



Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

Secretary to Council

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MINUTES:

of the **3rd** regular meeting of the 87th Council held on **Wednesday the 6th May 2015**. Meeting will held in the **Professorial Board Room Quadrangle**.

Minutes: **Julia Robins**

A. Meeting Open

The meeting opened at 6:25pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

Kyol Blakeney assumed the Chair as per SRC regulations.

Motion from the Chair that **Chiara Angeloni** be appointed 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 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:

Tim Sullivan
Ridah Hassan
Xioran Shi
Jesse Seton

Proxies:

Julia Pham to Eden Faithfull
Jun Li to Chloe Smith
Amy Knox to Isabella Brooks
Chris Warren to Michele Picone
Fahad Ali to Sean Nugent
Michael Elliot to Dylan Williams

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

The Electoral of Report of the Returning Officer

Motion from the chair to accept the report of the electoral officer

Motion was put and carried

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Andrew Mason resigns from the position of housing officer.

Alisha Aitken-Radburn resigns from Standing Legal Committee.

Christopher Donovan resigns as mature age student.

Moved: Chiara Angeloni

Seconded: Paul Harrison

Motion was put and CARRIED

F. Minutes

Minutes of the **Special** meeting of Council held on **15th April 2015** were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the **15th April 2015** be accepted, signed and adopted.

Moved: Sean Nugent

Seconded: Laura Webster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

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

I. Visitor's Business

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

no report was received from the undergraduate fellow of senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of one environment Officer Held over

Procedural motion from the chair to move to the report of the executive and President - **CARRIED**

L. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE AND PRESIDENT

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the **9th April** were circulated.

The minutes were noted.

L2. Report of the Executive

The report of the executive was circulated.

Motion: that the report of the Executive and the decisions and recommendations contained therein, be accepted, signed and adopted.

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Alisha Aitken-Radburn

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

L3. Report of the President

Kyol Blakeney tabled a written report

President's Report – Ordinary Meeting 6th May 2015

Campus Wifi

I have been in contact with Steve Junor, the person responsible for the University's Wireless. We have been working to improve the signal on campus in areas such as Bosch Lecture Theatres, Old Teachers' College, The Main Quadrangle, and low signal areas of Eastern Ave. I have put out posts and Honi Soit reports appealing to students for advice regarding other areas where there is a need for a stronger wifi signal. If there are any other suggestions please let me know.

Undergraduate Studies Committee

There were changes to the late submission policy for the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning.

Previously late submissions would mean a 35% penalty on the 1st day an assignment is submitted late with 50% after 3 days. If the assignment was not submitted after 10 working days, the student would receive a mark of 0.

As of 2nd Semester, the policy will be that late submissions will receive a 5% penalty per calendar day for written submissions and 10% per calendar day for visual/public/oral presentations.

Business School: There was also a brief debate about the way Honours is advertised to students in terms of it being research-based or looking for the "best and brightest". This came after employers were calling the Business School encouraging academics to not bother with asking students if they were interested in pursuing Honours as they did not believe it was necessary to them anymore.

I argued that students should be encouraged to take up research based Honours if they wish as it empowers students to be able to follow their interests and be well informed with what their careers will entail after they graduate rather than having an imbalanced knowledge hierarchy between employees and employers. As a result of limited time in this committee meeting the debate was held over.

DTP (Diploma of Tertiary Preparation)

To my understanding, the University had cut this from its program. It then became apparent through the media that there were at least 4 people who were able to gain entry into the University through

this program. When I questioned this I was told that these people had already received acceptance letters and the University could not retract its stance. To my understanding, the DTP is now wiped from the University and not students from schools who participate in this program will be accepted under it.

Anti Semitism on Campus

As you are aware, the Vice-Chancellor has taken a strong approach towards those who participate in actions regarding the Israel and Palestine conflict. I have released numerous reports, media released, and spoken out against the accusation of anti-Semitism on campus including last weeks Public Meeting in the General Lecture Theatre. I will also be following this up at Student Consultative Committee after the Vice-Chancellor cancelled the Anti-War Event (which was supposed to be held on the 26th April). This was apparently a result of threats made to the University from members of the far-right movements, including the Reclaim Australia Group. I will be asking the Vice-Chancellor what his view is on freedom of speech is and if there was a difference between allowing an event defending Israel to continue and cancelling an event towards an Anti-War approach even though both the left and the right were commenting on both.

Kyol Blakeney added to his report at the meeting

Kyol Blakeney: I had a few things to raise with the VC today at SCC in regards to anti-Semitism on campus, he was not there so I have arrange a meeting with him for next week.

Motion: that the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Luciano Carmnet

Seconded: Laura Webster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

M. Report of the Vice Presidents

Daniel Ergas and Madison Mclvor tabled a written report

- Madison Mclvor has continued work on the accountability scheme for all SRC Councilors, and will be following up with everyone in the next couple of weeks.
- Madison Mclvor has also held meetings with the student services office in order to discuss allowing students to access their transcript online, for free. They're very receptive and that's going smashingly.
- David Ergas attended a couple of ~ fun cool exciting ~ meetings of Academic Board committees. I'm following up with Peter McCallum (the Chair of Academic Board) this week to ensure we're able to increase the number of student representatives in Academic Board.
- I'm starting work to try and see how we can include representation of Diploma of Law (and Diploma students generally) in the SRC; and will be investigating in coming weeks.

Daniel Ergas: It is pretty outrageous that there are students with no support or rights under academic board so we are working on seeing what support we can give them and resolving where they stand in the university.

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

Moved: Ivana Radix

Seconded: Chiara Angeloni

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Chiara Angeloni and Max Hall tabled a written report

General Secretaries' Report to Council May 6th
Chiara Angeloni & Max Hall

General

- Convened a meeting of the SRC Legal Service Board to discuss the practice's budget allocation for 2015.
- Attended a meeting of the Standing Legal Committee to consider amendments to the regulations for the May Council meeting.
- Will be attending the meeting of the Student Consultative Committee on Wednesday. Have prepared discussion points arising from the recent Four Corners program about the treatment of international students and the pressure on academics to ignore plagiarism. We are more than happy to take any specific concerns of Representatives or councillors to the Vice-Chancellor.
- Advertised for and will be conducting interviews to employ a Returning Officer for the 2015 elections this week.

Office Bearer Spending Update

Expenses Executive Officers	\$ 877.85
Indigenous Students Department	\$ 18.80
Education Department	\$ 3,701.57
Environment Department	\$ 1,852.29
Ethnic Affairs Department	\$ 485.60
Inter-Campus Liaison Department	\$

	27.60
Queer Department	\$ 1,370.70
Interfaith	\$ 411.49
Women's Department	\$ 1,269.05
Student Housing	\$ 134.17
Honi Soit	\$ 64.00
Social Justice	\$ 355.00

SRC Budget Notes 2015

This budget proposal is the result of extensive consultation, especially over the past 2 months, with:

- SRC administrative, casework, publications and legal staff, who contributed to the SRC's funding request for the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) and were subsequently consulted regarding funding arrangements once the 2015 distribution of the SSAF was announced;
- SRC Office Bearers, who were all invited to submit funding proposals detailing their projects for the year and how much they anticipated they would spend, and to meet with us to discuss how these proposals would be reflected in the budget; and
- the National Union of Students (NUS), through our attendance at conferences (such as NUS National Conference, which we both attended, and Presidents' Summit, which Kyol attended) and regular communication with National Office Bearers.

We think the budget successfully balances the interests of the SRC in the long and short terms. We are happy to submit a budget that is balanced to ensure the SRC's financial sustainability, increases funding to Office Bearers, Caseworkers and the SRC Legal Service, and avoids drastic reductions in funding to any of our commitments now and in the next few years.

The SRC's SSAF Allocation in 2015

The total amount that the SRC will receive from SSAF this year is \$1,651,750. This is an increase of 9.4% on the SRC's allocation of \$1,510,000 in 2014. To our knowledge this is the largest increase in funding awarded to any of the student organisations this year.

We are unable to distribute the SRC's SSAF proposal and other submissions we prepared for SSAF negotiations this year, but we are happy to show these to Representatives and Office Bearers in person.

Future Funding for the SRC

Regrettably, our annual election cycle tends to limit the amount of consideration the SRC gives to its future and, in particular, its long term funding. This section is intended to place our 2015 budget decisions in the context of a much-needed discussion around ensuring funding for the next few years and how the organisation might respond if its funding is threatened.

For context, the budget deficit in 2013 was ~\$40,500 and in 2014 was ~\$65,000. The proposed budget aims to match the SRC's spending to its income as closely as possible (though, like last year, unforeseen costs will likely result in a small deficit). We think this is the right move for the reasons outlined below.

Our funding is unlikely to continue increasing at the same rate as the last few years. If we spend as if it will then future General Secretaries will be forced to make significant savings (likely to NUS affiliation and Office Bearer budgets as they represent the majority of non-fixed costs for the SRC) or find alternative income. There are several things to note about current and future funding:

1. The substantial increase that the SRC received this year should be regarded as a one-off spike in funding that is unlikely to be repeated for a number of years. There are a number of reasons for this. First, the SRC made concessions in 2014's SSAF negotiations to assist SUPRA in gaining a significant and sorely needed increase. There was some understanding, then, that SUPRA would use its stable financial position from 2014 to assist the SRC in achieving a large increase this year. This benefited the SRC this year but is unlikely to be a factor in the future. Second, the total amount of SSAF funding grew by 4.5% from 2014 to 2015. Our increase of 9.4% this year is over double the increase we would expect to receive if the year-to-year increase in the total SSAF collected were distributed evenly among the student organisations. Given that the costs of other student organisations grow at a rate comparable to our own, we can expect that future SRC increases are more likely to be closer to the percentage increase in the total pool than not.

2. The current SSAF allocation process which guarantees organisations 90% of their funding from the previous year promotes stability and the status quo at the expense of flexibility. In short, the limited amount of negotiated funds makes it close to impossible for an organisation to gain a drastic increase in funding. This limits organisations from undertaking large new projects and may present a problem for the SRC in the future when it becomes necessary to employ an additional caseworker or Office Bearers decide to pursue a new major project.
3. This year, for the first time, negotiations between student organisations were unsuccessful and a University committee decided the final allocation of the SSAF. This is evidently undesirable from the perspective of maintaining student control of the distribution of student funds. Of equal concern is the unpredictability of future decisions made by this committee if negotiations in 2016 and beyond are unsuccessful. It is possible that the Committee will consider the increase given to the SRC in 2015 to be a necessary one-off boost which will not be repeated. Given that there is no precedent for the Committee's decisions and organisations were not given the opportunity to meet with the Committee we should avoid being reliant on a favourable decision from that group. We will be working with Kyol and the other student organisations to improve the transparency of the Committee process for next year. A secondary concern is the University's emphasis on project-based funding. Given that all but ~\$140,000 of the SRC's funding is tied to maintaining the organisation and its services, the SRC's plans do not generally suit a project-based model. We were successful in identifying specific projects within our fixed requirements this year, but there is a risk that the committee will view the lack of "new" projects as a reason for less funding in future years.
4. The Vice-Chancellor has given the SRC assurances over the past two years that in the event of a partial or total loss of funding (e.g. the abolition of SSAF or the sudden disappearance of thirty of the University's thirty-four thousand undergraduates) the University would likely guarantee funding for the existing services of the SRC. It is therefore in the interests of students to incrementally increase service provision to match student demand such that a sudden loss of funding doesn't see the University fund our services at a level that is unable to meet the needs of the student body.
5. Matching income and expenditure this year will mean that future General Secretaries rely less on the outcome of SSAF negotiations to maintain the previous year's levels of funding to Office Bearers and services. (Well over half of our negotiated amount this year was required merely to continue the organisation in its 2014 form.) This will allow future Councils more freedom in seeking to expand or improve the SRC.

Changes in the 2015 Budget

While we were able to secure an increase of \$141,750 this year, a sizeable amount of this is automatically committed to covering:

- the standard annual increase in CPI;
- wage increases for casework, administration, publications and secondhand bookshop staff mandated by our Enterprise Bargaining Agreement; and
- changes in staff costs - maternity leave etc.

These are necessary in order to ensure the continued provision of essential services by the SRC. Aside from these unavoidable costs, changes from the 2014 budget are listed below.

Increased funding to the SRC Legal Service

The Legal Service has become an essential resource for the undergraduate student body, Office Bearers and activists. The Service has consistently faced extraordinary increases in demand, including an increase in the total client load of 23% from 2013 to 2014, and a 42% increase in full case matters from 2010 to 2014. Two solicitors are currently employed at the SRC Legal Service for 4 days per week. Over the past year both solicitors have often worked overtime without pay in order to meet the demand for assistance from students. An expansion of the service is necessary to meet student demand, ensure that the Solicitors continue to have time to assist the President and other members of the SRC with legal matters, and meet our obligations to look after our staff and their working conditions. This increase in funding will expand the Legal Service by securing an additional day per solicitor, per fortnight (meaning one solicitor will be available for appointments with students at the SRC each Friday).

Ten weeks of relief for the Casework Department

The Casework Department applied for funding to cover ten weeks of a caseworker wage. Intended for use throughout the year, this allows for the employment of a casual caseworker for ten weeks so that a permanent caseworker is able to complete training. *This will most likely result in a caseworker being accredited to give financial advice to students.* This service would obviously be of great help to a range of disadvantaged students. Further, training a caseworker for the ten week period gives that person the requisite training to act as a casual employee in the future. This fulfils the requirement of our Enterprise Agreement that the employer be prepared to provide casual relief for all staff members.

Casework Database

\$4000 has been allocated to replace the old casework client database. The old database needs to be replaced so that the caseworkers can meet their legal obligation to keep records. The ability to properly review caseload over time will also help the Casework Manager and future Executives accurately identify the department's needs.

Increased printing costs for student publications

Until 2015, Honi Soit was printed by MPD Printing. MPD offered their printing services for prices well below the nationwide market price. In late 2014, however, MPD became insolvent, meaning the SRC had to arrange for another printer for Honi Soit. The new, increased cost is the cheapest available and reflects the current economic pressure on

printing outlets. This also increased the cost for other SRC publications, including the Orientation Handbook, Counter Course Handbook and Growing Strong.

An increase of \$4174 for Office Bearers

This includes increased budgets for the following departments: Indigenous, Ethnic Affairs, Intercampus, Interfaith, Environment, Wom*n's, Sexual Harassment, Global Solidarity and Student Housing. Our decisions regarding how much funding each department would receive were based on estimated spending and details of their projects submitted by Office Bearers in their funding requests. It's particularly exciting that the Sexual Harassment Department, Muslim Wom*n's Collective and other historically less active departments have sought funding.

Decreased affiliation fee paid to NUS

This decrease accommodates the cost of expanding the SRC Legal Service, increasing Office Bearer budgets, and achieving the other projects outlined in this document while keeping the budget out of deficit.

Shared Resources Pool

A number of collectives requested funding for large items like projectors or megaphones that can be of use to the whole organisation, particularly other activists. To limit repeat spending and allow activists from smaller departments access to these resources, we have allocated \$3000 to be spent on shared resources – starting with a data projector and decent megaphones – that will be kept in the front office and loaned out to Office Bearers in the same manner as the tables are now. Any items that Office Bearers think we ought to have, or any spending they think should come out of this pool, please let us know.

Increased Stipend for Honi Soit

Unlike the stipends paid to Office Bearers (e.g. the President or General Secretary), the stipends of the Editors of Honi Soit do not increase year by year in accordance with the corresponding increase in the federal minimum wage. As such the stipend paid to Honi editors is, in real terms, smaller than the sum intended when a stipend of \$40,000 was adopted and continues to decrease. In recognition that stipends are paid to enable the participation of students from diverse backgrounds in student activities and the significant number of hours editors spend on the paper each week, an additional \$4000 has been allocated to Honi this year. This change in stipends must be formalised by a motion to executive, as per section 12(f) of the SRC Regulations.

Minimal Deficit

Please see the “Future Funding for the SRC” section of this report for an explanation of why budgeting for no deficit puts the SRC in a more secure position for the coming years.

Max: The VC was not at the meeting today, we were looking into the allegations made in the 4 corners report I assume you have seen or heard about it. Tyrone Carlin (university registrar) who is in charge of these things believes that the 4 corners is wrong and not pursuant to the University of Sydney, the report was based on an ICAC investigation in which the university meets the recommendations and exceeds in many areas, the one

where we don't meet the criteria it is where we use overseas agents where we don't have staff. There is still a better process here than the 4 corners report made them out to be

The second part of this, is we all so the email and the trumped up Sydney Morning Herald article that talking about looking onto plagiarism, so they've set up a Vice Chancellors plagiarism taskforce and have met and will be going about their business the next few months the creation of which was sparked by the Sydney Morning Herald article.

The only further thing that was mentioned which was Greg Robinson who is director of campus infrastructure is interested in getting students from the university in getting student to go with them around campus at night and getting people to show where on campus they feel unsafe so that can be identified and fixed, if anyone is interested in that please get in touch.

Chiara: We are really excited and have done a number of consults with collective office bearers and the staff about what we are going to do budget wise. We are looking at the broader student movement having been at Nat Con and the president's summit and also international student organisers.

We have a lot of new faces coming in, this is exciting but also creates issues around continuity, we have no certainty about what we will be receiving next year. We would like more transparency in the process of the allocation of SSAF, we are looking into that over the rest of the term, we have included some numbers on further summaries to the SRC.

WE are excited about this budget as we are going to be extending that legal service to 9 days a fortnight. We are organising more training for caseworkers to offer better advice and expand services available to students. We have gotten increased printing for our student publications and there is an increase in funding to some of the smaller officer bearer positions allowing them to do some more work. We've also invested in more capitol goods such as megaphones and projectors.

We have put a larger stipend to Honi Soit, this is because the other stipend has be set to minimum wages where as Honi's stipend has not changed.

All and all I think we have been able to achieve significant projects and we are excited and pleased about this.

Max: Are there any questions? I would like you all to please read the future funding section if noting else, I think this is more important that councillors are across this, if anything to do with our funding it's important that we have these plans in place.

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

Moved: Alisha Aitken-Radburn

Seconded: Sean Nugent

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Moved to Elections

K1. Election of one environment Officer

Joint nomination from Jay Gillieatt and May Xuan Chew elected unopposed.

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 30th April 2015 were circulated.

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

Motion: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Luciano Carment

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of Education Officers

Defend USYD Civil Liberties

We've been lending solidarity through printing and design work to the campaign in defense of several student protestors and a member of academic staff, Jake Lynch, who all face disciplinary action following a protest on campus. This campaign is all about defending freedom of speech and protest and BDS, and it has attracted national media attention for this reason.

We note the university's proclivity for bowing to conservative forces, whether that be the Chinese government not wanting the Dalai Lama to talk about Tibet on our campus, or Reclaim Australia and The Great Aussie Patriot not wanting the Socialist Equality Party's anti-militarist forum over the ANZAC day weekend, again reflected in the witch hunt following the protest of the Richard Kemp lecture. Check out Defend USYD Civil Liberties on Facebook.

The Federal Budget

The next massive day for the education movement will be May 12th when the Federal budget will be released. A number of groups have planned a number of actions around this date. These are their stories.

Students Strike Back - May 12

The *NSW Education Action Network* has planned for a rally on the day of the budget, Tuesday May 12. This will take place at Town Hall at 2 PM, demanding no uni funding cuts, no course fees, and no cuts to welfare. Most of what's in the budget will likely be leaked or predicted which is why the rally is when it is. We'll be leaving the EAG at 1:30 to go to it, please come along!

NDA Building Day - May 13

The day after the budget, next Wednesday, the EAG will be on Eastern Avenue for a building blitz in the middle of the day. We welcome everyone to come along and participate in whatever it is we're

doing to bring attention to the education movement and the struggle against the government, specifically to build for May 20.

National Day of Action - May 20

NUS has called their next National Day of Action to be a week after the budget, on May 20. This is the day of the USU elections, so the EAG will be calling on all USU campaigns to cease campaigning for the duration of the NDA, to send campaigners to the NDA, and to encourage campaigners to advertise the NDA. I believe this had a positive effect on turnout at the massive post-budget NDA last year. Further details to come following a meeting with the *NSW Education Action Group* today.

David Shakes: One thing I was not able to add to the report is that there is an action tomorrow at one at the supreme court NSW for MUPRA, it's important to show support because this is a case of a university shutting down a student run organization and it completely disrespects the idea of student organizing, shutting down opposition to the university.

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

Motion: Chiara Angeloni

Seconded: Sean Nugent

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

02. Report of Wom*n's Officers

Apologies that this is our first official SRC Council Report, although we have tried to keep our Honi Reports as comprehensive as possible. In the interests of expediency we'll keep this as concise as possible and limit this to the last month.

Current/Recently Completed Projects

We're working on a few campaigns/initiatives at the moment –

1. Reproductive Rights – inspired by Collective discussion following Life Week, we are currently designing posters to put up around campus to show solidarity with students who may have felt victimised by Life Week. The focus of the posters is to be as intersectional as possible, also making them a good information source. Our poster has been slightly delayed because of the weather. This was also complemented by our discussions about Purvi Patel – the woman in Indiana who was sentenced to 20 years for a miscarriage. We've sent a letter to Indiana from the collective expressing our solidarity and concern.
2. Forced Closure of Aboriginal Communities – We've decided to follow the SOS Blak Australia campaign and are sharing a photograph that we took after a collective meeting. A number of our members attended the National Day of Action on Friday as well.
3. Nepal Relief – We set up a box in the Wom*n's Room for donations to give to Guthi Australia. We're also holding an event this Thursday, a Nepalese film screening to raise more money/collect donations.
4. USYD Feminist Education Groups – this has been an ongoing project since early in the year. We've just collated all the activities/documents that will be taken to schools to propose our workshops. They are essentially a series of volunteer run feminist workshops that teach students about

intersectionality/feminism. The final document to the schools is 5000 words so it's been a pretty comprehensive project/a lot of effort has gone into it.

5. Sexual Harassment Campaign – We've met with the university administration and are currently collecting information for the website that will be launched, as well as looking to collective for feedback on the survey questions that will be asked of students.
6. Health & Wellbeing Day Self-Defence Workshops – one of our collective members Aliza Chin is running the physical element with a discussion led by Monique Newberry – that is on tomorrow (Thursday, 7th), USU Health and Wellbeing Day.
7. NOWSA – We're facilitating attendance by students who want to go to the conference. One member is actually hoping to (she has registered) run a workshop. We may be funding some students partially, but this depends on how much money the USU is able to give (TBC).
8. Wom*n's Honi Soit – We're currently working on bringing Honi together which goes on stands the week of May 28th. We have Indesign and Photoshop training for our editorial collective on Thursday (7th May) for this.

That's probably not everything but covers a lot of significant things. We've also been helping the USU with a range of initiatives, providing feedback on the following issues –

1. USU Sensitivity Training – surveys to collective about how they feel about the USU and how they believe sensitivity training should be run.
2. Brosoc – Collective discussion and a submission of opinions to the USU which will hopefully be considered before/if Brosoc becomes a society.

Budget

Our budget application is a lot more than was previously allocated. The year before went over their allocated amount and we felt it was necessary given that our O-week materials alone cost us over \$1000. These materials have been really good for getting people involved/interested in the collective (we've had a good, consistent turn out) and we have made back over \$500 which is not accounted for in our budget proposal. We're investing in long term projects for the collective – like re-stocking the library, and have also allocated quite a lot of money to cross-collective/intersectional collective activities.

It is probably unlikely that we will spend the full amount but thought it would be safe to budget more just in case. Writing down all planned events may also encourage us to do them all! Recently we haven't been spending as much money because most of our campaigns have been low cost. We are aware of keeping costs down and should finish the semester in a good place.

Subeta Vimalarajah

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

Motion: Laura Webster

Seconded: Philippa Specker

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

01. Report of Welfare Officers

Eden Faithfull: Recently been working with the legal service on the International students campaigns

We went to Sydney alliance on looking at affordable housing they want students to come to a meeting at carriage works to look into developing affordable housing.

Luciano: urban growth event better to register for either day there are a series of different events you can get free food and they are encouraging looking for affordable housing. If you are looking for a specific term use affordable housing

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

Motion: Daniel Ergas

Seconded: Josh Han

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. To accept the changes to section 3 of the regulations on block

Riki speaking to the motion:

It's really simple and a banal change they are simple

Harry Stratton: what are the changes?

Riki: Two changes, addition of boards, one is a clarification and other three strikes rule
It; is substantively the same as the original

Motion: To accept the changes to section 3 of the regulations on block

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. To accept the changes to section 6 of the regulations on block

Riki: There are two comments in the standing legal that I would like to address the first is the issues occurring at g8 (9) it just allows for collectives the flexibility for when they cannot have the

In response to the issues around Orientation committee – we do not elect the 4 people we are supposed to for counter course committee, we should just merge them together with the orientation committee

11 a specifies that education officers have greater control than the rest of the

Harry Stratton: What was the rejected 1.5 changes.

Max: What has been suggested by Mel and James (caseworkers at the SRC) is that the current format creates issues around conflict of interests and the ability to the grievance committee to give best support students reporting a grievance. In the past it has meant that issues were dealt with poorly and people have had. They create at table to deal with situations making the grievance committee redundant, the proposed changes to 1.5 do not accurately portray the suggested alteration and as a result it has been withdrawn and will hopefully be replaced by the table format.

Amending the motion so that the motion is **that we accept the amendments accept 6 (11) c. which will be voted on separately.**

Motion: To accept the amendments accept 6 (11) c., which will be voted on separately.

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2.1 Motion on 6 (11) c. To accept the changes to 6 11 c.

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Paul Harrison

Motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. To accept the changes to section 7 of the regulations on block

Motion: To accept the changes to section 7 of the regulations on block

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Motions form the Floor

Q4. Motion re Aboriginal Action June 1

I direct Council's attention to webpages such as www.shut-down-australia.com, www.facebook.com/sosblakaaustralia, and www.sosblakaaustralia.com, amongst others. A planned action on June 1 is for Australians to "down tools for Aboriginal rights." It calls for Australians to "give 60 minutes for a people that have been here for over 60,000 years [in order] to stop the forced closure of Aboriginal remote homeland communities."

It goes on: “The time is now to stop the government from under resourcing and stripping essential funding to sustain community municipal services, such as water supply, electricity infrastructure, sewage services and garbage disposal for an estimated 200 remote Aboriginal homeland communities in WA and SA. Strike Action is to take place for 60 minutes between 10:30am to 11:30am the 1st of June 2015.”

They are calling on all Australian workers to down tools for black rights.

So far, the rallies in April and May have attracted thousands upon thousands of marchers in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples whose community face forced closures for their “lifestyle choices”.

Additionally, the campaign is calling for donations. I have included an action point regarding donations to the campaign—I would like Council to seriously debate this point and consider the amount we are able and willing to give.

Action Points

- That Council acknowledges the long history of oppression of Aboriginal peoples.
- That Council fully endorses and stands in solidarity with the planned national strike actions on June 1, between 10:30 and 11:30am.
- That Council condemns the forced closures of Aboriginal remote communities and restates its commitment to Aboriginal rights and sovereignty.
- That Council directs its members and officers to promote awareness of the June 1 action to University of Sydney students and other parties
- That Council donates \$500 to the SOS Blak Australia campaign

Motion: To accept the changes to section 7 of the regulations on block

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Luciano Carment

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q5. Motion in solidarity with MUPRA

Platform

Seven student representatives from MUPRA are being taken to court by Macquarie University in order to dissolve the only independent student organisation on their campus, absorb \$500,000 in reserves according to court documents, and withhold SSAF from it. The University is also seeking costs from these students. This poses a threat to all student organisations, and would set a precedent of institutions being able to forcibly close student organisations.

Action

The SRC stands in solidarity with student organisations across NSW, and encourages councillors and office bearers to attend the protest in solidarity with MUPRA at 1 PM outside the Supreme Court of NSW on Thursday 7th May.

The SRC is actioned to publish a solidarity statement on our website, and to

Write a letter to the Macquarie Uni VC outlining our position on the matter

Alisha Aitken-Radburn: if the court case is won by Macquarie's it sets a dangerous precedent for student organisations.

Moved: David Shakes

Seconded Alisha Aitken-Radburn

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q6. Motions Civil Liberties / Spence

This motion is in relation to the civil liberties issues that have arisen and to the civil liberties meeting

Action points

- That Council restates its commitment to civil liberties on campus, particularly the right to dissent and protest
- That Council restates its opposition to the investigation into the protesters involved in the Kemp Lecture
- That Council condemns the comments of VC Michael Spence on Yammer: specifically his statements that the University has never banned anyone from campus, in particular the Dalai Lama, Uthman Badar, and the Socialist Equality Party
- That Council affirms that each of these individuals *were* prevented from speaking on campus and Spence's claims deeply contradict reports regarding each of these events

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded David Shakes

Motions was put and Carried

Q7. Motion re SS-BDS / Nakba

Nakba Day, meaning Day of the Catastrophe, commemorates the displacement of the Palestinian people resulting from the declaration of the state of Israel. Generally commemorated on May 15, Sydney Staff for BDS have organised an event on Thursday May 14 at 1pm outside Fisher Library and including a peaceful march to the VC's office.

Action points:

- That Council states its commitment to defending the rights of Palestinians, including the right of return, and acknowledges that Palestinians have the right to discharge these rights as they see fit
- That Council states its commitment to the BDS campaign and support of the SS-BDS group
- That Council condemns anti-Semitism and affirms that the BDS campaign is not anti-Semitic
- That Council endorses an SS-BDS event at 1pm on May 14 in commemoration of Nakba Day
- That Council directs members and officers of Council to mobilise a student contingent to attend the speak-out outside Fisher, including promotion through social media and Honi

Motion moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Luciano Carment

Motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Motion re Education Actions

Preamble:

Upcoming events include:

- an anti-budget action on May 12;
- a building-blitz day on May 13 to prepare for the May 20 NDA; and,
- an NDA speak-out, centralised at USyd on May 20

These events are political actions aimed at defending student rights and welfare against the Abbott government. We are all familiar with demands against cuts and fees and the proposed Higher Education Reform.

Action Points

- That Council reaffirms its condemnation of Higher Education cuts, threats to student welfare and rights, and fee deregulation
- That Council restates its commitment to free education

- That Council endorses the education and budget actions occurring on May 12, May 13, and May 20
- That Council directs relevant members and officers of council to mobilise student contingents for these actions, including promotion through social media and on the ground work

Moved Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Chloe Smith

The motion was Put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

There were no items of general business

The meeting was declared closed at 7:33 pm