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## MINUTES:

for the 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the 91<sup>st</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of February**. Meeting held in **Wallace Lecture Theatre**.

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**Attendance:** Attached

**Chair:** Dane Luo

**Minutes:** Cameron Caccamo

### A. Meeting open at 6.30pm

*The President, Jacky He, is absent from 28 January 2019 to 13 February 2019. The Executive has elected Vice President Dane Luo as Acting President under the Constitution, who will be the Chairperson.*

**Motion:** That Dane Luo be elected Chairperson for the meeting.

Moved: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

Second: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

*The Chairperson nominated Karen Chau as Deputy Chairperson for item K and Niamh Callinan (General Secretary) as Deputy Chairperson for all other items.*

**Motion:** That Karen Chau be elected Deputy Chairperson for item K, and Niamh Callinan (General Secretary) be elected Deputy Chairperson for all other items in this meeting.

Moved: Laura Glase

Seconded Jayesh Joshi

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 have been received from:

Lily Campbell  
Wanlin (Caitlyn) Chu  
Yiting Feng  
Josie Jakovac  
Guipeng Jiao  
Adriana Malavisi  
Amy Newland  
Shangyue (Brian) Mu  
Shani Patel  
Himath Siriniwasa  
Jiaqi (Abbey) Shi  
Manchen Wen  
Kelli Zhao

Proxies have been nominated for:

Lily Campbell proxies to Vinil Kumar  
Wanlin (Caitlyn) Chu proxies to Linji Chen  
Yiting Feng proxies to Laura Glase  
Josie Jakovac proxies to Chanum Torres  
Guipeng Jiao proxies to Julia Kokic  
Adriana Malavisi proxies to Amy Newland  
Shangyue (Brian) Mu proxies to Keegan Mason  
Shani Patel proxies to Jazzlyn Breen  
Himath Siriniwasa proxies to Aayush Bhattacharya  
Jiaqi (Abbey) Shi proxies to Decheng Clément Sun  
Manchen Wen proxies to Fengguang Lin  
Kelli Zhao proxies to Peter Burrell-Sander

*In the event that Amy Newland is elected as Councillor;*

Amy Newland proxies to Niamh Callinan

**Motion:** That the Council accept the Apologies and Proxies.

Moved: JP Baladi

Seconded: Crystal Xu

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**D. Changes to Membership**

*There were no changes to Membership*

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Resignations from Council

Adriana Malavisi resigns from Council, nominating Amy Newland as a replacement  
Madeline Ward resigns from Council, nominating Layla Mkhayber as a replacement  
Lara Sonnenschein resigns from Council, nominating Ellie Stephenson as a replacement

Resignations from the Executive or the Office Bearers

Adriana Malavisi resigns as a member of the General Executive

**Motion:** That the Council accept the resignations and nominated replacements.

Moved: Jayesh Joshi

Seconded: James Ardouin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**E2. The Electoral Officers Report**

The Electoral Officer's Report for the 2018 Annual Elections was circulated (Appendix 1).

An interpretation by the Executive, acting as the Chairperson of the Standing Legal Committee, was circulated (Appendix 2).

Discussion:

Chanum Torres: Great report, but I would like to move a foreshadowed motion to not accept the recommendation to increase number of Councillors. It's a substantial change; I think we need councillors to have time to think about the ramifications of accepting this. Additionally, there is a data issue: we're meant to be basing this on University census data, we still need to discuss if it should be from Semester 1 or 2, reinforces the idea that we need time to discuss this change.

Karen Chau: I've suggested this because we would be breaking the constitution from now on if we do not adhere to this.

Dane: Just wanted to make a quick note on the Standing Legal interpretation on this. I'm not the Chair of Standing Legal, at the moment it is the entire Executive making those interpretations. After tonight, the Chair of Standing Legal should be

elected and they can go forward with it. Until then, I'm bound by this interpretation.

*The motion as it stood was voted on first, with the foreshadowed motion second.*

**Motion:** That the Council accept the Electoral Officers Report.

Moved: Peter Burrell-Sander

Seconded: Jazzlyn Breen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*As the motion was carried, the following foreshadowed motion lapses:*

**Motion:** That the Council accept the Electoral Officers Report, except for Recommendations 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5.

The motion was not put and **LAPSES**.

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

**Motion:** that the minutes of all meeting listed in Agenda items F1, F2, and F3 be accepted en bloc.

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Peter Burrell-Sander

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**F1. Minutes of Regular Meetings**

Minutes of the **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** Regular Meetings of the 90<sup>th</sup> SRC held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October and the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 respectively were circulated.

**F2. Minutes of the Meetings of the Representatives-Elect**

Minutes of the **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>** Meetings of the Representatives-Elect of the 91<sup>st</sup> SRC held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 were circulated.

**F3. Minutes of Special Meetings**

Minutes of the **Special Meeting** held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 were circulated.

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

*There was no Business Arising.*

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

*There were no questions.*

**I. Visitor's Business**

*There was no Visitor's Business*

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

*There was no report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate*

**K. Elections**

**K1. Appointment of a Returning Officer**

**Motion:** That Karen Chau be appointed Returning Officer.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Julia Kokic

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**Karen Chau takes the Chair.**

**K1.1.** The Returning Officer will ask for a speaking time for candidate nomination speeches to be set.

*Three motions were received. The Chair, Karen Chau, determined that these will be voted on in order, from most disruptive to least disruptive.*

**Motion:** That a speaking time of two minutes per candidate be set.

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Layla Mkhayber

*The Chair used their discretion to allow those present to speak to the motion.*

**Discussion:**

Vinil Kumar: There has been a bad precedent in previous SRC meetings: there have been attacks on democracy, attacks on political arguments, and a worrying trend of shutting down free speech. It would be a concerning precedent to set, taking away right to speak to nominations; remember, if you don't want to speak you don't have to.

Jazzlyn Breen: I just wanted to echo Vinil's statement; and I also want to mention the closed door elements of this SRC – this is a political space, this is where we clash, if you're not willing to put forward a political point of view what are you doing here?

Peter: I'm just a little bit confused about why we're using disruption as a measure here to determine which motion is discussed first, surely the most disruptive motion would be having no speaking time at all?

Karen: I'm using disruption is a technical term here, it means which motion would have the most effect on the meeting, not in political terms.

Vinil Kumar: Can I withdraw the motion as I agree with the one minute speaking time motion?

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

**Motion:** That a speaking time of one minute per candidate be set.

Moved: Jazzlyn Breen

Seconded: Layla Mkhayber

Motion was put and **FAILED**.

**Motion:** That a speaking time zero minutes per candidate be set.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Julia Kokic

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **K2. Election of one ordinary member of the Executive**

*Due to Affirmative Action, only nominations from non cis male Representatives were be accepted.*

Nominations were received from: Xiaoyu Jin, Jiaqi (Abbey) Shi, and Ella Finlay.

*All candidates fulfilled the eligibility criteria.*

*Before Chau could close nominations and ask Representatives to vote, a member present, Jack Mansell, started speaking to all Representatives present regarding the lack of speaking time afforded to candidates.*

*Chau noted Mansell's concerns, but asked Mansell multiple times to stop speaking to allow the Meeting to continue; Mansell refused.*

*Jack Mansell was NAMED.*

*Jack Mansell was NAMED a second time.*

*Several procedural motions were entertained:*

**Motion:** That a speaking time of one minute per candidate be set.

Moved: Vinil Kumar

The procedural motion **FAILS**.

**Motion:** That a speaking time of fifty-eight seconds per candidate be set.

Moved: Peter Burrel-Sander  
The procedural motion **FAILS**.

*Jack Mansell continues to speak out of turn, joined by other attendees.*

*Jack Mansell was NAMED a third time and asked to leave the room.*

*Security is called upon to escort Mansell out. As he leaves, another procedural is entertained:*

**Motion:** That a speaking time of 30 seconds per candidate be set.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

*Chau accepted discussion on this motion.*

Discussion:

Jazz: For a majority of the positions here there are 4 candidates, giving people only 7.5 seconds to introduce themselves. You're giving us scraps, it's nothing.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Nominations for the position were closed. Chau asks candidates to speak to their nominations.

Finlay speaks to the nomination.

Jin waived speaking rights.

**Xiaoyu Jin** was declared elected.

*Chau determined that Mansell would be allowed back into the room, provided there was no further speaking out of turn.*

### **K3. Election of the Women's Officer**

Nominations were received from: Jazzlyn Breen and Layla Mkhayber (joint), Maddie Clark, Gabi Stricker-Phelps and Zifan (Crystal) Xu (joint).

*All candidates fulfilled the eligibility criteria.*

Breen and Mkhayber spoke to the nomination.

Clark spoke and WITHDREW the nomination.

Stricker-Phelps and Xu spoke to the nomination.

**Gabi Stricker-Phelps and Zifan Xu** were declared elected.

**K4. Election of two Welfare Officers**

Nominations were received from: Holly Hayne, Amy Newland, Madeleine Powell and Ellie Stephenson (joint), Mingxiao Tu and Liam Thomas (joint)

Hayne spoke and WITHDREW the nomination  
Stephenson spoke to the nomination  
Thomas spoke to the nomination.

**Madeleine Powell and Ellie Stephenson, and Mingxiao Tu and Liam Thomas** were declared elected.

**K5. Election of two Ethno-Cultural Officers**

Nominations were received from: Ellie Wison and Mahek Rawal (joint), Ellie Wilson and Pasindu Siriniwasa (joint), Swapnik Sanagavarapu and Mahek Rawal (joint), Vinil Kumar, Junjie Shen and Dingsong Zheng (joint), Chosum Yip and Ruixian Huang (joint).

*All candidates fulfilled the eligibility criteria.*

Yip and Huang waived speaking rights.  
Kumar spoke to the nomination.  
Sanagavarapu spoke to the nomination

**Junjie Shen and Dingsong Zheng, and Ellie Wison and Mahek Rawal** were declared elected.

**K6. Election of two Indigenous Students' Officers**

Nominations were received from: Akala Newman and Thomas Harrington

*All candidates fulfilled the eligibility criteria.*

**Akala Newman and Thomas Harrington** were declared elected unopposed. One position remains vacant.

**K7. Election of two International Students' Officers**



Nominations were received from: Jahanzaib Lashany and Yilan Wu (joint), Janet Yin and Flora Zhao (joint), Ken Yat Fa Leung and Janet Yin (joint), Yihe (Victor) Li and Hayley (Luoyu) Zhang (joint).

*All candidates fulfilled the eligibility criteria.*

**Jahanzaib Lashany and Yilan Wu, and Ken Yat Fa Leung and Janet Yin** were declared elected.

#### **K8. Election of two Environment Officers**

Nominations were received: Alex Vaughan and Alev Sacacoglu (joint), Shaan Patel and Alev Saracoglu (joint), Jack Mansell, Georgia de Mestre and Jayesh Joshi (joint).

De Mestre spoke to the nomination.  
Mansell spoke and WITHDREW the nomination.  
Alev spoke to the nomination.

**Alex Vaughan and Alev Sacacoglu, and Georgia de Mestre and Jayesh Joshi** were declared elected

#### **K9. Election of two Global Solidarity Officers**

Nominations were received from: Deaglan Godwin, Vinil Kumar, Jiale Wang and Lingxi Li (joint), Ellie Wilson and Ella Finlay (joint), Ella Finlay and Swapnik Sanagavarapu (joint).

Godwin spoke and WITHDREW the nomination.  
Finlay spoke to the nomination.  
Kumar spoke and WITHDREW the nomination.  
Sanagavarapu spoke to the nomination.

**Jiale Wang and Lingxi Li, and Ella Finlay and Swapnik Sanagavarapu** were declared elected.

#### **K10. Election of two Inter-Campus Officers**

Noms: Maddie Clark and Irena Ma (joint), Manchen Wen, Shuan Zhang and Paul Touma (joint).

*Only the candidacy of Zhang and Touma fulfilled the eligibility criteria of being Intercampus students.*

**Shuan Zhang and Paul Touma** were declared elected unopposed to one of the positions.

Clark spoke to the nomination.  
Wen waived speaking rights.

**Manchen Wen** was declared elected to the remain position.

**At 9.02pm, the meeting was adjourned as more than two and a half hours had passed since the start of the meeting.**

**A Quorum Count was called at 9.27 – the meeting was INQUORATE, with only 15 Councillors present.**

**Motion:** That the Meeting wait a further thirty minutes for quorum to be met.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**A Quorum Count was called at 9.31 – the meeting was QUORATE, with 17 Councillors present. The meeting was resumed.**

**K11. Election of two Sexual Harassment Officers**

Nominations were received from: Jazzlyn Breen and Layla Mkhayber (joint), and Hang Gao and Charlotte Plashik (joint).

Breen spoke to the nomination.

**Jazzlyn Breen and Layla Mkhayber, and Hang Gao and Charlotte Plashik** were declared elected unopposed.

**K12. Election of two Queer Officers**

Nominations were received from: Grace Bowskill, Steff Leinasars, Peter Burrell-Sander

Bowskill spoke and WITHDREW the nomination.

Burrell-Sander spoke to the nomination.

**Steff Leinasars, and Peter Burrell-Sander** were declared elected unopposed.

**K13. Election of two Disabilities and Carer's Officers**

Nominations were received from: Hayden Moon, and Wilson Huang.

Moon waived speaking rights.

**Hayden Moon, and Wilson Huang** were declared elected unopposed.

#### **K14. Election of two Mature Age Students' Officers**

Nominations were received from: Hersha Kadkol, and Vinil Kumar.

Kumar spoke to the nomination.

**Hersha Kadkol, and Vinil Kumar** were declared elected unopposed.

*There was a question whether Hersha Kadkol, recently elected as the National Ethno-Cultural Officer in the National Union of Students, was eligible to nominate.*

##### Discussion:

Karen Chau: I am unsure if the SRC and NUS constitutions explicitly forbids this. Simply being elected to an Office Bearer position may constitute campaigning under the NUS Constitution.

Dane Luo: To my understanding, the NUS By-laws does not allow National Office Bearers to participate in any way in a campus election. It's actually wider. Nominating for election would be participation and may breach those by-laws. I can contact the National President now.

Vinil Kumar: No, you're wrong. They can run for election. They just can't hand out flyers or campaign.

Dane Luo: I think you might be conflating our own Regulations, which bans campaigning only. The NUS rules are wider than that. Before Karen declares this position, Hersha or the mover on the form can withdraw this nomination.

*It was made known to Chau that the nomination forms for Hersha Kadkol was negligently submitted without her consent.*

The nomination for Hersha Kadkol was ruled INVALID and the declaration REVOKED.

**Vinil Kumar** was declared elected unopposed.

**K15. Election of two Interfaith Officers**

Nominations were received from: Julia Kokic and Keegan Mason (joint), Chanum Torres and Colby Wigoder (joint), and Angela Zhang and Hongli Wang (joint).

Kokic and Mason spoke to the nomination.  
Torres and Wigoder waived speaking rights.

**Angela Zhang and Hongli Wang, and Julia Kokic and Keegan Mason** were declared elected.

**K16. Election of two Social Justice Officers**

Nominations were received from: Joshua Noble and Shikki Wang (joint), and Siying He and Olivia-James Mckeown (joint).

**Joshua Noble and Shikki Wang, and Siying He and Olivia-James Mckeown** were declared elected unopposed.

**K17. Election of two Refugee Rights Officers**

Nominations received from: Lili Schapiro, Thomas Mel Martin and Lili Schapiro (joint), Zac O'Farrell, Victor (Yihe) Li and Sulainsau Malik (joint).

Mel Martin spoke to the nomination.  
O'Farrell spoke to the nomination.

**Lili Schapiro, and Victor (Yihe) Li and Sulainsau Malik** were declared elected.

**K18. Election of two Residential College Officers**

Nominations were received from: James Ardouin and Annabel De Mestre (joint), Hayley (Luoyu) Zhang and Flora Zhao (joint), Eliza McKendry and Shangyue (Brian) Mu (joint).

Ardouin spoke to the nomination.

**James Ardouin and Annabel De Mestre, and Hayley (Luoyu) Zhang and Flora Zhao** were declared elected.

**K19. Election of two Student Housing Officers**

Nominations were received from: Seamus Kirk and Ziwei Lin (joint), and Irene Ma and Yinfeng (Benny) Shen (joint)

**Seamus Kirk and Ziwei Lin, and Irene Ma and Yinfeng (Benny) Shen** were declared elected unopposed.

**K20. Election of the Chairperson of the Standing Legal Committee**

Nominations were received from: Xiaoman Zhu

**Xiaoman Zhu** was declared elected unopposed.

**K21. Election of six Directors of Student Publications**

Nominations were received from: Jinwei Luan, Laura Glase, Jingrui Xu, Jiaqi (Abbey) Shi, Kedar Maddali, Brandon Hale, and Kelli Zhao.

**Jinwei Luan, Laura Glase, Jingrui Xu, Jiaqi (Abbey) Shi, Kedar Maddali, and Brandon Hale** were declared elected.

**K22. Election of two members of the Intercampus Committee**

Nominations were received from: Ellie Stephenson, Jingxian Wu, Himath Siriniwasa, JP Baladi

Baladi waived speaking rights.  
Stephenson waived speaking rights.  
Wu waived speaking rights.

**JP Baladi and Ellie Stephenson** were declared elected.

**K23. Election of two members of the Standing Legal Committee**

Nominations were received from: JP Baladi, Daniel Hu, Amy Newland, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

Baladi waived speaking rights.  
Prudence Wilkins-Wheat spoke to the nomination.

**Prudence Wilkins-Wheat and JP Baladi** were declared elected.

**Dane Luo takes back the Chair.**

## **K24. Report of the Returning Officer**

Karen Chau announced that all of the declared candidates were duly elected (Appendix 3).

**Motion:** That the Report of the Returning Officer be accepted.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: JP Baladi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

**Motion:** That Agenda items L1, L2, and L3 be accepted en bloc

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Gabi Sticker-Phelps

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 26<sup>th</sup> of September to the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 were circulated.

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

Report of the executive from the 17<sup>th</sup> of August to the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 were circulated.

The report was circulated and noted.

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

Jacky He submitted this report:

A very warm welcome to everyone attending the first council meeting of the 91st University of Sydney Students' Representatives Council. Despite not being able to be physically present, I do pass on my most sincere wishes to all the Representatives and elected office bearers present a very happy and fruitful year.

What's been happening so far

Over the past two months, the Senior Executives and Education Officers have been working extremely hard to prepare for Welcome Week (renamed from O Week), our SSAF application, the Orientation Handbook and Counter Course – which are all highly intensive projects that have historically involved the participation of all office bearers. Given the situation this year, the SSAF application and Welcome Week preparation have largely been completed by myself and the Senior Executives – to whose hard work I respect and appreciate.

To update you on the progress, we have so far compiled a strong case of SSAF application, and we are looking for a satisfactory amount of SSAF that will support the daily operation of SRC and on top of that, host welfare programs and progressive events that will benefit our undergraduate students. Further updates will be reported to the Council at a later date when the actual SSAF amount is confirmed.

## Welcome Week

Regarding Welcome Week, the Senior Executives have ordered a wide variety of SRC merchandises and advertising materials to hand out to the students, including 2500 SRC logo pens, 2000 showbags, 2000 stickers, 2050 copies of the Orientation Handbook and Counter Course and 3000 SRC flyers. On top of that, we have purchased 100 t-shirts with new designs for our councillors and office-bearers. Compared to the previous year, we have increased the number of all the merchandise by approximately 500, but decreased the total expenditure by around \$3000.

Regarding the Orientation Handbook and Counter Course, our Education Officers have done an incredible job compiling everything, spending hours whether in the Honi office or overseas writing up articles and laying out on InDesign. A sincere acknowledgement towards the hard work of both of them, and a sincere thank you goes out to everyone who has contributed to the publication – writing up these articles is definitely time consuming and takes a lot of thought.

## Representation

Looking into the future, the SRC will continue to work on improving study and living circumstances of our student body. My particular goals for next semester will be to debate and work with the University to restructure the format of Open Learn Environment (OLE) units, reform study abroad programs (especially with the issue of credit exchange) and carry out welfare programs, course workshops and seminars to help our students with their studies.

Specifically on OLEs, students have raised many problems with the OLE courses, especially with regards to the course structure, the amount of workload, the redundancy of the zero credit point courses and the inappropriate allocation of credit points to each course subject. I have delivered these issues in a very passionate manner to the committee staffs at the Board of Interdisciplinary studies and UE Education Board. I have sent out a survey to the undergraduate student body and looking at organising a meeting with the DVC and the staff responsible for the OLE course to discuss from a student perspective how the course should be restructured and changed. More efforts will be dedicated to improve the OLE course over the next semester to make the units of study more coherent with future studies. Progress on this issue will be reported periodically at Executive and Council meetings.

## WeChat

To provide a more convenient access point to SRC caseworker and legal services, and to provide international students with a timely update on SRC status, we have created a WeChat platform last Wednesday in order to facilitate these purposes. So far the platform has received over 30 questions ranging from basic information about the university to conducting an academic appeal, which were advised to be transferred to the caseworker E-mail. In the future, I look forward to improving the productivity of the WeChat platform as both a helper and marketing tool, to help international students become more familiarised with SRC and its services.

## Changes to Canvas

Starting this semester, information on chosen courses for 1000-level courses will be available on Canvas two weeks before the first day of teaching. This is one week earlier than the current system where they are released only one week before the first day of teaching. Many students have expressed that the current system gives them limited time to properly prepare for all their subjects. For this reason, I worked with Judy Douglas - the University of Sydney Staff Communication Specialist - to release relevant Canvas content two weeks earlier to provide students with ample amount of time to view the lesson content. I made sure that no assessments would be pushed forward along with the release date of the Canvas content, to prevent students from going through unnecessary increases in stress.

## Wishing you all well

Once again, welcome to 2019. I am very excited to have such a group of dedicated student representatives and I look forward to working with you all in the near future.

## Dane Luo submitted an additional report as Acting President:

### NUS President's Summit

I attended the NUS President's Summit between Monday 4 February 2019 and Wednesday 6 February 2019. I left the Summit slightly early on Wednesday so I could be back in time for tonight's Council meeting but I have asked the National President to send me any notes or slides from presentations that I miss and also spoke to some of the speakers personally.

Overall, it was a very productive meeting of Campus Presidents and National Office Bearers from all affiliated campuses of the NUS.

I met with many Campus Presidents and discussed challenges that they faced. I was surprised by some of the similar issues between campuses – big and small, urban and regional, and across different states. I asked some of those campus



representatives to continue liaising with our Executive, through President Jacky, to discuss what measures are effective.

We heard from TEQSA and discussed SSAF modelling. This was very interesting because there were some student organisations who only receive 3% of SSAF allocations and others receive over 50%. I hope the SRC will follow this very closely because some organisations are hoping to undertake significant reform in this area in the near future and the SRC may potentially want to explore in the long-term.

Seven campus Presidents raised issues regarding some actions taken by some National Office Bearers (NOBs). They stressed the need for NOBs to consult with campus Presidents and elected representatives before they organise activities on campuses because there have been issues relating to some violent confrontations and security involvement in the past.

I also attended presentations by the Education Officer, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Officer and Welfare Officer. They are running exciting campaigns involving student services, connecting with Indigenous representatives and on SSAF allocations. Both the National Welfare Officer and National Disabilities Officer have personally requested for a NUS presence on our Welcome Week and, after looking at what they proposed, I extended them an invitation to come to our campus to promote their campaigns.

A large focus was on media training, conducting effective research and how to write submissions, which was extremely helpful. There was a lot of information given about producing submissions to Parliament. This is something that the NUS and some campuses have done for legislation, regulations or proposals that directly affect students. Some campuses do something similar as well for committees that their President or student representatives sit on. As will be discussed in my Vice President Report, we will be getting a dedicated full-time Research and Policy Officer in 2019, who will be assisting our own President and Officers for committee matters and any research we need to do. We could possibly explore the possibility of the SRC making our own submissions to Parliament regarding proposed legislation and regulations.

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

**Motion:** That Agenda items M and O be accepted en bloc.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: JP Baladi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Caitlyn Chu and Dane Luo submitted their report:

We are very excited to be elected into this position and really hope to make the most of it. We thank the work of our predecessors, Adriana Malavisi and Steven Wu, particularly for the initiative of starting Welfare Week, which we hope to continue this year.

The Vice President role is quite vague. The Constitution and Regulations outline the role as a liaison with societies, committees and OB's, as well aiding the President in whatever they need. We have liaised with each other on a few occasions about how to approach the next year. We want to build on the duties we have in the Regulations and bring exciting initiatives and projects for 2019!

### Engaging with Faculty Societies

This year, for the first time in a long time, we are hoping to have greater engagement with Faculty Societies. It may surprise some people that Faculty Societies are mentioned and recognised in our Constitution and Regulations. We believe that there is a lot of potential with working with Faculty Societies. The SRC can promote our Caseworker and Legal Service, tell students how the SRC can help them and represent their interests to the University. At the same time, they can raise issues with us that their students face and we can take them to relevant committees that the President or SRC representatives sit on. Most Faculty Societies also do a lot of work to improve student welfare and wellbeing that we can collaborate with them to make even bigger and better.

We are hoping to have the first meeting of the Faculty Societies Committee on 19 January 2019. We have interest to bring up to ten Faculty Societies together to discuss issues that we are all facing. Some of the initial suggestions could be to establish a large calendar to avoid conflicts between their events and reciprocal cross-promotions.

In addition, we have been working on welcome and orientation initiatives with these Faculty Societies:

- Conservatorium Students' Association – we are holding a presentation at their Welcome Day on Monday 18 February 2019 talk to promote our casework and legal services.
- Sydney Arts Students' Society – both our organisations (SRC and SASS) are hosting a joint orientation welcome event on Wednesday 6 March 2019 at 1pm Carlaw Lecture Theatre 275. This will be an opportunity to speak about the work of the SRC and feature one of our caseworkers and possibly a solicitor.
- Sydney University Business Society – Dane is helping SUBS lay up their First Year Handbook and we have included a full page A4 advertisement in there so students can see and hear about the SRC's services.

- Sydney University Dental Association – Dane attended their orientation session on 1 February 2019 with the School of Dentistry and gave information about the SRC and handed out wallplanners to all students there.
- Sydney University Engineering Undergraduates Association – we are working with their Executive to include a full page A5 advertisement about the SRC's services in their 'Yearbook' (their welcome guide). In addition, we are looking to be part of their Free Food Week to promote healthy eating and mental health initiatives close to assessment periods where it is very stressful for many engineering students.
- Sydney University Medical Science Society – we are working with their new team to coordinate engagement for Welcome Week. They have expressed interest in collaborations but as their society President has been away, it has been difficult to get a clear plan at the moment.
- Sydney University Law Society – we are working with their President and Vice President (Education) to include a full page A5 advertisement about the SRC's services in their First Year Guide and a full page A4 double spread guide about academic issues that will be created with our caseworkers in their Education Guide. In addition, we are organising a presentation at a joint First Year Crash Course event (date TBC) about what the SRC does and how we can help.
- Sydney University Science Society – we are working with this society to develop a guide for first year students, which we hope to include details about the SRC's services and work.

This is just the start – we hope to build our relationships with these and other Faculty Societies for more events and activities throughout 2019!

### Addressing mental health issues

Addressing mental health and student wellbeing will be a priority for us.

Caitlyn will be attending the UE Work Health and Safety (WHS) Committee meetings. One of the things that was recently raised was the University's approach of mental health issues and to raise our concerns about mental health of staff and students. The meeting was primarily raising issues about staff mental health through the creation of Mentally Healthy Workplaces, which we recognise is very important. Caitlyn raised issues about staff identifying student mental health issues and noting that the psychological health and safety of staff and students should be proactively managed.

We were shocked that in 2014 and 2016, claims for psychological injuries increased by 36% and 131%, respectively. It is positive to see that the University has

responded with at-work support with a Recovery at Work program and Staff Health Support team. There is a champions wellbeing network to support psychological health, which brings together 6 Faculties and 3 University Schools. The University is also considering local wellbeing interventions and initiatives like 'are you okay?'

We will be returning to the WHS Committee to advocate for creating a healthier study environment and making more students become aware about their mental health. We hope to get the input of the new Welfare Officers (which we hope have been elected), Mental Awareness and Health Society, and other interested students to activities throughout 2019 to help students release the mental stress.

#### SSAF and our Caseworkers

We took a role in helping the Senior Executive create the SRC's SSAF application for 2019, which is now submitted! Dane met with the President, General Secretary and all the staff heads of the Casework, Legal, Administration and Publications departments, as well as sitting down with each of the heads of departments and the 2018 Electoral Officer individually to coordinate our entire SSAF submission. We worked on other aspects of the submission and extensively reviewed every part of it.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Chitra (Administration), James and Mel (Casework and Policy), Amanda and Mickie (Publications), Thomas (Legal), Karen (Elections), Niamh, Jacky and Yuxuan for their many hours of work on this submission. We are proud to submit a comprehensive submission within the deadline!

In December, the SSAF Budget Allocation Committee allocated additional funds to the SRC application for various projects. As part of these additional funds, the SRC will be bringing a dedicated full-time Research and Policy Officer to supplement our Casework and Policy Department for 12 months. This is something that the caseworkers have been asking for a long time and we are delighted to finally deliver that for them! This will be an additional person who assists students with any academic issues as well as supporting the President, Officers and even Representatives on student issues. At some points in the year, it also frees up our other caseworkers to 'travel'. They will be visiting every satellite campus (we definitely hope to join them!) and to give face-to-face help to any student with any issue they have, whether that be Centrelink, tax, tenancy, mental health or just speaking to someone who will listen.

We are also using these funds to update our Legal Service software (which worked well after a free trial), having more University-approved calculators at the front office to loan and a new door buzzer.

#### Health Day and Welfare Week

We want to build on the inaugural Welfare Week initiative from 2018 that our predecessors started. At the moment, we are looking to do this in semester 2.

One of the things we really want to organise similar events for our satellite campuses, which are often under-engaged with the SRC. We will be working with our caseworkers and community organisations to run a Health Day. At the moment, we are looking at organising an event at the Cumberland campus in collaboration with the Cumberland Student Guild late in semester 1. And a second info type event for Bachelor of Nursing students, who have consistently been documented to face worrying mental health issues. We have very strong support for this from the Faculty Societies in other satellite campuses (including Dentistry and the Conservatorium) to bring something like this to their campuses and we will keep discussing with them.

### Contributing to Welcome Week

A lot of Welcome Week activity will be covered in the President and General Secretaries' reports. We have been looking to help them and the Education Officers out by contributing to the Orientation Handbook and Counter Course – we have written pieces on Centrelink payments, academic appeals, looking for work, introducing the SRC Executives, and designed the Orientation Handbook covers and inside map. We have been helping find quotes and looking through the merchandise – Caitlyn has been actively helping find and look for cheaper products from overseas suppliers so we can save money. In addition, we have been assisting the President and General Secretaries in organising stalls and logistics with the USU.

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

*No report was submitted*

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

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

James Newbold and Yiting (Eva) Feng submitted this report:

Henlo comrades,

As the only elected activist officebearing position elected until this evening (hopefully), the Education Officers have been busy as.

With the other collectives we organised a massive Facebook event for a student contingent for the Invasion Day protest. 10 other student unions and collectives signed on to the event and 150 people clicked going. Thankyou to Mr. He for

putting up the event through the USYD SRC page, it is much appreciated. The Education department printed materials for building the protest, many of which went to the Fighting In Resistance Equally (FIRE) group that organises the protest. Solidarity with groups like these are highly important and they were greatly appreciative. Shoutout to all the activists who were flyering and poster in the leadup to the protest.

The Education department will be executing some big plans this year on issues surrounding international student concession Opal cards, the Ramsay Centre and workers rights. We will soon be working on designing these materials to be on our Welcome Week stall. We will also be collaborating with the National Union of Students, the National Tertiary Education Union and the broader union movement on their campaigns this year as well as organising in solidarity with the other SRC collectives.

Your Education Officers are working very hard, with little sleep, on putting together the Counter Course and Orientation Handbook that is given to students by the SRC during Welcome Week. Thankyou to all those who contributed and especially to those who contributed early in the process of getting together articles. Major thanks also go to the SRC Publications Managers, Mickie and Amanda, for their valuable help.

James and Eva

**P. Special Business**

*There were no items of special business.*

**Q. Motions of Notice**

*There were no motions on notice*

**R. General Business**

**R1. Taking a stand against Nazis, the far right and racism**

R1 was WITHDRAWN

**R2. Censure Motion**

The SRC censures and strongly condemns Zac O'Farrell who attempted to blackmail the organization by preventing the organisation's democratic process and hypocritically acting against the best interests of the students he claims to represent.

**Moved:** James Ardouin

**Seconded:** Chanum Torres

### Discussion

James Ardouin: I've written a long speech but I think the motion speaks for itself.

Zac O'Farrell: This motion is hypocritical; I would expect all conservatives, all students of right side of politics, to take the principled stand I did. It was clear to all that the deals made for Reps Elect 3 was an attempt to move to the right. I was offered the Director of Student Publications role over Laura Glase. I did not want to take a position over another conservative student, so it was principled to ensure that more conservatives had positions of power, thus explaining my actions.

Julia Kokic: There were a lot more people that contributed to the saga of Repselect, and it's unfair to dump all of that on Zac.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: This organization offers a lot of political freedom here. The second meeting failed because of a justifiable political action and protest, the first meeting was just a fire alarm being pulled. It's completely different to what Zac has done.

Hartley Dhyon: Follow on from Julia: it says Zac is at fault for holding up that Reps Elect and causing the myriad of problems we've had. Ardouin is saying the failures of Reps Elect One and Two are all falling on Zac, simply placing the blame on one person is catastrophic and doesn't make sense. Clearly, this motion doesn't encapsulate what happened here.

JP Baladi: Briefly, to echo Julia and Hartley, Zac didn't cause the problems of the first two meetings; he didn't flood the Quadrangle or stop Reps Elect 2, it'd be fair to censure all of them.

Ella Finlay: The motion isn't about the first two meetings, it's about one person at one meeting, we can criticise other people but we can blame him for those things that were really bad.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The meeting closed at 11.23pm*