



src activism
advocacy
representation

Julia Robins, Secretary to Council
secretary.council@src.usyd.edu.au

**Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney**

Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)
University of Sydney NSW 2006
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007
t: (02) 9660 5222 f: (02) 9660 4260
int: 12871 www.src.usyd.edu.au
ABN: 597 391 306 68

MINUTES:

of the 1st regular meeting of the 90th SRC held on **Wednesday the 7th February**. Meeting held in the Refectory Room, Quadrangle Building.

A. Meeting open at 6:40 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Nina Dillon Britton 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 and proxies were received from:

Bella Pytka to Rebeccah Miller
Caitlin Mcmenamin
Timothy Berney-Gibson to Bradley Jones
Zixuan Wei
David Han
Hao Zhu to Jacky He
Kida Lin
Kim Murphy to Lily Campbell
Mitch Gordon to Jason Xu

Officer Bearers:

Robin Eames
Tanya Ali
Holly Kovac
Shanshan Guo

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Report of the Electoral Officer

Motion: That the reports of the Electoral Officer be accepted.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Thomas Manousaridis

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

E2. Consideration of any resignations

Cameron Gooley and Bianca Davino from Honi Soit

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: George Bishop

Seconded: Maya Eswaran

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion from the Chair to move to agenda item Q.1.

Q1. Motion to accept two new Honi Editors Liam Donohoe and Millie Roberts

Moved: Seth Dias

Seconded: Jazzlyn Breen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Meeting returned to standing orders.

Liam Donohoe resigned to Pranay Jah from the floor

Lily Campbell spoke to the resignations saying it was disappointing that year after year those elected to Honi Soit resign to their friends after finding other jobs without taking their commitment and responsibilities to the paper seriously.

Motion: That the Council accept the resignation.

Moved: Jazzlyn Breen

Seconded: Adriana Olguin Malavisi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the Representatives Elect meeting of the 90th SRC held on 2nd November were circulated. And Minutes of the 89th SRC meeting for October and November were also circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the Representatives Elect meeting of the 90th SRC held on 2nd November be accepted.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Seth Dias

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion: that the minutes of the 89th SRC meeting for October and November be accepted.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Liam Thorne

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.

Questions were received by the executive in advance and will be answered in the president's report.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings of the 89th SRC from October to November 2017 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 89th SRC from October to November 2017 be accepted on bloc.

Moved: Maya Eswaran

Seconded: Harry Gregg

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 23rd January and 2nd February 2018 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 90th SRC from the 23rd January and 2nd February 2018 be accepted on bloc.

Moved: Maya Eswaran

Seconded: Liam Thorne

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 1st December 2017 – 6th February 2018.
The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Imogen Grant tabled a written report:

NUS Presidents' Summit

Presidents' Summit is an annual conference held by NUS. The Summit provides training and networking opportunities for the Presidents of affiliate campuses as well as hosting panels of speakers from the media and the higher education sector. The NUS National Office Bearers also presented their reports and plans for the year. Myself and various SRC Office Bearers will be in close contact with them in the lead up to O-Week so that we can run NUS campaigns on campus and have their resources prepared for our stalls.

O-Week Preparations

O-Week is an unparalleled opportunity to speak to incoming students and inform them about our campaigns and services. We have organised with the USU our stall arrangement. Along with the admin team, I have also been researching into resources for the SRC stall (e.g. zines, pamphlets, decorations, SRC promo material etc.)

SRC Promotion and Outreach

The admin team and myself have been researching into methods to increase the SRC's outreach to the student population. We are looking to purchasing an SRC gazebo with SRC branding that can be used for stalls on Eastern Avenue to promote the SRC's campaigns and services. The gazebo will be particularly useful for the casework team when doing outreach on satellite campuses.

SRC Newsletter

The SRC will be launching an online newsletter that will be sent to students. It will be a low-density newsletter sent every month, with the option to unsubscribe. The newsletter will be an important opportunity to promote SRC services (e.g. before landmark dates such as show cause) and political campaigns to students. Mickie and I will be working on the layout in the upcoming weeks with the intention to send out on Monday 26 February before O-Week. I will be contacting Office Bearers before then re submitting content.

SSAF Negotiation

As Tyrone Carlin (former DVC-Registrar) is no longer working at the University, Professor Pip Patterson (DVC-Education) will now be taking over the Student Life portfolio and be handling SSAF negotiations. I met with Pip to discuss the process for accessing the contestable SSAF funding and the importance of the SRC as an institution.

Since then, we have not yet been contacted by Pip Patterson or her department with the 2018 timeline for the Acquittal and SSAF Submission process. Nonetheless, the SRC has begun preparations to access SSAF funding. The General Secretaries and myself will be meeting with all the department heads this week to discuss their 2018 initiatives and request costings. Afterwards,

the SRC will be liaising with the other student organisations to discuss how much funding we will be requesting. Suggested projects thus far have included investments into video technology, a research officer, outreach caseworker and so on.

Invasion Day

This year's rally marked 230 years since British military forces invaded Gadigal land and declared British rule over this continent, along with Aotearoa and other Pacific Islands. The rally was enormous, with the massive crowd loudly stating that our national celebration is disrespectful and needs to change. Many local councils around the country have accepted the need for change and are supporting Aboriginal community events instead of the normal nationalist garbage on January 26th.

The legacy and impacts of colonialism are still felt today in Australia. Aboriginal children are still being taken from their families. Suicide rates of Aboriginal children are the highest in the world. Aboriginal children have been placed in solitary confinement in the youth "justice" system amounting to torture and potential violations of international law. Land dispossession continues in the name of resource extraction and profit. Aboriginal peoples have been targeted for "income management" schemes.

At Yabun Festival, I spoke to organisers from the First Nations Workers Alliance (FNWA). FNWA was established by the ACTU in response to the Turnbull Government's Community Development Program (CDP) which is punitive, heavy-handed and racially discriminatory. FNWA provides \$500 membership for union organisations who want to support the campaign. The SRC should strongly consider becoming a member organisation of the FNWA. We are an organisation that cares about social justice and has always had unwavering opposition to racial discrimination.

Sexual Assault Campaign, report back on the Broderick Review into colleges

There has been significant criticism of the Liz Broderick review into college culture. Given that the review was initiated and announced in response to an avalanche of media reporting about incidents of sexual assault and sexual harassment at University of Sydney colleges, it is remarkable that this context is entirely missing from the report, and that the examination of sexual violence is placed within a broader mix of cultural issues at colleges.

We can only assume that the University and colleges significantly altered the focus of the review between its announcement in May 2016 and its formal commissioning in October 2016, which raises an important question about whether this review was about managing reputational issues or genuinely seeking to address the decades-long culture enabling sexual violence at these colleges.

Broderick and her team only interviewed 17 alumni of the colleges, so the vast majority of opinions are from current college students. While these opinions are clearly important to gather, it's crucial to recognise that due to the insular nature of the college community, current college students often have very different views to alumni, who have had some time to reflect on their experience, and feel less immediate social pressure to defend their institutions. The project also failed to engage with other members of the community, such as student representatives, parents, college staff (e.g. cleaners) and university staff.

But perhaps the most glaring omission of all is the absence of quotes from survivors of sexual violence. When it was their experiences of hazing and sexual violence, and their bravery in speaking out about this culture, that precipitated the inquiry, their voices are missing entirely from Broderick's report. I spoke with Elizabeth Broderick last week to provide feedback into the previous cultural review and the review into St Paul's College. If the same methodology is applied to St Paul's College, no survivors of sexual assault or alumni will contribute to the review. Current St Paul's students would be the only ones to testify to the state of their college's culture.

Response to Questions:

Addressing correspondence raised in executive meeting 07/02/2018

It was discussed and decided in the executive meeting today that it was best to answer Correspondence from George Bishop in my report tonight.

1. Who or which office is responsible for maintaining and posting on the SRC's Facebook account?

The Facebook account is managed by the President as the spokesperson and manager of the SRC. Also the entire Executive to have admin power of the page. Collectively, we post content daily as it is a prime channel through which students are updated concerning SRC campaigns and issues. For clarity, the SRC page tends to publicise the political wing of the SRC, whereas the SRC HELP Facebook page publicises SRC services and is run by the casework department.

2. In relation to question 1, are they empowered either by the Regulations, Constitution or a resolution of Council or the Executive to do so?

As President I am empowered by the Regulations and Constitution to speak on behalf of the SRC and Council.

In the Regulations: Part 1, Section 1 (a)

The duties of the President shall be to speak on behalf of the Council in public forums.

Which I would interpret as including social media. It also states that my role is to promote the decisions of Council - e.g. if we pass a motion in support of X...to promote that support in public channels.

In Section 4 of the Constitution it states that the President is the CEO of the Council.

I am in charge of the promotion and publicity of the SRC and its services and the day-to-day running of the SRC as an organisation. I take advice from Council and report back to Council. Council has the power to change the political or strategic direction of this organisation by passing motions to that effect.

3. On what basis is content selected by the person/s who operate the Facebook account?

Content is generally selected in line with the student interest. Considering the SRC Facebook page has previously been dead, we have had unprecedented "traction" and interactions with our posts. Look at our most recent posts - VC salaries, NUS Against Racism, the possibility of a fee strike, NDA/NUS Make Education Free Again, Consent Matters and so on.

4. Must content comply with formal SRC Policy on political matters which are the subject of the posts? What are the consequences if it does not?

5. Is there a process of review whereby councilors and/or members of the executive can review and/or report non-compliance with any of the above matters?

For Questions 4 and 5 -Facebook posts, and any other public statement - must not contravene SRC policy. Facebook posts are in line with past and existing positions of the Council, until that position changes it carries on. If a post or statement contravenes the stance of the Council, the Council or the Executive are empowered to amend or remove posts. If the Council is not happy with an existing stance of the council they can move a motion at council to change it.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Pranay Jah

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Adriana Olguin Malavisi tabled a written report:

Since the beginning of my term, I have been trying to think of ways in which I can actively get involved in my role as vice-president. Previously the role has been quite vague. The SRC Constitution and Regulations outline the role as a liaison with societies, committees, and OB's in order to help with the running and publicity of campaigns on campus, as well aiding the President in whatever they need. I have had meetings with the executive and O-Week planning committee in order to plan the logistics behind O-Week. I have spoken to my co-VP to see what our goals are this year, and have been actively trying to see how I can best fulfil my role. I have been in contact with the welfare department about a campaign they are planning and will be providing any help they require. As for what I want to focus on this year, I have been doing some brainstorming and have come up with a few ideas, one of which is starting an initiative, which helps students find access to mental health services. I know it may seem over-played in some ways, and of course there's a lot of resources, however having gone through first year university and really struggling with mental health made it clear that although there are quite a few services available, it can be quite overwhelming and they're often not the most accessible services. Bombarding students with information on all the services, although absolutely necessary that are available doesn't always make them accessible. Students need to know how to access the mental health services available to them in such a way that they are comfortable, and confident that they will receive genuinely meaningful advice and assistance. Another thing is making sure students know all the options they have when it comes to appeals and special consideration, as the schools and faculties often fail to make this clear. Obviously the special considerations system can often be quite brutal, but it does provide a lot of safe guards and support for students who are struggling with their mental and/or physical health, though we should still push for a more compassionate system. At a meeting with some of the executive the idea of a 'Services Week' was brought up. This would be a short 3-day occasion which, much like Radical Sex week or Radical Education Week, and run similar to student elections. It could involve walk and talks, lecture bashes, and seminars/panels, all of which would be an effective way of teaching students about the services available to them in a direct way. The purpose of this would be to publicize all services provided by the University, USU, and SRC

whether it be financial, personal health, student housing, etc. as well as services not provided for by the university.

I am very excited and hopeful for this year, and hope to get to work with all OB departments closely.

Thomas Manousaridis spoke to the report noting that this would be a good opportunity to highlight services not provided directly by the University, which are often inadequate.

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

Moved: William Edwards

Seconded: Thomas Manousaridis

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Nina Dillon Britton tabled a written report:

Office Bearers

- Have met with most collective OBs, will be organising meetings with some minor OBs and Welfare officers throughout Feb.
- Not much to report here but encourage people to reach out to me if they need help getting ready for O-Week!
- If you would like to include a pamphlet about a campaign/anything else in the SRC's show bags can you please let me know. We need 2 weeks heads up to photocopy everything. The Publications Managers can help with designing a pamphlet.

O-Week

T-Shirts

- I am co-ordinating a collective order for different collectives and potentially Honi Soit as well to try and reduce costs.
- Have let office bearers know this through email, the SRC councillors and office bearers Facebook page and WeChat for officers that are away.
- I need to stress that I'm happy to co-ordinate this, but if you haven't given me the designs and order details by tomorrow I can't order this for you! OBs can order shirts themselves, but they will cost more and come out of their budget.
-

O-Week Merchandise

- SRC hasn't done branded merchandise that is given away in the O-week show bags before. Good way of advertising the SRC and the services it provides.
- Will exceed slightly the O-Week budget from last year, but not by much. Think it's worth it, outreach is central to the SRC's mission and ability to get students involved.
- Have exec approval for branded SRC T-shirts, Brigitte Samaha has done the designs which will be going on the back of the shirt, and there will be a small SRC logo on the front breast. Some of these will be sold for about \$10 and we will be putting some aside to be

booked out so that councillors and OBs can wear them while representing the SRC at events or during outreach initiatives throughout the year.

- Have ordered printed calico bags with the same designs. Slightly more expensive than last year, but only because have increased the numbers. Per unit cost is much lower.
- The executive has also approved funding for branded bottle openers and pens. These are things that students will be able to use regularly and keep, whilst also promoting the SRC.

Merchandise donations summary

- Have been reaching out to brands/NGOs to get materials for the O-Week bags.
- It has been suggested that we put together a “raffle” where you go in the running to receive some goodies if you like the SRC and maybe Caseworker Facebook page in O-Week – so am also seeking donations for that. Think it’s a good idea to get more people engaged through social media.

Brand	Object	Contacted	Replied	Donating?
Ubycotex	Tampons	Yes, on form	Yes	No
Acon	Condoms etc	Yes		
HERO	Condoms	Yes		
Moxie	Tampons	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dendy	Tickets/discounts	Yes	Yes	Yes! Student discount pamphlets Marilene Silva Fernandes <MarileneS@dendy.com.au>
Palace Cinemas	Tickets/discounts	Yes	Yes	Yes Nicholas Cummins Nicholas.Cummins@palacecinemas.com.au Received!
Gen Pants	Discounts	Yes	Yes	No
Post it	Post it notes	Yes	Yes	Yes 1500 innovation.au@mmm.com Nicole
Mary’s	Discounts	Yes		
Guzman	Discounts	Yes	Yes	Pending

Mad Mex	Discounts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rape and DV Services Australia	Materials	Yes		
Kuletos	Discounts	Yes		
The Landsdowne	Discounts	Yes		
Princess Polly	Discounts	Yes	Yes	No
Family Planning NSW	Materials	Yes		
Belvoir St Theatre	Discounts and tickets for raffle	Yes	Yes	Tickets for "raffle" and student 1500 student discounts
Gelato Messina	Discounts	Yes		
Industrial Strength	Discounts	Yes		
Durex	Products	Yes		
Libra	Products	Yes		
Better Read than Dead	Discounts	Yes		
Young Henrys	Discounts	Yes		
The Italian Bowl	Discounts	Yes		
Gleebooks	Discounts	Yes		
Sydney Theatre Company	Discounts and Tickets for "raffle"	Yes		

If anyone else has some ideas for other companies we could reach out to, to donate to those bags please let me know! Would be great to include as many as we can.

Counter-Course

- Counter-Course has gone to print! The draft was posted in the SRC OBs and Councillors Facebook group to gauge any dissent, which luckily there wasn't any!
- This was a lot of work from the Education Officers, Lara Sonnenschein and Lily Campbell, and I, but I think we are all really proud of this.
- This is, to the best of my knowledge, the first Counter-Course book that has included a language other than English. We will be translating more of this into different languages to reach out to international students and make this available in the online version.
- Would like to thank everyone who contributed.
 - Tanya Ali
 - Natalie Berry
 - Emelia Bode
 - Jazzlyn Breen
 - Geneve Bullo
 - Lily Campbell
 - Zixiao Chen
 - Clara De Costa Riedel
 - Nina Dillon Britton
 - Robin Eames
 - Mia Gao
 - Imogen Grant
 - Harry Gregg
 - Jacky He
 - Yi Man
 - Jack Mansell
 - Amelia Mertha
 - Akala Newman
 - Tanushri Saha
 - Lara Sonnenschein
 - Katie Thorburn
 - Nischeta Velu
 - Madeline Ward
 - Yuxuan Yang
 - Jacky He
- This year we decided to not go with the subject guides this year because:
 - This was useful when students would sign up on the day to whole degrees and courses – that's already done long before O-Week now
 - Could reform to be guides to specific units – recommending some, discouraging people from doing others – but Ed officers have brought up concern that that undermines staff.
 - Maybe a rate your course is something to look into - Melbourne University has a website where people provide feedback on units – but if we wanted to do this would be better to do online rather than in a book anyway.
 - So its sort of general tips on courses, takes up far less of the book now.
- We're laying up, but people still sending things in late which is frustrating but trying to include as much as possible.

Other preparations for O-week

- Need to organise volunteers for the stall.
- Setting up an SRC WeChat and organise a big QR code so that people can join – make translated Counter-course available through there. Will need to be organising someone to do that.
- In 2015 the SRC put together a guide to some of the student representative services and 10,000 were disseminated through the Access bags at O-Week. This is a far larger reach than Counter-Course hardcopies. I've tracked this down (it does need updating), and have also reached out to President of the USU about the possibility of this happening again. The guide would contain the key information for students to let them know about the SRC, and would hopefully reach more students than we have in the past.

SSAF

SSAF negotiations will start much later than usually this year. We're not quite sure why, probably to do with the hand over from Tyrone Carlin to Pip Patterson. We don't even know how big the contestable pool is.

Nina Dillon Britton added that she would like to shame Gelato Messina for saying no to a student discount, also that "there are no condoms so no one can have sex this year". Nina continues that request for the SRC Counter Course publication to be put in the USU's O-Week Bags was rejected.

William Edwards asked if any not for profits and sexual health community groups has been contacted about getting condoms.

Nina Dillon Britton said that she had contacted a number of groups including Family Planning NSW and Domestic Violence NSW but had not heard back.

Jessica Syed added that the Women's Officers had been contacted by Family Planning NSW and there were a lot of condoms in the women's room.

William Edwards said he was reassured that students could have sex this year.

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

Moved: Maya Eswaran

Seconded: Pranay Jah

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Lily Campbell and Lara Sonnenchein tabled a written report:

Last week we completed Counter Course with General Secretary, Nina. We continued on the practice begun last year of combing the counter course with the SRC Handbook. This year we

decided to cut reviewing virtually every subject and instead chose to give broad tips and advice about faculties and schools instead. This was due to the fact that when incoming students read Counter Course, most have chosen the subjects that they'll undertake. It also avoids the political compromise inherent in reviewing workers. The subject guides of the past were unnecessarily dense and largely uninteresting - contributing to the low readership of the guide. In speaking to previous Education Officers for advice and from our own research, this has always been the most labour intensive task for the Education Officers in compiling Counter Course, and we didn't see input matching output - students are unlikely to change their courses or units based on our recommendations. This also gave us more of an opportunity to create a radical publication with more political articles written by student activists. We hope you like it!

As Education Officers we see our role extending to matters off campus as well as on campus organising. We will continue to organise within and offer active solidarity to various social movements. We see the EAG functioning as a collective that fights for education and student rights, however, also gets actively involved in other issues.

Throughout the university break, members of the EAG have attended other actions and events separate to those on campus. Notable mentions would include the Pro Palestine rally condemning Trump's decision to declare Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Lara spoke at this rally at Town Hall to a large and energetic crowd. There was another strong EAG contingent at the Free Ahed Tamimi rally and SRC president, Imogen spoke at that rally. More recently, the Invasion Day rally attracted a large crowd of around 10,000-15,000 people and we saw a huge turnout from students from campuses across Sydney, with many USyd collectives organising their respective contingents. Lily was involved in organising this event and will continue to organise within FIRE, primarily for an upcoming rally against Deaths in Custody at the end of April. Over the break there were multiple rallies demanding justice for David Dungay Jr. There will be an inquest into his death later this year. On 14th February there will be a rally for justice for TJ Hickey. We encourage those involved with the SRC and the broader student body to join this rally in solidarity.

Lily and other members of the EAG travelled down to Canberra on 5th February to participate in an Anti Adani rally. This is an extremely important issue and is a growing, vibrant movement across the country against climate change and environmental destruction that the SRC should be in full support of. Students from Sydney University, Lilli Barto, Nic Avery, Natalie Berry and others have been involved in Front Line Action on Coal and are trying to raise money for their legal fees. We ask on their behalf for all councillors and OBs to show their solidarity with these students and donate to their funds.

We had our first EAG of the year to coordinate the counter course, debrief recent political events and developments (recent education cuts, NUS national conference, Wollongong university student association) and discuss upcoming events and building for them (Invasion Day and Palestine Action Group rallies). We also had our first New South Wales Education Organising meeting where we bounced ideas around regarding the upcoming National Day of Action on March 21. Whilst NDA's typically involve A-B marches, often from USyd to UTS we decided against this and instead will hold specific campus actions. This is given the fact that whilst the Turnbull government is slashing 2.1 billion from education, currently, there isn't the energy to hold a mass demonstration and a typical rally would be a net loss given smaller numbers. This gives us the chance to hold a more creative action and to draw in more USyd students to the education

movement and student activism more broadly and doesn't rule out EAG marches for 2018. Whilst still operating under the National Union of Students' demands of no education cuts, no course cuts and more broadly, the demand for free education, holding a campus specific action will further allow us to focus on issues at USyd more generally – things like Spence's wages and the university's investments might be key features - the second meeting of the year is scheduled for 7th February.

On this, Lara has filed a GIPA (*Government Information Public Access*) application (what was formally FOI or Freedom of Information request) to ascertain more information regarding university investments. This came about due to a keen interest in whether the university currently invests in companies that produce arms, as they did in 2015 with Honeywell, a notorious company that developed cluster bombs for the Vietnam War and continues to profit off war, as well as being exposed in 2013 by the Washington Post for not paying tax. We will keep the collective updated on this process and the findings.

Lara Sonnenschein spoke to her report noting that there have been a number of Education Action Group (EAG) meetings already this year and that the choice to not have a conventional rally was there was not the energy required to make it effective. She added that the company Honeywell is also associated with the Pantex plant in Texas which develops nuclear weapons.

Lily Campbell spoke to her report adding that an EAG had been held earlier in the day and that there was an NAD coming up on the 21st of February. Lily Campbell continued saying that the event would be a creative demonstration and they were hoping to make some paper mache tanks and bombs to highlight the University's investments in weapons manufacturing, she concluded encouraging everyone to get involved.

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

Motion: Jazzlyn Breen

Seconded: Pranay Jah

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Madeline Ward and Jessica Syed tabled a written report:

Our annual handbook, *Growing Strong*, went to print last week. We spent the majority of January collating submissions, editing them and laying them up. We were lucky to have a diverse range of works in the publication with regard to content and contributor and are looking forward to seeing the final product. There will be a launch for the magazine in week three of semester one.

O-Week is on the horizon and we have been in contact with Love Claude, sanitary item people, the Scarlet Alliance, intersectional counselling services, RDVSA, NSW Sexual Health, vegan condom people, Max Black, Take Blacktion, the RPA, and so forth for free resources to give to students. We are also working on information pamphlets re: accessible abortions. Actions for O-Week are also in the works, as is an event, the nature of which we have not yet decided but may be a film screening. We are also in the process of putting together our own merchandise.

We have had one collective meeting to plan for the year ahead in which Invasion Day, our campaign/O-Week/Growing Strong plans were discussed, among other things. We have also met with Penny Sharpe MLC who will be putting up amendments to the Summary Offences Act to ensure safe access zones to the Legislative Assembly before Easter, and with Mehreen Faruqi MLC to see how the End 12 campaign is going. We have been in touch with the NUS Women's Officer to see if our ideas for the year can be streamlined. We have also met with Elizabeth Broderick to give her the input of the Wom*n's Collective with regard to the conducting of the Broderick review into cultural renewal at St. Paul's College.

This year we plan to continue the campaign against sexual assault on campus alongside conduct our own pro-choice campaign that would somewhat tie in with Penny Sharpe's bill but also be focused on Sydney University students e.g. providing students who have accessed an abortion with support alongside raising awareness and momentum.

We have had two contingents attend the two most recent pro-Palestine rallies in the past month; the turnout has been quite good. We also had a banner paint in the OB room in preparation.

Jessica Syed added to her report saying that the collective has a great design for the T-Shirts this year. Also that they have already had a collective meeting this year to plan the year ahead and are talking to NUS women's officer for a wider campaign. Jessica Syed continued noting that they had also have been in contact with Liz Broderick to expresses disappointment with the report, and that she seems keen on improving aspects of the review for the Paul's College's review. She concluded noting that they want to get SRC show bags out to College kids so they know what services are available and they would hopefully be at the Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR) rally next week that should still be going ahead for the 10 year anniversary of the apology.

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

Motion: Pranay Jah

Seconded: Liam Thorne

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Social Justice Officers

SOCIAL JUSTICE OFFICER REPORT

As Social Justice Officer, this year my main campaign will be the Young Worker's Collective, a new collective within which activists can fight against wage theft, workplace discrimination and harassment and unemployment of students and young people of all identities. We have had our first meeting - it was a fantastic meeting attended by many capable, strong and talented activists dedicated to fighting a flawed system. I will now go through a few initiatives that we have come up with.

STALLS ON EASTERN AVENUE

First of all, we plan to hold two stalls on Eastern Avenue this semester to start conversations with students about fair worker's rights. This stall aims to provide the opportunity for activists to talk to other students about worker's rights, the importance of unionism and their rights at work. We aim to get information and resources from unions, resources from NUS about Centrelink and young

worker's rights and compile our own resources about a few other issues as well. This includes workplace discrimination of women, people of colour, LGBTI+ and disabled workers.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WORKER'S RIGHTS

Something important came up in our first meeting and this is the unique position international students are in when they work in Australia. We've seen worker exploitation of international students at 7/11 only last year, and this narrative is most likely in other workplaces as well, just better hidden. The Young Worker's Collective welcomes all International students in the SRC to come get involved in our collective and make your voices heard. We want to run campaigns specifically about the worker's rights of international students. We aim to translate our materials into several languages so they are more accessible for these students and source specific information about working on a visa and your rights.

UNION DAY

Perhaps a more ambitious idea for the campaign, union day will require all hands on deck. This will involve inviting unions to come set up stalls on Eastern Avenue to talk to students and young workers in a similar format to O Week. I will keep you posted, as this needs more discussion, but watch this space!

GET INVOLVED

Anyone who isn't already a member of the Young Worker's Collective, please come speak to me to find out how to get involved. We'd love to have you on board.

Aiden Magro recapped their report.

Motion: that the report of the Social Justice Officers be accepted.

Motion: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Seth Dias

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Student housing report

In this first meeting of the 90th student representative council, I as one of the student housing officers am expressing to the council the general goals of myself and my colleagues. Such goals we hope to achieve are here as follows:

1. Prioritise students who need student housing

- Regional/interstate/international students - students from a low socio- economic background
- Students with disabilities
- 2. Informing students of their housing options - reliable correspondence with students raising concerns
- Promotion of options via digital university services, social media and printed material around campus
- Events (e.g. seminars), inviting industry professionals to speak on the safest and the best-suited regions where students can seek housing options
- 3. Campaigning to improve the

student housing situation for students – protests to pressure the university administration to lower the costs

2. Inviting people with knowledge of the student-housing situation to speak out against the excessive cost of accommodation
3. Networking opportunities to make it easier for students looking for potential roommates.

Given the nature of our office I on behalf of my colleagues would like to enlighten the council on the student housing situation as it stands:

- o A shared apartment on campus costs around \$210 to \$430 a week
- o The colleges cost around \$400 to \$690 a week
- o Housing off campus can range from \$180 to \$600 a week

This is of course all dependent on where the student lives, as in what type of student housing, college or independent off campus area they are living in.

In addition to the rent of student housing accommodation and colleges, students have to also pay for additional services. Basic utilities can cost from \$35 to \$140 with the addition of internet and phone service costing between \$20 and \$55 a week.

On behalf of my colleagues we deem such a high cost of living for students, especially from low socio- economic backgrounds unacceptable. Given the unsustainable situation of housing in Sydney generally for students to own their own home, we believe it is the duty of the student housing officers to improve the quality of life of students who wish to live out of home close to campus.

By extension we also believe it is the duty of the entirety of the 90th student representative council to take such a situation seriously and better the students they represent, not just the councillors who were elected on the issue of student housing. As a team coming from different SRC campaigns with different political views we recognise that USYD's SRC is a highly politicised student body.

However, we believe that this issue should be taken as seriously, if not more seriously than some of the issues debated in the meetings. This is something that should transcend partisan lines as an issue the SRC can actually address by the commencement of the 90th SRC, step by step through each meeting this year.

Here is an action plan manifesto of how we intend to improve student housing through approved motions in the SRC for the first two meetings of the year:

- February – approve support of this report -by extension also acknowledging that student housing needs to be taken seriously and that there needs to be a commitment to improve it
- March – approve recommended figures of how much student housing should cost in opposed to what it currently is (recommended figures to be negotiated.)
- More action plans will be released later down the track and will also be presented in a way that covers the first several meetings at a time due to the dependence of developments throughout the year.

On a side note we also aim to improve the student housing situation through additional platforms such as the education action group and the newly formed Young Workers Collective along with any other existing or future student groups committed to social justice. We will be aiming to be in line with the work done by the NUS and in turn welcome its support.

To conclude, we urge the council to support the accompanying motion for this first meeting for the sake of students whose interests they are representing.

Brandon Hale -Jacky He -Shanshan Guo -Grace Mieko Wang

Brandon Hale spoke to their report, highlighting need for affordable housing especially for rural and students with a disability. Adding that they want to focus on raising awareness on the different options for student housing and also raise awareness of students' housing rights.

Jacky He spoke to their report saying that the extreme cost of student housing in Sydney and especially at the University noting that much of university provided housing is well over the affordable housing rate. They continued saying that students in places like Iglu and Urban Nest also have to pay service fees such as Internet on top of the 600 a week rent, with internet being around \$20 a week.

Brandon Hale added to the report noting that low SES students are locked out of student accommodation close to campus and that there needs to be a serious overhaul of how student housing is managed by the University, it's something he hopes the council works strongly on this year, as it is something that effects all students at the University. Brandon Hale noted that the SRC is an highly political body but it is also here to represent the needs of students at this University and hopes that student housing is something the Council should be able to come together and work on. They continued saying that at a future council we are hoping to give a report with an outline of what the cost of housing should be, and hope that the Council will pass this report in support of fighting for student rights around housing. Brandon Hale concluded by saying the officers will be working with a number of different collectives including the young workers, EAG and rural student next work over the year to grow the campaign.

The chair asked if there were any questions for the Student Housing Officers

Tim Seguna asked of the University's 2020 plan which he believed had an aim for increasing student housing on campus was of interest to the housing officers. And maybe they could campaign on making that housing for low socio-economic status students.

Brandon Hale and Jacky He said it would be of interest and something they would look into further.

Motion: that the report of the Student Housing Officers be accepted.

Motion: Thomas Manousaridis

Seconded: Pranay Jah

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Disabilities and Carers Officers

We have consulted with the Disabilities & Carers Collective and as of 2018, pending formal ratification in a collective meeting; we will be splitting into the Disabilities Collective and the Caregivers Network.

This decision was made after an anonymous collective vote held open for two weeks. It stems from concerns about the way that the collective's focus and autonomy is split between disabled students and student caregivers. Both of these groups really need support, but there weren't any caregiver-focussed events in 2016 or 2017, and we're concerned that conflating the purpose of the collective was ultimately doing a disservice to both groups.

Throughout last year a lot of students seemed to be confused about the purpose of the collective - Noa and Mollie got a lot of people requesting to join the group because they thought it was a space for abled students to volunteer to help disabled students.

Disabled students are a marginalised group who experience systemic infrastructural oppression. Student caregivers are a group of people who provide informal support to disabled family and friends, often due to a lack of infrastructural supports, which frequently puts informal caregivers under a great deal of pressure and isolation. Our experiences are related but both groups require very different kinds of support. Disability includes mental health, and student caregivers often experience fraught mental health, so there is some overlap. Disabled people also often provide caregiving for each other! When the Disabilities Collective became the Disabilities & Carers Collective in 2013, it was mainly because the special considerations system did not cover primary caregiving responsibilities, which has thankfully now been rectified.

USyd has a University Parents and Caregivers Network for staff, so our goal is to develop something similar for students broadly under the auspices of the Disabilities Collective and potentially with collaboration from Disability Services and the university. We think a dedicated network is going to be more beneficial in terms of creating community and emotional support, and a more clearly defined purpose will allow for events designed specifically around the needs of student caregivers. A broader support network held loosely in conjunction with the Disabilities Collective will also mean that postgraduate caregivers can join as well - currently SUPRA does not have an equity network for caregivers, so abled caregivers who join the SRC Disabilities & Carers Collective as undergrads do not have options for community support as postgrads. Ideally a network like this will require undergraduate caregivers to spearhead the initiative, but in the meantime the Disabilities Officers are planning to help it get set up, and see where things go from there. We are very much invested in getting the Caregivers Network off the ground properly, and if it doesn't work out as an initiative then we will probably consider folding caregivers back into the autonomy of the Disabilities Collective.

With the establishment of a Caregivers Network, our plan is to reframe the Disabilities & Carers Collective as the Disabilities Collective, with group autonomy applying to disabled students, as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities: "those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." This includes students with mental, chronic, or terminal illnesses, or who are neurodivergent or Deaf, regardless of whether they identify as disabled or as having a disability. Caregivers

experiencing mental illness are still very much welcome to join on that basis, and caregivers assisting disabled students to engage with the collective are also welcome to join on a case-by-case basis. We're not trying to exclude student caregivers or devalue their experiences; quite the opposite - we're concerned about the lack of support in place for student caregivers currently, and we don't want to conflate both groups at the expense of either one.

The collective's online presence is twofold, including both a secret Facebook group and a public Facebook page; the public page is non-autonomous and anyone is welcome to follow our events and activities there, and we do plan to have several non-autonomous events throughout the year.

We're very excited for the upcoming year and we hope to have a strong presence at O-Week, including pamphlet materials and shirts (for the first time ever!)

We intend to collaborate with the Disability Action Plan working group to ensure that the university's Disability Action Plan 2019-2024 is developed with the best interests of disabled students in mind.

Recently Robin was on a panel at an event hosted by the University of Sydney Southeast Asia Centre in collaboration with the First Peoples Disability Network and visiting Indonesian DPOs (disabled people's organisations), on the subject of the role of social media in online activism. It was an excellent panel with a lot of powerful activist energy, and we are hoping to continue fostering connections with the broader Australian and international disabled activist community throughout the year.

We're also very interested in supporting the NSW Disability Advocacy Alliance's current "Stand By Me" campaign against cuts to disability advocacy funding. We have provided the SRC and the Queerspace with a number of flyers and postcards from the campaign, which can be signed and sent off to the Premier. We also intend to write up a collective submission to our local MP and Local Councillor to express our support for the campaign for independent information and independent advocacy to remain funded in NSW. It's very important that these necessary services are not lost in the transition to the NDIS!

Love & solidarity,
Robin, Mollie, and Ren

Motion: that the report of the Disability and Carers' Officers be accepted.

Motion: Harry Gregg

Seconded: Maya Eswaran

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural Motion to move to General Business

Moved: Lily Campbell

seconded: Harry Gregg

The Procedural was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R1. Motion from the Floor

That \$600 of central funding be donated to the Front Line Action on Coal activist funds. \$300 to Nic Avery's Abbot Point Five fund and \$300 to Lilli Barto and Nathan SB's fund.

These are non-specific actions to a particular campus collective and should be provided for by the SRC as a whole in solidarity with these activists who face enormous legal fines for their direct action against the Adani Mine.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion highlighting the importance of supporting activists.

Zachary Gillies-Palmer spoke to the motion mentioning that the SRC has a history of supporting these activists.

Nina Dillon Britton spoke to the motion noting that without a knowledge of both the amount available or the distribution of SSAF but we have already expended about \$1500 from the shared resources pool this year, last year that budget was \$2000, if this was to come out of that budget we would need to increase it's budget this year and that would come out of other collectives budgets in general.

Harry Gregg spoke to the motion saying that the SRC has a responsibility to support people who put themselves on the line for our future.

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Harry Gregg

The motion was put and was found to be an even 50/50 divide.

The Secretary to Council consulted the constitution to clarify the procedure in the event of an even split. After consulting the constitution it was determined that the motion had **FAILED**.

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q2. First Nations Workers Alliance

All Australians deserve the opportunity to have fair, safe and non-discriminatory employment. The Turnbull Government's Community Development Program (CDP) is depriving tens of thousands of people of this opportunity. Of the 33,000 people on the CDP, 31,000 or 94% are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The Young Worker's Collective and the Social Justice Department of the SRC will not sit back while racial discrimination against our First Nations people is happening in the workplace. CDP workers are not actually classified as workers. They get well below the minimum wage (The dole pays \$11.60 an hour or \$290 a week) for working 25 hours a week. They are not covered by the Fair Work Act, there are no WHS (Workplace Health and Safety) protections or workers compensations and they cannot take annual leave, sick leave or carer's leave. On top of this CDP workers:

- Have 70 times the financial penalties imposed upon them than non-remote dole workers
- Are threatened with fines for missing activities under the CPD
- Are forced to work three times longer than city-based jobseekers to receive welfare payments.

(Information gathered comes from the First Nation's Worker's Alliance)

The First Nations Worker's Alliance is working with CDP workers and their communities to give them a voice with which they can speak out against this exploitation. It plans to campaign against the racist program that is the CDP. The FNWA offers a solidarity membership to unions. If 10 collectives or departments of the SRC contributed \$50, the University of Sydney SRC could join the alliance as a solidarity member. The Women's Collective, Autonomous Collective Against Racism, Education Action Group, Welfare Department and Social Justice Department have already agreed to pledge \$50.

Platform:

1. The SRC recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are entitled to equal opportunities in the workforce and that CDP is a racist program that exploits our First Nations people.
2. The SRC supports the FNWA for their work and campaigns against the CDP.

Actions:

1. With the help of 10 collectives or departments of the SRC, the SRC becomes a solidarity member of the FNWA in order to prioritise and support Indigenous people in the Union movement.

Aiden spoke to the motion outlining its key elements.

Harry Gregg spoke to the motion and asked if anyone knew people at other student unions, as it would be nice to get a strong support from student organisations.

William Edwards said that the relative poverty line in Australia is \$400 a week, and these are \$200. Not only are they not below the minimum wage they are below the poverty line. The argument that this is not a student issue is absurd, this does affect students, and as a union we should be showing solidarity with other unions.

Channum Torres spoke against the motion saying the point was made that these people are forced to work, but they are already receiving welfare payments, and it is their responsibility to give back to tax payers. Adding that they are against this motion as CDP offers opportunities and pathways for people to find work.

There were many shouts of "bullshit" from others in the room.

Lily Campbell said that Channum Torres was racist and that liked CDP to slavery.

William Edwards spoke for the motions saying there was no dignity offered by the CDP, that it did not give back to the taxpayer at all but instead gave private businesses free labour. He noted that youth employment in the hospitality industry has gone down since the introduction of the CDP and similar policies noting that it for businesses it made more sense to get free labour than to Hire someone. Edwards also questioned Torres saying they had believed they were against intervention in the market, but seem to make exceptions with regards to these policies. Edwards concluded saying there is no dignity in having to work to get welfare that leaves you way below the poverty line.

Zachary Gilles Palmer spoke to the motion calling the CDP policy absurd and noting that these programs have been found ineffective. Adding that these programs don't give those in them the same protection as workers and are demoralising. Concluding that those who are against this motion, and support CDP policies should be ashamed of themselves.

Imogen called for any other speakers, and noted that the speaking list would be closed during the next speaker.

Jazzlyn Breen spoke to the motion noting that there has been invasion, genocide and now these policies targeted at the First people of Australia. That these policies are based on the racist ideas and to suggest that it is ok to enforce racist policies is offensive and ridiculous. Adding that these are not internships that are building people up to better careers and opportunities there are low skilled, low paid jobs. And that Those against this motion should think about that.

Harry Gregg spoke to the motion saying they regretted it but they would talk about their hometown Lismore. Gregg explained that in Lismore there is a 20% youth unemployment rate, and that while they understand that those against this motion say people should work, it should not be encouraged with a threat of poverty. Adding that there are reasons unemployment is high low in those areas, and that it's not because people are 'lazy' but a lack of educational and employment opportunities, as well as a monopoly within the job market. Further more, they added that there was not treaty in this country, sovereignty was never ceded, and it's important that this SRC support these people because no one should have to work for poverty wages.

Aiden Magro spoke to their motion agreeing with past speakers that there is no dignity in working for poverty wages, or a boss, or a system that does not see you as a person or an equal worker.

Paul Bova spoke to the motion saying that the CDP is a programed that overly affects Indigenous Australians, and that it's a racist policy. Adding that people who don't believe we should support these people against this program have no humanity. Concluding that people should not be forced to work for below poverty wages.

Moved: Aiden Magro

Seconded: Harry Gregg

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. Your Colonial Nostalgia Is Racist; Your Tokenistic Multiculturalism Is Racist

Moved: Jessica Syed

Seconded: Madeline Ward

WITHDRAWN Before meeting

Q4. RTBU solidarity motion

Preamble

For years Sydney train drivers have been facing an increasingly hostile work environment. With constant cuts to services, staff, forced overtime, and impossible new timetable requirements, Sydney's train drivers have suffered under the NSW Liberal Government.

Recently, the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) has been fighting for a pay rise for Sydney's train drivers to as compensation for the horrendous pressure they face each day. With the NSW Government failing to reach a compromise with the RTBU, the union members voted strike for 24 hours, a move that would have shut down Sydney's rail network and crippled Sydney's economy. However, recently the Fair Work Commission ruled against the RTBU's 24-hour strike, citing threats to the welfare of the greater population. The ruling has left Sydney's train drivers powerless, with no remedy to their intolerable working conditions.

Platform

- The SRC supports all workers' right to union membership and the right to engage in industrial action.
- The SRC stands in solidarity with the RTBU and Sydney's train drivers.
- The SRC encourages all employed undergraduate students to join their respective unions.
- Action
- The SRC make a post on its Facebook page supporting the rail workers.

Councilors and OBs will attend any public protest organised by the Union Movement or the RTBU in support of rail workers.

Thomas Manousaridis spoke to the motion, outlining its key points.

Harry Gregg spoke to the motion adding the Labour party should be ashamed for setting up the Fair Work Commission.

Emma Norton spoke to the motion adding that she was glad Harry Gregg mentioned the Labor party as they have a lot to answer for in this issue. Adding that she had noticed that this motion was lacking a condemnation of the Labor party. Concluding that they believed the sections of the Fair Work act that were used to stop strike actions here should be removed from the act entirely.

Harry Gregg said that there were a number of Labor politicians who spoke out in favour of the strikes, and so they're not all bad adding that at a recent Young Labour meeting moved a motion asking for State Party Leader Luke Foley to be removed.

George Bishop spoke against the motion saying that the RBTU was holding the state to ransom and jeopardising its infrastructure. Asking why wasn't the RBTU also standing with teachers and nurses for a similar a pay increase in their fields? Concluding that many people work unpaid overtime without complaint.

William Edwards inquired as to what George Bishop just said? Adding they he would like to see wages rise in all industries for everyone except the CEOs and George Bishop. Edwards continued explaining that the Nurses Association was responsible for running the Nurses campaigns not the RBTU. Concluding Edwards suggested that the biggest threat to the state's infrastructure was Transport Minister Andrew Constance.

Emma Norton spoke to the motion saying that the strike would cost money was the entire point of striking. Norton continued saying they were glad the RBTU went for a higher wage increase than most unions because we are seeing increasing productivity but wage stagnation, and if they were to win this it would be a good boost for other unions too, that's how its always worked. Adding that they thought it was really important that people have the right to strike and removing it was dangerous.

Thomas Manousaridis said that not allowing workers the right to strike give even more power to the employers and train drivers have such an important job and they need our support.

Jessica Syed said that she didn't know what threat to infrastructure George Bishop had been referring to, when the state government does not invest in infrastructure in the first place as evidenced by the extreme delays experienced by passengers due to chronic underfunding of the transport system. And that perhaps he should not speak against the workers trying to make a broken system work.

Moved: Thomas Manousaridis

Seconded: Harry Gregg

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Manning Jefferies, Sarah Cutter-Russel, George Bishop and Channum Torres noted their Dissent.

Q5. Scrap the Weapon's trade, fund education!

Just last week, Malcolm Turnbull signed a deal to inject 3.8 billion dollars in funding to local arms manufacturers with a direct desire to see Australia become one of the world's top 10 exporters of weapons. This is a 77x increase on last year's budget to arms. Weapons have become a lucrative resource to sell, expensive and required by countries across the world. Increasing arms manufacturing is akin to pouring gas on an already blazing bonfire - war and destruction at the hands of western nations continues every day, particularly in the Middle East. For example, arms sold by western nations to Saudi Arabia have killed thousands of civilians in the ongoing Yemen War, now considered the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The Liberals have insisted this move will revive manufacturing and introduce a new layer of employment, and shamefully the ALP have bought into this argument. Anthony Albanese, of the

supposed Labor 'left' has announced his support for this deal claiming the defence industry is 'important' and saying he's "very supportive of any proposal that creates jobs". The only party to oppose this plan was the Greens, correctly arguing that Australia will become a 'massive exporter of death'.

Whilst weapons manufacturers get billion dollar handouts, students remain under attack from a government crying poor. In the mid-year budget update, it was announced that the government will freeze the amount it pays to universities for two years and students would have to begin repaying their student loans when they earn \$45,000. There would also be a lifetime limit on government assistance of \$104,440 for most students, and \$150,000 for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science students. This is equivalent to \$2.2 billion in cuts.

Whilst \$3.8 billion of public money is being spent on funding murder, students are facing higher fees and a worse quality education. This program of handouts for the rich and cuts for the poor is also visible in the planned cuts to welfare and corporate tax cuts. Students across the country will be standing up against these attacks on March 21, a National Day of Action organised by the National Union of Students.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC opposes the \$3.8 billion dollar handout to weapons manufacturers.
2. The SRC maintains a strong anti-war position - recognising the historic importance of students in the fight against the Vietnam War.
3. The SRC reaffirms its commitment to fighting for free, fully funded higher education.

Action:

1. All councillors and office bearers will attend the March 21 action and actively support and build it.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion saying that this is going to be a big issue for the year as there are a number of wars happening around the world and it is expected that thousands of children will starve in Yemen as a result of a war headed up by Saudi Arabia. Adding that it seems that the world is moving closer to nuclear war, noting Donald Trump's presidency and escalation of hostilities with North Korea. She continues noting that the SRC and university activists had a strong role to play in fighting against war, as was demonstrated in the 70s with the Anti-Vietnam War movement. Lily noted that while the federal government is trying to freeze universities' funding they are simultaneously moving money into weapons development and that it is hypocritical to suggest that there is no money for education when you are channelling money into weapons development.

Paul Bova spoke to the motion saying that these are important issues and that many of these companies are getting handouts and benefits. Adding that while not only is funding to military increasing while education is decreasing so is the quality of education dropping while costs to students continue to rise.

Zachary Gillies Palmer proposed to amend the motion I'd like to propose an amendment to the platform of the motion to add "The SRC supports alternative and other ethical investments in Australia's manufacturing industry in support of workers and their communities"

The discussion of the motion was suspended to discuss the proposed amendment.

Hersha Kadkol spoke against the amendments noting that there has been a push from the Liberal government to portray this as a boost to production and industry. The Labor party has accepted this argument that there will just be handouts to these corporations regardless of that they do. Adding they she believed the original motion is more about left wingers taking a stand against war and weapons development, but also that there should be no handouts to corporations at all regardless of what they do, on the misconception that it creates jobs. Concluding that the original motion is not just about weapons funding it's about how they are doing this by taking funding away from education.

Lily Campbell said that she agreed with Hersha Kadkol's point - that this is about if we support the federal government giving handouts to private corporations to promote job creation that does not create jobs, and do it by taking away from education spending. Adding that it feeds into the trickle down economics theory. Lily continued noting that she was pro jobs and pro worker and understood that it was frustrating there were inadequate numbers available but that the solution to that is to nationalise sections of industry and fund them, not publicly fund private corporations. Adding that she did not believe publicly funding private corporations was in any industry was progressive, and is the government cared about job creation they would not slash funding to every other sector.

William Edwards said they agreed if the government wanted to create more jobs there are so many ways they could do so and did not think the amendment was necessary and that they were in favour of the motion as it stands.

Emma Norton added that she felt the amendment sounded defensive and doesn't add to the conversation. Adding that it doesn't account for the fact that many of these jobs created are a drop in the water and have long lasting negative impacts on the world. This money could be better spent on dealing with issues of unemployment, hospital overcrowding and education, there needs to be more than just 'not weapons' when talking about funding private industry.

Harry Gregg said they agree with the amendment as they feel we need to be investing in jobs in Australia and while working at the AMWU that we need to be supporting and developing manufacturing jobs. While we can come out against the military spending, but I don't think we should stand against the AMWU as they do support development of manufacturing in other areas.

Zachary Gillies Palmer said they felt there was a misunderstanding as to the intent of the amendment. Saying maybe the amendment needed more specificity as they were not in favour of handing out to big business, but there is a political angle here which is about standing with manufacturing communities and not letting the government try to cover up genuine issues with this sort of stunt but they should be supporting these communities properly.

The amendment was rejected by the movers of the motion.
The amendment was withdrawn.

Moved: Lily Campbell (Education Officer)
Seconded: Paul Bover
The motion was put and **CARREID**

In accordance with the regulations a 15 minutes break was called at 9:15

A quorum count was called at 9:41 the meeting was found quorate

Meeting resumed at 9:41

Q6. Students stand with NSW train workers

Preamble

The NSW Minister for Transport Andrew Constance and his ilk in the NSW government are committed to running our public transport system into the ground. In the first weeks of January, commuters suffered as the entire network went into meltdown, with trains cancelled and delayed across Sydney and surrounds due to poor planning and mismanagement by those in charge. The recent timetable changes saw every train go into circulation to “meet demand” without hiring more drivers. Constance himself has admitted that the system depends on drivers working overtime to function, with some working 50 days of overtime a year! On top of this, NSW train drivers are the worst paid on the Eastern seaboard.

The Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) is currently negotiating a new enterprise agreement which will cover rail staff for the next 3 years. While the bosses slammed the union for asking for a 6% pay rise, Sydney trains boss Howard Collins, and his fellow executives received a 9% pay rise! The total disdain with which the bosses have treated workers and the union during this negotiation pushed the RTBU to call a ban on overtime from January 25 and a 24hr strike on the 29th. Appallingly, NSW Labor leader Luke Foley opted to take the side of the bosses and the Liberals when he said he was “extremely disappointed” the strike was going ahead.

A train strike would have shut down the entire city and brought the bosses and the NSW government to their knees, with the estimated economic impact of the strike reaching \$90 million. Knowing this, the government applied to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) for an injunction to stop the strike. The FWC ruled in favour of the bosses to suspend the strike on the grounds that it would “threaten to endanger the welfare of part of the population” and that it “threatened to cause significant damage to the economy of Sydney”. This ruling essentially sets the precedent that if you have an “important” job you are not allowed to strike. The power to withdraw labour is the only way workers can force the bosses to give them any real concessions. Without the power to strike, train workers are at the whim of the bosses and a NSW Liberal Government hell bent on destroying a genuine public service. ACTU secretary Sally McManus famously said it’s ok to break unjust laws. Now is the time to act on these words. Unjust laws have only been changed by breaking them. When union leader Clarie O’Shea was jailed under the penal powers in 1969, over 1 million workers across multiple industries went out in defiance of the law to demand his release. These strikes broke the back of arbitration laws that were stacked against workers. The same is true of the Fair Work Act. Years of “boxing clever” has not helped to shift this paradigm, in fact,

Fair Work's decision to suspend the train strike shows they are more and more favouring the bosses. Strike action, legal or otherwise, is the only way workers can win.

If Constance has his way transport in NSW will be privatised and hundreds of people will lose their jobs to driverless trains. The SRC, like every union should stand in solidarity with train workers who get us to where we need to go every day, in their fight for a better and fairer public transport system.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the decision of the FWC to suspend the train strike
2. The SRC denounces Andrew Constance and the Liberal government's blatant agenda to destroy the public transport system in NSW
3. The SRC unreservedly supports the RTBU and rail workers in their fight for better pay and conditions

Action

1. The SRC calls for the immediate resignation of the Minister for Transport
2. The SRC endorses all industrial action taken by the RTBU and train workers to secure fair pay and conditions

Emma Norton spoke to the motion saying that unlike the other motion this one expressly says the SRC should stand with all industrial action taken by Train drivers. Adding that they felt it was important that the SRC supports all and any industrial action even that deemed illegal by the Fair Work Commission.

Hersha Kadkol spoke to the motion saying that the blocking of the train strike should be viewed as an attack on the working class and the union movement as a whole. Adding that while most unions are only asking for a 2-4% pay increase but the RTBU is asking for 6% and this is really important for worker to fight for the value of their work. The precedent to shut down strikes is really bad especially when the majority of the Sydney population are in support of the strike. Adding that they felt Sydney recognised that the poor wages are a part of that poor infrastructure, and that this is a really important moment the show solidarity in class warfare.

William Edwards spoke to the motion saying that we've spoken about this a lot, and while wages are really important it's also about the important to talk about conditions, for example overtime, and the fact the system needs overtime to function basically forces workers to work in illegal and dangerous conditions.

Lily Campbell added that they thought the fair work ruling was disgusting and highlights that the law is not for workers, it does not protect workers from the ruling class and bosses it does not protect them, it is made for the ruling class and the bosses. Lily continued saying that this is a terrible situation, and what is the difference between a worker and a slave if they cannot go on strike? Lily Campbell suggested that this is a fascistic state when it takes peoples rights away. In the past people have gone on strike when it was illegal, and when people did the law could do nothing, because if people were willing to break it on mass then the law has no power and this is what needs to happen here. Lily Campbell concluded that while conditions are important and constantly under attack, fighting for wages is important too and it shouldn't be

something to be ashamed of. There is nothing wrong with demanding better, workers deserve better and management constantly get higher pay increases so workers should get these too.

Moved: Emma Norton

Seconded: Hersha Kadkol (NUS Ethnocultural Officer and Councillor)

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Manning Jefferies noted his dissent.

Procedural motion to move to general business R.2

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Harry Gregg

R.2 Motion to donate funds

That the SRC to donate \$300 to Nate Avery and \$300 Lily Barto and Nathon from the Executive Discretionary Budget

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 30 seconds

Mover: Manning Jefferies

Seconded: Tim Seguna

Procedural was put and **FAILED.**

There was discussion as to weather a motion that was substantively the same as one that failed could be put again at the same meeting.

It was unclear as so the motion was voted on

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: William Edwards

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Since the meeting it has been established that this cannot occur and if the motion is to be voted on again the original motion will need to be rescinded and first.

The vote on this motion was found **INVALID.**

Q7. Adani Protests

That the SRC:

1. Expresses grave concern for the health and wellbeing of the two environmental activists who attempted to stop a train carrying coal from the Adani coal mine.

2. Recommends that the two activists be immediately referred to an optometrist for the prescription of contact lenses tailored to identifying thermal coal.

Moved: George Bishop
Seconded: Chanum Torres
The motion was **WITHDRAWN.**

Q8. Welcome to New Students

That the SRC welcomes all students commencing their studies at USYD in 2018 and wishes them all the best for their time here.

George Bishop spoke to the motion saying that the SRC should welcome all students studying at the university this year.

Pranay Jah spoke against the motion saying that we shouldn't welcome everyone we shouldn't welcome fascists.

Paul Bova spoke against the motion saying that those moving this motion do not respect the SRC and while this seems like a timid intrusion they are happy to defund student unions.

Jessica Syed asked the movers which students they were welcoming when they are systematically blocking immigrants from accessing education. Adding that brown students do not welcome the movers and the mover only welcome those who look like them so "f**k off"

Moved: George Bishop
Seconded: Manning Jeffrey
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q9. Regional Students Collective

Preamble

Nationally, the number of students who relocated to metropolitan cities from regional areas has increased by 76.3 per cent over five years, from about 29,000 students in 2008 to more than 51,000 in 2014, according to a study funded by the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education.

An increasing number of students from regional areas are attending universities in the city. Since 2012 the University of Sydney has seen an average increase in enrolments from regional and remote students of 8.65 per cent.

There are so many barriers for these students to access equal opportunity at education to those who come from wealthy backgrounds and live in the city. There are large concerns that rural students are contributing to dropout enrolment rates. This is mainly because they do not receive the support that they need to succeed at university, when they must be away from their family and friends in order to study. It renders these new students extremely vulnerable and often can take a toll on mental health.

For Australian students over the age of 18 who live away from home, the full rate of Youth Allowance paid is around \$450 per fortnight, equating to about \$12,000 per year. This amount begins to taper when annual parental income exceeds around \$51,000.

For regional students transitioning to student accommodation or the rental market, living on \$11,000 is a serious challenge, especially in Sydney. Of course, it is then essential that a student would take up a job, however the amount of hours that one must work in order to pay the high rents in Sydney makes it extremely difficult to excel as a full time student in Sydney. These challenges are markedly different to city counterparts who can continue to live at home.

Platform

1. The SRC recognises the importance of increasing support for Regional and Rural students at the University of Sydney
2. The SRC will ensure that these vulnerable students experience an easier transition into Sydney
3. The SRC will reach out to these students to advertise the range of services that are offered if they are in need of help or advice.

Actions

1. The Student Welfare Officers will establish a Regional Students Collective that acts as a supportive network for Regional and Rural students.
2. The Student Welfare Officers will create a Regional Students Collective Facebook group
3. The SRC will share this Facebook group on its Facebook page and invite anyone interested to join

Sean Young spoke to the motion noting that the level of stress rural and regional students face when they arrive at university - be it study, social or fiscal - is very high. Regional students are more likely to leave their course, and Usyd has a huge issue with drop out rates. There needs to be a better network for regional students, especially first year students just out of high school. Concluding that they are starting with a Facebook group, get in touch with regional and rural students.

Brandon Hale spoke to the motion saying that this is something that fits very much with student housing and their plans for the year. And this is an issue that affects a number of students on campus.

Lily Campbell said she agrees with a lot of this motion, student housing is unaffordable, and centerlink is a joke, however she does not think creating a new collective is the answer to this. She suggested they look at Wollongong student Union, which was almost run into the ground by the Liberals and Student Unity (Labor right) and was saved by activists fighting on key and important issues. Adding that turning things around is not from just improving services first, but it's from fighting on broad social issues, and taking up a broad activist approach is a much more effective way on beating back attacks on student welfare

Thomas Manousaridis said it was a good motion, and an achievable goal. Adding that more than anything it's a good social network for rural students and this is important.

Brandon Hale said that everyone was welcome to join this and they don't want to overly politicise this collective we just want regional students to have a support network.

William Edwards said they disagreed with the line that having collectives weakens activism. Adding they can look around this room and see people who go involved in broader activism through collectives.

Emma Norton said that in her experience students creating small political groups doesn't help student welfare, and broad based activism and fighting broad campaigns are better for results and for funding. It's not harmful, but it's not a good direction for student unions to create all these little collective groups.

Harry Gregg said as someone from a rural areas who has gotten involved in broad movements, collectives spaces that allow student to work around issues and rural issues which have not had a campaign fought in recent times. This doesn't detract from these broader issues and adds as a network to get people involved in them. The idea that running a huge campaign means that there shouldn't be collectives is a false dichotomy.

George Bishop spoke to the motion saying we know that there are many of these student who might be the only from their high school going to university and they can be daunting.

Nina Dillon Britton said they felt it was important to use o-week to promote these newer groups such as this and the young workers collective and encouraged them to try to get some info together fro that.

Jazzlyn Breen asked if they wanted funding or an endorsement. And if they want funding from where and if not, why not just make a Facebook group, as you don't need council approval to do that.

Sean Young said that this was just for support and endorsement and to look at getting people involved in.

Jazzlyn Breen said that broadly they agree that there needs to be more support, as long as it's not taking from other collectives funding wise. Adding that not wanting it to be political is stupid as all these ideas and issues are political.

Sean Young clarified that they meant they didn't want it to be factional.

Jazzlyn Breen said they could make a Facebook page without council's approval.

Sean Young said they were using this a platform to promote the group.

Jacky He said they were not speaking from any faction, they don't care about factions, and they were interested in student needs. That tonight the council has spoken for a long time about a lot of things, but we need to set these things into actions. Talk without action is useless. This motion has 6 platforms and this shows that they are going to do things, because there is also action, not just talk, we should support the motion

Moved: Sean Young
Seconded: Brandon Hale
The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

The meeting closed at 10:31pm.