



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 3rd regular meeting of the 95th SRC held on Wednesday the 1st March 2023. Meeting held in the New Law LT 024, New Law Annex.

*There as a quorum count at 6:15pm
The meeting was found quorate*

A. Meeting open at 6:17 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Jasmine Donnelly 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:

Emily Mackay
Alexander Poirier to Daniel Bowron
Bryson Contable to Aceda Rose
Annabel Jones to Henri Collyer
Honey Christiansen to Alev Saracoglu
Owen Marsden-Readford to Tom Williams

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Lauren Lancaster to Amelie Roediger

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Iggy Boyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 1st regular meeting of 95th SRC Council held on 1st February 2023 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 1 February 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

-
Procedural motion: to move Q1 Q2, 3 and R9 moved en bloc at the end of the meeting

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

the procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion: to limited to speaking time to 2 minutes per person

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Victor Liang

The procedural 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.

Thomas Thorpe asked if the can we put the timer on the screen to see how long there is to speak

Lia Perkins noted that was not possible, but the speaker will have it in front of them

Satvik Sharma was named.

Cooper Gannon asked about the audit and the acquittal.

Satvik Sharma asked the about the acquittal and when it would be done

Lia Perkins noted that it's still being put together expected sometime in early April.

Satvik Sharma asked about Lauren Lancaster and her overseas trip.

Lia Perkins noted this was not relevant to the business of the Council.

Satvik Sharma was name for disruption.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

Ben Jorgenson gave a verbal report:

- The university got a 7 million investment in quantum computing
- Remind that students protect the privacy of their peers and follow due process of student data collected formally or informally

Motion: to accept the report of the Undergraduate fellow of senate

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Cooper Gannon

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

K. Elections

K1. Election of 3 Indigenous Students' Officers **

K2. Election of 4 Mature Age Students' Officers

K3. Election of 3 Ethno-Cultural Officers **

K4. Election of 2 Queer Officers **

** Affirmative action and Active member requirement provisions apply
(Part 1 section 4 and 4A, of the regulations)

There were no nominations.

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 25th January and the 7th of February 2023.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 25th January and the 7th of February 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Lia Perkins tabled a written report:

Activism

Affordable Housing

The housing crisis in NSW is significantly affecting students and young people – and it impacts every other aspect of our lives. I attended the Action for Public Housing rally earlier in March, which was a big coalition of groups demanding the state government stop evicting public housing tenants, and instead repair and build more public housing. Students for affordable housing have more actions planned. The SRC and Welfare Action Group is putting out a survey this week to gather more data and testimonials from students, which I have assisted Jordan with. I would also like to express support to Cherish, who was arrested at a housing protest. It is great to hear that the charges have been dropped, and the SRC supports Cherish against her charges.

Thales off Campus

I attended the EAG's rally to kick Thales off campus, and helped with some of the building effort. Congratulations to the Education Officers and EAG for a successful launch of their campaign. It's truly time to get weapons manufacturers out of higher education.

March 9 strike

The NTEU has called a strike on Thursday, March 9. This will be another opportunity for the EAG and SRC to show our solidarity with staff on strike, and make the connection between working conditions and learning conditions. This strike is essential to protect the teaching and research nexus, fight for Indigenous employment targets, win rights for casual staff, and much more. I encourage everyone to attend the strike and its picket lines - telling anyone you know to not come onto campus on March 9, except to attend the pickets. I would like to close the SRC offices in solidarity, as we have done at previous strikes - and I am including this as part of the report. See you at the picket lines!

End SASH on campus

During Welcome Week the Women's Collective held a rally demanding an end to SASH on campus. WoCo does essential work highlighting the lack of response from the University to support survivors, and demanding a change to the culture and violence that perpetuates this culture - a consent module is not enough and hardly warrants being considered a response. WoCo plans to continue the campaign, particularly addressing the crisis of inequality perpetrated by the colleges, and considering the recent Honi article about St Andrews College, this is very important to support.

Climate Strike Friday 3rd

See you at the Climate Strike on Friday at 11am at Fisher! There is no future on this planet if our government continues to open new coal and gas.

Suspension campaign

I wholly condemn the University's move to suspend Maddie Clark and Deaglan Godwin, and posted a statement in support. Deaglan and I are working on an open letter by the SRC to garner support among students, staff and alumni to support Maddie and Deaglan, and demand the University drop the suspension and defend free speech on campus. The SRC looks to support Maddie and Deaglan going forward.

Projects and SRC work

Welcome Week

The SRC had a very successful Welcome Week, we told thousands of students about the activism and services of the SRC and handed out thousands of tote bags. Here is a list of the different events I participated in, including stalls and talks:

- Scholarship Welcome: stall with Tiger and Jasmine
- New to Sydney Welcome: panel
- International student welcome: speech, then stall with Rose
- Con Welcome Day: stall with Jasmine and speech
- FASS student Welcome: speech
- Welcome Ceremony: speech
- Welcome Week Stalls: thank you to Tiger, Jasmine, Rose and Daniel for all your work on the stall. Thank you to volunteers including Devanshi, Chanel and Bowen (sorry if I missed anyone).
- SRC Party. It was fantastic to see so many students come to this event, and I particularly enjoyed talking to all of the new students. Congratulations to Jasmine for taking the lead in organising this event.

In week 1 we also ran a few stalls on campus to hand out remaining tote bags and tell students about upcoming rallies. Thank you to those who took time to help, including Ishbel, Jordan, Yasmine, and Iggy.

SRC Website

It's working very well! Training for Officebearers, exec and councillors (if they wish) is on Tuesday 7th 10am to 12pm and Wednesday 8th 1pm to 3pm. Attending one of these sessions is essential for convenors. It will be a very hands-on training session and will teach you how to use all of the functions of the website, uploading and updating your sections. If you're unable to make either time please email me and we can sort something out.

Foodhub

It's reopened! Foodhub is an important initiative from the SRC, beginning in 2020 with the Food hampers, and expanding to a physical location. Congratulations to Rose and Daniel for their work on foodhub, I have heard positive reviews and it was good to visit on Thursday. We are working on including more signage so that students can easily find the spot.

Social media

You may have noticed that the SRC has been particularly active on social media. I worked diligently to share and post things following the last council, as well as posting weekly 'what's on

@ the SRC this week'. If you are running anything and you want to make sure it's included, please endeavour to email (president@src.usyd.edu.au) it to me by Friday.

SSAF Acquittal

The Gen Secs and myself are working on the student aspects of the SSAF acquittal. This is a lengthy task and I look forward to it being complete.

New Caseworkers

The new caseworkers start on March 8th. Please warmly welcome them!

Committees

The committee meetings I've been to this month:

- UE Education
 - o I brought up many of the same points I did at the Academic Board.
- Academic Board
 - o And pre-academic board meeting with student members
 - o In the discussion around the accords I argued for the need for the University to support paid student placements, explicitly state an increase in youth allowance and lowering the age of independence, and for free education.
 - o In the student members report I spoke about the current issues facing students using SRC services. Many students have been unable to enrol in units because they are waiting for Enrolment Exceptions Requests (EERs) with delays in processing, unreasonable special cons waiting times, backlogs and delays in integrity cases, and more. This is the fault of the University's centralised system, which offers no support for students who need a clear answer on their enrolment, and don't want to delay their degrees. I also spoke about the need for flexibility and online learning options - which was raised to me by Grace Wallman, Khanh Tran and others. I raised significant problems with the housing crisis, which is affecting students' ability to study. Finally, I brought up the lack of support around the introduction of physical, pen and paper exams at the University.
- Learning Environment Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Educational Development and Excellence Committee (EDE)
- E-Tools Review Committee

Other things

Change of date for April and May Council meetings

The Council meetings in April and May will need to be moved to the first Tuesday of the month, instead of the first Wednesday (as we usually do) because of a clash in the Secretary to Council's schedule. I have already spoken to many people about this, and would like to move the date change as part of my report. I am glad we are able to provide this flexibility.

First Nations consultation

At the last Council meeting, the council moved to delay further discussions of a Voice to Parliament, Treaty and the Uluru statement until we had more time to consult with First Nations students and could invite students at the Gadigal Centre to attend. In the past few weeks I have had many conversations with students about the council's position. Unfortunately, due to delays in the location, the invitation to the Gadigal Centre was sent too late for it to be included in the

weekly newsletter. I have been informed that more students from the Gadigal Centre may be able to attend the Council meeting on Tuesday April 4th at 6pm. Thank you to those who have offered to speak at council, and I look forward to further discussions outside of council meetings.

NUS President Summit

Early in the morning after the last council meeting I went to the NUS Presidents Summit. It was good to have political conversations with many of the representatives from ANU, and the NUS LGBTQIA+ officers, the NUS Education officer and the NUS Ethnocultural officer. I would have appreciated more discussion time at the conference, rather than presentations from groups which are largely irrelevant to the work of Student Unions – such as the Ramsay Foundation, and a former Labor Senator. I spoke about some of the key campaigns of the SRC – including the students support staff strikes campaign last year.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the report's main points, noting that the next two council meetings will be on the first Tuesday for the next two months rather than the Wednesday.

Satvik was named during the report

Simon Uptis asked about the two students who were suspended for protesting Malcom Turnbull last year, and what actions are being taken to support these students.

Lia said

Satvik Sharma was named for a third time. Jasmine Donnelly asked him to leave the meeting.

Simon Uptis asked about the arrest of Cherish for her protest at the RBA.

Lia Perkins said she is going to share the open letter and send support to the upcoming event.

Thomas Thorpe asked how the suspended students are able to use SRC resources

Lia Perkins noted they were elected, and all suspended students can still access support from the SRC.

Cooper asked what is the SRC is doing?

Satvik Sharma asked wasn't Lia Perkins also part of management by being on the Academic Board.

Lia Perkins clarified she is a student rep who sits on the board and raises issues, not a member of the University executive

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Daniel Bowron and Rose Donnelly tabled a written report:

Good evening all! A lot has happened since our last meeting, but with Welcome Fest now behind us, we can all take a deep breath and return to business as usual.

FoodHub

The service has seen an immediate return to prior demand, with stock flying off the shelves in the first week. We have been receiving positive feedback regarding the variety of items offered and will be amending our order volumes throughout the semester so that demand is always met and waste is minimised. *Also, the cumulative number of people served ticked over 2,000 on the first day of reopening.*

- The USU is arranging to place dispensers for Pixii period products in the FoodHub room.
These will be a similar arrangement to what can already be found in the bathrooms of USU buildings.
- Alicia Sutandar has kindly offered to put together some recipes and tips for cooking on a small budget, we hope to have these available at Foodhub soon.
- We have been speaking with Marcel, who is involved with the community garden at USyd (located opposite the Wilkinson Building on Maze Crescent, next to Cadigal Green). We are hoping to work with them for a source of fresh local herbs and other seasonal produce, as well as spreading the word of their existence to interested parties.
 - o If anyone wishes to get involved with the garden, please contact one of us or reach out to their Instagram @usyd.garden.
- FoodHub will be closed on Thursday 9 March in accordance with the NTEU strike action taking place that day.

Cost of Living Crisis campaign

- Students are able to receive tote bags at Foodhub, many have stopped to chat about how the service is helping them through and is making a difference. Daniel and I have been speaking to them about the role of the SRC at Foodhub and how both our free casework and legal service can assist them without putting further financial pressure on them as they navigate studying in poverty.
 - @therealstudentsofsydney Tiktok has been reserved for platforming struggling students, we hope to create an archive of the effect of the housing crisis and rising living costs specific to those studying at University of Sydney, including the unmet demand for housing at the University of Sydney that the administration should be treating as a top priority.
 - Tuesday 7th of March Tax the Rich Protest outside AFR Business Summit
 - Housing Justice rally on the 11th of February was successful, looking forward to the next
- We will be striking Thursday the 9th of March!

Discussion:

Daniel Bowron spoke to the report covering its main points.

Rose Donnelly covering the parts that weren't covered before.

Satvik made a comment on Daniel's appearance

Yasmine Johnson asked about the delay in responses to food hub emails for volunteers.

Rose Donnelly said we have too many volunteers at the moment but that may change. We also do not yet have a manager for the Hub so we are getting to people when we can.

Jack Scanlan asked about the HIV/STI testing being available through the SRC.

Rose Donnelly said that we've been offered a discounted rate of \$11, they work like a rat test so we want to trial run offering that and there have been questions about if this is in the mandates but access to thing like this and personal hygiene products are important, and there is a budget there for it.

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

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Jasmine Donnelly and Tiger Perkins tabled a written report

Welcome Week was a movie...

Half of our February was spent hustling on WW preparations, ie tote bags ie various Welcome to Uni stalls ie spending way too much time talking to Student Life. Thank you to everyone who helped us pack the bags, especially Daniel, Rose, Lia, Jordan, Harrison, Eliza, Eleanor and Martin (unaligned).

We have 1000 new followers on the usyd SRC Instagram and now can officially claim microinfluencer status (between 2000 and 10 000 followers), which will be valuable to promote the SRC as a helpful reference point for relevant student information, as well as our activist campaigns and other activities. The SRC party went off, we had lots of engagement from first years and international students— so sorry to anyone who missed it.

We focused on building for the NUS Climate Strike and the Thales campaign during our conversations with students and at Hermann's (Herwomman's?) where the party took place. The SRC has been stalling on various days around Eastern Av and Redfern Run and we have also been posterizing a number of times for the upcoming strikes.

What you've been waiting for...

Education	\$19000
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Women's	\$6580
Welfare	\$3000
Ethnocultural	\$4200
First Nations	\$1100
Int Students	\$2000
Global Solidarity	\$500
Enviro	\$6900
Inter-campus	\$300
SASH	\$1500
Queer	\$3800
Disco	\$3220
Interfaith	\$300
Social Justice	\$500
Refugee Rights	\$600
Student Accom	\$500
Honi Soit	\$9000
Executive	\$0

Coming up we have the Climate Strike on Friday and will begin building for next week's strike with the NTEU.

Discussion:

Jasmine Donnelly and Tiger spoke to the report and covered its main points.

Deaglan Godwin asked about the cuts to the environment collective and others to create a pool controlled by the collectives, and it was disgraceful it was floated. Why has activist budgets not increased in the past year, why isn't

Tiger Perkins we cannot increase the overall budget as we don't have control over that we've received the same about in SAFF. It was not about cutting activist budgets but creating a resource pool for all collectives, if the EAG which was cut by a few thousand dollars they would still have had access to the resource pool.

Hersha Kadkol noted that the smaller collectives receive the least amount of funding, such as Social Justice and Refugee Rights and they have a smaller budget, and this would also give more funds to non-activist collectives.

Jasmine Donnelly said that Environment departments funding was maintained.

Hersha Kadkol but you're just moving money from Refugee Rights and Social Justice departments.

Tiger Perkins we've kept funds where there are active collectives.

Jack Scanlan asked about how the General Secretaries think autonomous budgets should be increased and managed.

Lia Perkins said we plan to make application for contestable and base funding for collectives and departments, if it's a base increase it will be an ongoing increase, and if it is contestable, it will just be for the year.

Satvik Sharma said that there is reckless spending in the SRC, and spoke about the funding for collectives and why is the SRC funding these and not putting money in services

Ben McGrory said the First Nations budget was very small, and were there any funds left over from last year.

Tiger Perkins there was no carry over from last year and that can't be done with SAFF. On the first hand it has doubled from last year and something like running a voice campaign from the First Nations portfolio it is more likely to be funded.

Ben McGrory asked of the SRC has asked the Uni about greater funding for departments

Lia Perkins we're doing the acquittal, the uni controls the budgets and the timelines we would have more flexibility if there was compulsory student unionism

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

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Victor Liang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Ishbel Dunsmore and Yasmine Johnson tabled a written report

Our early weeks of semester have been packed with activism.

We're keen to jump onto building the staff strike that the National Tertiary Education Union has called for Thursday of week 3 (March 9). Students have a vital role to play in supporting staff, demanding that management stop attacking conditions for staff and students at Sydney Uni. We'll be building a student contingent to attend the picket lines on the day to help shut the campus down and show management that they won't get away with making billion dollar surpluses by attacking staff. <https://facebook.com/events/s/usyd-students-support-the-marc/1361528417982862/>

Councillors should come and help with the building efforts through the Education Action Group, or put up supporting contingent events from from their collectives! Sign up to do some leafleting here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TLkGoJNGGuQRpo6X578HIE-E0adKRY7EwbsOOyzjVVw/edit?usp=sharing> . We have a few thousand leaflets and posters to get through so we'll need all hands on deck!

We spent Welcome Week letting students know about the Education Action Group and building the Books not Bombs - Thales Off Campus campaign, demanding that the university cut ties with one of the world's largest weapons manufacturers. We kicked this campaign off with a successful speakout on Thursday of week one, calling out the fact that the university is helping contribute to the expansion of Australian militarism. Keep an eye out for future actions to come.

We've also been part of a cross-campus campaign against the housing crisis which is hitting ordinary people, and students in particular, at the moment, and were part of a rally last Friday for action on this crisis. While the profits of landlords, property developers and banks soar, young people are finding themselves faced with eviction, struggling to pay rent, or unable to move out of home. We're supporting the national Get a Room - Students for Affordable Housing campaign, and look forward to working closely with the Welfare Action Group around this issue.

We'll be attending the protest against the Australian Financial Review Business Summit on March 7th. Some of Australia's richest and most powerful politicians and bosses will be in attendance, so we'll be rallying to demonstrate that they won't get away with the cost of living crisis they're inflicting on ordinary people.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/tax-the-rich-protest-the-afr-b/3557199344499732/>

We've also signed onto the open letter to demand that the NSW police drop charges against Cherish Kuehlmann, who was arrested after a protest on the RBA steps against those profiteering

off the housing crisis. We'd encourage other OBs to sign on here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevEmSr-U75jHQPS2K00Xna-IMCix96i8A-bR-crU3XpQxH7g/viewform?fbclid=IwAR2AZxShbtMpFQJih1_fYPVmJB4Cm_TN_fbGxSJ6-P_0xukO1fnaPjBvuGk

Hope to see you all out and about!

Discussion:

Ishbel spoke to the report covering its main point and speaking about the NTEU and strike actions that have been called for this semester.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to report and about the cost of living, and housing insecurity, and encouraged everyone to attend the pickets,

Satvik asked if the speakers knew was a wage price spiral is?

Yasmine Johnson said that ordinary people are facing wage cuts not increases and businesses trying to maximise profit. that is the spiral we are facing, and I hope wages increase.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

02. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Iggy Boyed and Alev Saracoglu tabled a written and gave a verbal report

The Women's Collective has been very active to begin the semester; we held a demonstration at Welcome Week to bring awareness to the blight of sexual violence in orientation weeks across the country, particularly in USyd where the Colleges continue to harbour a strong and lasting rape culture. It's shameful that one year after the release of the second National Student Safety Survey, the university's plan is to hide behind consent merchandise. But thank you to all who came along, and don't forget to come along to our Welcome Picnic on March 1st, 4pm at New Law Lawns! We'll have catering provided by Courtyard and it's open to all students, thanks to the Student Life Grants team for the help! We'll also be painting a few banners, including one for the upcoming International Working Girls Day rally and march.

The Women's Collective recognises that The University of Sydney is a corporatized University, a University that weighs to profit-making above the well being of its staff and students. We recognise that staff teaching conditions are student-learning conditions, so we are delighted that the National Tertiary Education Union's University of Sydney branch has recently passed a vote for further striking in weeks 3, 6 and 10 of this semester. Wo.Co supports the strikes! We'll be looking for ways to draw out the links between the dismissal of feminised labour and consequently education too. We hope to see you all at the pickets soon!

Discussion:

Iggy Boyd spoke to the report and spoke about attending the TJ Hickey memorial and the campaign to change the name of the community centre as a memorial and covered the reports main points.

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

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Environment Officers

This month, we have prioritised building the climate strike on March 3, which will see hundreds of uni and highschool students demand radical action on the climate. This is important because Labor is ruling for the 1% at the expense of everyone else. Nowhere is this clearer than in the ALP's climate policy.

Climate change is caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Any rational solution to the climate crisis requires a rapid transition to renewable energy sources. In Australia, the opposite is happening. Under Labor, new coal and gas projects are being approved seemingly every other week. Instead of confronting the mining corporations profiting from this destructive industry, Labor is giving them special treatment.

Labor's safeguard mechanism is a neoliberal market-based non-solution to the climate crisis. It prioritises the business confidence of polluting corporations above the planet. The legislation is meant to force companies to reduce their carbon emissions. But it doesn't call for net reductions, only reductions in "emissions intensity". This means the worst polluters will be able to increase their emissions in coming years.

Worse, it allows polluting corporations to buy as many dodgy carbon offsets as they want. The carbon trading scheme, despite being revealed to be a scam by whistleblower Andrew Macintosh last year, is now to be used in an unlimited capacity.

No wonder the legislation has the approval of Rio Tinto, BP and the business council of Australia. The moral bankruptcy of this policy is revealed when one examines the effects that the climate crisis is having on communities across Australia. It is coming up to the one year anniversary of the devastating floods that inundated Lismore last year. In Lismore, families are still being forced to live in flood damaged houses that haven't been repaired. Scores have been forced to sell their homes on the open market, often for hundreds of thousands of dollars less than what they bought them for.

Considering this, the enviro collective organised a banner drop on Monday morning to show solidarity with community activists in Lismore.

We have been building the March 3 climate strike this week. Maddie and I, as well as other activists from the enviro collective, have been making lecture announcements and leafleting students on Eastern Avenue to get the word out. Every councillor and office bearer should attend the climate strike this Friday. The disgusting collaboration between labor and the fossil fuel industry can only be challenged by protest.

Following the March 3 climate strike, the enviro collective will be supporting a rally called in support of Violet Coco when she faces court on March 15. The Liberal government passed authoritarian anti protest legislation last year with the support of labor to stop activists from protesting the climate crisis.

Unless we challenge it with more protests on the streets, the fossil fuel bosses of Australia will only continue to grow richer at the expense of us and the planet.

Discussion:

Simon Upitis covered the main points of the report and encouraged more people to pass motions in their classes to gain support for the climate strike

Madeleine Clark spoke about the massive profits of fossil fuel companies, and the lack of supports for the victims of the floods last year and also called on people

Satvik Sharma quoted Scott Morrison and spoke about coal and condemned and federal government. Then spoke about the air-conditioning in the room and the weather for the week, and suggested that his friends could change the weather together.

Hersha Kadkol asked Madeleine Clark what the role of militant student protest is in creating change and rebuilding student unionism.

Madeleine Clark said it had a crucial role especially when the Labor government is using green washing to disguise policies and it's important to for people to see that people are fighting back on issues that affect them.

Cooper Gannon asked Satvik Sharma what is the impact of non- biodegradable stickers scattered across campus.

Satvik Sharma said that there is a concept between economic growth and environmental sustainability and that doesn't seem sustainable.

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

Moved: Rand Khatib

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers

Building student opposition to the powers that be is the crucial part of this activist office. We've been out leafleting, postering, and building for a few student campaigns, including the Thales off Campus and Affordable Housing rallies last week and the upcoming March 3rd Climate Strike. Labor finally announced that 19,000 refugees on TPV and SHEV visas will be eligible to apply for permanent status. While this is welcome, it is far from enough. At the same time, over 12,000 refugees, many on bridging visas, are excluded and face deportation. Home Affairs Minister Claire O'Neill reiterated Labor's commitment to the appalling "border protection" system which denies people their basic, internationally recognised right to seek safety from persecution; "if you try to enter Australia without a valid visa you will be turned back or returned to your port of origin". Despite years of known abuse, suicides and self-harm on the Manus and Nauru prison camps, Albanese chose to renew the prison on Nauru for another 10 years. This all makes it abundantly clear that Labor are not any less of an enemy to everyone who wants to see an end to refugee torture. We need to demand far more. Refugees deserve the right to permanent protection, irrespective of their visa status. They should have the right to settle in Australia and the right to citizenship, no matter how they arrived here or when.

To that end, we support the [upcoming rally](#) being organised by refugee groups outside federal Parliament demanding permanent visas are given to *all* refugees.

In the United States, Biden has moved to [implement the Trump era anti-refugee policy](#) of 'transit bans'. These bans would prevent any refugee from seeking asylum at the U.S. border if they've travelled through any third party nation. A refugee fleeing from poverty and (US-backed) state violence in El Salvador, who has made a hundred mile long trek to the U.S., would be automatically denied refuge at the border under this policy. The enactment of this policy proves that the Democrats are no kinder on the question of refugees, and instead of a barrier, are now the key proponents of racist, hardline border policy.

We oppose the [outrageous arrest](#) of the UNSW Education Officer, Cherish Kuehlmann by NSW police for protesting on the *steps* of the Reserve Bank. Her arrest is part of a campaign of intimidation by police against activism and protest in the city which dovetails with the consensus of both major parties of criminalising protest. We encourage the Council to sign on to the petition calling for her [charges to be dropped](#).

It's exciting to hear that staff will be going on strike again at the University. From collaborating with weapons companies, to cutting units available to students, to attacking staff conditions, it's clear that university management is not on our side. Staff going on strike - and students supporting them - hits management where it hurts by shutting down the university.

We've also created a set of social media pages for our office on [Facebook](#) (USYD SRC Refugee Rights Office) and [Instagram](#) (usyd.refugeerights) to share news and activism around refugees (and other leftie causes). People should give it a follow!

Akee, Annabelle, and Lydia

Discussion:

Annabelle Pettit spoke to the report and spoke about the get-a-room campaign and support for Cherish Kuehlm. Encouraged everyone to get involved in these campaigns.

Amelie Roediger spoke about the report and encouraged everyone to keep an eye out.

Akee Elliott spoke about the disaster off Italy where refugees drowned due to the governments hostile policies and shutting down NGO rescue ships, and similar policies have been enacted in the US and there need to be action to

Lydia Elias spoke to the report and about the governments changes to refugees pathways to citizenship but also turning back more refugees and also renewed the offshore detention centres indefinitely. Concluding saying all refugees should be welcomed.

Satvik Sharma asked if Lydia Elias supported AFL or NRL.

Akee Elliott responded to Satvik Sharma saying the disrespect to the content of the report was appalling.

Motion: that the report of the Refugee Rights Officers be accepted.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

05. Report of the Disabilities Officers

We had a very busy Welcome Week, distributing more than 100 DisCo tote bags and chatting to new collective members. We had incredibly insightful discussions with disabled students and these were some of the best moments of our time. On the other hand, we also experienced on numerous occasions when we were pointed at and laughed at by groups of students. And then there are students who remain shy about their disability out of the stigma that remains associated with disabilities, this is a phenomenon that we see disproportionately affecting international students. We recognise that this arises out of a combination of a persistently stigmatised and medical view of disability in students' home countries.

As a result, we are working with SUPRA to produce a number of officially-recognised translations in a number of languages of our disability information booklet and other resources, together with a media and training strategy to roll out for international students in the longer time with an eye for release in Welcome Week, Semester 2.

Khanh Tran also spoke on their experience as an international student at the snap rally for student housing on 24 February. There are a number of barriers facing disabled students in securing accommodation and navigating both university-owned housing and private rentals. Disabled

students, particularly those with mobility disabilities, are often invisible when it comes to student housing.

We are also pleased to inform that planning is underway for the opening of the Disabilities Space in August 2023. We will be working with SUPRA and the USU and disabled students to designate a name for the Space. The space will be available for use by all students with disabilities and comes with the following amenities:

To this end, we thank the collective efforts of our outstanding previous SRC disabilities office-bearers who persevered for more than six years. The funding we received for the space is significant and will go a long way in cultivating a larger Disabilities Collective over time and joining forces with other student disabilities representatives across our campus.

This is, however, only a start.

Khanh Tran and Jack Scanlan

Discussion:

Khanh Tran spoke to the report and covered its main points and the activities over welcome week

Jack Scanlan spoke about the DAP at the uni and reaching out to MPs for a national campaign. Also noting that council meetings are not always accessible to students especially those with sensory issues and asked people bring down the volume a bit.

Ella Haid asked where can student's get those lanyards

Jack Scanlan noted that Transport NSW have them and you can order a free one from them, and the Uni staff are now being trained on what that means as well.

Thomas Thorpe is there anything we should do to help student with an invisible disability.

Jack Scanlan said you don't have to do anything but be understanding, accommodating and not being overly aggressive in people's faces

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

Moved: Victor Liang

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

The first week of February was marked by the catastrophic earthquake in Türkiye and Syria which has now killed over 50,000 people and left more than a million homeless. The first 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck on February 6th, its epicentre in Gaziantep, the largest city in southeast Türkiye. Nine hours later a second, 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit neighbouring Kahramanmaraş. Kurdish and Syrian refugee communities were some of the most heavily impacted by the earthquake, due to discriminatory policies by the Turkish government and the Syrian war which displaced millions.

The extent of the tragedy was exacerbated by capitalism. Destructive for-profit infrastructure and corruption meant that thousands of buildings were given government approval despite being built in unzoned areas and not meeting international standards. Police have also detained people who have criticised the government's abysmal response. We show our solidarity to those dissident voices demanding an end to Erdogan's corrupt government.

In Palestine, another massacre took place when Israeli forces attacked the city of Nablus last Wednesday and killed 11 Palestinians and injured 80 others. At least 150 Israeli soldiers in dozens of armoured vehicles raided the city in what became one of the deadliest military raids in the occupied West Bank since the mass Palestinian uprising or Intifada of 2000-05.

Over 60 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces this year, 13 of them children. This makes the first 2 months of 2023 the deadliest period since 2000. The new Israeli government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not only announced major illegal settlement building projects but has increased repression against Palestinians with near-daily raids and killings of Palestinians and imposed harsher measures against Palestinian prisoners. It is crucial as student activists that we show solidarity with Palestine and oppose our government's silence on the recent attacks by building activism around Palestine.

This month Global Solidarity officers Jasmine and Deaglan have been building the March 3 climate strike by postering, leafleting and doing lecture announcements. It is important that all left-wing factions help build protests against the Labor party's inaction on the climate in order to rebuild a fighting climate movement.

The NTEU has also called a strike for week 3! Staff have seen complete intransigence from management on their demands, and in fact have seen management go back on concessions offered. The strikes called are a welcome step forward in the fight for better pay and working conditions for staff, and student activists should help build student support for the strikes as striking is the most effective strategy that can stop the running of the university and consequently cut into management's profits. Management are the main enemy of students, therefore it is in students' interest to help shut down the university during the strike. Jasmine and Deaglan will be on the picket lines and helping build the week 3 strike. Every other left-wing faction should also commit to building the strikes and supporting an escalating campaign by the left in the NTEU.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the report and about the snap action at the last council in support of Palestine. Encouraged everyone to come to the Nakba Rally.

Satvik Sharma spoke how last month he stood in solidarity with the investment bankers and

consultants of the world and this month it would be about why the SRC should be supporting Ron DeSantis in the upcoming US presidential primaries, he should be supported as a true American to the American presidency, and people who support the silent Americans who are suffering from democrats.

Jasmine Al-Rawi noted that global solidarity is about standing with oppressed people.

Satvik Sharma said he was.

Cooper Gannon spoke about cobalt mines in Africa and asked why people haven't recently protested for these children, and that there is a hypocrisy in the shutting down of us when making some comments, and that logical has nothing to do with it.

Deaglan Godwin noted that if the previous speakers' families and mentors have investments in overseas exploitation. And noted that the confidence of the previous speakers are why we need to protest Malcom Turnbull is about getting in the faces of the rich and the powerful.

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

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

-

07. Report of the Interfaith Officers

Thomas Thorpe and Sargun Saluja gave verbal reports

Thomas Thorpe

- Spoke about the Ashbry revival in Kentucky USA saying
 - o 100 people fell to their knees and bowed at the alter
 - o The holy spirit was then channelled ,
 - o A quote from Zachariah was made
 - o Spoke about letting god back into your life and how what happened in Ashbry exemplified this

Sargun Saluja

- spoke about the multicultural nature of the university
 - o There are multiple Christian clubs but very little diversity for other faiths
 - o This is also seen in the holidays celebrated by the Uni being almost all Christian
 - o Noting there needs to be more diversity

Khan Tran wanted to asked if Thomas if he supported Ron DeSantis refugee policies and if so as Mary and Joseph were refugees are you forgetting that history.

Thomas Thorpe responded saying that the first part of the question was not relevant to the portfolio, and second yes they were refugees and it comes down to the best was to manage them, there are different policies such as open boarders, or a proper process that allows for refugees to migrate.

Annabel Pettit responded saying the process is just torturing people.

Rand Khatib asked given that if Jesus was born today he would not be able to travel from Bethlehem to Jerusalem what are your positions on the conditions of Palestinians.

Thomas Thorpe said if we are to stand up to the justice of Palestinians we should unite against Hamas.

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

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O8. Report of the Welfare Officers

Last Friday the Welfare Action Group, NSW Education Organising Group and Action for Public Housing held a rally at Town Hall demanding housing justice, with a particular focus on student accommodation and demands for rent caps and rent freezes. Students, tenants and the Greens marched through Town Hall to Martins Place and stood across from Macquarie Street to demand an end to the cost of living crisis spurred on by the big banks and NSW Government.

This comes as the Federal Government proposes their Housing Legislative Package, a policy whereby the dividends of which (capped at \$ 500 million per year) would go toward the creation of 30,000 homes (20,000 social, 10,000 affordable for frontline workers). However, Australia needs 640,000 homes, and the people demand public, government-funded homes, not corporate-owned properties.

NSW Labor and their election campaign flaunt the pitiful renewal project approach to housing, whereby existing public or social homes are demolished and rebuilt into apartment blocks, and whereby 70% of units are private and 30% social, further reducing access to the affordable home during a cost-of-living crisis.

Cherish Kuehlmann was arrested recently for “aggravated trespassing” outside the RBA. As student unionists it’s important we show solidarity with Cherish and fight against continued attacks on activism in Australia and NSW specifically. There is a petition you can sign online, it’s imperative we show Cherish public support. <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/drop-the-charges-against-cherish-kuehlmann>

This a reminder that Welfare Action Group meetings are fortnightly, which you can look up on Facebook.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the report covering its main points and encouraged everyone to get involved in WAG.

Ella Haid spoke to the report and about the get-a-room campaign and the upcoming staff strikes and asked for everyone to get involved in not only attending but building the strikes as well.

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

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

09. Report of the Queer Officers

The start of the semester has been going swimmingly – there was a lot of excitement around the stall throughout O-week which has led to quite a few new faces at our weekly meetings. The Mardi Gras Rally at the end of O-week was a great success as well – a strong turn out that held the road blocking traffic outside F23 for approximately 15 minutes. We are excited to get the ball rolling on projects both new and old. Planning for queer honi is already underway, with much excitement amongst editors. Later this month is Trans Day of Visibility and we have a short series of events to honor the occasion – including bringing back the tradition of coming out by candle light which got lost during the years we were off campus due to Covid. In addition to that event we will be planning a speakout for the 30th, and a rally on the 2nd of April. Other political work includes organizing contingents to the International Working Girls Day rally and the Staff Strikes next week.

These events are particularly important this year as we have been hit hard with transphobic vitriol around the globe, from England with UK parliament blocking Scottish gender recognition laws, the Texas Attorney General seizing data on citizen undergoing transition, and the Australian courts just this week reducing a charge of murder to manslaughter on the basis of the perpetrators rage being induced by discovering the victim was a trans woman. By taking the streets we are expressing that our community is stronger than the hate against us, and we are uncompromising in demanding our rights and will keep fighting till demands stop being heard upon deaf ears. In light of this we are calling on the USyd SRC to endorse the Trans Day of Visibility Rally on the 2nd of April.

Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the report and covered the main points, calling on everyone to support and endorse the Trans Day of Visibility Rally on the 2nd of April.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: James Sherriff

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

10. Report of the First Nations' Officers

Have set out to begin running wellbeing and cultural activities for March,

To begin cultural consultations with First Nations students to have conversations and educational campaign around Voice Treaty and Truth, First Nations students do not believe that SRC is delivering services and advocacy work that serves our interests and needs. We have not had any funding allocated for wellbeing initiatives or other portfolio's tailor services to understand our needs and voices.

First Nations students see the SRC as running cultural and wellbeing initiatives for other marginalised groups. However there are no initiatives set out for our cultural, academic and financial needs. We do not receive public invitations to attend events and or access support services. This has caused First Nations students to believe the SRC does not have the interests of us at heart but use "Indigenous" or "First Nations" student community as a political mechanism to serve political campaigns.

First Nations students have also made unequivocally clear that the SRC is not a culturally safe and inclusive space for our Voices to be heard and interest represented. SRC has not conducted council meetings and SRC policy in a way where First Nations students and University of Sydney First Nations communities views and policy positions are represented.

First Nations University of Sydney feel that our position on Voice, Treaty and Truth has not been respected and adopted by the 95th SRC. We want Voice, Treaty and Truth and if SRC had taken the politics out of it and a cultural consultations taken place. First Nations students would feel comfortable and safe to come down and get involved.

There are no First Nations Councillors on the 95th SRC and there are no First Nations voices present at these debates. That is the whole reason we want Voice, Treaty and Truth. So we have representation and our voices heard. Stop speaking for us and stop misrepresenting our needs.

Why are we fighting over a Voice ? Is the NSW election not on the 25th of March? Are there not First Nations candidates seeking election on a Treaty platform??? Could we not campaign for the election of a new GOVT that will commit to a Treaty in the next term? Should that not be the priority of First Nations "allies" on the 95th SRC at this meeting? If you actually asked First Nations students, you would have been supporting us work towards this earlier!!

Discussion:

Ben McGrory spoke to the report and about the lack of consultation the First Nations students have had with regards to council motions on voice and affecting them, and asked that the SRC make more effort to engage and proper consultation, and it's distressing that these motions are passing or failing without

Motion: that the report of the First Nations' Officers be accepted.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

11. Report of the Social Justice Officers

This February, the Social Justice officers Keira, Julius, and Eddie have been campaigning for Housing Justice. With the semester commencing, this has provided us with the opportunity to build a lively protest for housing justice on campus to bring students out to fight around this issue. To build this protest we made lecture announcements for the rally, stuck up protest posters around the campus, and handed out leaflets to new students on campus. As well as this, we created informational posts on social media following the rally to keep students up to date with our campaign for housing justice.

Housing is currently a key issue for students, who are currently facing record rent hikes, and are being forced to queue in lines one hundred people long to compete with others for a single rental.

However the problem is not a lack of houses. In fact there are currently over 164,000 empty houses in Sydney. The problem is the Sydney rich, who hoard empty houses for tax benefits and luxury holidays, while thousands go homeless. It is also universities like USYD that profit off steadily increasing the cost of student accommodation each year.

Despite how much Anthony Albanese likes to remind people that he knows what it's like to live in public housing, the labor government has failed to implement any solutions for the housing crisis. Our rallies demands included that more public housing and affordable student housing be built, and an end to rent hikes and unfair evictions. There will be no social justice without justice, and so we will be continuing this protest campaign this semester.

It is important to understand the housing crisis through the extremely poignant lens of social justice as whilst those who desperately need shelter are deprived of it, particularly minorities adversely affected by the axes of oppression, the elite can feign ignorance and indulge in their ivory towers. Despite his often evoked anecdote of growing up in public housing, it is clear where Albanese's priorities lie - whilst Labor has nationally committed to the construction of 4000 dwellings per year, the waitlist for public housing has grown by an average of 7,662 annually since 2018. This also follows the revelation that Albanese earns \$115k annually through his rental properties, verifying that the prime minister's priorities abrade the needs of struggling tenants. Similarly, the state government spearheaded by Perretot has shamefully committed to privatising 70% of the 3,012 new homes built in Waterloo South (the estate currently comprising 86% social housing), indicating the abhorrent, bipartisan indifference towards the wellbeing of tenants.

On the 11 February 2023, we attended the Housing Justice Rally at Sydney's Town Hall which demanded no more homelessness, the abolition of 'no ground evictions', no more demolitions of public housing, the implementation of a 'rent freeze' and no more price-gouging landlords. The tenacity of disgruntled students, political candidates and fed-up tenants who attended indicated the importance of our efforts to protest the reprehensible state of the housing market.

With clear momentum going into this campaign and the evident exhaustion of students in relation to the fractured housing market, we attended a snap Housing Rally at Sydney's Town Hall on the 24 February 2023. The speakers at the rally affirmed to me that Sydney's housing crisis and the student experience are not mutually exclusive. However, students are also faced with a distinct set of circumstances. USYD has had a history of selling off and deferring student accommodation responsibilities to the private sector, allowing Scape, Igloo and UniLodge to charge exploitative and exorbitant prices for shoe-box sized accommodation with shared facilities. Even more dire is

the state of the colleges, where the average rent sits at around \$600 a week, and are the architects and active contributors of discrimination, harassment and toxic elitism on campus. Renting is another alternative for students who need to live adjacent to campus, an option both unaffordable and competitive, forcing students to settle for rentals ridden with mould and bug infestations. This calamity, which disproportionately affects international students, is amplified by TEQSA's mandate for an all student return by Semester 2 2023, demonstrating the government's apathy towards the atrocious state of student housing

This action follows the arrest of Cherish Kuehlmann, an abhorrent display of police intimidation and political repression akin to the sentencing of Violet Coco. We, as an activist SRC, should not be deterred by this. It is clear that without student action and involvement in the push for housing justice, both the university and state/federal governments will continue to ignore the crisis plaguing students.

Another exciting campaign is the strike solidarity campaign that has been launched through the EAG to support USYD staff as they prepare to strike yet again next Thursday. The bosses have been wildly stubborn in not only refusing most of the staff's demands but even in backing out of demands that had been accepted, so its encouraging to see workers vote to shut down the campus again. Striking is the most powerful weapon workers have, and in the face of uni bosses so stubborn and so rich is essential. Uni management repeatedly encouraged people onto campus during the strike campaign last year as if to raise the union's bet, so striking and picketing to keep people off campus is the only way the workers will be able to combat these nefarious tactics.

Leafleting, postering and lecture announcements, all tools used by the strike solidarity campaign last year, will be just as important in creating a pro-strike, left wing atmosphere on campus, where the majority of students who demonstrably supported the strike last year will feel compelled not to go to class, and even join the picket. In a similar vein, members of this SRC should be a left wing presence in their classes, both in convincing classmates to come along, but also in fostering a comradely relationship with staff. Such relationships were very helpful last year in coordinating announcements and faculty contingents to bolster the picket, and illustrate to staff the vast support they truly have from the student body.

Discussion:

Kiera Garland spoke about the need for active support and not passive support, and encouraged everyone to get out and show support for

Jordan Anderson showed support for cherish, Deaglan Godwin and Madeleine Clark

Julius Wittforth spoke about getting out and supporting the strike and encouraging everyone to get involved and point out

Satvik Sharma asked what being done to support student who you are preventing accessing the uni on a strike day

Cooper Gannon asked how many people attended the meeting where the strike were called.

Julius Wittforth said the workers met and voted on this is democratically.

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

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q4. Fight for more than the Voice and oppose the racist No campaign.

WITHDRAWN

Q5. Support Community Efforts to take back Mardi Gras

WITHDRAWN

Procedural motion: to move to R. General business and hear R17, R15 and R8 in in that order first.

Moved: Eliza Crossley

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R17. launch 95th SRC First Nations agenda

Key actions:

To launch and fund a Treaty campaign run by First Nations students and community at Sydney University.

To support and fund First Nations cultural and wellbeing initiatives for First Nations students at Sydney University,

To begin cultural consultations with First Nations students on Voice, Treaty, Truth,

To provide cultural training for SRC for working with First Nations students and community members. This is essential for our outreach and community work.

Preamble:

The 95th SRC First Nations agenda will empower First Nations students and communities to engage in social justice and community campaigns. 2023 will present First Nations Communities the opportunity to achieve Voice, Treaty and Truth. We will have the power to enact social, legal and environmental justice via Voice, Treaty and Truth.

The University of Sydney has one of the lowest enrollment and retention rates of First Nations students. It also has an underrepresentation of First Nation student voices in leadership and activist campaigns.

The University of Sydney and SRC must use its platform to remove colonial and racist barriers for First Nation students. We must decolonise the cultural and socioeconomic barriers to empower students to complete their degrees and be supported to engage in activism.

The University of Sydney First Nations community will underpin our social justice campaigns and direction. We represent and serve our First Nations community on campus and will engage in ongoing consultation.

We acknowledge that there are nuances within First Nations policy making and will engage in cultural consultations to ensure we do not cause harm or division within the community.

The SRC will prioritise delivery of student services and cultural wellbeing events over symbolic gestures.

Platform

The University of Sydney and SRC have been a birth place of change and activism for First Nations communities.

Sydney University has had a long history of providing a platform for First Nations activists and communities to drive political and social change. Dr Charles Perkins and First Nations activists were successful in the Freedom Rides and Yes Campaign due to support from allies.

Since then SRC has advocated against discriminatory and racist government policies implemented by both Liberal and Labor Party Governments. In addition the SRC has spoken up against colonial and racist policies enforced by the University of Sydney.

The 94th SRC engaged in a number of grassroots campaigns and was successful in making governments listen to First Nations issues and be held accountable. The 94th SRC began a consultation process on student issues and campaigns. It allowed us to have a voice and platform to hold the University to account. However our voices are still underrepresented in student leadership and activist campaigns.

Therefore, the 95th SRC will continue to:

Empower the University of Sydney First Nations community to engage in leadership and grassroots campaigns

and

Provide a platform for First Nations activism and campaigns.

Action:

The SRC will immediately begin campaigning for a Treaty at the NSW State Election.

The NSW Election is an opportunity for First Nations candidates and communities to receive social, legal and environmental justice by electing a new government on March 25th which will enact a Treaty.

The SRC and First Nations Officer will use its platform to:

- Provide a platform to support First Nations candidates to have their voices heard and to educate students on the importance of Treaty,

To seek clarification and question the ALP and Liberal party on Treaty plans for the next parliamentary term.

- That the SRC will revive the Indigenous collective and run wellbeing initiatives to support First Nations students. This will begin with a welcome event and outreach work with new and existing students.
- The SRC will assist the First Nations officer in facilitating training workshops on activism and rights around protesting. First Nations students and community members are disproportionately targeted by police and subsequently shy away from activism as a result.
- The SRC will continue to hold the University of Sydney accountable in removing colonial and racist barriers which prevent First Nations students accessing education.
- That the SRC will support the First Nations Officer and First Nations students hold the ALP accountable to consult with us on the Voice campaign. The SRC is not adopting a position but supporting the accepted community notion of Voice - Treaty - Truth.
- First Nations community and consultation training will be organised for SRC.

That the First Nations Officer must conduct culturally safe and inclusive consultations to fully advocate for First Nations students. What is clear from preliminary consultations with the USYD First Nations community is that there is support for Voice, Treaty and Truth. To avoid any misunderstanding we ask for our voices to be heard in a respectful and culturally safe way. We ask for our voices to be heard and consultations be done so we can guide SRC.

Discussion:

Ben spoke to the motion and outlined it's features.

Moved: Ben McGrory

Seconded: Rand Khatib

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R15. The Voice: First Nations Sovereignty now!

Preamble:

To be clear, this motion doesn't encourage people to vote no in the referendum or to campaign against the Voice. It instead recognises the necessity of listening to and upholding solidarity with First Nations' activists on Gadigal land, the land on which we organise, with whom we've consulted in the writing of this motion and with whom we have extensive history with. We do not accept the binary of campaigning either for or against the voice. This binary, as promoted by the media, silences genuine left-wing critique of the voice. It silences calls from First Nations peoples for the dismantling of the fossil fuel industry that continues to desecrate land, for an end to Indigenous deaths in custody, for the disarming and defunding of police in remote communities, for an end to child removals and racist policing, for land back, for sovereignty and for treaty. It is our responsibility to continue to fight for these demands.

Speaking during the Melbourne Invasion Day Rally, Professor Gary Foley warned people they were "in the process of being sold a pup". "I want you to think; think before you vote. Make sure that you're not being manoeuvred into a position of being complicit in the latest of a long line of cosmetic bullshit measures that will change nothing in the way of justice [for Aboriginal people]."

Indigenous people have been marching on January 26th since 1938. In 1994 January 26th became a nationally recognised holiday. This year, large Invasion Day/Survival Day rallies and marches were held in dozens of major cities around the country. A recurring theme of these protests, including at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, was the need for a treaty, rather than a voice to parliament.

Lidia Thorpe has outlined key criticisms of the referendum, including that "The costs involved in a referendum are better spent on what is needed in our communities," "I think it's a waste of money. It's a wasted exercise. You don't need a referendum to have a treaty." Thorpe is concerned with the need for the voice to have a veto power, which it does not, or for the voice to be anything more than an advisory body that may be ignored as the government sees fit. Further, she outlines the opportunity cost which arises over the government's lack of action on tangible First Nations issues - such as the demands of Kumanjaji Walker's family to remove guns from police officers in remote communities.

Indigenous people have much more reason to distrust parliament and parliamentary solutions, considering the complete lack of action on the outcomes of the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody. Current bodies which purport to give a voice to First Nations people see those voices consistently ignored, the National Native Title Tribunal, for example, overruled Gomeri people who had voted overwhelmingly against Santos and the Narrabri gas project. The ruling listed 'public interest', claiming that "the anticipated benefits of the Narrabri Gas Project to the region" outweighed the "grave and irreversible consequences for the Gomeri People's culture, lands and waters and [contribution] to climate change" in the claim. Hence the need for a treaty, and veto power to create a body which cannot be ignored.

Black Radical activists organising these rallies are demanding something that constitutional recognition doesn't provide; arguably, constitutional recognition weakens the fight for self-determination. The Voice guarantees nothing that exists outside of a parliamentary framework. It

gives no real power to First Nations people and in exchange they'll be introduced officially into the colonial constitution, illegal and founded on genocide.

The Invasion Day rally in Sydney was organised by the same Indigenous people who have been hosting previous Invasion Day rallies, the Abolish the Monarchy Rally, and Stop Black Deaths in Custody protests. These protests, and many others have called for the need to see First Nations people as sovereign, not a part of the colonial constitution.

As the USyd SRC, we must support the First Nations activists on Gadigal land - such is the nature of solidarity with the grassroots, activist Indigenous community. Students at the University of Sydney have a long history of supporting radical black power activists, such as those who participated in the Freedom Rides in 1961. Support in recent years has involved providing resources to First Nations led marches to stop black deaths in custody and end the racist system of child removals.

As a union, we support the principle of not accepting bad solutions, but fighting tooth and nail until full justice is achieved. In the spirit of solidarity we believe it's necessary for the student union to come out in support, and to show the tangible ways we will support their campaigns.

Finally, it is important that we stand clearly against the right wing 'no' campaign, and the racist, colonial criticisms of the voice coming from the Liberals and Nationals. These parliamentary parties have been instrumental in constructing racist policies in an attempt to marginalise First Nations people, despite their strong resistance.

We understand that we are weighing into a discussion that is much broader than this motion, which makes it all the more important to acknowledge First Nations voices that have been silenced by popular media.

Platform

1. The USyd SRC wishes to acknowledge the demands of First Nations activists who organised the Invasion Day protest on Gadigal Land, and not dismiss their voice as many in the mainstream media have. We recognise that this is the beginning of the campaign for treaty, and will commit to engaging First Nations students and local community in consultation around the SRC's position on the Voice.
2. The USyd SRC commits to continue campaigning in support of First Nations grassroots demands, such as the statement of demands out of Yuendumu.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will expand upon its statement on the Voice to Parliament at future council meetings, and following consultation with First Nations students and local community.
2. The 95th SRC will fund a First Nations collective and the activist and community work they do, engaging with students and the local community.
3. The SRC will actively engage in campaigns organised by First Nations people.

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion reading from sections.

Rand Khatib waived speaking rights

Ben McGrory spoke to the motion saying that this it allows for support of voice treaty truth and highlights First Nations students voices, and this work needs to be done if after consultations these students have a position then you can move a motion taking a stance but till then something open like this allows for ongoing consultation.

Mover: Ishbel Dunsmore

Secunder: Rand Khatib

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R8. Treaty not 'Voice' – Support a progressive No! Campaign against constitutional recognition

Preamble:

Following the call from Indigenous communities and activists this Invasion Day we call on the SRC to support a progressive 'NO' campaign in the upcoming constitutional referendum. Left-wing activists must oppose the 'Indigenous Voice to Parliament' and instead back the call for a grassroots, community-led Treaty process, as an immediate pathway towards self-determination and land rights.

The call for constitutional change is supported by some of the most anti-Indigenous and climate destructive businesses and politicians in Australia. Fossil fuel corporation Rio Tinto, who in 2020 destroyed rock shelters in the Juukan Gorge, released a statement in 2019 advocating for the statement in collaboration with a range of other corporations including BHP and Woodside. John Howard committed to supporting constitutional recognition after announcing the draconian and immensely destructive Northern Territory Intervention in 2007, while Tony Abbott pushed for a referendum against the wishes of a majority of Indigenous communities.

Now, Albanese is calling for a 'Voice to Parliament' while announcing millions of dollars in increased police funding in Alice Springs to further oppress Indigenous communities. The suggested Voice would have no binding powers over parliament and would exist in an entirely advisory capacity. This means it has no ability to materially change policy that may be harmful to Indigenous communities. The Voice to Parliament will be employed as cover for any policies that may be opposed by grassroots Indigenous community groups, and it will allow the Albanese Labor government to "Blak-wash" its policy platform. This is a voice that was designed to be ignored. Albanese's Voice to Parliament is NOT the Uluru Statement from the Heart – it is in contradiction to the Statement's call for a binding Voice.

The constitutional Voice is heavily opposed by segments of the Indigenous community, including the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, who have militantly campaigned for land rights, sovereignty, and Indigenous justice for over 50 years. Indigenous sovereignty has never been ceded, and nor should it be incorporated into the Constitution - the very 'nation-founding' document of the racist, colonial state which denies it.

ACTION:

The SRC:

- Supports Indigenous communities who are calling for a progressive 'NO' vote in the upcoming referendum
- Calls instead for grassroots community demands to be supported, like the Yuendumu Community Statement of Demands against NT police, and the Gomeri nation's vote against Santos fracking on their land.
- Calls for a Treaty process to begin immediately, and for full land rights to be handed back to First Nations communities of this continent.
- Commits to making these positions clear in a public statement.
- Commits to hosting an open forum during this semester that invites leaders of the left-wing case against Constitutional Recognition to put forward their ideas in debate with the progressive elements of the Yes campaign.

Discussion:

James Sherriff spoke to the motion and said that it was good some motions has already been passed but there needs to be more action, this isn't calling for a no, but calling for a treaty first before a change to the constitution and that the voice is just a blak-washing but the Labor government, and that the Uluru statement from the heart committee has called out the move to the change to the constitution

Alev Saracoglu spoke about the voice and how it is toothless and supported by mining companies which shows that this doesn't offer power to communities.

Ben M McGrory said that the voice to parliament was not given to the ALP it is own by First Nations communities, this is not just about the ALP. First Nations want a voice to parliament and a treaty not one or another, and if you are citing people and elders then bring those people down to talk about it.

Tiger Perkins said he thought much of the motion is supportable but there are some issues, and while this isn't about campaigning for a no- it seems very close to calling for one and I don't think it should be the position of the SRC to campaign no in the referendum.

Bailey (???) – spoke against the motion saying that a processive no campaign is not appropriate or existing and added that NUS has taken a stance on this matter

Khanh Tran spoke against the motion saying they were in favour of voice but there need to be more education about what it actually means, and also spoke about the history of shutting down dissenting voices to parliament.

James Sherriff responding to some of the points made, that if major companies who make profit from the destruction of country you should be making questions and that much of the people who have been working on this campaign need to be examined in their actions. Saying that we can listen to a number of activist without taking up their time to bring them in to a council meeting

and pointing out that the creation of this voice to parliament can be watered down and manipulated still.

Mover: James Sherriff

Seconded: Alev Sarecoglu

The motion was out and **FAILED.**

Jack Scanlan noted he voted against the motion.

A 15minute break was called at 8:35pm.

There was a quorum count at 8:55pm

The meeting was found quorate

Meeting resumed at 8:56pm

R1. Motion to condemn ALP support of Santos in the Surat Basin

In the aftermath of the federal election, the Australian Labor Party famously claimed to have “ended the climate wars” and to have been given a mandate for climate action. The last in a long line of actions that directly contradicts this is that in the last week, the ALP has given Santos the go-ahead to open 116 new coal seam gas wells in Queensland’s Surat Basin. According to information on the environment department website, Tanya Plibersek’s office has signed documents allowing Santos to operate these wells, typically with a life of about 30 years, until 2077 at a minimum. The opening of new coal and gas, against the scientific consensus, is outrageous in and of itself but to give licences that last until 2077, thereby locking us into 50+ more years of emissions, is absolutely crazy. Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek ironically downplayed the approval as “routine,” far more concerning than it is reassuring. The ALP have shown themselves, once again, to be totally unwilling to commit to real climate action, allowing instead companies to purchase unlimited offset credits that have been shown to be totally inadequate. Further, it is much easier to imagine a world where Labor simply apologises in 2050 for not achieving net zero within their own, already weak time frame, than a world where they actually meet these targets. They will inevitably continue to hide behind the defence of being better on climate issues than the Liberals and will therefore escape accountability for their weak policies.

The farcical claims of the ALP with regards to climate action are not the only problem here. A large part of the issue with the opening of new coal and gas projects is the ability of fossil fuel companies to be the largest donors of political parties. For a long time now, Santos has featured consistently in the Labor Party’s top five donors and what a return on this investment they have received! Accepting donations from fossil fuel companies is a clear conflict of interest for political parties and it is no wonder Santos is allowed to continue expanding fossil fuels when major parties are so reliant on their campaign funding.

The conflicts of interest do not stop here, however, and the more you read about market solutions, in particular carbon offsets, the more you begin to realise what a sham it is. Shell, a multinational oil and gas company, has three employees who sit on the advisory boards of Verra, the world’s leading carbon crediting program and standard-setters in their field. The Emissions

Reduction Assurance Committee, a purportedly independent, statutory body created by the Carbon Credits Act 2011 under the Gillard government, self-describes as an “expert committee which assesses whether methods meet the requirements of the Emissions Reduction Fund and provides advice to the Minister for the Environment and Energy.” It is chaired by Rowena Abbey, a former Treasurer of Ampolex Ltd, the exploration division of Ampol later subsumed by ExxonMobil. She has also held directorships at Cue Energy Resources Ltd, an oil and gas production and exploration company and many other fossil fuel giants. The Climate Change Authority, another statutory body created in 2011 to provide independent advice on climate policy to the government, is chaired by Grant King. Grant King is the former Managing Director of Origin Energy, former director of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, former chair of the Energy Supply Association of Australia and former president of the Australian Gas Association. The CCA’s deputy chair is Susie Smith, a long-time manager at Santos.

Intimate links to the fossil fuel industry are to be found in every step of the process of a ‘transition’ away from fossil fuels, from the very architects of the carbon credit system and its standard-setting bodies, to the auditors of Big Fossil Fuels’ compliance with these standards and of course to the ALP’s sponsors and, of course, the membership of the party itself. How are we meant to transition when every step of the process is hindered by contradicting interests? What we really need is a ban on new coal, oil and gas projects and an immediate just transition away from fossil fuels in place of the rubbish carbon credits and trading systems that exist and have only seen total emissions increase.

Platform

- The USyd SRC opposes Santos’ coal seam gas wells in the Surat Basin.
- The USyd SRC unequivocally condemns the Labor Party’s climate inaction.
- The USyd SRC supports a ban on all new coal, oil and gas projects.
- The USyd SRC supports an immediate just transition away from fossil fuels that centres jobs, workers’ rights and First Nations’ justice.
- The USyd SRC supports the March 3 National Day of Action and Climate Strike.

Action

- The USyd SRC will continue to publicise the March 3 actions and any upcoming climate strikes

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion noting that despite declaring the war on climate over and a climate change action mandate we are still waiting on any action other than the approvals of more gas seam mining. Also speaking about the conflicts of interests in the groups set up to oversee changes are made up of former energy and mining companies.

Rand Khatib waived speaking rights.

Simon Uptis proposed an amendment:

to amend point 4 of the platform: “The USyd SRC demands the immediate shutdown of the existing fossil fuel industry”

Tiger counter amended offering:

“The USyd SRC supports an immediate just transition and immediate dismantling of the fossil fuel industry that centres jobs, workers’ rights and First Nations’ justice.”

The mover of the amendment agreed to Tiger Perkins’ changes and it was adopted.

James Sherriff called for an amendment to add a second action point:

“that all representatives and Officers commit to attending the action on March 3rd”

It was amendable to the movers.

Satvik Sharma proposed 2 amendments:

To delete action point 2 and to remove point 4 of the platform and all action points

It was not amendable

It was put as a foreshadowing motion.

Debate on the motion original motion resumed.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion saying that we should shut down the fossil fuel industry, only being against new projects is not enough, we must be against all, and there is still no moves to move away from fossil fuels. Not calling a shut down to the industry gives the federal government a free pass and allows for greenwashing and cover for fossil fuel companies.

Angus Dermondy spoke against the motion and dismantling, saying that when Thatcher moved in to shut down the mines the left stood with workers who were losing their livelihoods. There is no movement away from fossil fuels, and shutting down the fossil fuel industry will not win, when shut downs are rolled out with no planning, suicide and substance abuse increases and workers lives are ruined.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying the fossil fuel industry needs to be shut down and entire communities are being destroyed now from disasters caused by climate change so companies can profit, shutting down the industry is only opposed by the companies making massive profits.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion saying that shutting down the fossil fuel system would remove all modern technologies and would leave all the communities mentioned unemployed or freezing, and that it’s easy to say when you live in a city and have solar panels.

Satvik Sharma applauded Cooper Gannon’s comments and then said that shutting down the fossil fuel industry shuts down everything else such as creating steal, saying that Labor supports pep 11 which the Liberal oppose, noting that people can’t freeze to death because they don’t have access to the energy.

Angus Dermondy spoke about the impacts that immediate shutdown would destroy communities and livelihoods well before a transition could come in and support people. How are workers going to go on strike and call for a just transition if they don’t have work. It is a disgrace to bring up workers actions to justify anti-worker action.

Simon Upitits spoke to the motion responding to angus saying that his comments that we should be cutting ourselves off from climate action to support workers is dismissive to the understanding and wants of workers. Workers refused to transport yellow cake in the past to fight for change and it was the right wing who didn't support them

Mover: Tiger Perkins

Secunder: Rand Khatib

The motion as put and **CARRIED.**

R2. Save Trove

Trove is a free online resource administered by the National Library of Australia. It provides access to a huge range of archives dating back to 1788 and is a vital resource to history students and faculty alike.

The government's proposed funding cuts to the National Library will see Trove go offline in July of 2023. Trove is accessed over 20 million times a year and is one of the most comprehensive publicly available national archives in the world.

More than that, Trove is the embodiment of our historical memory, and its protection plays an integral role in preserving this.

This motion calls on the SRC to condemn the Government's funding cuts, and to support public access to Trove into the future.

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion explaining what TROVE is and why it's being threatened, spoke about Malcom T role in its destruction.

Moved: Luke Norton

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R3. Student Unions must support Palestine

Preamble:

The Palestinian people have been suffering at the hands of the Israeli settler colonial project for too long. This year marks the 75th year since the Nakba, 'the catastrophe' which saw Zionist militia demolish over 500 towns, made over 700,000 Palestinians into refugees and claimed the land a nation state '*for the Jewish people and the Jewish people alone*' (words from the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu).

Today, 75 years on, when we examine the land of historic Palestine, we see a blockade and siege of the Gaza Strip, a military occupation of the West Bank, an apartheid wall and checkpoints which deeply impact Palestinian daily life, annexation and theft of Palestinian land, illegal settler expansions, abhorrent lack of recognition of the right to return for Palestinians in the diaspora as well as over 70 laws which directly target Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship and live within 'Israel'. We have a word for this in English. That word is called apartheid.

This year has been one of the deadliest years in history for Palestinians. Just in the last few weeks, we have woken up to devastating news- 11 martyred in Nablus, 9 massacred in Jenin, children thrown into prison without trial or conviction. In the last 72 hours alone, settler violence has skyrocketed in the northern West Bank and is backed and supported by Israeli occupational forces.

The world turns a blind eye to Palestinian suffering because it has been trivialised, politicised or intentionally desensitised by Zionist media.

Israel has been criticised by Amnesty International and countless other human rights organisations for upholding an apartheid regime, as well as utilising a form of collective punishment against Palestinians. South Africa's government, a former apartheid state, has not only stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people but called on world leaders to condemn Israel for its infliction of apartheid on the native population.

"The Palestinian narrative evokes experiences of South Africa's own history of racial segregation and oppression," Naledi Pandor, South Africa's minister of international relations and cooperation, said.

Israeli Apartheid Week is a series of events coming to the University of Sydney campus to shed light on Palestinian oppression and how to build a future which integrates justice and peace in the region from the river to the sea. This week of political action for Palestinian liberation is particularly important given the controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism that is exceedingly being adopted overseas and now locally, effectively exceptionalising Israel in its crimes against Palestinians.

The SRC, whose principles extend to protecting and fighting tooth and nail for the oppressed and against academic censorship, must stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and therefore should endorse the Israeli Apartheid Week campaign and the various Nakba events which promote truth-telling of the Nakba.

Platform:

1. The SRC recognises the historic and ongoing suffering endured by the Palestinian people perpetuated by the state of Israel.
2. The SRC acknowledges that the dynamic between Israel and Palestine is an Apartheid system.
3. The SRC understands that Palestinian oppression continues to be ignored, and believes that world leaders and institutions should stand firmly in solidarity with Palestinians and their liberation.
4. The SRC regards that an Israeli Apartheid Week campaign will be an effective educational campaign to shed light on Palestinian oppression.

5. The SRC publicly condemns the violence inherent to settler colonialism.

Action:

1. The SRC will endorse and use its resources to build the Israeli Apartheid Week campaign to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people
2. The SRC encourages councillors to use the term 'apartheid' when referring to the state of Israel
3. The SRC will commit to the Israeli Apartheid Week campaign this year.
4. The SRC will endorse the 75th commemoration of the Nakba by Palestine Action Group (Sydney) and APAN (Australia-wide)
5. The SRC posts this motion and its contents to its social media platforms

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying the motion is being moved on behalf a Palestinian student and was written in consultation with Palestinian and Jewish students and academics. And read from the preamble of the motion.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion and about the attacks on Palestinian resistance, and this shows the strategy needed to free Palestine and push to stand against the occupation and mentioned a number of events being put on in the coming month to show support and encouraged everyone to attend the Nakba rally and the other events happening through the year.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion saying that it is an unhelpful motion, but saying that Israel is an apartheid state is false, and said that the boarder restrictions were put on to save Israeli and there is no evidence that there is apartheid in Israel there are not anti-Arab signs dividing places, concluding this is not a productive conversation.

Satvik Sharma thanked Cooper Gannon's comments spoke against the motion saying we should not be wasting time on this motion when there are inflation issues and spoke about the rise of China and the balloon that Biden failed to shoot down over the US. This is ridiculous and the SRC should be focusing on student issues not the radical left, and the obsession with the Israel/Palestine is disgraceful.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion saying he cares deeply about injustice wherever it is, and noted that in Australia standing with the Palestinians is about standing against colonial oppression. Adding that he will not be lectured about this by people involved in a party that supported apartheid in South Africa, but the definition of apartheid is one Israel meets, and there has been an effort to continue.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Ella Haber

Motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Satvik noted his vote against.

R4. Solidarity with Paul Silva

PREAMBLE/BACKGROUND:

Those who know Paul Silva know he is a pillar of the activist community. He is both the nephew of David Dungay Jr - a Dunghutti man tragically killed in custody - and a staunch advocate for First Nations justice. Last week Paul reached out to us after having recently been laid off and needing assistance paying \$880 to avoid being evicted - for which they have now also received a notice. This is a prime example of the housing crisis in action -something we as the SRC fight hard against - and its disproportionate effects on First Nations people. As an organization also committed to First Nations justice and mutual aid it's only fitting to provide partial financial relief for what in the grand scheme of things is not too much money. Not only would this be a huge help to Paul and their family, but it would enable Paul to continue doing amazing work unfettered.

Action:

Transfer \$300 to Paul Silva to assist in preventing their eviction.

Discussion:

Alev Saracoglu spoke to the motion, reading out the motion to the council.

James Sherriff waived his speaking rights.

Harrison Brennan spoke against the motion saying that there isn't precedent for this, and that the SRC receives a limited budget and its fund should be going to the collectives and there should be a fundraiser instead.

Rose Donnelly echoed Harrison Brennan's comments.

Jasmine Donnelly said this was not appropriate.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion saying that it makes no sense to spend \$300 on a non-usyd student, like when pizza was bought for a protest in the US and this is an issue because people don't care when they're not spending their own money. And the SRC should have a reduced SSAF allocation as they don't use it for students.

Hersha Kadkol spoke against the motion Saying that the SRC is not a charity for but the idea that the SRC cannot ever send money to people and programs outside of campus when there will be a need, it is a political question and there are causes that might be outside the dominion of usyd that deserve support and it should be about advancing the left.

Alev responded to the speakers comments and noted that we've paid strikers \$150 for pizza and Paul has lost his job, and we tried to fundraise during welcome week, and yes it is a rear occurrence, and because of the work they do fighting against aboriginal deaths in custody.

Moved: Alev Saracoglu

Seconded: James Sherriff

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

R5. Study rights for refugees - Education and permanent protection for all!

Preamble:

As activist students, it is of great concern to us that Australia's bipartisan migration regime particularly damages the right of refugees to secure an education. This brutal migration regime affects education rights in several ways:

1. Those on Temporary Protection and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas are prevented from accessing commonwealth supported places in tertiary education; as they cannot apply for HECS-help and other similar programmes, their only option is to apply for one of the few full fee waiver scholarships out there, or to pay full fee upfront, which is near-impossible for most of them.
2. The "legacy caseload" of maritime arrival refugees on bridging visas are also effectively barred from accessing any tertiary education; they are also barred from accessing NDIS and Centrelink, including childcare and early childhood education subsidies.
3. Those formerly detained in our prison camps in Nauru and Papua New Guinea who are currently on bridging visas or in community detention, are completely barred from accessing tertiary education if they are 18; even students offered scholarships are unable to accept them.
4. The refugees in Indonesia who are barred from gaining protection in Australia, who subsist in that country with no formal protection rights; they are permitted only a very meagre primary and secondary education with no access to the full education they should be entitled to here.

The recent decision by the Labor government to finally allow refugees on temporary visas to apply for permanent protection is a welcome one, but it leaves many questions unanswered. For one, the decision to make TPV and SHEV holders to yet again go through health, character and security checks instead of simply granting them permanent protection means that securing a decent visa may be months off yet. This means that those seeking tertiary education may be forced to wait until next year before they can actually apply, further delaying access that should have been granted to some of them nearly a decade ago.

In addition, the decision means nothing to those on bridging visas, or those who have been rejected by the fast-track process. There has been no change to refugees in this situation at all, and neither has there been any change to the situation of other refugees in detention, whether they currently reside here, in detention, or in the community in "third party" countries like Papua New Guinea.

It is disgraceful that the Labor government will use the decision to abolish TPVs to portray themselves as compassionate. It is vital that the campaign for refugee rights continues to fight against our governments until all refugees are free.

Action:

This meeting of the SRC:

- Supports the ongoing campaign by Teachers for Refugees for study rights for all refugees
- Endorses the April 2 Palm Sunday rally for refugees and peace
- Demands that the bipartisan policy of mandatory detention be abolished in its entirety, with free and open access to permanent protection granted to any refugee who requires it, regardless of who they are and how they arrive.

Discussion:

James Sherriff spoke to the motion highlighting the struggles of refugees in accessing education and other supports.

Angus Dermondoy spoke to the motion and echoed James's sentiments.

Thomas Thorpe was named.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion and highlighted that the ALP is getting undeserved credibility for the recent action neglecting that so many are being sent back to detention and off shore detention will still occur and so we need to continue to fight the ALP,

Lia Perkins resigned the chair to Jasmine Donnelly

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion and spoke about the mistreatment of refugees around the world, and noted that the ALP present themselves as those who will help refugees when they have done the exact opposite.

Moved: James Sherriff

Seconded: Angus Dermody

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to move to R14.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Meeting moved to R14.

R14. Solidarity with Cherish Kuehlmann, Oppose NSW's anti-protest laws

At midnight on Friday February 17th, student activist and UNSW SRC Education Officer Cherish Kuehlmann was arrested for taking part in a peaceful protest at the Reserve Bank of Australia earlier that day. Cherish and other student activists were protesting against the rental and housing crisis currently fuelling a rise in student homelessness, poverty and housing insecurity. We were outside the Reserve Bank of Australia and later moved to the Commonwealth

Bank to highlight their role in fuelling the rampant increase in the cost of renting.

Cherish is now facing a charge of “aggravated trespassing” which carries a maximum fine of \$5,500. Her arrest follows a growing pattern of police intimidation and draconian charges against protesters. Police imposed bail conditions on Cherish usually reserved for violent offenders which included a ban on entering the CBD and taking part in further protests. These bail conditions have increasingly been placed on those arrested at demonstrations.

Cherish’s onerous bail conditions were dropped today during a challenge at the Downing Centre court. This is a win for the left, but the charges themselves haven’t been dropped. Activists will need to continue to fight against anti-protest laws and for housing justice.

Anti-protest laws and spurious police charges are designed to intimidate activists. The imposition of heavy fines and the threat of prison sentences is an affront to democracy. Protest is a basic civil right. It’s always been a part of winning progressive change, from the union movement’s fight for the 8 hour day to the Indigenous Tent Embassy. The repressive conditions peaceful protesters are facing in NSW and many other parts of Australia are a weapon wielded to protect the powerful from criticism- from fossil fuel companies to politicians, to banks.

Cherish Kuehlmann as part of the National Union of Students ‘Get a Room! Students for Affordable Housing’ campaign was drawing attention to the acute crisis of housing insecurity facing students. She stands in a long tradition of student unionists who have fought and won important gains - from the Freedom Rides to the climate strikes. Protesting is not a crime, it’s a basic democratic right.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC condemns the arrest of Cherish Kuehlmann and supports the campaign to have the charges dropped
2. The USYD SRC opposes NSW’s anti-democratic anti-protest laws and demands that NSW police cease their intimidation of student, environmental, union and other peaceful protesters

Action:

1. USYD SRC will share the open letter to drop the charges on the USYD SRC Facebook and Instagram pages <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/drop-the-charges-against-cherish-kuehlmann>
2. The SRC will post a public statement on its social media platforms demanding that the charges against Cherish be dropped
3. All SRC councillors and office-bearers will sign onto the above open letter and share it on their own social media pages
4. A photo in solidarity will be taken at the end of the SRC meeting

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion speaking about the importance of publicly supporting Cherish Kuehlmann and taking action beyond these meetings, and signing on the open letter and speaking about the

Cherish spoke to the motion and spoke about what the charge being upheld in October would mean for protestors and activists, setting a dangerous precedent especially considering the attacks on students and workers. I've received a lot of support, but what I need is public outcry about the targeting of a student activist for being at a protest, thank you to those who have signed onto the open letter and the petitions but there needs to be greater institutional support.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion and highlighted the work that Cherish has done in highlighting what students are going through and there needs to be more support and open and public support from the SRC and all the collectives and everyone needs to be heading out to the protest of the business summit.

Satvik spoke against the motion saying they we shouldn't be supporting someone being stupid protesting the RBA and that the idea that inflation has been driven by corporate profits was wrong and that there was a double standard to what constitutes relevance in these meetings

Lia spoke to the motion, agreeing that we need to keep speaking out and bringing attention to what happened to Cherish

Bryson Constable opened endorsing Freya Leach for Balmain in the state elections and spoke against the motion,

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion saying arbitrary comments on the relevance of the protest is moot when the issue is around people rights, and this is an issue that is getting worse and worse.

Honey Christenson spoke in support of the motion saying that she has had a similar experience, and that the police on this issue lied about what was on the body cam footage, and that the right to protest is under attack, and we should be ensuring that the right to protest is crucial to ensuring that actions can be successful and that people feel like they can come out to these actions without being unfairly punished

Cherish Kuehlmann said that the liberals don't care about free speech as it's the Liberals in NSW attacking free speech and the anti-protest laws passed by Labor, and spoke about a support motion being quashed by Labor Randwick Mayor Dylan Parker. Called on the SRC to make more public posts on SRC channels as it would be great help.

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Tom Williams

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R6. Support International Working Girls Day

What was initially known as International Working Women's Day - a radical declaration for feminist liberation set on the anniversary of the 1857 womens' garment workers strike in New York - has now become depoliticised beyond recognition, relegated to a day of corporate tea parties. This year sex workers - predominantly made up of some of the most marginalized women and non-binary people - will be reclaiming it's radical roots and taking to the streets. Amongst

their demands are calls for inclusion in the Anti-Discrimination Act - which would drastically improve access to housing and job security, and the ability to pursue jobs in other industries - and crucially the decriminalisation of sex work. The Nordic model, while nominally used to criminalize customers and pimps, functionally still works to drive sex work underground, creating a more dangerous environment for sex workers. Organizers of the action have been sharing the desires of sex workers, with repeated cries to end racist raids on workplaces such as massage parlors and draconian laws to prevent sex workers from crossing borders, to have spaces to organize and establish support networks in their community, and to be able to push back against wage theft by brothels. There is no genuine solution to gendered violence which will come about through increasing police powers and resorting to carceral “feminism”. To support the struggle of sex workers for decriminalization and the right to unionize is not synonymous with being uncritical of the sex industry. It’s about not sitting on our hands while moralizing about sexuality and infantilising sex workers, but rather standing with sex workers - who are the most acutely aware of problems within the industry and have the most insight as to how to overcome them - which any real supporter of workers and unions must do.

ACTION:

This meeting of the SRC:

- All councillors and office bearers attend the student contingent to International Working Girls’ Day.
- Post an official statement supporting International Working Girls’ Day and its demands from SRC pages.
- All SRC councillors and office bearers commit to building the student contingent to International Working Girls Day by stalling and promoting the event from all SRC related social media platforms.
- Requests the publications team to attach the poster artwork for the upcoming protest to the back cover of the upcoming Honi Soit

Discussion:

Alev Saracoglu read out the motion to the council

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the motion.

Grace Porter spoke to the motion and the history of international women’s day, and fighting for protections for sex workers and ensuring they are not discriminated against.

Zoe Coles spoke to the motion noting that that IWD has become a day of networking and “girlbossing” while IWGD is about going back to IWD roots

James Sherriff spoke to the motion and read out a statement from Damien the NUS Queer Officer.

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Alev Saracoglu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R7. Cops out of Pride - We stand with Lidia and Pride in Protest

PREAMBLE:

Pride was founded on Black and queer struggle, from the Compton Riots to Stonewall to 1978 in Sydney. We have always needed to chant “Stop police attacks on gays, women and Blacks” and this is still true today. During the Sydney World Pride parade, Pride in Protest and Senator Lidia Thorpe brought this message back to the streets of Mardi Gras with a lead banner that read “Stop police attacks on queers, women and Blaks: Queers say Treaty now! Cops out of Mardi Gras!”

Senator Lidia Thorpe, marching with Pride in Protest, protested both the NSW Police Force float and the Australian Federal Police float on Oxford Street before a sit down on Flinders Street. Meanwhile Albanese has been pink-washing his false Voice to parliament at Pride events despite supporting Santos fracking the Pilliga, and Nationals who campaigned for No in the marriage equality postal survey have been criticising Thorpe for supposedly hindering progress. This has been compounded by a racist misinformation campaign.

Pride in Protest, and Lidia Thorpe, were both right to protest the police whose role in Pride continues to be fiercely debated within the community. It is outrageous that police march in uniform beside the communities they continue to oppress – they should not be welcome at Pride or in our community at any time. How can queer people feel safe when the cops are able to harass and even assault protesters with impunity, even during the Mardi Gras parade?

We support Lidia’s action, and the demands of the Pride in Protest float. We must demand that the SGLMG remove the cops from Pride and tear up their Accord with the NSW Police. We must not let the call for land rights and self-determination for First Nations people get lost in a sea of corporate glitter.

ACTION:

The SRC:

1. Calls on SGLMG to kick the cops out of Pride and tear up the Police Accord
2. Condemns the racist attack on Lidia Thorpe at the Sydney World Pride Parade
3. Condemns the pink-washing of the ALP’s Voice to Parliament and calls for true self-determination for Indigenous communities

Discussion:

James Sherriff spoke to the motion reading out the motion to the council.

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the motion.

Harrison Brennan proposed an amendment to cut:

“Meanwhile Albanese has been pink-washing his false Voice to parliament at Pride events despite supporting Santos fracking the Pilliga, and Nationals who campaigned for No in the marriage equality postal survey have been criticising Thorpe for supposedly hindering progress” and to cut action point 3 and change it to “the USYD SRC supports the Black Sovereignty movement”.

It was amenable to the movers

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion, saying that people forget that Pride started as a protest and that cops regardless of their individual identity are an arm of state violence and to be invited to be a part of pride ignores that they will be the ones beating queer people on the street.

Moved: James Sherriff

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R10. This Government Cannot Solve the Housing Crisis.

WITHDRAWN

R11. Starving Students: Raise the Rate and Lower the Age.

In late 2022, Federal Minister for Social Services and Labor Party member was excited to announce a 6.1% increase in Youth Allowance and Abstudy. Rishworth stated that such an increase “will have a significant impact on the hip pockets of young people who are either studying, looking for work or receiving the Disability Support Pension...”. The increase is between \$19.10 and \$41.40 a fortnight depending on a student’s income. This means that students living at home can receive at most \$332.90 a fortnight and students out of home \$562.80 in most cases. Rent Assistance did not rise, still sitting at covering 25% of a recipient's rent. As of late January, inflation stands at 7.8%, wage growth remains stagnant and rent hikes are forced upon students fresh into their lease.

This “indexation” marketed as substantial by the Labor party is a pitiful spit in the face of struggling students. This is only worsened by the fact that Youth Allowance remains tied to the age of independence, meaning students who may be wholly financially independent from their parents, are considered dependent until they are 22. For years students have called for lowering the age of independence to 18 and for years governments passed and ongoing have responded with total apathy. However, even if the age of independence was lowered, the rate is so meagre that it would not even cover the weekly rent of students living away from home. When students call for lowering the age of independence, we must also call for a substantial doubling of the payment's current value. Furthermore, if students do qualify for Youth Allowance whilst under 22, a considerable amount of that payment is withdrawn from students for working a few hours per week. Welfare payments are supposed to offer students, most of whom are casually employed, with security. Yet clearly the federal government does not agree. The Labor party has displayed no indication to increase the rate or lower the age, showing absolute contempt for struggling students.

How do we push for both a lowering in the age and a rise in the rate? The National Union of Students, the supposed peak representative body for students nationally, believes that this change can be achieved through lobbying. For years the Labor-led union has perceived lobbying as the best route to changing government policy, both under a Liberal and Labor government. In 2022, the NUS Welfare Officer did all the work of publishing a report. No nationwide campaign, no radical push, no fighting the Labor government for any word on change, but a report. Under

neoliberal governments like that of the Labor party, our demands for changing the age of independence, and for an increased rate in Youth Allowance and Abstudy will never come to fruition. Real people, our fellow students, are starving, lining up at food banks, sacrificing their studies to afford groceries, rent and pay for essential needs, worsened under this cost-of-living crisis. Thus, it is vital that the USYD SRC as a radical student union challenges the government and vocally pushes for these demands, challenging the Labor government and not passively lobbying it.

Resources:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/dec/05/youth-allowance-austudy-and-carer-payments-to-rise-61-in-biggest-lift-in-decades>

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/how-much-youth-allowance-for-students-and-apprentices-you-can-get?context=43916>

<https://changetheage.asn.au/>

Platform:

- The SRC understands that current social security payments for student's are not enough, and that the age of independence set at 22 is unjust.
- This SRC recognizes the failure of the Labor Party in bettering the welfare of students.
- This SRC believes that lobbying the Labor government on changing the age of independence and raising the rate of social security payments for students is not an effective method.
- This SRC believes that the Labor government must be challenged through activism to adequately improve the lives of students.

Action:

- The SRC will support current and future activist campaigns pushing to improve welfare systems for students.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion and the struggles for students to qualify as independent and the lack of support for them. And spoke about the lack of support for change, and

Jordan Anderson spoke to the motion.

Louisa Chen spoke to the motion saying that the ALP are ruling for the rich and meanwhile nurses are paying more taxes than the rich.

Point of order was made that the current speaker was not a USYD student and needs to get council approval to speak at the meeting.

Lia Perkins called for a vote to hear the guest speakers
It was put and **CARRIED**.

Satvik Sharma noted his dissent.

Louisa Chen continued to speak to the motion.

Ella Haid said that it's not a mystery why people can't get by on \$20 an hour, that lobbying is pointless and an activist fightback is what is needed.

Jack Scanlan spoke about the AFR protest saying that not everyone can go to everything, supporting the motion and saying that lobbying the Labor party alone doesn't work but it still has value.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R12. The SRC supports the March 9 Strike

Preamble:

Last Wednesday, over 450 NTEU members met and discussed the future of their strike campaign. In exciting news, over 85% voted in favour of continued industrial action, calling for a 24 hour strike on Thursday the 9th of March. A second 48hr and third 72hr strike will be held in Week 6 and Week 10 respectively if management do not meet their demands for fair pay, a protection of the 40:40:20 model for teaching, research and administration, protection for casuals' rights, and a real commitment to Indigenous employment targets.

That one of the largest NTEU meetings in recent memory voted so strongly for what can clearly be seen as a serious continuation of the strike campaign shows that the fight against management is far from over for both staff and students. With many universities - including USyd - recording record profits over the Covid period even despite a cost of living crisis, the increasingly neoliberal and corporate structure of the modern university has meant that both staff and student demands have been totally ignored by management.

When staff at the university have poor pay and conditions, it has a significant flow on effect to the quality of our education. Ballooning class sizes, reduced quality of teaching and poor marking feedback not only affect students, but staff too. This is why the most important action that students can take on strike days is to attend a picket instead of class.

Not crossing this picket is the most basic action students should take. Attending class on strike days directly counterposes the interests of staff and students by reducing the effectiveness of the strike to begin with. When the picket stays intact, and the workplace remains shut down, the strength of workers remains uneroded. It's a simple act of solidarity, and something that should be expected of anyone who even remotely cares for the advancement of staff and student demands. To cross the picket is a most egregious act of disrespect against striking staff.

The SRC should once again recognise this basic principle of solidarity, and realise that staff working conditions are unequivocally student learning conditions. To do this, groups disrespecting this basic principle must be held accountable for strike breaking activity. We ask that the SRC and its representatives join the Education Action Group in building the student contingent to the strike, and join staff on the picket line on March 9th to fight for quality education and conditions for all.

Platform:

1. The SRC endorse the NTEU's March 9th strike.
2. The SRC commits to building student and staff solidarity through joining the building effort and picket lines on the day.

Action:

1. All SRC councillors and officer bearers attend the pickets
2. All SRC councillors and officer bearers share this motion from their department/collective pages.
3. All SRC councillors and officer bearers commit to the building effort - joining the EAG flyer sessions - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TLkGoJNGGuQRpo6X578HIE-E0adKRY7EwbsOOyzjVVw/edit#gid=0>

Discussion:

Ishbel spoke to the motion saying staff conditions were student conditions.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion

Tamsyn spoke to the motion

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion

Bryson Constable spoke against the motion, saying the method doesn't work and asking student to take time out of their degree for a method that doesn't work.

Thomas Thorpe spoke against the motion asking if anyone can tell them what the hourly rate of an academic is quite high and the SRC should know what they are talking about first.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion, saying that "fucking over scabs" is the best thing about being on the pickets. And spoke about the History of Mark Scott. And encouraged people to bring friends to the picket.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and echoed Tom's comments and asked everyone to be involved in building the action come Thursday.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore
Seconded: Yasmine Johnson
Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion: to limit speaking time to 1 minutes and one for and one against.

Moved: Honey Christenson
Seconded: Iggy Boyd
Procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Yasmine Johnson spoke against the procedural saying that it prevents political discussion and debate, and that the meeting tonight is what a meeting between the left and the right and this is what these meetings are for.

R13. USyd SRC should Pay the Rent WITHDRAWN

R13. This Government Cannot Solve the Housing Crisis – The USYD SRC Supports the Get a Room Campaign.

In December 2022, the Australian Labor Party proposed the Housing Legislative Package – Housing Australia Future Fund Bill, National Housing Supply and Affordability Council Bill, and Amendment Bill. The bill would create a \$10 billion dollar fund used for investment, the dividends of which would be reinvested into the “*National Housing Infrastructure Facility to directly support new social and affordable housing*” and expand the remit of the “*National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (to be renamed Housing Australia) to deliver the Government’s social and affordable housing.*” In the first five years, the fund would apparently create 20,000 social homes and 10,000 affordable homes for frontline workers, with separate amounts allocated to housing maintenance and acute housing needs.

In Australia, there is a current shortage of 640,000 homes nationwide. In NSW more than 50,000 people are on a waitlist for social homes in NSW. Pair this with soaring inflation, rising rents and skyrocketing mortgage prices, and the chance of getting a social, affordable home, or even a place to rent becomes almost implausible. The Labor Party’s bill fails in attempting to solve the thousands of people living precariously in this country.

The Labor Parties' disdain for working-class people is furthered in investigating the prime minister's own \$5 million dollar property portfolio, from which Albanese receives \$115k per year. How can a political party argue they represent the working class when they are in the class of the landlord?

The Greens have challenged Labor on this appalling bill. Holding this bill in Parliament, the Australian Greens demand a \$5 million ***DIRECT*** investment in social and affordable housing every year, a nationwide rent freeze, the doubling of rent assistance - which currently sits at a pathetic 20% of rent - and \$1 billion dedicated to first nations housing. This, whilst still not far enough, would make more of a tangible impact on the ongoing housing crisis than Labor’s current proposal. That said, the Greens are not without criticism. David Shoebridge owns three high-

profile investment properties and Mehreen Faruqi owns four homes, three of which are investment properties. Yet still, they are at least able to propose policies that would tackle this issue more substantially than the Labor party.

In NSW Chris Minn's election campaign is predicated on the renewal project taken up across Australia in which public housing is demolished, rebuilt by private contractors and housing divided into 70% private and 30% social, and a policy lacking any substantial changes to issues for renters, like the still legal no-cause evictions. What both state and federal Labor parties fail to fathom is that social housing IS not public housing, and given that housing is a human right, both parties engage in disdainful neglect of those most vulnerable in our community. It is clear that this government will not fix the housing crisis, and the onus is on activists and public pressure to force their hand.

Further, students and young people scrape by with grossly inadequate welfare aids such as the youth allowance which currently sits at only \$150 per week. Universities are no bystanders in these crimes, recent reports have shown a wealth of living property has recently been sold off by The University of Sydney, which could have been used to offer accommodation to students. Instead, private providers like Scape and Iglu roort students - especially those coming from overseas as remote learning is discontinued - for amounts exceeding the median price for units. According to the Guardian's February 5 report, at Scape in Melbourne CBD students may pay up to \$300 more than the median price for equivalent commercial listings.

There should be serious, immediate action to fix these problems. We refuse to accept that landlords' profits should continue to be prioritized over every day people's livelihoods and right to housing.

GET A ROOM is a campaign organized by the National Union of Students Education Office for action to fix the rental crisis students and young people face across Australia.

The GET A ROOM campaign will fight to:

1. END RENT HIKES AND CUT RENTS with a national two-year rent freeze and rent reductions
2. INVESTIGATE AND PUNISH DODGY LANDLORDS who've made us suffer in substandard rental housing and extorted us for rents
3. BAN UNFAIR EVICTIONS so no one is forced to leave their homes at short notice
4. PROVIDE AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING by capping student housing at 30% of income and abolishing the market in private student accommodation
5. EMERGENCY ACTION TO HOUSE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS who are arriving Australia without a place of their own to stay
6. RAISE THE RATE OF WELFARE for Youth Allowance, Austudy and JobSeeker recipients to meet the rising cost of living
7. BUILD PUBLIC HOUSING to fill the massive shortfall in demand by 2027
8. EXPROPRIATE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES so no one can profiteer from housing while the needy go without shelter.

Platform:

- The SRC condemns the appalling conditions of housing availability, quality, and affordability in Australia.
- The SRC recognises the failure of state and federal Labor policy to resolve the devastating housing crisis.
- The SRC recognises the struggle of people nationwide enduring the housing crisis and supports the substantial funding, construction, and maintenance of new public homes.
- The SRC recognises the failure of the federal government in responding to the rental crisis, and unequivocally supports policies such as rent caps and rent freezes.
- The SRC recognises and supports the place of activism in the push to resolve the ongoing housing crisis.
- The SRC supports ongoing initiatives by activist groups, like Action for Public Housing.
- The SRC endorses the NUS Education Office campaign Get A Room: Students For Affordable Housing and supports its future protests and actions.

Action:

- The SRC will support activists in continuing campaigns fighting for housing justice in NSW and Australia more broadly.
- The SRC will support the Welfare Action Group in their continued activist projects fighting for better housing conditions.
- The SRC will make a post on its Facebook page with a link to the Get A Room campaign page.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion and the lack of action and support for housing by the ALP

Ella Haid spoke to the motion and the importance of anger on this issue and not depression.

Kiera Garland spoke to the motion and spoke about everything that has been pushed for in the housing campaign, and it's time to give the rich in this country a kick in the teeth.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion saying that you need to privatise social housing and abolish DA processes, government intervention is not the answer, we need free markets.

Moved: Ella Haid

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put **CARRIED.**

R16. Overturn the suspension of Deaglan Godwin and Maddie Clark! The right to protest is a core part of freedom of speech!

Preamble

In a significant crack down on campus activism, the University of Sydney has suspended two student activists: Deaglan Godwin and Maddie Clark. They have been suspended as a consequence of participating in a protest against Malcolm Turnbull on campus last August. The protest aimed to

highlight how Turnbull was no friend of students, how his actions and policies as Prime Minister were deplorable, and how his sizeable wealth is an insult to students doing it tough amidst the rising cost of living.

The suspension handed to both Deaglan and Maddie represents a real attack on the freedom of speech of activists, as well as on the democratic right to protest. These two rights are not counterposed- the right to protest is a core part of freedom of speech. Politicians and businessmen like Malcolm Turnbull have a vast array of avenues to air their opinions and views- ordinary students and workers have precious few. Collective protests, even if they are loud, are a key method for students putting forward their views and grievances with the way society is being run. Yet the university has signalled that if students dare exercise this right, then they are susceptible to disciplinary punishment. During their misconduct process, both were prevented from speaking publicly about the allegations or process, and were given no presumption of innocence. Not only the outcome, but the process itself, is aimed to intimidate and silence left-wing student activists.

This decision is consistent with other attempts by the university to discipline activism. Maddie herself received a suspended suspension for protesting an anti-abortion stall on campus. This means she is now suspended for the entire year. Previous SRC office bearers have been suspended for organising counter-protests to far-right figures speaking on campus. Last year, the university launched misconduct allegations against students and staff disrupting zoom classes as part of the NTEU industrial campaign. These actions add up to a consistent silencing of left-wing views and activism, in order to protect those views which uphold the unequal status quo, in both the university and broader society.

The suspension of two socialist activists should be of concern to every left-wing person and activist. It is meant as a warning signal to others. We can, however, resist this attack on the freedom of speech of activists. Historically, student unions have been at the forefront of such campaigns. We need to actively oppose this attack in order to prevent the university further eroding our rights and freedoms.

Platform

1. The University of Sydney SRC condemns the decision of the University of Sydney to suspend Deaglan Godwin and Maddie Clark, and penalise others, for protesting Malcolm Turnbull last year.
2. The University of Sydney SRC calls for the immediate overturning of this decision.
3. The University of Sydney SRC defends the freedom of speech of activists and considers the right to protest a fundamental aspect of that.

Action

1. University of Sydney SRC councillors and office bearers will sign onto and share the open letter calling for the repeal of the suspensions against Deaglan and Maddie.
2. The University of Sydney SRC will campaign against this decision and calls on other unions, organisations and individuals to do the same.

Amendment from the movers:

3. The SRC will organise an open forum on Tuesday March 14 about opposing the suspensions and supporting the democratic right to protest.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and the importance of protest on campus and the right to protest.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying that the Uni suspension was an extreme response, and many may not think what we did was right, but it's what we need to be doing going forward to break through the political climate.

Jack Scanlan spoke for the motion, this is a ridiculous response especially when academic misconduct has less hard repercussions, and this is a step in the wrong direction by the University.

Cooper Gannon spoke against the motion and the actions of Madeleine Clark and Deaglan for which they were suspended calling the motion comedic, and that they could not find anyone to move a motion in support of themselves but themselves. Saying that the decisions by the university was just the consequences of Madeleine Clark and Deaglan Godwin's actions.

Deaglan Godwin gave his right of reply to Yasmine Johnson.

Yasmine Johnson spoke in favour of the motion, spoke in favour of the protest actions and called for a forum on the issue, and that we need to fight this response by the Uni at every stage least the Uni feels they can do this more and more.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Maddie Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

A quorum count was called at 11: 19pm

The meeting was inquorate.

There was a call to wait 15 minutes for quorum. It did not receive a seconder.

The meeting closed at 11:25pm.