



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 5th regular meeting of the 92nd SRC held on Wednesday **10th June 2020**. Meeting held via Zoom.

*Quorum count was called at 6:29
The meeting was found quorate.*

A. Meeting open at 6:32 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Charlotte Bullock be elected Deputy Chairperson.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Zachary Pitkethley
Aayush Bhattacharya to Tom Williams
Vivienne Guo to Ellie Wilson
Vivienne Goodes to Felix Faber
Nicholas Comino to James Ardouin
Isla Mowbray
Swapnik Sanagavarapu to Altay Hagrebet
Alev Saracoglu to Priya Gupta

Kelly Chen to Prudence Wilkins-Wheat (7:08pm)

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Jiale Wang resigns his council seat to the next on his ticket Shailene Wei

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved from the Chair

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 91st SRC Council held on **April 15th and May 6th** 2020 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the **April 15th and May 6th** 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of 1 Mature Age Students' Officer

There were no nominations

L. Report of the President and Executive

Procedural Motion to limit report speaking time to 3 minutes

Moved: Jack Mansell

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

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

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the **30th April 2020.**

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the **30th April 2020** be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Liam Donohoe tabled a written /gave a verbal report:

It is hard to believe it's already June. The past few months have been strange and somewhat paradoxical: daily monotony has been broken up by moments of incredible historical importance, while our days in isolation seem to have gone much faster in retrospect than they felt in real time. But with winter here, and half my term elapsed, the days are moving faster and are, seemingly, growing even more historic. The higher education sector continues to undergo rapid changes as we wage an existential fight for both the University and knowledge itself. The inspirational and radical reaction to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on the 25th of May has already exceeded analogous situations in impact, scale, and global influence. And, in general, people seem eager to publicly and physically express the myriad frustrations that have simmered before, but especially during, the COVID-19 period.

The SRC is no exception to this paradox, nor this growing agitation. The past few weeks have been incredibly busy, but particularly oriented towards what we do best—activism and protest. As such, it seems entirely appropriate to hone in on that aspect of my work before anything else.

Activism

Since our last meeting the SRC has played a prominent role in a bunch of important rallies and campaigns. I thought it'd make the most sense to divide them into very approximate themes.

Education

The University system is facing its biggest crisis in Australian history, and we are caught in a pedagogical death spiral. Between course cuts, issues with transferring to online learning, and all the existing issues with our education, this semester has been a total dud for most. But, as bad as it was, the future looks even bleaker, with staff-to-student ratios declining, online learning becoming more normalised, and broader curriculum and organisational restructures accelerated to cut costs. I have been deeply involved in the fightback, attending NTEU and EAG meetings, speaking at rallies, joining breakaway, faculty-based groups, and the like. It is imperative we fight against cuts from management and negligence from government, not only for our own education, but for the countless staff whose lives are on the line. These coming weeks will be crucial, and I look forward to the meetings and rallies to come.

NTEU NSW National Day of Action

I participated in a fantastic series of demonstrations on the 21st of May which were organised by the National Tertiary Education Union's NSW branch and, in one case, radical rank and file membership. Facing severe attacks on their income and employment status, the day saw many of our educators take action to defend their livelihoods, challenging University management and demanding swift action from the Commonwealth. It kicked off with a car and bike convoy through the city—I joined some other SRC Office Bearers in a car down at Mrs. Macquarie's Chair, from which we honked and chanted as we circled the Liberal party's headquarters on William Street.

Following this a sizable contingent of around 70 students and staff members convened outside the F23 building on Eastern Avenue for the first in-person education rally in Australia for many months. Undoubtedly more radical in tone, this socially distanced rally didn't just challenge management and government, but also the NTEU's National Leadership for their strategically weak and politically compromising "National Jobs Protection Framework", which would have seen 15% pay cuts for staff and limited assistance for casuals. Galvanising around a "No Vote" message, and outraged at ongoing cuts to courses in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the crowd marched up Eastern Avenue and caused a ruckus in the F23 building. As it happens, the NTEU National Leadership withdrew the NJPF shortly after, a massive win for members and a testament to the hard work of rank and file who campaigned against it (including many of us here!)

No Uni Cuts National Day of Action

The next day, the 22nd saw a second NDA, this time a more online one focussed on the national campaign against the austerity University bosses and the negligence of the Commonwealth. I was part of the Sydney Uni contingent to the national Zoom call at 1pm.

Staff solidarity week and No Cuts rally

The 28th of May saw an even bigger rally against course and job cuts. Spurred on by the devastating news that a significant proportion of FASS subjects slated for semester 2 would be paused (or, most likely, cut) students turned out in big numbers to Defend Our Education. Fearing the implications for staff and their own degrees / learning, students marched from Fisher Coffee Cart, to the Quadrangle, and down to F23, delivering speeches along the way.

In the lead up to the rally a bunch of us participated in a staff solidarity week, which aimed to draw attention to the devastating reality facing many staff and mobilise students against the attacks that outrage so many of us. A broad effort saw countless motions passed in Zoom classes supporting staff, opposing cuts, and legitimising the rally on the 28th, alongside emails in support of staff, calls to encourage voting against the NTEU's NJPF, banner paints, and meetings of breakout student groups in the government, history, and music faculties.

As it happens, I had the honour of addressing the 120+ in attendance as the final speaker at the No Cuts rally, noting how hollow our education was and how much worse it's going to get. Many thanks to Jack and Jazz, our Education Officers, for hosting the rally and working so hard to get it up and running. The fight to Defend Our Education, and particularly to save courses and jobs, has only really begun, and we will continue our activism throughout the holidays, including with further rallies.

NUS Rally for Relief

I tuned into the NUS' online Rally for Relief on the 29th of May, and am involved in efforts to escalate and radicalise their fight for students.

Financial support for International Students meeting

On the 4th of June SUPRA President Minran Liu and I met with the advisers to the NSW government's education minister to discuss better ways of financially supporting International Students. We are following it up with further meetings in the near future.

Housing

With the moratorium on evictions due to cease soon, and many tenants accumulating rental arrears they won't be able to cover, the battle for housing justice will assuredly pick up in the coming months. I implore everyone to attend the Rent Relief Not Evictions protest outside NSW Parliament House on Tuesday the 16th of June, which will bring these issues back to prominence and reignite momentum around housing justice.

Rent Relief Rally

On the 12th of May I joined activists in the Housing Defence Coalition outside NSW Parliament House to demand rent relief, reductions in rent (tying it to income), and maintaining moratoriums on evictions in perpetua. Unfortunately the rally we had planned wasn't able to go ahead, as the gathering was quickly noticed by the police, who gave move on orders before we could even begin speaking. While I was disappointed to not be able to give a speech I had prepared, a bunch of us congregated in Hyde Park to live stream a smaller display where I was able to share my thoughts.

Snap rally to dismantle the Colleges and build affordable housing

Following Honi's disturbing revelations that problematic aspects of College culture, like hazing, seemed to persist after the Broderick review, a snap rally was called by the Women's Collective and Students' Representative Council demanding that affordable housing replace the Colleges. As any follower of USyd Rants can tell you, the rally was not without controversy, with reactionary College students rushing to the defence of their College quickly and in numbers. While most of what these reactionaries said was non-persuasive, there was one thing they got right: that most of the protestors would still be opposed to the Colleges even if they had somehow cleansed themselves of their deeply embedded institutional sexism. That's for relatively simple reasons.

The colleges confer unfair advantages onto some, particularly in zero-sum domains like University performance / marks, attention from academics, and future job prospects. Moreover, they confer unimaginable privilege and convenience onto an elite few, who—as they love to tell us on their USyd rants—are basically the only people with the free time, geographical convenience, disposable income, freedom, and social environment to enjoy a real “student experience”. But what's worse than the fact an elite few benefit is the fact that their experience comes at the expense of everyone else's. The land they occupy, which is over half the Camperdown campus, could be used to house students on the basis of need, or to provide facilities and learning spaces to all students. And it goes without saying that the people who benefit aren't obviously deserving of their privilege: scholarships are not as plentiful as people

suggest, and are structured in a way that makes them only really available to exceptionally talented people or private school kids with notional forms of disadvantage, like being from the country. This is an ad hoc way to create token socioeconomic diversity, while still perpetuating classism and capitalist inequality in a very real sense.

Sexism, and this inequality, are individually sufficient bases for opposing the Colleges, and while the former might be solvable, the latter is inherent to their existence. I totally oppose the existence of the Colleges, and believe the buildings come into the possession of the University of Sydney, who should treat them the same as the Queen Mary, Regiment, and Abercrombie residencies. Students should be admitted on the basis of need, with rent proportional to means (or at least a large supply of rooms at no more than \$100-200 a week). I believe this all the time, and controversial events in Colleges create a cultural moment where this broader position can get more attention. While some might argue that's 'using College women as pawns for a broader political agenda', I think it's instead seizing the political moment and directing justifiable and reasonable outrage towards a relevant mission and set of beliefs.

I was proud to have helped this rally in a small way, and encourage further action to convert the Colleges into centrally administered, affordable housing projects assigned on the basis of need, rather than money or talent.

Tenants' meeting

I organised and attended a meeting on the 28th of May to discuss issues in University accommodation with senior University figures Mark Try, head of accommodation services, and Susanna Scarparo, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Student Life. The meeting was somewhat productive, with a number of the tenants' issues clarified or addressed, though there are still concerns about the long-term prospects for tenants with no income source.

Other parliamentary activities

Beyond the above, I have also met and done some work on student housing with Jenny Leong, Greens MP for Newtown in the NSW Parliament and offered some thoughts on terms of reference for Mark Latham's parliamentary inquiry into the tertiary sector. In both cases an ongoing item of conversation is what will happen to the buildings owned by UniLodge, Urbanest, etc. if International Student numbers remain low and they become financially unviable. I want to push for the government to take over these buildings, and to make nearby Universities responsible for managing the accommodation and admitting students / tenants, and think both the inquiry and Jenny might help with that

Anti-racism

As mentioned in my initial introduction, news of George Floyd's murder has catalysed one of the fiercest and most spontaneous anti-racist uprisings ever seen. I have tried my best to be involved however I can, and many in the SRC have done impressive work bringing the global protests to Sydney.

In addition to the below, this Friday, the 12th of June, will see another rally against Black Deaths in Custody (again partially organised by the Autonomous Collective Against Racism), while this

Saturday, the 13th of June will see a National Day of Action to free the refugees. I implore all reading to attend.

Black Lives Matter rally

I attended the spontaneously organised Black Lives Matter rally on Tuesday the 2nd of June, which aimed to direct the outrage and momentum of global protests against police brutality and racism towards Australia's criminal justice issues. Demanding justice for Indigenous deaths in custody, and expressing solidarity with the African-American struggle in the United States, the rally saw over a thousand angry people gather in defiance of isolation laws. With many of those in attendance high school aged, and informed via Tik Tok, the presence of such a radical and unconventional demographic surely augurs well for the future.

Stop All Black Deaths in Custody Rally and Vigil

An even larger rally on the same subject was organised last Saturday the 6th of June outside Town Hall and saw tens of thousands attend (the Sydney Morning Herald, for instance, reported 20,000, a rather conservative guess). Demanding justice for David Dungay Junior, a Dunghutti man murdered by correctional officers in 2015, and other Indigenous deaths in custody, the crowd marched from Town Hall to Belmore Park with the same fury and spirit we've seen all around the world. It was inspiring to see so many people demanding justice for Indigenous people on a day other than the 26th of January, especially as many were surely deterred by its (until the last minute) illegality and the lingering threat of COVID-19.

I am extremely proud of the Autonomous Collective Against Racism for organising this rally. Our Ethnocultural Office Bearers had a massive role in the organising, and did so with incredible militancy and effectiveness. With racism and the iniquitous justice system unlikely to go anywhere soon, I hope their example, and organising nous, sees more rallies like this.

The SRC's operations

But will activism has been an important part of these last few weeks, I have certainly had plenty of other things on my plate as well. The SRC has continued to chug away, and I am pleased to report some important developments and events:

1. We have just finished our hiring process for a Paralegal. Having received more than 140 applicants, the past few weeks saw myself, Chitra, and An sift through the applicants and conduct interviews. I am confident with our final decision, and look forward to the significant relief the paralegals will provide the service and students, particularly those who will benefited from our expanded Visa assistance.
2. The Mutual Aid program continues to provide essential relief to desperate students, with our processes and systems well and truly established by now. It has been wonderful to see so many volunteers help out, and I can't help but smile each time I help someone bring in new donations or load their car up for deliveries. In the long-run, it would be great to formalise the MAP, and to turn it into a permanent source of support for USyd students.
3. We are continuing to chip away at regulatory and constitutional reform, with new election regulations passing through the Standing Legal Committee next week en route

to a special Council meeting in the near future. Later in the year we will attempt to institute broader constitutional reform.

4. We are still receiving applications for our 2020 Electoral Officer, and will finalise that in the coming weeks. It would be great if people could spruik this vacancy—the more applicants, the better!
5. We are in the process of finalising our approach to this year's election, considering different ways we might approach it from a technical perspective.
6. We are also in the process of updating SRC policy and making it more accessible. We are particularly working on the murky question of Editorial / Publishing rights.

Committees

Beyond all of the above, I have also attended countless committees over the past few weeks, including:

- The Academic Board Undergraduate Studies Committee on the 12th of May.
- The University Executive Student Life Committee meeting on the 13th of May.
- The Board of Interdisciplinary Studies meeting on the 13th of May.
- The Academic Board Academic Standards & Policy Committee on the 19th of May.
- The University Executive Student Consultative Committee meeting 21st of May.
- The University Executive Education Committee meeting on the 25th of May.
- The Academic Board Undergraduate Studies Committee on the 2nd of June.
- The Academic Board Admissions Sub-Committee meeting on the 2nd of June.
- The Academic Board meeting on the 9th of June.
- Weekly meetings with senior University figures each Friday.

There is nothing especially significant to report from these meetings, though I would like to mention that at yesterday's Academic Board meeting I used my student members' report to challenge the University's course and job cuts, arguing, with reference to a recent Saturday Paper article by Richard Dennis, that the Uni likely has the money to maintain all courses and jobs if they really want to. Though a heated and lengthy discussion ensued, I received a lot of support from Academics and students present, which was encouraging. Stephen Garton basically argued that liquidating would prove unviable and that the Uni was already in debt, while Michael Spence seemed optimistic about the future, especially semester 1 2021, and thought now was not a rainy enough day for serious borrowing. I rejoined that our education was already deeply compromised and that this was essentially the nail in the coffin. At the end of the day, if the Uni takes serious measures now, like more debt, and conditions improve, then that will be a win-win (the debt will be easily repayable, for example). But if the Uni doesn't act now, and conditions don't pick up, then they will rue not acting earlier and more comprehensively. We need to fight management until they recognise the urgency of this crisis, on pain of losing the University as we know it altogether.

Discussion:

Liam Donohoe spoke to his report and highlighted the main points and the lack of action of the University during this crisis.

James Ardouin commented on what happened at Academic Board on Tuesday the 9th June. Wanting to draw attention to the two statements from the university about jobs and courses cuts, was that there has been staff on leave of not enough interest in the enrolment so that those subjects could not run. Adding that he did not believe that these courses are being cut due to financial issues but due to lack of interest in the subjects and the University administration action accordingly.

Liam Donohoe disagreed with James Ardouin and said this was an inaccurate reflection of the Academic Board meeting. Adding that it was a very selective recollection of the conversation and that it really only applied to courses at the conservatorium of music, and even these this only applied to about 6 of 16 proposed cuts. Adding that there have been requests to find course cuts for over a year, and that truth and knowledge should not be offered on a popularity basis, and student interests is just a synonym for finical concerns.

Lily Campbell spoke to Liam Donohoe's report adding that it's not just cuts to the Arts but also from departments where there is a high concentration of international students. With their enrolment numbers expected to drop these are going to be cut too. Seeing the number of subjects that are being cut across the board we are going to also see massive cuts in casual staff as there are no longer courses for them to teach, this isn't people on leave.

Jack Mansell spoke to the report adding that it was inaccurate to suggest these cuts are based on enrolments alone, and even if it was it would be a bad way to manage higher education. Adding that casual staff have lost their livelihoods in a university money making exercise, and putting more pressure of tenured academics and taking about their research time. And they Dean of Arts has acknowledged that there is going to be cuts either now or later but they are going to claim this is a funding crisis that student will pay for in a lack of access to quality education, and we should instead be fighting against this and advocating for a properly funded education system. Adding further that if the Vice chancellor believed things are not that bad then why are they so actively cutting courses? Concluding that this was just an excuse to do what University management have been wanting to do for ages.

Liam Donohoe resigned the Chair to Charlotte Bullock.

Sofie Nicholson spoke to the report agreeing that the course cuts were a poor excuse and that as a student at the Conservatorium and the staff at the con are getting mixed messages from management and saying that its purely enrolment is wrong as there has been restriction put in place on the last few year to allow for cuts to happen no one would know what been happening. There are wealthy donors who support the con who are probably calling threatening to withdraw their funding so management are panicking and making up excuses around social distancing and enrolment to protect these funds.

Courtney Daley spoke to the use of USyd using ProctorU, with regards to its cost and privacy issues, noting that other universities have chosen to use it for these reasons and it seem interesting that the university would choose to use an expensive and flawed program with much contention and resistance to while they are cutting courses. Many of the changes that were promised to students when they enrolled in the advance studies streams such as in International and Global Studies, such as specialised 4th year unions and internships are now on the chopping block and without consultation and without specialisation. This is just about hindering student's education experience.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: James Ardouin

Seconded: Courtney Daley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Liam Donohoe resumed the Chair.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Charlotte Bullock and Felix Faber tabled a written report:

As semester ends, we have been working to make sure that the SRC's initiatives to support students continue into the winter break. At present, the University's plans for Semester 2 present a disaster for students. The course cuts planned by University administration will present a serious loss to students at the University, and cost dozens of academic staff their jobs. Despite the likely to be diminished standard of education, which may well still be online, students can expect to pay full course fees. We have been working hard to make sure that these issues, and the excellent work done by the Education Officers in organising against them, have been raised in meetings with the University.

Felix has been continuing his work with the mutual aid program to ensure that students receive support throughout the pandemic. The program has now delivered more than 200 hampers to students in need. He has also continued conversations with local community organisations to discuss possible opportunities for the SRC to support their work. The valuable organisational infrastructure of the mutual aid program can be applied to helping the work of community organisations in Inner Sydney. It is vital that the SRC does assist these organisations as they work to support vulnerable communities, many of whom have been made vulnerable due to the ongoing influence of the University.

Charlotte has been in attendance at several committee meetings recently as well. This week she attended both the Research Education Committee and the Student Consultative Committee. Charlotte also attended a meeting with other officer bearers regarding potential changes to SRC regulations to ensure provision is made for an online election, should that be necessary. She also attended the most recent Academic Board meeting. Charlotte has continued her attendance at weekly meetings between SRC office bearers and University management. These meetings have provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the university's response to Covid-19 and to ensure that the university is fully aware of issues facing students. The opportunity to discuss issues and decisions as they become apparent is something which would be valuable when university and

indeed, everyday life, returns to a semblance of normality. Most recently the university's decision to delay Semester 2 by three weeks, as well as issues arising from the general and travel specific hardship funds and concerns regarding the cutting of courses, have all been discussed. Charlotte has also attended several meetings regarding potential changes to the SRC's constitution and regulations, especially regarding provisions for online elections, so as to ensure that elections may take place in accordance with Covid-19 restrictions as necessary.

Discussion:

Charlotte Bullock added she attended the Black Lives Matter protest and encouraged everyone to get involved in the campaign.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Abbey Shi and Liam Thomas tabled a written report

Over the past few weeks, Abbey and I have been involved in a number of different activities in our roles as Gen Secs. Firstly, we have been continuing to regularly meet and liaise with University Administration on a variety of issues. We have had extensive discussions regarding the University's plan for both the current exams, as well as semester 2 and their return to campus plan. We have been putting forward our strong belief that, where possible, the University should be prioritising getting students back on campus in some capacity (within health and safety guidelines), whilst also retaining the option for entirely online learning for the rest of this year.

Furthermore, I would like to express our concern regarding the proposed course cuts that appear to be taking place going into next semester, particularly in the Faculty of Arts. Cutting courses, and putting the burden onto students and staff, is not an acceptable response to the Uni's financial situation and we have expressed our sentiment on this through the meetings we have been in attendance at. It is especially concerning that we are looking at significant cuts to units of incredible importance, particularly in this political climate, with units such as HSTY2659 American Slavery, HSTY2626 Fascism & Antifacism and SLSS2064 Indigenous Social & Legal Justice all on the chopping block.

We have also raised our concerns regarding the SSAF situation, and the fairly widespread anger from students regarding payment of the fee. Thankfully, the University has made clear that they have no intention of touching the SSAF fee. We are genuinely sympathetic to students in financially strenuous situations who may struggle with the SSAF fee. However, we have told the University that there must be stronger communications that make clear what SSAF is, and what it funds, to clear up many of the misconceptions arising from students as to what it does or doesn't fund.

Abbey has spent significant time continuing to liaise with University of Sydney international students, both living in Australia and overseas, regarding issues around student administration they are facing. We would like to make note of the significant difficulty that students are dealing with in accessing travel ban hardship funding. The issue of international students not being able to access funding through the University has been an issue we both discussed extensively with Uni Administration through meetings we have had with them. The University is aware of the issue and is in the process of making allowances to try and ensure that all eligible international students are able to access the essential funding. We will continue to monitor the issue closely to help ensure that this happens. Abbey has been working collectively with student groups in application and administration.

We have also continued to be engaged, alongside other SRC councillors and OBs on the constitutional and regulatory reform project. Thank you to James Ardouin for your work on creating a rough draft of proposed changes. Janek, the Chair of SLC, has provisionally called an SLC meeting for June 18 where we will prepare a report to deliver to council. Please come along if you are available as it would be great to have input from the full range of hacks (and non-hacks!). The report that will be delivered to council will not entail all proposed changes, but rather the most pressing ones, particularly around the issue of online elections. Hopefully, later this year we will have the opportunity for further discussion on wider, constitutional changes.

Finally, it was great to see/bump into so many of you at Saturday's Black Lives Matter rally. Big shoutout to everyone from ACAR and the SRC more broadly who were involved in organising the rally. The shameful violent actions of NSW Police at the conclusion of the rally towards peaceful protestors showed just how relevant the issue of police brutality is in Australia.

Discussion:

Liam Thomas spoke to his report adding that there is an upcoming meeting to go through the constitution and regulatory reform, this will hopefully be present to the council soon. There has also there is a lot of issue around International student getting access to the hardship fund.

Abbey Shi, there is also concerns from international students with dealing with racism and the note from the Chinese education department warning students about studying overseas due to increased incidents of racism. Concluding that both she and Liam Thomas attended the Black Lives matter Rally on Saturday.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Angelina Gu

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

Intro

As semester has drawn to a close, our campaigning has escalated significantly. We have organised and participated in countless actions, organising meetings, discussions and forums as a swathe of cuts were uncovered at Sydney Uni. This has been the main immediate focus of our organising, however, the broader context of the sector-wide crisis. We anticipate the logic of cuts to continue into the foreseeable future, with reports from all quarters suggesting that both government and university bosses see this crisis as lasting at least a three year period, with the real length likely even longer. Our strategy is therefore based on fighting immediate cuts, but also trying to draw as many students as possible into the fight so that we strengthen our footing and are better prepared to respond when new cuts arise.

Education cuts at Sydney University

Sydney Uni has had serious cuts tabled, particularly in the Arts Faculty where a directive came from the Dean to heads of school to cut 30% of all subjects. Whilst this has been resisted at the grassroots by staff, there are still dozens of subjects on the chopping block in Arts, as well as more in other faculties. This has been the focus of organising, and brought lots of angry students into the fight.

Primarily through lecture announcements and Facebook infographics, we tried to reach the widest possible amount of students to let them know about the cuts and how to get involved. The final week of semester was dubbed a week of staff-student solidarity, with lots of energy dedicated to it from EAG activists. On the Thursday, we held a forum at which Jack spoke on a panel alongside both an academic and a professional staff member, to talk about the situation with cuts at Sydney Uni and its impact on students. The forum was well attended, with over 40 people joining. For many of them it was their first involvement in student activism, which was a big positive. The week of action culminated in an on-campus action on May 29 that drew around 80 students and staff to it, and marched through campus and on to City Road to disrupt things a bit. We co-chaired the rally, and heard from a range of speakers including students affected by cuts in Government and IR, and the casuals network.

Following the week of staff-student solidarity, we came up with some ideas at an EAG meeting on how we could sustain momentum in the last ditch before the semester break sets in. We decided on organising a Town Hall meeting, and inviting the VC along to face the music from students. This gives an opportunity to be a) confrontational, and b) involve more students than have previously been involved. A similar event was very successful in building the campaign against fee deregulation in 2014, when Spence had been championing the government's moves. To promote the campaign, EAG activists crashed Arts Dean Annamarie Jagose's 'drop-in' Zoom meeting to pose questions about the cuts, and have since published her responses as well as a petition to Spence.

Higher education

Despite finding an unexpected \$60 billion, the government remains intransigent on higher education. Forecasts put the sector's losses at \$16-19 billion over the next three years, and ensure that the shock doctrine approach to restructuring will continue for the foreseeable future. Resistance, however, is not futile. Earlier this month it was announced that the NTEU's so-called 'National Jobs Protection Framework' would be dropped at a national framework, instead attempting to apply it at only a handful of campuses. This was the result of tireless efforts of NTEU

activists, who organised significant rank-and-file opposition, and made the NJPF a decreasingly attractive option for management and union leaders alike. While the fight isn't over, the national campaign has placed uni staff, and in turn students, on a better footing to continue our fight against austerity in the sector, and should be commended.

There has also been activity organised by the National Union of Students. Jack attended the NUS online rally which happened on June 2, and managed to have a question answered by the panel. What the online rally demonstrated was that Sydney Uni have been at the forefront of campaigning against cuts, and have a lot of experience to share with other campuses. Activists at UQ, La Trobe, Wollongong, Uni Melb amongst others have already reached out for advice on what to do, and we hope to continue assisting other campuses in this national battle. Jack is currently pushing to have a workshop at the NUS National Education Conference, which EAG activists will attend.

From Minneapolis to Sydney: Black Lives Matter

Against police brutality, racism, and entrenched inequality, Black youth are leading an inspiring multi-racial uprising in the United States, which has spread to over 350 US towns and cities, and across the world. We extend our unconditional solidarity to this incredible movement which has hugely raised the hopes and confidence of ordinary people, and struck a blow at the heart of global capital and empire.

In Sydney, we attended the snap Tuesday evening rally with 1,000 people, before joining tens of thousands at the weekend. Around the country 200,000 people marched, including many thousands in regional places like Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and Newcastle. Here, it has been important to draw the links between the struggles in the US with the existing struggle against Black deaths in custody, which on their own number 437 since 1991, as well as many examples of racist murders like that of Elijah Doughty by a white vigilante in 2016.

Despite attempts to ban the demonstration by the NSW Government and NSW Police, tens of thousands of people showed up and forced the courts to reverse their decision. The event was an extraordinary display of solidarity with Black and Indigenous people, from Minneapolis to Sydney. We hope that this can lay the basis for an ongoing movement of the oppressed for liberation. We would also like to take the opportunity to condemn the brutality of NSW Police towards demonstrators that they trapped in Central Station concourse.

Discussion:

Jack Mansell spoke to his report highlighting it's key points and highlighting what is happening in the United State right now, and how it is encouraging to see how this has ignited debate and action across the globe on issues of oppression and exploitation and this will push for change for the better.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Ellie Wilson and Vivienne Guo tabled a written report

DISMANTLE THE COLLEGES: ST. ANDREWS SNAP RALLY

On 25th May, the University of Sydney Women's Collective called a snap rally with the support of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and members of the wider community to demand the dismantling of the residential colleges and the establishment of safe, affordable housing for students. The recent investigation by Honi Soit has shown once again the systemic toxic culture of the colleges.

WoCo hosted a speak-out in front of St. Andrews College on Carillon Ave to a gathered crowd of about 80 people, as reported by Honi. Speakers included Katie Thorburn (2017 Women's Officer, ex-college resident), Mehreen Faruqi (Senator, Greens), David Brophy (Member of NTEU, USyd Lecturer) and Madeline Ward (2018 Women's Officer, 2020 Honi Editor). It is heartening to see staff, students and local community figures pledge their support to this campaign, as we work towards building safer communities for students in need.

Ultimately, the recent allegations are part of a much longer history of hazing, sexual violence and racism at the residential colleges. The elitism of the colleges and their connections to the rich and powerful have meant that the colleges enjoy impunity to accountability and attempts at cultural change. Right now, many of these rooms stand empty while the vast majority of students are facing insecure housing and unemployment. The colleges stand as a particularly egregious example of privilege and class disparity.

We condemn the new allegations of dangerous hazing, sexual violence and white nationalism at St Andrews College. The elite residential colleges have never changed or improved, they have only gotten better at hiding the violence under the surface. The elite residential colleges have historically turned a blind eye to the violence, misogyny and racism within their walls, and attempts at reform have always been inadequate and unsuccessful.

We demand that the colleges be dismantled and that safe, affordable student housing is established in their place. We call on the State and Federal Parliaments to dismantle the elite residential colleges, which are enshrined in archaic acts of State Parliament, and the repurposing of the colleges for safe, affordable student housing.

WOCO SAYS NO CUTS!

Over the past couple of weeks, WoCo has attended rallies in support of the No Cuts campaign that is being organised by students and staff at USyd. Staff working conditions are student learning conditions, and our education is under attack.

Across USyd, Sem 2 subjects are being slashed to try and cut budgets to the tune of \$93 million. Casuals and fixed-term staff - the tutors, lecturers and researchers who make up the lifeblood of this university - face the scrapheap. Staunch campaigning from staff and students has forced the Vice Chancellor and Dean to concede to diminishing these cuts to only 8%. But that is still 8% too many courses, and consequently staff members, who are due to be chopped. Amongst those

courses, it is notably those that involve critical thinking and the questioning of established power that are being chopped.

We demand:

1. That the University guarantees no cuts to staff jobs, pay or working conditions.
2. That it guarantees the same full list of courses as before the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. That it in no way penalises staff or students who fight to save jobs and units of study.
4. That the Federal Government fully fund the university sector and extend JobKeeper payments to all university workers.

SOLIDARITY WITH BLACK LIVES MATTER

On Saturday 6th June, WoCo attended the Black Lives Matter rally in remembrance of George Floyd and David Dungay. Their stories are the same but on different soil; their last words were "I can't breathe."

The BLM rally was illegal until a few minutes before it began; yet it attracted tens of thousands of people who rallied to the cause and expressed their rage at the ongoing epidemic of deaths in custody in this country and police brutality across the world. The treatment of peaceful protesters at Central, who were kettled and pepper sprayed while trying to go home, is a clear example of an institution that needs to be defunded and dismantled. There were children in that crowd.

Even as crowds gathered at Town Hall to demand an end to deaths in custody, news broke that an Indigenous man who was incarcerated in Acacia Prison, an hour east of Perth, had died in custody. There is so much more work to be done; we must be ready to take the fight to the streets. We remember George Floyd, and remember that police brutality and anti-black racism isn't a problem that is isolated to the US but everywhere. We remember David Dungay, Eric Whittaker, Kumanjayi Walker, Tanya Day and all of the 433 deaths in custody since the Royal Commission. We stand with their families and communities in their fight for justice. The police exist to protect the settler-colonial state and established power. The police do not protect us, we protect us.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Welfare Officers

This past month has seen a flurry of activism. As we all know, the uni is facing a funding crisis, and recently we've seen universities across the country try and make staff and students foot the bill. Across the sector, we were inspired by NTEU rank and file activists who defied their union leadership and organised a historic "vote no" campaign that won. To help this campaign, I was involved with the EAG organising of a forum on this topic, as well as a ring around to staff to tell them that students supported the "vote no" campaign. We also saw the university underhandedly cut courses, predominantly from the arts department. I helped organise a forum to spread awareness, passed motions in classes condemning the cuts, and helped organise a rally of over a

hundred people at the uni. This is a good start to the "no cuts" campaign and over the semester break I'm committed to continue to build it. We've already had a productive meeting that set out a few concrete actions we can hold over the holidays. Finally, the Black Lives Matter protests across the US and now globally present another opportunity for activism. The BLM protest that happened over the weekend demonstrates how thousands of people, particular young people, care about these issues and want to fight. I'm excited to continue organising over the holidays and into semester 2 around these issues and encourage everyone to do the same.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clarke spoke to the report adding that the Black Live Matter protests have been really inspiring and it's been great to see how momentous and global they have been, and how much they have already won in the US and around the world. Adding that the hypocrisy of banning protests because of Covid but allowing AFL games tell you this is a political decision not a health care one. Adding that they have also been looking at the education departments cuts campaigns.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Jack Mansell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

The past two weeks have seen the global political situation take a sharp turn for the better with the outbreak of a brave new Black rights movement in the United States. The grotesque police murder of George Floyd, a Black Minneapolis man, sparked mass fury after his death was caught on film in broad daylight, triggering an inspiring wave of revolt throughout the United States against police brutality and institutionalised racism. Starting with days-long riots in Minneapolis that saw the burning down of multiple police stations and looting of stores, the militant movement has spread to over 350 U.S. cities and all 50 states. Scenes of black (and many white) youth taking to the streets to stand up to brutal police repression has inspired waves of solidarity across the globe, with mass Black Lives Matter protests tens-of-thousands strong springing up throughout Europe, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand just to name a few.

The movement is markedly different to the BLM movement that sprang up under the Obama administration in 2013. The protests themselves are much bigger and have spread across the whole country, leading many to describe it as an uprising rather than simply a protest movement. A much greater proportion of the protesters are white and support for the movement has increased significantly amongst the white population when compared to support for BLM of 2013. This is despite the militant tactics involving the burning of police stations and cars, vandalism of numerous monuments to slave-owners, looting of shops, and combat with police. This is a very significant development for the political situation in the U.S., where racial segregation still features heavily in daily life, and in the post-GFC world Black oppression has in many ways worsened, with the GFC seeing the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of U.S. capitalism

from black to white families. The mass, multi-racial nature of the movement can partly be attributed to the great suffering of working class people in the U.S. in the context of COVID-19 and deepening recession. The protesters are overwhelmingly working class, and for many, the death of George Floyd symbolises some of the most horrific aspects of U.S. capitalism. As the officer pinned Floyd down with his knee on his neck, Floyd cried out numerous times “I can’t breathe”. This story is all too familiar. The rate of murders of Black people by police has been steadily increasing over the past few years, and at the time of his murder Floyd was still recovering from COVID-19. The Black working class has died of COVID-19 at three times the rate of whites, with poverty rates amongst Black people illustrating the intense class nature of institutionalised racism in the U.S. “I can’t breathe” has appeared on placards at rallies around the world as people show solidarity with the U.S. struggle and turn attention to police brutality and institutionalised racism in their own countries. The Trump administration is clearly under immense pressure from numerous sections of the establishment to find a means of pacifying the protests. So far this has been to no avail, as Trump’s efforts to repress the movement by sending in troops from the national guard has only infuriated protesters and steeled their resolve to keep on fighting. Although there are signs that the peak of the protests has passed, mass rallies continue around the country and the movement is far from being disbanded.

In Australia, attention has turned to the longstanding issue of Indigenous oppression and deaths in custody. Chillingly similar to the murder of George Floyd was the death of David Dungay Jr in 2015, a 26-year old Dungatti man who was killed in Longbay prison after being injected with animal tranquilliser and held down by 5 prison guards after refusing directions from guards in an attempt to eat his TimTams. David Dungay shouted “I can’t breathe” 12 times before he lost consciousness. On Monday, prisoners in Longbay prison spelt out the letters “BLM” on the floor of the exercise yard after guards used copious amounts of tear-gas to break up an alleged fight. It’s clear that the issue of state-sanctioned racism is suddenly on the agenda for people all over the world, boosting the confidence of Black people, who have been battling oppression for lifetimes, to come out en masse demanding justice. I attended the Black Lives Matter protest in Sydney, a historic day that saw over 50,000 people come out to demonstrate despite the government ban, highlighting the mass support that this issue has in the Australian population. 10,000 people in Adelaide and Melbourne, and over 4,000 people in Perth came out, with more protests scheduled later this week. This is a historic moment in world history. After the mass global climate strikes last year that moved hundreds of thousands around the world into protest, the COVID-19 crisis and world recession has seen the rebirth of mass protest in a way that hasn’t been seen in decades. Who knows what else is in store for the remainder of 2020.

Discussion:

Holly Hayne spoke to the report covering its main points and adding that the council should support the town hall motion proposed tonight in fighting against the education cuts being proposed by the University.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Deglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Social Justice Officers

No Cuts Campaign

This past month has been one of furious organising against job and course cuts at USYD. Importantly, NTEU activists won a serious victory with the cancellation on a national scale of the National Jobs Protection Framework, which included horrendous cuts of up to 10% to staff wages and transfer of work done by casuals to permanent staff. This was only possible because of the hard work done by rank and file activists who took a completely oppositional stance towards the union officials, an important lesson for future union organising. On a campus level, the last week of term saw activists including myself passing motions in classes which attracted wide support from the student body and showed the extent of anti-cut sentiment amongst students, as well being an important show of solidarity for staff facing job losses and unit cuts. Obviously, much more work lays ahead, and I look forward to continuing the organising throughout the break, laying the foundations hopefully for when more students are back on campus.

BLM

In response to the horrific murder of George Floyd, inspiring riots and protests have broken out across the entirety of the USA. After a week of sustained protests, they have already won charges against the killer cops, caused the withdrawal of the National Guard in many cities, and rhetorical commitments to defunding police departments. I stand in complete solidarity with the protesters, and it is absolutely necessary, against the advice Morrison, to “import” the same militant and mass struggle here against the horrifically high rates of incarceration and deaths in custody that Indigenous people face. Two protests last week, with over 1,000 on Tuesday coming out and then an amazing 60,000 on Saturday, show the basis for a BLM movement here. We need to continue organising mass protests like this, taking the necessary health precautions but also rejecting the cynical arguments of the government and right-wingers.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report covering it’s main points and noting the history of police brutality, deaths in custody and state sanctioned racism in Australia and how the Black Lives Matter movement has been taken up in Australia, and that people globally are fed up with the racist capitalist system and we need to keep up the fight.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Motion of Censure

Preamble

Representative Jiale Wang intentionally committed serious breaches of the USU Regulations during his recent USU board candidature in their Annual Elections. These breaches ultimately resulted in his disqualification from the election.

His Honour, Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis found that Representative Wang's actions were forbidden practices that would have unfairly influenced the result of the ballot and infringed on the integrity of the electoral process.

As revealed by Pulp's article on the 12th of May, 2020; Representative Wang promised (amongst other things) to *"forgo all my salary as a hidden funding's for next year's election."* This particular attitude is of great concern to this Council.

Representative Wang was elected as a Representative on the 92nd Council. He is an important figure in campus politics, especially to International Student factions. However, his actions have undoubtedly brought himself into disrepute, as well as reflecting poorly on the integrity of this Council.

As a Leader of the Panda Faction, Representative Wang wields substantial power over this Council, including 9 Representatives (25% of Council), 2 General Executives (25% of Exec) and several Office Bearers. As such, he has an ability to extensively impact on the decisions of Council, including ones pertaining to Electoral and Fiscal matters.

While this Council certainly has its moments of chaos, most of its Members would appreciate and strive to ensure stringent Governance protocols are maintained. However, through his actions, it has been proven that Representative Wang has broken this trust and created *"Resolute expression of disapproval of such conduct"* (Tsavdaridis M.). It is concerning that Representative Wang, after being proven to be of dubious character, is still able to exercise considerable influence over this Council.

It is further troubling that Representative Wang has issued no public apology and has not seen to be taking accountability for his actions.

Through the reasons outlined above, Representative Wang's conduct has brought this Council into disrepute and as such, his actions are worthy of discipline by this Council.

It's important to note that censure motions are serious and should only be raised in the most severe cases of misconduct. Censure motions should not be used to accomplish factional ends, such as censuring a Representative for expressing an opinion that is distasteful to other factions. Disagreements over opinion and policy is a fundamental aspect of this Council and Student Unionism in general and it must be reaffirmed that this motion is not an attempt to discipline Representative Wang as a matter of a factional grievance, but rather to express disappointment with his actions, which are objectively repugnant.

Action

1. The University of Sydney Students Representative Council (“SRC”) condemns the actions of Representative Jiale Wang during his candidature for the USU Board.
2. The SRC calls on Representative Wang to take accountability for his actions and strongly urges him to resign from the Council.
3. The SRC reaffirms that Representative Wang’s actions do not represent the views of his faction or its members.

Moved: Abbey Shi

Seconded: James Ardouin

The motion was **WITHDRAWN.**

Q2. SRC: host a Town Hall meeting about cuts

Preamble

Sydney University’s subject offerings have been slashed in order to recoup budget shortfalls. Cuts have been particularly severe in the Arts Faculty, where a directive was delivered to heads of school to cut 30% of semester 2 subjects. This has resulted in dozens of subjects being cut, along with the staff slated to teach them. In Government and International Relations, around 20 subjects have been cut. In History, 35% of all semester 2 subjects are being cut, including *American Slavery, Fascism and Anti-Fascism*, and *Vikings of the Sunrise*, all dealing with extremely urgent issues for contemporary politics.

Students have had little or no communication from management about the cuts. Much of the information we know is from independent investigation, sympathetic staff, and so on. This is an affront to students. Not only does management want to make us pay for their funding crisis, they would prefer to do it without telling us. Amongst students aware of the cuts, there is widespread opposition. Students have a right to confront management, and to voice this opposition directly.

When questioned about the cuts by Education Action Group activists at her ‘drop-in’ meeting, Arts Dean Annamarie Jagose essentially claimed that the choice is between cuts for semester 2 or even more cuts for 2021, but also that cuts do not necessarily negatively impact education quality. These responses should be rejected. Sydney University is pushing the costs of the COVID-19 crisis onto staff and students, despite having more than enough money to cover the shortfall. Upper management are denying this, either directly or by aversion.

Students have a right to tell management what we think. Anything less than Spence attending and admitting to the University’s prioritisation of its cash reserves over our education would be a show of contempt towards the student body.

Platform

1. The SRC opposes the logic and implementation of austerity measures at Sydney University;
2. The SRC commits to involving the widest possible layers of students in the campaign against cuts.

Action

1. The SRC, along with the EAG, will organise an open Town Hall meeting during the uni break for students to discuss the cuts, and voice concerns and ask direct questions of management;
2. The SRC President and Education Officers will write to Vice Chancellor Michael Spence demanding that he attends the Town Hall meeting, and table the petition to this effect being circulated by the EAG.
3. The SRC will utilise its budget to run a widespread information campaign amongst students during the break to explain the cuts, their impact going forward, and to promote the rally being organised by the EAG for week 1 of semester 2.

Discussion:

Jack Mansell spoke to the motion noting that the cuts expected are even higher than what was first stated by the Dean and looks to be more like 34% than 30%. Adding that many of the subjects being cut are ones that are even more relevant in this time such as American slavery, indigenous histories and fascism and anti-fascism. The choices and where funding is coming from show that education is being treated like a business where it is not the value of knowledge but who is willing to pay to get what taught as seen by establishments like the Ramsey centre. Adding that the way the university has gone about these cuts has been incredibly underhanded, that they have not clearly told student what they are doing and they are trying to claim that cutting subjects is not equivalent with reducing the quality of education. Jack continued noting that the reason to call for a town hall meeting was not to have a cordial discussion but a clear confrontation with management about what they are doing and making sure that students can see through the excuses they give for the cuts. They have been great in the past at not only getting information but also as a way to bring people into the movement and build protests especially seen in .

Grace Bowskill spoke to the motion saying it was a positive tactic for the education campaign and that going into a delayed semester two there are concerns with momentum being lost where a town hall meeting could assist in keeping that going. Adding that it will help galvanise an anti-management sentiment and push that they are the ones who should not be getting the salary of a lecturer as a bonus while they cut subjects.

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Charlotte Bullock

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion saying he agreed with the motion and its aim but felt more could be done. Adding that while this is usually a time of a drop off in activism, that everyone has been stuck indoors due to corona means that people are more likely to want to get out and get involved where they would once be looking to have a more relaxing time. Continuing, he noted that if we are worried that things are going to get worse for semester two, they will only be continuing to do so into next year if the left is not fighting. Adding that as we see if there had been any transference of the virus from the recent protests, we should start organising protests and rallies, and coordinating to do that with as many other student organisations and noted the national day of action called for august 28th. Concluding with that this was our education and we should be fighting for it and against those who would rather align with the rich and powerful and see out futures destroyed.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion agreeing that the holidays should be used to raise awareness on these issues especially considering students haven't been on campus which has made it easier for the university to be underhanded about these cuts. Adding that she had spoken to lecturers' whose workload was already increasing with cuts to tutors already occurring. That this is a really pivotal moment to make sure management know there is strong opposition to these cuts. Concluding that while the town hall is a bit of a publicity stunt it does ensure that voices are heard, and that management know that these cuts will not go unnoticed and there is a fight against them.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying he agreed with what everyone so far had said especially Liam Donohoe. Adding that as mentioned earlier it should build to a rally and that a town hall meeting lead to the largest rally at UNSW against trimesters, even if ultimately that campaign was unsuccessful. Tom concluded saying his should be the first of many actions on this issue.

Moved: Jack Mansell

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Liam Donohoe resumed the Chair

Q3. Black Lives Matter!

Preamble:

1. On the 25th of May George Floyd was murdered by Derek Chauvin of the Minneapolis PD, whilst 3 other officers watched. George Floyd was choked for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Floyd was yet another black person to die at the hands of the racist American police. This has sparked mass protests, riots and demonstrations in every state. This is the biggest anti-racist movement since the heights of the civil rights movement. Police precincts have been burnt to the crowd symbolising the subterranean fire that has been bubbling for years in the multiracial American working class. Whilst demanding the dismantling of the police and an end to racist police, the explosion of rebellion is fueled by many inequalities and injustices.
2. The fury and cause of the rebellion in the US has had a poignant echo here too. First Nation communities have experienced the full force of police brutality in the country. Since the 1991 royal commission 437 Indigenous people have died in custody. The last words of George Floyd, "I can't breathe", were the last words of David Dungay Jnr, murdered by prison guards at Sydney's Long Bay Prison. On the very same day as mass protests took place in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide, an Indigenous man died in custody at a Perth prison.
3. It was beyond inspiring to see over a hundred thousand people march across Australia to demand justice for these communities and an end to racist policing. The resurgence of anti-racist protests is of massive significance. At the same time, the police here are just as

unafraid to use repressive tactics, as shown by the kettling and pepper spraying of protesters at Central station after the main demonstration.

4. The system has no solution for the protesters. In America, the Democrats are just as culpable as the Republicans in running the racist US state. Here, the Labour Party have overseen mining companies ripping up native title in Queensland and destroying cultural sites in WA. In order to abolish the police and end racism, we need to overthrow the capitalist system which requires them for its continuation.
5. From Australia to the US, black lives matter.

Platform:

1. The SRC stands in full solidarity with the mass rebellion happening in the United States and the anti-racist protests across the globe. This solidarity is not conditional.
2. The police are a racist institution. They are not workers in uniform, but a violent, repressive force of capitalism. The problem of police brutality is not isolated to individuals but is systemic.
3. The SRC stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests across Australia and Indigenous communities which face continual police brutality and violence.
4. *The SRC condemns the state government and NSW police in their moves to suppress and shutdown last Saturday's deaths in custody rally.*
5. *The SRC condemns the actions by NSW police on Saturday night in their brutalisation and pepper spraying of peaceful protestors, among them many minors, black and indigenous folks, and a woman on crutches.*
6. *The SRC condemns the tear gassing of inmates who wished to express solidarity for the BLM movement at Long Bay gaol, the place of David Dungay's death.*

Actions:

1. The SRC will take a solidarity motion during this meeting and post it alongside this motion as a show of solidarity with the protests in America and across the globe.
2. *The SRC will mobilise, resource and help build any future Black Lives Matter protests organised in Sydney.*

Discussion:

Holly Hayne spoke to the motion saying she thought that everyone would support it and that the SRC should take on issues like this and fight against racism and police brutality and show solidarity with such movements around the world as they arise. Adding that the situation in the state has highlighted that the democrats are not progressive, and their solutions are not to dismantle the institutions which maintain both their power and oppression noting Bernie Sanders comments about paying Police more, and how out of touch that was. Electoral politics are a dead end in advancing the needs and rights of the working class. The response in the states to these protests has been repression and a militaristic response. Adding that the Black Lives Matter movement has

been a setback for the Trump campaign and that the black working class have always been the vanguard of the united states working class.

Owen Marsden-Redford spoke to the motion echoing Holly's comments and noting that a symbol of hate and racial oppression in America is a police station, and places that people are accused of looting like Walmart which make billions of dollars for the riches families in American through the exploitation and underpayment of black communities. Noting that Black Lives Matter first began in 2014 and this continuation of that campaign show how little America cares about Black Lives and while change is being demanded. The way the government is treating the economy as more important than people's lives and those most vulnerable to the virus are those most at risk of exploitation by the capitalist system. Owen added that the solidarity with the movement and the way people have taken it up here and around the world looking at their own systems of injustice, such as the 437 Indigenous deaths in custody in Australia. The global protests have shown that reform is not enough when dealing with systemic abuse and that the whole capitalism system needs to be overthrown if change can occur.

Grace Bowskill spoke to the motion saying that this movement's significance cannot be understated and that it was a multi-racial working-class movement build from the anger at the people at the top of the American establishment who have always put the profits over human life, and those who use brutality to maintain the functions of capitalism the police. Grace continued noting that BLM was movement that asks the questions of why human life is treated as less valuable than property, and why can the state take lives without consequence. She added that it is impossible to have capitalism without brutality to protect property and impossible to have capitalism without racism. Grace continued that this movement had enormous potential in Australia who has it's one history of racial colonial slavery, genocide and exploitation. Concluding that it was really important to draw connections between the movement in American and the movement in Australia.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion and proposed an amendment proposal to amend action point 2: " That SRC will mobilise, resource and help build any future Black Lives Matter protests organised in Sydney."

It was amenable to the movers

Kedar Maddali spoke to the motion and proposed an amendment to the platform adding the following points:

- The SRC stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter protests across Australia and Indigenous communities which face continual police brutality and violence.
- *The SRC condemns the state government and NSW police in their moves to suppress and shutdown last Saturday's deaths in custody rally.*
- *The SRC condemns the actions by NSW police on Saturday night in their brutalisation and pepper spraying of peaceful protestors, among them many minors, black and indigenous folks, and a woman on crutches.*
- *The SRC condemns the tear gassing of inmates who wished to express solidarity for the BLM movement at Long Bay gaol, the place of David Dungay's death.*

Kedar Maddali spoke to the amendment saying that he hoped to add these changes to the motion to recognise and condemn the actions of the NSW state government and the police force in attempting to black the Black Lives Matter Protest last weekend and their actions in brutalising peaceful protestors many of who were BIPOC, children, and also condemn them for the tear gassing of inmates at Long Bay who wished to show solidarity with David Dungay, who died while in custody there in 2015.

It was amenable to the movers

Kedar Maddali added that he was disappointed that a few of the reports tonight focused on the BLM movement in America but sidelined indigenous voices and indigenous struggles in Australia and while he commends the American movement and it needs to be celebrated as a step forward the focus here should be on centring indigenous voices, not just mentioning them in passing. Concluding that it was disappointing to see them not centred tonight.

Holly Hayne responded the comments raised saying she disagreed with the premise the indigenous justice was neglected in the reports and that the movement in US is something that should be celebrated and it is a massive rejection of the system in the heart of global capitalism. Adding that that movement has been build in solidarity and helped re-spark the anti-racism in Australia particularly highlighting racism against Indigenous peoples. Concluding that all anti-racist struggle is the same struggle.

Roisin Murphy responded the comments raised in the debate saying that thought the response by Holly to Kedar's comment were from a misunderstanding and it was not being suggested that the two should be seen a separate but rather that the link between them be stronger. Roisin added that she thought the SRC needed to in general try to always listened to what People of colour are saying to be better allied rather than invalidating their experiences.

Kedar Maddali responded the comments saying that he was not suggesting that the BLM movement in the US was not important, but that as a student organisation at the University of Sydney we should be centring the discussion on indigenous struggles not just mention them in passing. Kedar Added that he was not suggesting that they were not mentioned in reports but that they were not centred.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and responded the comments raised adding that he was disappointed in the comments considering that many factions organised to get 1000s of people to vote in the USU election but not to attend the BLM rally just a few days later. Adding that he felt they had been centring Indigenous Struggles and BLM as these were not issues that have just occurred but have been happening for years that Socialist Alternative has been fighting for thing for years. Adding that the focus on the US came from it being the catalyst for the global outrage and calls for change and this is something that should be celebrated and that is helping the end deaths in custody campaign here, which has not been led by Socialist Alternative but that Socialist Alternative has participated and mobilised for.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion and the comments adding that she was disappointed this motion was being used to attempt cheap point scoring against Socialist Alternative and that you can't say you aren't targeting anyone for their reports when the only reports that you are referring to were written by members of Socialist Alternative, and that gives a false impression of those reports. Lily continued noting that we should be coming together to take down institutionalised racism and trying to make a difference not trying to find issues that don't exist and tear each other down with them. Adding that in the US the protests are saying an injury to one is an injury to all, and so we should be fighting back together. Lily concluded that she felt that Socialist Alternative took this issue more seriously than any other faction on the Council, and she looked forward to seeing everyone at the next rally particularly because of what has happened in Long Bay this week.

Kedar Maddali responded to comment wanting to address the idea that the original comment was made in some sort of 'one upping' way, it was not, it was a personal thought. Adding that he did not want to get into the 'who is the most anti-racist' debate, all he had wanted to do was note his observation and ask the Council to be aware, and keep in mind that we should try centre Indigenous voices here.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat spoke to the motion and the debate adding that even though people are obviously feeling targeted because they spoke about the US in their reports this wasn't about saying that was wrong but that maybe we should refocus on what is happening here and centre Indigenous struggles. Adding that she thought it was valuable to check in and remind ourselves that this is a problem in Australia and we need to be making sure that we are talking about it more because it is not a part of the discourse enough yet. Adding that earlier in the year at a meeting of the Indigenous Social Justice Association only a few people continued to come after the Invasion day rally and it left many feeling unsupported and that people were not motivated to help, that's not on any one faction that's on everyone. Prudence concluded saying that instead of denying that we could be doing more we should listen and accept that we should be doing more especially when that request is being made by the ACAR officer and an organiser of the protest here in Sydney.

Moved: Holly Hayne

Seconded: Owen Marson-Redford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Liam Donohoe reigned the Chair to Charlotte Bullock

Q4.Naming the Honi Soit Office in commemoration of Sam Langford

Preamble

Last month, one of our recent Honi editors, Sam Langford, passed away aged only 23. Hundreds of people in the Sydney uni community lost a dear friend, a mentor, and a colleague. Sam edited Honi in 2016, and was a brilliant writer who exposed injustice, fought for queer rights, and uncovered wage theft – to give just a few examples. They were also a passionate member of the Queer Collective, the Enviro Collective and an editor of the USU's Bull Magazine. Above all, Sam

was a huge Honi nerd who kept every edition they ever read, and was endlessly generous to their reporters, colleagues and subsequent editorial teams. They were always there to offer help and advice, especially for the Honi website, which they re-designed from scratch, and is still in use today.

As an editor, Sam was always the last person to leave the Honi office, and would spend hours there every week, perfecting the paper and creating this amazing legacy. As Sam's parents said at their memorial service, Sam found their people at university, and at Honi Soit. For that reason, we move a motion to name it the Sam Langford room in their honour.

Platform

1. The Students' Representative Council recognises Sam Langford's immense talent and contribution to student life.
2. The Students' Representative Council expresses its full condolences to the Langford family.

Action

1. The Students' Representative Council will name the room in which Honi Soit editors complete the paper the "Sam Langford Room".
2. The Students' Representative Council will install two plaques acknowledging this. The first will be a standard name plate on its door, and the second will be inside the office and expand on Sam's legacy.
3. The Students' Representative Council will post the preamble of this motion to its social media channels.

Discussion:

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion saying that many may be aware of the untimely passing for former editor Sam Langford. He spoke about working with Sam on Honi Soit when he was a writer for the paper and Sam was editing and their achievements both at university and after. Liam added saying they hoped to rename the room much like we have the Gosper room to celebrate Sam's legacy. Liam concluded saying he hoped there wouldn't be opposition to this motion, invited other to speak and hoped the council would pass this motion.

Moved: Isla Mowbray

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

There were motions from the floor:

R1. Cops Off Campus

Preamble:

Police consistently use violence to enforce unjust laws, targeting vulnerable groups and maintaining capitalist injustice and white supremacy. We can see this internationally through protests in Hong Kong and the United States, domestically when it comes to Indigenous incarceration rates, and as local as the constant presence of sniffer dogs at Redfern station in our own community. Earlier this month, police were caught on camera knocking an Indigenous teen to the ground in a Surry Hills park. He is sixteen years old.

At the recent Black Deaths in Custody rally and vigil in Sydney, police attempted to make the protest illegal, with the court ruling overturned just minutes before it was scheduled to go ahead.

At the conclusion of this rally, we witnessed police brutally corner peaceful protesters in Central Station in order to isolate and pepper spray into the crowd within a confined area. Those targeted by police included a woman on crutches and a fourteen year old girl, among other peaceful demonstrators.

This is completely unacceptable. Assault from the police present and the subsequent lack of disciplinary action taken demonstrates the systemic issue of police brutality as it exists in NSW.

Platform:

Police don't make campus safer, they alienate students and escalate situations. Cops should not be allowed on campus. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council calls on the Vice-Chancellor and university administration to keep police off campus and to not cooperate with any police actions in and around campus.

Action points:

The Students' Representative Council:

1. Will publish a statement on social media channels condemning NSW Police and their actions,
2. Commits to disrupting police presence on and around campus and informing students of their rights,
3. Will ensure that we protect marginalised groups in our actions, making sure that at SRC-organised protests we are prepared to administer protest first-aid.
4. *The University of Sydney SRC condemns University management for collusion with the Newtown police.*

Discussion:

Roisin Muphy spoke to the motion saying that she felt the motion spoke for itself and takes an ideological view and gives it form applicable at a campus level.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion noting that cops were always bad, but even more so on campus they make it an unsafe space for students and there's no reason to have them on campus.

Jack Mansell spoke to the motion and agreed there should be no presence of police on campus as they harass and brutalise oppressed people but also because they have a history of trying to stifle

political organising. Adding that the University has a history of colluding with the police seen in the hiring of Simon Hardman, who was a former Newtown police officer who was dismissed for homophobic abuse of fellow officers and who oversaw the harassment of gay students on campus as well. He was instrumental in getting the police to assist in the breaking of a picket in 2013 and came to USyd as the head of security a few years later. Adding that it was important for student unionism to occur without fear of state sanctioned intimidation. Concluding that it was outrageous that the university continues to work so closely with police.

Roisin Murphy amended her motion to include a comment on USyd's collusion with the police and added the following: *"The University of Sydney SRC condemns University management for collusion with the Newtown police."*

Julia Kovic spoke against the motion noting that tensions are running high on this issue because of what is happening in the US, and that police brutality is never acceptable and they should be held accountable for their actions the same as any other citizen would be, however the police should not be judge on the few who do the wrong thing. Adding that the police are there to protect us and that a campus is no exception to anywhere else and that the police can come on campus when necessary is important for student safety as campus security don't have the capacity to respond to everything or when a situation is violent. She concluded saying that while she disagreed with the motion she understood where it was coming from.

Roisin Murphy responded to Julia's comments thanked her for responding peacefully but wanted to counter that Julia mentioned police brutality but it was police brutality that had led to the 437 death in custody since 1991. Which is 437 grieving families and communities because police are not held accountable for their action, and that it was disproportionate in the way you spoke to the motion against thinking about the impact the police have had on these people's lives.

Julia Kovic responded saying that she believed that any officer who behaves in a way that is not honouring the law should be held accountable and should not be given a free pass due to their office. Adding that the statistic on the issue were horrible and disturbing especially the impact on indigenous Australians. but while she agreed with the heart of the motion she did not think that campus should be exempt to police presence.

Liam Thomas spoke to the motion and responded to the comments made saying that he believed that cop on campus did not make student more safe but that it does the opposite and when there have been incidents on campus the police have taken so long to arrive despite being so close they were of little to no assistance anyway.

Jason Howe noted his dissent to the motion and echoed a number of Julia Kovic's comments saying that the ability for student to file a police report when there is a serious incident, what alternatives to the police are being promoted.

Roisin Murphy responded saying its going to be difficult to answer that question because it presume the police provide safety and she does not believe they do, and most incidents can be better managed by other services like paramedic, firefighters and social workers etc. than by the police, or campus security, especially considering their history of homophobia.

Holly McDonald asked if there was a comprehensive response to fill the gap if police were taken off campus.

Roisin Muphy responded saying there wasn't time in this meeting to have detailed education conversation about the alternatives to policing but that she believe communities were better at keeping people safe than power, and that those who are interested in learning more about the issues should read the book *End of Policing* and that there needs to be a broad discussions but the needs of campuses.

Felix Faber said he agree with the past comments and stated ACAB, and they exist not to protect people to but protect private property.

Mikaela Pappou responded to the discussion of the motion and noted that bringing up rape on campus, which already exists, and cops do little to nothing to prevent. Adding that as Roisin has mentioned social workers are often better at handling and preventing complex situations than the police. Concluding that making the campus safer does not mean bringing people with guns, who don't care and don't respond to much anyway, on campus.

Kedar Maddali asked those who said that the police kept people safe if they had seen anything that happened at central station on the weekend, where the police pepper sprayed peaceful protesters many of whom were children. Adding that the police don't stand for student rights and if you want to make a police statement you can easily go down to Newtown police station without them coming on campus. Concluding there is already campus security for immediate issues and there are better alternatives to them as well.

Paola Ayre spoke to the motion echoing the comments of Jack Mansell on the appointment of Simon Hardman by the university and the impact on LGBTIQ+ students. Adding that to see the police as protective comes from a very privileged position.

Mover: Roisin Murphy

Secunder: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and CARRIED.

The following wanted their dissent noted:

Julia Kokic

R2. Drew Pavlou motion

The University of Queensland has recently suspended its Undergraduate Senate Director Drew Pavlou, alleging misconduct. However, a cursory examination of the facts shows that the disciplinary action was motivated by a desire to stop his activism on campus. Since July of 2019, Drew has been a public advocate against the University's ties with the Confucius Institute, the Ramsay Centre, and other corporate institutions. Examining the array of charges listed against him, it is clear that the University is attempting to use the disciplinary process to silence him. Charges include his use of a pen before purchase in a UQ campus outlet and making posts on Facebook deriding the UQ administration.

The University of Queensland's use of its internal disciplinary process to punish a student activist sets a worrying precedent for the rights of students to speak out against their universities' unjust practises. It is vital that the SRC stands against the silencing of students.

Platform

1. The SRC recognises that Drew Pavlou's expulsion was politically motivated.
2. The SRC condemns the use of University disciplinary proceedings to stymie student activists.
3. The SRC affirms the right for all students to participate in protest and advocacy against their university.

Action

1. The SRC will take a solidarity photo supporting Drew Pavlou.

Discussion:

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion noting its main points adding that while you may not agree with all of Drew's opinions, the way university management at UQ has handled the situation is disgusting, that a student activist can be expelled for protesting in favour of democracy in Hong Kong sets a dangerous precedent and that everyone should be able to agree that impinging on freedom of speech in the way UQ has is concerning.

Felix Faber spoke to the motion saying that Drew has been outspoken on the UQ campus about democracy in Hong Kong and that what has occurred at UQ should be concerning to student activist and for student democracy on campus. UQ spent a lot of money trying to get him expelled supposedly for personal behaviour but were thankfully unable to, they have however been able to suspend him for the duration of which he was supposed to sit as a student representative on their senate as they saw him as a threat to their bottom line. This is not acceptable, and we should not stand for it.

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Charlotte Bullock

Jason Howe spoke to the motion saying his is a case of you don't have to agree with what someone is saying to agree they have the right to say it. Many may not like the way he's gone about things, or don't agree with everything he's said but I think the right to political speech is important and an attempt to suppress that should not be acceptable.

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion noting that this biggest issue is this has been a clearly targeted campaign by university management who have put huge amounts of resources into this to suppress someone's free speech. We've seen this occur at multiple universities and at Usyd, through opaque disciplinary hearings and threats of expulsion for speaking up on a range of issues and that this is not just an issue for Drew Pavlou. Adding that it has been a push for the last 10 to 20 years for universities to do more about interpersonal grievances and this is an unfortunate consequence

of those ideas have been adopted and twisted by people with a fake concern for peoples wellbeing but more of a focus on policing student behaviour and activism.

Abbey Shi spoke on the motion saying that she agreed with Liam Donohoe's comments and that clearly UQ was taking a political stance of a commercial reason and that she was against the commercialisation of students and that UQ would try to expel one student so they could continue to financially exploit others shows they do not care about the international issue only the possible revenue impact for the university.

Request for a secret ballot was made by

Abbey Shi

Mikaela Pappou

Julia Kokic

Michael Kallidis

James Ardouin

Nina Mountford

There was discussion around how that would be possible.

A way was established, and the vote was conducted and counted by the Secretary to Council Julia Robins.

Mover: Mikaela Pappou

Secunder: Felix Faber

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R3. MOTION: No Cuts to Con Electives and Staff Jobs at the Conservatorium of Music

PREAMBLE

At the Conservatorium of music, staff and students have learned the distressing news that the university plans to cut elective music subjects. Conservatorium students and staff are already at the forefront of the liberal's attack on art, music, and cultural initiatives and many have already suffered pay cuts or job losses as a result of this. And many who were previously professionally employed in the arts sector now rely on the tertiary sector for income. Without safeguarding education of students and working conditions of staff, vital industry diversity will be lost. Conservatorium students are standing with their staff and committed rank and file members of the Conservatorium's local NTEU branch who are taking a stand. The news of restructures and potential job losses comes after Conservatorium staff have already been under enormous strain this semester, working overtime to restructure practical units to an online format. In particular, there are fears that the jobs of casual tutors are most on the line.

This is not an isolated issue and the fight at the Conservatorium is part of university wide solidarity between staff and students in all different faculties fighting back against cuts and austerity measures. It is the Government and USYD's responsibility to save each and every job and unit of study. The government and university management are trying to use the economic downturn as an excuse to push through cuts, restructures and workplace changes they were already hoping to

implement. In recent years university management has closed departments and massively expanded rates of casualisation despite huge surpluses. Despite a drop in enrolments, the university has enormous cash reserves that it can still use to protect jobs and courses. Furthermore the government should use the 60 billion dollar Jobkeeper shortfall to include all uni workers in JobKeeper (which they currently aren't), to boost public university funding and end the university business model based on private funding arrangements like corporate sponsorship and domestic and international student fees.

PLATFORM

The SRC stands with committed the fight of students and rank and file NTEU conservatorium staff and demands that:

1. The University guarantees no cuts to staff jobs, pay or working conditions to conservatorium staff.
2. The Conservatorium and the university guarantees the same full list of courses as before the Covid-19 pandemic. *Except in circumstances where required for the purposes of social distancing.*
3. That staff or students who fight to save jobs and units of study are in no way penalized.
4. That the Federal Government fully fund the university sector and extend JobKeeper payments to all university workers.

ACTION

1. The SRC stands with conservatorium staff and students and will support their campaign through all social media channels.

(action point 2 was removed as it was no long necessary)

Discussion:

Sofie Nicholson spoke to the motion speaking about how staff had asked for student support on opposing the proposed cut to the conservatorium adding that this is a particularly hard time for the arts sector. There has been a lot of contradictory information around the cuts, with student being told subject aren't being held for social distancing measures while staff have been told they are being cut for economic reasons. The corporate interests of the uni have been harming the Con for years before covid19 with many teachers who already have heavy workloads given more administration work when they closed the administrative centre at the con and move it to the Camperdown campus. She continues to outline concerns of staff particularly causal and asked for the council to support the motion.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying the the con was being gutted and this was shocking and horrible for the staff and students and followed a trend of attacking the arts. Noting that the Deans' response was outrageous and ignored students concerns and lied that these were not cute, and she looked forward to being involved in the campaign.

James Ardouin spoke disagreeing with many of the concerns raised. Saying that from his understanding from an academic board meeting the con units were more cyclical in general. James then spoke about the difference between casual and permanent staff in relation to the fair work act and concluded saying that the structure of the conservatorium meant that it's smaller class sizes and numbers mean that it could be hard to reach the numbers of student needed to run a subject.

Michael Kallidis spoke to the motion and wanted to talk to the lack of clarity of information and expressed concerns with some of the action points and that the information here is not complete. Adding that many units mentioned in the open letter as being cut are running and that other do run on a more cyclical basis. He concluded raising issues with point two of the actions as it suggests that the course list isn't being offered when some can't be due to covid19 social distancing, and also with the point that the SRC be asked to sign on to an open letter that has already been responded too.

Jack Mansell responded to the comments saying he found it pretty disgraceful that people are accepting and covering for all this management speak when they are just coming out with a bunch of excuses to look better while they sack staff and that the motion was being proposed by a student of the con and one who is working hard on the campaign against these cuts. Adding that saying a 15% loading means anything when you lose work in the middle of a pandemic is outrageous. Jack continued noting that getting rid of casuals doesn't just ruin their livelihood's, but it also lowers the educational quality of the student degrees. Jack concluded by calling on the council to support the motion.

Sofie Nicholson responded to comments saying that the only clear information was provided was by staff who care about students and management only came out with a response after to try coverup the situation and claim it was business as usual when we know this is not the case. Adding she was happy to amend the motion so that I note that some classes cannot be offered due to covid19. Sofie Nicholson amended her motion.

Michael Kallidis responded to Jack Mansell comments saying that his suggestion that there was only one or two issues was wrong when all had been address and accounted for and there was no point signing on to something that isn't happening.

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Charlotte Bullock

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion saying that none of us really know what is going on that the moment but he leans towards trusting staff over management but at the moment in theory if courses are being cut to save money we should oppose that, and if it turns out the courses aren't cut that would not be a bad thing as it would be what we would like and so we should be prepared for the worst.

Moved: Sofie Nicholson

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

R4. Condemning University influence in the USU elections

Preamble

On the 4th of June the University of Sydney Union conducted its annual elections for Executives, committee members, and portfolio holders. Rather than being decided directly by the student body, these positions are determined by the 13 Board of Directors, of whom 11 are students and 2 are Senate-Appointed Directors.

As it stands, the SADs already have too much power. Among other things, they: use their implicit / soft power to pre-emptively influence thinking, snitch on USU activity so the Uni can keep a close eye, and change the outcome of votes on important policy considerations. While they are certainly not the only problematic or anti-democratic part of the USU, they nonetheless play a clear and distortionary role.

But the most recent elections of Executives, committee members, and portfolio holders showed just how distortionary they can be, as they radically changed the outcome of the election through their implied and actual voting power. Some candidates, who had a clear majority of student support, were either deterred from running or unsuccessful in their candidature simply because the SADs tipped the balance of power in favour of certain candidates.

While this is bad enough in principle, the motivations of the SADs were particularly ignoble this time around, favouring candidates in numerous positions because they would be more 'politically neutral'. At a time when University education is facing unprecedented attacks, it is shameful that people could think the USU needs anything other than unashamedly radical and partisan pro-student leadership.

Platform

1. The Students' Representative Council condemns University influence in any student organisation.
2. The Students' Representative Council opposes, in principle and practice, the appointment of directors by USyd management.
3. The Students' Representative Council believes all student leaders should be determined by a democratic vote of the student body.
4. The Students' Representative Council condemns the practice of soliciting support from Senate-Appointed Directors in order to win USU positions.
5. The Students' Representative Council condemns any student Board Directors who have benefitted from this distortionary intervention by non-elected students in 2020 and in previous years.

Actions

1. The Students' Representative Council will unconditionally and fiercely resist any attempt to increase University influence over student organisations.
2. The Students' Representative Council will post the preamble to this motion on its social media.

Discussion:

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion
Felix Faber spoke to the motion
Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion
James Ardouin spoke to the motion
Liam Thomas spoke to the motion
Liam Donohoe responded to comments
Courtney Daley spoke to the motion
Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Felix Faber

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The following wanted to note their dissent:

James Ardouin

Julia Kotic

Jason Howe

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.