



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 2nd regular meeting of the 92nd SRC held on **10th March 2020**. Meeting held in the ABD LT 1050, Abercrombie Business School Building.

The secretary to Council called a quorum count at 6:29pm

The meeting was found quorate

A. Meeting open at 6:30 pm

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.

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Felix Faber be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies were received from:

Holly McDonald to Gabi Stricker-Phelps
Jason Howe to Alexander Back
Swapnik Sanagavarapu to Tom Williams
Nicholas Comino to Maia Edge
Sonia Gao to Anne Zhao
Layla Mkhayber to Jazzlyn Breen
Michael Kallidis to Paola Ayre
Mengyuan Zhu to Yilun Ma
Charlotte Ainsworth to Belinda Thomas
Sofie Nicholson

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Layla Mkhayber resigns as Welfare Officer, as it was a split position Yilin Ma now holds the full position.

Layla Mkhayber resigns her council seat, nominates Paola Ayre*.

*This is pending the rejection of the seat from the rest of the original ticket

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 91st SRC Council held on 13th Feb 2019 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 13th February 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Kedar Maddali

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

Lily Campbell asked why the council endorsed Bernie Sanders?

Liam Donohoe said because 18 people voted to do so.

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

Jack Mansell asked what was happening with the hold on SSAF funds?

Liam Donohoe said he has more details in his report of Jack Mansell was happy to wait for that.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of 2 Indigenous Students' Officers

There were nominations from Matilda Langford and Leroy Fernando

There being no other nominations Matilda Langford and Leroy Fernando were declared elected unopposed as the Indigenous Officers of the 92nd SRC.

K2. Election of 1 Mature Age Students' Officer

No nominations were received

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 12th Feb 2019

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 12th Feb 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 7th August to 30th November 2019 and the 92nd Executive from the 1st December 2019 to 9th March 2020.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Liam Donohoe tabled a written report:

Crises!

The first thing to report back is that, unfortunately, the University has put all unspent SSAF contestable projects on hold. As a result, the status of the following projects is more complex than before:

1. Casework training and outreach: \$15,270
2. Sexual assault solicitor: \$64,972.90
3. Student outreach activities: \$15,270
4. Information workshops: \$13,100
5. Food closet: \$78,000
6. Mental health training for caseworkers: \$27,565
7. Anti-racism campaign: \$6,000
8. Legal advice for SRC constitutional reform: \$15,000
9. VP stipend: \$24,000

I will go into those complexities in the meeting, specifically with respect to: A. How likely we are to get each item after March 31st (Census date), B. Whether we'll have to make any modifications, and C. The broader state of affairs.

Beyond the impacts on SSAF, the Covid-19 outbreak is causing enormous issues on campus and beyond. I have maintained regular correspondences with key University administrators, particularly Pip Pattison to keep abreast of the Uni's response and to push them to prioritise student welfare, procedural fairness, and transparency in all their actions. I think it is possible that the University will need to shut down at some point in the coming months, and the SRC is preparing for that possibility.

Welcome Week

Welcome Week was an outstanding success by every measure. The SRC had 12 stalls positioned outside the Chemistry building along Eastern Avenue, Welcome Week's busiest area. I mainly hung around the main SRC stall, which operated out of a large marquee, distributing our show bags and engaging countless students in conversations about the SRC. In the end we distributed all 2,000 of these show bags, which contained our annual Countercourse publication, literature on and advice from the SRC, new SRC-branded pens, and the tote bag itself, which featured a creative artwork by former Honi editor Amelia Mertha. Many thanks to all those who gave up countless hours to get the bags packed then distributed.

In addition to the main SRC stall, Honi Soit, our Caseworkers, and our Collectives all had an outstanding showing. The Environment Collective got over 400 sign-ups, a new record, and had 50 along to their drinks at the Royal on Friday evening. The International Student Collective not only sprung up again after a long hiatus, but enjoyed hundreds of sign-ups. In all, most Collectives / Departments had an enormous week and met a bunch of new students passionate about making the world a better place. The challenge for all Collectives / Departments will be converting this enormous interest and momentum into a self-perpetuating, long-term Collective culture. I advise each of them to organise a meeting and / or social event for week 1, where they can consolidate their numbers and initiate their campaigns for the semester / year.

As part of Welcome Week I also gave a bunch of speeches in a variety of settings. I spoke at a number of relatively informal welcomes, where I gave a general overview of the SRC's services and activism. And on Wednesday the 19th I spoke at the University's formal welcome to students, where I not only plugged the SRC and upcoming rallies, but also gave advice to incoming students on how to embrace, control, and initiate change over the coming years.

Activist initiatives

Welcome Week also exhibited the student activism for which this University is famous, with a number of incredible protests throughout the week. The tone was set by the SRC itself, as we organised a rally on Wednesday the 19th outside Fisher Library, which protested the government's racist decision to deny entry to people travelling from the People's Republic of China unless they're citizens or permanent residents. I was honoured to speak at this rally, just as I am honoured to be a part of a student union that has taken the lead on this issue. On Saturday the 22nd, just after the end of Welcome Week, I attended one of the most inspiring and politically developed climate rallies in many years, which saw thousands gather outside Town Hall to demand Indigenous sovereignty, greater resourcing for environmental management, and a rapid transition to Green energy. Even more inspiring than the numbers was the endorsement from countless groups, including Unions, political parties / factions, and countless student groups. Since then, our OBs have been very diligent collectives working hard to start designing various campaigns and initiatives. In week 2 I attend the Education Action Group's first meeting of the

year earlier in the week, where we discussed how we'd respond to Michael Spence's recent resignation, how we'd support the Gweagal-Bidjigal Resistance activities in April, and how we'd engage with Environmental Activism in the short-run. We also discussed the possibility of changes to funding arrangements in the May budget. The EAG is not the only active Collective: QUAC marched at Mardi Gras as part of the Pride in Protest float and have had some well-attended meetings, ACAR is organising a massive rally in solidarity with those in India protesting Modi's fascism and the International Student Collective had a well-attended drinks at Hermanns in anticipation of their first meeting. And after a massive Welcome Week which saw many new members, the Environment Collective threw themselves behind the amazing February 22nd demonstrations last Saturday and have set the organisational foundations for a massive year of activism, and played a big role in last Thursday's bake sale fundraiser for Indigenous communities affected by black deaths in custody.

The EAG and SRC is also actively organising to support the Gweagal-Bidjigal Resistance events between the 26th of April and 6th of May, which will acknowledge the 250 years of colonial brutality and inspiring resistance which began with Captain Cook's first landing at Kamay (Botany Bay) in 1770. This will be a once-in-a-generation act of dissidence, and will be followed by what will be one of the largest months in the history of environmental activism, with International Workers' Day (May 1) and May 15's climate strike likely to give a large platform to industrial Green Left politics. In anticipation of those events, the SRC has received enough student support to call a General Meeting, which will be on April the 1st. This will be the first General Meeting since the introduction of VSU in 2006, and will be one of two this year. The Month of Mayhem comes on top of this Friday's protest for climate action, the re-energisation of Fossil Free USyd, and the extraordinary growth of the Environment collective.

Improving the SRC

The SRC has formed working groups to design and implement a number of projects for which we've received SSAF funding. One of those is our "information sessions" project, which will be a program of workshops delivered by caseworkers and others on topics relevant to students, like tenancy law / rights, rights with police, workplace law, etc. Another is our "food bank" service, which will provide food to a portion of the student body for free. In both cases the details have not been finalised and are being worked out by the working groups, which both met for the first time this week. I'm pleased to report that in both cases the meetings were productive, and I'm hoping we can launch them by April at the latest.

Beyond this, we've also begun the long process of Constitutional and Regulatory reform, which will hopefully culminate in a 200+ student General Meeting in Semester 2. Our meeting last night and two weeks ago was the first of many as we seek to give the regulations their most comprehensive shakeup since the introduction of VSU in 2006.

Though Constitutional and Regulatory reform is a large undertaking, it is not the 92nd SRC's only big project that commenced this week. On Wednesday last week international and domestic students from a variety of different political groups and factions met to start work on the Fair Fares campaign, which is demanding concession Opal cards for international students. Though campaign strategy is still being discussed, at our meeting on Thursday we thought it'd be good for it to involve a protest in early May.

In addition to these long-term changes, we have been busy trying to improve things in the short-run. The Sydney Legal Service recently board concluded our search for a second solicitor, which should relieve our Principal, An Li, and deliver greater capacity to the student body. In addition, staff have been particularly hard working as they assist students grappling with Covid-19's impact on study and this University, and we hope to soon start producing translated versions of SRC pamphlets and information to increase engagement and reliability of assistance.

In addition to these interviews, I also attended a helpful session on Not-For-Profit law run by Justice Connect with the rest of the SLS Board on Friday.

University committees

And as usual I attended a few University committee meetings, including the University Executive Education Committee, Honours Admission Taskforce, Safer Communities Advisory Group, Academic Board, Thematic Review, Academic Integrity meeting, and a few others. There isn't a lot to report here, except:

1. The Uni is losing heaps of money and is in crisis mode right now.
2. The Uni wants to run a campaign on Academic Integrity.

The Uni is still sorting out the details of the Student Association Policy, which may affect us a lot.

Verbal component of the report:

Liam spoke to his report outline the major points and going into more detail on SSAF and the potential of a university shutdown.

- The way funding is calculated for SSAF is by forecasting what enrolments will be, and then distributing the money as it come in.
- Lower enrolments may mean less funding than projected a number of projects may be cut
 - o Suspect that the Sexual Assault solicitor funding will to be revoked, there isn't currently the space for it and the rebuild required can no longer be funded either.
 - o Food Bank and info workshops are suspected to be safe due to their support and the lower cost of running the information workshops than originally projected.
 - o The Mental Health Training for caseworkers will not happen this year – the deadline for enrolment was missed anyway.
 - o The extra funding for an Anti-racism campaign will most likely not eventuate, this was additional to ACAR's usual funding anyway so shouldn't affect us as much.
 - o Constitutional reform should be ok and the Vice President's stipend will go ahead as we had already begun funding it.
 - o Hopefully there will be no real impact on day to day operations.
 - o Not the best news to get on a Monday morning but hopefully as they had approved this in we should at least be able to argue we deserve the same proportional amount of SSAF as we received before the situation changed.
- Suspect there will be a shutdown of the University in the coming weeks, will be interesting to hear ideas about what we are going to do if there is one.
- The Student Associations Policy has already passed the Senate so there is little we can do about that other than fight for it to be repealed which is going to be challenging.

- It means Collectives would need to be formally registered with the SRC which may cause some issues and concern as most collectives aren't even mentioned in our regulations or constitution.
- Issues around the University being able to take over the SRC already exists in the current constitution, but registering all the collectives brings in other issues

Discussion:

Liam Thorne asked if this would mean factions would need to register?

Liam Donohoe said that it could potentially mean that, it would be determined by the university. It's still very unclear and the university have made a lot of quite complex work for themselves. It is also very unclear how it would be policed.

Lily Campbell asked if this was about better imposing the Code of Conduct on clubs and societies.

Liam Donohoe agreed it probably was as it seems to be driven by the fact that USyd rated 39 out of 40 on student experience, and this is their idea on how to fix that. Why they think a bunch of 50-year-olds will know better how to create a good student experience than students will is unclear.

Jack Mansell said there seemed to be quite a bit of encroachment on student organisations at present and the SRC should be staunchly oppositional to this, adding that while they will force their wants through we should still reject the entire funding model as it currently stands.

Abbey Shi responded to Jack Mansell's comments saying rejecting the model does little to change the fact it is how the SRC received all its funding.

Liam Donohoe added that there would be a motion on student life later in the meeting, and for those who were not aware, before 2006 there was universal student unionism and at that time student organisations set their fees and that money would go directly to the organisation not to the university first. SSAF is the best of the worst situations, everyone still needs to pay their fees but there is no longer assumed membership after that fee and there is less money to work with than before.

Julia Kovic wanted to note that it was a Labor lead government that introduced SSAF

Abbey Shi said that when the anti-Iraq war movement was happening there was a huge number of students and student organisations were involved in that and it was shortly after that campaign the VSU was implemented.

Lily Campbell asked about the university shutdown saying she suspected it would not occur till after the census date and what the SRC's plans are should that happen? Adding would the SRC also close its doors? What could the consequences further travel bans be? And that there is a union campaign for staff who are facing the consequences of austerity in the university sector and that traditional protests were not viable in the current situation.

Liam Donohoe said that this was going to be difficult to predict, and it is difficult to say as the situation is unprecedented. Adding that the SRC would likely remain open for phone and skype appointment if the physical office space was closed.

Kedar Maddali asked what the shutdown would entail.

Liam Donohoe said it would probably be done in a way that maximised profits for the university, but would prefer if it was more of a schools out situation.

Nicolas Comino asked what does the SRC think will happen based on the current spread of the virus.

Liam Donohoe said he believed that late march to early April would see the virus' spread peak, and hoped it would begin to taper off around June if it follows the timeline here that was seen in China. Though due to the lack of comprehensive action from the government it could extend. Also that he suspect that the university will simply move all things online that is not already so.

Charlotte Bullock said she understood that UTS was moving completely to online

Roisin Murphy said that as a student without a laptop or home computer she completes her studies in the library, what is going to be the support or process for student's in her situation?

Abbey Shi noted that if all classes move online then international students will be overpaying for their courses as online delivery is not the same standard as face to face classes. Adding that there were student's stuck overseas doing online classes and that it is not worth full price.

Liam Donohoe noted that SUPRA has asked the university to discount classes that have moved to online delivery and that VC Michael Spence had refused as it was more expensive to deliver classes online.

Abbey Shi noted that the university will lose more money by not supporting students as they simply won't return.

Liam Donohoe said that the university was offering a fee rebate of \$4000 to eligible student who were stuck trying to come back to Australia for class.

Kigan Mera asked what the implications for classes with required contact hours would be.

Liam Donohoe said subjects in classes such as medicine have been effectively cancelled, for many semester 1 is going to be a write off, part of this is on the university, part of it is a reality of preventing the spread of the virus.

Jack Mansell noted that students did not want to be in a situation of choosing between taking necessary health precautions and being financially penalised of experiencing a drop in educational standards. Taking actions to protect people is fair but the university is more likely to shut down to protect their bottom line at the expense of staff and students. This situation and further highlighted the dangers of relying on the exploitation of international students adding that he

suspects this will make that exploitation worse, not better. Concluding by saying that we should that that all health precautions need to be taken but that students should not be the ones to pay for it and all other alternatives are unfair.

Liam Donohoe noted that the reality of the situation has not quite sunk in and we are at a paradigm shifting moment of crisis. Adding that we should be getting ready for a war and that he didn't believe the student union movement is as ready for what is to come as it was during that 2013/2014 staff cuts and deregulation campaigns. There are going to be health issues and there are going to be economic issues in the coming months. There should be a large demonstration of student and staff power at the March 25th rally, as it's going to be needed. The University's administration know that the entire structure is going to collapse underneath them, it's quite scary but I'm hopeful we can build better outcomes from this.

Liam Thomas said that if we do need to accept reduced quality of education for health considerations, students should be paying a reduced fee, whilst this may be unavoidable it's not ok.

Liam Donohoe added that the government should be doing a lot more but doesn't think they will.

Anne ??? ask what the process for group work would be if the university shuts down?

Liam Donohoe said it was unknown but most likely it would be through Facebook and other digital platforms. The university is also trailing the possibility of online exams where you would need to have a webcam on the student to prevent cheating.

Anne ??? added she had heard that UNSW was giving out free masks and asked if it was something the SRC could do?

Liam Donohoe said he would ask the university about that but he didn't think this was a financially viable option for the SRC to provide masks

Xuan Cao added from reading the email mentioned by Liam about potential reduced fees, and if it was known how this related to students who had already returned to Sydney and had already spent the time and money getting back, would they be eligible for compensation also?

Zac ??? asked for clarification about the webcams and would these be in students' homes or elsewhere?

Liam Donohoe said he was not sure in what form exactly these exams would take place or how many the university were extending the reimbursement too were.

Joseph ??? said his understanding was the university had said there was going to be peer support for getting through the process and that if you came back via Thailand the university would be looking at it on a case by case basis for compensation. He encouraged all who could to look into getting involved on the peer support program to assist student who have been unable to return to Sydney. Adding that while he didn't want to say that he completely agrees with the decisions of the University, they are trying to give some support. Concluding with there are concerns around

the number of students who have been left without supervisors as a result of the University not renewing contracts.

Julia Kovic asked that as the President is in closer contact with university management than the general student population if he could keep the council up to date with what is going on so it can respond accordingly.

Liam Donohoe said he would do his best but as it is a very dynamic situation things have probably changed even since he last checked his email, and while he is not an expert he will do his best.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Felix Faber

Seconded: Vivienne Goodes

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Isla Mowbray left at 7:38pm

Appointed _____ as proxy.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Charlotte Bullock and Felix Faber tabled a written report:

At the last council meeting we discussed our contributions to Welcome Week preparations. We spent the weekend leading up to Welcome Week in the SRC office helping to pack the SRC's 2000 tote bags full of information about the work of the SRC, as well as the Handbook and Counter Course for 2020. During Welcome Week itself, we manned the SRC stall along with other office bearers, giving out tote bags and wall planners. This provided an excellent opportunity to meet new and continuing students and engage them with the services provided by the SRC. We were even able to give out all 2000 tote bags. With Welcome Week now two weeks passed, it is clear that it was by all means a success.

Now that Welcome Week is over, we can move our focus to other projects. With other office bearers, we recently attended the first meetings of two working groups to outline some of the SRC's major projects for the year. The first meeting we attended was about constitutional and regulatory reform. This is an area of particular interest to us, and we were excited by the range and scope of the ideas discussed. We were able to outline some goals and even some action points that could be worked on immediately, as well as a timeline for the progress we hope to achieve. The other meeting, we attended regarded kick-starting the SRC's campaign for concession Opal cards for international students. We discussed the best ways to engage both domestic and international students with our campaign, and strategies we could use to get our message across, including organising a protest during a sitting day of the NSW parliament and before the state budget.

We have also both been working on smaller projects as well. Felix has been working hard to re-establish the Faculty Societies Committee. He has reached out to the Presidents of every faculty society and is currently in the process of organising the committee's first meeting. Hopefully by the next council meeting we will be able to report on any points of action from this meeting.

Charlotte has begun work on a review of the university's 2018 curriculum change. She aims to conduct a survey of students affected by the curriculum change, with a particular focus on their experience of OLEs, Advanced Studies and the Interdisciplinary Impacts units, being FASS3999 and FASS3998. If anyone wants to contribute to the development of this, they are more than welcome to email us.

Discussion:

Felix Faber and Charlotte Bullock spoke to their report.

Felix Faber said he had done a number of consultations before proposing the motion he's moved tonight.

Charlotte Bullock said that the curriculum changes are really awful, and she will be looking at them in more detail.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Abbey Shi and Liam Thomas tabled a written a verbal report

The budget documents are printed separately to this

With Welcome Week all done and dusted we have been able to dedicate more of our time to working on essential tasks in the SRC office.

Over the past two weeks Liam, along with President Liam Donohoe and the rest of the SRC Legal Board, has been busy sitting down and interviewing a number of shortlisted candidates for the position of the second SRC solicitor. We are pleased to report that we have been incredibly impressed by the standard of applicants for the job, with many candidates catching our eye. This hiring process is in the final stages now and we can't wait to announce soon the candidate we've selected!

As part of our role on the SRC Legal Board we also attended a half-day training legal session run by a representative from the organisation Justice Connect. We went through a range of topics such as our legal responsibilities on the Board, NFP organisational structures, maintaining our charitable status, just to name a few. This session was incredibly worthwhile, giving the SRC Legal Board a whole bunch of areas to work on in terms of tightening up some of our policies/structures.

We also wrapped up our SRC UE WonderBoom prize draw, announcing the winners on Thursday! Congratulations to everyone who won and thank you to everyone who entered. This prize competition has been a resounding success with hundreds of entrants and the SRC social media seeing huge increases in likes/followers. We look forward to continuing to explore ways to expand our social media presence throughout the year, ensuring that all students are aware of the SRC services available to them.

We have been continuing to deal with the unfolding COVID-19 Coronavirus situation and its impacts on University of Sydney students. Abbey has been working with SUPRA to organise a survey for students who require financial subsidies due to the situation. The survey is now being circulated around. Abbey also attended the thematic review on undergraduate international students and language. We have made demands to the University that they turn on lecture recordings for all units of study and for the University to come up with better measures to ensure that information is being circulated to all students as currently many international are not getting important information they need regarding the unfolding situation. This also has broader impacts, as even outside of the current situation, many new international students find themselves lacking information about how to navigate the University and its processes. Abbey also attended a panel with the VC Michael Spence and Jenny Leong MP on combatting racism arising from COVID-19.

We have also attended the first meeting on the campaign for international student opal card concession. We look forward to further meetings to plan this campaign.

We have now had the opportunity to sit down and work on the SRC budget for the year. This should be attached/available along with this report, and we will be speaking to it at this council meeting. Firstly, please note that the COVID-19 situation and the University's financial response to this has had a massive, last-minute effect on our budget. The University has instructed the SRC to put a complete freeze on contestable funding (besides those which have already been spent), which specifically affects collective funding with \$15,270 suddenly unavailable for collective budgets. This freeze could be temporary, or it could last all year. We will have a clearer idea following the March 31st census date. As it currently stands, we are unable to present a budget incorporating that contestable amount, as such, the compromise we have come to (which is hopefully temporary) is that we will utilise the profit from Honi advertisements (\$7000) to fund the shortfall and hopefully in the coming weeks we are able to also incorporate the entire \$15,270 originally allocated to us. This would mean that the amount of money available to collectives under campaign funds can only increase from here on.

Furthermore, along with the President, we have come up with a new breakdown for collective funding, moving printing costs to a pooled SRC campaign fund which all collectives can draw from (with collectives with traditionally larger printing costs able to access more). This will also hopefully allow for better collaboration between collectives/departments to help fund campaigns. It also helps for the purposes of SSAF, often having to split costs across contestable and base. This way we can better break down costs for collectives. This is just a quick outline of some of the bigger changes in the budget, we will hopefully give a more detailed rundown and answer all questions at the meeting.

Liam Thomas added to his report saying that the corona virus and the freezing of contestable funds from SSAF has thrown a number of points in the budget things out a bit. And that there has been some changes to how funding for departments is done but there should not be a reduction on department allocations. Noting that printing costs were now pooled so that we don't have the situation where one department doesn't use their printing allocation while another runs out quickly. Also while most contestable funding has been frozen hopefully they will be unfrozen and we will be able to access them again.

Liam Donohoe added that overall the amount of funding from the collectives has increased from last year and that despite everything last year there had been an increase then too. If you are unsure how much you've got to spend or have spent contact the Administration Manager or the General Secretaries to check.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Nina Mountford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Jazzlyn Breen and Jack Mansell tabled a written report

We've had a big month! We resolved at our Week 1 EAG to use Spence's departure as an opportunity to run a propaganda campaign about university management's many crimes, and to lay the basis for student solidarity with the staff's upcoming EBA campaign. The situation with management's austerity measures has now accelerated this campaign. Part of our campaign is to get in touch with student unionists at UCL, where Spence is slated to be provost next year, and share campaign materials and lessons that USyd students and staff have accumulated over the years of battling him.

Coronavirus response

News globally has been dominated by the outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus), which has killed thousands of people in China and hundreds elsewhere. The crisis has had serious impacts on students, particularly international students, many of whom have been prevented from entering the country. We participated in actions in solidarity with Wuhan, the epicentre of the crisis, and have been part of calling for a health-based response, rather than responding with authoritarianism, racism and placing the burden on ordinary people. We participated in the NUS Ethno Cultural Department's campaign to oppose anti-Chinese racism, which has seen a spike, especially on campuses.

Opposing management austerity measures

In the context of lost revenue, management has rammed through a series of serious attacks on staff conditions that we are organising to oppose. Picking up on the foundations we established at the Week 1 EAG, we organised another EAG to plan the student response. We've moved a motion at this council meeting for the SRC to unconditionally support the NTEU in its fight. We have been in touch with the NTEU and SUPRA about how to coordinate our efforts against the measures, focused around a rally at 1pm on March 25.

Students against unpaid placements

This campaign is being supported by the EAG, with organising work currently going into creating materials and organising events to launch the campaign officially. We will have stickers, flyers and posters soon - and plan to launch the campaign via a town hall style open meeting in late April.

Climate activism

As we have said previously, both of us have a heavy focus on organising around climate change as one of the key political issues engaging university students. February 22's NDA was a big success, with around 10,000 coming out in Sydney including many university students. Jazz was heavily involved in the organising of this event through the climate justice alliance.

Jack has been involved heavily in organising and building for the March 13 national uni student climate strike, for which a motion of support will be put at this council meeting.

Both of us have been part of organising to blockade the 'Future of Mining' conference, which will be happening on March 23-24 at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth. On February 21, Jack spoke at an action pre-empting the blockade at the Sofitel. Subsequent to this Jack attended an action in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en resistance in Canada against the proposed GasLink pipeline. We took a photo in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en protesters at our EAG.

Heading into the latter half of semester, we'll be continuing to build for the April 1 Student General Meeting, and then uni student support for the May 15 climate strike called by School Strike 4 Climate, and the May first movement.

Other events

1. International Women's Day protests happened over the weekend of March 7-8, drawing millions into the streets, notably in Latin America where women have been at the forefront of recent social movements against neoliberalism and austerity. Jack attended the Sydney march alongside many other SRC representatives.
2. Cuts to the Eastern Suburbs buses will massively impact UNSW students, who will be forced to use the dire light rail service to get to campus. We plan to send a delegation to UNSW students' rally on March 11 to defend the 891 bus route.
3. The EAG is also supporting ACAR's upcoming rally to stand in solidarity with victims of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime. During Trump's visit to India, Modi's government supported pogroms against Muslims, which saw dozens murdered and mosques razed. We see this as part of a global surge of far-right governments, and an important stand to take.
4. Jazz has been heavily involved in Sydney based Indigenous sovereignty movements with the 'wreck the endeavour' group and the Gweagal - Bidjigal elders council. A film screening has been organised by the EAG and will be co-hosted in collaboration with ACAR and enviro to promote and fundraise for this campaign.
5. During O week various stunts and actions were called, Jazz was involved with the WoCo O week stunt against sexual assault on campus, and the snap action called against a TERF event on the Friday of O week.
6. The first meeting of the Fair Fairs campaign was held last week, Jazz attended this meeting and the EAG is keen to be involved going forward.

Discussion:

Jack Mansell spoke to the report saying that they were working a lot on the climate strikes and building that movement due to its importance to students. The University's austerity measures were also of concern as is the potential of a fee hike in semester 2 if the government attempts to push through a form of fee deregulation, and that they are working on building solidarity with staff around these issues. Jack continued saying that they were building a number of campaigns

including some with SUPRA, and that students needed to make it clear that they do not accept any cut or healthcare compromises for staff and students.

Lily Campbell added that a video has been made by the EAG for staff to play at the start of classes to encourage everyone to attend on the 25th and also to let them know what is happening.

Jack Mansell added that the NTEU was circulating the video to all its members

Liam Donohoe added that everyone should be attending the rally on the 25th.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Felix Faber

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Ellie Wilson and Vivienne Guo tabled a written report

WELCOME WEEK

Welcome Week was really successful for the Women's Collective. We had over 200 new sign ups, many of whom have actively gotten engaged after initially signing up. We organised a stunt on Wednesday of Welcome Week to demonstrate against sexual violence on campus and to draw attention to the rampant nature of sexual violence and apathy towards survivors by the university administration and residential colleges. This was covered by student media and was shared by End Rape On Campus Australia. We also attended and Women's Collective convenor Ellie Wilson spoke at the anti-Sinophobia rally on campus directly following the action we had organised, and attended the Solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en protest at the Canadian Embassy on the Friday of Welcome Week. During the week, we sold out of all of our tote bags, of which the proceeds were donated directly to Indigenous families affected by black deaths in custody, so we plan to order more merch in to sell over the year, including more tote bags and a new run of t-shirts. We will continue to use sales of these merchandise items to help raise money to support these families, and on a broader level if possible, support various Indigenous justice causes.

MEETINGS

So far this semester (report submitted Friday of Week 2), we've had two collective meetings. We started out on a really solid note, with over 30 members attending our first meeting of the semester, most of whom were new members of WoCo. Our second meeting, though on a rainy day with not much student turnout overall, still brought in around 20 members. We've seen a high level of engagement over social media through our various networking capacities and expect to see the collective maintain a good level of participation throughout the year.

INDIGENOUS SOCIAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION (ISJA) AND GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST REMOVALS (GMAR)

We have been regularly attending meetings and volunteer meetups for both ISJA and GMAR, as we aim to increase our engagement as a collective with both over the upcoming year in line with our goal of fighting for Indigenous justice. We have attended the majority of ISJA's weekly

Wednesday evening meetings and have collaborated with them in a variety of projects, such as by co-sponsoring a Justice for Tane fundraiser and creating a student contingent for the Justice for Eric support rally, among many other things. We also attended a Grandmothers Against Removals volunteer meetup to get more closely involved with the group and to offer the Women's Collective's resources and connections for the year ahead.

JUSTICE FOR ERIC

Multiple members of the Women's Collective attended the Justice for Eric support rally on 28 February at the Lidcombe Coroner's Court. The court heard the findings of Eric Whittaker's case, which, as expected, brought about no justice, saying merely that it was not the court's role to assign blame, and though Eric's life may well have been saved had he received the medical attention he repeatedly asked for, no people involved would be held accountable for his death by medical negligence; nor would there be any actual repercussions for the way he was cruelly shackled even when posing no threat to anybody's safety. Coronial inquests that examine black deaths in custody have never really brought anyone any justice, and this case was no different. Women's Collective convenor Vivienne Guo and ACAR convenor/Ethnocultural Officer Kedar Maddali reported on the hearing for *Honi Soit*.

BAKE SALE

We ran a bake sale on 5 March alongside a number of other student collectives to raise money for Indigenous families affected by black deaths in custody. Despite being held on such a rainy day, it was still incredibly successful, and we're really glad to be able to have raised money to support families in need of some help when already going through traumatic circumstances.

FUNDRAISING

Alongside the bake sale on 5 March, we also sold merchandise during Welcome Week and organised a Facebook fundraiser to raise money for Indigenous families affected by black deaths in custody. Of course, this has all been done collaboratively with other collectives, with Enviro also donating proceeds from Welcome Week merch sales and other collectives sharing and co-hosting the Facebook fundraiser. So far, the amount of money raised for Indigenous families sits at around \$3,000, with new money coming in every day from our various fundraising streams. This is a huge achievement and it cannot be overstated how significant this funding is given how often First Nations causes are completely ignored even by those on the left, and how little attention things like this typically get.

Facebook fundraiser link:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/131758701557128/3152860118097532/>

CONSENT AND COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY WORKSHOP

On 11 March from 11:00am – 1:00pm, we will be running a dual workshop made up of both Consent 101 and Community Accountability workshops. This will be facilitated by Holly Brooke and Kimberly Dibben. Holly Brooke wrote both workshops and is a postgraduate student at the University of Sydney, and Kimberly Dibben is one of the SRC's Sexual Harassment Officers this year. We hope to be able to continue to run these workshops throughout the year, as research tells us that face-to-face education about consent is the most effective form of consent education there is. Within our capacity as Women's Officers, we have already run two Consent 101 workshops so far, with one taking place during Radical Education Week in 2019 and another being

run during the Students of Sustainability Conference in January this year on the Sydney Uni Cumberland campus.

MARDI GRAS

A number of members of the Women's Collective marched in the No Pride In Detention float for Mardi Gras. As a collective, we support Pride in Protest/No Pride In Detention's core messaging of fighting for queer rights and liberation, not just queer representation, and fighting for refugee rights and an end to racist border protection policies.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Women's Collective will be attending the rally with a contingent from our collective. We have also organised workshops for the following week as detailed above to coincide with the general timing of International Women's Day. We also plan to organise reading groups alongside other collectives in the near future.

Vivienne Guo spoke to her report and gave an overview of its contents.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Abbey Shi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Interfaith Officers

In January, I (Wilson) wrote a submission to the Attorney-General's Department on the second exposure draft of the religious discrimination bill. I was concerned with the broad contentious objection provisions, the potential for discrimination, and the high protection of religious statements. Some of the things I wrote are below:

"My overarching concern with the second draft is that it privileges religious rights over the rights of other people. I am concerned it underestimates the potential harm caused by religiously motivated actions, creates a double standard on discrimination, and has the potential to adversely affect tolerance and societal cohesion."

"The [Explanatory notes] gives examples of when religious discrimination would be able to occur. For example, a Jewish school could only hire or admit Jewish people (246) and an Anglican public benevolent institution could require its employees to uphold Anglican doctrines (247). However, these cases do not demonstrate care in the complexities of the issues."

"For example, what if someone who considers themselves to be a part of the Jewish or Anglican faith gets refused or fired because they are in a relationship with someone of the same gender. The provisions allow for a reasonableness test using someone of the same religion (216). However, sexuality is a topic that is contested within faiths and *religious denominations* themselves, and it is unclear what the reasonableness provision would mean. My main concern is

that these religious institutions could, in effect, curtail the religious freedom and human rights of other people based on hierarchical privilege.”

I was asked by the Department for permission to publish the submission on their website. I consented to them doing so.

During Welcome Week, I helped the Queer and Disabilities Officers in running their stalls. I am open to collaboration with them and other office bearers. I currently do not have contact with the other interfaith officers, but I will try and see if they would like to collaborate.

Thank you!

Discussion:

Madeleine Powell asked the Interfaith Officer to clarify their position on the religious discriminations bill as the report made it seem like the only concern was the religious conflict it could create for individuals of different faiths, as was ambiguous about if they were against the fundamentals of the bill, or if, without a religious conflict, they believed it would be ok to fire someone because of their sexuality.

Wilson Huang said he did not outline everything in the bill but was trying to address the issues from an interfaith perspective

Madeleine Powell asked for a clarification if Wilson was against the bill in its entirety.

Wilson Huang clarified that he was opposed to the bill in its entirety but the purpose of the report was to give specific examples as to how the bill could create conflict in particular in an interfaith setting.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Vivienne Guo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

While the initial rage surrounding the government’s criminal neglect during the bushfire crisis has somewhat passed, the issue of climate change continues to be the main issue concerning students and young people.

Over the last month, I have been involved in building and attended a number of climate protests, including the Feb 22 national day of action rally. To help build for the upcoming blockade of the ‘Future of Mining’ conference I helped organise a small occupation of the Sofitel foyer where the conference is scheduled to be held. After the occupation, I attended a solidarity action with the Indigenous Wet’suwet’en people, who are currently engaged in an inspiring blockade to defend

their land from the construction of a gas pipeline being pushed by the criminal Canadian government.

A major part of my work this month has been organising and building the March 13 Uni Student Climate Strike here at USyd. As part of a nationally coordinated day of action, uni students on campuses around the country will be walking off to demand action on the climate crisis. The action aims to continue to mobilise university students around the issue of climate change, with the orientation that more protests (not less) are necessary to build a left-wing climate movement that is militant and brings in as many layers of people as possible.

In addition to organising around the issue of climate change, I have also been a part of helping to build and promote the USyd Students for Palestine club. While the club is currently relatively small, we worked hard during o-week to meet new contacts and are in the process of organising and promoting our first meeting of the year. Out of this meeting we hope to involve more students in building Palestine activism on campus, and with the anniversary of Al Nakba approaching fast we're hoping to organise an action/event to help promote the Palestine Action Group rally.

Discussion:

Holly spoke to her report and covered its main points and let the council know about their work leafleting and lecture bashing about the climate strike on March 13th.

Motion: that the report of the Global Solidarity Officers be accepted.

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the International Officers

Coronavirus outbreak

The virus outbreak has severely affected a significant portion of international students currently in China. In the past few weeks, all International Student Officers have been working very closely with other members in the SRC to resolve student issues and to fight for better alternatives for those stranded in China. We have been actively involved in translating documents between Chinese and English, distributing them across different platforms, and answering student queries in the group chat we have set up to help students.

Welcome Week stall results

We produced 400 tote bags for Welcome Week and gave out roughly half of the amount. We were able to recruit 150 members into the collective, which is not a bad result given the inactivity of the collective in the past years. All attempts to connect to previous International Students Officers to bring down the old International Students Collective page have been in vain and we received no response. A new Facebook page has also been set up for members to keep track of any updates on events.

First Collective meeting

We successfully held our first collective meeting on Friday night of week 1. It was an overall success with many members turning up. This meeting was for the purpose of briefing what the International Students Collective's visions and goals are and what we plan to do in the upcoming year.

Week 2 of the semester

Given that the coronavirus outbreak has affected Sydney, the International Student Officers have decided that in an effort to confine infection and protect student safety, we will call off the event in week 2, which was originally a movie session to get members more actively engaging in conversation with each other. We speculate that there will be a meeting next week in regard to the Opal campaign that is under the making.

Discussion:

Kigen Mera spoke to his report and thanked everyone for their support at O-week especially those who came to the rally against Sinophobia. Adding that the international Office Bearers did a lot of translation work and got through about 150 of the 400 tote bags prepared which was a good number considering the number of students who have been unable to return. Kigen continued saying that the Office Bearers hope to start meetings soon but noted that the coronavirus situation was making it difficult for people to get out. There is also a campaign about international students gaining access to student concession opal cards as transport is very expensive as international students are expected to study full time and pay tax on their income yet are not able to access the student concession fares.

Motion: that the report of the International Students Officers be accepted.

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Xuan (Colin) Cao

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Welfare Officers

This O'Week I was glad to sit on the Welfare stall for most days. I organised with Paz from 'Raise the Rate' to have a bunch of their materials on our stall, as well as having a bunch of climate petitions, leaflets, bags and stickers relating to climate activism. Then that Friday I was built and was involved in an occupation of the Sofitel hotel, protesting against their hosting of a Mining Conference in March. That protest met up with another protest outside the Canada embassy, in solidarity with the " gas pipeline that will destroy their land. In Week One of uni, I have continued to do stalls that sign up people to climate activism. I have also been involved in organising for LGBT + rights in the lead up to Mardi Gras. Importantly organising with the NTEU around the issue of the Sydney Uni Mardi Gras float, which asks staff members to be in. For the staff that do this there has been the precedent set that they get special leave the day after Mardi Gras, but this right was revoked this year. Organisers have spoken out against this and I've been involved in helping get the word out about this unfairness.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Vivienne Goodes

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Social Justice Officers

The beginning of the year is an essential time for throwing oneself into activism in order to engage new students with a culture of protesting and left-wing politics. During O-week at both UNSW and USyd, I was on the Uni Students for Climate Justice stall, collecting hundreds of names of people who both wanted to get involved with the group and who demanded that classes be cancelled for the March 13 Climate Strike. In the weeks following I have been leafletting and posterizing the campus (despite the attempts of others) to promote the climate strike on March 13, which will be an important continuation of the great culture of environmental activism amongst USyd students. I went to both the February 22 Rally for Climate Justice in Sydney and a protest down at Wollongong to demand action on the climate crisis, which organisers of the event told me was of excellent energy and size. It's necessary in the environment movement to advance issues of social justice, including standing with Indigenous and First Nations people across the world, like the February 21 rally in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people outside the Canadian embassy. Looking forward, March will be an excellent month of activism, with the March 13 Climate Strike as well as the blockade of the 'Future of Mining' conference on March 23-24. I encourage all other office bearers, councillors and students to get involved with building both.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to his report and added that he was working with students and staff around getting leave for Mardi Gras, as the University encourages people to attend and participate in their float and activities but does not offer leave to do so.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Jack Mansell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Condemning the Northern Territory Greens for preferencing far-right parties

Preamble

On the 29th February voters in Darwin headed to polls in the Johnston by-election, with the result returning a clear victory for Labor's Joel Bowden.

However, shamefully, in the weeks leading up to the election, the Northern Territory Greens released their how-to-vote cards which encouraged voters to preference far-right parties such as Territory Alliance and the Country Liberal Party above Labor.

The Northern Territory Greens claimed that this decision was made to send a message to NT Labor regarding their position on fracking. Whilst we recognise that fracking is an incredibly environmentally destructive practice and call on Northern Territory Labor to ban it, responding to this by preferencing racist far-right parties who support unrestricted and unregulated fracking, and do not believe in climate change, is disgraceful and inappropriate.

The Northern Territory Greens, in an attempt to 'send a message' to Labor, directed preferences to the far-right Territory Alliance, a party that at the last election, ran candidates who had previously run with the racist Rise Up Australia party. Rise Up Australia, under the slogan "Keep Australia Australian", ran on opposing Islamic immigration and cracking down on religious freedom for Muslim Australians, as well as stopping same-sex marriage.

Both the Territory Alliance and Country Liberal Party, which the Greens directed preferences to above Labor, have far-right platforms based on "law and order" and cracking down on "youth crime". It is shameful that the Northern Territory Greens gave tacit support for parties whose primary agenda is to increase the incarceration of youths, especially given that 100% of children in prison in the Northern Territory are Indigenous. Further still, the candidate for the CLP, Josh Thomas, rejected the issue of climate change as a trivial issue that voters don't care about, stating that "Climate change will always change, the weather will always change...we had an ice age 15,000 years ago. Where were the Greens then?".

When asked for comment on this, the newly appointed leader of the Australian Greens, Adam Bandt, refused to condemn his Northern Territory counterparts, instead, he supported it, stating that the "by-election will not change who is in government". Despite this, the Greens support for far-right parties above Labor helps normalise the authoritarian, racist and climate change denying rhetoric they espouse. Territory Alliance saw a large swing to them at this by-election and it is shameful that they received support from a party that claims to be unapologetically progressive.

Platform

The University of Sydney SRC condemns the Northern Territory Greens and their candidate, Aiya Goodrich Carttling, for preferencing racist and climate change denying far-right parties such as the Territory Alliance and Country Liberals.

The University of Sydney SRC condemns Adam Bandt, as the new leader of the Greens, for giving support to the Northern Territory Greens' decision to preference racist and climate change denying far-right parties.

The University of Sydney SRC calls on all progressive parties to put far-right candidates last on their how-to-vote cards in elections, no matter the circumstances.

[Amendment 1] 1. The SRC condemns fracking in any and all forms.

[Amendment 2] 2. The SRC recognises the hurt First Nations communities are put through when progressive organisations choose cheap political plays over genuine action towards closing the gap.

Moved: Liam Thomas

Discussion:

Liam Thomas spoke to his motion outlining what occurred in the Northern Territory during their recent elections where the Greens had given preferences to right wing parties over the Labor Party. He added while he disagreed with NT Labor's position on fracking many of the parties preferred over Labor has worse environmental policies.

Roisin Murphy proposed two amendments to the motion's platform:

1. The SRC condemns fracking in any and all forms.
 2. The SRC recognises the hurt First Nations communities are put through when progressive organisations choose cheap political plays over genuine action towards closing the gap."
- They were amenable to the mover.

Owen Marsden Readford proposed an amendment to the motion's platform

"The SRC condemns the role Northern Territory Labor has played in the continuation of environmentally catastrophic fracking and gas exploration and continuing Indigenous dispossession and oppression as seen in the re-introducing last year of tortoise devices like spithoods in Dondale.

It was not amenable to the mover.

The amendment was moved as a foreshadowing motion.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Madeleine Powell

Owen spoke briefly to the foreshadowing motion saying that he would not defend the greens for preferencing the far-right but that Labor and the Liberals have the same policies on a number of issues and the blame lies in the lack of variation between major parties

Felix Faber assumed the chair

Liam Donohoe spoke in favour of the foreshadowing motion noting that every branch of the Greens is autonomous and there is little Adam Bandt bears in blame for this, though he has no issues with condemning him regardless. Adding that this motion steams from electoral opportunism and is for people who see themselves as better to make them feel better for being a part of a horrible system.

Felix Faber resigned the chair to Charlotte Bullock, there was no dissent.

Felix Faber spoke to the motion saying he supported it and the foreshadowing motion saying that fracking is awful but rejects the idea that the greens shouldn't be held to account because the Labor party also does bad things.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion and adding that she would prefer the amendment be voted on separately rather than being placed as a foreshadowing motion. Adding that the motion was a bit cynical and there should be criticism of NT Labor's actions for what they and the Liberals have done with regards to the locking up and harming for refugees and Indigenous communities, without that it is hypocritical.

The substantive motion with accepted amendments was put.

Moved: Liam Thomas

Seconded: Belinda Thomas

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Fore shadowing motion was put

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Madeleine Powell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Charlotte Bullock resigned the chair back to the President.

Q2. Save campus life

Preamble

Campus life at the University of Sydney has been in steady decline over the past decade. This is not coincidental; it is the product of determined and consistent policies from the University's administration. Eliminating a vibrant campus culture is essential to the University's neoliberal agenda towards education. The ideal student body to the University is one that shows up, goes to class, and goes home - relaxing with a bev at the campus bar between classes is inconsistent with a university geared towards the preparation of students for the workforce. Since the introduction of VSU, the decline in campus life has been distinct. Long-standing venues like Manning have collapsed, booking rates for the Seymour Centre have risen so dramatically that revues are effectively forced out, and less and less students are actively engaging in university life.

Policies like the University's Alcohol Policy - which bans shots and happy hours on campus - and the Student Associations Policy - affording University officials broad powers to control the composition of student organisations, including the SRC - are examples of this push to kill campus life continuing in the present. We must demand a safe, vibrant, and accessible campus life, run by students, for students.

Platform

1. The SRC recognises campus life as an important contributor to the personal and intellectual growth that takes place at University.
2. The SRC opposes the University's Alcohol Policy as a shallow gesture at taking action on campus safety which will merely force students off campus to less safe venues.
3. The SRC opposes the University's Student Associations Policy as an authoritarian policy aimed at taking the control of student unions out of student hands.
4. The SRC condemns the University raising booking rates on the Seymour Centre, forcing student productions out of the venue.
5. The SRC recognises that the issues facing campus life are inherent to a post-VSU university experience, and that only the restoration of VSU can ensure a vibrant campus life.
6. The SRC commemorates Manning Bar as a real one, and hopes it makes a comeback.

Action

1. The SRC will publish the preamble of this motion on its Facebook page.
2. The Vice Presidents will present this motion to the Student Life Committee.

Discussion:

Felix Faber spoke to his motion and point out that the University is making things harder for students.

Charlotte Bullock assumed the Chair

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motions saying that what isn't mentioned is that what is referred to a leisure time is what flourishes intellect and creativity, without it, activism and care for leaning will diminish. The Howard government introduced VSU, their obsession with productivity aimed to remove leisure time and created a less productive environment.

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion saying that we need to keep perspective on what university was once like by reading over old editions of Honi and seeing old documentaries about what it was like at a time where there was strong student built social movements and keep that alive. The vast majority of students can't live near campus do to the cost, taking away from socialisation time. Student organisations no longer have the funding to build better infrastructure for students and now events are more about a hustle or networking rather than experiences. The University legitimises and encourages this as there is the idea that students should no longer be doing things for fun but for work opportunities, the committees looking into student life and tedious and look at bringing in things like therapaws rather than dealing with the systemic issues that cause dissatisfaction.

Felix Faber asked what Liam Donohoe's positions on "doggos" was.

Liam Donohoe said he was not a big dog person but thought they were cute at times. Adding that these committees often talk about creating things like virtual colleges and often sounds like the meme "we've tried nothing and we are all out of ideas" adding that they are often controlled by people who had no understanding of what fun was when they were at university.

Liam Thomas spoke to the motion praising it and acknowledging that students are having to work longer and longer hours to cover the cost of living and this also prevents them from having time to hang out on campus as much as they did in the past.

Moved: Felix Faber

Seconded: Roisin Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Liam Donohoe resumed the Chair

Q3. Support SCA Students

Preamble

As the SCA undergoes its move onto Camperdown campus, the University's preparations have been proven wholly inadequate. Despite assurances to students that facilities would be ready for students by the start of semester, renovations are still ongoing due to insufficient foresight on the University's behalf, meaning that some classes have had to be held in totally unsuitable classrooms such as science labs, with hands-on art lessons delayed indefinitely. SCA students have had their studio space and time drastically limited, severely impacting their opportunities to develop as artists. Students have been given little assistance over the transition, and largely left to make the change from one campus to another themselves.

Throughout this mismanagement, SCA students have been made to pay fees at the same level as they did at their fit-to-purpose, independent campus. The University must immediately take action to ensure that the effects of this disastrous campus move are adequately addressed.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the original decision to relocate the SCA as a shallow cost-saving measure by the University.
2. The SRC further condemns the University's obvious disregard for the quality of SCA students' education, evidenced by the inadequate preparation for the campus relocation.
3. The SRC calls for fit-to-purpose facilities that are able to provide SCA students valuable learning opportunities.

Action

1. The SRC will make efforts, in conjunction with SCASS, to inform SCA students of its services in order to assist them with the campus relocation, including posts on its social media outlets.
2. The SRC will work alongside SCASS to advocate for the needs of SCA students during the campus relocation.

Discussion:

Felix Faber spoke to his motion about how horrible the transition has been and how many students still don't know when they will get studio time.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion and wanted to point out how much the cohort sizes have reduced, and that there was such dissatisfaction with the move many students have simply left their degree.

Holly Hayne spoke to the motion saying that the Save SCA campaign it was a good one and it was a shame that universities are run as businesses not education institution, and there is very little good quality art education with access to HECS available. Cuts to fine arts education fits with the trend of cuts to the arts in general. Arts are no considered profitable, so they are the first cut. Concluding by saying it's a shame the Save SCA campaign no longer exists.

Deaglan Godwin spoke in support of the motion saying what happened at SCA will be a trend with how the University will continue and that VC Spence is probably very happy with what he did the SCA and that the SRC needs to ensure that what happened there doesn't happen again. To ensure that the SRC need to maintain the fight against the University's management.

Moved: Felix Faber

Seconded: Roisin Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

There were no items of general business

R1. Stand with staff against management's austerity measures

Preamble:

Staff at the University of Sydney are facing a series of serious attacks on their pay and working conditions. It is imperative that students stand in full solidarity with staff in their fight to defend hard-won conditions. Not only is it important for students and staff to stand in solidarity with one another's fights, these attacks will have harsh consequences for the quality of our education.

Under the pretense of the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, university management have taken the opportunity to push through a series of measures that the NTEU have characterised as austerity measures. These attacks include, but are not limited to: a freeze on hiring, the use of labour hire, pressuring teaching staff to produce online course content, and cancellation of classes for casual tutors.

The use of labour hire threatens to undermine the industry-leading wages that staff at Sydney University have won over a series of strike campaigns, and represents an enormous encroachment on those wages. Coupled with a freeze on hiring new staff, even where there are vacancies, this amounts to blackmailing staff into a productivity speed-up under the threat of redundancy or wage cuts. Class cancellations as a result of a drop in enrolment are massively impacting casual teaching staff, and amount to real wage cuts.

Similarly, university management are attempting to use the fact that many students are not able to attend classes due to quarantining or travel bans to undermine the NTEU's long-standing opposition to mandatory online recordings. Rather than refunding affected students or allowing special considerations while they are not able to attend classes, the university is trying to pressure lecturers and tutors into creating online content that can be used later to undermine them, as has been seen at campuses like La Trobe, where students have been taught by pre-recorded lectures, rather than by face-to-face teaching.

Obviously, these attacks on staff conditions will have a direct impact on the quality of students' education, and an increased burden on administrative staff will further degrade university services. Instead of forcing the cost of the COVID-19 crisis onto staff and students, the

government should fully fund the higher education sector out of increased corporate taxation. Higher education should be free for all students, and not rely on a fee-paying model.

The NTEU has called a rally for 1pm, Wednesday March 25. They have called for the fullest possible mobilisation of students to support them. The Education Action Group is organising student involvement in the campaign, and calls on the SRC to endorse the rally and any future actions in the campaign.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC opposes the austerity measures being implemented by management.
2. The University of Sydney SRC opposes any attempt to force the cost of the COVID-19 health crisis onto staff and students.
3. The University of Sydney SRC stands in unconditional solidarity with the NTEU campaign against the attacks.
4. The University of Sydney SRC rejects the user-pays University funding model, and calls for free, fully publicly funded higher education.

Action:

1. The Education Action Group continues to organise student participation in the campaign to oppose management's austerity package.
2. The University of Sydney SRC supports the campaign with financial and organisational support.
3. The University of Sydney SRC shares the event for the March 25 rally from its social media platforms.

Discussion:

Jack Mansell spoke to his motion and added that it's unfortunate that so much of what we are talking about today is attacks on staff. Adding that there was a labour hire company being used by the university to perform administrative duties which allows the university to circumvent its own EBAs and pay these workers less as well as offering them fewer rights than when directly employed. Student's supporting staff is important for ensuring a quality education. Macquarie University has already said they will pay their tutors who have lost their work for the semester and the SRC should push for this to be the case at Sydney as well. There is also a high risk of course cutting as seen at University of Tasmania and Macquarie. Jack concluded by saying that students should take a stand on this and fight against universities being on a user pays model as that is the system that has led to this disaster and the government should properly fund education.

Eddie Stephenson echoed Jack Mansell's comments and added that cuts and job losses are not inevitable and the using the corona virus situation as an excuse for these is a cynical act as they are not being made with the health or wellbeing of staff and students in mind. The University is only concerned with protecting their bottom line, the cost of the virus should not be placed on staff and students, it should be from Michael Spence's wages. Eddie concluded saying the SRC needed to fight for the rally and point out that the user pays model will always allow for austerity and cuts.

Grace Bowskill spoke to the motion saying the SRC should reject all cuts and that the University's decisions were all made to protect profitability. Adding that the government is not helping universities and is instead attacking them and expressed concerns about Spence's replacement.

Moved: Jack Mansell

Seconded: Jazzlyn Breen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R2. Solidarity with the victims of the BJP's anti-Muslim attacks

Preamble

1. Over the past few months, the Indian government led by Narendra Modi has rapidly expanded its program of racial/ religious oppression directed at Indian-Muslims. Last year, the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act marked a milestone in the BJP's persecution of Muslims, formally creating a religious test for citizenship. This piece of legislation inscribed the second-class citizenship of Muslims into law.
2. This blatant attack on Muslim rights was met by remarkable resistance across the sub-continent. In particular, University students voiced their opposition to the bill and the BJP in the form of protest. Meanwhile in Hyderabad, hundreds of thousands of Muslims demonstrated, also spearheading the fight back against the BJP.
3. The government's brutal crackdown on these protesters saw police firing live rounds at unarmed students, and the 'disappearing' of dissidents. Viscous anti-protest laws were introduced, limiting the size of demonstrations.
4. Perhaps more alarmingly, the government sanctioned far-right Hindu nationalist thugs to invade Jawaharlal Nehru University. These neo-fascists bludgeoned protesters, and targeted the President of the University's student union. Tellingly, the police permitted this brutality, allowing the intruders free reign while continuing to repress students themselves.
5. In recent weeks, the BJP's (the political wing of the militaristic group the RSS), have declared open war on India's Muslim population. Hindu-Nationalist mobs roam the streets, freely murdering Muslims in New Delhi. RSS troops are purposefully transported into Muslim majority areas to incite pogroms. Despite the atrocities, protests against the government continue to rock the nation, Hindus and Muslims alike united against the far-right.
6. The situation in India is at a precipice. The neo-fascistic far right holds national power, and openly encourages violence against the Muslim minority. Yet the widespread resistance and courage of ordinary Indians against the BJP offers hope. The SRC stands in solidarity with this fight back against the BJP.

Platform

1. The SRC stands in full solidarity with Indian Muslims against the BJP, and all Indians who are determined to fight their government.

2. The SRC supports combatting the resurgent far right globally, and recognises it as an international issue.
3. The SRC condemns the BJP and their program of Hindu nationalism.

Actions

1. The SRC will take a photo expressing its solidarity with resistance to the BJP.
2. The SRC will support and promote any rallies against the far right using its materials and budget.
3. Urges students to attend the “Solidarity with Victims of Modi's Fascist Regime” rally on March the 15th organised by The Autonomous Collective against racism (ACAR).
[amendment accepted]

Alex Panzarino spoke to his motion saying that the BJP is one of the most right-wing and powerful far right political organisations. Adding that they are trying to build a religious Hindu ethno-state, and that they are in power which is the most concerning. Alex continued noting that Trup visited them as they were attacking Muslims in pogroms and this should be of concern to all. There has been resistance to their actions, and we saw this in India recently with 100 000s of Muslims and Indian university students marching against the encroaching apartheid state.

Kedar Maddali proposed 2 amendments, the addition of a 3rd action point and a correction that the BJP is the political wing of military group RSS not the other way around, they were amendable to the mover. Kedar added that the actions of the BJP and RSS have been horrible and scary, and it's been upsetting as well, and that he was really happy the motion has been raised tonight.

Owen Marsden-Readford Spoke to the motion saying that the rise of the BJP and the RSS was scary and represented a rise in far right and fascist governments that people are standing up against. Adding that in India it has been students that have pushed against the BJP and we need to take their advice and make sure we are mobilising against the far right in Australia as well.

Moved: Alex Panzarino

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R3. March 13th Climate Strikes

Preamble

1. 2019/2020's unprecedented bushfire season, which claimed over 30 lives, shows that the climate crisis has well and truly arrived in Australia. The bushfires – the worst in the country's history – burned 8.4 million hectares of land, an area the size of Scotland. Twenty six people are dead. More than one billion animals have been killed. 1,900 homes have been destroyed in New South Wales alone.
2. The impact has been devastating, particularly for Indigenous people. As Lorena Allam wrote in the Guardian regarding the situation on the New South Wales south coast: “Some

of these places have never burned, not once in my lifetime, let alone all at once. ... for First Nations people it is also burning up our memories, our sacred places, all the things which make us who we are.”

3. The global climate strike movement, initiated by Greta Thunberg, has pointed the way forward for millions of people demanding action. The movement has made ideas of disrupting “business as usual” commonsense for millions of students and workers. Rather than morally appealing to politicians and the rich or making individual lifestyle changes, skipping school and withdrawing labour power is an increasingly widespread tactic.
4. Australian capitalism is deeply tied up with the fossil fuel industry, with coal being our largest export. Both the Liberal and Labor party have expressed their undying commitment to maintaining and expanding fossil fuel exports.
5. Strikes are necessary because they have the potential to disrupt profits and cause social and political crises. Students have a role to play in inspiring workers and broader society to take disruptive action. The student strike has long been a powerful tool for radical movements, such as the Quebec strikes of 2012 and the Chilean strikes of 2013. It was the 2018 March for our Lives school walkouts that inspired Greta Thunberg to launch her school strike.
6. The climate crisis is a crisis of capitalism. Workers, the poor and the oppressed will and currently are facing the brunt of it. Workers in major cities experienced an acute health crisis last summer from mass smoke poisoning. Many workers in regional areas who have lost their homes are still getting no recourse from the government or insurers.
7. In light of this, Uni Students for Climate Justice have responded to Greta Thunberg’s call for an international strike day on March 13 by calling for a national uni student climate strike.

Platform

1. The SRC endorses rolling climate strikes, including the March 13 actions, in order to build the momentum of the movement and recognises the power that students and workers have in the fight for climate justice.
2. The SRC calls for the Australian government and climate criminal bosses to pay for the damages suffered by ordinary people.
3. The SRC calls for First Nations sovereignty to be recognised, including implementation of Indigenous land and water management.
4. The SRC calls for the shutting down of the fossil fuel industry and a just transition to publicly owned renewables, including a jobs guarantee for workers in all affected industries.

Action

1. The SRC will publicly endorse the March 13 uni student climate strikes by sharing this motion and the Facebook event on Facebook.
2. The SRC will call on students to walk out of class and attend the actions.

Discussion:

Madeleine Powell spoke to her motion saying there are people living in tents whose lives are in ashes and there is no support coming from the government, meanwhile the government is bringing in business leaders to ask them what they want. Adding that activism is flourishing seen

by students and workers organising climate strikes and fighting for changes. Madeleine continued noting that it was the poor, working class and marginalised who were at the greatest risk from the impacts of climate change and it was First Nations people who are at the forefront of fighting for action. Madeleine continued saying there has been a call for global days of protest, and this event is one of many strikes and walkout happening in this city and around the country. Concluding Madeleine noted that at the last council there was an actions point on a motion condemning calling this event a climate strike and she found this bizarrely sectarian and didn't think anyone else had be confused by the use of the word strike and that the event has the support of the NTEU and she hopes everyone else on council.

Eddie Stephenson said that strikes are tactic long been utilised to fight for change and hoped everyone looked forward to attending the one on the 13th. He commended the motion and that as Australia is one of the largest exporters of coal and liquid natural gas it was imperative that it cease production of these if we are to create change not just expanding renewables. Eddie concluded by saying that the SRC need to fight for a society without fossil fule production and that as well as supporting this motion everyone should support the blockade of the coal conference coming up.

As chair Liam Donohoe read out a proposed amendment to the platform:

“ The SRC endorses the May 1 Industrial Action, the May 15 climate strike and the Public Renewables contingent to the March 13 Action. The SRC endorses these demands, backed by more than 40 organisations including; School Strike for Climate, Extinction Rebellion, Spreading the Climate Strike, Workers for Climate Action, Unions NSW, Maritime Union of Australia – Sydney, United Worker’s Union, NSW Nurses and Midwives Association.

1.100% renewable energy - reduce emissions now. Build a 100% publicly owned renewable energy system by 2030. Just transition for communities and guaranteed jobs for affected fossil fuel workers. Fund good low-emissions jobs in transport, manufacturing, disaster relief, health, education, energy, and climate adaptation.

2. No new fossil fuel or nuclear projects. End subsidies to these industries.

3. Fund our firies - support communities. Increase funding and resources to cope with longer and more intense fire seasons. Pay rural firefighters and reverse cuts to parks and fire services. Guaranteed homes and jobs for fire-affected communities.

4. First nations justice. Funding for Indigenous-led land management with jobs on country to repair ecosystems, reduce emissions and reduce fire risk. Land and water rights for Indigenous peoples.”

It was amendable.

Jordie Pardoel spoke to the motion saying that the SRC is talking about staff cuts and the need for building resistance at this time and looks forward to supporting the EAG actions on this planned for the 25th March, but with regards to this motion there were some concerns. While Jordie appreciated the connections between the history of strikes in the workers movement and the growing climate movement, they disagreed that this event could be called a strike. Adding that while the motion mentioned the strikes in Qubec and Chile it ignores that these events were created in open organising meetings and this event was just a Facebook page calling itself a strike, and that it should instead be called a rally or protest, but not a strike. Continuing, Jordie noted

that to call it a strike you need to build that with the working class that there was strike actions planned for May day and that was being built up too. Adding that the NTEU may have endorsed the event but have not committed to walking off the job for it but they are mobilising for the May 1st Strike, and the it was a break off group that voted to call it a strike at the NUS NatCon, and that Socialist Alternative will shout at others for not working with them while also blocking open discussion and hide behind the work of Greta Thunburg to call anything a strike. Jordie concluded saying that there will be hopefully be a SRC general meeting on the 1st April and from that hopefully build a large democratic movement.

Liam Donohoe made a correction the amendment read out earlier saying that is would also include removing any mention of the word strike and instead change it to protest. This was not amenable to the movers and so the motion returned to its original state.

It was determined by the chair to sustainably change the motion and so was put as a foreshowing motion

Moved: Jordie Pardoel

Seconded: Sofie Nicholson

Lily Campbell thought that is was interesting that the first time Jordie Pardoel chose to speak at an SRC meeting it was to attack Socialist Alternative, and ignoring all the other motions put forward on supporting staff and showing global solidarity, and that it would be nice if the socialist left didn't attack themselves and instead built the movement. Adding that Socialist Alternative has been building the university student movement on climate action and Solidarity have been going over the posters and pushing others out, as had been done to her, removing her as a speaker from an event but that didn't make her try to shut down the event. Concluding that groups should be building each other up and not be obsessed with attacking each other.

Sofie Nicholson spoke to the motions saying that she was a socialist and believed in building a cohesive moment with the working class and that calling it a strike means it needed to be democratically built not just a name or it loses its meaning. Adding that a number of unions have called for political action on May 1st and that is the strike the movement should be building for, and that it needed to be a democratic movement that creates changes in the right way.

Charlotte Bullock assumed the Chair

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion saying that while he is supportive of the event he did not like it being called a strike. Adding that while no one group has control over the word 'strike' there is no coordination between events called 'strikes' which devalues the word. Liam acknowledged that if the differing groups had worked together better to create a rolling strike this would be a different situations but this is not what has happened. Liam continued saying that there was a large and strong coalition of climate groups building to an action on May 1st and this was very exciting, but that the event planned for Friday was not a strike, it could be seen as one as students would not be in class if they were attending but there is no need to advertise it as one. Liam rejected the idea that language shouldn't matter or that people should have the same level of Marxist nuanced concept of 'strike' action. Liam added that people are experiencing fatigue and exhaustion right not and these fights are like something out of Monty Python's the life of Brian.

Felix Faber spoke to the motion saying he did not think that he would ever agree with Socialist Alternative over the Trade Union bureaucracy, but ultimately, he didn't think calling it a strike matters and the argument around the word was a pointless quibble. Adding that he looked forward to both actions.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion saying she has been very active in building and organising climate activism and strikes and that even when disagreeing with groups she would still support and participate in their events and that's what everyone should do here. Adding it was ridiculous to suggest that students are fatigued by the word strike and that it is telling that this argument is only happening at USyd, where the word strike is held up as holy, and that people should be able to call it what they want.

The substantive motion was put

Moved: Madeleine Powell

Seconded: Jack Mansell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

As the substantive motion **CARRIED** the foreshadowing motion **LAPSED**.

As mandated by the regulations there was a 15-minute break at 9:55pm

There was a quorum count at 10:10pm

The meeting was found quorate

The meeting resumed at 10:10pm.

R4. Wet'suwet'en Solidarity

Preamble:

1. The past few months have seen a fierce struggle between the Canadian federal government and the people of the Wet'suwet'en nation. The Canadian government's latest attempt to extend a multi-billion dollar gas pipeline through Wet'suwet'en territory has sparked resistance from the Wet'suwet'en people, and solidarity demonstrations across Canada.
2. An injunction to begin the extension was granted on the 31st of December. The Wet'suwet'en responded by moving to evict the company from their territory. Since then, railway blockades in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en have been established in a number of places. These blockades managed to, in the words of the Canadian opposition leader, "bring the economy to its knees", and raised the profile of the campaign against the pipeline extension to new heights. Moreover, the blockades inspired a number of large protests in major cities, including one that saw thousands of people march on the legislative building in Toronto on the 17th of February.
3. The movement is reminiscent of the fight to stop the Jabiluka mine on the land of the Mirrar people in the Northern Territory. In 1998, this planned uranium mine was defeated through a campaign that combined an ongoing protest movement based in Melbourne and a blockade of the mine site itself. The campaign successfully beat back what would have

been the biggest uranium mine in Australia, and linked the struggle for indigenous rights with the fight against the destruction of the planet in popular consciousness.

4. The fight against the pipeline extension is ongoing. The government is determined to extend the pipeline, while many of the Wet'suwet'en are equally determined to stop it. The SRC should stand in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en as they fight against their racist government and its police force, and should declare its support for any similar struggles and blockades that could occur in Australia.
5. Activists must take a strident approach to calling for the total shutdown of the fossil fuel industry with an immediate just transition to publicly owned renewables, including a jobs guarantee for workers in any impacted industries. Disruptive mass action in the form of blockades, strikes and protests is a key aspect of this.

Platform:

1. The SRC stands in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en struggle.
2. The SRC supports Indigenous people everywhere in their fights for self-determination and land rights.
3. The SRC recognises that the scale of the climate crisis demands urgent action, including disruptive protests and blockades.

Action:

1. The SRC will endorse and promote protests called in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en in Sydney.
2. The SRC will endorse and promote the upcoming blockade of the Future of Mining Conference on the 23-24th of March.

Grace Bowskill spoke to her motion pointing out many of the lessons learned from the Canadian struggle should be applied in Australia. Adding that like Australia, Canada has a large dependence on fossil fuels and they are also fighting against that like here. Continuing she added that activists had marched on parliament and disrupted trainlines which has been very effective and had not alienated workers but built support with them and the Wet'suwet'en people. Concluding that if we want to shut down the fossil fuel industry in Australia, we should be fighting them and fighting in solidarity to indigenous groups.

Jack Mansell spoke to the motion saying that the Wet'suwet'en's struggle to protect their land from being pillaged was inspiring. Adding that they were fights this at all costs because it is the right thing to do even if it involves shutting down the economy. Adding that there need to be a demand for shutting down the fossil fuel industry immediately or you don't care about the climate and it's was a patronising argument to say that workers don't know that is needs to be shut down or they don't want to see it shutdown, and that arguments that suggest this are only from those trying to absolve themselves of their own horrid actions. Adding that activists should be in the face of those responsible for the climate crisis and hold them to account as we cannot afford one more day of fossil fuels in this country and that people should shutdown the fossil fuel industry on principal regardless of jobs.

Alex Panzarino spoke about the history of protesting in Canada and how current Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's father gave protestors the finger when he was Prime Minister on a train trip

across the country and soon found his train carriage pelted with tomatoes and rocks. Adding that the current Canadian's meaning less platitudes and smiles were rejected by the Wet'suwet'en people and on the same day the government declared a climate emergency they also opened a new pipeline.

Mover: Grace Bowskill

Seconder: Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R5. Trump's 'deal of the century' Peace Plan Secures a Future of Apartheid for Palestinians

Preamble

1. A system of ethnic apartheid currently exists in the disputed regions that make up Israel/Palestine. On the world stage this view is not uncontroversial, with relatively conservative bodies like the UN describing the situation for Palestinians as being one of apartheid. In 1948 the establishment of the state of Israel saw the forced expulsion of over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes, and urban Palestine was almost entirely extinguished by forced evictions carried out by Israeli militias. Since this event Israel has continued its longstanding program of increased expansion into Palestinian territory at the expense of the rights and lives of Indigenous Palestinians. Palestinians today face atrocious circumstances, with Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank facing a situation of increasing poverty and devastation. For 11 years now Israel has bombed Gaza and blockaded it by both land and sea. With the highest rate of unemployment in the world and with over 95% of its water undrinkable, the 1.5 million Palestinians that make up the population of Gaza live a life of extreme hardship. For Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, the daily routines of apartheid are all too real. The 708km-long apartheid wall that cuts through the West Bank prevents Palestinians from moving freely throughout the region. For Palestinians with jobs, passing through Israeli military checkpoints are part of the daily routine, while Palestinians living within the state of Israel are governed by military law, have no voting rights, and are excluded from participation in the Israeli economy. Large numbers of illegal Israeli settlements continue to encroach upon what little Palestinian land remains in the West Bank after the 1993 Oslo Accords divided up the region between the two states. Palestinian homes in the West Bank are regularly demolished to make way for Israeli settlements and peaceful Palestinian protests along the border continue to be violently suppressed by the Israeli military.
2. So far Trump's presidency has seen the U.S. increasingly back Israel's project of colonial expansion at the expense of Palestinian rights. Earlier in his Presidency in 2017 Trump tested the waters by announcing United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordered the relocation of the U.S. embassy from Israel's Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On the 28th of January this year Trump rolled the big guns with his 'deal of the century' Middle East Peace Plan. The 181-page document is the most detailed peace plan ever proposed on the question of Israel/Palestine, and touches on every question from capital cities to borders, annexations, and political prisoners. The plan was drawn up in close consultation with hard-right Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu and upon its

announcement was met with outrage from Palestinians who have dubbed it the ‘fraud of a century’. Trump has defended the plan as being a ‘win-win’ for both parties, but a brief inspection of its content illustrates that it has been meticulously curated to sure up a future of increasingly entrenched apartheid so as to facilitate the continued expansion of Israel into Palestinian territory. The plan is essentially a ‘two-state solution’ that presents a version of two states that is unrecognisable from the borders drawn up in 1967. The Palestinian state is presented as an archipelago of small enclaves connected to the Gaza Strip by a network of roads, highways and tunnels. Included in the plan is the proposal to incorporate 97% of the 600,000 illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank into Israeli territory. This is essentially a massive Israeli grab of Palestinian land. The plan also redraws various borders between what will be the new Israel and Palestine, with plans for an Israeli annexation of the Jordan Valley, as well as the expulsion of up to a third of Israel’s Palestinian population through the swapping of the Arab “triangle communities” in Israel’s north into the state of Palestine. A devious but unsurprising aspect of the plan is its failure to explain how the IDs, visas and passports of Palestinians who find themselves living in a different state will be determined. This is no accident. By neglecting to grant definitive rights to Palestinians through the issuing of passports Palestinian rights can be more easily curtailed and their freedom of movement further restricted. Trump’s Peace Plan is a massive step backwards for the project of Palestinian liberation and will undoubtedly have devastating consequences for the lives of Palestinians in Palestine and Israel. It is the duty of student activists and leftists to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle against apartheid and condemn all attacks on Palestinians regardless of the form in which they take.

3. The fact that Trump’s plan fits the bill of a ‘two-state solution’ illustrates how bankrupt and defeatist the project of a two state solution really is. Trump’s plan (or a similar one) has undoubtedly been on the back-burner of the U.S. and Israeli political establishment for years. Negotiation with the state of Israel is a futile strategy as Israel will ultimately always have the upper hand with backing from the United States. The history of the Palestinian liberation movement (particularly the Intifadas) has shown that only mass struggle of working class Arab peoples in Palestine and surrounding countries is capable of challenging the institutional and economic power of Israel and the U.S. The Oslo Accords of 1993, while celebrated by politicians and governments around the world, have been described by post colonialist Edward Said as “an instrument of Palestinian surrender”. The Accords required nothing more of the state of Israel than recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian peoples and the handing over of small parts of occupied Palestinian territories to Palestinian security forces. In this way the Oslo Accords were not so dissimilar to Trump’s Plan. In placing their hopes with institutions that wish to negotiate with Israel the Palestinian people have suffered only betrayal. The fight for Palestinian liberation is bound up with the liberation of all of the oppressed in the Arab region, while independent class struggle is a necessary feature of any movement capable of challenging apartheid.

Platform

1. The SRC stands in full solidarity with Palestinians against Trump’s Peace Plan in recognition that it will only further entrench the current system of racist apartheid.

2. The SRC recognises that student activists have a responsibility to take solidarity action with Palestine whenever possible but particularly during periods of heightened attacks on the rights and freedoms of Palestinians.

Action

1. The SRC will take a solidarity photo to show its support for Palestine and in condemnation of Trump's Peace Plan. This photo will be shared from the SRC Facebook page with a short caption explaining why the SRC is opposed to the plan.

Discussion:

Holly Hayne spoke to her motion and said that people who have been following the issues around Palestine/Israel know it's existing in an apartheid state. There are military checks and blockades, Palestinians living in Israel have no voting rights and there is a lot of ethnicity based oppression. Holly continued saying Donald Trump's response has made the situation much worse for Palestinians. By claiming the 6000 Israeli settlements in Palestine, acknowledged by the UN as illegal, should be absorbed into Israel, making it a massive land grab which will affect the lives and freedoms of Palestinians. Adding that this was a two-state solution, but one that offers nothing to the Palestinians and one that clearly aims to wipe out Palestinians and Palestine. Holly concluded saying that Trump doesn't plan on doing anything to protect or further the rights of Palestinians, but that the organised march of return was a beacon of hope against trump's apartheid plans.

Deaglan Goodwin spoke to the motion saying Israel was already an apartheid state, and that in 1947 Palestine was carved up by the imperialist states of France, the United Kingdom and the United States not for the protection of Jewish people but to ensure their own power. Deaglan continued noting that 100 000s of people fled and another 150 000s became internal refugees. Adding that Gaza remains under military occupation as effectively an open-air prison and that illegal settlements continue to displace people. Adding that conditions created by Israel in Palestine mean that hospitals are crumbling, power is only available for short periods of time, water was contaminated and undrinkable. Declan concluded by saying that apartheid was only ended in South Africa after a huge movement against it and a similar movement it needed to free Palestine.

Julia Kovic spoke against the motion saying she was sick of talking about geopolitical affairs in SRC meetings where we have no sway and even more so that it keeps being about Israel/Palestine. Adding that calling Israel and apartheid state was offensive as both Arabs and Jews in Israel have equal rights. Concluding that it was offensive that all the SRC is doing is attacking Israel when it should be focusing on student affairs like photocopiers and bubblers.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion and wanted to mention the risks involved with Covid-19 for Palestinians, saying that they were a greater risk due to the lack of access to clean water, electricity and healthcare. Adding that the SRC should always stand up of the right of people around the world and that it was the SRC that spear headed the moratorium movements against the Vietnam war. Lily concluded saying that Trump's plans for Israel/Palestine were disgusting and just continues to protect the breaches of international law by Israel with little concern for the rights or lives of the Palestinians, and she hoped everyone would support the motion.

Moved: Holly Hayne

Seconded: Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The following wanted their vote recorded:

Against:

Julia Kokic

Zac Piketyy

Alexander Black

The meeting closed at 10:38pm.