



# Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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## **MINUTES:**

of the 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the 88<sup>th</sup> SRC held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Meeting held in the Professorial Board Room, Quadrangle.

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### **A. Meeting open at 6:30pm**

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

The Chair moved that Georgia Mantle be elected Deputy Chairperson.  
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **B. Acknowledgement of Country**

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

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

#### **Apologies were received from:**

Jamie Rusiti  
Pranadewi Amarindra  
Tom Baker  
Louisa Bochner  
Justine Landis-Hanley

#### **Proxies**

Tom Baker proxies to Alex Fitton  
Louisa Bochner proxies to Liam Carrigan  
Justine Landis-Hanley proxies to Cameron Caccamo

#### **Absences:**

Michael Sun  
Chris Warren  
Matthew Campbell

Alice Strauss  
Atia Rahim

**D. Changes to Membership**

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Monique Newberry resigns from the Executive  
Tiffany Alexander resigns to Sam Kwon  
Chloe Smith resigns to Jenna Schroder  
Atia Rahim resigns to Lorena White

Motion to accept the resignations.

Moved: Tiffany Alexander

Seconded: Dylan Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Minutes of the meeting of 88<sup>th</sup> SRC Council held on 88th SRC held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were circulated, as well as the Minuets for the October and November meetings of the 87<sup>th</sup> Councils.

Motion: that the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be accepted. And the Minutes of the 87<sup>th</sup> Council be noted.

Moved: Monique Newberry

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business for this item.

**H. Question Time of 15 minutes, which may be extended by resolution for a further 15 minutes.**

The secretary to council circulated documents with definitions explaining meeting procedure and the different types of motions and where they are applicable. Gave a brief description of what the document contained and outlined some of the types of motions in it and their use. Asked for any questions. Omar Hassan asked why there was not debate on procedural motions as it was undemocratic. The secretary to council responded that the nature of the motion does not allow for debate, and that these documents were taken form the explanation of formal meeting procedure from the Western Australia's government commerce department and the other an old document of the SRC put together many years ago.

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

Procedural motion to move to addenda item **R.5**

Moved: Michael Elliott

Seconded: Dylan Williams

The motion was Put and **CARRIED.**

Meeting moved to item agenda **R.5**

## **R.5 Condemnation of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate Dalton Fogarty**

### **Preamble:**

1. In December, the Senate voted in secret to abolish elected alumni representation on the University's highest decision-making body.
2. The alumni graduates comprise by far the largest membership of the University. By virtue of their time and money spent obtaining their degrees, they have vested and irrevocable interest in its future and reputation. Though current undergraduate students, we, and those we represent will soon be alumni ourselves.
3. The decision to disenfranchise the graduates of the University has been considered and resolved in secrecy and under spurious and unnecessary cloak of confidentiality not required in law and without consultation with the alumni graduate community.
4. Mr Fogarty has acted contrary to his fiduciary duties as a Senate Fellow which state Senate Fellows 'must carry out his or her functions: in good faith in the best interests of the University as a whole' and a Fellow must 'exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out his or her functions'.
5. Mr Fogarty failed to consult or consider the opinions of the alumni and the undergraduate community on the Senate restructure and on at least two other occasions in the past year (the University restructure and the appointment of Jill White to the USU Board of Directors) the Student Senate Fellow has failed in his duty to represent on the Senate the interests of the undergraduates of this University.
6. On all of these, and in other matters, the students of the university thought the SEC has a vital interest, but Mr Fogarty took absolutely no steps to approve himself of student feelings or interests. It is the embarrassing and regrettable but nevertheless necessary duty of the SRC to draw attention to the fact that Mr Fogarty has attended only one meeting of the SRC during his tenure despite the standing agenda item of 'Undergraduate Senate Fellow Report'.

### **Action:**

1. That the 2016 University of Sydney Undergraduate Student's Representative Council condemns the Current Undergraduate Fellow of Senate Dalton Fogarty for his lack of consultation with undergraduate students and his failure to carry out his functions in the best interests of the university as a whole.
2. That this motion be published on the University of Sydney SRC's Facebook and in Honi Soit (given the editors are amenable).
3. That the SRC President Chloe Smith write to all members of the University of Sydney Senate informing them of this motion.

Michael Elliott Spoke to his motion raising issues of concern around Dalton Fogarty's questionable election to the position of Undergraduate Fellow of Senate, the lack of transparency of the Senate regarding the restructure and his lack of attendance despite being an Ex-Officio member of the Council.

Georgia Mantle waved her speaking rights as seconder to the motion.

Cameron Caccamo responded to the motion saying he had recently spoken to Dalton Fogarty with regards to SRC meeting and that Dalton Fogarty had given him some things to say on his behalf for the meeting with regards to the restructure and that the last time Dalton Fogarty has attended an SRC meeting he had been attacked for the duration of his report. Cameron Caccamo stated that Dalton had voted to remove those positions rather than lose the student representative positions.

Liam Carrigan addressed the claim raised by Cameron Caccamo on behalf of Dalton Fogarty that Dalton Fogarty has been attacked refuting that saying he was grilled about his position on issues affecting the undergraduate student body. Liam Carrigan also characterised Dalton Fogarty's behaviour as a joke with regards to student representation.

A procedural motion to move straight to a vote was moved by Ridah Hassan.

Seconded: Michael Elliott

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**Moved:** Michael Elliott

**Seconded:** Georgia Mantle

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

As the undergraduate fellow of senate was not present Cameron Caccamo asked to pass on the report of the undergraduate fellow of senate he had been given.

A procedural motion to hold over the report of the undergraduate fellow of senate until the next meeting.

Moved: Ridah Hassan

Seconded: Michael Elliott

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

Cameron Caccamo spoke on behalf of Undergraduate Fellow of Senate Dalton Fogarty.

The statement proved by Dalton Fogarty is recorded below.

### **On the question of the Senate Restructure:**

From 2011 there's been a general shift amongst NSW uni's in terms of what is seen as 'good governance'. Compare Usyd's 22 with Macquarie's 16, UTS' 18 and UNSW's 15, ANU's 15 etc. As is now on public record 16 members to 3 voted for a 15-person Senate. This was done after a yearlong careful review, and consultation with the Alumni Council.

The simple fact is that Senate at 22 people was not as effective at giving a voice to those involved. As Students we benefit from the reduction in size, as 2/15 is a far better fraction than 2/22. Alumni input is also sought, as under the model there is a quota for a minimum amount of appointed members to be from Usyd's Alumni. The appointment process allows Senate, (not the VC), the ability to determine the skills it needs to govern the University. For example, no elected fellows currently have the specific financial expertise required to Chair the Finance and Audit committee, nor the Investment and Commercialisation Committee, nor the Building and Estates Committee. These are crucial to the operation of the University.

### **On why the staff-elected positions were reduced:**

Because unfortunately due to the requirement as per s 3(6) of the University Bodies governing Act ([http://sydney.edu.au/senate/documents/Acts/Act\\_2011.pdf](http://sydney.edu.au/senate/documents/Acts/Act_2011.pdf)) a majority of Senate members must be external. Given that we currently have 9 internal members (Chancellor, VC, Chair of Academic Board, five Staff, Undergrad student, Post Grad student), two had to go - the only other potential group to be shrunk was Students. I won't talk about the deliberations of Senate, but am of the strong view that two students on Senate are of the utmost importance to the integrity of Usyd's governance. Literally, if one were to be an objective observer, Students were just as vulnerable as Staff, but ended up with greater power.

It's generally accepted that boards shouldn't be run by internal members, due to it having a risk of being self-serving - all organisations (profit and non-profit) are recommended to have the majority of its members external

I mean looking through the politics it's only a few key things you need to have a view on to realise this was a good move:

- 1) Can 15 people in a 3 hour meeting make more and better decisions than 22 can?
  - If yes, then you'd be open for a restructure, the minimum model is 11, and we didn't go to that.
- 2) Would you remove Students (2) as opposed to staff (5?)
  - If yes, then what student, Postgrad or undergrad, or would you mesh it into a student position contested by both.
  - If no, then the reduction in two staff was necessary.

All in all we could have come out of this with no student positions - and instead we have two.

I would love more positions on senate if it actually meant we were effective, the maximum however is 22 and USyd's senate hasn't been known as being that productive.

### **On the December Meeting that has been called secret:**

Contrary to attempted deviations from the truth, the meeting held in December was rescheduled very early in 2015, with all parties being aware of it. Honi even had a reporter there. So if the questions are about it being 'secret' I would totally disagree. Members have the ability to 'phone in' so if all parties were able to make every and any part of the meeting if they so desired.

### **On working with the SRC:**

I'd like an open communication channel - so I'm quite open to discussing things. Of course - I mean I don't expect (USyd SRC members) to agree, I'd just want to foster some modicum of respect. I attempted this once last year and had my hand bitten off, so I'm trying it one last time. Otherwise I'll go back to just silently working. Unlike Patrick (Massarani, former Undergraduate Fellow of Senate) I actually reside on committees that are doing something for the University (Finance and Audit, and the Safety and Risk Committees). I'd like to think that even if the left hate me, they can at least respect that I'm doing a fair bit.

### **On degree restructure:**

I think that Pip (who is DVC Education) is trying her best to make sense of our current educational offering, but could benefit from further consultation with students in order to find a good way forward. It's about reducing complexity in order to offer something that students actually want. I'm not convinced of the new degree, but am not against a trial run to see if that's what students want.

Motion to accept the report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate failed to acquire a mover.

### **K. Elections**

- K1.** Election of 2 Disabilities Officers these positions may be split 50% must be held by a non-cis male(s).

Nominations were received from Georg Tamm and Linna Wei.

There being no other nominations from Georg Tamm and Linna Wei were declared elected unopposed.

- K2.** Election of 2 Inter Campus Committee members these positions may not be split.

**There were no nominations for the positions on Inter Campus Committee.**

- K3.** Election of 1 member of the General Executive (must be held by a non-cis male, and a representative of council) this position may not be split.

There was one nomination received from Isabella Brook, there being no other nominations Isabella Brook was declared elected unopposed.

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

#### **L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Alisha Aitkin Radburn raised the issues of the SRC bookshop's rent suggesting that Lachlan war had misrepresented himself in saying the bookshop paid peppercorn rent historically to the USU as a way of supporting a student union. She stated that the peppercorn rent was simply for the first year and that the rent has simply never been agreed on or paid since.

Lachlan Ward protested the suggestion stating that it reflected his understanding of the situation at the time, and that the view portrayed here was one that had been formed by the situation as explained but the USU's treasure Ed McMahon.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be accepted.

Moved: Sean Tingcombe

Seconded: Monique Newberry

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Report of the executive from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to the 2nd February 2016.

The report was circulated and noted.

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

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

Chloe Smith tabled a written report:

SSAF negotiations are going to begin shortly. The SRC was able to obtain an extension on when our SSAF proposal is due which has allowed us to better prepare our submissions and consult with departments. We have organised to meet up with representatives from SUPRA and the USU to discuss negotiations between the three student organisations and will provide an update to council once the process is complete.

We're currently in the early stages of preparation for O-Week. Myself and the General Secretaries are taking the lead on logistics such as stalls and bags and are coordinating with the USU. We will be getting in touch with individual departments over the next few weeks about their O-Week arrangements.

Myself and other student representatives have been meeting with various members and chairs of committees, including the chair of Academic Board, Tony Masters, and others. One of the biggest things we've been pushing for is improved student consultation and trying to improve the communication between university management, committees, and student representatives. In this, we've already had some level of success, including the inclusion of a student report during Academic Board meetings and regular student consultation meetings with the chair. I've also nominated representatives from the SRC Education and Welfare departments to meet with representatives from Disability Services and various faculties to discuss simple extensions and attempt to devise a definition/policy for them that satisfies the welfare needs of students as well as educational standards across different faculties. I'll report back to council when that process is finalised.

Myself, the Education Officers, and the President of SUPRA also met with the Vice-Chancellor and the DVC Education on Tuesday to discuss the restructure and clarify the affects it will have on staff and students. [More to come following the meeting]

Chloe Smith added to her report that while she said she would add more to the report after the meeting with the Vice Chancellor she felt the education Officers were better placed to cover that during their report.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Isabella Brook

Seconded: Sam Kwon

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Anna Hush-Egerton and Jamie Rusiti tabled a written report:

I've been away and out of action for the past few weeks, but since I returned I've been planning further action with Subeta Vimalarajah on our anonymous marking campaign. Also planning to focus on SSAF alongside the NUS-led campaign, as well as preparation for O week with the executive.

Subeta Vimalarajah read a statement on behalf of Anna Hush-Egerton.

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

Moved: Monique Newberry

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Georgia Mantle and Lachlan Ward tabled a written report

### **Publications**

We have put together the 2016 Orientation handbook and has been sent to printing, it is 40 pages printed in black and white with 3 coloured pages (the cover, the back and the acknowledgement of land page).

Articles included are similar to the years before: campus safety and security, financial assistance and budgeting tips, surviving academic life, renting tips and trick, health services, mental health, drugs, cheap and local food on and off campus, sexual health, information on the National Union of Students.

All SRC departments were contacted to submit articles to the handbook, the articles that were submitted featured in the second half of handbook.

The handbook is being printed with White Lion printing again this year 40 pp with the cover included in this page count, 4CP cover + black inside, on 130gsm silk - Size: 200 x 270mm. The quote we received was \$2308+ GST for 1500 copies which was approved of by the executive last month. This cost is a reduction of \$355 from last years amount of \$2663+ GST.

### **O-Week**



We have order 500 bags that have been sent to this printer and will be delivered to the SRC by the 12th of February. These will then need to be packed, they will include the orientation handbook, the counter course guide, a contraception pack, information from Rape and Domestic Violence Australia, a notebook and pen, the welfare zine made last year, and lollies.

The stall space we have acquired from the USU with the costs below is as follows:

6m x 3m Marquee including:

- 2 x 1.8m banquet tables
- 2 x Tablecloths to match
- 4 x bistro chairs
- 5amp power connection
- Delivery / Removal Levy
- Security Levy
- Stall Signage
- Weights

3m x 15m C&S Stall Structure including:

- 7 x 1.8m banquet tables
- 14 x bistro chairs
- 7 x tablecloths
- Back panels including legs and Corinthian panel hooks
- 7 x 5amp power connections
- Delivery / Removal Levy
- Security Levy
- Stall signage x 7
- Weights for the stalls

Total Cost to USU: \$3,500 + GST

Add 10% USU Fee: \$3,850 + GST

This year we were unable to put a smaller handbooks in the USU bags as we were informed that the bags are too small this year. Instead we have produced an A5 double-sided flyer with information of the SRC services and Collectives that will be put inside the access tent on a table for students to pick up.

The SRC caseworkers will also be present at O-week to talk to students and promote the SRC services.

## **SSAF**

There are two stages to the SRC acquiring and allocating its money for the year: negotiation of funding from the SSAF pool and our internal budget. SSAF money is pooled by the University and divided up amongst the student organisations and service providers- SRC, Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA), Student Support Services, The University of Sydney Union,

University Sport and Fitness and Cumberland Students Guild. The total this year is \$14m which is a \$500 000 thousand increase from last year. \$2m of this is set aside for the Capital Sinking Fund, this fund is divided up by application and negotiation later in the year to fund infrastructure and amenities for the student organisations. This year, the same as last year we and the other student organisations will be guaranteed funding equal to 92.5% of the amount we received last year (90% plus 2.5% for inflation).

We have completed the 2015 acquittal of spending for 2015 and this has been submitted to an auditor and the University. This document is used to demonstrate to the University that the 2015 SSAF allocation was spent on the things identified in the 2014 Funding Initiatives Application.

We have received an extension for the SSAF application to the 12th of February, this extension was needed as the University failed to provide us with figures and information until the week of the 29th (the original application deadline).

We are unable to begin the process of the SRC's internal budget until have a conformed allocation for the SSAF pool. Once we have this number confirmed we will be able to continue consulting with the collectives, office bearers and council on the internal allocation of our budget this year.

**2015 Budget and expenditure**

<b>REPRESENTATION</b>	<b>87th Budget</b>	<b>YTD 30.11.15</b>
<b>President/Executive/Council</b>		
Shared Resource pool	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,416.36
Expenses – Executive Officers	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,396.61
Legal Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 181.82
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,994.79</b>
<b>Indigenous Students Departmen</b>	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,804.07</b>
<b>Education Department</b>		
Funding	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,294.91
<b>Environment Department</b>		
	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 6,017.23
<b>Ethnic Affairs Department</b>		
ACAR		\$ 2,013.82
CRAC		\$ 1,662.50
	\$ 6,544.00	\$ 3,676.32
<b>Global Solidarity Department</b>		
	\$ 750.00	\$ 749.50
<b>Overseas Students Department</b>		
	\$ 900.00	\$ 200.73
<b>Queer Department</b>		
	\$ 6,875.00	\$ 6,289.62
<b>Welfare Department</b>		
	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 556.98
<b>Women's Department</b>		
Funding	\$ 3,990.00	\$ 3,491.42

**Expenditure 2016**

Executive	\$123
Education	\$1394
Social Justice	\$140

We are working on the OB Honi Reporting schedule and that will be sent to all office bearers next week.

It is important that all Officer Bearers are aware of the dates they need to report and are getting those reports in on time.

A Facebook group has been set up as a noticeboard for communication between 2016 OBs and Councilors. If you have not yet been added to the group please get in touch with us or a member of the Executive to add you. And a reminder that this group is an extension of our work space so it should be kept professional.

## **SRC BOOKSHOP**

The SRC Bookshop is a second-hand bookshop where students can purchase and sell textbooks for a good price. Our former five year lease, expired with the USU on January 29th this year, and thus we, as well as Chloe, are engaging in ongoing negotiations with the USU in order to ensure we can keep on providing this essential service for students.

A major issue that was raised by the USU was the amount of rent that the SRC pays for the bookshop. We determined any rent increase that the USU was asking for, would not be amenable to the SRC and worked on ways to be able to bypass this requirement. We negotiated for the ability of the USU to contribute to the modernisation of the Bookshop's offers and potentially allowing the USU to advertise in the bookshop. These negotiations are still undergoing and we will let you know once we know more information. At the moment, the USU has invoiced for \$1 for the period of January 4th - February 4th, thus indicating that the lease has been extended.

Sean Tingcombe inquired as to how much the bookshop was losing, as it was not directly address in the minutes.

Lachlan Ward gave the figures saying that the loss was \$40,000.

Alisha Aitkin Radburn asked what the SRC was intending to do it address the loss.

Lachlan Ward out lined the SRC plans mentioning the possibility of USU advertising, and online platform and was waiting for further information from the USU's treasurer Ed McMahon.

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

Moved: Monique Newberry

Seconded: Sam Kwon

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 2016 were circulated.

Cameron Caccamo spoke as Chair of Standing Legal Committee to the minutes. Cameron Caccamo mentioned that several of the motions on the agenda had been amended in line with the recommendations of the Standing Legal Committee. Expressed urgency with regards to the SRC's Policy Book and encouraged collectives to be actively involved in its development.

The Minutes of the standing legal committee are attached separately.

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

Motion: Ilya Klauzner

Seconded: Monique Newberry

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

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

Liam Carrigan and Dylan Griffiths tabled a written report.

December to February has been an exceptionally busy period for the Education Office – with some significant wins and trouble shooting that will place us in good stead for the rest of 2016.

#### **Campaigns**

##### **Simple Extensions**

It was pleasing to start the year with such a significant win. Simple extensions are an issue, which affect a great deal of students – exactly the sort of provisions our SRC should be protecting.

This was an ongoing fight that was mainly fought by the proceeding council. Kyol Blakeney, Thomas Greenwell and Christian Jones deserve kudos for their hard work lobbying and pushing the issue through various bodies.

It was a pleasure to develop a quick and effective campaign with Blythe and David. Liam wrote the text for the petition Blythe published, which received 500 signatures. Liam also helped Thomas to write a letter to the board Chloe read out with great style at the academic board on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The EAG attended the meeting in solidarity.

With some hard lobbying and the previously discussed tactics we were able to preserve simple extensions AND make them permissible in every faculty. SCORE for the 88<sup>th</sup> SRC!

But this is something that we need to make sure will be continually implemented. We have ben in touch with Tony Masters who has invited us to consultation committee to make sure this gets through.

##### **Start up Scholarships**

It was very concerning to see federal policy enacted to slash these scholarships by turning them into loans. Liam assisted with the painting of a banner for an action protesting the move outside Plibersek's office, which I chaired – good practice!

##### **NUS National Conference**

I attended the conference in my capacity as education officer and found it a really essential experience. Whilst I remain critical of NUS I now believe that it is our best hope at present of organizing nationally

around Higher Education – I contributed heavily to discussion of the education chapter for this reason. It will be an interesting year with the federal election and it's the responsibility of activists to ensure free education remains a consistent demand – I look forward to building the April 13<sup>th</sup> NDA with the state networks and national union.

### **Education Action Group**

We have had an EXCEPTIONALLY active EAG throughout the break, something to be celebrated – we met before national conference on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December following conference. These meetings were combined with counter course planning, something that worked very well. We also had a meeting during January on the 15<sup>th</sup> with the Welfare Action Group – another effective method of building the EAG. By the time of this meeting we will have also met on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. So, I'm pleased to say the EAG has met roughly once a fortnight – ensuring we keep activists on the same page and prepare for some pretty big campaigns this year.

We've had four meetings over the summer and will now move to having weekly EAGs.

### **Restructure**

Undoubtedly, the decision of the University to formally announce the restructure over the break was a particularly strategic play from them it is extremely hard to mount staff and student opposition outside of semester. However, I think we responded very speedily and are in the process of building a campaign against this very worrying agenda.

### *Statement*

Liam organized for every campus and national student union to come out in opposition to the restructure. NUS, SUPRA, the USU Board, the SRC are all on board with this being a particularly shit move from management. Such collaboration is really promising – we will need all hands on deck in 2016.

### *USUAF*

Alumni are firmly opposed to the reduction in senate fellows. It was particularly useful to hear the insight of such alumni and USU president Alisha should be congratulated for her hard work in collaborating with alumni to encourage the senate to reconsider such a reduction – the new model will greatly assist in implementing their agenda.

### *Faculty Specific Organising*

Dylan has met with the Education and Social Work Society and is in correspondence with SCASS. The aim of this project is to encourage and assist them self-organize and call meetings within their student body.

### *Rally*

The EAG decided a rally to protest the restructure would be an essential tactic to build and demonstrate student opposition – protesting faculty mergers and staff/course cuts. The rally has been called for Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 1PM, Carslaw Building – everyone better be there or be square! The current material we have made include: Rally posters, two different types of leaflets, and a Facebook page created by Vinil last night.

### **Forum**

One of the challenges for the Restructure is making sure students know what it is and why they have to fight it. That's why the Education Department is running a forum 'The Usyd restructure and why we need to fight it' at 1pm on 10/03/16.

### ***Info day and the Insipid campaign***

The first big event for the EAG in 2016, it was great to see activists out and about talking to students about the restructure – students in education were particularly shocked about the impending collapse of that faculty. We lecture bashed and made contacts with prospective students.

It was also great to finally deploy the insipid campaign – students responded well and it was a really fun approach to activism. Great stuff from David and Blythe! Eggs to the University and their minions for ripping them down so quickly! The Honi coverage was what really made the day a success. Dylan was asked to leave Campus due to the *Insipid* stunt.

### **Counter course**

Usually the major focus of the Education department during this period, the counter course was particularly draining this year due to the intense activity. Additionally, I think some changes need to be made to ensure the publication remains viable.

### **Survey**

We released the survey on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November and received a comparable amount of responses to last year. The survey was promoted through advertisements on the SRC page, Facebook groups, the SRC, Honi and USU pages and through sponsored EAG advertisements.

We must amend this process – the survey is meant to be made by the preceding Education officers and we should imitate the Monash strategy i.e. BBQs where students complete the survey in exchange for a sausage sizzle etc. We did not receive responses from Dentistry and Vet and this must be amended in the future.

### **Compiling the Handbook**

We had a very active working group this year, thumbs up to those legends! This meant the Education officers did not have to write the majority of the handbook (although we still wrote a GREAT DEAL).

Additionally, the non-academic articles were a great focus this year – something I believe was a great move considering the evolving purpose of counter course post enrolments shifting online.

We will have a considered dissemination plan for O-week to ensure the handbook gets out there – plus it will most likely be published online in order to reach students currently enrolling!

There was a push in the SRC executive to cut down the print number of the Counter Course Handbook. Although we have not received a cut to print this year we have been tasked to keep a record on how much we distribute during O week and throughout the year.

The Counter Course has been a huge effort and distraction from the restructure campaign. Dylan suggests assessing the Handbooks relevance for coming years especially when the summer calls for important organising on Education issue.

## Meetings

### **Hannah meeting and handover**

Following our election we met with Blythe and David to ensure a cohesive handover, which went quite successfully. Some tasks, such as flight reimbursements for NATCON were not properly explained so we will ensure the small details will not be lost during our handover. I'd like to personally thank Blythe and David for being great friends and mentors – pleasure to follow in your footsteps.

We also met with Hannah Smith, the outgoing National Education officer, to discuss the state of play nationally. Additionally, education officers met up to discuss and plan the year ahead.

### *NUS National Education officer and President Summit*

We met with Max Murphy to ensure a good working relationship in 2016. It was a very fruitful discussion – plus he joined us in doing an *INSIPID* stunt!

Liam attended the first day of Presidents' Summit as a board director and was present for the Education session – Liam was active in debating the NDA demands.

### *NSW Cross Campus Education Organizing*

Liam spent a large amount of energy attempting to rectify the situation left by the EAN split in order to create a united and effective state organizing model.

Both the EAN and NSW EAG met during the break and discussed re merging. Although this process was fraught I believe the outcome – the 'NSW Cross Campus Education Organizing' group, gives us a chance at a fresh start in 2016. The first meeting will be shortly, so join the FB page and get involved.

The NSW and NUS education officers will also be running a 'NSW activist training day' so put that in your diaries (when we have a date)!

### *Academic board*

At board the University presented its new undergraduate degree structure to the members – Liam Scrutinized the managements presentation– something they acknowledged was an issue.

### *Education and Social Work Society*

Dylan met with EdSoc to go through the results of their petition against the restructure. Dylan believes the petition is an indication of the strong potential to mobilise around the restructure. Dylan encouraged EdSoc to call an open meeting in week one between faculty students to put through demands to management, as the petition has been ignored. There is talk between EdSoc and the SRC Education Department to create an information flyer together with EdSoc taking the lead. Dylan will coordinate with EdSoc during o-week to get out information to Education and Social Work students.

### *Academics within Education and Social Work*

Dylan has met with a number of Education and Social Work staff to discuss the faculty closure. While all staff were against the closure many seemed unsure of the commitment they could add in the fight. One Lecturer expressed interest in helping at Rallies and Speak outs.



### *Supra*

Dylan met with up with the Supra Education Officers to discuss the best method to coordinate. There appeared to be some double up in workload, which will be resolved with regular meetings.

### **Focus points for the coming month**

It's always good to be self-reflective – here are some goals for the future.

### *NTEU*

We will be looking to meet with and develop a close relationship with the NTEU, Dylan has met informally with Michael Thompson and branch Committee members a few times but we are yet to have a proper sit down with the NTEU. This is a priority

### *Media strategy*

We failed to fully capitalise on the press coverage of the restructure – We're developing a media list to ensure various outlets pick up our releases!

### Building for March 16 rally

Eyes on SCA and university organs like the academic board and senate.

### Weekly EAGs

Liam Carrigan spoke to his report, and Dylan Griffiths amended the location of the rally, originally written as meeting at Fisher Library to meeting at Carslaw Building. They added special thanks to Riki Scanlan, Michael Reese and Cameron Caccamo for their help in completing the Counter Course Handbook. They also thanked Subeta Vimalarajah, Siobhan Ryan and Vinil Kumar for their hard work on the campaign so far.

Liam Carrigan added he felt it was a pity that free education was not properly addressed at the National Union of Students' Presidents summit. Liam discussed the meeting with Michael Spence mentioning that as well as the elected student representatives who were in attendance including the Education Officers, the SRC President, the Presidents of SUPRA and the USU, 5 other students attended. He thanks these students naming, April Holcome, Vinil Kumar, Chloe Rafferty, Eleanor Morley and Isabella Brook. He then spoke about the meeting mentioning that Spence neither confirmed or denied any plans for the restructure, emphasizing that the Education Officers will be fighting the restructure.

Kim Murphy praised the education officers for their good work so far and encouraged other councillors and students to get involved in the campaign against the restructure highlighting it as an important campaign.

Vinil Kumar agreed with Kim Murphy and the Education Officers report and encouraged everyone to share the page at the meeting.

Liam Carrigan agreed and asked people to contribute memes.

Omar Hassan inquired about the NTEU protest and if an action should be planned for the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Dylan Griffiths stated that organising people to come along was a first priority.

Liam Carrigan clarified that the NTEU protest was directly related to the removal of senate seats.

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

Motion: Georgia Mantle

Seconded: Isabella Brook

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

The Women's officer provided written reports for council.

Anna Hush-Egerton:

Over the summer break, we have been working on Growing Strong, the annual Wom\*n's Handbook, which will be distributed at O Week. O Week is a crucial recruitment time for collectives - we have been creating merchandise and collating information about the collective to distribute from our stalls, as well as planning a film screening that will be held during O week.

I (Anna) have also been busy organising fEMPOWER, the feminist education workshops for high schools that were a major project for WoCo last year. After a successful crowd funding campaign, we are branching out into private schools, and have had a large number of requests for workshops at schools in Sydney, as well as regional and interstate schools.

I also met with other women's officers from universities around NSW: we discussed potential for collaboration on the NUS SSAF and Hunting Ground campaigns, as well as the formation of an independent NSW wom\*n's students network.

NOWSA 2016 will be held at UTS - I have been involved in organising the logistics, along with Wom\*n's Officers from UTS, UNSW and NUS. USyd will be hosting the closing party, which I will be organising. I'm also attending planning meetings for the 'No Cuts to Healthcare' rally on 20 Feb and organising a contingent to attend from WoCo.

Vanessa Song:

Currently planning the Growing Strong launch with fellow office bearer Anna Hush, as well as coordinating with the welfare department in order to plan a counter campaign against the cuts the government is proposing to health care.

Growing strong is finished, with around 14 written submissions and 9 visual submissions. The editors have worked tirelessly to ensure that GS will be ready before its deadline.

Coordination efforts with the welfare department will hopefully begin in full swing after the next WAG meeting, where collective members have expressed an interest in being actively involved with the welfare department and attending meetings in order to represent WOCC and the disproportionate affect this will have on women of colour.

Currently liaising with Heidi La Paglia (The NUS National Women's Officer) and also involved in the organising collective for the 2016 NOWSA Conference, with intent on attending planning and coordination meetings, as well as the engaging in the discussion of joint campaigns, through which the NUS Women's department could offer assistance with planning and/or funding.

The first WOCC event for the semester is planned for the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, where a picnic mixer will allow collective members to meet one another and discuss the plans and outlook for 2016.

Motion: that the report of the Women's Officers be accepted.

Motion: Monique Newberry

Seconded: Isabella Brook

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **O4. Report of the Indigenous Officers**

##### **Invasion Day:**

In Sydney alone there were an amazing turn out for Invasion Day events. A number of Indigenous University student participated as well as students from the Students Support Aboriginal Communities Collective. I think it is great the amount of mainstream support protests against Australia Day are getting.

NUS Tasmania created another unofficial NUS Facebook page that uses NUS insignia; on the 26th the admins of this page shared a 'Happy Australia Day' image, which again had the NUS insignia. This post showed everything that is wrong with Australian nationalism, encouraging people to be proud and celebrate the history of Australia while ignoring the racism, murder and rape that has been occurring in Australia against Indigenous people since white colonisation. This Indigenous collective stands against Australia Day and against NUS Tasmania's post that ignores the struggles of our people.

##### **Gadigal Orientation:**

The Indigenous Office Bearers and a few other member of the Indigenous collective will be attending a lunch on the 12th of February to talk to incoming Indigenous students and let them know about the Collective and the SRC and how we can help them. This is really important as every year there is a number of Indigenous students that drop out before they complete their first year. We want to ensure that these students feel safe at University and have easy access to helpful resources.

##### **O-Week:**

The Indigenous Collective will be having a stall at O-week to promote the collective. We will also be giving out wristbands to Indigenous students. This stall will allow us to connect to Indigenous students and also provide them with information relevant to Indigenous students.

##### **Safe Sex Campaign:**

Family Planning have finally sent out 150 condom packs and well as some safe sex information products

that we can put in the Koori Centre. These products were free.

### **Cross- Collective Collaboration:**

One of the Indigenous Collective OB's has had a meeting with Wom\*ns, Queer and ACAR officers to discuss the collaboration of collective events throughout the year to encourage an intersectional approach to our collective organising.

### **University Cuts to Indigenous Units of Study:**

It came to my attention during the enrolment process that the University has cut more than half of the Indigenous studies units they are providing. Last year there were 11 units of study available in that department and this year there is only 4. There has been no information given as to why this has happened and why they have been reduced so dramatically. I will be attending a SEG ATISS meeting on the 22nd and will raise this as an agenda point then and demand answers.

### **Koori Centre name change:**

A member of the Indigenous Collective late last year contacted me and suggested a name change for the Koori Centre. The purpose of this is because Koori does not refer to all Indigenous people it only refer to Indigenous people from New South Wales. The collective member found this problematic. This is something that will be brought up to the wider collective at the first meeting of the year.

Liam Carrigan inquired as to weather an apology had been issued by NUS after a post by the Tasmanian branch.

Georgia Mantle said that is was no posted by an official Tasmanian NUS page, but has not heard anything yet.

Robby Magyar NUS National Welfare Officer said that there was going to be a national executive meeting soon and believed the issue would be discussed then.

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

Motion: Monique Newberry

Seconded: Ilya Klauzner

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

Michelle Picone gave a verbal report:

Michelle mentioned that she would be meeting with the other environment officers soon to talk to them and the rest of the collective about aims for the year. She listed some ideas for campaigned that she hope to take to the collective including the environmental benefits of a vegetarian diet, working with the USU, and looking into fundraising for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, mentioning working

with them in the past and wanting to help with their feral cat eradication campaign.

Lily Matchett gave a verbal report:

Lily opened her report by saying she was looking forward to the meeting with Michelle and that it was nice to meet her tonight at council. She spoke of actions the collective has been involved in over the holidays mentioning the trip to ASEN (Australian Student Environmental Network) noting that some members of the collective were elected to positions on the state and national executive. She spoke of the collective's preparations for O-Week and also a blockade planned to protect the sacred site belonging to the Gamilaraay people which is due to be destroyed. Lily Matchett also expressed interest in running workshops and training with other collectives to skill share and increase visibility of the collectives

Kim Murphy asked if the environment collective has shared the Education Department's page on the restructure yet

Lily Matchett said that they hadn't yet but planned to.

Liam Carrigan said that highlighting intersectional points between collectives this year was important and that there were also opportunities to work with the USU.

Alisha Aitkin-Radburn spoke about the USU's planning day stating she was disappointed how few people came from collectives when it was an opportunity to gain extra funding, she said she sent out a number of emails about the event and that any funding that the collectives wished to ask for must be in by Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

Liam Carrigan and Dylan Griffiths encouraged the environment collective to get involved with the EAG and the training day they have planned on nonviolent direct action.

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

Motion: Sam Kwon

Seconded: Cameron Caccamo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

**The Welfare Officers requested a report be added to the agenda.**

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

April Holcombe gave a verbal report:

April spoke to the departments campaigning against the health care cuts proposed by the federal government to promote the rally on February 20<sup>th</sup>, also mentioned that they had been in touch with the National Union of Students Welfare Officers Robby Magyar to get further help and support for this campaign. April also spoke about being in the meeting with Vice Chancellor Michael Spence stating that

while he gave them nothing to work with at the meeting it was clear that the welfare of staff and students was at risk. Summarising that they were the key campaigns for the moment but would like to look into penalty rates in the future.

Robby Magyar thanks Dylan Williams and April Holcombe for their engagement with NUS and encouraged others saying they were open to ideas.

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

Motion: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Lachlan Ward

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

There were no items of special business.

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

Procedural motion to move to R. motions without notice.

Moved April Holcombe

Seconded Dylan Williams

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

#### **Q1. Orientation Committee Reform**

This motion has been amended to reflect the recommendations of the Standing Legal Committee.

Preamble: This change is designed to ensure a more effective and active team that will assist the executive in preparation of O-week for the SRC.

Action:

Remove Regulation 1.7(a) "The Orientation Committee shall be elected at the special Council meeting of the Representatives-elect after the Annual Elections." And Replace with "The Orientation Committee shall be appointed by the Executive at the first Executive meeting of its term."

Remove Regulation 7.3(e) "The Orientation Committee, which is described in Part 1.6-A"

Insert Regulation 7.2(b) "The Orientation Committee shall be created as an AdHoc Committee"

Moved: Lachlan Ward

Seconded: Chloe Smith

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **Q2. Office Bearer Reform**

**This motion has been amended to reflect the recommendations of the Standing Legal Committee.**

Preamble:

This regulation change will add a new clause in regards to the appointment of Office Bearer positions. External commitments such as university and work, means that it is often very difficult for students to be able to perform their OB roles at the best of times, with particularly mention to unpaid positions. This reform is designed to prevent students from holding OB positions for the purposes of resume boosting, thus helping to ensure that greater outcomes for students can be delivered by the departments of the SRC. This regulation change also has the added benefit of allowing more students to be involved with the SRC.

Action:

Insert new clause 1.3(d)(ii) No individual may hold more than two office bearer positions per term of council. For the purposes of this regulation, if a student holds a joint position, that position will count as one office bearer position.

Lachlan Ward amended the motion to in line with the recommendations of the Standing Legal Committee making sure it specifies the it is a per term not outright cap on positions held.

Oliver Plunkett raised issues with the motion suggesting that is was no officer bearers being overworked that leads to them not getting things done but a lack of funding, using as an example someone holding two OB positions while still doing a good job in both as being prevented from doing that work.

Lachlan Ward noted his issues stating that it only stops people holding 3 or more positions not 2 positions and that department rarely use up their whole budgets.

Sean Tingcombe spoke against the motion concerned that current OB's may lose their positions after being elected to them.

Dylan Williams noted that it's not so much that there isn't enough money or that people have two many positions it's that there is to many positions to be filled and not enough people willing to fill them.

Justine Amin comment she felt that Lachlan Ward's characterisation was unfair to people who hold multiple positions and are doing a good job.

Procedural motion to move straight to a vote

Moved: Ridah Hassan

Seconded: Michael Elliott

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Moved: Lachlan Ward

Seconded: Chloe Smith

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **Q3. Changes to Electoral Regulations - Stickers**

Preamble: Instead of factions using stickers to bribe voters, the SRC should have stickers that can be collected after voting. Students should not have to disclose their vote by wearing a campaign sticker and students who have voted should not have to keep engaging with campaigners who do not believe them. These stickers also make things easier for all campaigners towards the end of the voting period and reduce campaign expenditure on stickers.

Insertion of (k), current (k-s) becomes (l-t)

(k) The SRC shall produce stickers for any election for students who have voted.

(i) The stickers shall be for students who have voted and shall be made available at all polling booths.

(ii) These stickers shall be in a form substantially determined by the Electoral Officer.

Moved: Subeta Vimalarajah

Seconded: Anna Hush

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

### **Q4. Create an Ad Hoc committee for the purposes of Electoral Reform**

#### **PREAMBLE**

In 2015, several past and present members of the SRC suggested sweeping changes to the SRC Regulations. All Sections, bar one, were reorganised and reformatted in a way that was easy to understand, and more aligned with the SRC as it stands today. The one section not amended in any way was Section Eight - Elections.

Suggested changes were never discussed, in part due to the proximity of the upcoming elections, and in part due to widespread disagreements over what changes, if any, should be made. Most of all, however, these changes were not done in consultation with enough members of the SRC, and the disagreement and confusion reflected this.

These motions will do two things; set in place a set SRC Policy document outlining an Ad Hoc Committee, the Electoral Reform Committee, that can be called upon at any time at the wishes of the Council, and declaring that such a committee will be immediately called upon for election at the following SRC Meeting, provided that the necessary notification time has been observed.

This Committee will only have the power to suggest changes to the Council, as is the case with all other Committees. The members shall be proportionally elected, allowing for diversity of voices. The Committee will also report to the Council for the duration of their time of deliberation.

#### **ACTION:**

1. That the Council accept the additions to the SRC Policy Document outlining the Ad Hoc Electoral Reform Committee, as attached



2. That the Council calls for the Electoral Reform Committee to be formed for a term beginning at the next SRC Meeting, and ending at the 2016 SRC Elections.

## SRC Policy

### The Electoral Reform Committee

#### 1. DUTIES

- a. The Committee will, when called upon by the Council, review the Electoral Regulations of the SRC, in consultation with students, Members of the SRC, and, where possible, the Returning Officer;
- b. These will be submitted to Council as suggested amendments;
- c. The Committee will take no longer than three (3) months to recommend changes to the Regulations, and will report to every Council Meeting for the time of their deliberation.

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP

- a. The Chair of the Committee will be the any Member of the Standing Legal Committee;
- b. There will be up to eight (8) General Members, to be proportionally elected by the Council at the meeting following the calling of this Committee, to allow for a notification period;
  - i. These General Members must also be currently sitting Representatives;
- c. The President, Vice-President, and General Secretary of the SRC, as well as any further members of the Standing Legal Committee, will be members' ex-officio of the Committee.

Cameron Caccamo spoke to his motion saying this give everyone a say in electoral changes

Omar Hassan spoke against the motion calling it needless bureaucracy and a waste of time.

Dylan Williams spoke against the motion suggesting that negotiations between factions are a better option.

Dmitry Palmer suggested that it would still not be representative and would still suffer from the tyranny of the majority and subject to the status quo. Also that it would be change for the sake of change.

Procedural vote to move straight to a vote.

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Michael Elliott

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Moved: Cameron Caccamo

Seconded: Lachlan Ward

The motion was put and **FAILED**

### **Q5. Motion to Amend 1.11. of the regulations**

Lapsing of Meetings be amended the following:

1.11(a): If quorum is not present thirty (30) minutes after the initial time for which the meeting is called, or if quorum is lost during the Meeting itself, the Secretary to Council will call for a vote by SRC Representatives or their proxies present to determine whether those present should continue to wait for quorum for a further thirty (30) minutes;

1.11(a)(i) This may be extended, by a vote of the Representatives or their proxies, a further thirty (30) minutes indefinitely.

Moved: Cameron Caccamo

Seconded: Lachlan Ward

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **Q6. Motion to Amend 10.3. of the regulations**

That 10.3 - Adjournment be amended to read:

10.3 - Adjournment, Quorum, and Lapsing of Meeting

10.3(a): All Council proceedings shall be adjourned automatically for fifteen minutes after every two and a half hours of meeting, after all discussion on the current Agenda item has been completed;

10.3(b): A quorum count must take place at the beginning of each Meeting, as well as at the recommencement of the Meeting after any adjournment; additionally, quorum counts may be asked for by any Representative during the business of a meeting;

10.3(c): If a quorum count shows that quorum is not present, then the Council will follow the process described in Regulation 1.11(a);

10.3(d): If a quorum count is called during any business of the Meeting and quorum is met, no further quorum counts can be called for thirty (30) minutes unless there is an adjournment in that time.

Cameron Caccamo spoke to the motion

Lachlan Ward removed himself as seconder

Monique Newberry seconded the motion

Monique Newberry spoke to the motion because there was so

Moved: Cameron Caccamo

Seconded: Lachlan Ward

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

#### **17. SRC condemnation of the inappropriate use of student funds and attempts by members to use the SRC as a vehicle for political attacks.**

Preamble: The University of Sydney Information Day on the 5th of January 2016, a day allocated to showcase the University to potential students, saw a number of members of the SRC engage in the act of posterizing the campus with a number of inherently political posters. These included the likes of a

poster of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull accompanied by the SRC logo and the words 'I will strive to cut your pay for work on weekends while investing in the Cayman Islands.' These images were also posted to the SRC's official Facebook page, accompanied in part by the following: 'this Info Day, your SRC is talking to students about something the university doesn't want you to know about- the effects of the recently announced faculty restructure on staff and students.' Despite the accompanying text claiming that the poster campaign was really about opposing a proposed University restructure and the 'Inspired' marketing campaign, there is a clear inconsistency, with the posters conveniently only targeting Liberal politicians. This is opposed to the numerous non-Liberal politicians and other influential members of society who have previously attended the University, none of whom were deemed appropriate for scrutiny. This represents an abuse of the SRC's right to use student funds to create and publish such posters, as well as a breach of the SRC's purpose of serving students in a productive manner, rather than being a machine for petty political point scoring and attacks.

Action: That the SRC condemns the blatant political point scoring exercise of the publishing posters and the misuse of student's money.

Moved: David Hogan

Seconded: Dimitry Palmer

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

## **Q.8 NUS Reports**

Preamble:

Every year, the SRC pays a significant amount of money for the purpose of sending delegates and observers to NUS' National Conference every year. These representatives have no further obligations to the SRC, or University students generally, after attending these Conferences. In return for the significant financial assistance the SRC gives to these representatives, it is not much to ask in return that reports of the conference be written for the benefit of activists and the SRC as a whole.

Actions:

- 1) That the Council directs all 2015 NUS Delegates to write a report, of no less than five hundred words, detailing their involvement in NUS' 2015 National Conference, as well as ways for the SRC to better collaborate with NUS in 2016;
- 2) That the Council directs all 2015 NUS Observers, as well as Media Observers, to write a report, of no less than two hundred words, detailing their involvement in NUS' 2015 National Conference, as well as ways for the SRC to better collaborate with NUS in 2016;
- 3) That the Council endorse, in-principle, that this policy be adopted on a permanent basis.

Moved: Cameron Caccamo

Seconded: Riki Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **Q.9 Policy update**

Preamble:

The Policy of the SRC is a shambles. In 2012 it was decided that the previous Policy book, spanning hundreds of pages and decades of student protests and positions held, would be wiped clean so that a more modern Policy book could be written for a modern SRC. However, next to nothing has been added in that time - as it stands, the Policy has a Grievance procedure and OH&S provisions and little else. This should change, with each Department and broad policy area having established positions on a range of issues. This means the SRC can have a position and then actually point to a policy that backs that up.

Actions:

- 1) That the Council direct office bearers, in collaboration with their collectives where possible, to write a basic outline of the policies of their Department;
- 2) That these policies be submitted in time for discussion at a meeting of Council within the first semester of 2016;
- 3) That the Council endorse, in-principle, that this be a convention for all office bearers on a permanent basis.

Moved: Cameron Caccamo

Seconded: Riki Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## R. General Business

### Motions without notice:

Procedural motion to move to agenda item R4.

Moved: Ridah Hassan

Seconded: Vinil Kumar

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### R.4 Student campaign to stop the restructure at Sydney University.

#### Preamble

1. In the last week of university in 2015, the chancellor Belinda Hutchinson sent an email to staff providing a general outline of the proposed restructure of the university. In addition to a reduction in the number of Senate Fellows from 22 to 15 to further facilitate these changes, the restructure contains two elements that will greatly affect students and staff:
  - a. First, replacing 3-year undergraduate degrees with “a 4-year double degree program in liberal studies” and greatly reducing the number of available courses from 122 to 20. This is the key attack the Education Action Group should organise around.
  - b. Second, major changes to the administrative structure of the university, including the merging of all but three schools into six faculties. These are: “Arts and Social Sciences (incorporating Education and Social Work and the Sydney College of the Arts); Business; Engineering and

Information Technologies; Science (bringing the existing Division of Natural Sciences into a single faculty); Health Sciences; and a faculty, yet to be named, which will include Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy”.

2. This strategic plan, developed over the course of 2015, is clearly a response to the failure of parliamentary reform of Higher education, in particular the defeat of the legislation for the deregulation of university fees being pushed by Christopher Pyne. With undergraduate fees still capped the university has a strong incentive to find other ways to reduce costs and maximise profits, and the restructure is specifically designed for those outcomes.
3. For example, the administrative changes provide an opportunity to weaken staff conditions and reduce wages via a “spill and fill” tactic already being employed in some sections of the university, whereby jobs are made redundant in a new structure only to be replaced by essentially identical jobs with a reduced salary. Apart from the self-evident injustice of this manoeuvre from the perspective of university workers, this will only further increase workloads and reduce the quality of education for students.
4. Similarly, the changes to the degree structure point to an adoption of the American model (of which Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence is a vocal proponent) like that imposed on Melbourne university in 2008, where undergraduate degrees become more generic and less useful as qualifications, while specialised and professional courses are moved further and further into post-graduate degrees which have no legal price limit. This is an obvious attempt to bring about deregulation through the back door.
5. The projected length of the restructure, from 2016 to 2020, shows that these are unlikely to be the sum total of the changes, and that the university hopes to evade resistance by students and staff through a gradual implementation. While all of the proposed changes are attacks, the changes to degrees will undeniably have the most negative economic consequences for students and should therefore be the central focus of the student campaign against the restructure.
6. VC Michael Spence has cynically attempted to give these attacks a progressive gloss by suggesting that “the university reflects Australian society and it still matters who you are rather than what you have to contribute, and in particular whether you are an old, white, male professor”, problems the restructure will purportedly address. Such a ridiculous assertion deserves only mockery, as the fundamental aim of the restructure is to turn Sydney University into the ivory tower of the elite and bar entry to all but the most wealthy.
7. The general context of these attacks on students and staff is the increasing neoliberalisation of the Australian economy, of which the attempted deregulation of higher education is a major component. Education is Australia’s largest services export, and fourth largest export overall. Yet despite raking in more than \$17.6 billion in export income in 2014, universities across the country are still crying poor and demanding changes that will allow them to minimise investments in less productive areas and focus on those that will bring in more profit. Sydney University is only one among many in this regard, but it is at the forefront of the struggle to establish reduced staff and increased student fees as the new norm. Other universities are following suit: the University of Western Australia, another of the Group of Eight, announced in December that they would slash 300 positions early this year, yet create 50 new academic positions to enhance the university’s “capability and impact in areas of comparative advantage”. A similar restructure has just been announced at the University of Melbourne.
8. The economic logic of these changes has no place for the needs of students or staff. Students are customers in the university’s business model, and like all successful businesses they aim to rip us off. This is why the SRC has a duty to vigorously resist all of these proposed changes, which are more than likely simply the beginning of similar campus-level attacks across the country.

9. Students have twice defeated the neoliberal restructuring of higher education as a result of the National Union of Students' successful "Abbott & Pyne: Hands Off Our Education" campaign, which the Sydney University SRC and the Education Action Group played a major part in. This campaign included numerous mobilisations of thousands of students in street demonstrations, stunts such as the disruption of Q&A and rally at Liberal Party headquarters, and a series of actions chasing prominent Liberal politicians off campuses. The campaign garnered a high degree of public support and regular media coverage, encouraging other organisations such as GetUp! to assist with the fight against fee deregulation. The template has been set for how students can fight attacks on higher education and student welfare.
10. The success of the campaign relied on the dedicated work of activists across the country, who spent countless hours leafleting students, making announcements in lectures, putting up posters on campus and in the city. Understanding that it takes time to convince the student body of the importance in taking protest action against the government is crucial in the fight for an equitable education system.

### **Platform**

1. The SRC unequivocally opposes the university's proposed restructure in all of its dimensions.
2. The SRC opposes measures that reduce the accessibility of tertiary education, and reaffirms its support for a free and fully funded Higher Education system.
3. The SRC condemns the Vice Chancellor's attempts to pass these attacks off as socially progressive.
4. The SRC recognises the critical importance of a protest campaign that mobilises students, like that against fee deregulation, as the only effective way to prevent these changes from being enforced.
5. The SRC stands in solidarity with the NTEU and university staff who will be directly affected by the restructure.
6. Campaigning against the restructure will be the priority for the entirety of the SRC in 2016.

### **Action**

1. The SRC will promote the March 16 rally against the restructure in all public avenues available to it, including email lists, social media pages, O-week stalls etc.
2. All Office-bearers, not only Education, will devote time and resources to promoting and contributing to the campaign by organising contingents for the rally on March 16 and liaising with the Education Action Group, as the restructure has direct implications for all students that the Office-bearers represent.
3. The Education Officers will produce at least one fact sheet outlining what the attacks will mean for students, to be distributed on EAG stalls and made available at the SRC office to collect and distribute.
4. The Education Officers will produce other advertising material for the rally, such as colour posters, leaflets, badges, balloons, banners etc., and make them available before O-week.
5. The Education Officers will organise a comprehensive advertising campaign via the EAG, including thunderclap, Facebook advertising, adverts in student newspapers, regular media releases and so on.

6. The Education Officers will liaise with Education Officers from other Sydney campuses via the Education Action Group to bring cross-campus awareness to the Sydney University restructure as the testing ground for a sector-wide attack.
7. The President and Education Officers will contact all organisations that the SRC has a working relationship with, such as GetUp!, the University of Sydney Union and the NTEU, to promote the rally.
8. The Education Officers will organise a public debate between the EAG and Michael Spence over the restructure.
9. The Education Action Group will continue to organise actions beyond March 16 including but not limited to stunts, rallies and occupations to fight the restructure.

Moved: Christopher Anderton

Seconded: Chloe Rafferty

Christopher Anderton spoke to the motion stating that the restructure will effect students financially and will prevent students from obtaining higher education except of the extremely wealthy and the SRC need to oppose this restructure and support the campaign to fight it.

Chloe Rafferty as seconder to the motion spoke about the importance of collectives and representation in the areas they can help mobilise around this issue. She highlighted the number of courses that are going to be cut are over 83. Also mentioning that there are so many people who are involved that should be working towards growing the movement against the restructure.

Procedural motion to move strait to a vote

Moved: Dimitry Palmer

Seconded: David Hogan

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Discussion continued

Liam Carrigan spoke to the motion expression excitement at the motion and discussion and also in support of the motion noting state education officer meet ups. Only one issue of concern with the motion was that it is hard to tackle, as we do not yet really know what the restructure will contain. Liam also noted that is needed to be decided weather the restructure should be fought issues by issues or as a whole, Stating that we should be focusing on raising awareness of the restructure to students and have a variety of demands on the university not just one.

Dylan Griffiths moved an amendment stating that while he agrees with the motion, on the information the SRC has received that many issues are far of in the future and the it was immediate issues that needed attention, adding that raising awareness on proposed cuts that have not been decided on and are not even proposed to take place for another two years was not where the focus should be, that is should be on imminent changes, such as faculty mergers. Dylan Griffiths also added that a number of

the actions of the motion were unachieved able for the Education Officers such as organising a public debate with Michael Spence.

Dylan Griffiths listed a number of amendments

changing the preamble to:

- a. The slashing of degrees offered from 122- 20, and the introduction of a new degree four year liberal studies degree. The Education Department will view this an attempt to undermine the existing three-year degree framework, moving to institute a vertical degree structure and that management will likely seek a change to a compulsory four year structure in the future.
- b. And removing action point 8.

The amendments were not amenable to the mover of the motion.

The motion was not amenable to the mover

Dylan Griffiths moved the amendments as a foreshadowing motion

Riki Scanlan seconded the motion.

Ridah Hassan spoke about how the restructure reflects the changes to Melbourne University, now known as the Melbourne Model. She went on to explain how such a model diminishes the value of an undergraduate degree requiring further postgraduate study. Ridah Hassan also raised concerns over the popularity of the American system with management, stating it would mean increased fees and decreased places and that the restructure was the first step towards such a system. Ridah Hassan concluded that this motion was important as it is about opposing these measure before it too late and we should oppose the restructure entirely.

Vinil Kumar spoke to the motion mentioning that no matter how you spin this it was going to mean monumental costs to students, he spoke about similar things that were tried at University of Technology Sydney and that this was an important fight for the education movement.

Kim Murphy agreed with the motion and Ridah Hassan's points and that the proposed amendments go soft on the university when the Education Officers need to go hard at all costs, regardless of how far away changes are.

Procedural motion to move straight to a vote

Moved: Sean Tingcombe

Seconded: Michael Elliott

The motion was Put and FAILED.

Discussion resumed



Riki Scanlan proposed an amendment to include: The SRC shall support the expansion of academic staff, including lecturers and tutors, as a key demand of the ongoing campaign. Furthermore, the SRC shall fight for the permanency of currently casual staff.

It was amenable and the amendment was adopted.

Christopher Anderton mover of the motions spoke to how important it was for everyone involved in activities on campus to get involved and spread the word.

Steven Kwon raised issues with the motion mentioning a rally held last year with very little attendance.

Chloe Rafferty Inquired if Steven Kwon was referring to the NTEU's rally, which was not about the restructure.

Steven Kwon stated he was unsure which rally that was, but that this motion was no in student's best interests as it should be focusing on clearer concrete demands as happened with the Staff cuts campaign and that we should be focusing on immediate dangers.

The Chair moved to cut the speaking list during the next speaker.

Seconded: Lachlan Ward

The motion was out and **CARRIED.**

Discussion continued

Dylan Griffiths argued the motion was unclear and inaccurate stating that the strategic plans and not been passed and talking about these issues as fact is wrong. He went on to say the faculty mergers are the subjects cuts will come from those mergers that this is where most of the cuts are going to happen and this is where attention needs to be at this time.

Omar Hassan argued that there are not a lot of Art student who are going to be affected by the faculty mergers but they are the one who come out and protest, that subject cut will affect them more and they will get people out in protest. He added that the mainstream media is talking about subject and course cuts and to ignore it is to spout the spin of the Vice Chancellor. Adding that the EAG agreed to this.

Dylan Griffith Disputed the idea that the EAG had agreed to this motion.

April Holcombe countered Dylan saying the EAG did and only Dylan didn't. Arguing that the first 2 things people should see on posters is; 4-year degrees, and course cuts. Adding that the debate had gone on long enough, asking can anyone here say what they have done for the movement?

Chloe Rafferty continued that we need to be doing real thing and that there should be people getting out and making connections to get people involved in the campaign. Sydney University is going to be a drastically different place if these changes get through.

Liam Carrigan argued that was wrong with the motion was that it was misleading and that it needed to be clearer for students to understand what is happening. While 4 year degrees and course cuts shouldn't be ignored that faculty mergers needed to be focused on at the moment.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1 minute

Moved: Justine Amin

Seconded: Isabella Brooke

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The speakers resumed

Eleanor Morley argued for the motion saying that Liam and Dylan were swallowing what was fed to them by the Vice Chancellor.

Ridah Hassan ended the debate saying that there were a million and one ways the university could force students into four year degrees and that it would become the status quo.

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

The meeting recessed at 9:35 for 15 minutes before returning to vote on the foreshadowing motion put forward by Dylan Griffiths and Riki Scanlan.

Council returned from the break at 9:50, the meeting was found to be quorate.

#### **R.4.1**

#### **Student campaign to stop the restructure at Sydney University.**

##### **Preamble**

11. In the last week of university in 2015, the chancellor Belinda Hutchinson sent an email to staff providing a general outline of the proposed restructure of the university. In addition to a reduction in the number of Senate Fellows from 22 to 15 to further facilitate these changes, the restructure contains two elements that will greatly affect students and staff:
  - a. The slashing of degrees offered from 122- 20, and the introduction of a new degree 4 year liberal studies degree. The Education Department will view this an

attempt to undermine the existing three-year degree framework, moving to institute a vertical degree structure and that management will likely seek a change to a compulsory four year structure in the future.

- b. Second, major changes to the administrative structure of the university, including the merging of all but three schools into six faculties. These are: “Arts and Social Sciences (incorporating Education and Social Work and the Sydney College of the Arts); Business; Engineering and Information Technologies; Science (bringing the existing Division of Natural Sciences into a single faculty); Health Sciences; and a faculty, yet to be named, which will include Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy”. The job losses and curriculum cuts that will precede these mergers make this clearly presently a key demand for the restructure campaign.
12. This strategic plan, developed over the course of 2015, is clearly a response to the failure of parliamentary reform of Higher education, in particular the defeat of the legislation for the deregulation of university fees being pushed by Christopher Pyne. With undergraduate fees still capped the university has a strong incentive to find other ways to reduce costs and maximise profits, and the restructure is specifically designed for those outcomes.
13. For example, the administrative changes provide an opportunity to weaken staff conditions and reduce wages via a “spill and fill” tactic already being employed in some sections of the university, whereby jobs are made redundant in a new structure only to be replaced by essentially identical jobs with a reduced salary. Apart from the self-evident injustice of this manoeuvre from the perspective of university workers, this will only further increase workloads and reduce the quality of education for students.
14. Similarly, the changes to the degree structure point to an adoption of the American model (of which Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence is a vocal proponent) like that imposed on Melbourne university in 2008, where undergraduate degrees become more generic and less useful as qualifications, while specialised and professional courses are moved further and further into post-graduate degrees which have no legal price limit. This is an obvious attempt to bring about deregulation through the back door.
15. The projected length of the restructure, from 2016 to 2020, shows that these are unlikely to be the sum total of the changes, and that the university hopes to evade resistance by students and staff through a gradual implementation. While all of the proposed changes are attacks, the changes to degrees will undeniably have the most negative economic consequences for students and should therefore be the central focus of the student campaign against the restructure.
16. VC Michael Spence has cynically attempted to give these attacks a progressive gloss by suggesting that “the university reflects Australian society and it still matters who you are rather than what you have to contribute, and in particular whether you are an old, white, male professor”, problems the restructure will purportedly address. Such a ridiculous assertion deserves only mockery, as the fundamental aim of the restructure is

- to turn Sydney University into the ivory tower of the elite and bar entry to all but the most wealthy.
17. The general context of these attacks on students and staff is the increasing neoliberalisation of the Australian economy, of which the attempted deregulation of higher education is a major component. Education is Australia's largest services export, and fourth largest export overall. Yet despite raking in more than \$17.6 billion in export income in 2014, universities across the country are still crying poor and demanding changes that will allow them to minimise investments in less productive areas and focus on those that will bring in more profit. Sydney University is only one among many in this regard, but it is at the forefront of the struggle to establish reduced staff and increased student fees as the new norm. Other universities are following suit: the University of Western Australia, another of the Group of Eight, announced in December that they would slash 300 positions early this year, yet create 50 new academic positions to enhance the university's "capability and impact in areas of comparative advantage". A similar restructure has just been announced at the University of Melbourne.
  18. The economic logic of these changes has no place for the needs of students or staff. Students are customers in the university's business model, and like all successful businesses they aim to rip us off. This is why the SRC has a duty to vigorously resist all of these proposed changes, which are more than likely simply the beginning of similar campus-level attacks across the country.
  19. Students have twice defeated the neoliberal restructuring of higher education as a result of the National Union of Students' successful "Abbott & Pyne: Hands Off Our Education" campaign, which the Sydney University SRC and the Education Action Group played a major part in. This campaign included numerous mobilisations of thousands of students in street demonstrations, stunts such as the disruption of Q&A and rally at Liberal Party headquarters, and a series of actions chasing prominent Liberal politicians off campuses. The campaign garnered a high degree of public support and regular media coverage, encouraging other organisations such as GetUp! to assist with the fight against fee deregulation. The template has been set for how students can fight attacks on higher education and student welfare.
  20. The success of the campaign relied on the dedicated work of activists across the country, who spent countless hours leafleting students, making announcements in lectures, putting up posters on campus and in the city. Understanding that it takes time to convince the student body of the importance in taking protest action against the government is crucial in the fight for an equitable education system.

## **Platform**

7. The SRC unequivocally opposes the university's proposed restructure in all of its dimensions.

8. The SRC opposes measures that reduce the accessibility of tertiary education, and reaffirms its support for a free and fully funded Higher Education system.
9. The SRC condemns the Vice Chancellor's attempts to pass these attacks off as socially progressive.
10. The SRC recognises the critical importance of a democratic and militant campaign that mobilises students, like that against fee deregulation, as the only effective way to prevent these changes from being enforced.
11. The SRC stands in solidarity with the NTEU and university staff who will be directly affected by the restructure.
12. Campaigning against the restructure will be the priority for the entirety of the SRC in 2016.

## **Action**

10. The SRC will promote the March 16 rally against the restructure in all public avenues available to it, including email lists, social media pages, O-week stalls etc.
11. All Office-bearers, not only Education, will devote time and resources to promoting and contributing to the campaign by organising contingents for the rally on March 16 and liaising with the Education Action Group, as the restructure has direct implications for all students that the Office-bearers represent.
12. The Education Officers will produce at least one fact sheet outlining what the attacks will mean for students, to be distributed on EAG stalls and made available at the SRC office to collect and distribute.
13. The Education Officers will produce other advertising material for the rally, such as colour posters, leaflets, badges, balloons, banners etc., and make them available before O-week.
14. The Education Officers will organise a comprehensive advertising campaign via the EAG, including thunderclap, Facebook advertising, adverts in student newspapers, regular media releases and so on.
15. The Education Officers will liaise with Education Officers from other Sydney campuses to bring cross-campus awareness to the Sydney University restructure as the testing ground for a sector-wide attack.
16. The President and Education Officers will contact all organisations that the SRC has a working relationship with, such as GetUp!, the University of Sydney Union and the NTEU, to promote the rally.
17. The Education Action Group will continue to organise actions beyond March 16 including but not limited to stunts and rallies to fight the restructure.
18. The SRC shall support the expansion of academic staff, including lecturers and tutors, as a key demand of the ongoing campaign. Furthermore, the SRC shall fight for the permanency of currently casual staff.

Motion to move straight to a vote

Moved: Dylan Griffiths

Seconded: Monique Newberry

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

There was a clarification on the motion being put.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **R.1 Condemning the Abolition of the Start-Up Scholarship**

### **Preamble**

1. In the 2013 federal budget the Australian Labor Party announced \$2.3billion in cuts to higher education funding. Parts of these cuts was the proposal to convert the \$1000 start-up scholarships received once a semester by students receiving youth allowance into a voluntary loan to be included as HECS debt.
2. The National Union of Students' organised a campaign against the attacks, including the attack on student welfare.
3. In November 2015 the Liberal government re-introduced legislation into parliament that would see the Centrelink Student Start-Up scholarships become optional loans to be paid back once the recipient reaches the income threshold. The legislation passed through the Senate with the backing of the ALP. The changes mean that an additional \$2000 will be added to a student's debt each year should they require welfare assistance from the Government.

### **Platform**

1. The SRC condemns the abolition of start-up scholarships.
2. The SRC recognises that the conversion of start-up scholarships into loans is an attack on working class students by both the Liberal party and the ALP, as it forces those not from wealthy backgrounds to graduate with a substantially higher HECS debt.
3. The SRC opposes all cuts to student welfare payments and services, which are essential for the well being of students, especially those from working class families who are already struggling with the high cost of tertiary education.

### **Action**

1. Moved The SRC will include the issue of student welfare in the upcoming campaigns against the cuts at Sydney University as well as in the national education campaign.
2. The SRC will campaign against the attacks on higher education, talking to students, putting up posters and by promoting the next National Day of Action.

3. The SRC will publicise its opposition to the abolition of start-up scholarships by publishing a note on the SRC social media pages outlining the content of this motion, and condemning the Turnbull government and the ALP.

Moved: Declan Maher (Global Solidarity Officer)

Second: Rhys Woodberry

Declan Maher spoke to the motion stating that the motion was a condemnation of the abolishment of the start up scholarship. Originally proposed but the ALP and brought into effect by the Liberal government. Unity who has left the meeting supported this; it is appalling they would do so. Declan Maher went on to mention that the fact the two factions of the ALP are supporting these changes by supporting the ALP at the next federal Election. Adding that it was a comment made by University of Sydney Union President Alisha Aitkin-Radburn was used by the Australian to demonstrate that the scholarship was wasteful as in her comment said she used it to go overseas.

Rhys Woodberry spoke to the motion highlighting that this deeply effected working class and poorer students and adds one more debt and denies access to higher education.

Monique Newberry stated that for anyone who was unsure about the changes they scholarship was changed to an optional loan, this is detrimental as it means many student need to work more hours cutting into study and lecture times to avoid debt, having a negative impact on students education. Adding that those who can afford debt aren't the ones who are worries about paying he bills.

Procedural motion to move straight to a vote

Moved: Lachlan Ward

Seconded: Dylan Griffiths

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The Motion was pit and **CARRIED.**

## **R.2 Motion: Refugee rights and the Palm Sunday protest**

### **Preamble**

Over the last two decades, the Australian government has constructed what is the most inhuman and torturous system of refugee processing in the world. In their report released in January 2016, Human Rights Watch described Australia's refugee policies as "abusive" with refugees continually subject to physical and sexual assaults, solitary confinement, lack of access to food, water, healthcare, and adequate shelter and clothing. The use of remote offshore detention centres, the media blackout, and gagging medical and social work staff has effectively cut off the flow of information to the outside world, allowing the government and hired security agencies to commit such atrocities freely.

Despite the utter barbarity of the detention system, it continues to enjoy enthusiastic bipartisan support. The Labor party's recent conference voted overwhelmingly in favour of boat turn-backs,

with the majority of the Left falling in behind Bill Shorten on the issue. Tanya Plibersek even went so far as to describe ALP refugee policy as “terrific”.

Refugees have consistently resisted their treatment and protested against it. Through the riots against the death of Fazel Chegeni on Christmas Island, sewing their lips together, making banners, attempting breakouts, and actions taken by refugees like Khodaryar Amini, who specifically blamed the government and police for his and his friends' deaths. In Australia, various left, ex-refugee and campaign groups continue to protest and advocate for the rights of refugees and against the government's barbaric policies. The annual Palm Sunday rally and March is part of this long-standing movement.

Beyond Australian shores, the current global refugee crisis has been described by officials as the worst refugee crisis since WWII. According to the UNHCR, the number of those forcibly displaced from their homes reached 59.5 million by the end of 2014, a rapidly growing trend which has continued to escalate over the last several months. In response, refugee policies have reached new lows, with European governments in particular introducing inhuman measures that mirror the punitive Australian model of militarised borders and detention camps. Going even further, the government of Denmark recently passed disturbing legislation to confiscate the assets of asylum seekers upon their arrival to fund their detention.

Another indictment upon the Australian government has been their response to the global crisis; committing to resettling a mere 12,000 additional Syrian refugees, a number that is extremely small given Australia's capacity and resources. In addition, the Australian government has suggested that the refugee intake could include limitations on the number of Muslim refugees accepted – a policy which is clearly Islamophobic. Such racist discussion and policies are also a feature of the global crisis, with Muslim refugees largely the target. In Germany, a string of sexual assaults that occurred over New Year's Eve are now being used to stoke anti-refugee sentiment, as were the terrorists' attacks in France, which prompted the government to close its borders.

Given the gravity of the refugee crisis, it is incumbent on all left-wing organisations and unions to do their utmost to express their solidarity with refugees worldwide, join campaigns to fight for their rights and freedoms, and strongly come out against racism and Islamophobia.

## **Platform**

The Sydney University SRC reaffirms its opposition to the offshore processing and mandatory detention of refugees.

The Sydney University SRC calls for the immediate release of all refugees from detention, the closure of detention centres on and offshore, and the cessation of all refugee deportations. The SRC calls on the immediate granting of permanent residency, citizenship, employment and welfare rights to all refugees.

The Sydney University SRC opposes the Border Force Act, and expresses its solidarity with the refugees and doctors and other workers who are continuing to organise and protest against the legislation both in and out of detention.



The Sydney University SRC stands in solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons worldwide. The SRC acknowledges the rights of these groups to seek refuge and asylum from persecution in accordance with international law.

The Sydney University SRC stands against the racism and Islamophobia, which has been increasingly targeted at refugees and perpetuated by Australian governmental policy.

Australia's current intake of refugees is inadequate and we have both the responsibility and the capacity to accept a much larger number of refugees, with no religious or ethnic exceptions.

### **Action**

The Sydney University SRC endorses the upcoming Palm Sunday rally for refugees on March 20th, and calls on all office bearers, councillors and collective members to attend.

The Sydney University SRC will advertise the rally via its Facebook page, website and through an email to its members.

The Sydney University SRC calls on the President to organise rally advertising in Honi Soit in the weeks leading up to the event.

The SRC President and Social Justice office bearer will organise advertising material for the rally to be displayed and distributed at the SRC stalls and events at O-Week.

The President and Social Justice office bearers will liaise with SRC staff and ensure that rally posters and leaflets are distributed to satellite campuses during any visits prior to the event.

[Amendment added by Steven Kwon] That the materials distributed also mention the Campus Refugee Action Collective.

Moved: Kim Murphy (Social Justice office bearer)

Seconded: Angelica Alvarez

Kim Murphy spoke to the motion highlighting the High Court of Australia's decision of finding off shore detention legal and calling the conditions women and children are subjected to as horrific. Adding that Australia is a leader in the abuse of refugees and that this treatment is becoming the norm across the globe. She concluded by saying we should be condemning both major parties for these policies and that we should be welcoming refugees.

Angelica Alvarez spoke to the motion raising the issue of the torture of refugees becoming commonplace and that it has been spreading around Europe. She mentioned Sweden deporting refugees and the IMF recommending refugees be paid below minimum wage. Concluding that it was obvious we should stand in solidarity with refugees.

Riki Scanlan spoke in support of the motion but added that while it is being run by the social justice department they should direct to the refugee rights officers and added that \$150 be given to the department.

Dimitry Palmer spoke against the motions saying it was simply Socialist Alternative's rhetoric and that they ignore the highest governing body of Australia. He went on to say that the government's policy is not about racism but about managing people, and that the use of rhetoric about how the policies are racist and islamophobic ignores what is happening overseas. I think that we should encourage student to go to church on Palm Sunday as an important day in the Christian calendar.

Lachlan Ward commented that he would be doing both as Palm Sunday services will be all day giving Christian students the opportunity to both attend the rally and also attend church should they chose.

Liam Carrigan mentioned a snap action due to take place the next day Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February at 12:30 tomorrow to see everyone.

Steven Kwon spoke to the motion and also mentions the snap action. Adding that Palm Sunday would be an important rally to attend for the movement. He also spoke to the achievement of the Campus Refugee Action Collective (CRAC) over the past year and the need to continue building the collective. Steven Gave the council information regarding a workshop being run by the collective next week concluding with an amendment to the proposed advertising material that also promotes CRAC.

The proposal was amenable to the mover.

Dylan Griffiths proposed that the SRC right out condemn the Liberals, because it's not only the Labor party's policies we oppose but also Liberal party policy. Dylan Griffiths concluded encouraging people to attend the workshop mentioned by Steven Kwon.

Omar Hassan asked for a clarification regards the meeting.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **R.3            These Cuts are Killing Us! Get the market out of our healthcare**

#### **Preamble:**

In December 2015, the Liberal government released its Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), which includes several serious attacks on healthcare. There have been no changes to the Abbott-Hockey budget measures which withhold \$57 billion from state and territory hospitals over the next 10 years. The MYEFO plans for a further to be \$2.1 billion cut from the federal healthcare system.

\$600 million will be cut from health workforce programs, including clinical training subsidies and rural health education initiatives. This will disincentives working-class people from studying medicine or nursing, and leave Indigenous communities in rural areas with fewer skilled health workers in what is already a state of emergency for Aboriginal healthcare.

A further 23 medical procedures will be scrapped from the Medicare Benefits Schedule, a list of medical services subsidised by the government. Testing for vitamin D and folate already lost its subsidy in 2014. New procedures to be paid for by patients include ear, nose and throat surgeries; x-rays of kidneys,

bladder and lungs; pelvic examinations for childbirth and treatments for repeated miscarriage. Federal Health Minister Sussan Ley admits that these procedures were used 52,500 times in 2015.

In particular, the complete withdrawal of bulk-billing incentives for pathology and diagnostic services has been met with public outrage. The Turnbull government hopes to save \$650 million over four years by no longer offsetting the costs of blood and urine tests, x-rays, Pap smears, ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging (MRIs). The Australian Medical Association's President Brian Owler said these measures amount to a "co-payment by stealth", referring to the \$7 GP fee proposed in the 2014 budget. This attack on universal healthcare was dropped after demonstrations of students and trade unions and almost unanimous public opposition.

These new attacks will see patients paying between \$30 and \$62 for basic pathology services and up to \$173 for an MRI scan. The Royal College of Pathologists insists this will hugely deter poor and working-class people from seeking treatment or getting tested, sharply increasing the late diagnosis and morbidity rate of all types of cancers, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and STIs. Women, LGBTI people, Aboriginal people and people with disabilities face particularly extreme danger with the further privatisation of healthcare.

Medicare already contains a number of problems in realising a genuinely universal healthcare system, including little to no coverage for dental care and mental health services. Any further increase in the price of healthcare – or cuts to medical research, hospital funding or the pay and conditions of healthcare workers – are absolutely inadmissible.

In response to these attacks, a series of demonstrations are being organised to take place across the country on Saturday 20 February. The rally in Sydney will take place 1pm at Town Hall, with the active support of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association.

**Platform:**

1. Sydney University SRC stands for a completely free and universal healthcare system for every person, every medicine and every procedure.
2. The SRC condemns the Liberal government and its attempts to make further attacks on the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare.
3. The SRC regards the MYEFO health budgets cuts as class warfare against the majority of poor and working-class people who are entitled to universal healthcare.
4. The SRC stands for mass action against the privatisation of healthcare, including street demonstrations and militant industrial struggle, especially amongst health workers.

**Action:**

1. Sydney University SRC will endorse the upcoming "These Cuts Are Killing Us" rallies taking place on 20 February.
2. The SRC calls on all office bearers, councillors and collective members to attend.
3. The SRC, its office bearers and their collectives will share the Facebook event for the rally through all the Facebook pages they administer.
4. The SRC will advertise the rally on its website and through an email to its members.
5. The SRC will collaborate with the NUS National Welfare, Women's and LGBTI departments which plan to build the campaign nationwide, leading up to and following the 20 February rally.

**Moved:** April Holcombe (Welfare Officer, Sydney University SRC)

**Second:** Zoe Davison

Procedural motion to limit the speaking time to 1 minute, bar the mover and seconder.

Moved: Riki Scanlan

Seconded: Monique Newberry

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Zoe Davison spoke to the motion highlighting the dangers of the cuts and that the attention these changes are getting are less than the attention received by the co-payment proposal. Zoe added that these were healthcare cuts by stealth and that we should be highlighting the issue.

April Holcombe spoke to the motion saying that the protest is very soon and needs to be promoted as much as possible by all OBs.

Riki Scanlan proposed an amendment to add \$200 to be provided to the health care cuts organising committee.

The motion was amenable.

Procedural motion to move straight to a vote

Moved: Lachlan Ward

Seconded: Monique Newberry

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The motion was Put and **CARRIED.**

### **Motion moved from the Floor to be Item R.6**

That the University of Sydney SRC opposes the planned restructuring at Melbourne University, under the name 'Flexible Academic Programming'. This is the biggest proposed restructure in Australia's history, with attacks on the quality of education and the rights and conditions of staff. These include (but are not limited to) the introduction of trimesters, increases in class sizes, course cuts (in the form of combining sections of the curriculum), extending teaching hours, and casualisation of staff. The University of Sydney SRC affirms the importance of student unions taking a stand for student and staff rights and expresses solidarity with the education office at UMSU, which has come out in opposition to these attacks.

Moved: Eleanor Morley

Seconded: Vinil Kumar

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The meeting closed at 10:27.*