



src activism
advocacy
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**Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney**

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MINUTES:

of the 10th regular meeting of the 91st SRC held on **Wednesday 6th November 2019**. Meeting held in the New Law Theatre 104.

*There was a quorum count at 6.25pm.
The meeting was inquorate.*

*There was a request to wait for 30 minutes
Moved: James Newbold
Seconded: Abbey Shi*

*There was a call for a quorum count at 6.27pm.
The meeting was inquorate.*

*There was a request to wait for 30 minutes
Moved: Jacky He
Seconded: Liam Donohoe*

*There was a call for a quorum count at 6.43pm.
The meeting was inquorate.*

*There was a request to wait for 30 minutes
Moved: James Newbold
Seconded: James Ardouin*

*There was a call for a quorum count at 6.58pm.
The meeting was inquorate.*

*There was a request to wait for 30 minutes
Moved: James Newbold
Seconded: Mikaela Pappou*

*There was a call for a quorum count at 7.20pm.
The meeting was inquorate.*

*There was a request to wait for 30 minutes
Moved: James Newbold
Seconded: Hektor Vineburg*

*There was a call for a quorum count at 7.24pm.
The meeting was found quorate.*

A. Meeting open at 7.24 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that James Ardouin be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Felix Faber and Lily Campbell noted their dissent.

B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies were received from:

Yihe Li to Jessy Xu Jingrui

Xinyue (Catherine) Zhang

Amy Newland

Daniel Hu

Layla Mkhayber

John-paul Baladi

Niamh Callinan

Proxies:

Hartley Dhyon to William Olive

Swapnik Sanagavarapu to Klementine Burrel-Sander

Pasindhu Srinivasa to Liam Donohoe

Ella Finlay to Liam Thorne

Motion to accept the apologies and proxies

Moved: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

Seconded: James Ardouin

This motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to move to Q.15

Moved: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou
The Procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Q15. Support for the November 29 Global Day for Climate Justice

Preamble:

- It is no secret that we are suffering a climate crisis. Last year's IPCC report has provided scientific consensus that we now have less than 12 years to limit temperatures rising from over 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.
- It's also no secret that the Coalition government is full of climate deniers who are in the pockets of the Fossil Fuel industry and are refusing to take action, as well as actively working to abolish the rights of strikers.
- Greta Thunberg has called for another worldwide day of action on November 29th. ASEN, the USYD Enviro Collective, Uni Students for Climate Justice, and Spreading the Climate Strike are leading the Sydney contingent to stand in global solidarity with this movement and continue to apply pressure onto our negligent government.
- It is essential that the USYD SRC continues to stand in solidarity with this movement, particularly as we are representing the students of a uni that invests over 13 million dollars to the fossil fuel industry.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC endorses the November 29 Global Day for Climate Justice, including its demands: global indigenous justice - land and water sovereignty and jobs on country; no new coal, gas, oil or uranium, and no Adani; 100% publicly owned renewable energy by 2030; a just transition & climate job guarantee with the right to strike.
2. The USYD SRC calls on the University to reschedule final exams occurring on this day in order to facilitate students' right to strike.
3. The USYD SRC encourages all USYD students and staff to attend or support the strike.

Action

1. The USYD SRC will advertise the passing of this motion with a press release.
2. The USYD SRC will share the Facebook event on its social media platforms with a message of endorsement.
3. The USYD SRC calls on students to attend the Strike at Sydney Town Hall on November 29th at 1pm in solidarity with the global strikes on this day.

Moved: Shani Patel
Seconded: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

Shani Patel read out the motion.

There was discussions of the motion:

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat spoke to the motion noting that these are important years for climate change and First Nations people are facing the worst of it and we must support and stand in

solidarity with them. Adding that what Prime Minister Scott Morrison is doing to put pressure on activists isn't going to work. Protests do work and 29th November should be supported by all of SRC, staff and student.

Holly Hayne spoke to the motion saying that it is great that no staff or student will be penalized to go to the Climate Strike. Adding that it was important to strike and she had started a petition to change any exams on that day and is promoting the program on Facebook.

Maddie Powell spoke to the motions saying that climate change impacts the whole world; and that the government is hitting back with force against protestors with police brutality. Concluding that the SRC supporting this was really good.

James Ardouin spoke to the motion saying he has made no secret that he supports this strike. Adding that the strikes have been getting results, people in this room don't agree with the banks and business. James concluded by saying that free speech is the tenants that keep our democracy alive and should not be lessened I support this motion.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps said that she agreed with the motions but didn't think we exams should be rescheduled when times have been set and rooms have been booked. Adding she would like it to be noted that she thought it was unreasonable to have it on this day.

Hector Vineburg said he found it funny that some SRC reps cared more about the University's rights than student's rights. Adding that he thought it was absurd it's absurd how far right they were and they should be protecting the right to protest.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps responded saying that she thought there are many students who care deeply about this issue and do so in a variety of ways at different times, and that in the interest of students the SRC should approach the University with requests in a more reasonable manner.

James Newbold Spoke to the motions saying that replacement exams had already been set, so the issue was moot and that answers the question if rescheduling was an unreasonable request.

Abbey Shi spoke to the motion and encouraged everyone to participate in the strike.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to move to Q.16

Moved: Felix Faber

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The Procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Q.16 USYD SRC Against The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation

Preamble

1. Recently, the Ramsay Centre rejected USyd's second proposal to host courses funded by the Ramsay Centre. This shows the desperation of university management to inject

dubious private funding into arts education rather than public funding which is more transparent and ethical.

2. Ramsay remains a racist neo-colonial project aimed at entrenching the privileged positions of white Western knowledge systems, whilst funding to Indigenous studies and the Koori Centre has either been already cut or is under threat.
3. Given Ramsay's resurgence, it is important that the SRC reaffirms its stance in opposition to Ramsay, even as Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence pitches a more "moderate" version of Ramsay – which would educate over 1000 students rather than a handful and be targeted at Advanced Studies students.

Platform

1. USyd SRC rejects all proposals for the Ramsay Centre to be taught at USyd or any other university campus.
2. USyd SRC rejects attempts to pitch Ramsay as moderate or balanced – board members such as Tony Abbott and John Howard have in practice and rhetoric furthered the cause of white nationalism and warmongering in the Global South. Tony Abbott said Ramsay was "not merely about Western Civilisation, but in favour of it". This is not an institution that universities should be working with at all.

Action

1. USyd SRC officebearers will stay active in campaigns to stop the Ramsay Centre achieving a deal at a 3rd campus and roll back existing deals at UOW and UQ.
2. USyd SRC's Facebook page will publish the contents of this motion within one week of it passing.

Moved: Felix Faber

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

Felix Faber spoke to his motion saying that rejecting this motion would suggest the SRC had no backbone and instead the SRC should be supporting this campaign with all available resources arguing that the SRC should have input into where degree funding is coming from and make sure we are careful and aware of something that has such a high degree of political influence attached to it. Felix added that the SRC needs to take a stand and that the University doesn't need any more 'right wing' influences. Concluding that he hoped the council would support this motion.

Holly Hayne spoke to the motion saying that the Ramsey Centre was just one component of a war pushed by the Liberals which included the recently proposed religious discrimination Bill which is something that the right have been pushing for since we won marriage equality in 2016 and was something the SRC need to fight against.

Jack Mansell spoke to the motion saying that another concern with the Ramsey Centre was that Kim Beasley a member of the board, and there were many reasons to fight against the Ramsey centre especially in a time where many places in the world are heading towards imperial racist state. Adding that the fight for democracy, the right to strike, the right to protest were important fights. He also noted that the arts have had their funding cut, and most protestors come from the arts, and places like the Ramsey Centre were a way of ensuring more funding while removing

protesters. Concluding that fighting the Ramsey Centre was about protecting free thought and why would the SRC not fight for that.

Abbey Shi spoke to the motion saying that the Ramsey Foundation accumulated their wealth through the exploitation of Chinese workers, and that it was interesting to her how the Ramsey centre was sold as free thought and teaching Western Civilisation while Chinese investments are portrayed as nefarious influence.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion agenda items F -O en block

Moved: James Aroudin

Seconded: Dane Luo

Foreshadowing motion to move to and accept agenda items O only.

Moved: James Newbold

Seconded: Felix Faber

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

The foreshadowing motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Reports from agenda item O can be found at the end of these minutes.

A quorum count was called at 8:33pm.

The meeting was found inquorate at 8:34p.

The meeting LAPSED at 8:35pm.

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

James Newbold and tabled a written report:

The Education Officers are continually focusing on fighting for student rights for both international and domestic students and responding to any issues that may concern students. The Education Officers are also focusing on maintaining the welfare of the students in USYD. By approaching the end of the semester, students are overwhelmed by the assignment and upcoming final exams. It is highly important to ensure the security and mental health of students during this period. The Education Officers will work on both WeChat platform and Facebook, providing stress-relief tips along with the contact information of USYD CAPS. Regarding the security issue of the campus, in the last semester, there are multiple cases where students have been attacked by strangers near the Victoria Park, emphasizing the importance of creating a safe campus for all students. The Education Officers encourage cooperation from other departments and collectives to inform the university on such issues.

The Education Officers have kept busy on recent projects such as Radical Education Week. Thank you to all the collective convenors and members for their leading role in making Rad Ed Week such a success. Sessions included discussions of activism and a range of important political issues, emphasising the inclusion of knowledge systems that are undervalued by the university system. The Education department has applied for funding for parts of the week to the SRC Executive, and encourages Executive members to support the long-standing tradition of Rad Ed Week.

The Education Officers are happy to discuss funding with any executive members. We have also applied for funding for flights and registration for student activists to attend the National Conference of the National Union of Students. It is vital our SRC maintains engagement with the national student union to maximise our impact in fighting for progressive change across the university sector and wider society.

The Education Officers have also applied for the SRC to make a donation, from the Education budget, to protesters at the IMARC blockade. Protesters were violently attacked by police, using batons, capsicum spray and horses. Those facing legal fees include student activists with close working relationships to those in the USyd SRC. Inter-campus solidarity is important to the student movement. It would be fantastic if a portion of our donation come on behalf of the Wollongong University Student Association, whose finances are under attack from their aggressively conservative university management. WUSA's capacity for discretionary spending is very small, and their overall budget is less than double that of the Education budget last year. From each according to their ability, to each according to their need.

James attended consultation with the university about Open Learning Environments alongside incoming SRC president Liam Donohoe and a range of other students. Disappointingly yet unsurprisingly, uni management seemed more interested in hearing criticisms of individual units and lecturers than in hearing challenges over the casualisation of our staff and other structural issues such as cost-cutting incentives, structuring of credit points and degrees, and pitfalls of more

online education models. Of notable concern is the capacity for the university to use such consultation to disproportionately discipline staff with detrimental changes to their employment. It is well documented that moving education to more online models make staff both more anxious when working but also less passionate about work which they usually find engaging. Future office bearers should ensure they emphasise the structural and corporate issues underpinning OLEs and that USyd only undertakes such measures to make education more accessible to students with disabilities and living from uni, that is interdisciplinary in a genuine way, and that protects working conditions.

On this note, the Education Officers are preparing a campaign against cuts to library staffing hours, which is hurtful to both some of the lowest-paid staff in the university as well as to students.

Thanks to Honi Soit for their reporting on draft changes to academic transcripts and curricula. The SRC should fight for a university where these decisions are made transparently and democratically by staff and students.

Thanks to the Autonomous Collective Against Racism for collaborating in a successful rally against the Ramsay Centre and neo-nazism on campus. These campaigns will remain important going into next year.

Congratulations to the new Education Officers. We look forward to seeing you continue campaigns such as these, as well as continuing to support activism for social justice and a free, publically funded and democratic education system.

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Crystal Xu and Gabi Stricker-Phelps tabled a written report:

Women and Girls Emergency Centre Redfern

Gabi met with the client service manager at the Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre in Redfern. We made a connection between the SRC and the current client services manager and said if there is any potential to collaborate or refer to one another to refer hesitate in contacting us. We also want to support their SEED program and will attempt to do so via fundraising initiatives later in the year.

The #MeToo Movement Sydney Peace Foundation

The Sydney Peace Foundation is awarding the 2019 Sydney Peace Prize to Tarana Burke and Tracey Spicer AM on behalf of the #MeToo Movement. Gabi met with Katie Gabriel from the Sydney Peace Foundation and has requested that both the Women's Officers and Sexual Harassment Officers of the SRC are included in any of the round table discussions that occur in light of this event with community organisations and policy makers.

“For empowering survivors of sexual harassment and violence, and elevating their voices; for championing truth and justice; for highlighting the breadth and impact of sexual violence worldwide; and for launching a demand for change that is sweeping the world.”

All councillors and students are invited to attend the awarding of the prize and hear from an

incredible line up of inspiring and powerful women on Thursday 14 November at Sydney Town Hall. USYD Women will be able to sponsor you to attend the lecture and award ceremony.

Safer Communities Meeting (USU, SUPRA and SRC Engagement):

After Gabi's submission to SCAG regarding addressing bullying, discrimination and anti-racism policies of the university Jacky and Gabi had a meeting with Connor Wherrett (USU President) to discuss a unified strategy to propose as the student representatives at the meeting in October. The meeting date is scheduled for the 8th of October. We will be raising our concerns with the conduct of campus security and call for any submissions from the executive that they would like reported or mentioned in the meeting. Further, we will be suggesting a number of actions that can be actively taken by both the SRC and USU and in doing so ask for the support of the University in terms of funding. We have also sent the shuttle bus poster to the USU to be put up in USU outlets for greater visibility of that service. We invite collaboration from any student or collective on campus wanting to get involved this submission.

Self Defence Classes

ABS Seminar Room 3310 has been booked from 1-2pm to host Penny Gulliver to teach FREE self-defence classes. This event will coincide with the USU Health Week on Wednesday 16 th October.

Sanitary Item Project:

We have extended our locations to include also the SSB and New Law Buildings. We intend to extend to Eastern Avenue and Carslaw Bathrooms.

Verve Super

It has been reported that Australian women retire with 47% less superannuation than men. By 2025 Australian Women will hold 1.5 trillion in superannuation. Many young people are unaware of the way their superannuation account functions let alone where their superannuation is being invested. Verve Super's purpose is to be a superannuation fund that is 100% focused on serving women and ethical investment. Gabi has spoken to co-founder of Verve Super, Zoe Lamont, about a potential partnership with the SRC in future years in raising awareness about the so called 'retirement gap' in Australia and equipping and empowering more students with financial literacy skills.

Honi Soit Women's Edition:

The Honi editors have communicated an unwillingness to have the Women's Officers liaise in or help convene for the production Women's edition of Honi Soit with the women Honi editors. We are requesting that the executive grant us the ability to view the publication before it goes to print.

The reasons behind this request are two-fold.

(1) As the elected Women's Officers of the SRC our voices should be heard in regard to a publication of the SRC. To support this request, we draw upon our constitutional duties under Part 2 (4) (k), (p) and (q).

(2) Last year's front cover of the Women's edition of Honi Soit featured Hamida al-

Taher, a suicide bomber who killed over 50 Israeli and Lebanese soldiers. This was a highly controversial front cover that was deemed by many as exclusionary, alienating and indeed a glorification of terrorism. As the Women's officers this year we want to be able to preview content that the SRC will publish in order to raise concerns before the edition goes to print and have an open dialogue that is the best interests of student welfare and mental health.

O3. Report of the Residential College Officers

Budget

We thank the SRC for budgeting \$650 for the Collective, while not much, this is the first time that the Residential College Officers have ever received a budget and we are thankful to Dane Luo and Niamh Callinan (Vice-President, General Secretary respectively) for the preparation of this. We look forward to using this money in ways which are going to benefit College Students as well as ensuring residents are able to engage with the services and activism of the SRC.

Activism

Members attended the Climate Strike in September, including Chairperson James Ardouin and Secretary Cady Brown (also USU Director). There were a number of Residents from various Colleges that attended this event and the Residential College Officers have received a lot of support in engaging with this event. As such, we would like to encourage Residents to get involved in this, as it is an issue which effects all of us and we must ensure that action is taken on this. We would also like to thank the various organisers of this event from the SRC and wider USyd community.

Consent Module/Environment Accord

The Collective will also be starting dialogue with the Environment Officers to design both an Intercollege Environment accord, focussing on waste, energy use and sustainability. Hopefully this can be adopted some time in 2020 and the Executive will look at whether appointing a dedicated Officer to ensure its effective implementation. It is important that we all do our part in combatting climate change.

The Wom*ns Officers/Sexual Harassment Officers have also been contacted regarding designing a functional Consent Module for 2020 Colleges O-Week. This will most likely be worked on during the Christmas break, when the new administration takes Office after Reps-Elect, but James will be working with the stakeholders as a pet project to see it through.

Regulations Changes

The Collective has submitted an amendment to the SRC Regulations to ensure that the Residential College Officers must be College students in the future, in order to preserve the Collectives Autonomy. This will be debated later on in the meeting (hopefully).

Resignation of the Chairperson

James Ardouin hereby gives notice that if this report is accepted, that his resignation as initial Chairperson of the Intercollegiate Collective shall take effect at the closing of this meeting.