



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,  
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## MINUTES:

for the 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the 94<sup>th</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Meeting held in the New Law Lecture Theatre 024, New Law Annex Building and via Zoom: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/81692709199>

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*Quorum count was called at 6:10pm  
The meeting was found quorate*

### A. Meeting open at 6:15 pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Lia Perkins be elected Deputy Chairperson.  
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

### C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

#### **Proxies and Apologies were received from:**

Bridgitte Holden  
Stephanie Zhang  
Eamonn Murphy  
Ricky Rangra to Matthew Vukovic  
Matthew Carter to Grace Lagan  
Charlotte Ainsworth to Sara Kie  
Eddie Stephenson to Owen Marsden-Readford  
Julia Tran to Liz Marsh

The apologies were noted.

**D. Changes to Membership**

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Maddie Maronese to Isabella Chiper

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alex Poirier

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the 94<sup>th</sup> SRC held on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2022 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

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**

**K. Elections**

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

**L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**L2. Report of the Executive**

Report of the executive from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June to the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2022.

The report was circulated and noted.

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

### **L3. President's Report**

Lauren Lancaster tabled a written report:

#### **Regulations changes**

As we will discuss, these changes have been found to be constitutional by the Chair of Standing Legal and I am glad to have them done! There is nothing particularly controversial but I invite questions, I sat with them for long enough to know!

#### **Committees**

At Academic Standards and Policy earlier this month I advocated strongly against the cutting of Business Law, a major and minor in the Business School. It is one of few avenues in the University through which students can get legal education outside the Law School. The cut explicitly involves a program of redundancies over the next few years, and further chips away at the diversity of education available at the University. Due to my dissent and that of others, it was put to a vote at ASPC and unfortunately passed by a narrow margin. It is yet to be confirmed by the Academic Board and I will join other students there to advocate against it. I ask the Education Action Group to engage with this a bit more as well in the upcoming weeks.

I am currently working as part of a Special Cons emergency group formed to address Spec con failings, and I am actually confident there will be some sort of positive change by August / September. We are looking at increasing simple extensions, changing evidence requirements to be less onerous and making extension requests uniform across faculties amongst other things. More to come.

#### **Rallies**

I spoke at the student welfare and energy rally outside AGL last week, which was a small but mighty contingent. The financial situation of young people in this country is horrendous, with inflation and stagnating wages meaning we are feeling the pinch of living costs more than ever. We gathered to tell AGL and others that their profiteering behaviour is not unnoticed and that we do not accept corporations making money off the backs of suffering working young people. We marched up George St to the Nurses and Midwives Association meeting but I had to duck off back to work! Thanks to all who organised, particularly Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin.

The abortion rally on Saturday was also extraordinarily successful. Despite the torrential rain, so many people turned up in support of reproductive rights and in staunch opposition to the attacks on women raining down from the Supreme Court in the United States. I was impressed by the range of speakers and the energy of the crowd, and marching on the road again was excellent. Well done to Hersha Kadkol for her efforts and to Lia Perkins for her excellent speech. Even though we got colds as a result, it was well worth it! We cannot rest our laurels on these issues, because our rights are not assured and are constantly under attack from the centre, the conservatives and religious groups. They will not win and we will continue showing up.

## **EDCON**

The NUS Education Conference is next Monday to Wednesday. I have been on the Workshop organising subcommittee, as well as the Equity grants team and have been working to get all the logistics, bookings and socials done. It will be an excellent and packed 3 days, with particular standout plenaries on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a climate strategy plenary chaired by yours truly and a SASH/EROOC session organised in part by the USYD GenSecs. We will have a film screening on Tuesday night and a closing party on Wednesday at Hermanns.

## **WELCOME WEEK**

Welcome Week will run in the first week of August, with 2 days of SRC stalling. As it is scaled down relative to Semester 1, we will have a large SRC / EAG tent, and then 2 smaller stalls for the collectives to circulate through over the 2 days. This is largely because we have 1) less budget for this Welcome Week and 2) less merchandise. That's a good thing: we managed to engage heaps of people in Semester 1, through activism and our Caseworkers + Legal.

## **FoodHub**

We have secured a space in the International Student Lounge and the USU seem to be looping lots of people into our new and improved FoodHub. Thank you to the tireless efforts of Emily and Mik, our VPs, in doggedly following up and taking initiative to ensure this key service runs in Semester 2. We are really glad our efforts here have paid off, but the work isn't near done. We are always looking for volunteers to make sure the new model can run smoothly so keep an eye out for announcements in the coming weeks.

## **Honi Stipend**

I have been pushing for an increase to the Honi stipend all year and we finally got it! Our SSAF reallocation proposal was approved in a rare moment of bureaucratic legitimacy. This increase only applies to this year's editorial team for now, but we will be applying for a permanent increase to SSAF later in the year to ensure this increase can potentially carry forward. Clearly, this creates precedent for better pay of student journalists.

### *Discussion:*

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her report and covered its main points

Alex Poirier asked if anything was going to be happening at the Con.

Lauren Lancaster noted there was a pitch form sent out but no one got in contact about holding any events off Camperdown campus.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report:

### **Foodbank**

Last week the USU took us to inspect the International Student Lounge as a venue for Foodbank, accompanied by SUPRA and Student Life who may be joining the initiative. The new USU board has approved to give us this venue, and we have delegated actionable items between the SRC and USU to tackle all the logistics required to have Foodbank open in week 1.

The VPs are currently working on a marketing infographic and are creating a mock up order through the Foodhub portal for our first delivery. **Volunteers will be ongoingly needed** to help unload vans from the loading dock every week, as well as help man the pantry - we will be sending out the first volunteer sign up sheet next week, so please keep an eye out and get involved!

### **Ed Con**

The core exec have continued working to plan and organize workshops and social activities surrounding Ed Con which is happening next week. Unfortunately Em has tested positive for covid and will be missing out on the first day or so, but we are both really keen to be involved and help facilitate things on the day.

### **Other Committees and Meetings:**

- We have been working with the '**Student Mental Wellbeing Strategy Advisory Group**' to help plan the events and campaign for R U Ok Day which is in September. We are concerned with the historically tokenistic events run on R U Ok Day, so the SRC will instead focus on increasing visibility for our casework service and other mental health facilities during this time.
- Last week we met with Joanne (the new vice chancellor of education) to discuss the SRC, where we flagged ongoing issues regarding SAAF allocation.
- The last **e-tools Review Committee** meeting was canceled - we will report back from our next meeting with them which is next week on the 13th.
- We will restart our monthly **faculty society committee** meetings towards the end of the holidays to discuss our plans for semester 2 and identify any areas of student concern that we can help with.

Discussion:

Alex Poirier asked about volunteers for Foodhub and how we were going to get them.

Mikaela Pappou responded saying there will be a form for people to put their hand up to help, and there are people who were involved last time who may come back.

Alex Poirier asked about accessibility for satellite campuses to access the Foodhub?

Mikaela Pappou said it was difficult as the space was provided by USU and there just isn't the space of infrastructure to have more on satellite campuses at this time. If it's successful we'd love to see it expand but happy to talk to people about setting up some space on satellite campuses.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The Chair returned to E2. Report of the Electoral Officer

## **E2. Report of the Electoral Officer**

Riki Scanlan introduced themselves to the council and spoke briefly about the elections process, noting that we will be going back to an in-person ballot. Adding with the election a mainly being in person but with the option for online absentee, that student will need to register for. Riki also gave a verbal breakdown of the timeline for the elections and also about sending out the draft nomination forms before nominations open. This is so people can see them in advance and note any issues so we can address them in advance, they see as they are new this year.

Alex Poirier asked if there would be a polling booth at the Con?

Riki Scanlan said there would be and listed where all the polling booths for the elections would be.

Alex Poirier asked if it would just be one day or if it would be all days of polling?

Riki Scanlan noted that it was just one but would look at the faculty numbers to see if more were warranted. Adding that students would still be eligible for absentee voting.

Motion: To accept the report of the Electoral Officer

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and CARRIED.

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

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan tabled a written report

### **NUS EdCon**

EdCon is next week! As you've already heard repeatedly from all of us on exec, we are hosting NUS EdCon this year. If you've registered, we will see you there, and if you haven't, we won't. If you're in the former category, come to the plenary we are organising on SASH on university campuses. Also come to Alana's workshop on college abolition. Or don't. Idk.

### **Rad Ed**

The ball is rolling on Rad Ed 2022! Not dissimilar to last year, it will exist as a series of (roughly) bi-weekly sessions across the semester from weeks 2 to 10. We've had two meetings already, but there's always more work to be done (you'll receive our eternal gratitude and love) so DM either of us to be added to the organising group! The pitch form for sessions is also out so get pitching! We strongly encourage all of you but particularly OBs to run sessions. They can take any form

from a panel to a solo workshop to a screening to an interactive exercise/activity. There's more info on the pitch form (which is in the 94th SRC facebook page).

### Department Budgets

While department budget breakdowns have been available since March, the time has come to release our full-scale 2022 budget! We apologise for the fact that this is overdue. Contrary to popular belief, we are only human.

### Student Representation

<b>Orientation and Transition Program</b>			
Outreach activities	\$ 11,000.00	\$21,708.42	\$21,708.42
Printing	\$ 15,000.00	\$11,182.94	\$11,182.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,000.00</b>	<b>\$32,891.36</b>	<b>\$32,891.36</b>
<b>Elections</b>			
Stipend	\$ 13,500.00		
Wages	\$ 35,000.00	\$43.08	\$43.08
Other	\$ 1,500.00		\$285.00
Consumables	\$ 2,000.00		
Hardware (computer for in person elections)	\$ 10,000.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 62,000.00</b>	<b>\$43.08</b>	<b>\$328.08</b>
<b>NUS</b>			
Conference	\$ 18,500.00	\$5,341.46	\$5,341.46
Affiliation Fee	\$ 58,455.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 76,955.00</b>	<b>\$5,341.46</b>	<b>\$5,341.46</b>
<b>Student Representation Total</b>	<b>\$ 444,495.74</b>	<b>\$93,453.11</b>	<b>\$146,587.16</b>

<b>Student Representation</b>	
<b>Student Representatives Stipends</b>	
President	\$ 44,192.74
General Secretary	\$ 29,462.00
Education	\$ 29,462.00
Vice President	\$ 29,462.00
Womens	\$ 29,462.00
Honi Soit	\$ 54,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 216,540.74</b>
<b>Student Representatives Departments</b>	
Education	\$ 19,000.00
Disabilities	\$ 2,220.00
Environment	\$ 6,500.00
Ethnocultural	\$ 4,000.00
Global Solidarity	\$ 500.00
Indigenous	\$ 500.00
Interfaith	\$ 300.00
Intercampus	\$ 300.00
International Students	\$ 3,200.00
Refugee Rights	\$ 400.00
Residential Colleges	\$ 300.00
Sexual Harassment	\$ 2,000.00
Student Housing	\$ 500.00
Social Justice	\$ 700.00
Queer	\$ 3,800.00
Welfare	\$ 2,500.00
Womens	\$ 6,060.00
Honi Soit	\$ 9,120.00
Executive	\$ 1,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 63,000.00</b>



## **Staff**

<b>Staff</b>	
<b>Casework</b>	
Wages	\$ 616,060.15
Other	\$ 990.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 617,050.15</b>
<b>Publications and Communications</b>	
Wages	\$ 135,999.55
Printing of Honi Soit	\$ 50,000.00
Other	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 189,999.55</b>
<b>SRC Legal Service</b>	
Wages	\$ 198,473.09
Other	\$ 17,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 215,473.09</b>
<b>Administration</b>	
Wages	\$ 457,382.18
Consumables	\$ 25,000.00
Audit Fees	\$ 19,000.00
Insurance	\$ 10,000.00
Software and Web Expenses	\$ 15,000.00
Hardware	\$ 2,000.00
Telephone	\$ 12,800.00
Maintainence	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 543,182.18</b>
<b>Staff Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,565,704.97</b>

## **Contestable**

<b>Contestable Projects</b>	
SRC Website upgrade	\$ 48,000.00
2022 Wall planners	\$ 6,980.45
"Cold Call" promotion of service	\$ 3,500.00
Student welfare survey	\$ 4,694.16
Student events and weeks	\$ 15,000.00
Return to work	\$ 21,716.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>*-</b>

## **Semester 1 Welcome Party Donation**

Once again egregiously overdue, at time of writing we're in the process of finalising the donation of the proceeds from our welcome party at the start of the year. The donation will be going to the RPAH Women and Babies department, chosen in solidarity with the ongoing tireless work of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association.

### **In My Blood It Runs NAIDOC Screening**

In celebration of NAIDOC week we are holding a screening of In My Blood It Runs on Friday. Swing by the Quad Refectory at 1PM for free pizza and a fantastic film.

Discussion:

Grace Lagan and Alana Ramshaw spoke to their report and covered its main points.

Lia Perkins asked what the student reps columns in the student representation section of the budget?

Grace Lagan noted that was most likely because the Administration manager keep an extra column to update where each budget it at throughout the year to track expenditure.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee**

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the Standing Legal Committee meeting be accepted.

The minutes were noted.

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

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

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report:

#### **Cost of living crisis protest**

The EAG called a snap action on Tuesday 28th in front of the gas company AGL. Gas companies such as AGL have drastically increased their profits while everyone else is experiencing a massive increase in gas prices. The cost of living crisis extends to all basic necessities from food to housing. We heard from speakers about this crisis including Senator David Shoebridge and SRC President Lauren Lancaster. With interest rates just being increased again (with flow on effects for rentals), and inflation set to climb to 7% by September, students and workers are being forced to pay for a crisis they did not cause. In this climate, student unions should fight for better wages (by supporting strikes) and for better student welfare.

#### **Public and private school teachers strike!**

The June 30 strike by public and private school teachers demonstrates how workers can fight for better pay. The combined strike between the Teachers Federation and the Independent Education

Union should be a stepping stone for coordinated industrial action by all public sector unions, so that we can smash the pay freeze. The Perrotet government is putting up extreme resistance to conceding on pay, including taking the RTBU to court, so our side needs to escalate the struggle.

### **Defend Abortion rights: Roe V. Wade protest**

The US Supreme Court's ruling to overturn Roe V. Wade has been met with an incredible amount of anger and power from people all over the world. The rally in Sydney had around 5000 people in attendance and Lia gave a speech at the rally about the need for free, safe and accessible abortions for absolutely everyone. Although abortion may be legal in Australia, it definitely is not accessible for working class women. The overturning of Roe v Wade should be a wake up call for us in Australia about how far we have to continue to fight for reproductive rights. Mass demonstrations are the key tool in that struggle, as we saw on Saturday across Australia. We encourage everyone to maintain the rage and join the protest called for this Saturday at 1PM at Town Hall.

### **Edcon**

We are both involved in the organisation of the National Union of Students Education Conference, including speaking on a plenary session about the strikes at USyd, among other organisational help. Edcon will be held at USyd from the 11th to 13th of July.

### **Meetings**

We have had a couple of meetings over the Winter break, and have our next meeting this Friday at 3pm. We are planning the start of semester, student support for strikes in semester 2 and a special protest in August!

### **Strike preparation for sem 2**

Tomorrow (July 7), NTEU members will vote on when to hold strike action. We believe the earlier in the semester the strikes are called, the more effective they are. This is because they have more of a potential to hurt enrolments, mobilise staff and students before the pressures of later in semester pile up, and leave room for continued strike action afterwards. We also support the pay claim endorsed by the USyd NTEU Branch Committee for a CPI +2.5% pay rise, even if the national NTEU leadership have refused to adopt it. University staff deserve not only to not go backwards, but to get a pay rise, considering they do everything to make the university run.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the report highlighting its main points and also speaking about the cost of student accommodation nearby being unaffordable at around \$500 a week, and the outrageous actions of the University in selling off affordable student housing when it's needed more than ever.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report and spoke about workers fighting back at cost of living by striking for what they deserve and end the public sector pay freeze. Deaglan also spoke about the abortion protest over the weekend saying we need to continue to push solidarity and continue to come out for the protests this week and talked about the struggles for access to reproductive healthcare and abortion for working women in Australia. Deaglan concluded by speaking about the strikes coming up in semester 2.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

Dashie Prasad and Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

The women's officers wants to start off our reports by congratulating the many public sector unions that have taken industrial actions across the last week and are planning up coming ones in a fight back against a pay cut from the liberals and a lack of funding and support for public workplaces and workers. The women's collective helped to write the joint statement put out by the Usyd SRC, UTSSA, NUS and USyd EdSoc. We will be using next semester to ensure we are working to supported students in faculties/courses that lead into public job. We believe that it is important for us as a student union to support any union taking industrial action to make a better workplace for our students in their future workplaces.

Monica and Dashie have met with SBS producers who worked on the 3 piece documentary series on domestic violence called 'See What You Made Me Do?'. They have been commissioned for another 3 part series, this time on 'Consent' and have reached out to WOCO to potentially cover 2022's Radical Pride and Consent Week and other woco events in the year. We think this will be a great opportunity for the union and the collective, and we hope that as Radical Pride and Consent Week goes ahead that more of the SRC get involved in supporting WOCO. We want as many students to attend as possible, and we have started conversations with the USU to ensure this is a priority for their clubs and societies. We want to work with as many parts of the university, including looking into how we can support students at their satellite campuses to host their own Radical Pride and Consent Week activities.

Usyd women's collective was one of the main organiser for the Roe v Wade rally last Saturday, working with various Greens MPs and Unite Against the Far Right. About 5000 people or more braved the rain and marched on Town Hall. Aunty Shirley Lomas acknowledged country, Dani Vilafana and Hersha Kadkol, both Usyd students and campus activists who've worked in or with WOCO in fighting for feminist liberation, and a range of radical students including the collective's very own Lia Perkins addressing the crowd. Woco will continue its fight for safe, free and accessible on demand abortions across Australia. Come along to the protest this Saturday organised by CARR.

Provocations Conference was a queer liberation conference held 2 weeks ago by Pride in Protest. The conference heard from sex workers, university workers, queer activists from international backgrounds and police abolitionists. It is important that queer liberation movements ensure that we bring everyone along in our struggle, and hearing from the likes of sex workers and LGBTQ+ folks from international backgrounds was a reward experience to hear about issues and ways

forward from the most marginalised members in our community. Dashie spoke as a panellist on the university workers forum, promoting the NTEU strikes at Usyd and other campuses, as well as a radical vision for student unionism.

**Planned activities/things we are working on:**

BBQ + Conversational Survey: In collaboration with the Queer Action Collective, WOCO will be hosting on 10th of August a BBQ and conversational survey. We have received a student life grant to make this happen. The USYD SRC should be all hands on deck to help out on the day, if you are free from 11am onwards. Please share this with your collectives and peers on campus so they can get a free sausage and also share their thoughts. If there are students from departments like gender studies or research students that want to get more involved in putting together this event and gather qualitative data for a student made report, we will be having an upcoming working bee soon. Please get in touch with the WOCO OBs or message the collective.

Potluck 11th July: WOCO will be having a Potluck in Marrickville to organise our week ahead. We have plans to organise for week 1, Radical Pride and Consent Week, Women's Honi.

Discussion:

Dashie Prasad sent solidarity to the Public Sector workers who have been taking a range of industrial actions, covered the main points of the report, and speaking about working with other collectives on building actions.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

**03. Report of the Queer Officers**

**Gender Affirmation Supplies:**

We have managed to buy 13 binders and 4 gaffs for trans students. As well as 4 rolls of binding/tucking tape for the queer space in black and 3 skin tones. The payment has been put through and we are waiting for them to be delivered.

**Queer Space:**

The windows have been fixed in the queer space so now they can close. We are also organizing a reno day for the queer space for the beginning of next semester. We are going to have the carpets cleaned and this will require us to clear out all the furniture. So we will be using this as an opportunity to paint the walls and potentially get some students to paint a mural.

We have received some safe sex supplies from ACON and will be making them available at the queer space from the start of next semester.

**Protests:**

QuAC showed its support at the recent queer rights protest organised by CARR and went to the Queer Liberation Conference after run by PIP. We also showed our support at the abortion rights protest against Roe v Wade being over turned in America.

**WoCo x QuAC Collab:**

We will be hosting a BBQ about surveying students on sex and consent with Wo.Co around the beginning of next semester.

Discussion:

Ella Pash spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

**04. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

The cost of living crisis continues to expose the deep inequality of Australian society. Food, rent and energy prices have shot up. The rate of inflation for these and other non-discretionary items is 6.6%, meaning low SES households are most affected by rising prices. Meanwhile, energy companies have profiteered off price hikes in global energy markets. Despite Australia being one of the world's largest energy exporters, Australian consumers were told to expect blackouts last month when energy producers like AGL and Woodside withdrew from the market in protest of government price caps. When AEMO compelled them to restart production, they were generously compensated by the government. To fix this specific problem, the energy companies should be nationalised - not run for profit.

But to fix the cost of living crisis, we need a union fightback. Teachers, nurses and transport workers all took industrial action last week. Going forward, we need more closely coordinated action, like a public sector strike. Actions like these are unlikely to be adopted by union officials without pressure from the rank and file.

Luckily, the rank and file is more militant than the officials. At a recent NMA delegates meeting, two socialists passed a heavily contested motion from the floor to raise the union's pay claim to 7% for this year, in opposition to the officials' motion to accept the 3% offered by Perrottet. Similarly, the USyd NTEU branch committee endorsed a pay claim of CPI + 2.5%, which is much more ambitious than the claim endorsed by the national executive, of 15% over 3.5 years. These small steps are essential for our side. As inflation increases and the crisis deepens, the class war will only intensify.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O5. Report of the Welfare Officers**

On Friday June 24, the US Supreme Court issued its decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. This decision removes the constitutional right to abortion, which will now become illegal or highly restricted in 26 states. As a consequence of the ruling, in states with abortion bans any pregnancy loss past an early cutoff can now potentially be investigated as a crime, and in many places, prosecutors can potentially access internet search histories, texts, location and payment info, period-tracking apps if there's any suspicion that the pregnancy loss might have been deliberate. Ordering abortion pills, which are often prescribed via telehealth, will become illegal in a large number of states. This attack has been pushed for by the right in America for decades, and the Democrats have failed to take serious action on this at any point, despite clear majority public support for abortion rights. The Democrats are no solution to the current crisis - the right must be opposed on the streets.

The rising cost of living poses a major crisis for ordinary people around the world. In this context, the strikes in the public sector in NSW are particularly significant. Nurses, train staff and teachers have gone out to demand increased wages alongside improved conditions. It's only such action which will allow working class people to avoid the serious pay cuts in real terms which bosses in both the public and private sector have put on the table. Students should stand in solidarity with these workers and support any further industrial action taken.

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Welfare Action Group meetings will be recommencing in Semester 2. Over the break, the convenors are planning initiatives for the upcoming semester, particularly seeking to address student mental health, affordable housing and the ongoing centralisation of University support services. We also will be using the break to build momentum for the group and develop strategies to increase membership. Some of the Welfare OBs will be attending EdCon and we are also developing ideas for how to integrate issues of student welfare into events at Rad Ed. We encourage all students and student reps who are concerned about student welfare to look out for and attend these events.

The Welfare OBs were very excited to hear of the recent approval of the proposal for a Disabilities Room. We acknowledge that the approval of the room has been a result of the combined effort of many Disabilities Officers and other disabled campus advocates, and that the University took an unreasonably long time to take action in response to disabled students' calls to establish a space for disabled students. We plan to support the Disabilities Officers and DisCo in the development of the room and encourage all disabled students to get involved in the consultative process that is already in progress, which aims to ensure the room is as accessible as possible and can accommodate students with a range of disabilities and associated accessibility requirements.

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to their part of report covering its main points and promoted the events coming.

Grace Wallman spoke to their part of report, covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

The attempted deportation of a plane carrying refugees out of the UK to Rwanda really brought home this month why refugee activism will continue to be an important focus for unionists and activists going forward. In a deal that totally undermines the whole principle of asylum, the Border Act was passed in the UK, giving the government the green light to deport anyone who enters the country by “illegal means”. People for example from Sudan, Iran, Albania, who had possibly spent years attempting to get into the UK were issued a letter from the Home Office stating that they were to board a plane on the 14th of June, that they had to go and start a new life in a totally unknown country with a dictatorial government and a poverty rate which includes ⅓ of the population. Protests sprung up around the country, and a last minute legal injunction stopped the plane from taking off at the eleventh hour.

What is useful for us as activists is to see how Boris Johnson and the Home Secretary justified this policy - it was through all-too familiar arguments about “stopping people smugglers”, and “criminal gangs”. As wars and climate disasters to continue to ravage sections of the earth and create new refugees, we can expect the continued bipartisan vilification of these stateless people from all political parties who need to justify the border system and maintain a false sense of ‘nationhood’ to distract from the escalating crises of capitalism. We’ll continue to see the need for a radical refugee rights movement that has no illusions in a strategy of lobbying politicians.

This month in the Tamil Refugee Council we’ve been doing our bit to play that role here in Sydney, organising a contingent to the Refugee Action Group’s rally on July 24 and a speakout at Anthony Albanese’s office on July 15 to promote the rally and continue to push back against the false sentiment that a new ALP government is a victory in any way for refugees. Protesting for refugee rights is just as important now that Labor is in Government. From when mandatory detention was first introduced by the Labor Paul Keating Government in 1992, Labor has always been the enemies of refugees. Albanese has made it clear that he will continue this criminal legacy, proudly committing to boat turnbacks and indefinite detention. Despite Albanese championing the release of the Biloela family and making empty platitudes about the need to do better; the family was outrageously given bridging visas, and Labor refuse to free the thousands of Tamils like Priya and Nades who have been in Australia for a decade or more languishing on bridging visas. Numerous boats of Tamil refugees have already been turned back and just last month Labor’s Home Affairs Minister Claire O’Neil visited war criminals in Sri Lanka and committed more funding to stop Tamils fleeing the island from genocide and persecution. We have to fight Labor if we’re going to get real justice and freedom for all the refugees. This is exactly the kind of uncompromising approach of the Tamil Refugee Council, who campaigned for the freedom of the Biloela family for years and are continuing to fight for freedom and permanent protection for all refugees.

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



Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

This month has shown the impact of the cost-of-living crisis across the world with mass protests and strikes breaking out in Ecuador as well as the continuation of struggle in Sri Lanka. The greed of energy corporations can be felt here as well with energy prices skyrocketing and the Labor party refusing to stand up to the profit-driven fossil fuel bosses to lower prices. I took part in a speak out called by the EAG in front of AGL energy headquarters to protest the economic burden put onto workers and students due to the cost-of-living crisis caused by corporations' refusal to cut into their millions of dollars in profits.

A major development internationally has been the overturning of Roe v. Wade in the US, removing the right to abortion for millions of women across the states. This is a major attack against women and people who menstruate. I attended and helped organise the rally last Saturday, which was a great success with thousands of people turning up to show solidarity with the protests in the US but also to stand to defend and extend the abortion rights here. There has been a growing right-wing attack across the US and Australia against women and LGBTI people that needs to be mobilised against. Student unions should be involved in this fightback by calling rallies and mobilising students to come out to them. The Supreme Court decision overwhelmingly impacts working class women who will disproportionately suffer the impacts of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, where rich women will always be able to access abortion care. Abortion is healthcare and should be funded like it, we should not just accept legal, expensive and inaccessible abortion, but fight for free, safe, legal abortion on demand.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **08. Report of the Environment Officers**

The Enviro Collective has got back into our regular meetings following the end of semester. The climate movement is in a bit of a downturn at the moment, so members of the collective have been discussing the current state of the climate movement and how we can revitalise it next semester. These have been very productive discussions, leading us to call a rally at the office of Santos - the major Australian gas company pushing for approval for their Narrabri Gas Project.

No doubt the main discussion around the climate movement right now must involve mention of Blockade Australia. While the Usyd Enviro Collective does not necessarily support the tactics of Blockade Australia, we believe that what is needed in the climate movement right now is a strong show of solidarity against the state repression of climate activists; which, while targeted specifically at Blockade Australia, poses a very real threat to all of us. Having personal experience with police repression of climate activists, and believing in this need to provide solidarity, we are

writing a statement against the repression that began in March, and now has resulted in the raid of a camp for climate activists, and hundreds of charges laid during their week of action. This is an unacceptable attack - especially when the real climate criminals are those heading up the gas companies and sitting in our government.

That being said, we also recognise the current vacuum in the climate movement. There is no School Strike called yet, and if or when it is called, it won't be until November. While we are hoping for a strike to be called soon, we are not willing to wait around. The Enviro Collective has called a protest for next Thursday at the office of Santos. This protest is calling for no gas-fired dispossession, an end to the planned Narrabri Gas Project, and funding for public renewables instead of more gas. This protest will be trying to draw links between the current climate issues - repression of activists, the energy crisis, and of course the continued expansion of the gas industry - and the sort of climate movement that we want to see going forward. We are very lucky to be joined at this protest by School Strike 4 Climate, and to have already gained the support of several more organisations including our friends the Knitting Nannas.

There is a lot going on in terms of climate politics right now, and the Usyd Enviro Collective are committed to being at the forefront of the climate movement - both politically and in our planned actions!! Get involved to help make that happen.

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the report covering its main points and highlighting the use of anti-protest laws used against the blockade Australian protestors. Adding that there would be a plenary on the environment as well as workshops at the upcoming Education Conference.

Angus spoke to the report and spoke about the speakers that were being lined up for upcoming climate strikes/protests, as well as adding to points highlighted in the report. Encouraged everyone to come to the collectives meetings and also upcoming actions.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **P. Special Business**

There were no items of special business.

#### **Q. Motions of Notice**

*Lauren Lancaster resigned the Chair to Alana Ramshaw.*

#### **Q1. Motion to accept the proposed changes to the regulations.**

*The Proposed changes are attached separately.*

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke about the changes. She spoke about why they were being proposed and what they changed, such as protecting collective autonomy. Lauren Lancaster thanked people for helping put them together. Lauren Lancaster proceeded to go through the changes section by section in line with the Standing Legal Committee's minutes, noting that as the mover the changes suggested in there had been adopted.

Dashie Prasad asked for clarification around how and who could nominate.

Lauren Lancaster clarified the process, saying that for those collectives outlined in section 4A, they would need to meet the active member requirement and where there is autonomous pre-selection only those who have been pre-selected by the collective can have their nominations accepted.

Ishbel Dunsmore asked if there was a definition of active member?

Lauren Lancaster noted that the definition was included in the regulations changes, it was just attending 2 collective meeting through the year.

Lauren Lancaster continued to go through the changes section by section.

Mikaela Pappou asked about the impact of attendance requirements on Office Bearers?

Lauren Lancaster clarified it did not impact Office Bearers as they don't count towards quorum.

Mikaela Pappou wanted to check that you could send apologies every single meeting and not be deemed not fulfilling your duties

Lauren Lancaster said it did indeed.

Julia Robins noted that this was how it currently functioned as well.

Lauren Lancaster continued to go through the changes section by section.

Mikaela Pappou made reference to the creation of 'fake clubs' as a way around the active member rule with regards to nominations for Officer positions now tied to an active member role, as there was no reason multiple collectives under the same department couldn't exist.

Lauren Lancaster said that rationally it would be collectives and departments that exist currently as an off shoot of people involved, but we could add 'funded' by the SRC by we don't foresee the Electoral Officer acknowledging a fake collective created the day before the representatives elect meeting.

Alex Poirier asked about social media accounts under the guise of something else for the purposes of campaigning and how they would be mitigated.

Lauren Lancaster noted that that falls out of our remit as the SRC. Adding there is nothing we can do about that unless they claim to be SRC affiliated.

Lia Perkins noted that we are making things more clear particularly around elections and running for positions as it makes the SRC more accessible for students and these changes also help prevent collectives and activists from being locked out of funding by the liberals.

Yasmine Johnson proposed an amendment:

Amend section 4A. to remove all mentions of "Environment".

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

It was not amendable to the movers.

Discussion around the amendment commenced.

Lauren Lancaster proposed an alternative amendment that would be amendable which would be to removed "environment from 4A (b).

This was deemed not adequate to the movers of the original amendment.

Procedural motion: that the speaking time be limited to 2 minutes.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Grace Lagan

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the amendment saying that the Environment collective shouldn't be considered autonomous as it was not an identity based collective, and also because there is a much broader movement than just the USYD environment collective, so people should not be excluded just because they are involved in other environmental action groups and keep this position open to a broader range of students.

Lauren Lancaster directly responded, saying they didn't want this change to be point of contention and this change was not to block people involved in wider activism but to offer greater protecting to activist involved in SRC Collectives. Removing 'Environment from the autonomous collectives list is understandable, but the active membership requirements is a very low bar and perfectly reasonable.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the amendment saying that the proposed section trivialised what autonomy is, and including the environment collective in the autonomous collective is ridiculous.

There was a lot of cross talk thought the Council.

Rose Donnelly Spoke to the amendment saying that

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the amendment saying it was interesting that the Education Action Group was not included but the environment collective was, and that this was a bureaucratic way of enshrining factional control of an officer's role.

Lauren Lancaster responded to the comments saying these issues could have been raised during the consultation process and during the standing legal committee meeting, but they were not.

The council descended into cross talk arguments.

Hersha Kadkol asked what the reason for introducing these changes were in the first place.

The council descended into cross talk arguments.

The amendment was put to a vote

Amend section 4A. to remove all mentions of "Environment".

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The amendment was put and **CARRIED**

*Discussion on the amended ended and discussion around the regulations changes resumed.*

Alex Poirier thanked the movers for putting together these updates.

Felix Wood noted that they are good changes and make things clearer.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q2. Don't sell students down the river! Support opposition to the UTS SPA**

As of June 16th, the UTSSA has formally passed a motion in support of signing on to a Student Partnership Agreement with UTS management. The USyd SRC has previously condemned this partnership, but it is worth revisiting the argument against such partnerships and reaffirming the SRC's support for student activists opposing this agreement, as UTSSA representatives come under anti-democratic pressure to drop their opposition to the agreement on pain of losing their elected positions.

Our opposition to the UTS SPA is not conditional on the specific student demands it does or does not include. We recognise any partnership with the class enemies of students and staff on our campuses, no matter the demands it purports to defend, works only to weaken students' capacity to resist attacks and win our demands by suggesting that university executives share students' interests and can be our allies. This is because university executives occupy a position of structural

power in the university in their role as its corporate managers; they are well aware of their class interests in exploiting staff, churning students through the soulless degree factory and into the workforce as rapidly as possible, and hoarding millions of dollars in profit in the process. Student unions, meanwhile, only have the power to enforce any of their demands when they are able to organise students to use our collective power to disrupt the running of the university, in ruthless and intransigent opposition to the interests of management. This means that *any* cooperation agreement student unions strike with management has the political effect of defanging students' power on the campus, while management will maintain their structural power in the university and will never consider themselves beholden to such agreements when they inevitably decide to launch attacks on our learning and working conditions. Instead, student unions should take a leaf out of the book of the NTEU strike campaign at USyd, which has confronted uni management as an enemy, using the power of uni workers to shut the campus down, rather than accepted management's insistence that staff should defuse their own resistance and chain themselves to the negotiating table.

The vote for the agreement at UTS now opens up the possibility that student representatives who take the correct position of continuing to oppose the agreement will be sacked from their positions, overturning the direct outcome of UTS students' votes. We condemn any attempt to punish student reps in this way for taking an oppositional stance to management. This would represent a serious attack both on student democracy and on the notion that student unions should be activist institutions, rather than management's PR agents in the student body. We stand for fighting, left wing student unions capable of winning the demands of students and striking fear into the hearts of management.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC re-affirms its opposition to the UTS SPA, and to the practice of signing accords with management in general
2. The SRC opposes any attempt to sack student representatives who refuse to endorse the SPA

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will support any future left-wing campaigns to fight for the demands of students and defend student democracy at UTS

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion and the importance of student unions not working with management and not cooperating with management as tactics like this have been used at other universities to break staff

Unknown speaker: Spoke to the motion and spoke about the actions at UTS and what's happened, saying that it wasn't a misstep or misguided, but was a political action taken with purpose. Saying that people have purposely tried to undermine activism on campus.

Dashie Prasad spoke to the motion and spoke about how it was disgusting there were people who think doing deals with management will give some sort of standing or platform, when it's not even a bone being thrown to students, it just a way of destabilising the student movement.

Julius Whitforth spoke to the motion echoing the comments of past speakers and that the issue is systemic within the group pushing for working with management.

Cooper Forsythe(?) Spoke about how union organising often means sitting down with bosses at a negotiation table.

There was a lot of council cross talk and shouting about unions "selling their members down the river" and rebuts of said statement.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke about the role of union negotiations, from rank and file delegates, to organisers, and management.

The speaker was not able to be heard as there was ongoing disruptions and cross talk.

Deaglan Godwin responded to the last speakers comment on unions saying that Labor at UTS have not acted like from the floor delegates at all. Deaglan Godwin also spoke about how unionism is dying because of Labor and that student union organising is also suffering.

Grace Lagan spoke to the motion, but wanted to say that using these motions to paint all Labor students with a broad stroke is unfair.

Owen Marsden Readford spoke to the motion saying it was good that Grace Lagan was supporting the motion, but doesn't understand why she felt the need to defend NLS, especially when at this point there has been so many attacks on the university sector and workers that people need to push back and fight now more than ever.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion saying that there should never be deals with management, but that talking to management can sometimes get things done, like what happen at the Con with saving the jazz department. Adding that acting like even talking to management about issues makes you a class traitor is deeply offensive.

There was a lot of ongoing cross talk it was difficult to hear the speaker.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Lucia Thornton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **Q3. On the Extradition of Julian Assange**

Preamble:

A week ago, the British government – at the hands of Home Secretary Priti Patel – approved the decision to extradite to the United States whistle-blower and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange,

ordered by a UK court not long before. While Assange's legal team have already appealed the decision – as they have done so many times throughout this case – it is unlikely, as history shows, it will amount to anything.

Assange and his work with WikiLeaks are doubtless of immeasurable importance when considering not only freedom of the press but also in challenging the extraordinary powers of governments like that of the US and in revealing to the public crucial information pertaining to the actions of those governments, and the consequences for which those governments should be held accountable. In 2010, via the help of whistle-blower and former US intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, WikiLeaks released 'Collateral Murder,' revealing the fatal shooting of 18 civilians in Iraq by US soldiers from a helicopter, two of which were notably journalists. That same year WikiLeaks published the *Iraq War Logs* and *Afghanistan War Logs* which uncovered the US' extensive war crimes, the former of which revealing civilian deaths made up over 60% of recorded deaths in Iraq.

After 8 years of political asylum in the UK's Ecuadorian embassy, Assange was arrested by UK police and taken to Belmarsh prison where he remains until the extradition case is solved. Prime Minister Scott Morrison noted at the time that despite Assange being an Australian citizen, "it is a matter for the US." Assange's conditions in Belmarsh prison are widely reported as cruel and unjust. Reports showed Assange suffering from symptoms of physical and extensive psychological torture. At some point Assange had become heavily suicidal.

Not only is the treatment of Assange cruel and the presupposition behind the case brought against him ridiculous and undemocratic, but the fact that he is an Australian citizen who has the right to return home is an indictment on the Australian governments which have been elected during his case. Prime Minister Julia Gillard called WikiLeaks and Assange's actions illegal, despite having not broken Australian law, while successive Coalition governments ignored or denounced Assange. After 9 years in opposition, the Australian Labor Party is back in power with a majority government and multiple Federal MPs and Labor alumni calling for Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to act and bring Assange home. It is the democratic duty of the Australian government to care for its citizens when they are being unjustly treated or tried in foreign countries, and the extreme political importance and implications of Assange's case highlight the necessity to bring his extradition to an end.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC calls upon the federal government and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to make the case for Julian Assange's return to Australia.
2. The USyd SRC condemns the unjust treatment and trial of Julian Assange conducted under the watch of the UK and US governments, without criticism from the Australian government.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC publishes this motion on social media and on the SRC website.

Discussion:



Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion and covered its main points.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion and about the extreme measures and attempts used by the United States to extradite Julian Assange to the USA.

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion, saying that it was good that the motion condemns the Labor party and their inaction, but more needs to be done than just lobby the ALP. Adding that there needs to be protests and collective action to stand against the extradition of Julian Assange.

Moved: Gerard Buttigieg

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Dashie Prasad called for a quorum count at 8:15pm*

*The meeting was found inquorate.*

*The meeting LAPSED at 8:16pm.*