



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

**Julia Robins**, Secretary to Council  
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**Students' Representative Council,  
University of Sydney**

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**MINUTES** of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee, 92<sup>nd</sup> SRC, held on 30<sup>th</sup> April in the Zoom, SRC Offices.

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**PRESENT:** Liam Donohoe (Chair), Abbey Shi\*, Liam Thomas\*, Felix Faber^, Charlotte Bullock^, Swapnik Sanagavarapu, and Isla Mowbray.

Apologies: Vivienne Goodes

Absent: Sonia Gao and Ashley Li.

Minutes: Julia Robins (Secretary to Council)

In attendance: James Campbell

Meeting Opened: 12:15

\*^Joint position holders, counted together towards quorum.

### **1. Acknowledgement of Country**

The University of Sydney Students Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present of the Eora nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

Liam Donohoe added to the Acknowledgement of Country that the corona virus has highlighted the disparities in health care and other welfare for Indigenous peoples especially in rural communities that existed well before covid19. And noted that before the lockdown there were a number of actions planned to acknowledge that this represents the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary since captain Cook's landing and it needs to be remembered what a painful day in history that is and there is still much to be done for reconciliation.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Vivienne Goodes.

Moved from the chair

The apologies were accepted.

### **3. Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **4. Business arising from the minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **5. Correspondence**

To whom it may concern,

Hi, my name is Vincent and I am postgraduate student in project management. I am taking a capstone course and my project is to increase the media exposure for a non-profit project management (PM) organization called GAPPS.

My team and I plan to publish a poster on medias such as SRC and other PM related entities. The content is basically about encouraging students to follow GAPPS accounts and our team will be running the account for GAPPS for a short period of time. And we are still working on the poster

If possible I would like to ask the chances and ways of having our poster published on SRC's media. I am looking forward to hearing back from you.

Wish you a wonderful day.

Cheers,  
Vincent

Discussion:

Liam Donohoe said he has brought this to the exec attention but does not think it is something the SRC can assist with both because it not relevant to our work and we do not know much about the organisation, we can offer to refer them to Honi but that would cost money and I don't think that's what they are after. Liam Donohoe wished them well on their project.

There was general consensus

## **6. Workplace Health and Safety Report**

*Melissa de Silva gave a written report*

I've sent a few emails checking in with staff to see that everyone is going ok, and making suggestions for it they're not ok. I'll start sending to Liam Donohoe as well and get him (and/or you) to pass on to reps if they think that is worth doing.

Liam Donohoe noted that it would be nice to extend those out but it is not required if work load is high.

Julia Robins noted she posted some of the content Mel sent out to the 92<sup>nd</sup> SRC Facebook group already. d

Motion: that the report of the Workplace Health & Safety Officer be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Charlotte Bullock

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*Liam Donohoe resigned the Chair to Charlotte Bullock.*

## **7. Report of the President**

Liam Donohoe gave a combination of written and verbal reports.

The Students' Representative Council has had yet another successful (if unconventional) week under Work From Home conditions, and the eerie silence of the Wentworth Offices has even been occasionally disturbed by the chugging of printers, dropping of foodstuff, and delivery of Honi.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the launch of our "essentials pack" program, an initiative that

forms a key component of the SRC's mutual aid response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the program took time to get up and running—it's not easy working out how to source and deliver food and essential goods to people—the SRC has been working towards this launch for months. I'm pleased to report that our Offices' Gosper room is crammed with countless pre-made hampers from the Exodus Foundation and mountains of Pasta and cereal box, more than enough to accommodate the 30+ requests we've received. Sincere thanks are owed to countless people, but I want to particularly single out Julia Robins (Secretary to Council), Felix Faber (Vice-President), Priya Gupta (Queer Officer), Klementine Burrell-Sander (Student Housing Officer), Robin Eames, Abbey Shi (General Secretary), Isla Mowbray (General Executive), Paola Ayre (Queer Officer), Liam Thorne, Nina Mountfourd, Simone Morris and Ellie Wilson (Women's Officer) for their initiative and contributions at various points over the preceding months. Check out the backpage of Honi for more information on how you can help or get help through our mutual aid program!

The SRC has not only been concerned with providing immediate material relief, however — we have also been participating in a number of important struggles for the future of our education and indeed our entire society. The most significant of these campaigns is the emerging No Uni Cuts campaign, which demands full government funding and the abolition of University fees in order to both protect the sector during the COVID-19 pandemic and also initiate the transition away from the failed Neo-Liberal University model. As part of Friday the 24th's broader National Day of Online Action, the SRC participated in two live streams, the first (which featured Lee Rhiannon) concerned upcoming May 1 activities, while the second (which featured Mehreen Faruqi) concerned the role of student resistance in the COVID-19 crisis, particularly with respect to the tertiary education sector.

Both of these activities are intertwined: the No Uni Cuts campaign aims to, among other things, support and amplify the demands of militant rank and file within the NTEU, a demographic which will feature prominently in the May 1 car convoys. Indeed, in my capacity as a member of the USyd NTEU branch I attended their most recent meeting, and voted for militant positions alongside a resounding majority of rank and file members. These academic and University workers—forgotten by the new economy and the government smoothing its creases—as reluctant personifications of the “No Worker Left Behind” demand, will no doubt be prominent figures throughout Friday's car convoy. The University sector, like the economy in which it is situated, will be neither worthwhile nor fair until the people it affects most significantly also have the most significant say over it. And the only way those most affected—like students and workers—have any chance of a genuine say is through acts of resistance; acts like car convoys, like symbolic celebrations of working class power, like preparations for militant strike action. The SRC is thrilled to be playing a positive role in the campaigns and initiatives that have the best chance at saving our sector and achieving a better University system, and we commit to total solidarity with academics, professional staff, and workers in all sectors.

These big, outward-looking structural fights intersect significantly with the work we have been doing on behalf of USyd students' academic interests. We intend to make these connections clear at Wednesday's open meeting of the student body, which seeks to discuss issues students have found with the transition to online learning and assessment. Topics will include, but won't be limited to, ProctorU, mark adjustment schemes, reductions in courses, and increases in class sizes. These last two are not only of particular and novel concern, with recent reports suggesting the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will cut one-third of its courses in semester two, but are also intimately linked with various failures of the Neo-Liberal University, including the under resourcing by government, the myopia of the University managerial class, and the profit rationales which have devalued whole disciplines and academic merit more broadly. We hope to package all of these concerns into a broader campaign around academic support and No Disadvantage, which we seek to run alongside the broader No Uni Cuts and No Student / Worker Left Behind campaigns.

Away from activism and mutual aid projects, I've also attended a number of the usual University committee meetings, with two Academic Board subcommittee meetings last Tuesday and a Vice-Chancellor Recruitment focus group session on Wednesday. Yet more await me this week, as two further Academic

Board subcommittee meetings on Tuesday join an Honours Admission Taskforce meeting on Thursday and an Education Committee meeting on Monday. All in all, it promises to be another busy and exciting week, with Friday's May 1 convoy and daily deliveries of our "essentials packs" likely to be the highlights.

Liam Donohoe added that there has been a request from a former Honi Soit editor to take down some of the articles they wrote. He stated that while his position, when he was an editor, was that once you published, it was published. However the questions raised by the editor brought up some interesting points.

Liam read out and responded to the questions raised by the former editor of Honi Soit:

"1. What's the SRC's position re: possession of publishing, moral and legal right over published articles? I know back when I was editing it was fairly common to just hide/delete old articles when writers requested as such, though this obviously changes depends on who's in charge, etc. At the same time, I'm uncomfortable with the suggestion that the writers lose publishing rights, particularly when there was no implied or explicit granting of exclusive licence when you sign on to become a contributor/reporter/editor. (This might have to be something that's nussed out for future years with this policy).

2. What's the SRC's position re: new editorial team's agency over prior years' works? I.e. If the claim is that the SRC holds exclusive licence in perpetuity, how does that coexist with the transitory nature of editorial authority? Do all writers cede indefinite control of their work to future editors? (in the alternative, could a new editorial board go through and delete old articles that they didn't agree with?) (Similarly, how does this co-exist with the publishers appearing to hold indefinite legal liability, as we saw with the listing of the DSP from 2015 in the recent legal case?)

3. Will this policy be indefinitely binding or is it again contingent on future presidents/editorial boards?"

Liam Donohoe Honi Soit is in the business of publishing articles but we don't really have an answer with regards to who owns the rights to the article. Questions around if they can publish the article elsewhere and what the editorial control of the article, with the yearly change of editors, do future editors inherit control of past articles? Do the writers of the articles maintain control over them? There should be a policy that governs this, so it is not merely the whims of the teams year to year. Ultimately the SRC is the publisher and they are the ones who need a policy about this, the question is if this would be a constant or if this would be something that would change year to year with the President. Liam noted that any policy would be on going but it would not be permanent in that it would be changeable like all SRC policy.

Liam Donohoe reiterated that the main question of the day is do writers have the right to ask for a already published article to be taken down.

Liam Thomas clarified the questions.

Liam Donohoe reiterated it was about creating a policy for determining writers' control of articles after publication.

Felix Faber noted that Honi is also printed there are hard copies that are always in circulation and kept in a number of archives, so removing an article is not entirely possible nor plausible. But in principal was in

favour of writers being able to take their own articles down.

Charlotte Bullock added that taking down from online does limit the ability for people to access the article in general and can understand that people may not want everything they wrote at university to be tied to their name when searched.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu added that it was similar to when books get taken out of circulation, the book still exists and people may have copies but if you restrict access it minimises impact. In principal he agreed it's fair for people to request to have articles taken down, but on the other hand it can prevent accountability, such as if someone writes something racist and then later runs for public office.

Liam Donohoe proposed that something along the lines of a request for an article to be hidden rather than deleted be developed as there should always be some type of record kept should be it required, and that the request should be honoured expect when it is believed there is an overriding public interest in the article remaining accessible, and that there should be a 5 year review of this as there are times where people are just trying to get their careers off the ground and don't want poorly written articles showing up, but also if people become public figures to there should be some accountability.

Felix Faber should this go to the constitutional reform group?

Julia Robins noted that this was not a constitutional or regulatory change but a policy change and so would need to go through council accordingly.

Liam Donohoe raised the issues of social media policy, raising that the exec members should have admin access to the SRC Facebook page and other social media. Saying that while the final say should go to the President the executive should also be a part of the social media team if there is no regulatory reason they cannot be. This would make things much easier to keep up our posts.

Liam Thomas asked who owned the page and if it was only Liam Donohoe who had access and how.

Liam Donohoe clarified that he was just an admin alone with pubs and it was unclear who owned the page but the aim was to move ownership to the President's email so that it remains in SRC control. This is to avoid the issue that is being faced with the SRC WeChat account which we still do not have control over.

Julia Robins noted that she had an email sitting in drafts to send to 92nd SRC representative Mengyuan (Derek) Zhu who supposedly has access to the WeChat account from last year but wanted to clarify that the issues hadn't been resolved before it was sent.

Abbey Shi confirmed that Mengyuan had access but the SRC still did not as the transfer of ownership had not been done at the end of last year and that requests had been ignored.

Liam Donohoe expressed concerns with the fact that we don't know what is being posted or who is posting information under the SRC banner.

Abbey Shi echoed Liam Donohoe's concerns.

Liam Thomas asked if there were legal grounds that could be explored as they are using the SRC logo and claiming to be the SRC.

Liam Donohoe agreed that could be an option. Adding final notes were that the SRC mutual aid project was going well and it was shaping up to be the major project for the year and thanked the volunteers who were getting it going.

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Charlotte Bullock

Seconded: Felix Faber

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*Liam Donohoe resumed the chair.*

## **8. Report of the Vice Presidents**

Felix Faber and Charlotte Bullock gave a verbal report

Felix Faber said that his focus has been on the mutual aid project and reaching out to community groups who we can assist and can assist the SRC, especially Exodus foundation who have donated hampers, and RedLink which provides serves and support to those living in Redfern community and the surrounding areas, particularly those in public housing. Felix noted under covid19 the work RedLink do has been even more important, as close living quarters make things difficult, and hoped the SRC volunteers would be able to assist there.

Charlotte Bullock spoke to the work she and Felix have been doing with regards to university committee meetings, there has been meeting with the university every Friday since the lockdown and this has really helped in facilitating clear and open dialogue for dealing with the challenges that are arising as semester continues. We've also been included in meetings about what we are looking for in the next Vice Chancellor and putting forward that we would like to see a VC that wants to engage with students and their experiences and needs at the University.

Liam Thomas asked if we have any idea of who or where they were looking to find someone.

Charlotte Bullock said it was still unclear, but she should it was interesting that the Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson was asking if we wanted someone with a background in academia and the tertiary education sector. Charlotte added that it seems quite bizarre that they would be looking outside the tertiary education sector.

Liam Donohoe added that there is a large external international recruitment firm helping them find someone, they apparently have a good reputation for finding VCs. The idea that they wouldn't be looking at someone from the education system seems concerning, we don't want business leaders in this role. Also I don't think the staff would tolerate someone who was not from the ivory town of academia.

Charlotte Bullock added that she thought they would be looking for someone from the Oxbridge/Ivy League universities.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu suggested they might be looking at Henry Kissinger, who is still a member of Harvard University staff.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Despite it only being a couple of weeks it feels like it's been ages since our last exec meeting, and a great deal has happened in the relatively short time frame.

Obviously, much like everyone else, Abbey and I have been performing various student advocacy tasks, responding to the COVID-19 situation. We've been continuing our regular weekly meetings with Susanna Scarparo, Peter McCallum, and Adam Bridgeman from the University, alongside Liam, Charlotte and Felix. These meetings continue to be productive and a great channel for us to convey student feedback on the academic arrangements, as well as address broad issues relating to the shift to online learning. We have also advised the university officials to consider Melbourne University's WAM model as part of the COVID-19 readjustment plan. The University, in response, is considering adopting the model. Further notice will be given in future scheduled meetings.

In the past weeks, it has been incredibly encouraging to see the smooth rollout of the SRC mutual aid program. I think we speak for everyone in saying that a project like this encapsulates the important role that strong student organisations play in supporting the student community.

On the international student front, it is also encouraging to see financial aid being granted as a result of the previous petition work being done by the SRC. We have received lots of gratitude from students who received the grants. Abbey has been doing a lot of work with responding to students in need of advice regarding the application process, redirecting their inquiries to those who can provide valid advice. During this special period of time, we have also been working on advocacy for international students JobKeeper and JobSeeker scheme. We have conducted surveys in conjunction with Unions NSW on various social media platforms. Furthermore, as everyone is aware, the SRC is in the long-overdue process of translating SRC student advice materials. Given the exorbitant price we have been quoted so far, we need to think about alternative solutions to ensure we can accurately translate materials whilst not breaking the budget.

Finally, progress has been made with the Constitutional Reform group. We had a productive meeting on the weekend alongside Liam, Charlotte, James Ardouin, and Samuel Chu. The notes from the meeting are available in the group and I highly encourage everyone to read through them. To give a quick summary, we've effectively decided that the best course of action is to break down the project into two projects, one short-term and one long-term. The short-term project includes all the essential reforms that we need to get passed ASAP, which are related to election regulations. Everyone at the meeting was in agreement that we need to do everything we possibly can to try and hold physical elections, however, given the uncertainty surrounding the current situation we need to make provisions for the possibility of an online election in the worst-case scenario. The long-term project will include reforms that are less urgent, and potentially more contentious which will need more time to discuss and debate. Going forward, we will be having another meeting soon, it would be great if representatives from every faction could be in attendance so that we can start nailing down what reforms we need to get done.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Charlotte Bullock

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**10. Report of the Administration Manager**

*There was nothing to report*

**12. SRC Legal Service Report**

*There was nothing to report*

**13. Approval of Payments**

### **13.1. Requests**

\$3 500 for Mutual Aid packs

Motion: that \$3 500 be allocated to the SRC Mutual Aid Project.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*James Campbell entered the meeting at 12:45pm.*

### **11. Report of the Casework and Policy Manager**

James gave a verbal report

- Zoom and phone appointments are being used to give caseworker appointments
  - o The SRC help email is most of assistance work that is being done at the moment
  - o Standard and common requests are most of the work but there is an increase in more specialty requests since Covid19
- Tenancy is big issue for students at the moment
  - o Student's stuck overseas trying to break the lease as they are unable to return
  - o Student's seeing a reduction in rent as they have lost their jobs
  - o These vary from simple to complicated.
- Centrelink has also had a lot of inquiries around jobseeker and the like
- The use of ProctorU is also a concern we are looking into and meeting with Liam Donohoe about to flesh out our policy on this.
- We are in the process of revamping the content on our website to ensure that as these things are changing our advice reflect this, this will take a little time, but we are getting as much as we can with regards to content.
- We've been doing a lot of lesion work so that staff in faculties and student services know we are still continuing out services.
- We've been getting referral from Office Bearers which is good, we encourage Office Bearers that if they receive any requests for assistance they refer them to [help@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:help@src.usyd.edu.au) right away, and we can refer them to the solicitor if that is what is appropriate.

Liam Donohoe wanted to add that things should be referred to casework staff and never try to take these on as it's a fast way to get things wrong or to feel powerless. He encouraged student's to look at the USyd Rants Facebook page and see if there was anything there that might be addressed or helped by casework and being proactive in supporting student's but referring student to casework when you see them.

James Campbell reminded the Exec that if anyone wanted to get in touch with him to please reach out.

Motion: that the report of the Casework and Policy Manager be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*James Campbell left the at 21:54pm.*

### **14. Any Other Reports**

#### **14.1. Report of the Publication managers Officers**

Amanda LeMay submitted a written report

##### **Re: Publishing Policy Review**

I think that the SRC needs to do a review and refresh of it's publishing and related policies such as online privacy statement etc. This is fairly overdue and we rely on some fairly out-dated policies in the Constitution and Regulations that fall short and can create some confusion at times for both staff and students. We also need to bring it all in line with the contemporary publishing environment and legislation on social media platforms and formats.

It is a fairly complex area, and would need some expert advice at some point. Looking at other policies might be a start to work out what would serve this organisation and our activities.

I think the SRC executive should set up a working group for this and students really need to lead it. It could be the 'Publications Committee' (Exec + Honi + Pubs) as in the SRC C&R's? But staff only really need a practical role and to implement the policy once implemented. Either way, we'd need some legal advice and guidance, I'd say. It may also save time to engage a consultant and/or get advice from experienced contacts such as ABC solicitors and/or get some pro bono help?

##### **Re: Honi Soit Writing comp**

This is underway and we open entries on May 11. The following expenses are what we allocate each year to the competition and some expenses\* are only relevant if a physical event can go ahead this year. It's probably best we approve all of it with the understanding that it depends on the event running.

<b>SRC contribution (\$650 max)</b>	
Sponsored Posts x2	\$70
Judge Stipends	2 x \$100
Photographer stipend*	\$100
Judge and Donor gifts (3 x \$20 wines)*	\$60
Decor/other incidentals*	\$120
Additional 4 pages in Honi	\$287

##### **RE: Video Studio Set-up**

The SRC has a few basic resources to set-up a small (at present portable) video studio for students to use and the equipment can be borrowed. However, It would be more useful if we could have a small permanent studio space with our camera, microphone, lights and green screen etc set-up. All of which we have. It could then be used easily by Honi and activists. I'm wondering if we could find a space for this in Wentworth? Something I could look into over the mid-sem Winter Break?

I've also collected some info on widely used software such as OBS, Streamlabs OBS, Restreaming etc

*Swapnik Sanagavarapu left the meeting at 12:58pm*

Motion: that the report of the Publication Managers and up to \$850 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **14.2. Report of the Women's Officers**

### **EVENTS**

Since COVID-19 isolation measures began, we have moved all of WoCo's events completely online. WoCo meetings are conducted on Zoom. In May, WoCo is currently planning online events such as a WoCo x QUaC reading group, a feminist prison abolition discussion in Week 11, and a film screening collab that we are working on organising with FilmSoc.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Over the course of the last month, WoCo has raised over \$3000 to support Indigenous elders in the community. Online fundraising has been greatly effective, especially now when physical means of solidarity, organising and community are largely unavailable to us, and we will continue to pursue online means of fundraising.

### **WOMEN'S HONI**

Women's Honi, an autonomous edition that is organised every year by WoCo, was published in Week 8! It included topics such as white fragility, decolonising beauty, queer ecofeminism, COVID-19 and domestic violence, the Kafala system in the Middle-East, and more. Naturally, this could not have been accomplished without the help of our editorial collective who we are extremely grateful for. Their dedication and passion were integral to the publication of Women's Honi. You can find Women's Honi online on Issuu.

### **SUPPORTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS**

We have recently been looking into supporting domestic violence survivors and women's shelters during this time of crisis. Social distancing measures are seeing rates of domestic violence spike, and now is a particularly crucial time for us to engage with supporting survivors in any way that we can. We have reached out to the Redfern Foundation, offering support with online fundraisers, mutual aid, creating informational resources etc. They have directed us towards Mudgin Gal, an Aboriginal organisation based in inner-city Sydney who are run by Aboriginal women for Aboriginal women. We look forward to working with them further.

Motion: that the report of the Women's Officers be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Charlotte Bullock

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **15. Other Business**

### **15.1 Staff Leave**

Sharon Maher:	Specical, 24/04/20, 1 day, 7 hours TIL, 29/04/20, 1 day, 7 hours
Laura Kitsos:	Annual, 27/04/20 -28/04/20, 2 days, 14 hours
Breda Dee:	Annual, 20/04/20 – 27/04/20, 5 days, 35 hours

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Charlotte Bullock

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **15.2 Motions approved by circular since last meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

I hereby submit a report to executive regarding the provision for doubtful debts and the proposed write-offs of bad debt of the B & A Fund for the financial year ended 30/11/2019. If approved, these journal entries will be recorded in the accounts of the 92nd Council.

I am requesting the executive to approve the write off of \$600 for bad debts, which is made up of 12 emergency loans and authorise a provision of \$400 which represents 8 emergency loans. All the before-mentioned loans were made in 2016 and 2017 have been categorised as delinquent due to the borrower's refusal to honour their loan contracts.

*The meeting was declared closed at 1:10pm*