



Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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MINUTES:

of the 4th regular meeting of the 89th SRC held on **3rd May**. Meeting held in the Professorial Board Room, Quadrangle

A. Meeting open at 6:16pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Bella Pytka 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:

Parvathi Subramaniam
Gabriel Long to Massi Milani
Patrick Ryan
Edward McCann to Maddison Hemphil-Kingston
Marcus Colman to Jacob Mesina
Jake Williams to Nicola Haggerty
Andrea Zephyr to Adrianna Malavisi
Angus Berg to Luke Gallagher
Ricardo Wu

Jenna Schroder

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Samuel Chu resigns from the executive

Samuel Chu resigns his council seat to James Gibson

Andrea Zephyr resigns as Queer Officer

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations from Samuel Chu.

Moved: Jacob Mesina

Seconded: Caitlin Mcmenamin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion: That the council accept resignation of Andrea Zephyr

Moved: Adam Boidin

Seconded: Kim Murphy

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 89th SRC Council held on 5th April 2017 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 5th April 2017 be accepted.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Caitlin Mcmenamin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

Procedural motion to move to R.3

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Vinil Kumar

the procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

R3. May 17 – A National Day of Action Against the Budget

Preamble

The central student campaign of 2017 as organised by the National Union of Students and its affiliates, is to Make Education Free Again. With Simon Birmingham's announcement on Monday 1 May about the federal government's

plans for higher education, we have a range of serious and well-publicised concrete attacks on students that we can agitate and organise around. The attacks apply from 1 January 2018 and include:

- a) an historic \$2.8bn cut to university funding over four years
- b) this shifts the government-student contribution ratio from 58-42 to 54-46, which amounts to an 8% increase in student fees, or between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per degree.
- c) the biggest reduction in the HECS-HELP repayment threshold in more than a decade: from \$56,000 to \$42,000. This is the equivalent of a full-time 38-hour week job paying around \$21 per hour.
- d) Threshold brackets will shift in line with inflation and not average weekly earnings, which speeds up students' entrance into higher repayment schemes, 20% faster than is actually reflected in wage growth.
- e) all students with permanent residency or who are New Zealand citizens will no longer have access to Commonwealth assistance, which will at least double the size of their debt.
- f) \$500m of government funding will be contingent on completion rates and "employment outcomes", giving governments the right to withdraw more money as leverage against universities.

The fact that the Liberals are trying to create a small-target budget that still makes deep cuts, shows that the memory of recent student activism which smashed fee deregulation lingers on to haunt them. The cuts and the angry response from students has been covered by practically every press outlet in Australia, coverage on student issues that we haven't seen since 2014. Student activists have to seize the opportunity of media exposure and give the press a reason to keep reporting on it.

Conversely, Sydney University Vice Chancellor Michael Spence called the measures a "big improvement" on the 2014 budget (which he supported). He told ABC Radio he was "extremely grateful" for thinking through competing interests. Whilst VCs prefer not to have funding cuts, they want to defuse tension amongst students on the campuses to stop it spilling over into action against local campus restructures. Funding cuts are used as pretext for sacking staff by the hundreds and radically altering degree structures to keep students paying more. Right now at Sydney University, this means one hundred redundancies from the science faculty, shutting down service centres in all faculties to run student support on a shoestring budget, as well as the potential of four-year degrees, trimesters, or both!

The National Union of Students has therefore called demonstrations all around the country for May 17, the week after the release of the 2017 federal budget. Sydney will have demonstrations on two campuses, Sydney University and UNSW. The rationale being that UNSW has a huge local attack of trimesters that has mobilised the student body there on its own merit. Transport to UNSW is a significant deterrent for students attending a demonstration about federal attacks, so the rest of the campuses can assemble at Sydney University which is more central. The strength of Make Education Free Again is its flexibility and its ability to make

connections between government funding and local cuts, making the campaign flexible enough to cover both Liberal attacks that shock all students, and campus attacks that can spark an immediate, localised outrage.

Students from UNSW will be protesting at 2pm at the Library Lawns of UNSW, Wednesday 17 May.

Students from elsewhere will be rallying from 12pm at Fisher Library on the same day.

Platform

1. The SRC reaffirms its support for “Make Education Free Again” as this year's core federal student campaign, a position supported without reservation by all student progressives at the NUS National Conference in December 2016.
2. The SRC opposes all aspects of Sydney University’s Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (also known as the Restructure), and stands in complete solidarity with the NTEU in its attempts to protect jobs during the current Enterprise Bargaining Agreement period.
3. The SRC condemns all cuts announced by Simon Birmingham on Monday 1 May and regards them as a serious assault on student rights.
4. The SRC believes mobilising students and staff in great numbers for protests or strikes is the only successful method for improving higher education policy at all levels.
5. The SRC does not believe any progress can be made in attempting to reason with vice chancellor Michael Spence or his managerial regime, who are liars and dogs, every one.

Action

1. All councilors and office bearers will publicise the May 17 national day of action on their Facebook pages, both public and personal, and in their classes.
2. All councilors and office bearers will attend at least one future meeting of the Education Action Group, which meets weekly at different times to cater for all progressives on council.
3. All councilors and office bearers will attend the demonstration at Sydney University on May 17 against the Liberal budget, and bring contingents from collectives and clubs if applicable. USU campaigners will halt all campaigning for the hour of the rally and attend.

April Holcombe spoke to the motion, discussing the active media attention on the proposed changes to higher education and that the SRC should be campaigning strongly against the proposed changes and the negative impacts they will have on students. April spoke to the need for action at the University of Sydney and around other campuses to fight these changes. April Holcombe asked that the relevant student groups on campus stop campaigning for the USU board elections during the NDA.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion encouraging everyone to be actively involved in protest and other form of activism highlighting that the media attention is currently on students and the council should take advantage of that.

Vinil Kumar spoke to the motion noting the importance of student unionism at this time. Elaborating on that point Vinil spoke about how the Liberals we defeated on the proposed deregulation to university fees during the Abbott government, and these current changes are a similar plan with a different name. Vinil emphasised that the government are openly talking about a US style education system and this should be cause for concern.

Procedural motion to move straight to a vote.

Moved: Connor Wherrett

Seconded: Adam Boiden

The procedural motion was put and **FAILED**.

Caitlin Mcmenamain spoke to the motion saying everyone in the SRC should be able to put aside an hour to protect education in this country.

Harry Gregg spoke to the motion mentioning the greater impact on rural students and universities the proposed changes would have. Adding that there will be a corresponding fall in the number and quality of courses provided, creating more cost for diminished value. Continuing Harry said that the proposed changes to HECS would mean that graduates would being paying their HECS back sooner and the impact of paying back HECS at the lower rate, along with the cost of living will have a huge impact on students and immediate graduates.

The Chair ruled that the speaking time be set at 90 seconds.

Kim Murphy spoke to the motion saying this is a horrendous policy and that student unions have a responsibility to fight these policies and build the campaign against them. The priority of this council should be building this campaign.

Gavin Stanbrook spoke to the motion saying that the cost of paying back HECS at the new proposed income of \$42 000 means that money will be taken away from household budgets that would be used for food and other necessities.

Eleanor Morley spoke to the motion highlighting that we need to remember that these policies are not a done deal. Policies like these have been fought and defeated in the past and can be fought again.

Mover: April Holcombe (Education Officer)

Seconded: Lily Campbell (Welfare Officer)

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Procedural motion to move to Q7.

Moved: Aiden Magro

Seconded: Katie Thorburn

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Q7. Motion to dismiss Andrea Zephyr As Queer Officer

Following allegations of unethical conduct, the Queer Action Collective voted on the 13th of April to formally dis-endorse Andrea Zephyr as its preselected Queer Officer and to demand the SRC dismiss her from that position. This motion of no confidence passed with 28 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Because Zephyr's election as Queer Officer by this Council was predicated on her endorsement by the Collective, we believe her subsequent dis-endorsement constitutes sufficient grounds for dismissal. Consequently we, the Collective's sole endorsed representatives, move that she be dismissed as Queer Officer immediately.

Procedural motion to move straight to a vote.

Moved: Aiden Magro

Seconded: Katie Thorburn

The procedural was put and **FAILED**.

William Edwards spoke to the motion noting that he found it cowardly to attempt to resign when you realize you don't have the numbers in an attempt to manipulate the narrative. The collective voted and there should not be an attempt to circumvent this result by resigning. William noted that this behavior had been demonstrated in the past at UTS when Andrea Zephyr was president of the Students Association there. William acknowledged that the motion was put forward with some sadness as Andrea had been a co-nominee with William, however he now feels that her behavior should preclude her from holding office. William explained that a number of collective members had experienced bullying and intimidatory behaviors from Andrea and as a result he believes the motivation for this motion is not political but ethical. William continues that the SRC should never tolerate bullying. William hoped that the pattern of behavior discussed ends.

Connor Prassis spoke to the motion saying that Andrea Zephyr had been intimidating towards non-binary people in queer space and made the queer space unsafe for them.

Connor Wherret spoke to the motion saying that the council should respect collective autonomy but found the rejection of Andrea's resignation appalling, adding that resigning was not the 'cowards way out' but was an action that respected the wishes of the collective. Connor Wherret also said that if bullying was the reason for this motion then it should be noted that Connor Prassis has been tweeting internal collective issues into a public forum, including photo shopping Andrea's and other members of [Labor right faction] face's onto photos of dogs and dog walkers. These actions are vindictive and should be condemned.

April Holcombe spoke to the motion noting that the attempt to resign should be seen as a disgrace, adding that Andrea Zephyr has worked with Liberal party members on campus and university management and claimed she was the one who told Alex Fitton to identify as a

non-binary person in an attempt to gain an SRC position, this should have been enough evidence of character. April Holcombe continues accusing Andrea Zephyr of being “a traitor to students and the left” and that she should be removed from the position. April concluded by suggesting that bullying and intimidation seemed an invalid reason to remove an officer if those actions were to be against university management and the government, saying that the removal of Andrea Zephyr should be because “she is an enemy of the student body”.

Aiden Magro spoke to the motion, adding that they were responsible for this motion being moved in the Queer collective and asked Connor Wherrett that if Andrea was resigning honourably why had she not removed herself as the admin for the Queer collective Facebook group.

Connor Prassis responded to Connor Wherrett’s comments saying that Andrea has stacked the meeting to being preselected in the first place with the assistance of Connor Wherrett. Connor added that they would not apologise for their action when they were a response to Andrea’s.

William Edwards reminded the council that the collective voted to remove Andrea Zephyr and asked that the council respect that regardless of their personal feelings towards Andrea.

Moved: William Edwards

Seconded: Connor Parissis

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

K. Elections

K1. Election of 1 Indigenous Students’ Officer

There were no nominations

K2. Election of 1 Mature Age Student’s Officer

There were no nominations

K3. Election of 2 Intercampus committee members

There were no nominations

K4. Election of General Member of the Executive

There was a Nomination for Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz

Nominated: Connor Wherrett

Seconded: Adam Boidin

There was a Nomination for Imogen Grant

Moved: Katie Thorburn

Seconded: Aiden Magro

There was a 5 min recess to prepare the ballots at 7:13pm
There was a quorum count at 7:20pm
The meeting was found quorate at 7:20pm

Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz: 17
Imogen Grant: 9
Invalid: 2

Thus Claudia Gulbransen-Diaz was declared duly elected to the position of general member of the executive of the 89th SRC.

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 24th March – 7th April 2017

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 24th March – 7th April 2017 be accepted.

Moved: Caitlin Mcmenamin

Seconded: Harry Gregg

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 1st to the 30th April 2017.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Isabella Brook tabled a written report:

SSAF

We received our final SSAF allocation a few weeks ago. Dan and Bella will elaborate in more depth. Whilst it wasn't an incredible outcome its enough for us to get by. I'll continue working with Dan, Bella and Chits to figure out how we can adapt our budget to still implement some of the projects we wanted to.

Fascist Free Usyd

An increasing amount of fascist material including holocaust denial posters, swastika stickers and racist graffiti, has been popping up on our campus. The SRC stands in strong opposition to these racist and bigoted acts and supports the push to keep fascists off our campus. I want to make it clear that every USYD student has the right to walk down Eastern avenue without having to see graffiti, stickers or posters that delegitimise their experience, their ethnicity, their gender, or their religious, cultural and sexual identity. I think its

extremely important that all of council takes up the fight against these kinds of people on our campus who insist on espousing 'alternative facts' and a hateful and dangerous rhetoric.

Academic Advice

I'm still doing some work around the issue of academic advice and have been meeting with a number of people to discuss the type of work we can do across the university. It's good to see that it's a broader concern that the university is looking to address especially with the poor student satisfaction survey results that have been released recently.

Student Admin Services

Just as a quick update we got word at Academic Board that the university will be looking to do some kind of review of this system within the next few months. They seem to think that the centralised system has improved a lot of aspects of student admin and are confused about the student dissatisfaction so it's important that we keep putting pressure on them to review and improve this system.

Sexual Assault on Campus

We are continuing to push the university towards implementing a compulsory consent module. Pru Goward – Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, has also invited me to a student forum on campus sexual assault. It's good to see that the government is attempting to respond to this important issue and shows that the tireless campaigning that has been run by activists is effective. However I think its important that as many students attend as possible to ensure that our voices are heard and that the government is held accountable. The Liberals are not out friends and we need to remind them of the millions of dollars they have cut to women's services across the state.

NTEU

The education officers and myself met with Kurt from the NTEU last week and he gave an update on the EBA, which is progressing, and there is still the potential for industrial action to be taken.

A few of us went along today to an NTEU action at the Student Centre against toxic workplaces, as they've just sacked a bunch of casual workers. It would be great to see more SRC activists attending these actions and standing in solidarity with the NTEU as if they are to take industrial action they will need our support.

Higher Ed Cuts

Many of you are aware the recently announced cuts to University funding, the increase in students fees and proposed lowering of the HECS repayment threshold. These are appalling attacks and the SRC plans to fight them every step of the way. I've been in contact with NUS president Sophie Johnston and we will continue to work with the EAG and NEO to build a strong student protest for the 17th of May, which I strongly encourage all councillors to attend.

I have had conversations with a number of staff members and academics who are greatly supportive of students and opposed to these cuts. So it is extremely disappointing, yet predictable, to see that the university is not taking a stronger stance against these cuts.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Katie Thorburn

Seconded: Sophia Chung

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Procedural Motion to move to R2

Moved:

Seconded:

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

R2. Condemnation Against Holocaust Denial and Anti-Semitism

Preamble:

Weeks ago, this Council condemned the Anti-Semitic behaviour of the NSW Young Greens. We were shocked by the behaviour of a group that supposedly espouses acceptance of all. A group which is as openly Anti-Semitic as the Young Greens has no right to claim any solidarity in the fight against Anti-Semitism.

It is clear that the position of the Young Greens is one in which they can pick and choose which religious and ethno-cultural groups they like, and which groups should be marginalised in society. They decided to upload a meme to Facebook referencing concentration camps on Yom HaShoah, a significant day of remembrance for the tragedy of the Holocaust.

Sadly, the rise of Anti-Semitism, and sustained attacks on religious freedom are continuing, especially from the far-right, with members of Jewish faith communities feeling unsafe in their own nation. From Monash to the Australian National University to the University of Sydney, vile Anti-Semitic behaviour is on the rise.

Holocaust denial leaflets were found for a second consecutive year on campus' linking to a Holocaust denial conspiracy website 'GeelongChemTrails'. These leaflets are a direct form of ethnic discrimination and vilification on campus and undermine the University of Sydney's inclusive, accepting, ethno-culturally and religiously diverse student community.

The incident is part of a recent rise in Anti-Semitism seen throughout the nation and exemplified in a video that went viral from this University in the last week, showing a Holocaust denial activist being forced off campus after attempting to put up holocaust denial posters and Swastika graffiti being found. This stain on our open, inclusive democracy must be dealt with.

The Australasian Union of Jewish Students, an organisation that Socialist Alternative and the Young Greens have gone to war with in recent times, stated the following in a press release dated 26th of April.

"AUJS is appalled that Holocaust denial leaflets continue to be distributed on university

campuses. Now is a time to raise awareness and ensure the memories of 6 million Jewish and other victims at the hands of the Nazi regime will never be forgotten so humanity can never let this happen again... for their memories to be denied is a deep insult on the dignity of Jewish students on campus.”.

On Thursday the 27th of April, the same day prominent members gained media coverage for removing a Holocaust denier from campus, Socialist Alternative refused to back a motion against Anti-Semitism at Monash University because they disagree with the international definition of Anti-Semitism as defined by the London Declaration on Combating Anti-Semitism and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

It should be noted, that when the religious freedom of one is attacked, the religious freedom of all people of faith is attacked, and societal cohesion as a whole is weakened. Members of religious faith communities should not feel discriminated against, nor should they have to accept ethnic vilification that denies one of the largest tragedy's in history.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns the publication of Holocaust denial leaflets distributed at campus' across the nation for a second consecutive year.
2. The SRC acknowledges that the leaflets have no academic basis whatsoever.
3. The SRC recognises the deep emotional distress this string of incidents has caused for Jewish students on campus.
4. The SRC condemns all forms of Anti-Semitism as defined by the London Declaration on combatting Anti-Semitism and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.
5. The SRC condemns Socialist Alternative for its failure to accept this internationally agreed upon definition at Monash University.
6. The SRC condemns the NSW Young Greens for their continued Anti-Semitic treatment of Jewish Students.
7. The SRC commits itself to, and calls on the University of Sydney to work collaboratively with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students on tackling Anti-Semitism, Holocaust awareness and education.

Karmi Shariev President of Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) spoke to the motion, thanking the council for hearing them tonight. Karmi Shariev spoke about the rise of anti-Semitic behaviours on campus such as swastika stickers on campus and the rise in the number of voices denying the Holocaust, when millions of Jewish people were murdered during WWII.

April Holcombe spoke against the motion saying that there is already an anti-racist motion on notice tonight asking the council to take a stance on these issues. April Holcombe noted their concern that this motion equates Judaism with the occupation of the Palestinian state, saying that most people do not associate the state of Israel with Judaism and that people like Steve Bannon who April suggested is anti-Semitic supports the state of Israel. April added they felt that attacking Socialist Alternative when they were the ones who chased the

holocaust denier off campus last week was counter productive, Socialist Alternative isn't anti-Semitic they are anti-Israel and anti-racism.

Benjamin Ezzes spoke to the motion saying that while they have not been on campus for long they have already experienced many anti-Semitic attacks and they do not appreciate people who are not Jewish telling him about his faith, beliefs, or experiences.

Eitan Harris spoke to the motion saying that many Jewish students don't feel safe wearing a Yamulke on campus, and that many have experienced discrimination due to their background including a number of racial slurs.

Eleanor Morley spoke against the motion saying that while they stand against all acts of anti-Semitism and racism on campus there is a motion tonight that deals with these issues and also other racial attacks. Adding that Socialist Alternative have and will continue to chase Nazi's off campus. Eleanor Morley agreed with April Holcombe comment and reiterated that there is a difference between Judaism and Zionism in its current form as the State of Israel.

Moved: Dominic McDonald

Seconded: Angus Berg

The motion was put and CARRIED.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

There was no report from the Vice Presidents.

Katie Thorburn asked the Vice President if they could give an update regardless.

James Gibson said that they've been focusing on using their Honi Soit reports to voice issues on campus.

Eleanor Morley suggested that more should be expected from the Vice Presidents such as participating in campaigns on campus.

James Gibson responded that they do this by attending Executive meetings and passing funding request, noting that it is small but it is supporting.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Bella Pytka and Daniel Ergas tabled a written report

Hello friends! Welcome to our report –

SSAF

Praise be to the powers that be, we have a SSAF allocation! We have received a 2.71% increase on last year's. As Chitra (the SRC's Admin Manager) has been on leave for the past

month, we haven't been able to figure out exactly what this means for our budget – yet! She'll be back in the office by next week, and we'll have a budget request template for OBs and collectives to fill out by the end of next week. It's really important for OBs to think carefully about what they want to spend; once you've submitted your budget request, it'll be hard to edit, so please be thorough and careful.

Co-op

We have been continuing our campaign to fix the Co-op and put it back in students' hands! ANUSA has endorsed the campaign, and several WA and VIC student unions will (hopefully!) do so at their next meetings. 'Take back our Co-op' has now retained a solicitor and barrister who will act for us totally pro-bono. Please let us know if you want to get involved, more the merrier! (Particularly if you have ideas on how you'd like the Co-op to be restructured – we're starting to look at what our *dream* Co-op would look like, so would love your designs!)

FASS 2% per day late penalty

h/t to Georgia Mantle and Max Hall – 2% late penalties in FASS are saved for now (!) but we'll need to remain vigilant.

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

Moved: Katie Thorburn

Seconded: Imogen Grant

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

April Holcombe gave a verbal report.

- Education Department are getting ready for the protest coming up about the education proposals from the government and capitalising on the current media attention
- - We have been working with the NTEU who have their EBA coming up as would be hoping to galvanise student support so that teachers know that their students support them, and so Management know we support teachers as well
- Look to the council to go to their respective groups and see what they can do to help build and support the protests, it takes hard work but they are worth it.

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

Moved: Kim Murphy

Seconded: Vinil Kumar

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

The Women's Officers noted their disappointment that a large number of councilors associated with Labor Right left as the women's officers began their report.

Here is what we are working on:

1. Sexual Assault report by the Human Rights Commission has been postponed, the survey has not passed an ethics report which was very disappointing a many women took the survey and that is a breach of trust
2. We are running vicarious trauma and sexual assault support training for free coming up soon, this normally costs a lot of money so I encourage people to come along.
3. We are also drawing attention to and fighting the rape and domestic violence helpline being put to tender with the campaign no profit from rape.
4. Keep your eye out for the consent module which should be applied university wide.

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

Moved: Aiden Magro

Seconded: Sophia Chung

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Student Disservices

Preamble:

The increasing corporatization of our universities is an abomination. The recent amalgamation of faculties has already had a detrimental impact upon students prior to semester even commencing. The argument in favour of the centralization of services is solely economic and pays no heed to the welfare of students. Staff at the university will also be affected by these changes, as the streamlining of faculties eliminates their jobs. It is a ridiculous misnomer to call the new system "student services", for they do nothing but cause stress. Multiple students have approached the SRC to express their dissatisfaction with the changes, describing long waiting times and lack of specialized knowledge. It's time for university management to realize that student welfare is an important issue, and their decisions reflect upon them very poorly.

Motion:

The University of Sydney Student Representative Council condemns the amalgamation of faculties.

Action:

The Student Representative Council will write to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Pip Patterson expressing their discontent with the amalgamation of faculties and the student services system.

Moved: Caitlin McMenamin

Seconded: Isabella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. PIRS and Cheaper Textbooks**Preamble:**

Currently, due to Parallel Import Restrictions, Australian booksellers are prevented from importing books manufactured overseas if the book has been published by an Australian copyright holder within 30 days of overseas release. The arrangements protect the Australian book publishing industry. They ensure Australian authors can make a decent living and continue to bring Australian stories to the world of literature, both here and globally. PIRs create Australia as a separate rights territory, enabling the rights of Australian titles to overseas and sale of rights that were originally locally published into the export market. The Turnbull government has proposed an abolition of PIRS, which will impact jobs and culture in these ways:

1. A significant reduction in the value of international rights trading, which allows authors to manage financial risk and increase income.
2. A reduction in local print runs because of the risk of overseas stock flooding the local market.
3. A reduction in author income because of prospective shift from local retail royalties to the lower net receipt royalties of overseas editions.
4. A reduction in purchasing of international rights by Australian publishers which has allowed the local industry to generate income to invest in Australian authors.

Platform:

1. The SRC supports cheaper textbooks for students as a priority but this support must come from a stance that supports PIRs, as this stance acknowledges the rights of workers and students. This encourages alternative progressive approaches to student costs while protecting workers and the publishing industry.
2. The SRC continues to condemn Sydney University in their wasteful action of incinerating useful books that could have gone to disadvantaged and low SES students and promise to prevent any action similar to this in the future if possible.

Actions:

That the SRC book shop is better advertised and calls for the USU to give free advertising in any of their publications. This is a way cheaper textbooks can be advocated for in the immediate student environment.

Motion mover: Aiden Magro
Seconder: Daniel Ergas
The motion was **WITHDRAWN.**

Q3. June 11 Pride March

Preamble:

On June 11, an international day of resistance against Trump and his anti-LGBTI+ administration will be happening all over the world. A Pride March will be happening in Sydney and will tie in our own government's failure to support the LGBTI+ community.

Actions:

1. That the event be shared on the SRC Facebook page.
2. That QUAC bring a contingent to the event, as well as any other collective interested in bringing a contingent.

Moved: Connor Prassis
Seconded: Will Edwards
The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. Penalty Rate Decision

The University of Sydney Students

1. Condemns the Fair Work Commission's decision to cut Sunday penalty rates for retail and hospitality workers and demands that the Australian Parliament protect penalty rates for affected workers through legislation.
2. Calls on the University of Sydney Union to ensure that all future enterprise agreements continue to pay 2016 Sunday penalty rates at a minimum.
3. Calls on the University of Sydney Union to do everything in its power to ensure that independent outlets operating from Union buildings continue to pay 2016 Sunday penalty rates at a minimum.
4. Calls on the University of Sydney to ensure that workers at University owner venues and buildings are paid Sunday penalty rates at a minimum.

Moved: Daniel Ergas
Seconded: Bella Pytka
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q5. Solidarity with Idlib - Down with Assad and imperialism.

Preamble:

In the last 24 hours, horror has struck in Idlib. At least 83 civilians have been killed, including 25 children, by a nerve gas attack carried out by regime forces. The agent used is most likely

Sarin, a chemical widely considered a weapon of mass destruction. Such a barbarous attack on civilians falls in the context of hospitals already being under extreme pressure and constant threat of bombing from Russian, US and Assad forces. Indeed, the hospital where these victims are being treated has since been bombed.

Sarin has been used many times by the Syrian government against the population in revolution. Most notably an attack in 2013 in Ghouta, Damascus, killed 1,429, mostly children. Such extreme brutality today will mean nothing to the Assad forces, who long ago made clear that there is no price in blood they will not pay, in order to crush the Syrian revolution.

In the last month there has been a staggering rise in the number of civilian victims of U.S. bombings in Iraq and Syria. The nonprofit organization Airwars.com estimates that coalition air strikes in Syria and Iraq killed upwards of 1,000 people in March. It is impossible to know for sure, as there have been so many strikes with such high casualties that Airwars.com has been unable to document them all. In Mosul, Iraq at least 200 civilians were killed, making it one of the most devastating attacks on civilians by American forces in more than two decades.

This surge in deaths reflects Trump's desire to place the US military on a more aggressive footing than the Obama administration allowed, in order to reinvigorate the U.S. empire and find support amongst key U.S. generals. In the ongoing chaos of the Middle East, US has continued to carry out its own imperialist ventures, embracing the opportunity to return to the region it had been somewhat forced out of following the disaster of the Iraq War. It is yet to be seen whether Trump's policy of heightened militarism can stabilize the U.S. position in the Middle East, but we can be certain that thousands of lives will be lost in the attempt.

With the rise of the far right, support for Assad also climbs. The Trump administration supports Assad's government reestablishing control in Syria, as the current chaos threatens Israel and the whole stability of imperialist order in the region. Assad similarly supports Trump, as they are united in massacring the Syrian people under the banner of fighting ISIS. Assad supported Trump's initial Muslim ban and has previously called Trump his 'natural ally'. Marine Le Pen, leader of the Front Nationale in France, has also expressed her unconditional support for Bashar al-Assad and his regime.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC strongly condemns the use of chemical warfare on civilians in Idlib.
2. The University of Sydney SRC stands in solidarity with the Syrian revolution against the barbarous Assad regime and all its foreign supporters.
3. The University of Sydney SRC condemns the attacks on Iraqi and Syrian civilians carried out by the United States military and stands firmly against Trump's murderous, militaristic agenda.

Action:

1. The University of Sydney SRC encourages all students to join the Palm Sunday rally for refugees.
2. The University of Sydney supports the establishment of the Fascist Free USYD campaign.

The University of Sydney SRC encourages all those who stand with the Syrian revolution to join anti racist demonstrations against the global rise of the far right.

*There was no mover or seconder so the motion **LAPSED.***

The Meeting was found inquorate at 8:12

The meeting lapsed at 8:12pm.