



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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## MINUTES:

of the 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the 96<sup>th</sup> SRC held on **27<sup>th</sup> of November 2024**. Meeting held in the ABS 2010 Lecture Theater.

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*There was a quorum count at 6:40pm  
The meeting was not quorate.*

*There was a quorum count at 6:49pm  
The meeting was found quorate.*

### **A. Meeting open at 6:49pm**

#### **A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson**

The Chair moved that Angus Fisher be elected Deputy Chairperson.  
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **B. Acknowledgement of Country**

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

### **C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence**

#### **Apologies and Proxies were received from:**

Lucas Pierce to Emma Searl  
Simon Upitis to Yoshi Leung  
Rav Grewal to Aaron Khuc  
Maddie Clark to Laura Alivio  
Ned Graham to Mis Williams  
Sofija Filipovic to Ishbel Dunsmore  
Jordan Anderson to Remy Lebreton  
Gerard Buttigieg to Jessica Heap  
Ivan Semenov

The apologies were noted.

**D. Changes to Membership**

**E. Electoral Report**

**F. Minutes** of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 96<sup>th</sup> SRC Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Martha Barlow

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business for this item.

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

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

**J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate**

**K. Elections**

**L. Report of the President and Executive**

**L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 4<sup>th</sup> of September and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2024.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, 4<sup>th</sup> of September and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Alex M

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.*

**L3. President's Report**

Harrison Brennan gave a verbal report:

- Big year
  - o Been an honour to serve as the 96<sup>th</sup> President, work with you and fight with you

- Everything we're fighting for now are continued and increasing in the attempts to silence student dissent on campus and potentially defund the SRC
- CAP is the biggest threats to student activism
  - Security attacking us talking to the media on campus about safety and sexual violence on campus
- There is ongoing conflict in the middle east, and Gaza is still under siege
- Cost of living is still an ongoing issue
- Wrapping up this week if you need anything reach

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **M. Report of the Vice-Presidents**

Annabelle Jones and Deaglan Godwin gave a verbal report:

### **Jasmine Donnelly:**

- NUS National Conference is coming up
- Uni's Hodgkinson's recommendations have been released and calls for serious infringements on freedom of speech on campus.

With I could say it was a pleasure to work with you, but it wasn't. I would commend Deaglan Godwin for his work this year. And condemn the incoming Education Officer for the 97<sup>th</sup> SRC.

### **Deaglan Godwin:**

- I want to talk about both CAP and the review, I think we're all on the same page about opposing it, but not on how we go about that opposition
- When we talk about a strategic approach, they should not be a synonym for cautious, summation, capitulations. If we roll over the uni will know we will give up just if they threaten us.
- This is so important considering the cut being faced next week
- We also need to maintain and grow our links of solidarity; these people are our allies and these are the people we need to turn to
- I hope to see the SRC continue to fight, I will be much to the dismay of the uni.

Discussion:

Shovan Bhattarai asked Jasmine Donnelly about a statement from the SRC on the CAP/Hodgkinson's report, that was spoken about in a 96<sup>th</sup> Executive group chat, and wanted to know what Jasmine Donnelly was opposed to the statement.

Jasmine Donnelly said this was inaccurate, that she was simply opposed to having her name attributed to the statement before she had had a chance to read it.

Shovan Bhattarai responded saying Jasmine Donnelly was more concerned with finding common

ground with the university and to tamper than she was fighting them with a political or moral argument or willing to defy them. Adding that a lot of students have passive support of an anti-Campus Access Policy/ Hodgkinson's campaign, and we can change this into active support. Concluding asking Jasmine Donnelly if her strategic argument for fighting this report is by finding common ground with the uni, and if not, what is the strategy?

Jasmine Donnelly responded saying that Shovan Bhattarai seems to have misunderstood her argument, saying that she was trying to say this policy is about attacking activism around Palestine and pointing out the other ways this is going to affect people. Adding that her issues with the statement was that it wasn't compelling, and the concerns raised were ignored.

Shovan Bhattarai responded saying that the services side of the SRC is not under threat, the uni is going after the activist side. Adding that they don't care about SRC services handing out information they care about blocking activism. The uni is going to claim to care about students then cut any capacity for dissent from student orgs. And adding that she doesn't believe students don't care about the activist side of the SRC.

Jasmine Donnelly replied adding that the services side is often where they first engage with the SRC.

Shovan Bhattarai disagreed.

Jasmine Donnelly responded saying that after mischaracterising her argument, giving their own monologue Shovan Bhattarai now wants to move on, rather than engage with any of the points Jasmine raised here or in the chat. Adding that the number of students who engage with casework and the legal service are high, and we should always be aware that any cuts to our funding will impact those services – a cut is a cut.

Harrison Brennan responded saying that when it comes to SSAF cut the uni can choose what area to cut from.

Jasmine Donnelly asked where that would be discussed.

Deaglan Godwin responded to the debate saying that every staff and student had received an email from the union only talking about this from management's perspective. Only The Women's and Education Officers have been able to put a statement out this because we were held up.

Jasmine Donnelly responded saying the statement was created with no consultation.

Deaglan Godwin replied that Angus Fisher had responded, and his edits were included.

Jasmine Donnelly said that her comments had been ignored.

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

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Alex Mc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

There was no report from the General Secretaries.

## **O. Report of Committees and Officers**

### **O1. Report of the Education Officers**

Grace Street and Shovan Bhattarai tabled a written report:

#### **October**

Coming up is the National Week of Action, 'There are no universities left in Gaza' is being put on by the National Union of Students and BDS Youth around the continent, including at USyd! Join us for a screening of 'Palestine Under Siege' on Monday Oct 21, banner painting on Tuesday Oct 22, a webinar on Friday Oct 25, and most importantly, the NATIONAL STRIKE ON WEDNESDAY OCT 23 AT 1PM from USyd.

This will be followed the next week by a protest of the NSW Defence Summit on October 31<sup>st</sup> at the Swissôtel in the CBD. We encourage all parts of the SRC and our broader community to help promote and attend this event. This protest has already led to NSW police threatening two students with arrest on Sunday for putting up posters for it, citing that people might not agree with it – as if student protestors are in the wrong for making their community aware of a war-mongering conference happening right on our doorstep.

We also condemn the crackdown at Western Sydney Uni on students peacefully protesting for Palestine, with three students arrested and a whole campus of students left intimidated after being surrounded by riot police and checked into buildings and classrooms on Friday by University security.

At the same time, our university continues its investments in and partnerships with Israeli universities and companies complicit in occupation in Palestine. In response to our encampment, Student General Meeting, and frequent protests of students and staff, the University is set on peddling the narrative that pro-Palestine members of its community are violent or unreasonable. We need everyone's voices and participation in this movement to effect real change.

The University's proposed changes to 5-day simple extensions, late discontinuation for courses and special considerations is a blatant attack on student welfare that would affect disabled students, student carers, working students, or students needing flexibility for whatever reason. The ability of the SRC and SUPRA to stop the changes going through in the Academic Standards and Policy Committee shows the importance of a fighting, activist and engaged student union. The fight will continue for as long as the University prefers to spend time attacking student welfare and waging a war on AI instead of actually fixing the most pressing issues facing students in a cost-of-living and housing crisis.

Last week, we learnt that the University of Sydney spent \$12m on contractors to find ways around compensating staff for their underpayment, and we stand with staff in their fight for their basic

wages. The corporate university is again spending time and money into avoiding their responsibilities as a public education institution, rather than putting money into paying their staff correctly or into increasing the quality of courses and university services.

### **Discussion:**

Grace: updated on the things mentioned in the October report

- Spoke about CAP
- Spoke about the fact that people being uncomfortable with false reporting is being made to be our problem
- We need to be strategic, yes, it's not just business as usual, and we can't let this be swept under the rug
- If it is the case that people only come for services, well it's because you don't invest in capitalism

Shovan Bhattarai

- Want to talk about the Woolworths (Woollies) strike motion and we should be standing in solidarity
  - o This strike is important, Woollies turn massive profits and don't look after their workers
  - o Workers have now been striking for 2 weeks,
  - o This strike shows their power, and the impact of what their labour and what its withdrawal means for Woolies and the economy

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

Moved: Elle Roberts

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **O2. Report of the Wom\*n's Officers**

Eliza Crossley and Rand Khatib tabled a written report

### **October**

The Women's Collective stands firmly with the Tamil tigers and their fight for liberation.

We've been very busy! The Women's Collective held Reclaim & Resist Week, a week of feminist events. We started off by stalling the week prior and putting up some posters and stickers around campus.

On the first day, we were warmly welcomed by Uncle Dave, and had an opening ceremony of the Women's Art Gallery. We also had craftivism, where we channelled feminism into our art, and held a transformative justice and consent workshop. The team then did our usual FALL session, which focused on the role of women during the First Intifada, and then hosted an academic for a film screening and Q&A of How Israel Uses Sex to Sell Zionism. We finished off the week with a

teach-in at the Refugee Encampment by Tamil activists who did a teach-in about the role of women freedom fighters in Tamil Eelam's fight for independence and sovereignty. We then stayed for their speakout and encourage you all to do the same, which runs at 4pm every Friday.

The Women's Collective has also been busy doing outreach, and we're excited to announce Rand will be running a tatreez workshop with SUMSA sisters and the USU Palestinian Society on 25 October.

WoCo will host our preselection on 26 October at 12pm. We are sad to be finishing our terms as Women's Officers but we're sure the new Officers will be more than capable to continue the important work we do!

From the river to the sea.  
Free the refugees.  
Land back.

Discussion:

Eliza Crossley said that it has been a bit year, and a huge one for activism. That it's been a big year and a huge year for activism. The Hodgkinson's report is a threat to the SRC and impacts everything we do and every action we take. And saying that the way it has been presented as for student safety is ridiculous. If this was about student safety they would shut down the colleges, listen to victim-survivors and run in person consent training, They don't care about safety they are about marketing campaigns.

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

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **O3. Report of the Disabilities Officers**

November Report

Hi everyone,

This is our last Report as your 2024 Disabilities Officers. Even though we are retiring from stupol, our successors, Vince Tafea and Remy Lebreton, will serve the Collective and Council with passion.

The NUS Disabilities Conference was a great initiative with Dis.Co presenting a 90 minutes workshop on disability and Palestinian justice. We must continue to campaign for Palestinian justice across all collectives as solidarity cannot be transactional – the modern disability justice movement owe part of its history to the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and we must continue to educate and push for Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) against Israel.

We have been working to press for genuine consultation and a proper policy regarding the University's major assessment reforms concerning generative artificial intelligence. We attended three workshops with the Education Innovation portfolio. The proposed changes appear to strongly favour more in-person exams and interactive oral presentations across degree programs with common exams (with differing endings depending on majors) for certain faculties. While the two-lane approach will give some clarity on the use of AI for students, much of it remains mired in uncertainty as there is zero detail on the University's preferred blend of secure and open assessments. Second, there remains a lack of information on *how* the University intends to apply universal design for learning as they explicitly state that the reforms aim to reduce the number of academic adjustments needed.

Staff, we understand, are also concerned about potentially higher workload associated with the changes. These are major proposals and we ask that the SRC President and Council do not let go of these, even if they might be complex at first glance, because it is important for many years to come.

We also successfully pushed back against St Paul's College after we were informed that the College has reversed the policy out of fear of backlash following our joint statement with the Women's Collective. However, we urge the Council and our successors to remain alert and campaign for student parents. The University of Sydney is one of the only universities to not have any student housing for student parents and the vast majority of the colleges does not admit students with children. This is unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue.

We also joined and helped out with WoCo's vigil in solidarity with victims of sexual violence. The holding of healing space is important as we, the Council and Collectives, campaign for justice and an end to the residential colleges.

Finally, we are holding an end-of-year celebration together with SUPRA and the USU at the Disabilities Community Room on 28 November 2024 at 2PM and we would like to invite everyone at Council to join us!

In solidarity,  
Khanh and Victor

**Discussion:**

Victor Zhang spoke to the report saying, "take it as read, free Palestine, it's been a big year".

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

Moved: Remy Lebreton

Seconded: Martha Barlow

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Procedural motion that Q1 not be put.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Remy Lebreton



The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**P. Special Business**

There were no items of special business.

**Q. Motions of Notice**

**Q1. That the USYD SRC:**

- 1) Notes the death of Hezbollah Leader Hassan Nasrallah
- 2) Condemns the actions of Terrorist Group Hezbollah
- 3) Supports the eradication of the terror group as a means of advancing peace in the Middle East

**Platform**

1. The SRC condemns the Hezbollah's aggression towards Israel.

**Action**

1. The SRC will make a post on its social media reflecting the above.

Moved: Aryan Ilkhani

Seconded: Ivan Samsonov

The motion was not put.

**Q2. Pass the Equality Bill in Full Right Now! – WITHDRAWN**

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders and move to R – General Business.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**R1. Campus Access Policy Feedback Form Motion**

**Preamble**

The *Campus Access Policy 2024* (C.A.P.) is a draconian mandate by the university that unnecessarily restricts everything students can do. From bake sales to stalls, from BBQs to megaphones; the C.A.P. is an attack on all student life and activism.

We have seen what the university can do with this policy. There have been numerous occasions where University Management has shamefully shut down students. They have silenced our voices. They have crushed student life. All through the powers imposed by the C.A.P.

An issue this broad and encompassing that affects all students requires that we exhaust all possible strategies to oppose and scrap the C.A.P. Recently, the University has opened submissions to all students via the October 31st Student News Email, asking students to provide feedback on the policy. In particular, we as students have the opportunity to propose amendments to the C.A.P., that if enough demand is had, could quite likely go through and make this vile policy redundant.

That is why it is imperative that all students, including all councillors of the SRC, must use this opportunity to demand University Management that the C.A.P. must be rescinded in its entirety and for the previous *University of Sydney (Campus Access) Rule 2009* to be reinstated.

### **Platform**

1. The SRC continues to reject the existence of the Campus Access Policy in its current form.
2. The SRC believes the Campus Access Policy is a direct attack on the work and functioning of the SRC.
3. The SRC should continue to fight the Campus Access Policy into 2025.

### **Action**

1. All councillors of the 96th Council and the incoming 97th Council, and all outgoing and incoming Office Bearers complete their submission to University Management through the “Campus Access Policy Feedback Form”, subject to the following conditions-
  - a. that they demand that the *Campus Access Policy 2024* be rescinded in its entirety, and
  - b. that the previously rescinded *University of Sydney (Campus Access) Rule 2009* be reinstated, and
  - c. they will submit these demands either as-
    - i. “General feedback on the operation or implementation”, or
    - ii. as feedback on all sections and/or clauses individually.
2. The SRC will share instructions to the student body on all their social media platforms to inform the student body on how they can complete their submission to University Management.
3. The SRC encourages all collectives and groups affiliated with the SRC-
  - a. to publicise how to complete the feedback form as widely as possible, and
  - b. to urge their members to complete their submission to University Management through their relevant communication channels.

Discussion:

*As the deputy chair was moving the motion and the chair wished to speak Martha Barlow was appointed deputy chair for the motion.*

Angus Fisher spoke to the motion and covered its main points. Saying that he thinks it is important to respond to this as the Uni believes its own bureaucracy as the most legitimate form of feedback and the delay of this meeting was good as now we can include the Hodgkinson's report and it's terrible recommendations. We need to have the SRC to be a place for dissent and the Hodgkinson's report recommends shutting that down. Concluding saying need to hit the Uni where it hurts, please submit the form and let out some rage.

Jasmine Donnelly echoed the sentiments of Angus Fisher, adding while she understands that this isn't inline with the overall strategy, its just one component, and one that could be helpful.

Eliza Crossley responded saying that we have old the uni what we think of the policy, on the 'day of defiance and every action since. Adding that the Uni knows what we think, and they don't care. Concluded saying that she was for the motion but thought we need to know our power is not through filling in a form, we get out power by mobilising people on Eastern avenue and around campus.

Grace Street spoke to the motion saying we've had a couple of weeks, and this is now due in three days. There have been no posts about it, nothing happening about this for weeks - this is a motion for Angus and Jasmine to say we tried and it didn't work.

Jasmine Donnelly said that she had messaged the societies.

Grace Street responded saying no you didn't and you've had this motion for weeks. Adding that Jasmine Donnelly had done nothing about it till this moved at this council to try claim she had.

Jasmine Al-Rawi responded saying that this is a motion that speaks to NLS approach which is just going through submissions and asking the uni to take them seriously, you can do that I don't care but it's not going aid the fight, it's not going to help push back, this is just about cracking down on dissent. Concluding that the Uni didn't put this report through not because not enough people told them this wasn't ok, but because they want to shut down dissent and activism on campus, and you need to come out and fight.

Jasmine Donnelly responded saying that she understands people are people are voting this down because it's 'not their thing' and understands that but the uni does respond to student feedback and takes it seriously we use feedback for SSAF funding and they do respond to that.

Shovan Bhattarai said the tutor feedback is anti-union.

Jasmine Donnelly responded saying no one sad this should be the primary mechanism just one thing that can be done among many.

*Harrison Brennan was named.*

Emma Searle said that this feedback was not a survey about placing amenities in a new building, this is about Mark Scott being afraid of the pressure students will able to exert which lead to both

ends of the political spectrum calling for Mark Scots Job. Adding that we need to fight back not to asked to fill in a form and still do nothing. Concluding that if you are doing nothing what are you doing, you need to be serious about things that work, and I think that this SRC needs to note that this strategy is not one that will achieve anything.

Moved: Angus Fisher

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Martha Barlow returned the chair to Harrison Brennan

## **R2. Support Woolworths Warehouse Workers on Strike**

Last Thursday Woolworths workers in four different warehouses commenced indefinite strike action across Australia. As of today, there are five warehouses on strike. At the Erskin Park Distribution Centre in Western Sydney, hundreds of workers are on strike over wages and conditions.

Workers' demands include scrapping "The Framework" and "Glidepath," dehumanising policies that show complete disregard for workers' physical and mental health. Woolworths' Productivity Framework is a dystopian system of surveillance and micro-management, where "gap times" like talking to colleagues, using the bathroom, and following safety measures are penalised. Workers have stated they are treated like robots and viewed as just a number by management.

Woolworths is one of the main companies causing and making massive profits out of the cost-of-living crisis. Last year Woolworths made a net profit of 1.7 billion dollars and executives of the company were given 18 million dollars in bonuses. Woolworths makes its mega profits by price gouging and is currently being sued by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for scamming customers with dishonest discount pricing claims.

The ALP has failed to give relief for workers and students during the cost-of-living crisis and allowed supermarkets to rake in huge profits. Since the labour government was elected in 2022, Australian workers have experienced the largest fall in disposable incomes of any OECD country. Meanwhile, corporations continue to make mega profits at the expense of working people.

In this context, Woolworths workers fighting back should receive our full solidarity and support.

### **Platform**

1. The SRC condemns Woolworths' treatment of its workers.
2. The SRC condemns Woolworths' price gouging and opportunistic profiteering during the cost-of-living crisis.
3. The SRC condemns the ALP for inaction over the cost of living crisis.
4. The SRC endorses the strike action taken by Woolworths workers.

### **Action**

1. The SRC will post this motion on its social media platforms.
2. The SRC will promote the Woolworths strike on its social media platforms.

### 3. The SRC will donate supplies to and fundraise for the Woolworths strike fund.

Discussion:

Ben Walden spoke to their motion and spoke about the action that have been happening for the last two weeks and also the conditions that the workers have been under. And spoke about how eager the workers are to fight back against the profiteering of woollies. They are showing everyone how you can and should fight back, everyone should go out and support the workers, you should talk to the workers and not management

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion and asked everyone to indicate who had been out to the picket line. Adding that more people need to get down there and talk to the striking workers and the techniques they have been put through by woollies with their productivity expectations and the harsh conditions they are working through. Saying that if you don't make the expectation, you get followed by management to get you to pick up. Concluded saying that he media is trying to spin this for the bosses saying that they are ruining Christmas.

Jasmine Donnelly said that NLS will come.

Jasmine Al-Rawi asked why haven't your unions put out statements of solidarity

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying that as a casual retail employee, this is an inspiring action. Adding that recently had a staff townhall and spoke about the productivity framework. Which is toxic, and saying that they've been told we need to not just do our job, we have to offer an amazing customer experience all with no increase in our wages in how many years.

Aarya Pagrut spoke to the motion and about how this is one of the greatest industrial actions we've seen this year and it hits at the profits of the bosses. Adding that it's a strategy that wins demands, worker confidence. Noting that the workers have horrendous conditions - extremely long shifts and horrible surveillance, and that this needs to change and they need to win for the working conditions of future workers as well.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion saying we need to head over there and they will be there this weekend and as long as it goes on.

Jasmine Donnelly asked why weren't Remy Lebreton there already.

Grace Street responded saying they NLS loves to use this line but we do have jobs too.

Shovan Bhattarai responded saying that I think it's a problem that people aren't taking it seriously.

Harrison Brennan noted that there is a strike fund people can contribute too as well.

Deaglan Godwin proposed and amendment to add an action point 3:

The SRC will donate supplies to and fundraise for the Woolworths strike fund.  
It was amendable to the movers

Shovan Bhattarai – it's good to know people are going to come out, unions and Labor often claim that union membership it really hard to get people to engage. But this strike shows this is not the case people just need to be ready to talk to people and take actions. There have been successful illegal labour strikes in the past that win change

Moved: Ben Walden

Seconded: Jasmine Al-Raw

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **R3. Stop the Cuts to Higher Education**

#### **Preamble**

Universities across Australia are facing attacks on education. USyd management is planning a round of cuts for 2025 following an estimated \$90-110 million loss in projected revenue.

Already, we have seen cuts proposed or implemented at universities across Australia. At ANU, \$250 million in cuts means 600+ staff are set to be sacked, and the faculty of health and medicine disestablished. Staff estimate 40% of all courses are to be abolished at UOW. This round of cuts comes after Labor's International student cap which will limit international enrolments to 270,000 across Australian Universities. While the cap is a racist scapegoating of international students for the cost of living and housing crisis under the Labor government, we must be clear that University Vice Chancellors are not opposing the cap on this basis, nor is this the main motivation for cuts to our education.

These cuts are part of USyd's 'long-term planning' to increase forecasted revenue despite recording a profit of \$351.6 million in 2023. This is following a \$1.08 billion surplus in 2021, where in the same year, FASS made a \$135 million surplus despite justifying cuts on the basis of financial hardship. This neoliberal approach to education in Australia is nothing new. The commodification of tertiary education leads management to maximise profits by cutting costs to staff and students, worsening conditions for our education. Recently, FASS has proposed to staff the entrenching of a 4500 words per hour marking rate, which will put more pressure on already overworked and underpaid staff to deliver and drastically decrease the quality of feedback students will receive. According to the 2025 USyd handbook, 69 units have been cut from Arts alone, including 20 units from philosophy and the entire writing studies minor. Furthermore, USyd management is planning to implement more mandatory 'program-wide' courses like FASS1000, a core subject for BA/BAS students, for every year of all degrees. Standardised courses such as FASS1000 centralise majors within the discipline so specialised units can be discontinued, reducing administrative demands and are cost cutting under the guise of promoting equitable assessments. Similar models have been introduced in other universities, including UOW's new 8/8/8 degree structure. This will mean less degree choice, course cuts, major job losses, worse student-staff ratios and worse learning and working conditions. Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor Mark Scott received a pay rise of \$75,000 in 2023, taking his salary to \$1.17 million. The continued rise in executive salaries and record profits,

alongside proposals for cuts, reveals that USyd management is choosing to implement cuts to education that hurt staff and students to maximise profits.

Education should be for education's sake; students should have the right to attend university that prioritises improving working and learning conditions for staff and students. It is clear we cannot appeal to USyd management who are indifferent to the consequences cuts to our education will bring to the degradation of working and learning conditions. Our approach must be one that opposes the rhetoric that USyd management is forced to make cuts to education on the basis of declining government funding and rising costs. It is more important than ever that the USyd SRC uses its platform and resources to bring students into the fight against the corporatisation of our university. We must demand the university use their millions in profit towards our education and improve staff pay.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC wholly opposes all cuts and restructures to units, schools and departments.
2. The USyd SRC opposes casualisation and job losses.
3. The USyd SRC opposes the implementation of mandatory 'program-wide' courses which will standardise degrees.
4. The USyd SRC endorses the 'Stop the Cuts' campaign.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will promote the 'Stop the Cuts' campaign on SRC social media.
2. The USyd SRC and OBs commit to this activist orientation to building the 'Stop the Cuts' campaign, dedicating resources and their own time against cuts.

Discussion:

Yoshi Leung spoke to the motion there have been course cut presented all over the country with ANU already 300 staff are to be fired and up to 40% of course cut. This is about restructuring to continue to profiteer off students. Adding that management want to increase revenue and make University a commodity rather than a place of learning and research. We've already got reports of lost jobs from cuts, in arts alone there are 69 units being cut. This is going to be an institution focused on endless profits, and not education. Adding that management are trying to bring down cost and that is going to lead to reduced working conditions and learning conditions for students. Concluding saying it is important that we use our resources to fight back and promote this campaign.

Grace street this is a choice by universities, adding that she heard that UOW is cutting all history and language courses. This is just shows how these universities are doubling down on institutional colonialism by not wanting to talk about history or other languages. Adding that with all these cute USyd still won't cut the Experience Israel unit which only 6 people enrolled in. Adding this is a course that is run from and by an occupier and illegal settlement and supporter of genocide. I'm glad next year's Education Officers will be fighting on this and we're going to be fighting on. Concluding that management are going to try use WHS standards to prevent students and staff picketing, but if they cared about staff they would be looking at the actually working conditions of staff, not looking at how to silence dissent to their ongoing actions.

Tobias Hansson spoke to the motion people will have hear about the cuts and this is a complete gutting of different departments, this is unprecedented in recent years. This is being sold as though this is due to the international student cap, but that is bullshit, they are already making massive profits. Management views staff as cogs in a machine and students as walking bank cards. The University are not going to care about cutting SRC funding, they're cutting staff jobs all the time. You can say that people might care about the public image but the real thing it we need to show we aren't going to stand for it.

Angus Fisher spoke to the motion saying that Mark Scott is just very slick, he's a slippery man, and that's how he is getting these cuts through. Adding that management know that they are changing courses to claim for greater generalisation will make things easier, which is code for cutting staff numbers, and making class sizes massive and leaving staff too overloaded to cope. We need to be getting involved in this on many levels, with direct action and also through blocking things in committees.

Martha Barlow spoke to the motion and spoke about the many years of government cuts to education, slowly hoping to produce more profit and care less about the quality of the education we're getting. Adding that she was looking forward to taking up this fight. And pushing this a lot at Welcome Week.

Moved: Yoshi Leung

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to move a motion from the floor

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **R5. SRC Statement on the Hodgkinson Review: An Outrageous Attack on Free Speech and Student Union Independence**

### **Platform:**

Last night, the University of Sydney Senate accepted in principle the recommendations of the Hodgkinson External Review Report. The report and its recommendations represent a serious attack on the freedom of speech and right to protest of students, and on the organisational and political independence of student unions and other student organisations. The SRC strongly and powerfully rejects this report and demands that the university not implement any of the recommendations.

The recommendations in the report include:

- Maintaining the restrictions on protests outlined in the University's new Campus Access Policy.



- Banning postering on campus.
- Withholding funding from student organisations (such as the SRC or USU clubs) if they are found to poster on campus.
- A ban on any protest that occurs inside a building or that could be construed as preventing access to a building.
- A ban on announcements at the beginning of a lecture or tutorial.
- All events or meetings on campus must comply with new “Civility Principles”.

These recommendations severely limit the freedom of speech of students on campus and the work of the SRC. It reflects a concerning attempt by university management to restrict the scope of the SRC to reach students through practical means of flyering and stalls. The SRC provides free and essential casework and legal services to all undergraduate students– these recommendations present a significant barrier between the student body and the SRC. The university’s threat to withhold funding from the SRC if it breaches university policy on flyering is a clear attempt to undermine the independence of the student union. Any funding cuts could severely limit these services’ functioning.

Political posters, demonstrations, and announcements are part of a rich tradition of student activism at Sydney University. These traditions developed out of powerful movements for social justice and equality: the Indigenous Freedom Rides, the anti-Vietnam War movement, and the campaign against Apartheid in South Africa. While the university celebrates these past movements, these recommendations silence students today who are standing up against injustice. At a time where our university’s financial complicity in genocide has become a key concern among the student body and as the SRC campaigns against imminent cuts to courses and jobs by the university, these recommendations appear as an attempt to limit the SRC’s capacity to speak freely on these issues. These recommendations unequivocally restrict the freedom to politically organise and campaign.

In the strongest terms, the SRC opposes the recommendations presented by the Hodgkinson review as an attack on basic democratic rights. The SRC is proudly independent and committed to organising and leading activism on a variety of social justice issues. We call on the university to cease the implementation of the Hodgkinson Review recommendations and commit to preserving freedom of speech and political activity on campus as well as the security of the student union.

Discussion:

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion and spoke about the importance of building serious opposition mean not conceding to any of its claims and assumptions. We need to be real with the fact that this report is a motivated political attack, they admitted this, this was brought on because of the encampment, and so any response needs to say we need to address that, this is an attack on activism, every bit of language being attacked is activist languages nothing to do with services language this is about activism on campus and the uni seeking retribution for the encampment and trying to silence us with the CAP and we’ve been resisting that as well.

Shovan Bhattarai waived her speaking rights.

Luke Mešterović spoke to the motion and spoke about what the report's recommendations were about. Adding that we can only accomplish this by fighting back stronger, and the irony of these being put forward these on the grounds of WHS – something won by unions and fighting. Concluded talking about the weaponization of disabilities to shut student activism down when it is their policies who make things more difficult for everyone.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying she would like to see NLS present more than the motion from earlier. Adding that this is a huge threat to activism on campus and the SRC and NLS hasn't done anything this year. Concluding that NLS used to be good at activism, but you've not been interested in it anymore, NLS have the Presidency so need to get back to activism.

Procedural to allow visitors speaking right for the remainder of the meeting

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Aaron Douglass spoke to the motion echoing Ishbel's comments, saying that at Macquarie University they basically have a fake SRC which does nothing and we see nothing happen for students. Adding that USyd SRC need to take this seriously, not a half-assed approach because management is threatened when students unite against them.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion, spoke about how they have gone to restrict every single area we can use for activism and dissent. So many important and monumental actions that have happened would never have occurred if these policies and recommendations were in place. The uni supports the bombing of Gaza and the middle east – they don't care about safety at all. The uni doesn't want to be embarrassed or have pressure applied, so they are attempting to take away from our ability to put pressure on them at all.

Moved: Annabel Pettit

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **R4. Support public sector workers fighting the Minns government for a pay rise**

Workers in NSW are being smashed by a cost of living crisis. According to a study commissioned by Anglicare Australia, barely one-in-100 rentals in Australia can be afforded by essential workers. Nurses and Midwives in NSW are fighting for an immediate 15% pay rise. They have taken two days of strike action so far, bringing out the largest numbers of nurses and midwives on strike in the union's history. Train drivers and other members of the Rail Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) are fighting for a new contract that includes an annual 8% pay rise. These demands recognise the historic decline in real wages experienced by workers over the last few years.

Despite this, the Minns government has refused to award Nurses and Midwives the pay rise they deserve, saying nurses made a choice in 2022 between a high pay rise and the implementation of safe staffing ratios. It is outrageous that the government expects nurses to bargain the safety of

their patients against a pay rise for themselves. Similarly, the government has offered RTBU members an annual 3% pay rise instead.

Meanwhile, the Minns government has awarded NSW police a historic pay rise of 22-40%, making them the best-paid police in Australia. It is outrageous that the government rewards cops with an undeserved raise then cries poor when it comes to workers who perform essential jobs like healthcare and transport.

Workers are right to take disruptive strike action. If they win their demands, they will show to other workers that you can fight back against the bosses during this cost of living crisis, and win.

### **Platform**

- The SRC condemns the Minns government's refusal to give Nurses and Midwives, as well as RTBU members, a pay rise that makes up for the historic decrease in real wages experienced over the last few years.
- The SRC condemns the Minns government for its hypocrisy in awarding the NSW Police with a 22-40% raise while crying poor to essential workers.
- The SRC supports nurses and midwives and RTBU members taking disruptive strike action.

### **Action**

- The motion will be shared from the SRC's social media accounts

Waived speaking rights

Max Pomarca spoke to the motion and spoke about how the motion highlighted the capitalistic and dismissive nature of Labor and NSW Labor. Nurses have horrible conditions especially in NSW, they've been holding strikes and while they offered the Nurses a 3% pay rise they gave the cops a 40% pay rise. They are not a workers' party they don't care about the workers and especially not essential workers. They way to fight against horrible working conditions, climate changes and the thing impacting the world, and we do that by fighting Labor

Lauren Finlayson spoke to the motion saying that NLS at Repts-Elect were saying that campaigning for Labor was the important thing to do in an election year. But the government only cares about the cops and no other public servants. Adding that Haylen and Minns are apologising for the inconvenience and acting like this hurt workers, but they are only going to care for the bosses.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion, agreeing with Shovan Bhattarai's remarks and asking NLS what they have done to combat this in the party or one thing that has made them fight something from within the part.

Moved: Emma Searle

Seconded: Annabel Pettit

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedure to suspend standing orders to move a motion from the floor

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai  
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Condemn Rose Jackson**

Preamble:

Rose Jackson is a former President of the USYD SRC and now the housing minister for the NSW Government. She has attracted national ridicule after she demonstrated that she had no clue what the average rent was for a 2 bedroom apartment in Sydney. She has previously lied to public housing residents that Waterloo public housing would not be sold off and privatised. She is a disgrace to the SRC and should be condemned.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns Rose Jackson.
2. They wish she had never been affiliated with the organisation and could remove her legacy

Action:

1. The Vice-Presidents will write to Rose Jackson communicating this motion.
2. That the SRC take a photo expressing that they wish she had never been affiliated with the organisation and could remove her legacy

Discussion:

Laura Alivio spoke to the motion saying that this is about Rose Jackson who is a former NLS SRC President. Adding that ms Jackson spoke about Gaza and called the conflict 'that stuff' and hoped that students at Uni could gain perspective. She had no clue what the cost of living in Sydney was really like. Concluded saying this is your future NLS, talking about Dominic Perrotte as being a good person and a friend, and we need to condemn Rose Jackson.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion and asked what is left of Labor left. Listing Gerard Buttigieg's one night at the encampments, Angus Fisher refusing to say the word intifada and hanging out with Jo Haylen and Rose Jackson for comfort. Concluded saying that what Rose Jackson said in running to the Sydney Morning Herald / Daily Telegraph, is important as they are choices. Are you going to stand and fight or make peace with authority.

Martha Barlow spoke about Rose Jackson comments about her husband saying that phrasing it as an 'enemies to lovers' story was a vile way of talking about marrying a man who ran a misogynistic club you ran campaigns against.

Isaac Robbins spoke to the motion saying "fuck Rose Jackson" adding how out of touch can you be to think that it would be \$200 a week for a two bedroom apartment. Adding that Rose Jackson

was the SRC president during the fight against VSU and all she spoke about was the attack on services too, but at least even she spoke at rallies.

Aarya Pagrut spoke to the debate saying that NLS thinks they are a Fatima Payman but are a Rose Jackson. They're not doing any activism or organising on the cost of living, or any other issues and asked them to get up and defend their party, concluding that it was just embarrassing.

Luke Mešterović asked how many people have to speak before NLS will get up and defend Rose Jackson. Adding that it was Rose Jackson who did deals to get herself a portfolio in exchange for backing Chris Minns, since then she has "fucked over public housing and nurses". Concluding that he thinks Rose Jackson is particularly dangerous as she gives cover to the right and claims it from the left.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion saying to paraphrase Karl Marx "All great Hacks appear twice in history, first as tragedy then as farce, first Rose Jackson then Rose Donnelly". Adding that what has been said tonight shows that the Labor party is about being a launching pad for power not values, and NLS would vote for genocide to ensure they didn't need to know what the cost of rent in Sydney was. Concluding saying that they would vote for anything to protect themselves and was glad SAIt made it hard for NLS in 2006, and are going to make it hard for NLS again.

Shovan Bhattarai asked to add an amendment:

Add action point 2: that the SRC will take a photo expressing that they wish Rose Jackson had never been affiliated with the SRC and could remove her legacy.

Moved: Laura Alivio

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*There was a quorum count at 9:20pm*

*Meeting was found inquorate.*

*The meeting **LASPED** at 9.21pm*