



# Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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## MINUTES:

of the 1st regular meeting of the 87th SRC held on **Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March at 6pm**. Meeting held in the Professorial Boardroom, Quadrangle

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### A. Meeting open at 6:27pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Laura Webster be elected Deputy Chairperson.  
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### B. Acknowledgement of Country

Jethro Braico, Indigenous Officer gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land (Sydney), the Cadigal 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

#### Apologies were received from:

Fahad Ali  
Georgia Carr  
Max Hall  
Amy Knox  
Georgia Kriz  
Madison Mclvor  
Luke Sands  
Subeta Vimalarajah  
Chris Warren

#### Proxies

Fahad Ali to Sean Nugent  
Georgia Carr to Philippa Specker  
Max Hall to Eden Faithfull

Amy Knox to Isabella Brook  
Georgia Kriz to Emma Lau  
Madison McIvor to David Shakes  
Luke Sands to Riki Scanlan  
Chris Warren to Nina Mao

**D. Changes to Membership**

There was no business for this item.

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Luke Sand resigning to Riki Scanlan  
Georgia Carr resigning to Philippa Specker  
Alisha Aitken-Radburn to Sarah Enderby  
Kyol Blakeney to Josh Han

Motion: that the resignations be accepted en en bloc

Moved: Chiara Angeloni

Seconded: Sean Nugent

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Minutes of the meeting of 86<sup>th</sup> SRC Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be accepted.

Moved: Laura Webster

Seconded: Alison Xiao

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.

There was no business for this item.

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

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

Dalton Fogarty gave a verbal report:

Here at this meeting as a show of good faith, as a bridge Senate between the Senate and the SRC and reaching out to the USU. Understands the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate's role

defined as a duty of best interest to university itself, through a student perspective, to ensure that the student experience is protected as well as facilitated. Fee deregulation is obviously on everyone's mind. My perspective is that I don't come from a well off background, have two younger brothers going to university hopefully, so am personally invested in what happens. But it is a complex issue because of cash flow issues with the university. Have to match the interests of sustainability with equity, and will be impartial and have reserved my decision. My background values and personal values hopefully won't come into his role. If people have further questions I am open to receiving submissions to bring to the next meeting.

*The floor was opened up to questions. A speaker's list was taken.*

David Shakes: As the undergraduate fellow you're the representative of 30,000 undergraduates to Senate. The SRC is the peak representative body, I'm the Education Officer and my duty is to support and fight for free education. How do you interpret your beliefs through the SRC, and your role?

Dalton Fogarty: A point of clarification; I have been elected by students but am not beholden to that. Different fellows have interpreted that differently, I sit in between, interpret my role as to bridge gaps and consult properly. Personally I know the emotions behind it [deregulation], given my brothers, I can fully relate. Trying to balance that with idea that long term cash flow issues with the university and there needs to be a way to manage that business model in a way that doesn't result in loss of jobs with staff and serve future generations of students. And fee deregulation is still to be confirmed.

Philippa Specker: Why did you run?

Dalton Fogarty: I ran two years ago as well, the university has given me a lot of things, as I came from a low SES background, university opportunities have made me the way I am today. I study law and commerce, I'll get a job, and am grateful to the university for that, and have contributed through volunteering. I did it [run for Senate] because I wanted to give back to the university and contribute good governance. I saw myself as different to the other candidates because of my commerce background and as strictly non-partisan.

Chris Donovan: On the issue of fee deregulation, if it were to come to a vote, would you categorically say you won't support it? You mentioned your personal values and family, could you say to Council you'd vote it down?

Dalton Fogarty: I won't give away my future discretion, but I would take it on some faith that it would be a serious consideration.

Chiara Angeloni: Could I get a show of hands of who, when they were running, stated they were opposed to fee deregulation.

*A majority of Councillors raised their hands.*

Chiara Angeloni: There's an element of representation to the SRC, in attending SRC meetings where a majority of members were elected on an opposition background, and in your position where you're one of the few students able to influence the decision, how can you take that stance?

Dalton Fogarty: To clarify: Why am I undecided when everyone else is? How would I transfer what the SRC's stance is to the Senate?

Chiara Angeloni: Yes. How would you take the SRC's stance to the Senate.

Dalton Fogarty: My remit is to serve the best interests of the university, that has to be in consideration of the full university, not just the students. Hence I would not take just the students position, but I would raise it as a point.

David Shakes: Do you have any updates on library restructuring & the 156 redundancies?

Dalton Fogarty: I don't have an update, but give me your email and I'll draft a response. I was overseas so I missed the first Senate meeting.

Sean Nugent: On fee deregulation: You're the only undergraduate fellow, elected by undergraduates, as everyone here, where everyone was elected on an anti fee deregulation platform. Do you think you'll ever be serving the best interests of the undergraduate body to support fee deregulation? You're the representative to Senate of undergraduate students, would you represent their best interests by voting for this?

Dalton Fogarty: For fee deregulation as a theoretical issue, there are two issues: should education be in a price competitive environment? And does this affect how much students pay? Regarding the first, if the government cuts all funding then universities need income, and as an absolute necessity you have to charge prices. In a perfect world, where prices go down (it wouldn't,) that would benefit everyone. It's a difficult issue to balance what the university needs with what everyone wants. Regarding the second aspect, I'd be very aware of what is being charged for what. If charges increase, it'd be important for the university to show where that's going and what the student experience is.

Philippa Specker: You mentioned business model and that you're there to serve the university. I think its concerning you're using those terms 'business model' instead of 'education model'. Your personal reasons aren't a good enough reason to care about fee deregulation, you need a theoretical background. You've pussyfooted around Sean's question. It's clear you're not here to represent how this body tells you how we want you to represent us. It's pretty disappointing.

Dalton Fogarty: As I said initially I was elected by the students but am not beholden to the students. Its not an undergraduate representative position, I'm a Senate fellow who comes from the undergraduate body. My duty is to serve the interests of the university as a whole. I disagree that I'm putting my personal interests before the university's; I raised that to show that I care about the issue. I wanted to clarify that it's bad to put personal beliefs before good governance. I'm here to be consultative between the SRC and Senate. I respect but disagree with your opinions.

Daniel Ergas: You've mentioned the best interests of the university several times. Who is the university except students and staff, the essential components of the university? Do you agree that students and staff are best placed to serve their interests? Interests of the university is a subjective and difficult term to define. So if you were to represent their interests you'd represent their views.

Dalton Fogarty: In addition to staff and students the university is the alumni community and communities the university touches. Do staff and students determine their best interests? What you can have driven by that isn't necessarily in their best interests. People who go to university now and in the future are different people. The long-term view is the view I take.

Sarah Enderby: can you elaborate on your values and whether you support free ed?

Dalton Fogarty: My values are that I believe in fairness to everyone, equality and access to everyone regardless of their background. Regarding free education, in pure theory I support that, but in reality education has a cost, and if the government is unwilling to provide it, it has to come from somewhere.

Harry Stratton: I apologise for the questioning of your personal life, you wouldn't say that to any marginalised group. I appreciate you coming Dalton, and hope you continue to come throughout the year. You say you haven't made up your mind, what are the criteria that would decide where you go? And which way are you leaning?

Dalton Fogarty: It depends how the model is developed, what the money is going to. Money being charged has to correspond to how it's being spent. What is the minimum we need to sustain a university over time? It's an ongoing conversation, it depends what government is willing to provide, what other means of revenue there are e.g. commercialisation. We need a source of money that's sustainable for future generations.

David Shakes: I'd appreciate your perspective on this, deregulation would serve the student interest if fees would decrease, and so you're pro privatisation. The inevitable result would be that some university fees would increase and some would decrease. This would be an elite institution and it's reasonable to expect fees would increase and there should be equitable access to university so how could fee deregulation and privatisation ever make a university like this more accessible?

Dalton Fogarty: It depends who is paying money and where it's being distributed to. If you have increase in fees and the money is going evenly to everyone that's not a good outcome, but if the money is being rerouted to scholarships and equity access that's ok. That's the main thing that should be watched out for and paid attention to.

Sean Nugent: Based on the UK business model, there was a short-term rise in enrolment, class sizes skyrocketed, permanent academic employment diminished. How can you devolve a complex education to a business model?

Dalton Fogarty: I don't devolve education to a business model. But university operation needs to be seen in a business model framework.

Sean Nugent: The uni has been here for a very long time without that.

Dalton Fogarty: When supported by the government.

Sean Nugent: Don't you think it should continue to be?

Dalton Fogarty: Yes, but if it's not, this is the conversation we need to have.

Derby --: If there was deregulation it would be an inequitable model where those who couldn't pay would get scholarships. Why not bypass that with taxes and government funded education?

Dalton Fogarty: It's not the role of the fellow to debate that, but to see the debate as it currently stands. It's not appropriate to comment on those ideas.

Alisha Aitken-Radburn: Thank you for being here. One of the values I hold is that education is a catalyst for social mobility, and with fee deregulation we get an elitist model where akin to private schools, only people who are able to afford it can come to Sydney University, and have the rich history of Sydney University. I don't want anyone to not be able to be a part of that diverse tapestry. Do you believe that the scholarship model will ease my fears about only rich students being able to come to Go8 universities?

Dalton Fogarty: In terms of access I think that with proper oversight its possible, you need to have some level of faith, a healthy idea of accountability and that's why the Senate is what it is, with rolling elections for different fellows. If you play it out that the model is exploitative, and then there are fellows who found an issue, then the model the university has would be changed.

Robby Magyar: Also thank you for coming. It wasn't something discussed as your campaign, and you're a representative of the undergraduate body, and from students who I've spoken to and the population of Australia who see this as a class attack, fee deregulation is

opposed. If the majority of students came to you opposing it, would you stand with those students? Or with your own opinion?

Dalton Fogarty: I'll repeat, I was elected by the students but am not beholden to the students. I'm not a representative but one serving the best interests of the university, but serving their [the students'] perspective. If every student addressed me saying it's a bad idea, I'd take it into consideration but not be bound by it. There's a difference between being bound and taking a strong weighting of the views by a large population of the student body, that's what a Senate fellow should do.

Jack Whitney: I have a question on values and fee deregulation. You talk about what's good for students and what's good for the university as separate categories? Are they?

Dalton Fogarty: They're strongly related and overlap but are separate.

Jack Whitney: What's more important?

Dalton Fogarty: the University.

Sean Nugent: The idea of a representative is that you're elected by plebiscite, that very idea means you're beholden to the people you represent. Would you be representing the views of the people who elected you if you supported this? If we're to take the models gifted to us, it shows us education as a field devolves when commercialised, class sizes rise, permanent academics diminishes, research also diminishes, it diminishes the quality of education for students. Do you actually think that a policy of fee deregulation will be a sustainable policy? I'd like some evidence.

Dalton Fogarty: I'll repeat that I was elected by the students but am not beholden to the students.

Sean Nugent: What's your title? You were elected by whom?

Dalton Fogarty: I'll continue with the same phrase, I was elected by students but my duty is to the university which is broader than students, and I'm therefore not bound to their will. Regarding the model being sustainable, it goes back to the point of no money. If there's enough money to provide education, that makes people happy, to pay as little as possible to achieve as much as possible, that's the best outcome. If it weren't for the political reality we wouldn't have fee deregulation on the table. But it is on table now. As I stated I have personal relations to this matter as a genuine concern but you have to be responsible to future generations.

Bebe D'Souza: You have discussed how you're an elected representative and that once you're elected you're a servant to a body that's divorced or more complex than students. That's similar to the USU debates, but that debate has progressed better. As Vice President I have an obligation to legally serve that organisation, but as a student elected I have an underlying obligation to represent students on that board. You're the only person placed on that Senate to represent students. I agree the university has a plurality of interests, but rather than support corporate, management interests, which are disgusting, if you want to support professors, or research then you need to have students as a catchment. You're here in this room with the SRC universally condemning fee deregulation, NUS, the USU, the postgrad association – they've all condemned it - all those elections outweigh the number of people who voted in your election. It doesn't seem like you want to listen to the views of the students. I understand about sustainability, but part of the cachet of this university is the alumni who can support it. Regarding scholarships, do you honestly believe that the US model is what we should work towards? You should read Honi, speak to students who will be affected. You are our representative, and if you're not that you should resign. If you're going to come here don't obfuscate the questions we're asking you. I'm here on a

scholarship, and that was already hard enough, if you're disadvantaged, you're not going to bother to come here because of the people like you and the Vice Chancellor who don't appear to give a s\*\*\*. If you're going to come here I'd like to feel like you actually care. I'd hope if you have an obligation to Senate then I hope you have an obligation to us as well. I'm really disappointed. I've spoken to Senate regarding sexual harassment, Clo [Schofield] has been working with them regarding divestment. People achieve things not just by being un-factional but by raising issues. I hope you come away with a broader conception of what your role should be.

*Applause.*

Robby Magyar: That was amazing, given that someone just spoke so impassioned about how fee deregulation is s\*\*\*, how every councillor except yourself is against fee deregulation, how can you not stand against it? I know you have this idea about your position, but you were elected. You should resign and let people who ran wanting to represent students take the role because they'd be much better suited than you.

Dalton Fogarty: I respect your difference of opinion.

David Shakes: Regarding scholarships, two out of three students live below the poverty line. If one eighth of students at this university were given scholarships it's clear that low to mid income earners would be hit hardest. I wonder what perspective you have and that the grilling tonight would give you some perspective. I don't think that removing this from the political context, e.g. taxing the rich is outside your purview at all. Take for example Chile where they made clear demands; corporate tax, tax mining and they've achieved free education. We can learn a lot from their struggle. I was interested in dissecting what your perspective was and your background.

Dalton Fogarty: My background is that I've been publicly educated since primary and raised in the south inner west. My perspective is that that the specific role of the undergraduate fellow has a lot of pressures to be able to consult with stakeholders and be impartial to that. I want to genuinely consult, not be bound by one stakeholder, whether that's students or management. The undergraduate fellow should be able to talk to someone with strong views and not be offended, and remain impartial to new information and other perspectives, and take those together and come to a decision. I came to this meeting knowing it wouldn't be easy, but I'm open to receiving those comments and a good fellow takes those on board and not be emotional and take a strong genuine interest in those perspectives. My ultimate goal is to give back to the university because it's given a great deal to me. There's a diverse range of students, staff and alumni and I shouldn't tie to only one.

Michael Elliott: Are you currently or have you ever been member of Liberal party?

Dalton Fogarty: No.

Suzanne Nassif: I'm pretty sure you said more than once that you don't represent students. So you're a student who sits on Senate who represents the university. Would the university exist without students?

Dalton Fogarty: The bottom line is no, it wouldn't exist without students. But there are other things to think about, a large complex organisation can't be blind to other factors such as staff, alumni, research. Looking at one group doesn't serve the whole.

Derby --: Have you considered effects of fee deregulation on staff? Recently there's been a huge casualisation of the workforce. Tutors are taking second jobs, and this is all about efficiency and productivity for the university increasing under a fee deregulation model.

Dalton Fogarty: An effective model is able to balance where the money is going. Regarding the effects on staff, that's a finer detail of the first answer. If an increase in fees is used to decasualise staff then that's a positive outcome for staff.

Eden Faithfull: You say as the undergraduate fellow you're not bound to students, if that's the case why did students vote for you?

Dalton Fogarty: Because I put forward a platform of trying to be from a different realm, not a political realm, which appealed to students who didn't relate to this world. I didn't relate to this. My background is in business and I thought my skillset would assist the finances of the university from a student's perspective. Why wouldn't I see that as being elected by students? If things aren't going right I believe in the system that the Senate set up, where the constituency influences the Senate through elections.

Philippa Specker: I'd like to attempt to have action come from this discussion. Regarding fee deregulation you say if the policy happens you'll seriously consider it. Would you be on board with meeting with representatives in a strategising meeting, from different organisations, so that rather than thinking about fee deregulation coming in, we can see how we can stop it coming in. How about using your position as an advocate as opposed to just an observer and then voting, and trying to stop this pre-emptively?

Dalton Fogarty: I'm always open to appropriate consultation with students. As an undergraduate fellow I should be. Regarding actively campaigning against fee deregulation, that's beyond the remit of a fellow, so no. But I'd listen to key concerns. I know that's not the most favourable answer to you, but that's my position.

Riki Scanlan: Which Senate committees do you sit on currently or are about to?

Dalton Fogarty: I'll sit on the safety and risk committee; will try to best of my ability try to attend all the committees I can. The safety and risk committee is a committee whose remit is all the residual risks other committees don't have, e.g. OHS policies, research centres, and looking at risk mitigation strategies and scenario analysis in case there are events.

Robbie Magyar: On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014, you put up a Facebook status [*read out status*]. Are you going against that statement? You have 40 student representatives who have told you fee deregulation is s\*\*\*, will you stand by that Facebook status?

Dalton Fogarty: As you said there's 40 students who sit here and 30,000 students in the university.

*Harry Stratton moved a procedural motion to close the speakers list and move to the next item of business.*

*The Chair ruled that the speakers list would be closed, and remaining speaker's would retain their speaking rights.*

Ivana Radix: Was the Senate consulted about the environment impact statement for development?

Dalton Fogarty: I wasn't there. My apologies for not being at the previous Senate meeting, I was overseas.

Ivana Radix: Do you have any concrete policies or plans?

Dalton Fogarty: I'm one of 22 fellows, so specific plans are limited. There will be an approval of the university strategic plan for next 5 yrs, and I will enjoy helping define what the student experience is and attempt to quantify some of that. Beyond that, being accessible to people. To be honest I've been in the job for a few months, but not in country for the last months, so in terms of developing a concrete program, nothing yet.



Ivana Radix: Can you clarify what you mean by representing the views of the university?

Dalton Fogarty: The University is the staff, students, alumni and communities & foundations, including those overseas, taking all those considerations into one.

*The speaker's list was exhausted.*

The Chair moved that the report of the undergraduate fellow of Senate be accepted.

Seconded: Paul Harrison

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Bebe D'Souza moved a procedural motion that standing orders be suspended and item P. Special Business be moved up the agenda.*

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **P. Special Business.**

Bebe D'Souza gave a verbal report about student unionism in Burma/Myanmar:

I've been formally asked by office of Aung San Suu Kyi to be their official guest.

I went there and as part of the student union movement got in contact with their student union & anarchist movement. ABFSU (equivalent of NUS) was founded by Aung San (Aung San Suu Kyi's father), I went to their offices and spoke to student unionists and spoke about their history in the education struggle, to people aged 23-25, spoke to them about how they were jailed and tortured in 2007 for an NDA. It's incredible to see students there talking about not only how they can run a rally or campaign but the best way to govern.

When we speak about the Burmese its important not to exotify them, regarding their struggle, as if they exist in some other sphere, because look at what our education activists go through on this campus. There are analogies we can draw.

They have a similar diverse community to what we have here, it was interesting and humbling. I spoke to them about what happens when the university intervenes in student unions and representations. Yes, I am speaking pointedly to Dalton Fogarty who is present here.

Student unions have transformative power - is what I am trying to get accross. How can we help them? They want any information we can give them on how international education law is conceived and written around the world. It would be really cool for us as a university community to create an informal working group. I've put a paper to the SCC, (students & VC) it would be great if we had a student activist exchange program where we establish direct links with these groups overseas to foster ties in the Asia Pacific.

Harry Stratton: That sounds like a great experience. The thing that preys on me is Aung San Suu Kyi, some minorities think the government is a better alternative to her because of ethnic cleansing. How will you make it clear our support for her is not unconditional? We don't want to be tools of propaganda.

Bebe D'Souza: While I am going as her guest, I'm predominantly going as a representative to discuss Australian student unionism and how we structure our organisations effectively.

I'm totally aware of the issues concerning ethnic minorities in Burma, and have spoken to activists who are part of the Rohingya solidarity movement.

I don't think me going to address a parliamentary body is me condoning that body and its decisions in the entirety. In the same way that representatives here who are in Labor claim they don't represent the sum total of their party's decisions - for example current Asylum seeker policy on Manus Island.

I'm going because it helps both ours and their student education movement. I find her position concerning in regards to the Rohingyas. However, I'm going out of respect for the students and our sister organisations. However, I more than willing to hear ideas about how to navigate that. Perhaps you could email me to discuss this further?

Tim Sullivan: While they're obvious concerns, I'm interested that you were asking the Council to help you, could you be more specific?

Bebe D'Souza: They want easily transportable information about political ideas. In English is fine. I'm a guest of Burmese parliament, there to discuss how to run student organisations. They want things like the text of SSAF and student organisation constitutions. How do you have universities that are separate from the government? They just want things to read, so they can conceive of different systems of governance in an organisational capacity.

We can do the searching for them, assist them because their Internet access is comparatively slow. Moving forward perhaps we could assist them in uploading their ideas, we wouldn't be speaking for them but we can skill share and develop ties.

## **K. Elections**

### **K1. Election of one International Students' Officer**

There being no nominations, this item was held over.

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

### **L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Paul Harrison: Question regarding the third meeting, I'd like clarification on why half the executive wasn't there.

Chiara Angeloni read the list of present members: Kyol Blakeney (President), Max Hall and myself (General Secretaries), Laura Webster, Alison Xiao. There were no apologies.

The Chair asked the present members of Executive who were absent to explain their reasons.

Daniel Ergas: I was overseas.

Chris Donovan: I was working full time, apologise for being busy, will make a better effort in the future. I understand the importance of these meetings.

The Chair noted that Georgia, Madison and Subeta are not present to explain their absence.

Ricky Scanlan: The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> February, read report from the Acting Director of Operations. That should be corrected to Director of Operations.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 be accepted.

Moved: Laura Webster

Seconded: Sean Nugent

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **L2. Report of the Executive**

Report of the executive from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The report was circulated and noted.

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

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

Kyol Blakeney gave a verbal report:

- Admissions Committee:
- The university is bringing through DTP (Diploma of Tertiary Preparation), a bridging course for someone not meeting ATAR requirements, and mature age students with no ATAR. After discussions, the advertisement on the CCE website that advertised it as a replacement for the HSC was taken down, as it's false advertisement. It's now just a bridging course, it's not yet released, looking at next year. Will continue discussions to make sure it remains equitable among prospective students.
- Dux Scheme: If you're dux of a school you automatically have entry to Sydney and you if don't have the requirements for entry to a particular degree you have bridging course options. Originally the scheme was only for select private schools, after negotiations it was expanded to all schools across NSW.
- Mature age applicant scheme: A few changes in policy regarding HSC or equivalent, where you don't need an ATAR if you have an HSC or equivalent in other states or tafe diploma or equivalent. Before the policy said this needed to be approved by the university. I moved today that it satisfy requirements that it meets the requirements of the Faculty, Dean or University.
- Academic Standards:
- Data storage of student information: Privacy concerns regarding the way certain faculties store information. There was an incident with the Law faculty where all the data was held on one personal computer. We were able to institute a universal data storage policy to be approved at the next academic board sitting.
- Lecture recordings: A big thing we all hope for. When we asked for recordings across the university, the answer was no. There were concerns about the context of the recordings, e.g. a lecturer can easily have words twisted should student take bits out to make youtube video, leads to risks of defamation. The microphones on the lecturer

only go three feet, so the lecturer can say something provocative to get discussion, but the student responses would not be heard. I suggested a legally binding disclaimer at beginning of each recording, similar to the ratings on films, which could say 'this lecture has provocative content'. This may be taken to academic board. Brought up the issue of inaccessibility of lecture theatres for students with disabilities, and accessibility for students with anxiety for example who can't leave their house at certain times. The cultural competency within this uni is quite bad, I brought up this issue where I went through two weeks of mourning and the lectures weren't recorded so I missed those lectures. Students with disabilities, cultural commitments, other commitments should have recordings able to be sent to them. We currently have an opt-out system, we asked for that. So far a large list of faculties do record. If this goes through academic board, I'll move we go to a universal policy.

- Academic Board:
- Things that stood out was a focus topic on the womens career and leadership survey. Found that the senior members of the university are largely men, whether academic (where 40% of staff are women) or professional staff, many times senior men assume women don't want to take these roles. Now they've implemented AA, where they have to employ more women in senior roles before they employ more men. There are five phases of competency, the university is currently at level 2, hopefully will move to level 3. This is reviewed biannually for internal and external committees.
- Reviewing 100% exams: Issues because of anxiety, that discussion is still going.
- Notice of special exams: Students applied and have only received notice 24 or 48 hrs. notice before. This is unacceptable, have submitted a proposal for more notice, still under discussion.
- Essential requirement for students with disability in the Health Science faculty, e.g. access to tutorials and learning resources. This is a project that will continue across all faculties. Working with disabilities officers on that, particularly Sam Brewer, and with James, the SRC casework & policy manager.
- Discussing Opal cards: The University is signing away student privacy. Students can't purchase Opal cards anonymously as adults have the option to do; it's a different charging system. The Vice Chancellor said he would have a meeting with myself and Transport NSW.
- SUPRA Honi Soit agreement: They are paying \$4000 and using 2 pages.
- O-Week: The General Secretaries and Vice Presidents will report.
- Conducting councillors meetings similarly to those before the election, to discuss how we can implement policies they ran on, to get contributions and open up transparency. So if you haven't responded to my email I'd suggest you do it.
- The SRC will undergo a smoking ceremony by Uncle Max. It's spiritual & ceremonial, and a university custom that a new building or refurbished building is smoked.
- Head of the SRC Legal Service, Thomas, wants to investigate if recent terror laws will have an impact on university security policy.
- Freedom rides: A great experience, stuff I'd admittedly seen before, but it was great seeing other students learn and walk through that with me. We have a lot to report back on, will report to the legislative council in State Parliament, as Perkins did, as to how to better serve those communities.

*A speaker's list was opened.*

Ivana Radix: As an interstate student, were you planning on expanding the Dux scheme beyond NSW?

Kyol Blakeney: Yes, it was difficult to even get all of NSW in there, the registrar argued that money has to come from somewhere, I suggested the Vice Chancellor doesn't have his own driver. We'll hopefully amend it once it's policy.

Ivana Radix: Are students allowed to record lectures for themselves?

Kyol Blakeney: I'm not sure, will look into it. The University owns all lecture content and recordings.

Laura Webster: They are copyrighted.

Philippa Specker: The same thing was discussed in Science. Saying students will record them themselves is an incentive to make the university standardise their recordings. They can edit out comments that could be taken out of context.

Tim Sullivan: What would the response be from university admin that other universities have overcome this hurdle and record all their lectures? It's not a Sydney Uni specific problem.

Kyol Blakeney: The same response they gave when the G08 supports deregulation, that some universities do but some don't.

Ivana Radix: Some international students who live far away are eligible for a kind of MyMulti card, will they be eligible for the same Opal concession?

Kyol Blakeney: Haven't looked into it, but will. I know there's a different policy for internationals.

Alison Xiao: For the dux scheme, is it a pass rate in the bridging course?

Kyol Blakeney: Yes

Tim Sullivan: Is the bridging course a course that takes place in the summer of Yr 12 ending and before 1<sup>st</sup> year?

Kyol Blakeney: That depends on whether they can just do a short bridging course or whether they need to do a degree to make them eligible.

Laura Webster: Will it be in semester or not?

Tim Sullivan: Will it slow down their degree progression?

Kyol Blakeney: Some courses will be in summer, some in semester. If it's not available in summer they would do it in semester.

Tim Sullivan: They would transfer after the bridging course?

Harry Stratton: What is in the bridging course?

Kyol Blakeney: The requirements to get into the course they want to, e.g. if you want to study maths, but didn't study that in HSC, you would do the required bridging course.

Harry Stratton: So what about law?

Kyol Blakeney: They would do whatever other people did to transfer to law, e.g. an arts degree first.

Harry Stratton: So only people who got an ATAR lower than 78 would benefit?

Alison Xiao: With Arts/Law, I think that currently to transfer its half ATAR and half first year of your degree. Now it's just the degree, and you just have to pass.

Laura Webster: Could we have the print of the policy?

Sean Nugent: My understanding is there's no prereqs for any degree.

Kyol Blakeney: Take for example, I do primary education, I didn't study maths, but I need maths to graduate from this degree, so I have to do the equivalent of 2 unit maths to graduate. If you didn't get the ATAR, then you do the arts degree and then the second degree.

Jack Whitney: For universities like UNE, there are concerns that programs like this take the cream of the crop. Do you think that'll happen?

Kyol Blakeney: I think it will, but regardless of where a student comes if they want to come to this university they should be able to.

Jack Whitney: Will it have impact on regional universities?

Kyol Blakeney: It probably will, but universities are always in competition.

Harry Stratton: I see this policy as irrelevant and it doesn't need to exist, if you get the ATAR you should be able to get in. How did this policy come up?

Kyol Blakeney: I went to the meeting and it was on the table.

Chiara Angeloni: There's a problem with ATAR as a sole determinant, especially in rural regional areas, where a student may be smart, but the school may not have resources so they don't achieve the same results they would in a Sydney private school. It's very similar to UNSW's \$6000 scholarship program.

Sean Nugent: It allows for someone who succeeds in their own sphere and doesn't meet the requirements of the failings of the ATAR system, obviously doesn't address the second student in that school.

Kyol Blakeney: The ATAR is a ranking. I went to Scots, I wasn't dux, but I had resources there to achieve an ATAR. In my former school at Tamworth I probably wouldn't have got the ATAR I did, even though I was dux there.

Harry Stratton: This policy seems odd because if you think ATARs are a poor measure, it seems strange you'd also support a system that ranks students on ATAR or exam assessment marks.

Kyol Blakeney: That's true, but am I going to fight the Board of Studies or let some rural regional students into university?

Philippa Specker: There are some schools, e.g., Montessori, that don't use ATAR as the sole determinant of their dux. Even if this isn't the perfect system it's not a step backwards, we can amend it afterwards to make it less obscure and more effective.

Kyol Blakeney: Once this is discussed more before it's released, I'd be able to give a solid report of what this scheme does.

Sean Nugent: I agree it's a step in the right direction. But school ranking is based on assessment for HSC and that's not made up solely of exams, usually it's maximum one exam and other assessments depending on subjects. It's a great step in the right direction.

Harry Stratton: I'm even more uncomfortable if schools aren't selecting their duxes based on objective academic criteria, like leadership, which is essentially how much your teachers like you.

*Harry Stratton moved a motion:*

**Motion:** That the SRC express its wish to the relevant committee that the condition of this offer is that schools select their dux on the basis of academic standards that are quantitatively, not qualitatively measured.

Suzanne Nassif: I agree it opens up avenues for more problems and questions. At my school, the dux was based on leadership which was how much teachers like you. ATAR should be fairer for regional schools as a system.

Harry Stratton: Whether school marks or ATAR is fine, so long as it's not 'this guy's a top bloke and should get this huge advantage'.

Philippa Specker: This, at its worst, has one person from every school where one person is low SES, or rural, at a minimum one person from that group is guaranteed a spot at this university. Even at its worst it's not that s\*\*\*, and it can be improved so it's not exploited. For schools in areas where everyone is on a back foot, now one person is guaranteed entry.

Sean Nugent: I agree with Harry and Pip. People who have leadership positions in schools already have certain advantages, so if this gives them another advantage then that would be a disadvantage of this policy.

Motion to accept the report of the President including the motion therein.

Moved: Paul Harrison

Seconded: Liam Carrigan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Daniel Ergas gave a verbal report:

- O-Week: Will leave most of the reporting to Chiara. Sing praises to Chiara, Max and Kyol for their work on O-Week. The SRC engaged at least 500 students with our calico bags, and thousands more at the stall and with our Chris Pyne pin the tail on the donkey. Handed out our university guides. The collective stalls also seemed to go well. The SRC stall was well attended, and there was always a caseworker present answering questions.
- I'm working with the international student officers regarding an SRC space in the International Student Lounge (ISL). Aim to maximise that space and reach out to international students. There's little knowledge of the SRC and it's services amongst students there.
- Working on SRC social media presence, how we can refresh our branding.
- Working to revive faculty societies and consultation societies meetings. Have contacted them on Facebook and tried to engage them.
- Intercampus officers: working to creating accessibility and visibility of services.
- Assisting other Office Bearers with their tasks.

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

Moved: Laura Webster

Seconded: Philippa Specker

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Philippa Specker moved a procedural motion to suspend standing orders and proceed to Item O, report of the Environment Officer.*

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

### **O.1. Report of the Environment Officers**

Callista Barrett-Williams submitted a written report and spoke to the report:

The Enviro Collective ran very effective campaigns last year and hasn't lost momentum during the break. Following is some of what we've done since the end of last semester. We:

- Helped organise and attended a 10-day long road trip (Mining the Truth) through regional areas affected by coal and coal seam gas.

- Hijacked the Vice Chancellor's Christmas Party with "Operation Rudolf" dressed up as Santa and reindeers to deliver him a sack of coal.
- Helped organise and attended a week long training camp with collectives from other states in January.
- Met with the Vice Chancellor, set up an ongoing framework for communication between the collective and management, and secured a number of commitments
- Saw a big win for the Fossil Free USyd campaign which we've been working on for 18 months. The University has committed to reducing the carbon footprint of their share portfolio so that it is 20% lower than the weighted average of the markets on which they trade in three years. You can read our press release in response here: <http://fossilfreeusyd.org/news/>
- Organised a 'Date with Divestment' community building picnic for Global Divestment Day at UTS with UNSW & UTS environment collectives.
- Mobilised for and attended Bat Attack, a 5 day festival of non violent direct action protesting the expansion of open cut coal mines into the Leard State forest.
- Created a beautiful OWeek stall themed "Back to what future?" with representations of the potential future impact of environmental action vs inaction, and have had lots of new interest and excitement in the Collective's activities this year.
- Organised 2 events for OWeek, a screenprinting workshop and a film screening.
- With Vegesoc and the Food Co-op, organised an event in Week 1 in the Community Garden with live music, cooking & gardening workshops, screenprinting and free food.
- Restructured our Collective so that this year you can join a Working Group to work on what interests you. So far we have Camus Sustainability, Fossil Free USyd, Frontline Action, Finance, Events, Communications, and Community Garden, but you can always start your own! Contact Robert Pattinson on [repattinson@gmail.com](mailto:repattinson@gmail.com) to find out how to get involved and when the various groups meet.

#### Coming up:

- Enviro Camp, April 10-12
- Divestment NDA - April 22

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

Moved: Liam Carrigan

Seconded: Eden Faithfull

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*David Shakes moved a procedural motion to suspend standing orders and proceed to Item O, report of the Indigenous Officer.*

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**



## O.2. Report of the Indigenous Officers

Jethro Braico gave a verbal report:

- Spread awareness of the Koori Centre.
- Raised funds for freedom rides scholarships.
- Created a mailing list for new students.
- Working with National ATSI.
- Recruiting writers for Indigenous Honi
- Discussing plans for exciting reconciliation week for indigenous and non-indigenous students, to be held in May.

Ivana Radix: To elaborate on the freedom ride scholarship, as far as I know it will be a scholarship for rural/ regional students for them to come to university.

Harry Stratton: How much will it be?

Kyol Blakeney: There will be a call centre set up after the launch targeting 1965-67 alumni so funds should come from there. If anyone is interested in being part of that call centre let me know.

Motion: that the report of the Indigenous Officer be accepted.

Moved: Paul Harrison

Seconded: Chiara Angeloni

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## N. Report of the General Secretaries

Chiara Angeloni and Max Hall submitted a written report. Max Hall gave his apologies, Chiara Angeloni spoke to the report:

### Publications

- In conjunction with SUPRA, we created a new 8-page, full-colour A5 handbook that was inserted into 10,000 ACCESS showbags. The handbook contained a profile and contact information for each collective, as well a guide to SRC services and important contacts for support services in the local area.
- We also produced the 2015 Orientation Handbook - 'How to Uni' guide (40 pages in black and white with 4-page colour cover)
  - Article topics included (similar to past Orientation Handbooks): campus safety, Centrelink, financial assistance, navigating academic life, renting tips & tricks, health services, mental health, drugs, cheap and local food, best pubs and coffee, campus entertainment, the National Union of Students and map of USyd noting location of SRC, collective spaces, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Community Garden, Fisher Library and bus stops for shuttle bus to Redfern.
  - New articles this year include: '[Un]Sealed Section' with information about safer sex and consent, as well as recipes suited to a student budget.
  - All SRC departments were contacted to submit article to Handbook; articles that were submitted feature in the second half of 'How to Uni' guide.

- We had to go with a different printer (White Lion) as MPD (very cheap printer the SRC used in the past) went into insolvency. This meant the cost was higher (increase of \$494 from 2014 printing cost - amounting to \$2663+GST). White Lion was the cheapest quote we received and approved by Exec. We printed 500 less copies this year (1500 print run in total) to mitigate higher costs.
- We've provided an information pack to the Unit of Study coordinators for first-year subjects and asked them to distribute this information about the SRC and its services during their lectures and on Blackboard. The response has been positive.
- The same information has been sent to all undergraduate Faculty Reps asking them to distribute information via their faculty or school email lists. This contact includes discussion of how Reps can make better use of the SRC's advocacy services in affecting change to department and faculty policy. This information was accompanied with an easily digestible and slightly hipster new SRC promo video that will be further distributed via university-wide student mail and on the SRC website in the coming weeks.

### **O-Week**

- We prepared 500 showbags to be distributed during O-Week events at the Con, Camperdown/Darlington and Cumberland campuses. No showbags left over after O-Week.
- At Camperdown/Darlington campus, we were given 7 stalls and 1 double pagoda from the USU, leaving enough space to be shared between SRC, collectives and Honi Soit. We had a table available for us at the Con and Cumbo orientation days which members of Executive and some OBs attended.
- Showbags included a calico bag, a copy of Orientation Handbook and Counter Course, notebook, gel pen, a condom and lube, lollies, information about SRC services, SRC second-hand bookstore bookmark and flyer for International Students' Collective.
- Also had a 'Pin the Tail on Chris Pyne the Deregulation Donkey' interactive game for students, offering the chance to win a \$50 book voucher. Chiara was interviewed about our stall by the Triple J breakfast show, giving some good exposure to the ongoing fight against deregulation. We got a great reception from students willing to pin the tail on Pyne and many more students commenting on it and taking photos as they walked by, encouraging conversations about the Liberals' plans to deregulate higher education and what this means for students.
- O-Week also helped publicise the SRC's Casework & Legal services. We had caseworkers help out with our stall throughout O-Week. Various students approached stall with questions about accommodation, enrolment and Centrelink, finding out about what the SRC could do to help.

### **Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) & Budget Negotiations Update**

We'll start with a brief overview of the SSAF allocation and budgeting process which has been altered by the University this year. If you're familiar with the process, jump down to the dot points that give the current state of play. There are two stages to the SRC acquiring and allocating its money for the year: negotiation of funding from the SSAF pool and our internal budget.

The SSAF (\$286 from a full time student this year) is pooled by the University and divided up amongst the student organisations - SRC, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association, Student Support Services, the University of Sydney Union, Sydney University Sport & Fitness, and Cumberland Students Guild. The total this year is \$13.5m. \$2m of this is set aside for the Capital Sinking Fund, which is divided up by application and negotiation later in the year to fund infrastructure and amenities for the student organisations. In a new process this year, each of these organisations is guaranteed funding equal to 92.5% of the amount they received last year (calculated as ninety percent plus inflation). The remaining amount--\$13.5m less the Capital Sinking Fund and funds already guaranteed to organisations--is distributed among the organisations as negotiated between the organisations. If agreement is reached between the organisations the University traditionally agrees to the allocation and the money is distributed accordingly. If an agreement is not reached the distribution of the SSAF is decided by a university committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Indigenous Strategy and Services, two Deans, and the Director of Corporate Finance.

We are unable to meaningfully begin the SRC's internal budget until we have a confirmed allocation from the SSAF pool. Once this is confirmed, we will be able to continue consulting with collectives, OBs, and Council on the allocation of our budget this year.

How things are at the moment:

- The Acquittal of spending for 2014 has been submitted. This is the document that we complete in conjunction with an auditor to demonstrate to the University that the 2014 SSAF allocation was spent on the things identified in the 2014 Funding Initiatives Application (the document submitted at the start of each year itemising the costs of the organisation for the year).
- We have had three rounds of negotiations with the other student organisations so far.
- The deadline for the conclusion of negotiations is the 13th of March, when we are required to submit our Funding Application for this year. If negotiations fail to produce a final outcome by that date or if other organisations decide that they are unwilling to negotiate, the outcome will be arbitrated by the University committee mentioned above.

### **Freedom Ride**

- Both of us took part in the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Freedom Ride.
- The Ride was an opportunity for University of Sydney students to engage with, and listen to, the concerns of Elders and members of some of the original towns that the Freedom Riders had visited half a century ago (specifically, Dubbo, Walgett, Moree, Bowraville and Kempsey). The students who were on the commemorative Ride have plans to debrief in the coming week and discuss where to from here: including keeping in touch with the communities we visited and considering what we can do to help them.
- The O-Week edition of Honi Soit had a 4-page feature on the Freedom Ride written by students who attended the trip. Max and Sam Jonscher (Honi Soit editor) also wrote an article for the Guardian reflecting on the trip ('What next for Freedom Ride and bringing change to Indigenous Australia?' published 23 Feb 2015), available online at <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/feb/23/what-next-for-freedom-ride-and-bringing-change-to-indigenous-australia>

## Miscellaneous

- OB Honi reports have been allocated for the year. There have been small amendments to original version that we had distributed to OBs on February 12. Please check SRC emails to ensure OBs don't miss out on their week. If there are any variations OBs would like to make to the schedule, please notify us so we can update it.
- We've been in contact with the National Union of Students (NUS) regarding minutes from the National Conference in December last year (which we both attended), in case any students interested in discussions of policy passed by NUS. The SRC now has access to the minutes. If anyone is interested get in touch with either us or the President to have a copy.
- A Facebook group has been set up as a noticeboard for communication between 2015 OBs and Councillors. If you have not yet been added to the group, please get in touch with us or a member of the Executive to add you.

## OB & Collective Budgets Update

The following is the spending of each collective of as of the end of February, including printing expenditure.

Executive	\$539.37
Education	\$1,354.89
Environment	\$1,715.58
Queer	\$425.94
Interfaith	\$111.83
Wom*n's	\$1,187.88
O-week	\$11,138.60
Indigenous	\$18.80
Ethnic Affairs	\$70.00
Intercampus	\$27.60
Student housing	\$97.50
Honi Soit	\$64.00

Cameron Caccamo: What constitutes executive spending?

Chiara Angeloni: Printing business cards and phone bills for the President.

Harry Stratton: What was the money given to STUCCO?

Riki Scanlan: It happened, the SRC purchases were made and reimbursed.

Chiara Angeloni: Almost certain that was last year.

Philippa Specker: It came out of the welfare budget, which was under budget.

Harry Stratton: What did it buy?

Riki Scanlan: Furniture for the share room. Students at STUCCO don't have money for mattresses, sheets, chairs etc. The money was used to make the space livable for students.

Philippa Specker: That was a welfare thing last year, not sure why it's being brought up now. The proposal was fully itemised, can you be clearer about why you're asking?

Kyol Blakeney: That was a previous council issue, it's already been approved.

Chiara Angeloni: That had gone to the welfare department and was approved by majority. I signed off as the Welfare Office Bearer and I approved that funding in consultation with the welfare

department, as STUCCO is an accommodation place with a student decision making structure that is somewhat part of the university and SRC caseworkers do often refer students there.

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

Moved: Laura Webster

Seconded: Liam Carrigan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*Harry Stratton moved a procedural motion for a quorum count.*

*Quorum was not met.*

*The meeting closed at 9:07pm.*