauren Lancaster*

*Seconded: Alana Ramshaw*

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

## **05. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

The most pressing task for student unionists at USyd now is to build a strong solidarity campaign with NTEU members preparing to go on strike later in semester. Their fight against management is one we all have a stake in. The Vice Chancellors, Provosts and DVCs who are trying to prevent staff from getting the job protections and pay raise they deserve are the same bureaucrats that have invited police onto campus to repress our protests, overseen the massive increase in

bureaucratisation of student services and cut courses that don't fit the corporate business priorities of the university. All while their own pay packages have ballooned.

Students must stand with staff in their demands for job security, an end to hyper casualisation, reasonable workloads and a fair pay raise. I helped organise today's NTEU/SRC forum, and have been helping with the EAG's stalls. It would be great if more people could volunteer some of their time to hand out leaflets, put up posters, make lecture announcements and otherwise build the solidarity campaign.

Discussion:

Simon Upitis spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing-Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **06. Report of the Welfare Officers**

In the past few weeks, the Welfare Action Group has been struck down by illness; however, we're now ready to roll. At our first meeting of the semester, we discussed upcoming campaigns that the WAG will get involved in. We demand that every unit of study allow for COVID-related absences, without the need for students to apply for special consideration: at the moment, contracting the virus is by no means a "special" circumstance and should not force students into the stress and administrative complexity of the Special Considerations system. Further, we are demanding reforms to the University's Discontinue Not to Fail (DC) system, which subjects disabled and socioeconomically disadvantaged students to unfairly tedious processes and impersonal treatment. We are taking motions on both of these issues to this month's council and hoping to see strong support from the student representative body. We are also planning to work with the Refugee Rights Officer to increase refugee activism on campus, support and get involved with other collectives' action following the NSSS, push awareness and advocacy in support of the ongoing recovery following the recent floods, and get involved in upcoming actions for the rights of Tamil refugees.

Our fortnightly meetings have returned, and will be running next week at 3pm on Tuesday at Herrmann's. We also encourage students who want to get involved to join our Facebook Page and Facebook Group to see updates and meeting times.

**Discussion:**

Yasmine Johnson gave a verbal report:

- State of welfare is appalling and standard of living all over the world
- Nothing in the budget seeks to actually remedy the challenges working people are facing

- Amazon unionisation drive is an example of a push back against this, despite huge corporate pressure and being a true grassroots campaign
- Yasmin also spoke about the Election and the strikes, unfortunately The recording froze and the comments were lost.

Grace Wallman spoke to the written report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Julian Alley

The motion was put and CARRIED

## **07. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers**

This month I've been involved in organising a student contingent to the Rally for Refugees. I was proud to speak alongside the Tamil Refugee Council at their contingent beforehand too, since they've been so integral in organising refugee activism in Sydney. In the coming month, we'll be working on organising a film screening of the documentary 'No Fire Zone' on campus for April the 28th as part of our promotion for the Tamil Genocide Day rally, and as a means to draw more students into refugee activism.

Discussion:

Annabel Pettit spoke to their report covering its main points and highlighting the lack of refugee policy by the major parties other than indefinite detention, and the work of activist in helping draw attention to their conditions and treatment and push for them to be released.

Ella Haid asked how electoral campaigning would help refugees?

Annabel Pettit responded saying that it was completely counterposed to do electoral campaigning when fighting for the rights of refugees as the major parties have nothing but contemptuous policies and that protest is the only way to make changes.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Eddie Stephenson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **P. Special Business**

There were no items of special business.

## **Q. Motions of Notice**

### **Q1. On the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill (2022)**

**Preamble:**



On the 30th March, exactly a week ago today the government successfully passed what has subsequently been called an anti-protest bill. Under this 'Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill (2022)' new offences have been created for "behaviour that causes damage or disruption to major roads or major facilities." Disappointingly, this bill was passed with support from the Australian Labor Party after some minimal amendments, showing that despite what they may claim, the ALP will not hesitate to pass anti-labour, anti-strike laws.

This bill is presumably in response to the 25 March Port Botany Blockade Australia protests that have since led to activist Maxim O'Donnell Curmi being jailed for four months after he scaled a crane to block the loading of a ship. However, it is also representative of an ideological crackdown as Liberal governments see striking workers as a threat to their power.

So what does the bill actually say? In a photo provided by Jenny Leong, it can be read that the bill introduces a \$22,000 fine or a maximum prison sentence of two years, or both, for disruption of a facility or road. Under the amended Roads Act this describes a person who "enters, remains on, climbs, jumps from or otherwise trespasses on a major road" if the conduct "causes damage to the road, or seriously disrupts or obstructs vehicles or pedestrians attempting to use the road." Under the amended Crimes Act the same disruption of "major facilities" will apply.

When we talk about strike action there are various forms that it can take but almost all of these will be prosecutable under these amendments. Picket lines will fall under "trespasses or blocks part of a major facility." Occupations will be similarly judged. Protests and rallies will fall under "obstructs vehicles attempting to use a road." Strikes are central to how we collectively make change outside of parliamentary channels. This encroaches upon our rights to fight for a better world. Although it remains to be seen how much discretion will be employed by the police and by the courts, this means that school strikers may no longer legally be able to take climate action and if so, only with prior approval by the state, along a state-sanctioned route, at an agreed upon time, for an agreed upon length of time. It means that unions and workers everywhere will be severely limited in their ability to fight back, else risk crippling fines and jail time. What it will mean for the ongoing RTBU, NSWNMA, and NTEU strikes, remains to be seen. As per usual, these laws will likely hit First Nations peoples the hardest with more police brutality, more jail time, and likely more deaths in custody.

If you support this bill, you are not left-wing. If you support this bill, you are no friend of workers. You are the friend only of the capitalist elite who benefit from the crackdown on activists that this bill allows. If you support this bill, you may not call yourself a unionist. If you support this bill, I question why you bother engaging at all in the student unionism that the SRC represents and suggest you resign your seat.

**Platform:**

- The SRC condemns the amendments to the Roads and Crimes Legislation
- The SRC defends the rights of students, workers and unionists take disruptive action and supports them in their stand against this bill
- The SRC recognises that in their support of this bill, the Coalition and the ALP, alongside the police in their enforcement of these laws, stand in class opposition to workers

**Action:**

- The SRC recognises the importance of strike action and commits to defending students and workers who may be charged under this act in the future, this looks like:
  - The SRC will promote material defending students and help them raise funds
  - The SRC will publish material in defence of said students

**Discussion:**

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion reading out the preamble and covering its main points.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion and condemning the bill calling it shameful that both parties would support such a bill. The recording froze and further comments were lost.

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion and spoke about the nurses strikes and people fighting against this bill. The recording froze again, and comments were lost.

Emma Terry spoke to the motion and spoke about the history of protests, illegal protests, and the importance of creating a fighting activist organisation.

Angus Dermody spoke to the motion and the undemocratic nature of the protest laws and extensive scope of them. Saying that the laws need to be resisted in the street and fight against the government that implemented them, and we will not protect education, win the fight against climate change without protests and activism.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion and how things have been done in defiance of protest laws in the past and how different positions have been taken by groups some of which lead to police more easily cracking down on protesters because they were following unjust laws, and the importance of protest in democracy.

Owen Masrden-Readford spoke to the motion and spoke about the work of Socialist Alternative in protests in the past and how others have made claims that some forms for protest are anti-worker despite clearly not being so, because they need to be disruptive to achieve change. Saying when there are unjust laws, you break them, and break them in numbers.

Felix Wood spoke to the motion and how the bill deeply undemocratic, saying it was not transparently debated and there was no capacity to hold the government to account, and so fighting it is important.

Moved: Tiger Perkins

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

**Q2. Motion endorsing the EAG's "Students Support Staff Strikes" Campaign**

#### Preamble:

The strike campaign at the University of Sydney is heating up. The Protected Action Ballot has been sent to all union members and members have until April 13 to vote. On April 14, an NTEU members' meeting will be held to vote on what industrial action will be taken and when. The left at that meeting will argue for strikes this semester, following the mid-semester break. Student unionists should support this position.

Although we can't substitute for the work of rank and file activists in the NTEU, student activists can demonstrate to hesitant staff that students support them striking all the way. By beginning to seriously argue to and convince students of the need to back staff, we can lay the groundwork for successful strikes and pickets in the future. The staff strikes in 2013 and 2017 were both reliant on students turning out to stand with staff to shut down the campus.

With this goal, the EAG has launched a campaign titled "Staff Support Student Strikes". The aim of the campaign is to be a visible pole of attraction for students who want to get involved in helping build student-staff solidarity. We want to produce lots of materials and merchandise – covering the campus in stickers, badges and a sea of t-shirts. All councillors should get involved in the campaign- come along to EAG organising meetings, help out on our stalls, make some announcements in your classes. The more hands on deck, the more students know that they should support staff going on strike!

Today, the EAG held a forum in conjunction with the NTEU titled 'why students should support strikes', and we have another upcoming action in support of the strikes. The National Union of Students and Education Collectives across the country are holding a National Day of Action for free education and in support of industrial action by staff. The NDA will be held on USyd campus and it is a crucial opportunity for students to fight for better conditions for staff and students, and for free, fully funded education.

#### Platform:

1. The USyd SRC endorses the Education Action Group's campaign 'Students support staff strikes', as the council believes that strikes are essential to win better conditions for staff and students.
2. The USyd SRC encourages all students to actively support staff and to get involved with the campaign as a way to build solidarity.

#### Action:

1. The USyd SRC commits to funding campaign materials for the Education Action Group, including a vinyl banner, A-frame, printing the strikes zine, badges and t-shirts.
2. The USyd SRC commits to standing with staff when they go on strike, and publicising any strike related and upcoming events through their social media channels.
3. The USyd SRC declares, in the event of a strike, the closure of all classes for the duration of the strike.

#### Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to their motion calling on for support for the National Day of Action as well as the student support staff strikes campaign and called on everyone to get involved.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to their motion saying that this motion calls for everyone to concretely support and work towards building the strikes and not just say you have support and say you agree, you need to on work on convincing other people and fight for a better education. Deaglan thanked everyone who has been involved in the EAG and the work they have done to build this campaign and said this needs to be the sole focus of the SRC and not to be distracted by the federal election.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying there was a feeling that everything was going badly in the world with crisis after crisis and there seems like there is no way to fight against this and these strikes are a way of showing there is a way to fight these and they can open people up to being more political and involved in activism.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying this isn't a duplicate motion to ones done in the past but a commitment to doing work and activism and it make clear that student can create change and should be actively involved. NUS said they can't and that's wrong and people need to be optimistic about these strikes and build them to make real change. So everyone should come up and build the movement

*Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw*

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion and said she was a staunch unionist and always supports rank and file workers taking actions against management and taking action for their rights. Saying that she will attend EAG meetings if asked but can be hard when you're working and studying so it's surprising how anti-worker some people are being here.

Simon Uptis responded to Mikaela Pappou's comments and asked her and Unity [Labor Right] to attend EAG meetings in the future if they are trade unionists. Saying you can't call yourself a unionist if you need to be argued with to come to a campaign meeting.

Lauren Lancaster spoke about what was discussed at the NTEU forum today talking about the importance of showing up at the picket line both in person and on the digital picket line with zoom bombing to make sure people don't cross the line by going to classes online.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion adding that it is important to come to the picket line but also that there are people calling themselves unionists who don't get involved in organising or growing the movement or supporting the campaign. People need to be coming to activism in attending organising meetings and poster, lecture bombing and talking actively to students and colleagues about the campaign and the importance of strikes.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Lauren Lancaster resumed the Chair*

### **Q3. Motion in Support of a Federal Anti-Corruption Commission**

Preamble:

Australia will be heading to the polls in a matter of weeks, and one of the key issues of debate is undoubtedly the implementation of a federal anti-corruption body. Whoever wins government in the upcoming election *must* establish an independent anti-corruption body which holds the power to investigate current and past cases of alleged corrupt practices in the federal government.

The current federal government's refusal to establish a federal anti-corruption commission only gives rise to further speculation over the integrity of their ministers. It is abundantly clear that this government has ritually practised pork-barrelling in their allocation of grants, resulting in the infamous 'sports rorts' and 'car park rorts' scandals. In 2021, it was exposed that the federal ministers and MPs had allocated almost \$2bn in discretionary grants to Coalition-held seats in the previous three financial years, whilst providing Labor-held seats only \$530m. Residents who live outside of Coalition-held seats, including those in bushfire-affected communities, continue to be punished on the basis of colour-coded spreadsheets. Similar uses of taxpayer's money to aid the government's chances of re-election, including the recent factional brawl within the NSW Liberal Party, should also be barred from regular practice. The establishment of a federal anti-corruption body should henceforth ensure transparency in the allocation of government grants.

The government's latest budget has highlighted zero intention in establishing a federal anti-corruption body. This is of course in spite of their promise to do so prior to the previous federal election, as well as multiple calls to do so from the Opposition, Independents, and an open letter by The Australian Institute, signed even by former Liberal leader John Hewson. The ethical case against pork-barrelling and attempts to "bribe" voters ought to be above the contest of politics, and thus this is a motion that should draw the support from all sides of the political spectrum.

#### **Platform:**

1. The USyd SRC calls upon the newly elected government to establish an independent, federal anti-corruption commission which holds the power to investigate current and past allegations of corrupt conduct.
2. The USyd SRC condemns the Morrison government for:
  - a) Its refusal to establish an independent, federal anti-corruption body, despite its promise to do so prior to the 2019 election.
  - b) Its several acts of pork-barrelling over the last three years.

#### **Action:**

1. The USyd SRC will post the body of this motion onto its website.
2. The USyd SRC will endorse the publication of an article in Honi Soit to outline the necessity of an independent, federal anti-corruption commission.

Discussion:

Julian Alley spoke to their motion talking about the multiple scandals of the Morrison government. Saying that even former Liberal senators are no longer supporting the Liberal party for the action in only supporting Liberal seats effected by the floods. This [the federal anti-corruption commission] is another broken election promise that something that is so desperately needed.

Felix Wood spoke to their motion echoing Julian Alley sentiments and spoke about how the lack of transparency and ability for third party investigation erodes our democracy.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke about the motion, saying that the problem with federal is not just corruption, but that the leaders of all parties represent the needs of the ruling class. Adding that this motion asking the council to endorse the Labor party's campaign and this is not the place of the SRC to endorse such a campaign. Also that much of the worst things being done by or offered by both the major parties aren't even corrupt they are out in the open and legal and it's action from the ground up that created social change. The recording froze and comments were lost.

Rose Donnelly responded to Owen's comments and spoke to the motion. The recording froze and comments were lost.

Ella Haid responded asking how you are supposed to lobby a government you offer unconditional electoral support for. Going on to talk about what corruption ICAC investigates and how it is toothless and electoral-ism is useless.

Grace Lagan responded to Socialist Alternative's comments about electoral-ism saying it was unclear why they seem to be both for and against the motion. Adding that the creation of an anti-corruption commission is beneficial for bringing to light many issues and only Labor will deliver an anti-corruption commission.

Moved: Julian Alley

Seconded: Felix Wood

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **Q4. Motion condemning the Morrison Government's budgetary attack on public education**

##### **Preamble:**

Last Tuesday, Josh Frydenberg laid out the Morrison Government's pre-election budget for 2022-23. Of the 3500-word speech he delivered to parliament, just 74 words were dedicated to the Morrison Government's platform on education – taglined as “record funding for education”. Of those 74 words, not once was there a mention of whether this “record funding” would benefit government or non-government schools. Perhaps spoken as such deliberately, a closer look at the budget reveals an obscene disparity between funding for public versus non-government schools. Where non-government schools – including the elite private institutions which the likes of Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg benefitted from – were shamelessly bolstered by a proposed \$2.56 billion over the next 4 years, funding to government (public) schools were slashed by more than \$559 million in the same time period. Not only is this a tragic loss to a system which is already not coping, but there has been no additional funding allocated for capital works in public schools, even despite the deep impact of Covid-19, natural disasters, and escalating inequality across the nation.

This budget measure is yet another symptom of the neoliberal trend towards underfunding and writing off public institutions which are set up to level the playing field for ordinary Australians. When well-funded, these institutions, particularly public schools, have the capacity to embolden students from any socioeconomic status to achieve, and to achieve highly. When underfunded, as they currently are, public schools face overcrowding, understaffing, poor infrastructure (such as 'permanent' demountables and poor heating/cooling arrangements) and facilities. The obvious consequence of this is poor learning outcomes for students.

The less obvious consequence is the widening gap between the public schoolers who defy the system and attend this university, and their elite, privately-educated counterparts. While private schoolers will benefit from ever-improving infrastructure and resources as a consequence of this budget, public schoolers continue to be let down. Given this impact on learning outcomes for students, access to tertiary education will become increasingly difficult for publicly-educated students. The elitism which already runs rife through this university will proliferate, and the sexism, racism and classism which tends to come with privately-schooled individuals (the mere existence of the colleges is evidence enough of this) will inevitably culminate in the tertiary education system becoming an extension of private schooling - accessible only to the wealthy upper class.

This hidden budgetary measure is a devastating and disgusting attack on ordinary, working Australians, and must be vehemently opposed. Without fighting for well-funded government schools, we run the risk of imposing further impossibilities on an already desperate margin of students.

**Platform:**

1. The USyd SRC condemns the Morrison Government's proposed reduction in public school funding and increase in funding for private schooling.
2. The USyd SRC supports any subsequent action by the Teachers Federation or other representative activist body for public school teachers, staff and students.

**Action:**

1. The USyd SRC will share this motion via social media.
2. The USyd SRC will promote any material produced by the Teacher's Federation or other representative activist bodies in defence of public education (including the USyd Education Action Group (EAG)).

**Discussion:**

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to their motion reading out the motion.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to their motion speaking about her experience at a public school and the benefits, quality of education and support received there and the impact that these cuts will have on schools like her high school, noting that private schools will not feel any effects.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion saying that the schools of the rich will be protected spoke about the direct pipeline between elites privates schools, the university and the ruling class. Adding that the questions need to be how to we change this, saying that it is when strikes and action are taken that conditions change and that the focus needs to be on this not just the valorisation of the suffering of public schools.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q5. Motion: Stop Sexual Harassment and Assault on Campus**

### Preamble:

On the 23rd of March, Universities Australia released the results of The National Student Safety Survey (NSSS) that was conducted last year. This survey was a statistical and qualitative inquiry into sexual harassment and sexual assault on university campuses nationally. The survey's results reveal the prevalent culture of sexual violence in universities and the failings of managerial bodies in protecting and supporting their students.

The report is the latest in a line of reports into sexual violence on campuses, including the 2016 'Change the Course' Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) survey, the 2017 Broderick Reports, and the 2018 Red Zone report. 876 University of Sydney students responded to the survey and out of those 18.5 per cent of respondents said they experienced sexual harassment during their time at USyd. This is 14 per cent higher than the national average (16.1 per cent). 6.7 per cent of respondents have experienced sexual assault, 49 per cent higher than the national average (4.5 per cent). We note that these figures are impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns over the past two years which have seen escalating rates of domestic violence and SASH and decreasing rates of reporting in the wider community.

It is also worth noting that students who were gender diverse, Indigenous or disabled were more likely to have experienced harassment and assault in a university setting. The University of Sydney presents a progressive liberal image, however when it comes to meaningful discussion and action on issues of oppression and inequality they are silent. USyd is an elite institution and that reflects the people they protect. This can be seen in the fact that only 17 per cent of respondents who were sexually harassed sought support or assistance from the University, and 56.9 per cent of respondents said they knew "nothing or very little about where to go to make a complaint about sexual assault".

An inherent gap in the campus-specific data provided from the survey is the incidence of sexual harassment and assault in on-campus residential accommodation. We already know from previous surveys that sexual assault is rampant in Sydney University's residential colleges. 68 colleges students are raped per week in Australia and college students are 7 times more likely to be raped than non-college students. Sexual violence at college is part of a culture that will not go away unless the colleges themselves are turned into affordable housing for ordinary students.



The Vice Chancellor at the University of Sydney, Mark Scott, emailed all students, informing them of the results of the survey. In this email Mr Scott praised the efforts of the University in addressing sexual harassment and sexual assault. However it is hard to take these comments seriously when the university has consistently cut funding to all aspects of our education, including services for survivors. It is easy for them to make consent modules however at the end of the day they benefit from the capitalist system that perpetuates sexism and misogyny.

The Women's Collective co-hosted a National Day of Action with the NUS and other women's collectives on the 5th of April to raise awareness around these issues and to point to the failings of the university and government.

Platforms:

1. The SRC calls on the university to release a full USyd data pack from the NSSS.
2. The SRC supports an end to sexual violence and harassment on campus, on placement and in student housing.
3. The SRC supports the university providing more funding and resources to survivor support on campus including increased academic support, degree flexibility and reporting avenues.
4. The SRC supports the NTEU striking for better conditions and pay.
5. The SRC supports the demand of burning the colleges and turning them into affordable housing

Actions:

1. The SRC will provide funding and resources for campaigns around this issue.
2. The SRC will share related graphics and information from their social media accounts.

Discussion:

*Lauren Lancaster resigned the Chair to Alana Ramshaw*

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her motion saying that the unison has been an institution set in misogyny, colonialism, sexual violence and the colleges are the home of this. Adding that we see the results as a constant reminder to the lack of action by the university who pander to the colleges and don't care about the consequences faced by students seen in the constant underfunding of welfare and support services in the university. Concluding by calling on everyone to show greater solidarity and get involved and come to meetings and actions.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying she is often pressured to look for solutions in University's services and the police that is unproductive and unhelpful when this stems from women's oppression. The recording froze and comments were lost.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion talking about Mark Scott's response to the survey by filming a video and that the video was shameful. Adding that a good way to draw attention to this is by attending the strikes and fighting against sexism in the workplace. The recording froze and some comments were lost.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying that we live in a society where a small group rule over others, and one way this is done is through the control of women's bodies. Adding that the inequality is not going to stop unless there is a fight for better working conditions and fair pay not just against sexual assault.

Onor Nottle spoke to the motion echoing the sentiments of the previous speakers and added that the response from the university has shown no urgent care or the need to take accountability and put actions in place to address the issues. The University and the colleges are acting as though because they can't see it, it doesn't matter.

Bella Anderssen spoke to the motion saying that sexual assault and harassment is rampant for women in STEM and that another area where there is an issue is in academia in general, as there is a unique power structures and we need to work with staff to point out that there are many who are ignoring or perpetrating sexual assault or harassment and they need to be held to account and called out if things are going to change. There needs to be more training and awareness on these issues to protect people before more people are affected by these issues and it should be on the men in power to make these changes.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion saying that the university's response is not surprising since this is the university that punished student for protesting Betina Ardnt speaking on campus. Adding that this survey doesn't even take into account that we have not been on campus for the last two years for covid and that 2 more years on campus without covid and those statistics would be much much worse, and that marginalised women are more at risk and the university continues to turn a blind eye.

Moved: Monica Lee-McNaught

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Alana Ramshaw held the chair for the next motion.*

#### **Q6. No shilling for American imperialism: students condemns the appointment of the USSC's latest CEO!**

**Preamble:** The United States Studies Centre (USSC) announced last week that Dr Michael Green has been selected as the organisation's next CEO starting in May 2022.

Honi reported that "Green is currently the Henry A. Kissinger Chair at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) at Washington's Georgetown University. He also served as former US President George W. Bush's Special Assistant as Senior Director for Asian Affairs and was a member of the National Security Council under the Bush administration between 2004 and 2006.

The appointment signals a significant divergence from previous CEO Simon Jackman, who has not held a political role. Green is also an American citizen, which makes him the first non-Australian academic to become a USSC CEO.

In a press release, Green referenced Australia's poor perception of the United States, particularly "among young people" following the Iraq War. One of his priorities as CEO will be to advocate for the importance of the U.S-Australian alliance "for this generation".

"We will be more focused on agenda-shaping, not just analysis and understanding. The Centre has an advantage in this because we have comprehensive coverage in trade, economics and defence, which all relate to each other," Green said.

Agenda-shaping. Defence. Imperialism. It is a grave day when a Republican bureaucrat of the warmongering US National Security Council under George Bush, and long-time conservative is announced as a leader in our university community. The University tells us that "Leadership for good starts here". Perhaps they should be required then to justify the cognitive dissonance of their selection of someone involved in the American military intervention in the Iraqi War, a conflict marred by crimes against humanity, unjustified bloodshed and imperialist violence. There seems to be very little leadership for good in that.

Notwithstanding that this institution that preaches the intellectual and geopolitical superiority of the Global North should not exist, Green has links with US politics and defence that are deep seated and longstanding. This should have all students on high alert as to the objectivity or lack of partisanship of the USSC under his leadership. If the University is serious about foreign interference concerns, this does not align with those purported values.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC condemns the appointment of Michael Green to head up the USSC and stands against the 'agenda-shaping' it pursues, particularly that which reifies imperial violence, US hegemonic projects or supports defence ties between the University and external 'industry partners' in defence and military.
2. The USYD SRC reaffirms its commitment to public opposition to the USSC and its objectives/functions in naturalising US-centric policy, politics or hegemonic ideology amongst members of the student body. We need critical engagement, not institutionalised agendas.

Actions:

1. The SRC publishes the content of this motion on Facebook and social media.
2. the SRC will oppose the imperialist agenda of the USSC as a whole
3. If the Council sees fit, the SRC commits to supporting protest action surrounding his appointment or other USSC projects in the future.

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her motion reading out parts and covering its main points.

*Felix Wood waived his speaking rights*

Jasmine Al-Rawi proposed an amendment

*Amendment: remove action point 2 and replace it with:  
the SRC will oppose the imperialist agenda of the USSC as a whole*

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the changes saying that this goes with the motions intent, but the action points do not reflect these intentions and that the USSC shouldn't exist at all and that we need a fighting student body to oppose them, not appeal to them for change.

*It was amendable to the movers*

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motions and said that to fight these changes the SRC needs a radical campaign not lobbying management, and that it was not surprising that the university continues to support the USSC with their support of profit over morals and their previous attempts to install the Ramsey centre.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to fighting the USSC as a whole saying that the EAG protested and USSC event a few weeks ago the Peter Dutton spoke, talking about the importance of Australian imperialism in an era of growing tensions between the US and China. Adding that the militarism of the west is being glorified at the moment with the war in Ukraine being used to present the US and humanitarian, which the people of Iraq and Afghanistan may disagree. Adding that what we need is people who actively oppose and fight against such wars and refuse to be apart of any such wars our government attempt to force us into.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Felix Wood

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1.5 minutes

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and CARRIED.

*Quorum count called at 8:58pm*

*Meeting was found quorate at 8:59pm*

*Meeting resumed at 8:59pm*

## **Q7. NO MORE KILLER COPS, JUSTICE FOR KUMANJAYI WALKER**

In 2019, Kumanjayi Walker, a 19 year old Aboriginal man from the Northern Territory town of Yuendumu, was brutally murdered by police constable Zachary Rolfe. Three years passed before this case faced the courts, and after a 5 week trial, on the 11th of March, Zachary Rolfe was found not guilty on all charges. He was not found guilty of murder, of manslaughter, or even of committing a violent act.

This should come as no surprise, as it is extremely rare for police officers to be charged over the deaths of Aboriginal people. Not a single one has ever been convicted. The courts are not a neutral party, but are equally the enforcers of systematic anti-Indigenous in this country; in the case of Kumanjaji Walker's murder, Rolfe's history of brutality towards Indigenous men and boys during four previous arrests, as well as text messages written by Rolfe describing Alice Springs as the "wild west" with "fuck all rules in the job really", were deliberately excluded from the jury's consideration on the basis that this evidence was 'irrelevant' to the case. The courts, alongside every part of the capitalist state, have an interest in ensuring that police can enforce the violence and racism of the system with impunity.

Without a doubt, the barbaric and racist system of Australian capitalism has blood on its hands. These deaths of Aboriginal people, along with the destruction of their communities, will continue as long as it continues. This terrible persecution of Aboriginal communities has continued under both Liberal and Labor governments. The day before the nationally televised 'sorry,' that Kevin Rudd gave to the Aboriginal people, nearly 2,000 Indigenous people from across the country gathered in Canberra to protest. They were protesting Rudd's persecution of Indigenous communities by ordering the police and military into the Northern Territory. The murder of Kumanji Walker proves that, more than 10 years later, Australian capitalism is still bent on oppressing Indigenous people and the Australia was built on racism and oppression.

Activists in Australia must show solidarity with Indigenous people, and must not ignore that the central role of the Australian capitalist state in their oppression. We must stand against the terrible acts of the police in these communities, and against the Australian justice system which permits it.

**Platform:**

1. The USYD SRC stands in solidarity with Kumanjaji Walker's family and the Indigenous activists around the country fighting to end Indigenous deaths in custody.
2. The USYD SRC reiterates that the Australian justice system is an institution of injustice and the Australian state is a key institution of anti-Indigenous racism.

**Action:**

1. The USYD SRC will commit to building and promoting future events for Aboriginal rights and against deaths in custody.
2. The USRC SRC will post the text of this motion to the SRC Facebook page.

**Discussion:**

Kiera Garland spoke to their motion reading out the motion and covering its main points.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to their motion speaking about the 1000s of people who came out to protest Kumanjaji Walker's death and noted that most Indigenous deaths in custody don't even make it to trial and polices have never been convicted. Also mentioning that despite Kevin Rudd's

'sorry' speech he and the Gillard government continued the Northern Territory intervention which saw communities over policed and children taken away from their families. Concluding that this shows that how governments don't care about Indigenous peoples lives and welfare.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion echoing the sentiments of the past speakers, saying that they system is not neutral and protects capitalism and those who enforces seen when the judge threw out the history of the accused police officer's history of brutality against other Indigenous people and his attempts to enlist colleagues to cover up his actions. By dismissing this he actively assisted the Officer to get off.

Brendan Tate spoke to the motion saying that if we can't look to the court where can we look to for Indigenous rights and justice, we can look to protest as happened here where people protested the treatment of Kumanjaya Walker. We seen this time and time again throughout history where strikes and protests have been the way create meaningful changes.

Hersha Kadkol spoke to the motion saying that there has been a comment made about the Black Lives Matter movement is that it hasn't worked, and that we've not seen the changes or action taken to address these wrongs. Contemplating that this is because the protests have been about anger and bearing witness and that they need to go further than examining the embedded nature of racial oppression and take meaningful ongoing action to create genuine change.

Onor Nottle spoke to the motion saying it was an indictment on the legal system when someone like Zachary Rolfe are charged they are given a long trial with protections but when an Indigenous person is charged they are treated like they are automatically guilty. Adding that the Australian legal system persecutes Indigenous people and reform is taking to long and there isn't proper legal assistance and support provided.

Moved: Kiera Garland

Seconded: Jasmine Al-Rawi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **PLEASE SAY YOUR FULL NAME WHEN YOU COME UP TO SPEAK**

### **Q8. Fuck Mark Latham - Victory for LGBTI+ rights activists**

The defeat of NSW One Nation senator Mark Latham's transphobic bill is a massive success for the left. The Parental Freedom bill would have prohibited the teaching of LGBTI+ issues, particularly gender diversity, in NSW schools. This bill was not about parental rights, but about attacking the LGBTI+ community after the right was dealt a blow when marriage equality was won. Latham is a bigot who wanted to cohere the conservative right in Australia and wind back the gains made. The deep unpopularity and defeat of the bill proves that the majority of Australians oppose this egregious homophobia and transphobia.

The Parental Freedom bill was in large part defeated by years of tireless campaigning from the activists in Community Action for Rainbow Rights, demonstrating that mass, defiant protests can stop right-wing attacks. CARR activists faced police repression and defied a Supreme Court ban on the basic, democratic right to protest and still mobilised hundreds of people in a radical demonstration. It took months of organising, postering and leafleting to build the protests that eventually culminated in the overturning of the Parental Freedom's bill. These movements win through protests, not lobbying politicians.

However, this is not the end of the fight. The right around the world, including Australia, are still on the warpath against trans people. The Texan Governor is pushing legislation that would classify gender-affirming medical care for trans children as "child abuse" and that parents, teachers, doctors or nurses who fail to report this would be criminally tried. In Florida, a very similar bill to the Religious Exemptions bill here is being proposed - the Don't Say Gay bill, which would limit discussions about gender identity and sexuality in classroom. It would also force school counsellors to out LGBT students. However, people have been fighting against the legislation in Texas and 6 in 10 Americans oppose the Don't Say Gay bill. In Australia, the right are not giving up. The Religious Exemptions bill, which would allow religious institutions to expel LGBT students and staff, is still on the card federally. An example of the right being embolden by these bills is Brisbane's Citiponte Christian College, which has tried to get students to sign contracts stating homosexuality is "immoral" and only weeks ago, make staff sign employment contracts that warn they could be sacked for being LGBT. The defeat of the Parental Rights bill proves that protests work, but activists need to keep fighting against any incarnation of homophobia and transphobia.

**Platform:**

1. The USYD SRC stands in solidarity with Community Action for Rainbow Rights in the fight against homophobia and transphobia.
2. The USYD SRC celebrates the defeat of the bigoted 'Parental Freedoms bill'.
3. The USYD SRC reaffirms it's opposition to the religious freedom bill.
4. The USYD SRC reaffirms the importance of protests in fighting against oppression and winning demands for the left.

**Action:**

1. The USYD SRC will share and advertise any upcoming Community Action for Rainbow Right's events publicly.
2. The text of this motion will be posted on Facebook after the meeting.

**Discussion:**

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to their motion and spoke about the success at the defeat of the parental rights bill. Adding that this motion was just the beginning of attacks from the far Christian right and it is important that groups like CAfRR continue to fight against their propaganda and despicable actions and demonisation of members of the LGBTQI+ community.

Sophie Haslam spoke to their motion emphasising the continuous work of CAfRR over months building the campaign and fighting against this bill but raising community awareness and support to oppose the bill. Breaking undemocratic anti-protest laws in the process.

Emma Terry spoke to the motion and highlighting the importance of this campaign with many people saying to politely lobby or to ignore it and it would go away but it was actions that brought community on side and fought back this bill and this is how we need to continue to fight attacks with building action from below as this is how the left wins campaigns.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion echoed the sentiments and comments of the past speakers pushing against the importance of protests in creating meaningful change.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Sophie Haslam

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q9. Motion in Support of Trans Day of Visibility**

### Preamble

On Saturday (2/4) Pride in Protest held their annual protest for International Transgender Day of Visibility.

The demands of the rally were:

- Kill the Bigoted Bills - End the Religious Discrimination Bill
- Right to Transition and Recognition Now
- Defund the Police and End Police Brutality
- Sex work decriminalisation and anti-discrimination

Speakers addressed the Religious Discrimination Bill that was set aside in February. The Bill would have enabled religious schools to discriminate against staff and students on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, amongst a host of other proposed repeals of protections for trans Australians. The rally highlighted the fact that we are yet to see a definite end to the bill. Parliamentary attacks on trans rights remain an ever-present threat, and as they continue so will the fight against them.

USyd staff member and NTEU branch committee member Dani Cotton spoke on the fight for nationwide implementation of 30 days of annual gender affirmation leave within the tertiary education sector. Advocacy for trans rights on university campuses looks like supporting the demands for LGBTQIA+ staff within the NTEU's log of claims.

Advocacy for trans students on campus has included the ongoing push to fix the University's name change processes. The current process is over complicated and involves having to address several discrete systems and databases. The name change process also involves the use of students' dead names throughout.



### Platform

- The SRC stands in solidarity with trans staff and students
- The SRC echoes the demands put forth by Pride in Protest in their Trans Day of Visibility rally
- The SRC supports the NTEU's fight for annual gender affirmation leave.
- The SRC demands the restructuring and centralisation of the University of Sydney's name change processes for trans students.

### Action

- The SRC will publish this motion via the SRC website
- The SRC will support the Queer Action Collective in their ongoing fight for name change reform
- The SRC will support future iterations of Trans Day of Visibility

### Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews spoke to their motion covering its main points and the importance of supporting the NTEU on their fight for gender affirmation leave.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to their motion saif that while we've had a victory in shutting down the parental choice bill there are still many fights to be had and we can't stop it's persistent work. Adding that fighting to support the NTEU's campaign and also the campaign to stream line name changes at the university as the current process is dismissive and destructive to student seeking to change their name.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying that many of the gender roles are enforces and perpetuated by capitalism which promotes the traditional family for its own needs, and if it was a natural way then they wouldn't need to fight so hard to make people conform. Adding that representation is not enough there needs to be ongoing action and change.

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q10. University students deserve more from the Federal budget**

### Preamble:

The Coalition's Federal budget released last week did not mention university students once. The opposition's budget also scarcely mentioned university students, and there is no sign of the rapid changes needed to the higher education sector. Students have been left behind by the Jobs Ready Graduates package, and an investment in welfare and higher education is needed. Labor's promised investment in higher education was to create 20 000 new places, with an investment of

approx. \$481 million. This is merely a drop in the bucket for students, who still need to pay for costly degrees in a completely gutted out university sector.

Last week, the Greens introduced an excellent policy around free education and abolishing student debt. With the rising cost of living, abolishing student debt would make an enormous difference in young people's lives. Education has become more costly in recent years, so making higher education free would remove class barriers and increase accessibility to university. The policy of abolishing student debt would cost \$60 billion, which could easily be taken from the \$171 billion that the coalition is investing in nuclear submarines through AUKUS.

Education is a right, not a privilege and it is important to hold parties with lacklustre education policies to account going into an election. Students deserve free education, the ability to engage in education as a social good, and secure a liveable income.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns the Liberal and Labor budgets for their inadequate policies addressing education and welfare.
2. The USyd SRC endorses the Greens policy of free education and abolishing student debt.
3. The USyd SRC supports free, accessible higher education and encourages all students to get involved in activist campaigns which are fighting for this.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will continue to campaign for free, accessible higher education through all avenues.

Discussion:

*Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw*

Lia Perkins spoke to their motion saying that the government and the opposition do nothing for university students as evidence by the lack of attention in the budget and budget reply. The cost of higher education has been increasing over the years and so fighting for free education, advocated for in the Greens education policy, would allow for a break down in the class barrier to accessing education. Concluding that the best way to fight for change is to go on strike and protesting.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her motion echoing Lia's sentiments and saying that fighting the neoliberal corporate university it to strike and protest and that saying a party has this a part of their platform is different to supporting said party. The small government and neoliberal agenda of Coalition and Labor governments have eroded education and so we should get behind and support policies like free education.

Eddie Stephenson spoke against the motion saying that she supports the policy of free education and the eradication of student debt, but that this motion is effectively a motion endorsing the Greens in the federal election. Adding that the debate for how you actually achieve these changes has not been properly had and that is the issue do we do this by protesting or political lobbying.

And that no matter who wins the election parties like the Greens, who may have the balance of power, will just be supporting those responsible for running Australian capitalism.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion talking about attacks on public schools and the consequences of them being the further entrenchment of elitism at this, and other universities. Without a diverse student population we know the problems of today will only continue to be further entrenched and proliferated as we see with the colleges.

Mikaela Pappou echoed Eddie Stephenson saying the SRC should not be supporting the Greens and that it is important that students get out there and protest on issues but disagreed that wanting to kick out the Liberal government was counterposed to pushing for a student protest movement. Further Adding that wanting to condemn the budget is not the same as wanting to endorse another party

Grace Hu echoed Mikaela Pappou's comments saying that she supported free education but that increasing student places is also important. Adding that the Greens policy just looks like good pork barrelling for their supporters.

Deaglan Godwin said he doesn't want this to turn into a debate between Labor and the Greens and disagrees with some of the comments made about the Greens who do have better policy on education but while the Greens may have good policies, they don't have a strategy for achieving them, they only have a slightly left parliamentary strategy which isn't good enough. Adding that they acknowledge this is not a whole endorsement of the Green policy platform just an element of it, but that it still isn't critical enough of the Greens overall strategy and we need to put an alternative strategy forward.

Grace Lagan spoke about the elections saying that it was clear that everyone here supports free education and that people need to acknowledge that in May people will need to make a choice between a party that has done nothing on higher education, public schools, or one that promised free TAFE funding for universities.

Lia Perkins said this is not a motion of endorsement for the Greens but endorsing a single policy that addresses student and is of relevance. In the platform there is a lot of clarification on what is important, it's not a 1:1 on endorsing a policy we have to campaign for the green, that's not what this is about at all and it's not the place of the SRC to do that this is about campaigning for free education.

Hersha Kadkol spoke about the history of Socialist Alternative pushing for the NUS to support the greens at the last election due to their policies on higher education, but that we have suspended rebuilding a strong activist movement in support of electioneering and getting Labor elected which doesn't help the movement. Saying that this should be a strategic argument where the SRC should be placing its energies and that not where they should be. Concluding with when you participate in electoral politics and when you fight no matter the government that wins.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **Q11. USyd SRC endorses the nurses strike**

Preamble:

Last week nurses across NSW went on strike for 24 hours. This was a large and important strike, representing an escalation of industrial action against the NSW Liberal state government. Public sector workers such as teachers, nurses, bus drivers, train drivers and paramedics have all taken industrial action this year because of a wage freeze and the appalling conditions they have to work under.

One of the key demands nurses are on strike for is for safe staffing ratios. Other states in Australia have ratios that save lives. Ratios mean that one nurse will not have to care for tens of patients, putting both the nurse and the patient into unsafe conditions.

The other, similarly important demand nurses have is for a pay rise. Nurses are the real heroes of the pandemic, but they deserve more than a pat on the back for their hard work. Public sector wages are at an all time low and a pay rise is crucial to address the rising cost of living.

A change of government will not change nurses' working conditions. Nothing more than a pay rise and safe ratios is adequate, and this will be won through strike action.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC endorses the demands of the Nurses and Midwives Association for safe staffing ratios and a pay rise.
2. The USyd SRC supports all industrial action taken by nurses, and any future strikes taken by nurses and other public sector workers.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will take a photo at the end of council in solidarity with the nurses strike.
2. The USyd SRC will support future strikes by supporting student contingents and providing funds where needed.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to their motion outlining its main points and how strikes have been on the rise.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion saying we should be getting student out to the nurses strike and all strikes and spoke about the role of socialist alternative in pushing for the nurses strikes and the unions were wasting time with electoral-ism.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Tiger Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q12. No one is coming to save us but us: what activists should take from the budget and the budget reply**

### **Preamble:**

The Liberal government has handed down a federal budget which is an insult to ordinary people. While billions are parcelled out to private schools, small business owners, construction bosses and the military, alongside thousands of dollars in planned tax cuts for the wealthiest sections of Australian society, working class people hit by the increasing cost of living can expect a paltry one-off payment of \$250 and a temporary reduction in the fuel excise, while next to nothing has been offered to address the serious problems facing the healthcare and aged care systems, people with disabilities, those surviving on poverty-level welfare payments. Over the next year, inflation is expected to increase by 4.25%, while average wages are forecasted to increase by a mere 2.75%. For many workers, particularly those slapped with public sector wage caps and those in the lowest-paid industries, the outlook is considerably grimmer than the averages suggest. If things continue as they have been, ordinary workers are only going to see their living standards further ground down, year on year.

The Labor party has accurately criticised the federal budget for its complete failure to put forward any solution to the rising cost of living for workers. Yet Labor themselves refuse to commit to measures which could directly lift wages and improve life for regular people, despite having plenty of latitude to do so in a political climate where an increase to wages would have the support of the majority of workers. A Labor government could legislate to increase the minimum wage across all awards, instantly increase welfare payments, reverse penalty rate cuts, remove public sector wage caps, pour money into health and education, and fund it all by undoing the regressive tax reforms which Labor and Liberal alike have doubled down on in the lead up to the federal election. On all of these questions, however, they are either silent, preferring to leave workers' conditions in the hands of the overwhelmingly pro-business Fair Work Commission, or indeed the worst perpetrators - on the question of public sector wage caps, for instance, the Victorian Andrews government leads the pack with a 1.5% limit on wage rises. Instead, Labor courts the bosses and the right-wing mainstream media with what amount to 'trickle down' plans to lift wages by forcing productivity increases on workers, honestly pitching themselves as a safe, pro-business pair of hands to steer Australian capitalism.

All of this has important lessons for how activists should approach the coming election. While it is rightly commonsense to oppose the blatant class war agenda of the Liberals, we must also recognise that Labor's commitment to running Australian capitalism in harmony with its capitalists means they are neither going to be saviours from on high *nor even a more sympathetic ear to lobbying from the left*. The only thing that's going to be able to resist the attacks of the ruling class on workers' living standards, as with every other cause the left takes up, is ordinary people using their power to disrupt the system and force concessions from the bosses and from whichever politicians happen to be occupying parliament house. Student unions should take our direction from the staunch actions of striking healthcare, transport and education workers who are currently fighting for the pay and conditions they deserve by shutting down their workplaces and hitting the streets, not from fruitless campaigns to get out the vote for and lobby an indifferent Labor party.

### **Platform**

- The SRC recognises that neither the Liberals nor Labor represent any solution for the numerous crisis facing workers, students, the poor and the oppressed in Australia
- It recognises the particular importance of being clear on the pro-capitalist politics of the Labor party, which set it at odds with the demands of left wing student activists and worker militants, and recognises that the left wing demands of students and workers will only be won through the politics of protest and resistance to force the hand of bosses and the politicians of both major parties

### **Action**

- The SRC will commits to supporting protest campaigns properly funded welfare, healthcare and education, for an increase to wages, and to standing in solidarity with workers' struggles to win the pay and conditions they deserve

### Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to their motion covering the motions main points and the lessons from the budget and the budget reply. Saying that neither of the major parties are offering much and both are vested in maintaining Australian capitalism. Adding that Labor being elected will not make a more sympathetic ear to issues, we need to continue fighting no matter who is in charge if we want change.

*Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw*

Akee Elliot spoke to their motion saying that was a class war going on in Australia with the cost of living, wage stagnation and inflation. We need to look to the force of workers not party politics and government to save us as no matter who is in government, they are going to be in charge of running a broken system that doesn't work for the workers.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying that neither of the major parties represents the needs and want of the people they have coerced into supporting the. We need to think about the things that are most value our planet and education which are being decimated by both major parties and added that we do need to recognise when good policies are put forward like the last motion did but that need to continue to fight to get the things we want most.

Mikaela Pappou made a statement, saying "Childcare, Medicare, Aged-care because Labor cares".

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion saying that nothing is going to change after the federal election so we need to keep fighting and that it's not so much that we have two option a but a questions of class struggle and parliamentary-ism. An example of good class struggle was the work choices campaign, which was then co-opted into a vote Labor campaign then once Labor was elected they passed work choices lite. Many of the terrible industrial relations laws we have today were put in by Labor. Adding that we need to look at the nurses strikes for how to fight for change.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying it was counterposed to the previous motion as it's about not supporting any party platform or promotion any political party and push for the vote its about fighting for what we need no matter what. This is a motion that says no matter the

outcome of the election we will need to continue to fight and not make deals with parties that will not represent us.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Akee Elliot

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **N. General Business**

### **R.1 Discontinue Not to Fail System Reform**

In Semester 2 2021, the University continued its ongoing process of centralising its student support system in creating a centralised Service Portal, which students must go through when seeking Discontinue Not to Fails (DCs). Prior to the introduction of the Service Portal, students could go through their individual faculties to seek DCs, often with substantial chances to speak to real people in making their application.

Students have reported waiting several months for their DC applications to be processed through the new Service Portal, far longer than what many students report they experienced prior to the introduction of the system. The Service Portal is also intensely depersonalised, with character limits limiting students' opportunity to explain their situations to a single short sentence.

Long wait times result in substantial uncertainty for students, which can add additional stress to students already in difficult situations that have led to them applying to discontinue. Without an opportunity to explain the full complexity of their situations, students are also at risk of having their applications unjustifiably rejected.

The ongoing failures of the system especially impact students in the University community who are already facing disadvantage, given they are most likely to apply in the first instance. In particular, students with disabilities, students facing socioeconomic disadvantage and students reliant on working to support themselves. These students are likely to be time-poor, with limited bandwidth to navigate convoluted bureaucratic systems, and have the least ability to access documentation to support their application and access support networks to help them through the stress of the application process.

If the University allows these students to be denied applications wrongfully, or makes the application process so difficult that it is a disincentive to them applying at all, these students may have Fails or Absent Fails recorded wrongfully on their transcripts. Because of this, the University risks reproducing cycles of disadvantage for students who are already struggling, including barring them from future opportunities such as Postgraduate study or employment which require them to show their transcripts.

We call on the University to reinstate and continue to reform the previous faculty-based model of DC applications. If the University retains the Service Portal, we demand the University introduces binding turnaround times on applications, a formalised line of contact to system administrators so

students can receive support for their application from a real person, and a removal or expansion of character limits to allow students to explain the full extent of their situation. We also call on the University to expand support for students who may have difficulties obtaining supporting documents. It is crucial that the University reforms the DC system, as it is central to their essential duties to support disadvantaged students, ensure fair academic outcomes and prevent detriment to students' wellbeing when they must navigate University systems.

Discussion:

Grace Wallman spoke to their motion covering its main points and the challenges faced by student due to the University's dysfunctional centralised systems and the way it attacks and causing students stress particularly vulnerable students who are further disadvantaged by the centralised system.

Eamonn Murphy spoke to their motion and how the centralised system is causing damage and there needs to be a place where students can go and get assistance and properly adding that isn't an opaque and overly bureaucratic

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion commending it to the council and saying the struggle to get things sorted and support at the university was damming and this needs to be addressed so that people don't have to have fails on their transcript from being unwell that semester when they should be able to get them off fairly.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion saying that this is a lesson in how student learning conditions are staff working conditions. The university have gutted professional staff who work to support student and keep the systems going, but the gutting and centralisation of services has led to horrific working conditions, and Kafka-esq systems that help no one.

Moved: Grace Wallman

Seconded: Eamonn Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R.2 COVID Attendance Reform**

Following the return of in-person learning this semester, many students have contracted COVID and been forced into isolation, been subject to close contact rules, or at the very least know somebody whose ability to attend University has been impacted by COVID.

Despite the very widespread impact of COVID on students, faculties within the University have not adapted attendance requirements to accommodate students who cannot attend some classes due to isolation rules. Instead, these COVID-related absences are counted towards total absences. In many faculties, such as Law and Engineering, students missing one or two classes as a result of isolation may be forfeiting up to a half of their allowed percentage of absences for the semester.



Given that the issue of COVID absences is incredibly widespread, it is unacceptable that the University has not adequately addressed this issue. Students must be supported to meet the attendance requirements to pass their courses if the University is to meet its duties as an educational institution. Its inaction on this issue is especially unacceptable given students in COVID isolation are not missing classes by their own volition, but rather as a result of legal mandates.

We note that the University's failure to address COVID attendance especially affects students in the University community who are already disadvantaged. Students who are forced to miss class for other reasons, such as students facing socioeconomic disadvantage and must rely on paid work and disabled students who must, for example, attend medical appointments on a regular basis and whose attendance may be affected by their disability. By further increasing the risk of disadvantaged students failing subjects, which they did at disproportionate rates even before COVID, the University is failing to support the disadvantaged students they purport to help.

Students whose attendance is adversely affected by COVID are then forced to navigate the Special Considerations system, exposing them to increased stress and an intensely convoluted administrative system completely unnecessarily.

We call on the University to create a dedicated system to process COVID attendance with minimal required documentation (eg. a positive test as only required proof), to prevent students from having to navigate special considerations. Furthermore, we demand the University not count COVID absences toward total absences. Particularly in light of the University forcing students to attend in-person classes, we also call the administration to introduce academic catch-up mechanisms to assist students who may have missed crucial content in in-person classes.

Discussion:

*Grace Wallman waived their speaking rights*

Eamonn Murphy spoke to their motion covering its main points and highlighting the unacceptable process the university has in place which doesn't take into account that so many student are being effect by covid and the attendance requirements mean that student are have to drop out of their classes as the Uni has not accounted for student being restricted in their ability to attend classes forcing them to use the convoluted special consideration system.

*Lauren Lancaster resigned the Chair to Alana Ramshaw*

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion said that this works with a number of the issues we've been talking about in the EAG and in this meeting. This has been a huge issues for staff and student with teachers being forces to teach while gravely ill and classes in rooms with inadequate ventilation and hygiene standard to protect them from covid. There has been a lack of empathy and compassion from management for both staff and students in the retune to campus during covid.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying that the universities responses to covid has been bad on many fronts. There a number of reason why student are able to go to class or complete assignments due to covid, mentioning one student who was unable to complete and assignment

as it needed the to visit the Chau Chak Wing museum but they were isolating due to a housemate with covid. The University promote on campus when it benefits them and helps them profit, but will push things online when it is expensive in the name of covid safety.

Hersha Kadkol spoke to the motion said that this is an issue for people all over the world which is the spread of unchecked covid. While this has been extremely normalised and being sick has been normalised we should refuse to normalise that. We should still be having lockdowns where necessary and focus on provided the best health for all Australian and we don't even know how this is going to affect people as there has been such a pull back on testing and tracing this is going to affect people for month and possibly longer.

Moved: Grace Wallman

Seconded: Eamonn Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Lauren Lancaster resumed the chair*

### **R.3 Solidarity With Refugees on Temporary Protection Visas and Endorsement of Tamil Genocide Day**

#### **Preamble**

The SRC condemns the treatment of refugees left to languish on temporary protection visas, and stands in solidarity with the family of Thaneskumar Puthisigamany, a young Tamil man who died last month at the hands of the Australian state. Like hundreds of others, Thaneskumar didn't die within detention, but outside of it, where he continued to be imprisoned by this country's refugee policy, one that is designed to break down those most in need of support. Around 30,000 refugees in Australia are currently living in this state of limbo under temporary protection visas, on little to no income. After refugees are released from detention, they are given two weeks' accommodation and \$300 dollars to start a new life - that is almost as much as the daily travel allowance that MPs in Canberra receive on top of their salary.

Furthermore, the temporary protection status by design, excludes refugees from claiming social security benefits. Many refugees like Thaneskumar were managing to make ends meet, working in unstable work, but lost their jobs with no safety net as the pandemic hit, with no relief packages announced by state or federal governments. Thaneskumar and the hundreds of others like him on bridging, temporary protection of Safe Haven Enterprise Visas, are left to starve and die in slum-like conditions, often without family or community support. The SRC demands permanent protection for all, not insecure working visas which are only granted when refugees happen to suit the needs of capitalism. The Tamil Refugee Council receives over 50 distress calls a month from refugees facing poverty and eviction, and does extremely important work. However the reality is that none of these people should be left to rely on charity and donations just to survive. Both Labor and Liberal parties have blood on their hands and for denying this basic support to refugees and instead treating them as political pawns.

The SRC also endorses and supports the Tamil Genocide Day rally on May the 8th, and will use it's social media platform to promote the event, which marks the 13th anniversary since the Mullivaikal Beach Massacre in 2009. The rally demands an end to Sri Lankan Military occupation, Tamils right to self-determination and will condemn the Australian government for their complicity in supporting this project of ethnic cleansing. In the lead up to this rally, the Tamil Refugee Council has organised a film screening on

April 28th of 'No Fire Zone', a documentary about the 2009 massacre. This will take place on campus, to promote the rally and draw more students into refugee activism.

**Platform:** The SRC demands permanent protection for all refugees seeking asylum and condemns the treatment of refugees living and dying on temporary protection visas in this country.

**Action:** The SRC will promote the Tamil Genocide Day rally, posting the event from it's social media page, and will also endorse the film screening on April 28th.

Discussion:

Annabel Pettit spoke to their motion saying that this was about how refugees in the country are sentenced to death even after being freed from detention with no support, 2 weeks accommodation, \$300 and constant temporary protection visas and forced into poor and insecure working conditions with no access to support. Labor and Liberal parties don't treat refugees as people but as political pawns.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion saying that the temporary visa are horrible and continue to oppress visa, they can't get access to any welfare or education opportunities, they are escaping violence and persecution and they have every door slammed in their face. The Australian government has supported the Sri Lankan government who has persecuted Tamil people and both major parties continue to fight over who can treat refugees worse than the other. Call on everyone to support this motion and come to the rally.

Hersha Kadkol spoke about campaigning in the federal election saying she would be campaigning for Victorian Socialists to put a Tamil Refugee in the Senate. Adding that what makes campaigning for Victorian Socialists different to a major party is its not about making political deals and or saying one thing and playing the game behind the scenes but putting people in the senate who are going to champion the struggles of people and the left. This is not counterposed to fighting for a better world, but pushing for students to campaign for a major party would be.

Moved: Annabel Pettit

Seconded: Lydia Ellis

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*The meeting closed at 10:19pm.*