



src

activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES

of the 3rd regular meeting of the 97th SRC held on **Wednesday the 2nd of April 2025**. Meeting held in the ABS Case Study Lecture Theatre 1060.

*There was a quorum count at 6:25pm
The meeting was found quorate.*

A. Meeting open at 6:27pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Bohao Zhang 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

Ethan Cao to Bob (Yuanbo) Song
Gerard Buttigieg to Lucy Sullivan
Madeline Clark to Lauren Finlayson
Harrison Brennan to Luke Mesterovic
Jingrong (Christine) Peng to Qingyang Shen
Red Tilly to Cassidy Newman
Alisa Rao to Noah Rancan
Clare Liu to Rose Donnelly
Shiying Xiong to Jasper Sharpe
Alexander Buchanan to Cameron Scott
Kaylie Su
Will K to Joshua Oldham

Motion to accept the apologies
Moved: Angus Fisher
Seconded: Bohao Zhang
The apologies were accepted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Ivan Samsonov to Celina Di Veroli
Connor O'Neil TBD
Rand Khatib to Aron Khuc
Sidra Ghanawi to Vince Tafea

Norn Xiong as DSP

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.
Moved: Angus Fisher
Seconded: Grace Street
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of 97th SRC Council held on Wednesday the 5th of March 2025 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 5th of March 2025 be accepted.
Moved: Jasmine Donnelly
Seconded: Lucy Sullivan
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.

Lauren Finlayson: you mentioned you are focusing on the put the liberals last campaign, which is basically just a vote Labor campaign, when you consider everything, Labor has been doing the last

Angus Fisher: It is not a Labor campaign it is a put the liberals last campaign not who to put first you can put whoever you want first. It important to criticise what Labor has been doing, but we know that the Dutton liberal government will destroy the environment, and it will ruin what Labor has been trying to do.

Shovan Bhattacharai, you say that a Dutton and liberal government would be an existential threat to Australia, and I think that Labor is one right now, they are an existential threat to Australians living in the Waterloo public housing which Labor is tearing down, they are a threat to the lives of Palestinians who are suffering a genocide. There is a Labor government right now, and the last 4 years of that government have been a shit show for people, how do you justify every four years running the campaign and liberals did loose at the last election and nothing has improved.

Angus Fisher: I disagree that people are worse off, on people on average are better off. There are several unions and other groups that are working on this, the liberals are really bad for students, and workers and everyone else, if you don't think that the median students are I disagree that it's a soft Labor campaigning strategy, but we don't talk about Labor when we talk about this at all

Deaglan Godwin – the political logic of this campaign was just what you said, and that is to get people to put the libs last you have to endorse and people's lives have gone backwards, only a small group the ultra-rich in Australia are doing very well. All that Labor is doing saying we will give you 20% off your HECS when the wealth accumulation in the last few years if taxed could wipe HECS debt. When you say don't vote for the liberals – who are they thinking about voting Labor. And you were campaigning on the weekend for Labor in Gilmore.

Angus Fisher: what did the t-shirts say, while I was doing things in my own time and not with any relationship to my work in the SRC, in the most marginal seat in the country that

Jessica Heap asked about the 5-day extensions are staying for now, but do we have a bargaining chip to ensure they are saved.

Angus Fisher: Special considerations were saved which was to do with the new stream of assessment styles and have been working with SRC caseworkers, and we went to every dean and every meeting, to push why 5 day simple extensions

Leo Moore: Can we do the BBQ's at other times I've got a clash

Angus Fisher: this week we had it on Tuesday keep an eye out on the SRC socials to

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of Two First Nations' Officers

Nominee: Ethan Floyd

Nominator one: Andy Park

Nominator two: Katarina Butler

Thus, Ethan Floyd Elected declared elected unopposed as a First Nations Officer for the 97th SRC.

K2. Election of Two Mature-Age Students' Officers

N/A

K3. Election of 1 Director of Student Publications

Nominee: Sunny Shen

Nominator one: Bohao Zhang

Nominator two: Grace Street

Thus, Sunny Shen was declared elected unopposed as a Director of Student Publications for the 97th SRC.

Procedural motion to follow standing orders for L, M and N, then move to all reports other on notice en bloc.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Lucy Sullivan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from March 2025.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from March 2025 be accepted.

Moved: Angus Fisher

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L2. President's Report

Angus Fisher tabled a written report:

It has been a huge month since the last council. This is only some of what I have been up to:

Advocacy

Over the past month, a significant focus has been on the university's overhaul of assessment policies, including simple extensions and special considerations. I've attended numerous committee meetings and consultations alongside SUPRA and the SRC caseworkers to ensure five-day simple extensions remain in place. For now, they are safe. I also submitted feedback on five controversial draft university policies that pose serious threats to academic and political freedoms and recently lodged a second round of feedback. It's worth noting that earlier student feedback led to softening the Campus Access Policy (albeit modestly) last year, which highlights the necessity of this type of work.

Simultaneously, I've been working with the EAG and SFP on the SRC's submission to the People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech on Palestine, collecting student contributions and documenting instances of censorship and repression on campus. My second round of feedback on the university's draft policies emphasised the need to protect student freedom of speech and guard against unfair misconduct proceedings.

We condemned the outrageous **fake** removal of the UoN SRC President, Matt Jeffery, by the CEO of UNSA, a non-student bureaucrat, because he was "failing classes." This is an attack on the independence of student unions and the democratic mandate of elected representatives. It underscores how precarious our positions can be and why solidarity and unity are crucial. I have been in direct contact with him and have offered the SRC's support in his situation.

The other week, I attended SUPRA's international student conference, chaired by former SUPRA President and current post-graduate senate representative Weihong Liang. It was a great opportunity to discuss the revival of national international student representation in Australia. It was also great to catch up with other campus presidents to see what is happening nationally.

Demonstrations

This month, I've spoken at multiple rallies. At the Students Against War forum and the National Day of Action for Palestine, I addressed the deterioration of academic freedom and the importance of defending our right to political expression and the role of student unionism in that. I also attended the CARR rally against the rise of the far right and their attack on LGBTQIA+ people, where I reflected on the USA's influence over Australian universities' research, and that we risk our own Trump with Dutton.

Federal Election: Don't Risk Dutton and Put Liberals Last Campaign

With the federal election now called for May 3rd, we are escalating our Don't Risk Dutton and Put the Liberals Last campaign. A Dutton-led Liberal government poses an existential threat to higher education and student unionism, and we can't afford to be complacent. The SRC is running fortnightly stalls, engaging students via social media, and building awareness around the impact of federal policy on HECS debt, university funding, and student support services. I plan to hold a specific election event soon, so there is more to come.

SRC Outreach

Our fortnightly outreach stalls and BBQs on Eastern Avenue have been a hit. Across three weeks now, we have handed out hundreds of sausage sandwiches, tote bags, and other freebies while talking with students about what the SRC does and how they can get involved. We have also been ramping up our election discussions, and it's apparent that the majority of students do not want

Dutton to lead the nation. These are core union activities, and it's been fantastic to see the SRC take part in essential organising. We also launched a logo redesign competition with a \$1000 prize to give the SRC a fresh new look. Submissions are open and close end of the week; please submit things.

Executive responsibilities

We're in discussions (thank you Chitra and Laura for doing these) with the university to secure a new office space that better supports our reps and caseworkers while improving visibility and access for students. Updates to come as this progresses but we are looking to move to at least a temporary space this year.

Alongside the general secretaries and Chitra, the admin manager, we completed the 2024 SSAF acquittal. It was a huge task, and our section alone ended up being over 10,000 words. This is a necessary process to ensure our SSAF budget is being well spent so we can continue to get funding. If OBs this year could keep track of events held and people attended, that would save hours on the 2025 document. The official audit of the SRC was also completed without any issues.

In solidarity,
Angus

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Anu-Ujin Khulan

Seconded: Lucy Sullivan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Bohao Zhang and Shovan Bhattarai tabled a written report:

A lot has happened since last Council! Working with the International Students Collective, we have been able to output a series of amazing events

This has included a board games night, a movie screening, a welcome party, and some stalling here and there. We've managed to reach a turnout of at least 50 students at all these events, with some reaching as high as 100. It's been great to see so many new faces and raise the awareness of the SRC and the services we provide.

Alongside my work with the Collective, I have been attending Executive meetings on a regular basis. I have also coordinated or joined meetings with the Student Consultative Committee, the International Student Advisory Group, and the Sydney University International House Alumni Association. At these meetings, I have been speaking up about both the activist work of the SRC and how the international student experience can be drastically improved through small changes and concessions that the corporate university can more than afford. These include better accommodation options, such as reopening International House, better food options, such as Food Hub, and better tuition payment systems.

There's still a lot of work to be done, and I look forward to how this year is panning out!

Bohao

Discussion:

Bohao Zhang said to take the report as read.

Shovan Bhattarai gave a verbal report

- earlier we heard angus mention that students should be going out and telling people not to vote for Dutton, and implicitly accept Labor, who is doing nothing for them.

We should be offering students a positive vision for a better world. Angus spoke about knocking on the door and telling people to vote for Labor, how can you look at someone in the eye if they are a nurse or a teacher or any one of the number of people that Labor has left behind and let fall backwards. The Labor campaign is about lowering people horizons and so they accept that just not Dutton is fine, we should be raising people's horizons, I spent the weekend at a rally in the rain fighting for the people of Palestine and galvanizing people. We need to see people looking for a serious and positive alternative, we are hurtling towards a rise in fascism and a climate disaster, which the Labor party is contributing to, and we need to fight for a better world, that is the task Salt have been working on for years. You've said you've reach out to 500 people get involved over 3 BBQs and we have over 700 at one event for the SGM.

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

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anu-Ujin Khulan and Grace Street tabled a written report:

Acquittal

We have been working closely with Angus on the acquittal process, completing the required documentation for each department and collective involved in contestable projects for the 2024 year. This is a tedious but necessary task to make sure we are meeting our obligations and that we can receive more SSAF funding from the university in years to come. The audit was successful, with no issues identified.

However, due to the lack of clear reporting from 2024 office bearers, we had to rely on Honi Soit reports and meeting minutes to reconstruct past activities. To avoid this in future years, we propose that all office bearers submit a brief end-of-semester report outlining the events they have organised, including specific dates and estimated student participation numbers.

Budgets

We are working through collating information and delivering it to Office Bearers as part of our promised monthly budget check-ins. We will use this information to give OBs ideas about where and how to access the contestable pools of funding we have available (e.g. the technology budget, student and special weeks budget). We ask that in return, OBs provide information about their events/meetings and how many people attended.

In addition to the acquittal work, we've also been reflecting on how to help future OBs and collectives' better access contestable budgets, such as OB Projects and SRC Week funding. We're aiming to establish clearer guidelines and data collection systems to support this moving forward.

Collectives and campaigns

Anu has been working on recruiting more students to ISC and most of their new events. The first event of the ISC was successful with around 200 students attending. On top of that, we have continued working on outreach and recruitment for the ISC, helping to expand its presence and event planning capacity for 2025.

For Grace's involvement with the collectives, most recently was creating content for the EAG's 'Stop the Cuts' campaign and the cross-collective events for Israeli Apartheid Week that took place from 21-30 March. Coming up this weekend is the layup for the Disabilities Collective's autonomous edition of Honi Soit.

The federal election has just been called for May 3! We and the SRC will be working on getting out informative materials about enrolling to vote, the policies of each party, and which ones are best for students. Under SSAF legislation, we cannot endorse any political parties but we sure can evaluate them and dis-endorse any particularly bad ones - see the National Union of Students' campaign to "put Dutton last." We aim to inform students about their duty to vote and to give them information about the policies of different parties, while also emphasising that advocacy and change doesn't start or end at the ballot box. This hopefully will include information about the issues that matter to students and our community, including the cost-of-living and housing crises, First Nations justice, the ongoing complicity of our government in the genocide of Palestinians, the climate crisis and environmental degradation, and more.

Discussion:

Anu spoke to the report and covered some of its main points. Asked that OBs submit a brief monthly report with the events, dates, and attendance numbers.

Grace – We're waiting on the March numbers we've got some more money we can roll over from last year and will update you when we have those numbers.

Anu spoke about the International student collective events

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

Moved: Bohao Zhang

Seconded: Jessica Heap

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 31st of March 2025 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the Standing Legal Committee meeting be accepted.

Motion: Angus Fisher

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Luke Mešterović and Jasmine Al-Rawi tabled a written report

The education officers have been busy in the past month, campaigning around many pressing issues.

Palestine:

There has been a shocking sweep of arrests and threatened deportations in the US over Palestine activism. This is a massive attack on free speech, democracy and an implicit targeting of thought-crime. Mahmoud Khalil was the first high profile arrest, as a Palestinian student organiser of Columbia university. But we have seen hundreds of arrests follow, with students being snatched off the street. Jasmine spoke at a Students for Palestine protest in support of Mahmoud Khalil earlier this month.

There have also been many other actions for Palestine including the Palestine action group weekend demonstrations, including one commemorating land day. We also attended the snap action called in response to Israel's horrific breach of the ceasefire, in which they have killed over a thousand of Palestinians in Gaza in the past 2 weeks, including hundreds of children. Israel's relentless bombing did not even rest for Eid.

Importantly, in response to the repression of Palestine activism and advocacy, the EAG hosted a working bee to write submissions to the people's inquiry into campus free speech on Palestine. The submissions deadline has been extended to April 15.

Ed cuts:

Jasmine and Luke have continued to work on the Stop the Cuts campaign run by the EAG. We hosted a working bee and filmed a new reel to call out the university's \$300 million surplus from last year. Be sure to keep following the campaign on our socials.

Trans rights:

Finally, we have also been involved in some recent protests for trans rights, including the trans day of visibility rally and the protest against Trump and attacks on LGBT+ rights in the US and Australia, such as the banning of puberty blockers for trans youths in Queensland.

Jasmine and Luke

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Martha Barlow and Ellie Robertson tabled a written /gave a verbal report

Over December and January, we were hard at work putting Growing Strong, our annual magazine together. We are incredibly proud of the magazine - huge thank you to all of our editors and contributors! We will be hosting a launch picnic for this on Friday 28th February at midday - snacks and copies of the magazine provided. We also attended the Invasion Day rally last week and helped host the cool-down station, handing out water, juice, sunscreen and snacks to attendees. We were honoured to continue this project which was spearheaded by the SRC last year, and we hope to continue being able to materially support Invasion Day in this way every year.

Last week we held our first meeting of the year, which many new members attended. We are really keen to grow the collective this year and thrilled to see so much interest.

Next week we are co-hosting our first FALL reading group with ACAR, and we encourage people to come along. We hope to make this a regular occurrence. In week one of semester, we will be hosting a forum in Sydney Town Hall on the topic of sexual violence and abolishing the colleges. We will have a range of speakers from politicians, activists and students, and be reading some testimonies from college students.

We deeply, deeply condemn the new repression tactics being employed by the university and will continue to fight these. We are incredibly frustrated that much of what we plan on doing this year will be focused on fighting these rules but nevertheless plan to keep up the pressure!

As always, we stand with Palestine. We are glad there is finally a ceasefire, but acknowledge this is only the first step towards a long process of rebuilding and liberation, and that our fight does not stop here. We condemn the escalating violence in the West Bank, and the dangerous calls from Trump to ethnically cleanse Gaza even further. Fuck Trump, and free Palestine.

Always was, always will be.

In love and rage,
Martha and Ellie

O3. Report of the Disabilities Officers

Event Recap: Disabilities and Carers Welcome Night On Friday, 14 March, in collaboration with the USU, we hosted a Disabilities and Carers welcome night. It was heartwarming to see so many new faces. We encourage everyone to stay tuned for more social events in the future!

Dis.Co Organising Meetings A reminder that Dis.Co organising meetings are held every odd week (Weeks 1, 3, 5, etc.). We invite all disabled students and carers to join us—snacks will be provided for those who are interested

Upcoming: Disabled Honi Edition Our team at Dis.Co has been diligently working on the Disabled Honi, our autonomous edition set to be released in Week 7. This edition is dedicated to our dear friend, comrade, and mentor, Khanh Tran. The launch party will take place on Tuesday, 8 April, from 6 PM to 9 PM at Hermann's Bar. We hope to see you there!

University Services Exploration We have been investigating the various services offered by the university, particularly those related to psychometrics and bursary conditions. These services are crucial as they often help fund access to services and diagnoses for individuals with disabilities.

Masking on Campus Campaign Dis.Co continues to develop resources and forms for our masking on campus campaign. It is essential that we protect our community, especially those who are immunocompromised, in all our actions, events, and organizing efforts.

IRC Court Process Psychiatrist Crisis Update We have been closely following the IRC court process between ASMOF and the NSW Labor Government. The callousness and gall of the ministers is, unfortunately, to be expected but remains deeply disappointing. The process has been adjourned to 4 April, leaving patients and workers in limbo under the dangerous conditions maintained by the Minns government.

O4. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers

We have been busy this month organising Israeli Apartheid Week from March 21-30th. This included a film screening of the 2002 documentary, Jenin, Jenin with an attendance of 20 people alongside a community iftar. We also had an unauthorised stalls day where we talked to students about Palestine, the CAP, and ACAR. On Wednesday 26th, we were proud to have a contingent at and support Students Against War's National Day of Action for Palestine, in what was undoubtedly the biggest rally we've had all year on campus for Palestine. We also organised an ACAR contingent to the Palestine Action Group rally on the 29th of March. Weekly rallies for Palestine are back on — it is imperative that we all continue to show up and escalate the struggle for a free Palestine, a permanent ceasefire, and an arms embargo on Israel now.

Last week, Hossam Shabat was murdered by an Israeli airstrike, becoming one of 208 Palestinian journalists murdered by the occupation. This censorship has grown against activists as well: in a terrifying escalation of fascism, students across Turtle Island are being kidnapped and disappeared for their pro-Palestine activism, including Mahmoud Khalil and Rumeysa Ozturk. With very similar threats being leveraged against students through the CAP, we must fight to end the repression of students - we will not be silenced. We are currently preparing a submission for the People's Inquiry into Campus Free Speech.

Do not stop fighting for Palestine.

O5. Report of the Environment Officers

March has been a busy month, as semester 1 seriously gets under way and with it, various important activist initiatives that the Enviro officers have been a part of. These include attending and helping to build the two latest Palestine Action Group rallies, the Community Action For Rainbow Rights protest against Trump and transphobia, and the Day of the Unborn Child.

This last month has seen a massive crackdown on protest rights across the world, in particular in America. Over 3100 students have been arrested or detained, according to a report by Jewish group Jewish Voice for Peace. Mahmoud Khalil's abduction and transportation to an unknown location has sparked outrage and fierce opposition, as have the litany of other arrests of students, including Rumeysa Ozturk and Yunseo Chung. These arrests are a deeply concerning sign of an increasing authoritarianism in America. As students here in Australia, we stand resolutely against those arrests.

Another attack on the right to protest, which went a bit under the radar, was a court ruling in North Dakota that demanded \$600 million in damages from Greenpeace for organising protests of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. The amount will likely bankrupt the organisation and is a clear threat to other activist groups that the law may be used in a variety of ways to shut them down. It is easy to draw parallels with the anti-protest laws here in NSW that involve large prison sentences and/or fines for any disruption of critical infrastructure.

We urge everyone to come out this Sunday for the Palestine rally at Hyde Park, to make our opposition heard about Israel's breaking of the ceasefire in Gaza (and Lebanon!).

Motion: that the reports of Agenda Item O be accepted en bloc

Moved: Angus Fisher

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to have a report from the floor

Moved: Mia Williams

Seconded: Annabel Pettit

Report of the Welfare Officers:

Mia Williams and Annabel Pettit gave a verbal report

Mia Williams:

- Wasn't at first council, wasn't able to talk about the success at welcome week, we got three hundred signatures
- We are also creating a chart of events so get involved

Annabell Pettit:

- Working on getting the word out for the people inquiry into free speech has been extended
- o We are seeing the increase of control and censorship of people who have campaigned for Palestine and attacks on those in the USA and here NSW Labor has not revoked any of its anti-protest laws

- We've seen journalists murdered in broad daylight, such as (get name)
- Continuing to fight back against constraints on the right of protest, and continue pressure to stop letting

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

Moved: Shovan Bhattacharai

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Oppose Donald Trump and the normalisation of the far right: Penny Wong apologise!

Preamble:

The inauguration of Donald Trump represents a dramatic threat for millions of workers, the oppressed and the poor; in America and across the world. Trump began his presidency flanked by some of the world's richest people welcoming his ascendancy, as well as other far-right world leaders like Argentinian far-right President Javier Milei, Italy's Georgia Meloni, and officials from other far-right parties like the Alternative for Deutschland in Germany. With this audience, Elon Musk made his Nazi salute gesture twice, to rapturous applause.

Since entering into office, Trump has pushed forwards with his far-right pro-corporate agenda. He has slated massive attacks on working class people including those carried out by his Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency including mass sackings, attacks on federal funding to social safety net programs, tax cuts for the rich, and economic austerity measures for the poor. He has ramped up punitive measures aimed at deporting undocumented migrants, carried through major attacks on Trans people, overturned environmental legislation, and approved new climate-destroying projects.

The threat of the growth of the far right is a global one. Here in Australia, Opposition Minister Peter Dutton has already been eager to position around the same Trumpian issues, last week also signalling the prospect of mass public sector layoffs under a Liberal government, while in Queensland the Crisafulli Liberal Government has introduced new legislation to ban under-18s from accessing puberty blockers.

While we fight to oppose the growth of the Trumpian far right, we must also commit to opposing the politics of establishment political parties and figures who have contributed to the

normalisation of their politics. At Trump's inauguration, sat side by side with the billionaires and far right world leaders was Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who called it an "honour" to attend the event and has continued to sing the praises of the US-Australia Alliance. Labor ministers has refused to come out in opposition to the Trump administration, and Labor have refused to condemn Queensland's Liberals' attacks on trans healthcare and have instead posed crafting new national guidelines which could see Queensland's decisions carried out federally.

Platform:

That the USyd SRC:

Condemns the inauguration of Donald Trump: we condemn his normalisation of far-right politics, Elon Musk's Nazi salute, and the coterie of billionaires and far right leaders gathered to welcome his ascendancy.

Condemns Foreign Minister Penny Wong for her attendance at Trump's inauguration and demands she formally apologise, condemn Musk's Nazi salute, and the direction of the Trump administration.

Calls on the Australian government to break the US Alliance and cut ties with Trump's America.

Action points:

- The USyd SRC will post this motion onto its social media.
- The USyd SRC endorses the Protect Trans Youth National Day of Action on Saturday 8th February.

Discussion:

Shovan waived speaking rights to Jasmine Al-Rawi

Jasmine AR spoke to the motion, saying that while it is from last meeting, but is still important and noted that Penny Wong, gave trump and standing ovation at

Albo – has invited trump here, and when trump advocated ethnic cleansing, Albo said he didn't need to comment on US politics. The Trump government has now also put people in a El Salvadorian prison without trial for the crim of having a tattoo. Ablo says nothing, and Labor doesn't call them out, they are complicit, and they only say that it is all so great and they can't wait

Procedural motion from the chair for a 2 min speaking limit

M: Angus

S: Jasmine Donnelly

FAILED.

Taleen Jameel spoke to the motion saying that we see two Labor parties every few years, one that says they are against what trump is doing an another that says they have a great working relationship and give his inauguration standing ovation. We are also seeing that whenever the Labor party is under pressure from the right they bow down. They find additional millions for military, but that money does not come from the Rich it's coming out of Medicare, education and environmental policies. We can't read Penny Wong's mind be we can read her words and from what she's said and done how can we trust she will stand up to them.

Deaglan Godwin I too would like a response from Labor, about this. especially as she went to the inauguration and stood there clapping when he gave far right fascistic comments. Albo only stands up to trump when it comes to tariffs and hurting the bottom line of Australian companies, but there is no strong words when Trump attacks Americans or calls for an ethnic cleansing of Gaza. When it come to the lives of Palestinians or the lives of migrants and minorities in America, Albo bows down, he invite Trump here so he can kneel down and kiss the ring. I want to know what Labor has to say on this.

Luke Mešterović spoke to the motion saying that in Australia we don't have the extreme of the US or other countries, and yet we don't react at how fascist our government must be to kiss the ring. Not even joe Biden was as open about his plans for ethnic cleansing. Albo does have a backbone, but not to fight for the people but to fight for business, himself and the Labor party. The Labor party is rotten to the core, head office is the bane of every branchy and the only

Cassidy Newman said NLS agrees with this motion, and it is shameful that Penny Wong went to the inauguration. This is the evidence that member of the left get in parliament they get hamstrung by the right...

Eva Sutherland spoke to the motion and said it was telling that none of the main LL people came up to justify the actions of their

Albo was one of the first world leaders to congratulate Trump before the resulted were fully in. And also, Penny Wong's actions. They don't have a bone of integrity in their body. The ALP just backs genocide and imperialism, and will never speak out about war crimes, The ALP hasn't done one progressive thing in their term, you can't talk about how they are doing anything they are doing.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Taleen Jameel

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion that motions Q2, Q4, and Q5, not be put.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Angus Fisher

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q3. Committing to fighting for fairer assessments

Preamble:

University student mental health is a serious issue in Australia. Surveys have shown around two thirds of young adults in Australia screen for high or very high psychological distress, and for many this can develop into serious mental health issues.

While the University does offer support services for students experiencing these problems and does offer options like simple extensions for students experiencing issues, many units continue to have assignment schedules that are not conducive to student mental health, in ways which offer little to no benefit to student educational outcomes.

Many unit coordinators force students to take both examinations worth as much as 60%, and assignments in the final week of semester. This type of schedule means that many students are not able to properly begin preparation for examinations until STUVAC, forcing students to cram large amounts of study into what is often as little as a week. While these assignments are fair in subjects without exams, having them in subjects with exams creates undue stress with little benefit.

Furthermore, in recent years many units have begun requiring students to take exams during the semester on weekends, which forces students to make significant sacrifices to their student life and is unnecessary as many units schedule their exams on weekdays without issue.

Platform:

The SRC recognises that:

1. Student mental health is a serious issue in Australia.
2. Practices like highly weighted exams, week 13 assignments and weekend exams during the semester cause undue stress on students.
3. These practices offer little academic benefit and should be prevented by the University outside of exceptional circumstances.
4. the SRC recognises that financial stress from the extortionate cost of university education and the exploitation of students by the corporate university is a major cause of the student mental health crisis and calls for free education now

Action:

SRC councillors and Office Bearers who are present on University boards will push for the following reforms to assessment scheduling:

1. Examinations should be prohibited from having weighting over 50%.
2. Assignments should not be able to be offered in week 13 in subjects which also have exams after the semester.
3. Examinations should not be run during the semester on weekends.

Discussion:

Philip Howard- this motion is a no-brainer, we all know how important simple extension and examination space, these are about making thing fairer and easier

Leo Moore– thank you to Phil for the motion. I’m disappointed the next motion has been cut. I do think this is an important issue I know people who have failed because of a bad exam at the end of semester.

Lilah Thurbon:

Amendment:

- Platform add platform 4:

the SRC recognises that financial stress from the extortionate cost of university education and the exploitation of students by the corporate university is a major cause of the student mental health crisis and calls for free education now

not amenable

The amendment was put to the council

Moved: Lilah Thurbon

Seconded: Grace Street

The amendment was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion was updated in Red with the addition

Debate resumed on the motion as it now stands.

Jasper Sharpe spoke to the motion and noted there was a clear divide with Exams being set, and organisers and teachers not understanding the stress on students, and there needs to be more avenues for students to succeed in their degrees which current policies are not doing.

Annabell Pettit: this motion is a bit of a non-starter, there are always motions like this, and they just distract from the main issues. The mental stress on students is not the weight of the assignment, it’s that students are living below the poverty line. Aus Study is less than the minimum wage. Ther bigger contributor to mental stress is the lifetime of debt, which Labor could wipe away twice over with just what they spent on AUKUS. We should be looking at the cost-of-living crisis, and Labor has done nothing to alleviate the key source of stressors for young people, Aus Study is still below the poverty rate. The amendment makes this motion better, but the weighting of the exams are also working conditions, trying to pay people less and hire less people.

Luke Mešterović spoke to the motion, saying unity have touched on a very big issue, and This is for Leo – this motion is like a bureaucrat in???? China. Dr Sun Yat Seng (I’m going to need to look up spelling for this). TO come out saying you are against the student mental health crisis, you created it, and you can fix it. It’s more than the weight of the assignment,

this thinks small, think big again.

Vice T saying that it interesting you can recognise that there is a mental health crisis but not notice that your party is responsible for it in NSW. There will be another motion on this later.

Laura A – while I agree with what people have said that the mental health crisis is a very serious issue, it's no wonder people have people health issues, when getting groceries is a struggle, when student accommodation is \$700 and you see children and people being bombed in Gaza, and it's your government that is overseeing and facilitating this. If you want to open the conversation about improving people's wellbeing, then let's look at making housing affordable, and education free. Students are struggling to feed themselves. Ordinary people rely on assistance and there is none.

Remy I spoke saying that only looking at the simple extension and not the cause of the mental distress is a band aid strategy. People are struggling to get mental health assessments; do you stand with thought fighting in community or stand with the head of your party.

Moved: Philip Howard

Seconded: Leo Moore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to move to R6. Motion from the floor then to Q8.

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Grace Street

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R6. Solidarity with the ASMOF NSW and their upcoming industrial action

Preamble

For the first time in NSW history, senior and junior doctors are taking industrial action together. Organised by the doctors' union (The Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation; ASMOF), it is planned for Tuesday April 8, 2025, to Thursday April 10, 2025.

We should condemn the Labor party's actions. Attempting to stifle union democracy is against everything we should stand for as unionists, and beyond this, has disastrous material effects within our communities. People are waiting and dying for the mental and psychometric care, whilst psychiatrists desperately fight for the conditions necessary to meet these urgent demands. Meanwhile the Labor government is sitting on its hands and crying poor, whilst having just given police officers, who massively contribute to mental health issues, their biggest pay rise ever. It is not good enough to do nothing, and claim the liberals wouldn't do better. A party that claims to work for workers should demonstrate it. In order to show solidarity with the community, you must stand with the community.

To this end, our SRC must lead the way, and demand this solidarity. We must show our own solidarity, and put our actions to our words.

Platform

1. The USYD SRC reiterates our support for the ASMOF and are in solidarity with their upcoming industrial action taking place from April 8, 2025, to April 10, 2025.
2. The USD SRC condemns NSW Labor for deferring the IRC court proceedings with the ASMOF, leaving patients and doctors in a failing public health system
3. The USYD SRC reaffirms our previous condemnation of the Minns Government, NSW Minister for Health Ryan Park, and NSW Minister for Mental Health Rose Jackson's, and strongly condemns all attempts to stifle union action.
4. The USYD SRC affirms that the stifling of industrial action by NSW Labor directly threatens the lives and safety of people in our communities.

Actions

1. The USYD SRC Disabilities Officers will create a Facebook messenger group to organise a contingent for the rallies during the upcoming strike.
2. The USYD SRC President, Vice Presidents, Welfare Officers, and Disabilities Officers will attend a banner paint and organising meeting for this rally.
3. The USYD SRC President will write an open letter (to be published on Instagram) for the relevant ministers (Rose Jackson and Ryan Park) urging them to cede to the demands of the ASMOF before the strike.
4. The USYD SRC President will read the actions of the 2025 March Council motion "*Solidarity with NSW public sector psychiatrists*" (or alternatively, '25 SRC Disabilities Officer Vince Tafea's Facebook messenger messages dating from March 6 - March 13 that had zero response) and implement the actions that is required of him.
5. The USYD SRC President will explain, immediately and verbally why they have not followed up on the previous actions of this council relating to this motion, as a paid executive of this council.

Discussion:

Vince Tafea spoke to the motion and told a story of the conditions dr are working under. Vince spoke about how those who need the help most can't get it, and shamefully the government hasn't taken actions to address this, and we know that they need to do meet union demands and fund healthcare. What the point of a Medicare card of there are no drs to see you.

Remy Lebreton said that this isn't good enough, people are dying waiting for proper care in our health and mental health system. The President has done nothing on the last motion, Do you care enough about the people dying to tell Rose Jackson that these people are dying and more needs to be done. Do you stand with your party or the people you claim to?

Mia Williams: I want to commend this motion, I own my life to mental health supports, psychologists and mental health nurse. We need to do so much more. I look forward to

Philip – spoke to the motion from a regional perspective and spoke about the dire lack of health workers in regional areas. The state government should meet the unions’ demands.

Jesica H – spoke to the motion saying that NLS is in support of this motion and stand in solidarity with, noting that the last two action points are a little petty.

Tobias Hansson spoke to the motion and said it was pretty clear the current state of the NSW mental health system is pretty catastrophic, and Labor is the reason for it. Nurses are having to be assaulted before they can get people admitted. Labor loves to cry poor when it comes to giving people a pay rise, but they gave the cops a \$40% pay rise, no issue. They talk about protecting workers’ rights particularly in comparison to Dutton, but you’ve been doing nothing for workers, and I don’t know how you can say you stand for workers then campaign for the ALP. I support the strike action.

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Remy asked for action 5 to be addressed now.

Angus Fisher: I’ve been really busy; We’ve been working on a workshop with industry professionals and student to create policies

I recommend sending me an email or knocking on the door when I’m not in a meeting so I can engage with the conversation

Q8. Appointment of New Honi Editor

Per the vacancy in Honi Soit’s editorship, the SRC will appoint Victor Zhang as an official editor for Honi Soit 2025, with stipend backdated to the 19th of March 2025 to account for work before formal appointment.

Signed by Purny Ahmed, Emilie Garcia-Dolnik, Mehnaaz Hossain, Annabel Li, Ellie Robertson, Imogen Sabey, Will Winter, Lotte Weber, Charlotte Saker

Vincent spoke to his nomination. It’s strange feeling to be in the press corner of the room, The reason I started to write for Honi was because of Khanh Tran, this coming week is Disabled Honi, and this one is for you Khanh.

Moved: Mehnaaz Hossain

Seconded: Emilie Garcia-Dolnik

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q6. Motion to Change ‘SASH’ Officer Bearer Title to ‘Sexual Violence Officer’

During September Council 2024, the SRC voted on the following policy platform:

The SRC commits to changing the name of the Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment officer roles to Sexual Violence Officers. This name more accurately reflects the seriousness and ongoing effect of sexual violence.

(Motion Q4, Action 4)

Reflecting this, we hereby formally propose to effect this change by changing all references to the 'SASH Officer', 'Sexual Harassment Officer' or 'Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Officer' in the SRC regulations to say, 'Sexual Violence Officer.'

"SASH" is a convenient acronym that is shared with many other things unrelated to sexual violence and can be used to gloss over or diminish the reality of sexual violence. "Sexual violence" is a more accurate and all-encompassing term that covers all of the forms that sexual violence can take (beyond just assault and harassment) and does not allow people and institutions to as easily sidestep the issue with a euphemistic acronym. While a name change in the SRC will of course not fix the global crisis of sexual violence, it is one measure to hold our organisation to account and to normalise serious conversations about this topic.

The relevant clauses to be changed are:

Clause	Current wording	Changed wording
3(a)(xiii)	"(a) There are to be the following Departments of the Council ... (xiii) Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment"	(a) There are to be the following Departments of the Council ... (xiii) Sexual Violence"
3A(a)(xv)	"Two SASH Officer positions, each of which shall be held by a maximum of 2 persons as Co-Officers"	Two Sexual Violence Officer positions, each of which shall be held by a maximum of 2 persons as Co-Officers
4(g)	"Liaise with Sexual Harassment officer"	Liaise with Sexual Violence Officer

Discussion:

Martha Barlow spoke to the motion saying it's a bit of a procedural regs change as we already voted last year to change the name, as we didn't think that SASH was appropriate and didn't want the work to seem trivialised

Grace Street spoke to the motion noting that we went to making the regs change to highlight the importance of this change, and to properly talk about the violence that is happening the OBs and collective want this to be properly reflected.

Lucy Sullivan, I'm one of the to be named SVOs, we all agreed on this change, and we feel that this is a more all-encompassing tone and doesn't diminish what the work is about. While SASH is a

board acronym but if people were looking us up it would be hard to find, and this name recognises the importance of the area.

Moved: Martha Barlow

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q7. USU Incorporation Plan

Preamble:

Please see the separately attached appendixes and notice of motion.

Platform:

1. "The SRC supports the USU's plan to incorporate and the model associated with this plan."
2. "The SRC supports the changes proposed at the USU's upcoming SGM, being:
 - a. Alter the number of student directors elected at the USU Election in May from 6 to 4; and
 - b. Increase the number of voting third year directors on the Board of Directors from 0 to 2, in the form of an Immediate-Past President (voting) and Immediate-Past Vice President (voting)."

Discussion:

Bryson Constable spoke to the motion, I come here as a rep of the board as a whole, the board voted unanimously to have this SGM for these changes. The USU not being incorporated means we cannot enter into some contracts, and we have a greater liability. Incorporation has been sought after by presidents for many years now and would alleviate many of the issues we are having, Incorporation protects the USU and its members. The draw backs are very few, may the legal cost in getting advice for the process but that's been relatively minimal.

The USU would remain not-for-profit, it is about

The new model increased the number of students representation, and the exec in the new model will be vote don only by the student directors. This a very easy to make these changes, and we've had positive feedback for the proposal, with 84.4% of responders supporting the changes. We've asked and brought what the SGM will be, which included adding two positions to become 2

Thanks to the exec for going over this with me last week, and we've been trying to get this done for a while hope you will support up

Georgia Z: Spoke about the upcoming the SGM, there needs to be a restructure to the board in order for incorporation to occur, this is the best time to do it, and if we do it now then it won't impact the elections. It needs to change and better now than kicking someone who has just been elected off board there isn't another foreseeable way to do this.

Lilah: I have a few things to say to incorporation and spoke about how Bryson spoke about how the governance restructure is not required for incorporation. And while there are accountability

requirements, but there has not been clear on why the lowering of the numbers of students elected this year, and extending the terms of Ben and Bryson, when there are other options. These have not been transparent and the information they've put out has been misleading. The survey mentioned, the questions were phrased in such a way that it doesn't actually inform what they are responding too. It's not clear if the senate reps are keeping their voting right for the 25/26 exec.

All they have done it harmed the integrity of the board, and I think we should vote to oppose.

Ben Hines spoke to the motion and appreciated the questions raised in Lilah's response and hoped to answer those questions.

- In terms of incorporation and the governance restore are different is inherently true, but there is a reason we are putting them together. The way our org is structured right now, the uni has a veto on our incorporation so the uni has to approve this

This has been an ongoing priority for the USU, but the reason it's not been done, and the uni has blocked these changes in the past, the uni has demanded more external chairs – 3-4 and not guaranteed a student president/ chair in the past and that has not been acceptable to the board, and here we've been able to get close to what we want and keeping the president as a student director,

In terms of consultation and transparency we put out three rounds of consultation, we've had multiple member town halls.

Julia asked if Ben thinks changes to SSAF legislation was a factor the university being more amendable to the incorporation changes.

Deaglan Godwin – Salt position on this, is the USU is a corporate mess, and it is Labor and Grassroots who have been involved. Some past grassroots presidents and USU directors, have shamefully been praising this. We don't care about the USU or its governance structure, as those seeking to run for the USU are only doing it for their CVs and say they ran a multi-million-dollar organisation and pad their CV. This is infighting amongst bureaucrats, it's a liberal party power grab, that's what it is, it's a way to entrench themselves, and that's why we oppose these changes.

Bryson: I want to reassure those questioning that this is a power grab, it is an issue that people have and think this is a power grab I will resign and not sit as IPP and will not take part in Exec elections.

I take some of the points, The SADs are being taken out they won't participate in the elections after 30th of June.

You can have my commitment to not take part in next year's board, if this incorporation gets through.

Moved: Bryson Constable

Seconded: Georgia Zhang

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Meeting took a 15-minute break at 8:45pm

*There was a quorum count at 9:03
meeting was found inquorate*

Procedural motion to wait 15 for quorum
Moved: Shovan Bhattarai
Seconded: Grace Street
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*There was a request for a quorum count at 9:12 pm
Meeting was found Quorate
Meeting resumed at 9:13pm*

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes
Moved: Angus Fisher
Seconded: Jessica Heap
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R. General Business

R1. Solidarity with the largest Serbian anti-government protest!

Preamble:

On the 1st of November last year, an awning collapsed at the Novi Sad train station, killing 15 people. When inquiries were made about who was responsible for the awning's collapse, which had only recently been renovated, the government refused to release documentation pertaining to the contracts given for its building.

This tragedy triggered a mass mobilisation of students, fed up with poor working conditions, wages, corruption and lies from a government that has been in power for 13 years, “winning” 5 consecutive elections.

Since November, Serbian university students have been physically blockading their universities, refusing to attend classes and getting out on the streets to protest the corruption of the current government, headed by President Aleksandar Vucic, who has overstepped what is meant to be a mostly ceremonial role to control every aspect of politics in the country. They have made clear that their loyalties and affiliations are no singular party, but rather that they are independently organised students seeking accountability from the government for the injustices and disintegration of quality of life in the country.

The students have been steadfast in their demands from the very beginning. In order to end the protests, they are demanding 1) that the government release all documents relating to the Novi Sad bus station collapse, 2) that students who have been criminally prosecuted for protesting

have their charges dropped 3) that those who have been involved in violence against protestors be prosecuted and 4) that the university's budget is increased by 20%.

On the 15th of March, the students called the public to the streets of Belgrade, the capital for their "15 for 15" protest, honouring the 15 dead. The turnout was spine chilling. The government put the numbers at 107,000, however the public meeting archive estimated between 300-400,000 attendees and unofficial reports claim up to 800,000 people gathered throughout the streets of Belgrade that day. In a country with a population of about 6 million, this is nothing short of extraordinary. Especially considering the government shut down rail, bus and airport services in the days leading up to the protest to stop people from coming.

In the lead up to the protest, organisers were told to expect violence from the police and pro-government protestors. The protests managed to remain relatively peaceful, however during the 15 minutes of silence, a large soundwave poured through parts of the crowd causing panic and confusion. Witnesses described it as an electrical shockwave that pulsed through their bodies. It is largely suspected that the government was using a long-range acoustic device (LRAD), a type of sonic weapon, to create panic in the crowd in attempts to cause a potentially deadly stampede. The government has stood firm in denying that this device, which is banned in Serbia as well as most countries around the world, was used during the protest.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns the violence, attack on free speech, and crackdown on protest by the Serbian government
2. The USyd SRC supports the four demands of the student protestors as of 30th of March 2025, as above,

Action:

1. The USyd SRC council will take a solidarity photo and promote it on its social media platforms
2. The USyd SRC and its collectives will share the demands of protestors in Serbia, information about the current actions, and suggestions of news sources and other resources
3. The USyd SRC will continue to support Students in blockade in Serbia through advocacy, sharing information, and engaging relevant student and community groups

Discussion:

Dana. K – Not much to say but it is important to stand in solidarity with those standing against government corruption and oppression. And encourage everyone to get involved in this movement.

Luke Mešterović – Not many people know much about Serbia and the Serbian people, it's not much we learn about. We are seeing half a million people out on the streets, and it's only a population of 6 million. And student are doing so much, taking over unis and sunning their own

Seeing what is happening there is amazing, its super dark what is happening but I'm proud to be Serbian and a student when I see what the students are doing over there

Sofija Filipovic spoke to the motion saying she had been over there, and the action happening and was amazing to see the students here and proud to be Serbian, and while I was there we organised an blockade of the main street in the city and everyone was showing solidarity with the student and helping and everyone was helping out and supporting the action, and every day people are facing a government dismiss them and downplay the power of the actions and the students know it's a long road and they will probably have to do this year of uni again.

Xavier Skazlic spoke to the motion and spoke about how it was a powerful example of student power in the wake of an authoritarian regime and the working class are over not having their needs met. The government and the police have been illegally using sonic weaponry, and they had to have a 15 min of silence for those who have died. We need to unequivocally support this movement and all movements like it across the word

Emma Searl: Spoke to the motion and said that in light on what we've discussed and the fact that we have a Labor party that has done nothing for the workers we need to look to the Serbian student movement to build a resistance here. I think it is a lie to say that people care more about a sausage sizzle, than they do about their human rights. You wouldn't be able to look these students in Serbia in the eye, they are so much more left wing than you. Their movement is growing, and support is growing, and we should be fighting for student rights here. Solidarity means more than words on paper, it means action.

Moved: Dana Kafina

Seconded: Luke Mešterović

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to hold all photos at the end.

Moved: Angus Fisher

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R2. Save Waterloo! Oppose Labor's evictions, sell-offs and demolition of Waterloo South. Housing should be for people not profit!

In late February, the NSW Labor government began evicting public housing residents in Waterloo South Estate as part of 'Stage One' of the Waterloo South Redevelopment. 150 residents received eviction letters in the first round of evictions and have been given six months to be 'relocated'. The plan includes the demolition of existing government owned public housing, displacing almost 3000 tenants and replacing the estate with a 'mixed tenure' development, largely consisting of private for-profit apartments.

In a housing and cost-of-living crisis, where over 64,000 households are on the NSW public housing wait list, Labor's latest move is particularly cruel. Premier Chris Minns and Housing Minister Rose Jackson have embraced the eviction and demolition of Waterloo South, which was first proposed by the Coalition government in 2022, but has been in the talks for a decade. This is despite Labor committing at its 2022 state conference to not to sell or outsource public housing or its services and Labor promising ahead of the March 2023 state election to end the privatisation of public housing in NSW. They specifically told Waterloo residents that 'voting for the ALP will save your homes'.

Disgracefully, Rose Jackson claims 'all residents' would have the right to move back after the redevelopment, but they are being left in the lurch in the meantime and no new public housing will be built. 30% of the redeveloped homes will be 'social housing', built with public money then run by private companies who will receive government subsidies. These organisations can pick and choose their tenants, meaning higher rents and less security for residents. This is a massive transfer of land to private property developers and investors, who already hoard thousands of empty properties around the state. Meanwhile, there were 35,000 people experiencing homelessness recorded in the last census (2021). We need more *public, accessible, and genuinely affordable housing*.

20% of the new Waterloo South will be allocated to 'affordable housing', but the threshold for what constitutes as affordable is 20% less than the market rate. The median price for an apartment in Waterloo is over \$900,000, and median rent has increased by 36% in the last 5 years to \$950 a week. An 'affordable' apartment in Waterloo could cost upwards of \$760 per week. The remaining 50% of the redevelopment will be for the open market.

Federally, the ALP's Housing Australia Future Fund has failed to build a single new home since its creation in 2023. Labor's housing policies are not about providing affordable housing for people, they are fast tracking the privatisation of essential social support. The destruction of Waterloo south is part of this plan to increase for-profit luxury developments on public land, and reward rich property developers. Public housing in South Eveleigh, Mascot, Maroubra, Glebe, Kingsford Smith are also slated for demolition. The USyd SRC must condemn Labor's evictions of Waterloo residents and support the Waterloo campaigners to demand genuine investment in public housing, withdrawal of any evictions and an end to demolition plans of Waterloo South.

Community groups outlined the following demands in an open letter addressed to the NSW ALP state government, the ALP Premier Christopher Minns, and the Minister for Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, and Water, Rose Jackson:

- End plans to demolish public housing in Waterloo and across NSW (South Eveleigh, Mascot, Maroubra, Glebe, Kingsford Smith etc);
- Withdraw any eviction notices, apologise and compensate tenants and communities affected;
- Retain, reinvest in and repair public housing estates and dwellings;
- Dedicate significant money to build quality public housing across NSW, including inner Sydney.

On Saturday 12 April at 1pm, there will be a rally held at Redfern Community Centre against these evictions and to save Waterloo hosted by Action for Public Housing and other community groups. It is vital that the USyd SRC supports and attends this rally with a student contingent to build up the campaign and to show a popular and broad base of opposition to the enactment of these plans.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns NSW Labor's evictions of Waterloo residents, Labor must withdraw eviction notices and apologise to communities affected.
2. The USyd SRC condemns the sale of public housing and relocation of over 3000 tenants at Waterloo South by the NSW Labor Government
3. The USyd SRC demands Labor retain and reinvest in public housing, in Waterloo Estate and across NSW.
4. The USyd SRC endorses the [open letter](#) of community groups to the NSW State Government and its demands listed in the motion's preamble and reiterated below;
 - o End plans to demolish public housing in Waterloo and across NSW (South Eveleigh, Mascot, Maroubra, Glebe, Kingsford Smith etc);
 - o Withdraw any eviction notices, apologise and compensate tenants and communities affected;
 - o Retain, reinvest in and repair public housing estates and dwellings;
 - o Dedicate significant money to build quality public housing across NSW, including inner Sydney.
5. The USyd SRC rejects the NSW Labor Government's plans to worsen the cost-of-living and housing crises by replacing public housing with a mix of private housing and privately-owned social and "affordable" housing that does not meet the needs of poor and vulnerable renters
6. The USyd SRC endorses the Action For Public Housing rally "Save Waterloo, no evictions, sell off or demolitions" on 12 April 2025
7. The USyd SRC opposes the privatisation, redevelopment and gentrification of public housing and community areas and calls for immediate construction of 100% publicly-owned housing stock to meet the needs of the public housing waitlist which is exceeding 63,000 people

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will take and post on social media a solidarity photo at the passing of this motion to support and promote the upcoming 12 April rally
2. The USyd SRC will sign onto the Action for Public Housing campaign [open letter](#) to the NSW State Government and will promote the open letter on its social media
3. The 97th SRC and its representatives and office bearers will support, promote and attend the upcoming 12 April rally to oppose the evictions and demolitions called by Action for Public Housing at Redfern Community Centre with a student contingent

4. The USYD SRC will post the contents of this motion on SRC social media.

Discussion:

Yoshi Leung spoke to the motion saying that Labor has decided to make the housing crisis worse, by destroying the largest public housing. This is a created scarcity with landlords hoarding empty property, and Labor has done nothing to help with this, and so now they are knocking down, the Waterloo housing will be moved to private developers and the social housing that will be there will still be in private hands and the rent will be around \$700 so unaffordable for most people.

Grace Street– we need more public accessible and actually affordable housing. 150 eviction letters to people who have nowhere to go. Looking at the people living there, 10% are First Nations, many are on disability and others on the pension, the most vulnerable in society. Labor continues to cosplay as caring for the working and people but continue to take action that destroys lives. So, to Labor are you going to take action or let this slide under the radar again.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion, there is around 400 homes for social housing, there are over 1 million empty home and 400 000 people on the housing waiting list. To remove more public housing when you campaigned against doing what they are doing now what is Labor doing? We see a system working as intended, a system designed to consolidate wealth with landlords and developers. How can you have 6 investment properties and call yourself a member of the worker's party. Labor has turned against their own platform, and we need to fight back and will Labor student bow down like Rose Jackson or fight back.

Aron Khuc – Spoke to the motion, and spoke about the struggles with getting housing, and getting access to social housing can take 10 years, I've been in social housing with leaks holes in the ceiling and no water for 2 days. Labor claims to be for the working class and public/social housing but they are doing nothing and Rose Jackson the housing minister is doing nothing

Max Dao spoke to the motion, and wanted to highlight how disgusting how this is, kicking people out in the middle of a housing crisis. Rose Jackson has said that they didn't intend to lower how prices and they have built no new housing since it was created in 2023. And the Labor are doing nothing for housing crisis and just buying themselves properties, they are not the party for worker they

Mia Williams: I'd like to echo the sentiments of the previous speakers, and this has been a disgusting lie, that we were told that the housing was going to be renewed and refurbished. I would like to add that only 30 percent of this new development will be social/public housing And if Labor wants people to go door knocking in Waterloo, then there needs to be doors to knock on. The Welfare action group will be organising on this at our next meeting

Remy – in the middle of a housing crisis Labor is kicking out our most vulnerable, how will that help? It doesn't this is about making more money, to Labor it doesn't matter to them how many people die waiting for housing, If Labor cares they need to show up rhetoric and lies doesn't help anyone

Jasmine Donnelly spoke to the motion saying that she is not going to speak to the flaws in the Labor system and the capitalist system. Our housing situation is broken, I'm speaking as a member, The protest that Ishbel mentioned three years ago, Rose Jackson did attend not sure how that's relevant Labor students are ready to mobilise. There are times where places do need renovations, but please get in touch to organise for action.

Laura Alivio: That was a cop out to blame it on capitalism and the housing market, there is plenty Labor could do. Maybe put rent freezes in, not sell off public housing, not sell off public land to developers, they have proven again and again they are pro-business. There are thousands of properties that are empty around Sydney just waiting for property values to rise. The Labor government has overseen massive wealth accumulation with the rich and they have things they could be doing, so it's time for a mass movement.

Moved: Yoshi Leung

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to move R3 and 4 en bloc

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R3. Free Palestine: Permanent Ceasefire Now, Stop the Attacks on the West Bank, Arms Embargo on Israel!

Preamble:

Despite the (now, no longer being upheld) ceasefire in Gaza after almost 18 months of genocide, the Israeli occupation has started a military offensive elsewhere in Palestine — the West Bank. As Israel violates the terms of its ceasefire in Gaza, the settler-colonial state continues to attack Palestinian lives in the West Bank, with a siege and onslaught in the areas of Jenin, Tulkarem, and Nur Shams. These attacks include unlawful airstrikes, settler violence, repeated shelling, and shooting of Palestinians by the Israeli Occupation Forces.

Israel has now broken the ceasefire, quelling any sense of relief left among Palestinians. Overnight on the 18th of March, Israel launched numerous airstrikes, killing over 400 and injuring over 500 Palestinians in Gaza in the 'Dawn Massacre'. The IOF has also forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza, targeting highly populated residential areas.

The Israeli government has made it clear that this is collective punishment to the residents of Gaza — Defence Minister Israel Katz, in a public video message, has made these genocidal intentions clear: "Residents of Gaza, this is a last warning... you will pay the full price". Collective punishment is a crime under international humanitarian law (Article GCIII Art. 87, API Art. 75.2.d, APII Art. 4.2.b). Yet this collective punishment, while unlawful, has been normalised and accepted by most major Western governments.

Despite the success of Israeli Apartheid Week 2025 and yet another National Day of Action for Palestine on university campuses around the continent last week, our universities are overwhelmingly refusing to cut ties with genocide.

Now, in the midst of Eid Al-Fitr celebrations, over 74 Palestinians and counting have been killed by the occupation. The world we live in has allowed over 400 Palestinians to be killed in a matter of hours, not including the thousands that have been murdered in the last 17 months. This must not be the reality we accept.

Platform:

1. The SRC stands for the cause for a free Palestine, and all that entails.
2. The SRC denounces all attacks on the West Bank.
3. The SRC demands a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and an arms embargo on Israel.

Action:

1. The SRC calls on the President to write a press release denouncing Israel's attacks on Palestine.
2. The SRC will affirm & reshare the contents of this motion (and expand on, if necessary) on its platforms.
3. The SRC will promote and distribute content on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and how other student unions can become Apartheid-Free Zones.
4. The SRC and its Representatives will work to promote and bring a student contingent to the Palestine Action Group "stop the genocide!" rally at 12pm Sunday 6 April in Hyde Park.

Mover: Dana Kafina

Seconder: Jasmine Al-Rawi

R4. Free Mahmoud Khalil! Oppose the repression of pro-Palestine students in the US!

A major attack on Palestine activism is taking place right now in the United States. Over the past few weeks, the Trump administration has punished a number of notable Palestine activists and academics by cancelling their visas and green cards. Several people, including Mahmoud Khalil, Rumeysa Ozturk, Yunseo Chung, Badar Khan Suri, Leqaa Kordia, Ranjani Srinivasan, Alireza Doroudi, Rasha Alawieh, Momodou Taal and likely many others, are now detained in ICE facilities across the country and are facing the prospect of deportation.

Many of these people were involved in the world's first Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Columbia University, which inspired our own Encampment here at the University of Sydney. Others were arrested simply for writing pro-Palestine books, articles or op-eds, showing the extent that the Trump administration is willing to go to crackdown on any pro-Palestine sentiment.

This attack on Palestine activism, moreover, is happening against the backdrop of a mass deportation of migrants and refugees. The laws being used against 'unlawful' migrants are now being used to target visa and green card holders. The attack on the free speech of migrants will, in turn, result in further restrictions on the free speech of US citizens. Likewise, the right-wing turn in the US would likely reverberate across the world, including in Australia. Already, staff at Australian universities that receive federal US grants have been sent a questionnaire about the political content of their research or work.

This shows that none of us are free until all of us are free, and that the fight for a free Palestine is more important now than ever.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC opposes the arrest, detention and potential deportation of pro-Palestine activists and academics in the US.
2. The USyd SRC calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners in the US.
3. The USyd SRC commits to supporting pro-Palestine activism on campus.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will take a photo in solidarity with the activists and academics facing the prospect of deportation from the US. The SRC will share this photo on its social media.
2. The USyd SRC will support pro-Palestine activism, by promoting protests and other events on its social media platforms and by printing leaflets and posters.

Moved: Taleen Jameel

Seconded: Laura Alivio

Discussion:

Taleen spoke to the motion (Q4.) and spoke about the challenges facing students in the US and what people are facing in Palestine, and governments in the US and in Aus have made fighting for the rights of Palestinians antisemitic

Dana Spoke to the motion (Q3), since Monday night over 100 people have been killed during Eid Celebrations in Gaza. We know these things are happening we know what is going on, but I don't we are feeling it, what people are going through. We need to keep momentum and we need keep fighting for

Palestine and we have to keep showing up, and we need to come together, we have to commit to coming to the rallies and reaching out to people about what it happening, it feels like people are not seeing this is an issue at the front of everyone's minds when people are dying and there is still an ongoing genocide

Angus resigned the chair to Bohao

Bohao Zhang closed the speaking list.

Agnes Ng spoke to the motions and spoke about the biggest attacks on freedom of speech in America with people being taken for the crime of opposing genocide. The issue is not just in the States here we will at USyd still fund weapons and war. Unis are corporations first education is like 3rd 4th or 5th. The uni act like they need to keep their image clean while actively participating in genocide. The uni is not on outside what matters to them is profits. We are seeing with the rise of fascism; is we don't speak out now we might be next.

Xavier SK: we are currently witnessing the most flagrant attacks on activism and speech, we've never seen people disappeared deported and locked up in the middle of the night by ICE. We are getting disciplined here for speaking out on what every major human rights groups has agreed is a genocide. Aid workers, journalists have been killed. I will quote from pamphlet's dropped in Gaza "get the quote"
While these attacks continues, we are complicit till the government condemns these actions

Max Pomarca spoke to the motion, and spoke about the Israeli breaking the ceasefire, and that so many places here and overseas have been moving draconian laws to prevent people from speaking out and its why we need to continue to fight. We need to remember last year's SGM where over 700 students came out to stand in solidarity with Palestine. Trump and his ilk fear the activist which is why they are being targeted.

Cassidy Newman– I would like to speak to the ridiculous definition brought in the G8, which ties Jewish Identity to Zionism. Unions and many other have spoken out against the definition, at the CSA had a slide of their welcome saying they stand in solidarity with Palestine and the president and vice president were hauled in and threatened for that,

Remy Lebreton – we can't just symbolic stand with Palestine we need to take action for them as well, as students our fee go to developing weapons used in a genocide,
The government is complicit and has blood on their hands, the uni is complicit and has blood on their hands I will not have blood on my hands we must stand for a free Palestine

Angus Fisher: At the NTEU organised event, everyone got a warning saying if they got another breach of the CAP they would be suspended, including myself when I talked to the Senate and they disagreed with that response so there isn't even a clear process in the uni and they didn't even seem aware that happened or that it should have.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion saying things are fucked people are being pulled off the street for standing with Palestine people who aren't even activists they just wrote an opinion piece for their student paper, they are being snatched off the street and terrorised like it's the Gestapo. How long until this comes here? And it wouldn't surprise me if it was our Uni who dobbed us in. We need to make sure as many people need to make submissions to the People's Inquiry into speech on campus and on Palestine, we need to take 30 minutes to say what's been happening and shine a light on what has been happening. We need to launch a serious national fight.

R3

Moved: Dana Kafina

Seconded: Jasmine Al-Rawi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R4

Moved: Taleen Jameel

Seconded: Laura Alivio

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Angus resumed the chair

R5. Oppose Australian militarism: reject the Greens military investment policy

Preamble:

On the 22nd of March, Greens Senator David Shoebridge announced their plans to invest \$4 billion in sovereign defence capacities to "decouple Australia from the US military". This policy would entail ending the AUKUS pact with the US and the UK, as well as the plans to purchase expensive American Black Hawk helicopters and M1A2 tanks. With the billions of dollars saved by ending this alliance, \$4 billion would be reallocated to home-grown Australian weapons of a cheaper and less technical nature, which would be "strictly for defence purposes" according to Greens policy. The remaining \$73 billion would be redirected to "social and environmental programs to address climate change and inequality." The policy's overarching argument is that Australia must pursue a foreign policy independent of Trump's America that can better prioritise "genuine Australian defence".

We must oppose the Greens defence policy on the basis that there is no version of Australian nationalism and militarism which is supportable. Scrapping AUKUS and other American weapons deals are supportable measures, but forging an independent foreign policy will not bring an end to Australian imperialism. Australia is not a mere lap dog of the US, but has imperialist interests of its own which it has exerted in the past, such as the bloody intervention in East Timor from 1999 to 2012. Investment into home-grown "defensive" weapons, far from "contributing to regional peace", as the policy suggests, will only strengthen Australia's capability to exert its imperialist interests onto neighbouring countries. So, we must reject the idea that there exists the possibility

of armament for “strictly defensive purposes” but instead see these developments as inherently aggressive. More weapons do not create more peace - instead, the acceleration of arms races are precisely what heightens military tensions and the eventual outbreak of wars. The fact that these drones and missiles would be manufactured in Australia is also no more supportable. The issue with our governments military purchases is that our money is spent on weapons, not that these weapons are from foreign countries. Encouraging domestic arms manufacturing would only provide new opportunities for Australian weapons companies, which we cannot support.

As imperialist tensions heat up between the US and China, the pressure on left wing people to concede to nationalistic ideas will only increase, so it is more important than ever that the USYD SRC take a stand against war, and all manifestations of militarism and nationalism. Not only when it is being spearheaded by Donald Trump and Peter Dutton, but also when it’s expressed by those making left-nationalist arguments like the Greens.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC recognises that Australia is an imperialist power in its own right, which has aggressively used its military and economic might to expand its domination over the South Pacific region.
2. The USYD SRC opposes all versions of Australian militarism and military spending: whether carried out to back the US Alliance or to back a more “independent Australian foreign policy”, which would also be a negative step for the world.
3. The USYD SRC thus opposes the Greens military policy proposal to invest \$4 billion in expanding Australia’s “sovereign defence capacity” as antithetical to a genuinely anti-imperialist stance.

Action:

1. This motion will be posted from all social media channels.
2. This motion will be circulated by Greens members to the Greens party caucus.

Discussion:

Lauren Finlayson spoke to the motion and said that the Green’s policy is about getting rid of AUKUS, but it doesn’t get rid of military spending. This is why we should oppose this, and there is no such thing as just defence spending, we have an imperialistic history, and any defence spending is just about expanding that imperial power

Emma Searl spoke to the motion and how it was really important that we take a first stance against any military spending, I think it’s good that other groups like the USyd green have put out statements rejecting this policy. Our statement is different to the greens, who said that it wasn’t that the party is going to the right, but that the executive didn’t consult the membership, I disagree and think the greens have worked and capitulated to Labor. So, I think it is important that they know what we are opposing and ask them to speak to these concerns.

Ishbel Dunsmore agreed with what has been said, adding that they think for a so-called progressive part to give an inch to the imperial military complex, it’s not for witness K prosecuted in secret, not for the military spending. Regardless of how it’s played it is just about making sure

Aus is bolstered for war. Fight for a better world doesn't start and end on polling day but fighting every day. The greens should drop this policy and not capitulate to the right.

Deaglan Godwin – I would like to hear about even the non-USyd greens on this. From what Isabel has suggested that is a capitulation to the right, but that is different to the greens statement. After several years of great statements against the Labor party there has been an abrupt change and it's not illogical. They are capitulation to the Labor with some very low-level demands like no logging of native trees I don't think this is a very controversial issue.

Luke Mešterović – I'm not nor have I ever been a member of the greens, there are a number of good comrades in the Greens, but this is deeply disappointing. What do we need to be defended from, even Bob Carr Keating and Turnbull have said AUKUS is bad. Why do the greens have the backbone of a KFC chicken tender, and they push for issues then back down on them every time a friend of looking the tree Tory vote., it make it hard to want to vote for them

Remy Lebreton– It doesn't matter the reasons being military expenditure because it will always be against the needs of the working class, it's not pragmatism but barbarism

Lucas Pierce – I agree with what people who have spoken but no one has
You are affiliated with the greens, why doesn't anyone have proper response about what the greens said in response to this policy. You go to Greens events, and you should come and defend or explain the position.

Moved: Moved: Lauren Finlayson

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R7. Motion to Condemn so-called "Abortion Abolitionists"

Today (2/4/25) representatives from the group "Abolitionists Rising" showed up on campus. These people represent the worst of the worst of pro-lifers - they believe in complete criminalisation of abortions, and the treatment of people who get and deliver abortions as murderers.

When pressed on their views, they espoused such views as "slavery in the bible was helpful for some people", "we should get rid of no-fault divorce", and "people should just close their legs". These people are vile, misogynistic, right-wing freaks and they have absolutely no place on our campus. Guided by their apparently "Christian" values, they only want to control women's bodies and enforce their right-wing, nationalist agenda.

We've already kicked them off campus once, and we can do it again.

Platform:

The SRC supports the pro-choice movement and stands for reproductive justice

The SRC condemns the presence of abortion abolitionists on campus and supports the rights of students to feel safe from misogyny on their campus

Action:

The SRC will support a snap rally next week (details TBD)

Discussion:

Lilah spoke to the motion and spoke about the men outside campus today pushing for a total abortion ban and advocating for a Handmaids tale-esq world. Security stood around and did nothing, these men said that slavery was ok because the bible said it was useful and there was liberal student hanging with them like it was friends. And they knew nothing, didn't know what a non-viable pregnancy was, and they laughed in our face and didn't know anything about what was happening, and it is shameful that women have to be confronted with this when just trying to get an education, campus should not have allowed them to stay.

Moved: Lilah Thurbon

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 10:23pm.