



Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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MINUTES:

of the 4th regular meeting of the 87th Council held on Wednesday the 3rd June. Meeting will held in the Professorial Board Room, Quadrangle.

Minutes: Julia Robins

A. Meeting Open

The meeting opened at 6:34

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

Kyol Blakeney assumed the Chair as per SRC regulations.

Motion from the Chair that Laura Webster 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:

Julie Pham

Jun Li

Xiaoran Shi

Zoe Zaczek

Proxies:

Amy Knox to Isabella Brooks

Jesse Seton to Liam O'Callaghan

Elizabeth Li to Eden Faithful

Tim Sullivan to Dylan Williams

Fahad Ali to Lamisse Hamouda
Fiona Lieu to David Shakes
Harry Stratton to Oliver Plunkett
Chris Warren to Matt Campbell
Jack Whitney to Sam Kwon
Max Hall to Georgia Mantle

Motion accept the apologies and proxies:

Moved: Chiara Angeloni

Seconded: Riki Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Suzanne Nassif resigns to Blythe Worthy

Motion to accept the resignations

Moved: Philippa Specker

Seconded Laura Webster

the motion was put and **CARRIED**

F. Minutes

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of Council held on 6th May were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 6th May be accepted, signed and adopted.

Moved: Alison Xiao

Seconded: Sean Nugent

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

Liam O’Callaghan when are you meeting with the VC?

Kyol Blakeney: The meeting is on the 15th June

Arin Harman: What is happening with these combined degrees?

Kyol Blakeney: There hasn’t been any talk about the in the committee yet, I do think that [the combined degrees] it will be a bad it will cause staff cuts, and overworking of staff, growing class sizes and and a brain drain. The next SEG meeting will be two [1400] on Monday the 15th.

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

I. Visitor’s Business

There was no visitors business

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

There was no report from the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of 2 Mature Age Student Officers, One Interfaith Officer, and One member of Standing legal (non-cis male).

Nominations: for mature age student – Robby Magyar and Lamisse Hamouda

Robby spoke to his nomination citing his involvement in the USU, an increase in free time due to the end of his term as a board director and an interest in making sure students get strong representation as reasons for his nomination.

Lamisse Hamouda: if no one else wants it I'm happy to take the role.

Motion: to accept the nominations and election of Lamisse Hamouda and Robby Magyar as the Mature Age Student Officers of the 87th Sydney University SRC.

Moved: Paul Harrison

Seconded: Michael Elliott

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Nomination of the SRC interfaith officer: Liam O'Callaghan nominates for the position of Interfaith Officer.

Motion: to accept the nomination and election of Liam O'Callaghan as Interfaith Officer of the 87th Sydney University SRC.

Moved: Sean Nugent

Seconded: Paul Harrison

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

There were no nominations for the vacant position on the Standing Legal Committee.

L. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE AND PRESIDENT

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the **24th April** to the 14th May 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: Philippa Specker

Seconded: Laura Webster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Kyol Blakeney resigned the chair to Laura Webster to give the presidents report.

L3. Report of the President

Kyol Blakeney tabled a written report.

President's Report for Council – 3rd June 2015

For the past month I have been working with Chiara regarding the mid-year staff consults. We will be putting together a list of recommendation for each Head of Department along with our Office Bearers.

I have also been working with SUPRA and Student Administration to come up with a new system for Special Consideration and Credits. The following plan is a paraphrased draft and will be discussed further in Academic Board

Proposed Changes to Coursework Policy

Special Consideration

The main objective with these changes is to introduce a universal online system for students to apply for Special Consideration through, rather than excessive paperwork and having time spent chasing up lecturers for their signature.

The following procedure for Special Consideration is going to be proposed to the Senior Executive Group (SEG) and the Academic Board;

1. A student may apply for special consideration online.
2. A committee within the University will check the online form for any errors and ensure that the appropriate paperwork is complete, up to date, and submitted.
3. That committee will then respond to the student letting them know whether they have received Special Consideration or not.
4. If Special Consideration is granted, the application then goes to the academic in charge of the student's Unit of Study (UoS) who will determine how much consideration the student receives. For example, a new submission date, a make up task, or an exemption, etc.
5. The UoS Co-ordinator will have a response time to the student of 3-4 days.

The other purpose of this change is to divorce the UoS co-ordinators and/or lecturers from the students' issues and follow the recommendations of GP's rather than have the students' wellbeing at their own discretion.

Credits

The objective of this policy change is to allow students to have the ability to rescind their credits on their own accord, thus removing the power of a Dean to do it on their behalf.

Furthermore, students will have 12 months to either accept, decline or ask for a reinstatement of any Credits offered to them by the University. Please note that this can only be performed once.

Bowral Projects for Cultural Competence

I have also had discussions around Cultural Competence with the Senior Executive Group of Indigenous Strategies and Services. What I aim to achieve is a 5 year plan for the University to take on a similar approach that CSU has in place. This means that I will be pushing for a compulsory Koori Studies UoS in each faculty for a semester in every student's second year of study.

I would also like to put together a focus group of students from a range of backgrounds from members of the ACAR Collective, Indigenous Collective, Muslim Wom*n's Collective, SJP, and other Wom*n of Colour to find out what the University can do to boost cultural competence in those areas as well. These suggestions will be taken to SCC and hopefully discussed at length before the end of my term. If not, the project will be passed to my successor.

Lecture Recordings

The Chair of the Senior Executive Group (Education) has informed the committee that she will take steps next semester to consult with academics and management about having full lecture recordings in 2016.

It was said that 2016 would be a pilot year for lecture recordings with the opportunity to opt-out by request to the Dean of the faculty. In any other circumstance, they will be

automatically recorded.

Kyol Blakeney expanded on his report in the meeting.

Kyol Blakeney: I would like to add that today I went out to Cumberland with Max Hall and Chiara Angeloni to talk about the services available to them such as and food, as well as transport including who uses the bus services and how often it comes. I've also been to SCA to talk about the issues there especially with regards to transport. At Cumberland we also talked about the library and how long it is open unfortunately it is unlikely to become a 24-hour study space but we are looking into the lengthening of hours. I'll be taking the proposals to the next SCC meeting.

Ridah Hassan: have you heard anything about the SCA and the course cuts that are happening there?

Kyol Blakeney: I have been talking to Melissa Baveas (president of the Sydney College of the Arts Student Society) and she has been raising issues about transport and some course changes particularly in the post graduate areas and she will be looking into coming to the SCC and education board hopefully and looking in other issues of postgrads as well.

Ivana Radix: can you explain the transfer thing?

Kyol: so what is happening is if a student transfers from one course to another the university will offer them credits for their completed course work. If the student wants the credits, you have 12 months to accept the credits, and if you want to rescind the credit you can. If they want to rescind after they've accepted, they can within 12 months. If they wish to take up the credit after they have rescinded it they can as long as it is within 12 months

Motion: that the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Madison McIvor

Seconded: Georgia Mantle

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

L4. Report of the Selection Committee

The Selection Committee recommends to council that Paulene Graham be appointed the electoral officer for 2015 SRC elections.

Motion to accept the recommendation for the selection committee and appoint Paulene Graham the Electoral Officer for the 2015 SRC elections.

Moved: Oliver Plunkett

Seconded: Liam O'Callaghan

the motion was put and **CARRIED**

The President (Kyol Blakeney) resumed the chair

M. Report of the Vice Presidents

Daniel Ergas gave a verbal report.

- Madison McIvor has successfully smashed out Indigenous Honi – go her what a legend.
- I'm working with Max to have a plan for the SRC rebrand project, which will (hopefully) come to the next Council. We want to ensure that we collaborate as widely as possible on this, and we allow input on where the design goes, what the brief will contain, and what requirements collectives, councillors etc. want to be included.
- I've been in contact with a couple of the new USyd Senators and am hoping to get a bit of ~collaboration~ with them. It's important that we have at least some link to the Senate (and know what's happening there), so hopefully we can leverage this a bit. Seeing as our current undergraduate representative relationship has been weak at best.
- Subeta has been smashing out a bit of work with blind-marking and I've been trying to help out there. Working with Peter McCallum (Chair of Academic Board) to try and carry on Tim's work from SUPRA in enforcing Academic Board policy – blind-marking, no 100% exams etc. and will HOPEFULLY have two more student representatives on Academic Board ratified at their next meeting.
- I'm really disappointed about the USU and their decision with Raue. Hopefully will be able to organise against this a bit.

Eleanor Morley: what role do the Vice Presidents play in supporting and combating the deregulation?

Daniel Ergas: We assist the Education officers

Eleanor Morley: Do you attend the collectives meetings?

David Shakes: they have been

Madison McIvor: We share the role we are essentially one person in terms of role, so we share the role around.

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

Moved: Robby Magyar

Seconded: Paul Harrison

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 - June 3

Chiara Angeloni & Max Hall

SRC Audit

We, together with Kyol and Chitra (SRC Administration Manager), met with the auditors (from C. M. Pitt & Co) on May 8 to sign off on the three audit reports they had prepared for the SRC. The Bursary and Assistance Fund Financial Report for the year ended 30 November 2014 includes an overview of the SRC's accounts for emergency loans. Page 3 of that report outlines how many loans were made by the SRC, and how many were repaid by students. The other two Financial Reports are for the year ended 30 November 2014, and 31 December 2014. The difference in dates is based on the difference between the annual turnover of SRC Office-Bearers (taking office in December

until November of the following year) and the University's year. In both reports, page 2 provides an overview of the SRC's revenue and expenditure. Overall, the audit was successful. The auditors did not find any major discrepancies, and increases in expenditure were mainly due to staffing costs as a result of staff changes.

2015 SRC Budget

At the last meeting of Council (May 6), the Budget was passed unanimously. We have since started to implement some of the changes to the SRC which will arise as a result.

We are working on updating the employment contracts of the solicitors at the SRC Legal Service to accommodate an extra day a fortnight, each. We are also looking to purchase two megaphones with the shared resources budget for use by departments and collectives. We have presented a draft policy to the Executive regarding the lending out of megaphones and aim to present this at the next Council meeting.

We have also submitted a fee waiver form to the National Union of Students for the 2015 affiliation fee of \$63,000. This will be considered by NUS' Fee Review Committee at the end of the week.

Mid-Year Staff Consultations

Chiara and Kyol have been conducting mid-year consultations with SRC staff. Staff consultations are important for checking in with staff on their working conditions and identifying areas for improvement. We present the following recommendations for Office-Bearers and other students involved in the SRC below. Please take the recommendations seriously so we can support our staff and work towards a better workplace together.

I) Feel free to talk to the casework, legal or publications staff about your campaign

Staff reported that their working relationships with students have mostly been positive this year. However, there is a general issue with communication between SRC staff and Office-Bearers, with scope for them to work more closely on projects and campaigns.

We have excellent legal and casework teams at the SRC who can help not only University of Sydney undergraduate students, but our Office-Bearers too. While we all only have 1-year terms, the SRC legal and casework staff are very qualified and have been advising on many issues which align with SRC campaigns for years. If you're interested in running a campaign which covers education policy or welfare (housing, sexual harassment, student safety on campus, drugs and alcohol, mental health, University or government policy, etc.) our caseworkers have a wealth of knowledge about these topics and are happy to help. Similarly, if your campaign or action is related to legal matters or has legal implications, the SRC Legal Service can help with that too. Our Publications staff can also assist with designing online and/or print media for your campaign. Just remember to **book an appointment** with the legal, casework or publications staff if you'd like to chat with them.

II) Ensure you give enough time for staff to help with your project

Remember to plan events carefully and be aware of the workload demands that your requests may place on SRC staff (particularly publications and administration staff). If you are organising an event or campaign in advance, please ensure you give enough time to plan it. Tasks such as room bookings, poster design and printing can't always be done immediately upon request. As a basic guide, aim to get in touch with staff at least 2-3 working days before your event (obviously, giving more time for more onerous tasks; the earlier, the better). Julia (Secretary to Council) has circulated an email regarding venue bookings that provide important guidelines for Office-Bearers - please read it carefully.

III) Familiarise yourself with SRC bureaucracy

You will be required to fill in forms (available only at the SRC) for some day-to-day activities - notably, printing and being reimbursed for anything that has been approved by the Executive. If you are planning an event or campaign that will be funded from your department's budget, please send a funding approval request (including the amount, justification, and which department's budget the money will be coming from) before spending to secretary.council@src.usyd.edu.au. The Executive can approve a reimbursement request after the money has been spent, but applying for funding beforehand gives certainty that the person who spent the money will be reimbursed and speeds up the reimbursement process once the receipts are submitted. As always, feel free to get

in touch with us, Kyol or the administration staff if you are unsure how to go about navigating SRC bureaucracy for your project.

If you're visiting the SRC for the first time, please introduce yourself to a staff member at the front office before proceeding to student workspaces. Any student who arrives for an appointment with casework or legal staff usually has to check in and wait for the caseworker or lawyer to come and meet them at the front when they're ready, before going to their appointment. If the administration staff do not know you are there for other purposes (i.e. as an Office-Bearer or collective member) they may think you are a student going straight to the appointment and pull you up. The staff are friendly and always interested in meeting the new Office-Bearer teams each year so introducing yourself is also good for familiarising yourself with other people who work there.

IV) Clean up after yourself

Unwashed dishes are also an issue at the SRC. Take responsibility for whatever you borrow from the kitchen (such as glasses, cutlery or plates) and ensure that you clean them upon return. Don't assume someone else will do it - that's not how the SRC works.

Last but not least, being polite and respectful in your interactions with SRC staff can go a long way to ensuring staff and Office-Bearers can work together in a productive and supportive environment.

Office-Bearer Spending (Until May 28 2015)

REPRESENTATION	87th Budget	YTD 28.05.15
President/Executive/Council		
Shared Resource pool	\$3,000.00	
Expenses – Executive Officers	\$6,000.00	\$1,119.07
Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	

Subtotal	\$11,000.00	
Indigenous Students Department	\$8,000.00	\$2,045.82
Education Department	\$15,000.00	\$4,490.73
Environment Department	\$9,700.00	\$1,968.20
Ethnic Affairs Department	\$6,544.00	\$636.78
Global Solidarity Department	\$750.00	\$199.50
Overseas Students Department	\$900.00	\$78.00
Queer Department	\$6,875.00	\$2,548.88
Welfare Department	\$3,650.00	\$33.34
Women's Department	\$3,990.00	\$1,637.70
Social Justice	\$-	\$355.00
Mature Age	\$-	
Intercampus	\$1,200.00	\$27.60
Sexual Harassment	\$500.00	
Student Housing	\$100.00	\$97.50
Interfaith	\$2,000.00	\$384.24
Disabilities	\$2,000.00	

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

Moved: David Shakes

Seconded: Luciano Carment

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the were circulated.

1. Motion 1: Amendments to section 1.5 of the regulations, the SRC grievance policy and section 7.3 of the regulations.

Issues with point 4 of the change to policy – there might be an issue with giving the whole committee access to be involved in a student’s issue- too many cooks spoil the broth situation, as well as issues around confidentiality, it should go to someone who deputises the president.

Kyol will check with the WHS officer if this is appropriate.

Motion to amend section 1.5 was found to be in line with the constitution and accepted without dissent.

2. Motion 2

Amendments to part 4 of the regulations: there were no issues with motion 2

3. Motion 3

Amendments to part 5 of the regulations: there were no issues with motion 3.

4. Motion 4

Amendments to part 9 of the regulations: There were no issues around these changes. The changes proposed to the role of the general secretary have been in effect for several years unofficially.

5. Motion 5

amendments to Part 10 of the regulations:

section 1: there was discussion around the rearrangement of the standing order of council and it was determined that there was no issue with the movement of faculty societies.

Section 6: the amended regulations ruled as unclear - concerns about the ability around removing councillor.

Section 9: progressive speaking list should be defined more clearly.

Section 20: Discussion as to whether or not section 20 protects council from the concerns of section 6. Resolution that section 6 should still improve in clarity and it’s important to define explicitly on removing members from council.

Section 10 1 q- ask to amendments

Section 25: When it refers to another point in (d) and (e) in section 25 needs to updated to part 10.25 instead of 10.24 for clarity.

6. Motion 6

Amendments to part 11 of the regulations: there two minor issues with motion 6.

Section 2: should be fifteen (15) working days rather than twenty one (21) days.

Section 4: there is no need for an (a)

7. Motion 7

Amendments to part 12 of the regulations: there were no issues with motion 7

8. Motion 8

Amendments to part 13 of the regulations: there were no issues with motion 8

Riki Scanlan: What was the concern with motion 1: the SRC policy point 5? And was it resolved?

Kyol Blakeney: after a discussion with the WHS officer we agreed that saying the Vice President(s) and General Secretary(ies) would be a better, as it keeps the information to a smaller group preventing issues of confidentiality. Would that be amenable?

Riki Scanlan: Yeah

there was a proposal that the SRC Complaints Resolution Policy point 5 in the proposed regulations changes in motion 1 be amended to the Vice President(s) and the General Secretary(ies) instead of the executive, this was amenable to the mover.

Riki Scanlan: Question over motion 5. What was the issue of clarity?

Kyol Blakeney: the issues was over the way in which councillors could be removed in section 6 but the committee also found that section 20 mostly relieved those concerns.

Riki Scanlan: So we can just leave it?

Kyol Blakeney: It's up to council

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

Motion: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Chiara Angeloni

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of Women's Officers

The Women's Officers tabled a written report

Hi Councillors,

I'll speak to these points in Council myself to save you the trouble of reading a 500-word report like last time (sorry). Here's a brief summary of what we've been up to –

1. Stop Killing Women Vigil – held at UTS last Tuesday. Banner making beforehand. Great turn out, high profile speakers. Co-ordinated by SWOS.

2. Wom*n's Honi – great collaborative effort. Wom*n's & Indigenous Honi joint launch held last Wednesday. Great turnout, great speakers – thanks everyone for coming!
3. Stop Taxing My Period Campaign – yay Joe Hockey! Boo Tony Abbott!! Wom*n's Collective human tampons in Canberra on Thursday.
4. SUPRA/USU/SRC Cross Organisation Meet-up – discussed the idea of getting non cis male voices more recognised at other bureaucratic levels of USYD e.g. SCC.
5. Sexual Harassment Campaign – survey results collated, information for website sent off.
6. Nepal Fundraiser – didn't make much money, but collected a lot of things to send in boxes.

That's about all I can think of for now! Things are slowing down a bit with exams coming up but keen to start planning our vision for the next semester as soon as the holidays hit!

Subeta

Philippa Specker: I'm going to phrase this as a question, are you away that [Subeta] your petition to end the tampon tax has just reached over 100,000 signatures?

council clapping

Subeta Vimalarajah: yes I am aware

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

Motion: Philippa Secker

Seconded: Chiara Angeloni

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Education officers:

Table a written report:

1. Ongoing Campaigns

a. NDA

NUS has called an NDA for the 19th of August, which will fall on the 3rd week of semester 2. This will be built more rigorously than the last one for the budget, as we have more planning time and are working hard to get more intercampus meetings organized during EdCon.

As I'm submitting this report before our weekly EAG I don't have concrete plans past flyering, lecture bashing and postering to promote the rally rn. I was also thinking we could use badges again this year and we're getting more large banners professionally printed so they have more longevity surrounding the topic of Fee Deregulation. We need to keep pressure up surrounding Fee Dereg as it seems that

EdCon will be a great place to share ideas on how to do this seeing as Fee Dereg is a national campaign.

We hope to see more council members and OBs at our EAGs though we understand it's a really difficult time in semester because of exams and the like, but expect the campaign to be stronger next semester because the NDA is early in semester.

b. Intl. Students on Campus Campaign

Action: we're keen on starting to organize a campaign in defence of international students on campus (e.g. racism) in collaboration with ACAR, Muslim's Wom*n's Collective, and International Student's Collective, with an aim to lay groundwork for the broader campaign against the deregulation of international students, and we're planning to involve them more in the upcoming NDA.

2. Upcoming Events

a. EdCon

EdCon will be held from 6-10th of this month at UNSW this year, which is great because *should* mean that more Office Bearers and activists from USYD should be able to come. We have an extensive list of people whose registration costs the Education Department is covering, and are hoping to receive more that we will try hard to pay before but we may have to reimburse in retrospect after the conference.

Please email education.officers@src.usyd.edu.au if you wish to be reimbursed for EdCon Expenses.

3. New Campaigns

a. Management's "Restructuring" Plans

Plans to centralize and radically restructure a wide range of services around the University have just been made public via an article in SMH centred around an interview with Spence. These proposals have been presented as a positive change to rid the Uni of "Old White Men" but most likely will be rigorous downsizing changes including widespread redundancies and restructuring without staff input. Training and development options have been ignored in preference of a top down approach, and multiple-contract positions preferenced over secure long-term employment.

The NTEU fully expects these cuts to come from ICT, all libraries, finance units, Student Admin Services and HR.

Blythe Worthy: There is an NDA coming up on the 19th August. It will be held at 1pm and will be walking to UTS, and also possibly to Town Hall, what we are doing at the moment is organising a lecture bash timetable, we are also getting videos together and lots of little stunts. There will also be international students campaign rolled into the NDA.

NUS Education conference (EdCon) is coming up and is a good place to skill share and meet others involved in the education movement. if you want to go we can cover the registration costs, but if you don't give us more than a weeks notice (till close of registration) we can only refund you in retrospect.

We are looking at 50 general staff who are facing redundancies not everyone had been told and there is a whole bunch of areas, so far it seems to be less than the previous cuts in 2012 but there is still a lot of impact and there is a feeling of high anxiety which is making getting work done difficult. So there is looking to be a bunch of solidarity actions planned to draw attention to these changes.

At the NSW EAG many people were talking about the challenge of getting students to rallies so we are hoping to pick things up a little by breaking them up with smaller stunts and action in the lead up to the NDA.

Motion that the report of the Education Officers be accepted.

Moved: Philippa Specker

Seconded: Subeta Vimalarajah

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Changes to regulations 1.5, 2.6 (c), 7.3 (a) and SRC policy Grievance Policy

Preamble

This motion dissolves the current grievance process and committee and replaces it with a different model. It involves amendments to the regulations and SRC Policy.

To simply describe the current process:

1. Complainant approaches Grievance Committee
2. Grievance Committee hears complaint and makes recommendations

However, there are four main problems:

- Confidentiality
 - Since a number of complaints deal with highly sensitive material, it is inappropriate that other uni students involved in the SRC and elected off the back of election campaigns are privy to this information, for the simple reason that these committee members are peers
- competency

- The Grievance Committee is not sufficiently trained or well-equipped to deal with complex, sensitive issues. Furthermore, its composition changes year-to-year and it therefore lacks even institutional knowledge about how to conduct effective processes: each year it must reinvent the wheel, relying on committee members who are non-experts
- conflicts of interest
 - It is possible for grievances to intersect messily with student politics, that causes, at minimum, an apprehension of bias in the Grievance Committee, if not an actual and undeclared conflict of interest
- clarity
 - It is unclear as to the appropriateness of the process for differing issues. It also fails to cover all that it needs to cover and distinguish between different kinds of complaints based on something as simple as who is making the complaint and who the complaint is made about.

As a result, a new *complaint resolution procedure* has been developed over the past few months in conjunction between Melissa de Silva (caseworker and WHS Officer), Kyol, the Standing Legal Committee, Cameron Caccamo, and Riki Scanlan. It faced multiple drafting and revision stages. As Council will recall, a similar motion was to be moved in the April meeting but was withdrawn as a result of further concerns.

The key pages that describe the *complaint resolution procedure* are found at the end: namely, the amended version of SRC Policy. On page #, you will find a table and several principles outlined below it. The table has two axes: “complaint made by” and “complaint made about”. As you can see, the various cells of the table define different persons or processes that a person may approach if they wish to make a complaint. This solves the problem of clarity: the table pinpoints the most appropriate person or process to approach in the event of a complaint.

You will also find that the complaints will typically directed at uncontroversial bodies: the Department Manager, University processes, the SRC’s WHS Officer, and the President. There are also a number of cases that are outside the SRC’s remit: we do not have the authority to arbitrate over such matters. The *complaint resolution procedure* is intended to resolve issues directly relating to the SRC.

The process, simply put, is as follows:

1. The complainant makes a complaint to the relevant person, guided by the table
2. That person assesses whether the issue is something that the SRC can be involved in resolving

3. If so, then that person assesses the issue and makes a decision to resolve the complaint
4. Appeal to an external mediator may be granted if warranted.

Other problems that I outlined earlier are resolved by this process. The persons that complaints may be made to are competent and it is obviously within their job descriptions. Excepting the President, they generally remain around for extended periods of time. In the case of the President, the fact that it is a full-time job offers sufficient training; additionally, there must be recourse to another person beyond, say, the Department Manager should the complaint concern the Manager and there is no option more suitable than the President.

You will also find in both the amended policy and regulations [Part 1.5(d).] rigorous procedures for dealing with conflicts of interest. Lastly, exposure of sensitive issues to other students has been minimised by this new procedure.

Motions

- That Council accepts the amendments to the Regulations outlined in the attached document
- That Council accepts the amendment to SRC Policy outlined in the attached document

Regulation Changes

The Regulations sets out the role and function of the Grievance committee in three places: Parts 1.5, 2.6(c), 7.3(a). See below for the current and amended versions.

Part 1.5

Current

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Any complaint against an Officer of the Council shall be made in writing to the Chair of the Grievance Committee, who shall provide the Officer concerned with a copy of the complaint and shall give one week's notice of the Grievance Committee meeting at which the matter shall be raised for discussion. If the matter cannot be resolved by the Grievance Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee shall invoke the following procedure for dismissal of the Officer:

(a) notice of motion to dismiss the Officer shall be given in writing not less than 10 days before a meeting of the Council; (b) such motion shall state clearly the reason for which the mover considers that the officer should be dismissed;

(c) the motion shall be included in the Motions on Notice section of the Agenda for the meeting of the Council.

Amended

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

(a) A full description of the Complaint Resolution Procedure shall be set out in the SRC Policy document.

(b) The SRC shall ensure that fair and due process is afforded to all parties.

(c) The SRC shall ensure that complaints are treated with confidentiality.

(d) Any fees associated with an external mediator shall be paid by the SRC.

(e) Any person involved in a complaint shall not be involved in its resolution.

(i) Involvement in a complaint's resolution refers to arbitration, mediation, recommendations, or similar acts.

(ii) Involvement in a complaint refers to the person(s) making the complaint and the person(s) the complaint is made about.

(f) Any person with a conflict of interest or where there is an apprehension of bias may not be involved in the resolution of a complaint.

Part 2.6(c)

Current

Officers shall be required to attend all meetings of their Department. Non-attendance of three consecutive Department meetings without apology shall be grounds for complaint to the Grievance Committee, in accordance with Regulations Part One s.5.

Amended

Officers shall be required to attend all meetings of their Department. If an Officer fails to attend, without apology, two consecutive Department meetings or three Department meetings overall, there shall be grounds for complaint under the Complaint Resolution Procedure, in accordance with Part 1.5 of these Regulations.

Part 7.3(a)

Current

The Grievance Committee, which shall deal with complaints against Officers of the Council in accordance with procedures established by policy of the Council. The Grievance Committee shall consist of the President and four (4) Representatives. The Grievance Committee shall elect a Chair from among the members of the Committee.

Amended

[deletion of this clause; subsequent renumbering of the clauses in 7.3 as appropriate]

Riki Scanlan: this motion has been in the works for quite a long time and there are a lot of changes. It has been worked in conjunction with a number of people including the caseworkers, and the president. The WHS officer at the SRC has given it a look over, it is pretty clear and you have read most of it before. In my opinion this policy solves many of the problems outlined the preamble.

Ivana Radix: if there is a president who is problematic what is the process?

Riki Scanlan: This has been address by point 5.

Ivana Radix: what does it mean by external mediator.

Riki: An external is someone who has no involvement with the organization.

Kyol Blakeney: usually an external moderator is decided by consensus of the two parties involved.

David Shakes: This is a really important motion and we need to look after each other. The policy we have in place is not substantial lets get rid of it.

Motion: That Council accepts the amendments to the Regulations outlined in the attached document

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

Q2. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 4 be accepted on bloc*

Riki Scanlan: it's banal and that's about all

Motion: That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 4 be accepted on bloc

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q3. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 5 be accepted on bloc*

Riki Scanlan: I reiterate my previous comments

Motion: That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 5 be accepted on bloc

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q4. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 9 be accepted on bloc*

Riki Scanlan: I reiterate my previous comments

Motion: That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 9 be accepted on bloc

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q5. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 10 be accepted on bloc*

Held over for a clarification of the definition of “progressive speaking list”.

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q6. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 11 be accepted on bloc*

Riki Scanlan: they are just for clarity and not controversial

Motion: That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 11 be accepted on bloc

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q7. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 12 be accepted on bloc*

Riki Scanlan: again this one is about referenda, again about clarifying and banal changes

Motion: That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 12 be accepted on bloc

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q8. That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 13 be accepted on bloc

Riki Scanlan: I reiterate my previous comments

Motion: That the Amendments to the Regulations Part 12 be accepted on bloc

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*A copy of the content of this motion can be found at the end of this document.

Q9. Palestine Honi

Preamble

1. The report of Professor Richard Falk, former Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, to the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, tabled on the 13th of January, 2014, finds evident “the denial by Israel of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people ... [t]hrough prolonged occupation, with practices and policies which appear to constitute apartheid and segregation, ongoing expansion of settlements, and continual construction of the wall arguably amounting to de facto annexation of parts of the occupied Palestinian territory”.
2. Moreover, the 2013 *Annual Report* of B’Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, finds the policies of successive Israeli governments “indicate a [proprietary] view towards the [West Bank]; conduct on the ground indicates that they view Area C as Israeli territory, large parts of which should remain under Israeli control in any future agreement, if not everything. Accordingly, these governments have employed a variety of means to tighten their grip on the area, including exploiting West Bank resources, expanding settlements and expelling Palestinians from Area C”.
3. It has been sixty-seven years since the Nakba (‘Catastrophe’) of 1948, in which more than a third of the indigenous population of Palestine had been made refugees. This has led to the creation largest extant refugee population in the world today.
4. The occupied Palestinian territories remain under military occupation. In 2004, the International Court of Justice, issued an advisory opinion reading: “The territories situated between the Green Line ... and the former eastern boundary of Palestine under the Mandate were occupied by Israel in 1967 during the armed conflict between Israel and Jordan. Under customary international law, these were therefore occupied territories in which Israel had the status of occupying Power. Subsequent events in these territories ... have done nothing to alter this situation. All these territories (including East Jerusalem) remain occupied territories and Israel has continued to have the status of occupying Power.” Subsequently, this opinion was endorsed 150 votes to 6, with 11 abstentions, in *UNGA Resolution ES-10/15* of 2 August 2004.

5. The same advisory opinion declared the apartheid separation wall to be illegal under international law. However, construction on the wall continues uninterrupted. The wall does not serve as a barrier between Israel and the occupied West Bank, but rather sits within the West Bank and crisscrosses through the countryside, often cutting Palestinians off from their farmlands and orchards, thus denying them access to the source of their sustenance and livelihoods. According to a B'Tselem report, “eighty-five percent of the barrier is built inside the West Bank”, eroding the ability of Palestinians “to make profitable use of their land” and represents an infringement on “right to freedom of movement—and hence also the right to work, education, medical care, a family life, a livelihood and a normal quality of life”.
6. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (*Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*) states “[i]ndividual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the Occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive” and “[t]he Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”. *UNGA Resolution 68/81* of 16 December 2013 has “[reaffirmed] that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967”.
7. Nonetheless, Israel continues to use deportation as a punitive measure. *Deportation of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories and the Mass Deportation of December 1992*, a report issued by B'Tselem in December 1993, states: “In the second half of the twentieth century, Israel is the only democracy which alongside dictatorships and totalitarian regimes employs the practice of deportation of residents as a punitive measure.” Moreover, the Israeli settlements in the West Bank are direct violation of the Convention in that they involves the transfer of the Israeli civilian population into the occupied West Bank.
8. The ‘crime of apartheid’ is defined by Article 7 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as: “inhumane acts ... committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime”. *Occupation, Colonialism, Apartheid?: A Re-assessment of Israel’s Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories under International Law*, a 2009 study conducted by the Human Sciences Council of South Africa (a statutory body in South Africa), finds that “Israel’s regime over the Palestinian people amounts to apartheid precisely because it displays many of the main features of the crime as defined by international law”.
9. *Locked In: The Humanitarian Impact of Two Years of Blockade on the Gaza Strip*, a 2009 report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory (UN OCHA), finds that only 5-10 percent of the water extracted from Gaza’s aquifer meets the WHO safety standards; that is, 90-95% of water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption. Humanitarian aid is severely restricted. Gaza requires about 340 tons of flour daily to feed its population, but in November 2007, the Israeli government restricted supply of flour to just 90 tons per day. Dov Weisglass, a senior Israeli governmental aide, joked: “It’s like an appointment with a dietician. The Palestinians will get a lot thinner but won’t die.”

10. In the West Bank, a matrix of control is imposed by a combination of infrastructure, bureaucracy, and force. Data from *Acting the Landlord: Israel's Policy in Area C, the West Bank*, a 2013 B'Tselem report, coupled with B'Tselem's official statistics indicate that the apartheid separation wall is more than twice as high as the Berlin Wall, and will be, when completed, more than four times as long. In addition, coupled with the system of Israeli-only highways with more than 500 internal checkpoints, the West Bank is fractured into nearly 170 enclaves, with movement between them severely restricted.
11. *The Humanitarian Impact of the Barrier*, a 2013 UN OCHA report finds: "The Barrier's total length (constructed and projected) is approximately 708 km, more than twice the length of the 1949 Armistice ('Green') Line, which separates Israel from the occupied West Bank. [...] When completed, some 85% of the route will run inside the West Bank, rather than along the Green Line, isolating some 9.4% of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem." The OCHA report continues, "The agricultural livelihoods of approximately 150 communities have been severely undermined due to the permit and gate regime, which restrict their access to farmland behind the Barrier. The majority of permit applications are regularly rejected on grounds that the farmer failed to prove his 'connection to the land' to the satisfaction of the Israeli authorities. The limited opening of the 'agricultural gates' has forced permit-holders to stop cultivation or to shift from labour-intensive to rain-fed and low-value crops."
12. Restriction of movement has huge implications for Palestinians living in the West Bank. It has far-reaching consequences for healthcare and education. For example, as detailed in a 2013 study, *Unfree in Palestine: Registration, Documentation and Movement Restriction*, between 2000 and 2005, 67 Palestinian mothers were forced to give birth at checkpoints, with 36 babies dying as a result. Between 2000 and 2003, 94 people died at checkpoints waiting to get to hospital, and more than 83 people died because they were denied emergency care. The checkpoints also mean that on any given day, according to UNICEF, "one third of all school-aged children are struggling to the classroom through checkpoints, earth mounds, bars and trenches." During 2002 and 2003, each day an average of 10 per cent of UN-employed teachers couldn't reach their classrooms. By 2003, the Israeli army had closed over 1200 schools. Between September 2000 and June 2004, 298 schools were shelled and 282 were destroyed. 43 were taken for use as military bases. 132 students were killed on their way to school, and another 2,500 were injured by the Israeli army on their way to and from school.
12. Even though Ramallah receives more annual rainfall than London, there is a water shortage in the West Bank. This is documented by Amnesty International in a 2009 report, *Troubled Waters – Palestinians Denied Fair Access To Water*: 80% of all groundwater in the West Bank is extracted for use by Israel, leaving Palestinians in the West Bank with less water than recommended by World Health Organization guidelines. No new Palestinian wells have been approved since 1967, and in 2011, the Israeli army exacerbated the problem by demolishing 21 wells and 34 rainwater cisterns. All the while, 15,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished since peace talks began in 1993, while 53,000 Israeli settler homes have been built.
13. The Palestinian people are the indigenous people of historic Palestine. However, Palestinian refugees are not allowed to return to their homeland, while the 1950 Israeli Law of Return entitles all Jews, even those with no connection to the land, to enter Israel and gain immediate citizenship.
14. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement was initiated by Palestinian civil society and trade unions. The *Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS*, issued in 2005, reads: "We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all

over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace. These non-violent punitive measure should be maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognise the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law by: (1) ending its occupation and colonisation of all Arab lands and dismantling the wall, (2) recognising the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and, (3) respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194."

15. The *Call* was initiated by 171 Palestinian civil society organisations, including NGOs, trade unions, professional associations, religious groups, human rights organizations, refugee networks, youth, and cultural organisations – this encompasses a majority of Palestinian civil society organisations, and all Palestinian trade unions. This support has been reaffirmed by the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions. Moreover, as of May 2011, 21 Australian trade unions have committed full or partial support for BDS. In 2009, the UK Trade Union Congress voted to boycott all goods produced in illegal settlements in Israel.
16. A growing number of Israeli Jews support the BDS Call, including renowned historian and Haifa University professor Ilan Pappé, anthropologist Uri Davis, political scientist Marcelo Svirsky, and anthropologist Jeff Halper. Boycott from Within, an Israeli group founded in 2008, state on their website: "We endorse the Palestinian call as is. We stand against all forms of racism and oppression and support and encourage BDS actions as a legitimate political activity and a necessary means of non-violent resistance. We will act inside and outside Israel to promote awareness and support of BDS."
17. Operation Protective Edge, the most recent Israeli military operation in Gaza, was widely criticised by human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, which found that "Israeli forces committed war crimes and human rights violations during a 50-day military offensive in the Gaza Strip that killed over 1,500 civilians, including 539 children, wounded thousands more civilians, and caused massive civilian displacement and destruction of property and vital services." Moreover, according to the initial assessment report issued by UN OCHA, "over 11,100 Palestinians, including 3,374 children, 2,088 women and 410 elderly were injured. [...] 1,000 of the children injured will have a permanent disability and up to 1,500 orphaned children will need sustained support from the child protection and welfare sectors." In addition, as a result of psychological trauma, "an estimated 373,000 children will require specialized psychosocial support".
18. Israeli human rights NGO B'Tselem found three main factors in Israel's brutal military operation that led to such a high civilian casualty rate: "Broad definition of what constitutes a 'military objective' that may be targeted", "flexible interpretation of the concept of lawful 'collateral damage'", and "warning absent or ineffective". B'Tselem wrote that " Hamas is not – and cannot be – responsible for the extreme damage that Israel caused civilians in Gaza. Holding Hamas responsible for Israel's actions is tantamount to freeing Israel of any restrictions in its response, no matter how horrendous, to violations of the law by Hamas. This position is unjustifiable, either morally or legally: the responsibility for the harsh consequences of Israel's policy in the last month lies with Israel's government and top military commanders who authorized it, despite the foreseeable horrific results."

19. Israel has violated international humanitarian law in the past with the use of white phosphorus munitions, collective punishment, and excessive force. As Amnesty International writes, Israel is “blind to violations, deaf to obligations”.

Action

In light of the above, the University of Sydney Students’ Representative Council shall,

1. Welcome and celebrate *United Nations General Assembly resolution A/68/12* of 26 November, 2013, which proclaimed 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
2. Condemn the grave violations of international law committed by Israel, which constitute apartheid and ethnic cleansing, and the continued expansionist agenda of the Israeli government, which have inevitably led to the failure of multiple peace negotiations.
3. Endorse, unreservedly, the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.
4. Support, unreservedly, the struggle of the Palestinian people in achieving liberation, including the right of return for all Palestinian refugees as stipulated by *UN Resolution 194*.
5. Reaffirm its opposition to imperialism and colonialism.
6. Decry all racial prejudice, including anti-Semitism.
7. Express regret for not having taken appropriate steps to observe the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2014.
8. Direct the publication of a special one-time ‘Palestine Edition’ of *Honi Soit* to be released during the second semester of 2015, at a date to be determined in consultation with the Publications Manager and the Editors of *Honi Soit*.
9. Direct the aforementioned ‘Palestine Edition’ of *Honi Soit* to be overseen by an open collective of Palestinian and anti-occupation Jewish students (to be assembled by Students for Justice in Palestine) together with the Editors of *Honi Soit*, and produced by such a collective in collaboration with the Autonomous Collective Against Racism.

Kyol Blakeney rules that action point 8. And 9. Are out of order as they are not inline with the regulations. He proposed they be withdrawn and brought back to council as a regulation change.

Lamisse Hamouda: ok cool great, we would really like to put forward a motion to put out an issue of *Honi Soit* for Palestine: I will direct your attention to the motions preamble.

We are open to a variety of views and offer a platform for all issues to be raised and to draw attention

to the complexities of the issues. We would encourage people from all the different perspective to engage respectfully in the complexities of the discourse.

Ridah Hassan: I think the University of Sydney SRC has taken a really progressive stance on the issues of genocide, persecution and oppression of the Palestinian people in the past. We reject the claim that supporting Palestine is anti-Semitic, and I think that the reason we should be taking a stand against claims that this is anti-Semitism as what is rampant is islamophobia. Muslim and Arab refugees are left to rot at sea. This is a bipartisan issue - both major parties are pro Israel and both have been part of bombing in the Middle East creating many of these problems those refugees are not fleeing from. Students have always been at the forefront of these issues and that is why I ask that we support this motion.

Madison Mclvor: I suppose what I'm about to say can be construed by council however they wish. I say that we should build discourse and discourage labels on these issues and I think we are able to have an open and honest conversation around this complex issues.

In the year of an Honi publication it's very late to be changing the schedule, it's also a very tricky to fill an Honi with only one issue, and I know it can be challenging with Indigenous Honi we did not focus on one issue and it was too hard to get varied, or enough content to fill the whole edition. We are also paying Honi for the number of publication an year and it is calculated by what we can afford;

I think that what I took from the issue was that calling Palestine the greatest humanitarian crisis of our age and the defining issue, detracts from many of the humanitarian issues facing the world. It is too broad sweeping. I think that understanding is a challenge as we don't really understand what people are going through, and I am worried that this doesn't take into account the complexities of the situation. With regard to point 7 of the motion I don't think this is actually unfair to the SRC, were steps taken last year but those who wanted to highlight the issue. I was aware global solidarity took actions on this in 2014.

With regards to the use of apartheid: I am of course careful about phrasing this, I think we should look at apartheid and perhaps here it has been conflated with issues not just of skin colour but religion and the political. I think we should really discuss this as it is a big decision to label something apartheid though I I'm not an expert so am not comfortable expressing an opinion either way.

Eleanor Morley: Quick clarification: do you think that is it's not apartheid?

Madison Mclvor: From what I understand be apartheid it seems perhaps if could be conflating issues of what happened in South Africa, which was a skin colour, this seems to have broader ethno-cultural issues. Does that answer this?

Kyol Blakeney moved from the chair that speaking time would be limited to 3 minutes/

Adam Kaye: I just wanted to mainly address the issue of the publication, it really shocks me that even

putting forward this idea, it really shocks me at this university we are told to open our minds to many ideas and this seems to go against that.

The fact that Israel is not an apartheid state and BDS, BDS is an anti-Semitic policy. It is about boycotting Jewish businesses it's that same as what happened before WWII, this is that same thing. This goes against everything the university stands for I'm shocked that this is even being discussed. Israel is one of the most humanitarian states and this obsession with fixating on Israelis a way of delegitimizing it as a state and I'm just not willing to accept that.

Paul Harrison: Point of clarification, did we only remove the action points to do with Honi Soit?

Kyol Blakeney: yes

April Holcombe: I would like to support the use of the term apartheid and I want to highlight that it does not dismiss the experiences of South Africans many of who fought against it there such as in support of this as well such Desmond Tutu. There are many groups include Jews against apartheid who use recognize this and point out the illegalities of the occupied territories. There are issues around there are separate schools for Muslim and Jewish students. The Muslim schools are defaced regularly. The occupied territories are recognized by every state but Israel as being illegal settlements.

The Israeli minister for justice said of mothers of resistance fighters that they give birth to little snakes and that the mothers should also be killed. The president of Israel said that Palestine will never exist.

Philippa Specker: Point of clarification are we still discussing the Honi aspect even though it's been struck?

Kyol Blakeney: There is only one change that is that 7 and 8 are regulations changes they will be brought to the next council as regulation changes. What is being put forward is not the publication but all the other action points.

Philippa Specker: it's broadly about the Council's stance on Palestine.

Hila Tsor: Advancing the cause of justice and peace there is a great amount of debate shouldn't be censored and looking for a final solution. Also the motion states it is Anti-Zionist, and, in my opinion, the only responsible way would be to have a joint issue, to have a wide range of views and while no one will like everything I think it's fair to say that both sides deserve a chance to get their voices across, Honi would appreciate having both sides of the story.

Vinil Kumar: it is important to recognize that the majority of the debate on Palestine is already one sided and that it is mostly in favor of Israel and the university is also a place that is one sided and that Israel's crimes are covered up and that students are persecuted for showing support for Palestine and standing against racism.

Elenore Levi: A few things in the short time that I have. Tonight I am here in my position as AUJS vice chairperson, our membership is based on Jewish students, we are a pluralist organization we are not associated with any particular group, we all uphold the principle of respect and fairness. I would like to refute what has just been said. As a student, this has been one-sided argument from my experience involved in student politics here, and my experiences as a Jewish student. It [Honi] would be ignoring the narrative of the Jewish people who have been persecuted for 3000 years from all different countries around the world and it is about a narrative for seeing self-determination. Please do note we did reach out to Fahad he didn't get back to us.

Philippa Specker: I think it's just as Ridah as already mentioned, we have had a position and that has been clearly stated a number of times, when we put forward our position it is one side and we stand on it. To vote on this issue down on ideological grounds would be inconsistent with past motions' stances.

Lamisse Hamouda: It was really great hearing everyone's perspective on this issue it is a polarising issue that is grounded in issues of race, religion, and identity. I have been to Palestine, I lived there for almost 3 months. It is not until you see it you really understand what it is going on in Israel / Palestine. Without that lived experience we cannot understand what it is like. It is a very intimidating experience to live in their world. While I respect the right of Israel as a state and I'm not in favour of destroying Israel, but we do need to acknowledge that it was built on pain, like Australia. This is for all students to express on how they feel on these issues regardless of their perspective.

Elenore Levi: clarification: firstly thank you for respecting the right of the state of Israel to exist – doesn't it state that there is a collective of Palestinian students that are supposed to have control over these issues?

Lamisse Hamouda: Since the Honi subject has been removed we will go back and look into that.

Adam Kaye: Given the current investigation isn't it inappropriate that many of the students involved in that investigation be moving the motion. As far as I understand they were under investigation for racial discrimination.

Riki Scanlan: First I'd like to commend April's defence of the use of the word 'apartheid' in describing Israel. Clarification on BDS, it is a campaign of solidarity with the people of Palestine and has no view of the existence of the state of Israel; just it's treatment of Palestine. I don't feel that a joint edition is appropriate, as it puts forward the idea that there is an equal situation both in power and in portrayal by the media. Also I want to make a final comment with regards to the Lynch investigation: Professor Lynch has been cleared of any wrong doing and any students involved have not been informed, but racial discrimination was never on the investigation.

Luciano Carment: about the wording of action point 2 "Condemn the grave violations of international law committed by Israel, which constitute apartheid and ethnic cleansing, and the continued expansionist agenda of the Israeli government, which have inevitably led to the failure of multiple peace negotiations." I'd like to amend that we say the Israeli government both times, for clarity and continuity.

Lamisse Hamouda: that is amenable.

Elenore Levi: I'd just like to thank Lamisse for being approachable and reasonable when we contacted Fahad he was not cooperative to the idea of open dialogue, we accept and respect the stories of the people of Palestine and hope that this is extended to the Jewish people and the suffering they have suffered including in the last century. Many who are a part of AJUS are people who believe in a two state solution. I have been to Israel and experienced the fear of having 60 seconds to get to a bomb shelter, there are also those who live in fear in Ashkelon and Ashdod who only have 15 seconds to find a bomb shelter when Hamas bombs them. The issue is there are two sides having banter about suffering, we accept that suffering of the Palestinian people at the hand of many peoples and, we ask that we are offered the same respect.

Ridah: The question of taking sides keeps coming up. Hopefully in the people do pick a side and unapologetically. We live in a world where people are oppressed and I take the side of the Palestinians who are oppressed.

Paul Harrison: are we voting on bloc?

Oliver Plunkett: procedural motion to vote on each action point separately

Seconded Paul Harrison

Procedural was put and **CARRIED**

action point 1 onwards insert refer to paper copy

1. Welcome and celebrate *United Nations General Assembly resolution A/68/12* of 26 November, 2013, which proclaimed 2014 as the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
the motion was put and **CARRIED**
2. Condemn the grave violations of international law committed by Israeli government, which constitute apartheid and ethnic cleansing, and the continued expansionist agenda of the Israeli government, which have inevitably led to the failure of multiple peace negotiations.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**
Abstentions Paul Harrison
3. Endorse, unreservedly, the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**
Abstentions noted Paul Harrison and Arin Harman
4. Support, unreservedly, the struggle of the Palestinian people in achieving liberation, including the right of return for all Palestinian refugees as stipulated by *UN Resolution 194*.
CARRIED
5. Reaffirm its opposition to imperialism and colonialism.
CARRIED
6. Decry all racial prejudice, including anti-Semitism.
CARRIED
7. Express regret for not having taken appropriate steps to observe the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 2014.
CARRIED
Abstentions Laura Webster, Georgia Mantle, Madison McIvor
8. Direct the publication of a special one-time 'Palestine Edition' of Honi Soit to be released during the second semester of 2015, at a date to be determined in consultation with the Publications Manager and the Editors of Honi Soit.
Struck as out of order- to be put to council as regulations changes at a future meeting
9. Direct the aforementioned 'Palestine Edition' of Honi Soit to be overseen by an open collective of Palestinian and anti-occupation Jewish students (to be assembled by Students for Justice in Palestine)

together with the Editors of Honi Soit, and produced by such a collective in collaboration with the Autonomous Collective Against Racism.

Struck as out of order- to be put to council as regulations changes at a future meeting

Moved: Lamisse Hamouda

Seconded: Ridah Hassan

Q10. Motion: The struggle (against dereg) continues

Preamble:

Last year a national student campaign of mass protests defeated Pyne's attempts to introduce university fee deregulation twice. The Sydney University SRC, in cooperation with the National Union of Students, mobilised thousands of students in angry street demonstrations, as well as creative stunts that garnered media attention and contributed to a wider campaign against Abbott's budget cuts. This year we face another budget with the same savage attacks on social services, the same assault on unionism in the form of the royal commission, and the same attempt to deregulate universities.

Unfortunately the campaign against fee deregulation has not been prioritised by the SRC and its OBs this year. With only around 6 months until the legislation to deregulate fees is due to go to parliament, it's vital that the SRC makes a dramatic shift to rebuild the momentum around this issue that was lost in the first half of this year. The National Union of Students has called the next national day of action for the 19th of August. The SRC should devote significant resources and every department of the SRC should be mobilised to build for this rally.

Platform:

-The SRC condemns the Abbott Government for its attacks on students, workers, pensioners, the unemployed and the poor in the 2015 Federal budget, including:

- \$6 billion in cuts to family payments and the freeze on the Family Tax benefit

- \$4.5 billion in cuts to healthcare in the benefits schedule & pharmaceutical benefits scheme

- the \$80 billion in cuts (over a 10 year period) to hospitals and education
- \$645 million in cuts to affordable housing & homeless programs
- \$1 billion in cuts to what the Australian Council of Social Services described as “vital community services” (including \$500 million from Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander services)
- One month ‘waiting period’ before under 25s can access Newstart or Youth Allowance
- University fee deregulation

Action:

- The SRC will print 1,000 posters and 2,000 leaflets (pending design) for the NDA with the expectation that more printing resources will be allocated
- All OBs will promote the rally to their respective collectives, email lists, Facebook pages, etc.
- A full page of Honi Soit will be devoted to advertising the NDA from now until the issue immediately before August 19
- The SRC will engage with broader campaigns against the attacks on social services, healthcare and welfare from the 2015 budget.

Chloe Rafferty: Fee deregulation is back on the agenda for the budget. We need to revive that campaign. There are some massive attacks on staff, and it could be even much bigger attacks than what we saw in 2012. I think it's important to see the clear connection between the 'Melbourne model' and where students have less choice and are forced into postgraduate degrees because the undergraduate degrees mean nothing.

Kim murphy: It's something that will be in the budget and needs to be fought, as the worst thing to happen right now would be for the campaign to die down and for this to get through. Also the restructure is a clear neoliberal attack and the government would like taking more money from students pocket and create overworked staff, making student stay at university longer and making the money off and Ivy League sort of thing, and I think we should show full support to the staff.

Blythe Worthy: that the SRC can always did last year and it's stuff that David and I are learning to do, and we can do better but we are only two people not a whole faction. [Rally fatigue] is something that is happening nationwide, as a result people are getting complicit.

Ridah Hassan: the argument about rally fatigue if you is absurd, history will tell you that this isn't true anti-Vietnam/ gay rights and women's liberation were always fighting and rallies are how things get changed. This week has been a really good week, there was a strong EAG and I think that the upcoming planned actions are

evidence that things are getting better and we are getting to get stuff done. Obviously there are really terrible things happening but we are in a good position to fight our own fight.

David Shakes: I agree with everything that Ridah just said. I don't really agree that the SRC hasn't done anything on it since my time as education Officer fee-deregulation has put to the senate twice and I suspect it to happen again. Pleased to see some of the EAG people get involved in the broader movement.

Angelica Fernandez: I think we can acknowledge that momentum has diminished but I think we need to step up and see the links between the staff cuts and fee deregulation. I think it's important to emphasise this to students. To staff and students.

Laura Webster: The money for posters and all that would that be coming out of the education budget?

Kyol Blakeney: I would think so.

Subeta Vimalarajah: there are many ways to protest as there is so much happening and we are looking into everything. I think it's unfair; we are all working as hard as we can, and we have to represent the collectives and their best interests.

Riki Scanlan: while rallies are a particularly important part of the movement and I respect that, the reality is they are not as large as those that were successful. When we are looking at numbers under 1000, while 1000 might seem like a great number it is important to note that these are still really small numbers and if we want to engage students we need to build number for people involved.

David Shakes: I would like to acknowledge all the unpaid office bearers who have been involved, and very often don't get any thanks for the work they contribute.

Eleanor Morley: Salt is for a variety of actions. We need to get over this obsession of I do what I want to do. And the best part for that has been the rallies and other actions, but the rallies are what people have gotten involved. And we need to look at building more people into the campaign that might not get involved

Riki Scanlan: I'll eat my hat if you get the numbers

Eleanor Morley: we got them last year

Ridah Hassan: We have a number of different ideas, like a trillion things that came out of this week, I think we should do as much as we can to engage in this. There has not been 100 people at a read ins, or a lock-ons but I'm still for them.

Chloe Rafferty: I just think the most important thing to come out of this motion is we have a rally going up and we have a bunch of creative actions to. It's fucking unacceptable for anyone in this room to say "I'll eat my

hat”, what are you doing to get people there then. And for a bit of history the first anti-Vietnam war protest started with 40 people at it.

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: Kimberly Murphy

the motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q11. Motion: Support for the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy

Preamble:

The Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy (RATE) has been taking a defiant stand in defence of Aboriginal land rights at the Block for over a year now. In that time the Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC), the mainstream media and the Redfern police have attempted to slander, intimidate and break up the protest occupation. Recently RATE has been give an official notice of the AHC’s intention to evict the embassy from Redfern.

In a meeting of activists and unionists at the embassy on the 23rd of May, RATE activists called on trade and student unions to provide financial, material and political support and solidarity with their struggle. The SRC confirms its support for the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy, and condemns the AHC, the NSW & Federal Government as well as Sydney University Management’s complicity in attacking Aboriginal land rights in Redfern.

Action:

- The SRC will provide \$2,000 for the RATE’s fighting fund (see account details below). Council empowers the SRC Executive to determine what budget this should come from, but it must be transferred within a fortnight from when this motion is passed
- The SRC will advertise all future demonstrations organised by the RATE and against community closures campaign on the SRC website, Facebook and in a full page spread in Honi Soit
- The SRC will call on students to assist the protest occupation in an ongoing way, and communicate updates when the embassy is on ‘red alert’ via the SRC Facebook page and email list

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: Kyol Blakeney

Chloe Rafferty: This motion is pretty basic, I went to a meeting the other week at the embassy and they have been handed eviction notice so they need political solidarity and solidarity on the ground. So its really important we hold solidarity to this motion to keep the occupation going for a long as possible, particularly as this is framed as student housing which is pretty appalling.

Kyol Blakeney: yes there was an eviction notice, yes police have been known to come and take stuff away I can say that there is no waste of money they get shut down it's back up again the next day.

Ridah Hassan: there is another rally on June 28th and I think its important if you can come it would be good, I don't this that students would be used as cover for stealing Aboriginal land.

Robby Magyar: it's really important and a really changing experience to go down there I recommend you do it. It will make you think.

Madison McIvor: that really lovely to see hear.

Laura Webster: with getting money, where is it coming from?

Eleanor Morley: It's just so the exec can find 2000 dollars

Kyol Blakeney: We can take from the discretionary budget or if any departments want to put in from their budgets.

Georgia Mantle: we did put aside a few hundred dollars from the Indigenous budget

Luciano Carment: we have some money put aside in the welfare budget for discretionary funding.

Christopher Donovan: what is the fighting fund?

Kyol Blakeney: Aunty Jenny runs the Redfern Aboriginal Tent Embassy and she will decide where the money goes. Wanting to know where the money goes or how it's spent is questionable as you are holding the money hostage

Christopher Donovan: that's not what I meant; I mean how do we give it to them.

Moved: Chloe Rafferty

Seconded: Kyol Blakeney

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q12. Motion: Enough is enough! Crossing the red line of collaboration.

April: procedural Motion to hold this over till the next meeting.

The procedural was put and carried.

Q13. Motion is support of Tom Raue

Preamble:

The University of Sydney Union Board of Directors has decided to pursue its former Vice-President, Tom Raue, for the \$50 000 balance of its legal fees. These are fees it should never have incurred with students' money, including the cost of retaining Senior and Junior Counsel to defend against a student's pro-bono legal team. This student's only crime was leaking information pertaining to University complicity in police brutality - information manifestly in the student interest.

Board Directors now manufacture vagueries to justify their actions: the words 'fiduciary duty', 'the Union's best interest', and 'Directors' duties' are bandied about with little explanation. We interpret these phrases differently. The Board must put students' interests first. This does not mean simply ensuring its financial bottom-line, or ceding its control to Chancellory minders. It means quite the opposite. The Union's fiduciary duty is to its members and this decision to pursue Tom, in full knowledge of his inability to pay, is only to deter progressive activists' whistleblowing in the future. This Union – our Union – should celebrate and encourage progressive, activist efforts: not stifle them.

Only thirteen people will decide Tom Raue's fate. All Board Directors of the USU must be held to account for the decisions they make in our name.

Actions:

1. The SRC unequivocally condemns the decision of the USU Board on May 29 to pursue Tom Raue for their legal expenses; and especially condemns their decision to deliberately hide and obscure their decision not to pursue him in Court, to attempt to coerce him to agree to an

out-of-court settlement.

2. The SRC demands all further decisions made by the USU Board pertaining to Tom Raue be made publicly, and actively encourage and facilitate broader student input.
3. The SRC resolves to work with Tom with legal, financial, and organisational resources if requested, subject to Executive approval.
4. The SRC endorses the Stand with Raue campaign.

Ridah Hassan: I obviously think its disgraceful the way Tom was treated and the collaboration with the Newtown police force with the university was in the students' interest to know this was happening.

Isabella Brooks: So is it possible to change? I'm under the impression that Tom is not a student anymore.

Kyol Blakeney: just with that financial matters are always up to the executive.

Paul Harrison: with the helping with financial and legal help? Is this paying his fees?

Kyol Blakeney: no we can't afford that.

Oliver Plunkett: while the executive does deal either these matters to make it clearer that council should be the ones who have the final say on approving any expenditure.

Kyol Blakeney: Everything always money wise has to go through council.

Eleanor Morley: Why are we fighting about this we should just on principal support this.

Robby Magyar: I'm not going to speak on the content of the motion. Sure the USU has done something I don't agree with I think the there need to be greater involvement to get a better union.

Luciano Carment: I would like to add that we commend the union board directors who voted against the pursuing Tom Raue for legal costs.

Philippa Specker: I think we need to show solidarity to show support for students who were not

supported by other so-called student organizations. I think it's important to show support. I think it's pretty appalling if we don't.

Eleanor Morley: motion to amend the action point that this SRC council recognized that the USU is a Useless Scab Union.

David Shakes and Blythe Worthy Abstained from the vote

Amendment failed

Moved: Daniel Ergas

Secunder: Max Hall

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

There were no items of general business

The meeting was declared closed at 9:17