



src activism
advocacy
representation

Julia Robins, Secretary to Council
secretary.council@src.usyd.edu.au

Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney

Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)
University of Sydney NSW 2006
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007
t: (02) 9660 5222 f: (02) 9660 4260
int: 12871 www.src.usyd.edu.au
ABN: 597 391 306 68

MINUTES:

of the 2nd regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on **Wednesday the 2nd March 2022**. Meeting held via Zoom.

A. Meeting open at 6:12 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Alana Ramshaw 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

Ricky Rangra to Isabella Chiper
Rose Donnelly
Max Prince to Ben Jorgensen
Eddie Stephenson to Owen Marsden-Readford
Matt Carter to Blake Falcongren

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Lauren Lancaster to Grace Wallman
Yilin (Elaine) Xu resigns as Interfaith Officer

Yuxi Nancy Qiao resigns as Residential Colleges Officer
Tengfei Pan resigns as Global Solidarity Officer

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 1st regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on 2nd February 2022 were held over till the next council meeting.

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.

Bella Anderssen asked about the wording of the motion on the Sydney Festival boycott and asked if it could be amended as she had had feedback that had some concerns around the wording of the motion.

Lauren Lancaster replied noting that the motion cannot be amended retrospectively, and that she too had received correspondence expressing concern around the motion. But that the council read and voted on the motion and decided to stand in solidarity with Palestinian resistance to ongoing occupation, and with oppressed people across the world. The disagreement with the wording was not semantic in nature but political, so the point is changing the intent of the motion, not clarifying it. Lauren Lancaster added that If people have concerns they attend meetings and present motions to council for debate.

Julia Robins clarified the process about changing passed motions, noting that it can only be done through a rescind motion which requires two weeks notice [on further checking it is only 5 business days or one week] or can be brought up at the meeting for the next council if someone wishes to propose one.

Khanh Tran wanted to clarify there would be time to ask questions during the reports.

Lauren Lancaster responded that there would.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of 2 Indigenous Students' Officers

N/A

K2. Election of 2 Mature Age Officers

N/A

K3. Election of 1 Social Justice Officer

N/A

K4. Election of 1 Ethno Cultural Officer

Joint nomination: Viet Anh Doan (Anya) and Misbah Ansari

There being no other nominations Viet Anh Doan (Anya) and Misbah Ansari were declared elected unopposed.

K5. Election of 1 member of the Standing Legal Committee

Nomination received from Stephanie Zhang

There being no other nominations Stephanie Zhang were declared elected unopposed.

K6. Global Solidarity

Joint: Tengfei Pan and Jasmine Al-Rawi

There being no other nominations Tengfei Pan and Jasmine Al-Rawi were declared elected unopposed.

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

There are no executive minutes tabled for this meeting

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 2nd February to the 1st March 2022.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Lauren Lancaster tabled a written report:

1. Welcome Week + Orientation activities

Welcome Week, as you no doubt will hear from others, was a great success. Despite a number of logistical hiccups, and late nights packing, we distributed all our merchandise across 6 days of stalling in unbearable heat and torrential rain. I worked 13 hour days across the week, and commend my executive, paid OBs and our Welfare, Enviro, Ethnocultural and Disability Officers in particular for their help. 2500 totes containing the Orientation Handbook + Countercourse, Unions 101, Education, WoCo, Enviro pamphlets and more were handed out, in addition to great engagement with our collectives who stalled across the 6 days. Some real highlights were the Enviro Collective Welcome Drinks, with great speeches from unionist Jim Casey and organiser Paddy Gibson, as well as the WoCo Protest at which I and others spoke. I am really pleased we have reached so many students!

My appearances at multiple Faculty Welcomes and the Whole University Welcome also seemed to have a galvanising effect on students - I've been fielding lots of friendly messages and enquiries about how people can get more involved in the SRC over the past weeks. We also had a great day stalling at the Conservatorium and will be continuing more effective outreach there over the Semester. I encourage collective convenors to continue to get in touch with the executive to share material via our official socials. I am also in conversations with the USU about the prescient launch of the UNIXLIFE newsletter, which will bring together a weekly roundup of activities and activism across campus in which students can get involved. If you are interested in helping with the design of that and have extensive design skills with Adobe Suite, please let me know.

2. Activism

- 1) WoCo Protest during welcome week - Stand Up to Sexism. This was a great event smack bang in the middle of all the USU stalls. We got a lot of interest as we spoke and marched down Eastern Ave. I was grateful to the Women's Officers for allowing me to speak, along with Finola from the Casuals Network, Misbah one of our Ethnocultural Officers and a number of other excellent speakers. The intersectional rhetoric at the rally focussed on the overrepresentation of women in the casualised academic workforce, the damage of white feminism and need for constant reexamination of how we benefit from settler-colonialism as students and activists. I was heartened by the strong political messaging and its relevance to our advocacy pending the results of the NSSS.
- 2) Education Rally on Feb 24th - this was a small but mighty rally. Despite the crazed weather damping turnout, I again was impressed with the effortless intersectionality of our cause and remind students of their responsibility to stand in solidarity with the NTEU and staff leading up to strikes. Don't be a scab, don't cross the picket line when the time comes.
- 3) Global Climate Strike on March 25th - I would hope to see all of you there. I attended the Enviro Collective's meeting today where building efforts and speakers were discussed. It is great to see the enviro movement thriving and progressing on campus. I have no doubt it will be a huge day.
- 4) Disability / Special Considerations - Academic Board was yesterday, and I raised the still significant backlogs in Special consideration application clearance within the old system. I also flagged the lack of disability provision framework made public and up to date by the university. This is an equity issue plain and simple. In particular, we lack a lot of the policy infrastructure of other similar universities like UNSW and I will, in collaboration with SRC OBs and SUPRA, be drafting a submission for the next Academic Board to introduce up-to-date

definitions and wait time caps for all students.

3. Internal Administration

With Welcome Week over, I've had a little more time to focus on actioning some projects to improve the administrative functions of the SRC.

a. Departmental Budgets

Department Allocation 2022

Education	\$19,000
Disabilities	\$2,220
Environment	\$6,500
Ethnocultural	\$4,000
Global Solidarity	\$500
Indigenous	\$500
Interfaith	\$300
Intercampus	\$300
International Students	\$3,200
Refugee Rights	\$400
Residential Colleges	\$300
Sexual Harassment	\$2,000
Student Housing	\$500
Social Justice	\$700
Queer	\$3,800
Welfare	\$2,500
Women's	\$6,060
Honi Soit	\$9,120
Executive	\$1,100
Total	\$63,000.00

b. Constitutional Reform / Legal

Along with the Chair of the Standing Legal Committee and the executive, we have begun a full redraft of the SRC Constitution. This is a complex task, one made a little less so by the extensive amount of groundwork done by previous executives, and one that will be very labour-intensive. This is because of the rather copious drafting and readability issues of the current constitution and regulations. We will also be drawing on key recommendations of the 2021 Electoral Officer to tighten and neaten up wording regarding election practises and prohibitions. As per the Constitution, all changes will be transparently presented to the student body at such a time as they are complete. I am actually quite excited to fix up the document which in my opinion currently operates to undermine and obscure key aspects of student democracy and the effective administration of our Council and Elections. This is a big election promise, so I am resolute we will get it done.

In other legal news, I am in discussions with Jahan, our Principal Solicitor, about the development of a project where the SRC produces standardized docs for both us and any student societies who wish to make life easier. This database of documents will include things such as privacy policies, terms of service, standard form contacts etc. We will be looking further at how we can make it generic enough to be usable while still being actually useful to a diverse range of students.

c. New offices

I am in conversation with COS and USU about finding new spaces for the SRC. As it stands, the current office is pretty dilapidated and totally inaccessible for wheelchair users. There has also been some water damage in the Women's Room. That is not the standard we want for the student union. I'll be pursuing this quite relentlessly and hope that by this time next month we will have concrete updates about where we are going to provide to Council.

d. New website

Our website is not super user friendly, and efforts last year to redevelop it kind of lapsed. I am fielding new quotes and will present them at the next Executive meeting. Now that Welcome Week has wrapped I am really keen to make this happen.

4. Upcoming events - SRC and activism related

SRC Welcome to Uni Party - Hermanns - THIS FRIDAY, 6pm, entry is gold coin donation
MARDI GRAS PROTEST - Taylor Square, Oxford St - Saturday 5th March, 1pm
GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE USYD CONTINGENT - Fisher Library - Friday 25th March, 10:15am

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her report covering its main points.

Khanh Tran asked about the departments budgets and the impact on priorities. Noting that some departments like enviro were receiving less than they did last year and if they represented a shift in the Exec's priorities for the year? Khanh also asked what the Exec budget is for considering the Exec approve spending?

Lauren Lancaster responded saying the changes to Environment was minimal reducing by only about \$300-400 and don't foresee that having a significant impact to the collective, adding that there was significant amount left over from many departments at the end of last year which was spent on new resources, overall department budgets have increased

Alana Ramshaw noted that Enviro was \$6900 last year and is \$6500 lathis year so not a significant decrease overall.

Lauren Lancaster in answer to Khanh Tran's second question, saying that it was for miscellaneous requests that do not apply to a particular department, such as the donation to Adelaide University's Student Organisation, adding which if the motion on the agenda tonight passes will

increase. Concluding clarifying that it allows the Executive to quickly approve things that may not have a clear line item otherwise.

Khanh Tran asked about the SRC office renovations as there has been significant damage from the rain with the women's room being flooded and damaged as well as other flooding damage and if Lauren Lancaster had a timeline on when these things would be fixed.

Lauren responded saying that service requests to fix the flooding and the hole in the roof had been placed but the SRC was still waiting on the university to respond to part of them so it as at this point out of the SRC's control though we have continues to follow them up as much as possible.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report:

In the past few weeks we have spent our time deep in the dirty work organizing volunteers for welcome week, packing tote bags (oh, so many tote bags), and manning the SRC stalls. It was genuinely super rewarding to finally attend an in-person welcome week and meet so many keen first years, and we would love to give a HUGE thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to help us out! We aim to keep this engagement going and continuously encourage students to come into campus through various student life initiatives throughout the sem.

Our next big student life event will be the welcome week party this friday. This will not only be a super fun social event, but also a great opportunity for execs and OBs to mingle with students and organically share information about the SRC (which we will both be doing on the night).

In the next couple of weeks one of our biggest priorities will be to get Foodhub up and running again. We are still currently waiting for some more information from the USU in order to set this up, but we will continue to push and make this a priority for all parties involved. Some of our other ongoing commitments will include liaising and meeting with faculty society presidents, Welfare & other collectives, and the E-tools committee (which evaluates third party applications used by the university).

Discussion:

Emily Story spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan tabled a written report:

Welcome Week

We have spent the past month running around organising the SRC's various goings on for welcome week. We're pleased to say that, in spite of a lot of manual labour and a few hiccups along the way, we survived. We packed totes, ran the stalls on Eastern Ave, hosted the NUS President and Welfare Officer, and talked to countless first years, twisting their arms until they followed the SRC's socials.

SRC Welcome to Uni Party

Since Welcome Week has wound down, we've focused our efforts on the upcoming SRC Welcome Party, which will be on Friday at Hermann's, starting at 6pm. We've locked in DJs, photographers, and a food tab so please come aha x. This party will be an opportunity for students, particularly first years, to meet collective convenors and other SRC representatives, and the proceeds from the gold coin entry will be going to frontline healthcare workers at RPA.

NUS President's Summit

We zoomed into the last council meeting from Melbourne, where we attended the NUS' Presidents Summit with miss Lauren. We grilled our National Office Bearers on their plans for the year and met some of our cross-campus colleagues.

Discussion:

Grace Lagan and Alana Ramshaw spoke to their report covering its main points.

Lia Perkins took the chair

Lauren Lancaster spoke about the NUS Presidents' summit and the importance of engaging students on the upcoming federal election and the importance of general political engagement.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Lauren Lancaster resumed the Chair

Procedural motion: to limit speaking time to 2 minutes per speaker

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

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

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report

Welcome week

The Education Action Group was busy during welcome week at our stall. We handed out 'No USyd Cuts' t-shirts, stickers and pins and told every person about our week 1 rally. Hundreds of students signed up to join the EAG and talked about their education.

Vice-Chancellor's lunch

On Monday a small group of EAG members gatecrashed a catered lunch and presentation given by Vice-Chancellor Mark Scott on "leadership". We chanted and interrogated him about his history at the ABC and the NSW Department of Education, as well as the current attacks on staff contracts and workloads. Unsurprisingly, he gave bland and unsatisfactory answers, although what was satisfying was the frown on his face by the end. Small stunts like these are important because they help to generate publicity for the EAG as well as contribute to the idea that Vice-Chancellors are the enemies of students, and shouldn't be allowed to waltz around on campus.

Fight for Education: No USyd Cuts protest

Our rally on Thursday at 1pm was a great success! We held a protest against the cuts to courses and jobs happening across the University. Thank you to those who attended, chanted and spoke from the front. A USyd staff member and member of the NTEU spoke at our rally in favour of students joining them when they take strike action. We would also echo the call of NUS Ed Officer Luc Velez, for us all to go into every class and begin building for solidarity with staff. This was the first of many protests which will be organised by the EAG over this year.

Train lockout

Week 1 was significantly disrupted because of the train lockout, enacted by the Liberal Perrottet government. The Education Officers stand in solidarity with train workers and members of the RTBU who were unfairly blamed for the lockout. Railway workers have every right to go on strike and we support all industrial action they take, but a lockout is not a strike- it's a tool for the bosses to try to crush and demoralise workers.

Solidarity with UoA SRC

The University of Adelaide SRC had its O-Week funding terminated by the bureaucratic Adelaide University "Union". This was an attack on the current left-wing SRC President and Council, by right-wing Liberal Party-aligned bureaucrats. Democratically elected student representatives should have the right to the funds and resources of student unions. We wrote a statement of solidarity and donated some money to recompense them for the O-Week materials they needed.

The next month

We have been informed by members of the NTEU that it looks like balloting for strike action will begin in one or two weeks. Ourselves and the rest of the EAG want to be on the front foot going into this position. The strikes will be a huge deal on campus, and demonstrating to staff that they have the support and solidarity of students will be an important factor in the left of the NTEU being able to win the longest and most militant strike possible. Get involved!

Discussion:

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin spoke to their report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Madeleine Clark and Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

The first two weeks of uni have flown by! We saw new students (and old) sign up to join the Women's Collective at Welcome Week and it was encouraging to see students enthusiastic about the year to come. We were happy to give out our new merch & encourage others to pick up our "Burn the Colleges" t-shirts.

The week was also full of activism and we had our first protest on the second day of Welcome Week stalls. This was an essential protest to draw attention to the rates of sexual violence on campus. Particularly with the rates of sexual assault during Welcome Week. Raising awareness around the sexual violence rampant in the colleges, we had an open mic at the end where we heard from survivors and students who have seen first hand the impacts of these institutions. We also heard from NTEU member Finola Laughren, who spoke more broadly on the sexism in the university as a casual worker, Misbah Ansari, who spoke on the cuts to Gender and Cultural Studies and Lauren Lancaster who spoke on the damage of the colleges and the university at large. The university pretends to care about these issues but it was glaringly obvious, with the millions they spent on Welcome Week, that they only care about their reputation. When it comes to meaningful change and support, they are silent.

Going into the next week we had our first meeting where we discussed the Mardi Gras protest, drawing attention to the Religious Discrimination Bill, having a reading group on 'Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement', organising a counter protest for Day of the Unborn Child and meeting logistics. Apart from what we have organised there is a lot going on at a campus activist level and in national and world politics. It's an important time to be left wing and if you would like to be involved please join our facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/218882649839471/>

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Sexual Harassment Officers

New semester-Sexual harassment on campus and Online

As a new semester, we are very excited that students can return to campus life and enjoy the happy time of studying and activities together. Since the release of the Red Line Report in 2018, through the contributions of the predecessor OBs, more students' consciousness has been awakened. They are more able to face up to themselves and more and more people have joined the fight against sexual harassment. However, there are many neglected areas of sexual harassment. For example, since the COVID-19, many people have chosen online courses, as a result, online chat groups/zoom chat have become a new high incidence of sexual harassment. According to our observation from last semester, many people will openly engage in verbal harassment/sexism/body shaming in online chat, and the online acts as an umbrella for this kind of behavior, trying to make it more hidden and difficult to be reported. In some ways, sexual harassment is 'adapting' to the change of students' behavior, and it continues to grow online.

Current News

We always focus on every students' health and meet.

In the last 12 months we learnt that sexual assault increased from 0.3% to 0.5% (Reference period 2020-21 financial year. Of those who experienced a personal crime in the 2020-21 reference period, the following Police reporting reported the most recent incident to the police: 22% (22,600) for sexual assault.

In order to improve and raise our awareness, there are some events to be held.

Take this coming event as an example.

As part of the Student Leadership Training Co-Design Project, student leaders from across the USU, SUSF, SRC and SUPRA have access to supplementary live information sessions on responding to sexual harassment and sexual assault disclosures.

These sessions are delivered by the University of Sydney [Safer Communities Office](#), our team of specialist staff who provide trauma informed case management and support to student and staff survivors of sexual misconduct.

Sessions will explore how to refer and seek support for students who have disclosed incidents of sexual harassment or sexual assault to you in your capacity as a student leader.

A special topic-Don't be afraid to talk

Australian human rights commission affirms that Sexual harassment is any unwanted or unwelcome sexual behavior where a reasonable person would have anticipated the possibility that the person harassed would feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated. It has nothing to do with mutual attraction or consensual behavior. Besides, it is not necessarily women, but men may also be persecuted by sexual harassment. As the OB, except to be aware of the obvious sexual assault, students should be reminded to pay attention to some behaviors that are not easy to be determined, such as staring, leering, or unwelcome touching/suggestive comments or jokes. Under sexual shame and social pressure, many victims are afraid to speak out and don't believe their feelings and judgments. We may provide strong safeguard measures, also have deep

conversations and connections with students, and encourage them to bravely fight against sexual harassment, which is part of the significance of SRC.

Reference

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/crime-victimisation-australia/latest-release>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/responding-to-sexual-harassment-and-sexual-assault-student-leader-sessions-tickets-264834165117?fbclid=IwAR1MteQ-vJAJE9zd--YWTFHtMZNN27hWDYNFksI7hln7CBbks1GDjsQsr44>

Discussion:

Ester Ren spoke to their report covering its main points.

Jayfel Tulabing-Lee gave a verbal report saying she wasn't aware of the report that was submitted today, but she had been working with fellow officer Rose Donnelly on building a relationship with the Student Liaison Officers so there can be streamlined communication between them and the SRC department. Hopefully this will assist in initiating some change in the University's systems to better cater to the student body.

Julia Robins noted that start of the report the 'brief' contained misleading information about the services of the SRC, and the role of its officers.

The Sexual Harassment Officers requested that 'brief' be removed from the report to prevent confusion.

The report was noted and will be followed up by Lauren Lancaster.

04. Report of the Welfare Officers

The last few days have seen the largest floods in Australia in at least a decade, in a context where funding to emergency services has been routinely slashed. Thousands of NSW and QLD residents have had to flee their homes, and hundreds remain missing. Despite the devastating effect this will have on people's lives, the government has offered an entirely insufficient disaster payment of \$1000 for adults, and \$400 for children.

The enormous scale of the climate crisis is already apparent - every year it seems like we experience another 'once in a lifetime' weather event. We need more than the Liberal and Labor party's empty net zero promises, which fail to address the continued expansion of the Australian fossil fuel industry. If the crisis is going to be tackled head on, a serious, left-wing climate movement has to be build up. In Sydney, a climate strike has been called on March 25th, and I've been involved over the last few weeks in building an event to unite students from various university campuses.

- Yasmine

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to their report and covered its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

05. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

2022 will be a tough and busy year for the Global Solidarity Office. Whether it's the recent tense Russia-Ukraine war off campus or the matter of racial discrimination in Math1021 zoom lecture in 11am 24th February 2022 on campus.

We had sent the student's request to the school on the day of the accident through different emails of relevant school personnel. Moreover, we had communicated with the students to stay calm and wait for the school to deal with this matter to avoid further deterioration of the incident. In this year, Global Solidarity Office will be devoted promoting our peace, diverse and inclusive community and also minimizing all kinds of discrimination regarding to ethnicity and culture difference. Furthermore, we will be devoted informing the university and relevant personnel as soon as possible after incident like that and also enhance the insight of any matters regarding to harm global solidarity, and meanwhile handle those matters peacefully.

Discussion:

Tengfei Pan spoke to their report covering its main points expressing a wish to work with other department on campaigns through the year.

Jasmine Al-Rawi gave a verbal report talking about the many struggles that have been breaking out around the world in the last few years, and most recently the anti-war movements in Russia and the resistance in Ukraine. As well as the struggles in Palestine, Myanmar and take note of the actions and struggles of students and workers there and try to emulate that here in our own organisation.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Julian Alley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

06. Report of the Queer Officers

Welcome week:

QuAC saw a solid amount of traffic over the course of the week, with approximately 80 new members joining our Facebook group. Additionally, the "Queer Beers" event held in collaboration with the queer societies on campus (QRev, SHADES, QoCo and QUEST) was a great success with a turnout just shy of 100 and lots of great conversations.

Mardi Gras:

In a last minute sprint QuAC has organized flyering, banner making, and a student contingent all in collaboration with Wo.Co for this week. Hoping to have a solid turn out.

First Meeting:

Due to poor turnout this was not an official meeting but there was discussion with those in attendance about rallying against transphobia in sports, specifically in relation to a bill proposed by Claire Chandler called "Save Women's Sport." Other ideas were discussed as well and will be brought up in future meetings.

Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews spoke to their report covering its main points.

Ishbel Dunsmore asked what time the meeting would be.

Yasmin Andrews said it would be at 5:30 tomorrow (Thursday the 3rd of March) in the Queer Space.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Social Justice Officers

Attached at the end of this document.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

08. Report of the Environment Officers

As we come out of welcome week and bring in the new semester, I think it's safe to say that we've made a really great start to the climate organising and actions we hope to achieve this year. Welcome week was a great success, with over 300 new sign ups to the 2022 enviro group, and now over 1000 signatures on our successful petition demanding no penalty for staff and students participating in the March 25th strike! What was interesting, and pretty exciting for me, was that many of the students coming to the stall were coming with the initial intent to sign up. There wasn't necessarily the need for us to intercept them on Eastern Avenue (as is what we have had to do in the past), since there seems to have been a shift – certainly since I graduated high school – in the attitude of new students towards environmental activism and organising, with many having participated in the SS4C strikes over the years.

Another great success was our welcome week event, in which we had unionist and prospective Greens candidate Jim Casey and Workers 4 Climate Action rep Paddy Gibson speak on the nature of the climate movement both in the past and as it currently stands. Not only had we booked the upper floor of Royal to capacity, but we had lots of new faces there to listen and learn more about climate politics. We also now have a couple of new banners too, which we'll make good use of in the upcoming climate strike!

Speaking of the strike, which will be happening on the 25th of March, Enviro members, both new and old, have been diligently building through lecture bashes, leafletting, posterage, and participating in organising meetings, both within USyd Enviro and beyond. Weekly meetings within USyd Enviro have been well attended, and discussions cross-campus with UTS, UNSW and Macquarie, as well as with W4CA and SS4C have been equally successful. As such, March 25th is shaping up to be a huge day! We have organised a USyd contingent to the strike, which will involve meeting at 10:15AM outside Fisher Library for a few speeches, before marching down to UTS Tower to join a larger uni student contingent.

To reiterate the demands set by the collective:

- 100% public renewable energy by 2030
- A just transition, including guaranteed climate jobs for fossil fuel workers, and land rights and jobs on country for Indigenous workers
- No new coal and gas projects, including the Kurri Kurri gas plant and Narrabri gas project

Keen for a big year of disruptive action!!

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1.5 minutes per person

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

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

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Motion on the Train Cancellation

Preamble:

On the 21st of February, commuters woke up to the news that all train services across the city had been cancelled. Hoping to capitalise on the frustration of workers and students, Transport Minister David Elliott launched a vicious attack on unionised train workers, accusing them of, “hijacking the city”, and characterising the events of Monday as a “terrorist-like activity”.

This vitriol would have been unacceptable in any context, but it was also untrue. It was the NSW Government, not the RTBU, that had switched off the rail network in the night. Train workers were ready and willing to work: an irresponsible, blustering government stood in the way.

Students shouldn't buy into the government's anti-union rhetoric. We must stand with workers and against the Liberal's attempt to villainise the labour movement.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC supports the RTBU's demands for better pay and conditions.
2. The USyd SRC condemns the comments of David Elliott and any attempts by Liberal politicians to demonise unions.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will repost and disseminate information about the strikes on its social media, particularly that which debunks claims made by David Elliott and other anti-worker politicians.

Grace Lagan spoke to their motion covering its main points speaking about the actions particularly of the history and actions of the Minister David Elliott and his attacks on workers.

Daniel Bowron spoke to their motion highlighting the misinformation spread the media and the government, so workers were blamed for the state governments decisions.

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion calling the campaign run by the state government against the railway worker and their unions was cynical and it was outrageous that the media just works as a mouthpiece for the government. The idea that the government called this on safety reasons when they have constantly ignored the safety concerns of the unions and workers is disgraceful.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion said this was a great motion and was important to note that the action planned on was refusing to do overtime, which is an actual safety issues so the government's response was even more ridiculous and shows how scared they are

Julian Alley spoke to the motion echoing the sentiments of the past speakers and highlighting that David Elliott's comments about workers removing their labour as being 'terrorism' were barbaric and shameful. Adding that this is the same Minister who tried to justify strip searching children as police minister and his actions continue to speak to the ideology of the NSW governments.

Lauren Lancaster called for any dissent to the motion and asked those who dissent to speak to their position.

Ben Jorgensen spoke against the motion saying that is demonises and mischaracterises the problem at hand and what occurred, and that everything that occurred followed due legal process and was fair and justified.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments saying that saying the 2.5% pay freeze, less than the cost of inflation, is justified. When the minister is attacking workers when they fight for their rights at work, calling them terrorists and blocking their industrial action is called justified this is pathetic. We should be supporting workers, making conservatives uncomfortable, and fighting against the Perrottet government, showing solidarity with workers and strikes across all industries.

Grace Lagan spoke responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments echoing the sentiments of Owen Marden-Readford and adding that the dissent was not clear, but just a few vague words about mischaracterisation, but no actually justification about the legality, about the comments made by the minister of the electioneering tactics used. Saying if there was misinformation then

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion and responded to Ben Jorgensen agreeing with Grace Lagan's comments calling for an answer to in what ways was due legal process followed. Adding that this was a blatant attack on the unions for trying to fight for better pay and working conditions while the industry has been pushed to its limits and using the media to do so despite the unions not calling the strike but the government locking them out. Concluding by saying that the government has constantly dragged-out negotiations and constantly not acted in good faith.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lauren Lancaster wanted to ask Ben Jorgensen what he considered due legal process on this. Talking about the governments process involved taking the union to the Fair Work Commission, where the Unions agreed to go back and amend the request, to allow for last minutes changes only in the event of safety concerns. This was agreed on, and after that is when the government went back to fair work and reneged of the previously agreed on deal and re-proposed the conditions that had been rejected, and understandably Fair Work rejected their application. It was only then that the lockout was called by the government/transport NSW, but by the unions. How this is legal and fair process is unclear it's just union bashing, it's not fair legal process at all.

Ben Jorgensen responded to the questions reminding the council about what this is about and that is that the safety of the many overrides the demands of the few. The Union put 1000s of NSW residents at risk when they planned industrial action and suggested to put the train network in an unsafe situation, and the government shut it down to make sure that the people of NSW were not going into work in unsafe conditions.

Deagaln Godwin responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments saying that this government has consistently placed profits above the safety of people which we have seen again and again during this pandemic, through the neo-liberalisation of the public transport system pushing for less safe working condition which will lead to accidents and death, the government does not care about the safety of workers only the profit margins of the ruling elite.

Alexander Poirier responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments about the government's shutdown was in support of the people. By shutting down the trains as they did, is classism for anyone who lives anywhere out west, there is no other way for people to get into town, there seems to be no sense in suggesting that this was in anyway in support of the people.

Moved: Grace Lagan

Seconded: Daniel Bowron

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. No War in Ukraine!

Preamble:

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is an act of imperial aggression that needs to be condemned. Long-term attempts by the Russian regime to destabilize Ukraine have killed 14,000 people since 2014. In this full-scale invasion, over 100 civilians have lost their lives and up to 500,000 Ukrainians have been made refugees.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is a reactionary authoritarian leader determined to re-establish Russia as the dominant power in Eastern Europe instead of NATO influence in the region. All Russian troops need to leave Ukraine now.

Student unions should support Ukrainian resistance to the Russian invasion. We also need to stand against attempts by Western governments to exploit this crisis to advance their own imperial interests.

The US and its NATO alliance are positioning itself as defenders of democracy and human rights against authoritarian Russia. This is hypocritical. The role of NATO has always been to project US influence in Europe. America is no alternative to Russian aggression. The US has shown no concern for democracy, human rights or self-determination when it comes to advancing its own interests. The long history of US invasions, sponsored coups, sanctions and destructive IMF programs show that the US is every bit as imperialist as Russia.

NATO is no more humanitarian than the US. It backed the US war in Afghanistan and is responsible for war crimes in the 1990s wars in the Balkans. The increased military spending in Europe, notably in Germany, makes the world more dangerous. The billions invested in the military should be put into welfare, health, and education.

The SRC must oppose US imperialism as well as Russian. Military intervention by the West will only inflame the current situation and cause the loss of more lives in a wider war.

In addition, the SRC should oppose the call for sanctions. They are simply warfare by other means. Sanctions will immiserate the working class and poor of Russia who are not responsible for this war. It is bad that the Greens have called for more sanctions. We need to fight against militarism and imperialism, not demand more of it.

The Australian government is also seeking to turn this crisis to its own advantage. The faltering Morrison government wants to exploit the crisis for its electoral benefit, beating the drums of militarism. But more fundamentally, the Australian capitalist class's imperialist interests are being spun by the government and the media as somehow a defence against authoritarianism. Scott Morrison has pledged \$70 million to buy military equipment and weapons for Ukraine, yet cries poor when it comes to spending money on welfare, health or education. Labor, true to its pro-imperialist history, has backed the Liberals in this imperial push - even demanding that harsher sanctions be put in place.

The rhetoric of Australia cannot be disentangled from its growing imperial ambition and bellicose rhetoric towards China. Australian elites will seek to use this crisis to beef up Australia's military. It was only last year that the government signed onto the AUKUS pact pledging \$100 billion for nuclear submarines. Liberal and Labor have both attacked China for refusing to condemn Russia's actions in a cynical attempt to turn this crisis into great power positioning. The military budget should be diverted to social spending immediately.

The world is increasingly riven by imperial tensions. World military spending rose to almost \$2 trillion in 2020. It has continued to rise since. The Australian military budget is set to rise to \$50 billion. All of these billions should go to meet human need, not to the military. In this context, it is necessary for student unions to take strident anti-war stances. The hope for peace lies in the anti-war protests across Russia and the resistance of Ukrainians. It does not lie in increased sanctions, Western intervention or greater military budgets.

Platform:

1. The Sydney University SRC opposes the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
2. The Sydney University SRC supports the right of self-determination for Ukrainian people.
3. The Sydney University SRC opposes both Russian and Western imperialism. The SRC recognises that NATO is no force for peace but is an aggressive military alliance that also must be opposed. The US and NATO have killed over 6 million in wars since World War 2.
4. The Sydney University SRC confirms its opposition to all imperialist wars.
5. The Sydney University SRC opposes the increasing Australian military expenditure, and the drive towards war in the Indo-Pacific.
6. University SRC supports the Russian people's right to freedom of speech in protests against the actions of their leader, and oppose the actions taken to arrest them and remove that right

Actions:

1. The Sydney University SRC will post the text of this motion to the Facebook page.

Discussion:

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to their motion covering its main points and highlighted that the invasion of Ukraine by Russia need to be condemned and opposed, but that does not mean letting the imperial powers of the west like the US get away with their own imperial wars or expansionist aggressing, all military spending should be opposed and money should be funnelled into aid and supporting the needs of people.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion echoing the statements of Owen Marsden-Readford and highlighted that we all need to oppose war in all forms and show support to the Ukrainian people in their resistance. Adding that we should also oppose the sanctions as they do not impact the Russian Oligarchs but the Russian people who suffer and they do not achieve anything but the deaths of workers and children.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lauran Lancaster spoke to the motion saying he SRC should oppose all imperialist campaigns, and it's important to note that the US its keen to progress this war in the name of Ukrainian independence with no regard for the independence of all the nations whom they have invaded and never suffer the consequences of the confits they initiate. Adding that the SRC condemns all acts of war across the globe.

Julian Alley spoke to the motion echoed the sentiments of Lauren Lancaster, and wanted to shame the Australian government for their attempts to frame and add this conflict to their anti-China agenda, it does nothing but seek to divide the Australian community and marginalise many who they claim to represent and be represented by. Adding that thankfully this tactic seems to be failing but it is still a deplorable stance.

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion agreeing with past speakers sentiments, adding that the crocodile tears from the imperial USA, noting that they are the biggest military aggressors in the world. Saying that the US have never opposed military aggression done by their allies like the bombs dropped on Palestinians by the Israeli government or on Yemen by the Saudi's

Ben Jorgensen spoke in support of the Morrison Government's decisions and asked everyone to leave their personal vendettas behind and support the Morrison government swift support of Ukraine, adding that Russia's invasion is in breach of international law and the sovereignty of nations should be respected by all others as it's the foundation of our international peace. Adding that he stands with the Morrison government's sanctions and other nations actions of sanctions against Russia.

Alexander Poirier proposed an amendment:

"University SRC supports the Russian people's right to freedom of speech in protests against the actions of their leader, and oppose the actions taken to arrest them and remove that right"
It was amenable to the movers and added to the platform as point 6.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying he agreed with the amendment saying that the antiwar protesters in Russia were incredibly brave. Adding that the council needs to note the hypocrisy of the comment by Ben Jorgensen in his defence of the ruling class, saying that there was no self-determination in the bombing or Iraq or Afghanistan. Palestinians have been denied self-determination for over 80 years, human rights and self-determination means nothing to the western powers when it is standing in their way. They don't care about Ukraine self-determination, only opposing Russia. They IMF run by the USA has place crushing conditions on Ukraine that has driven its working class into poverty. We need to oppose Russia and stand with the international working class.

Angus Dermody responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments and in support of the motion. Saying that the actions of the Morrison government was not a statement of the order of peace, it only peace for Ben and those like him, in the meantime wars have been ongoing throughout the world. The Morrison government is not brave the Russian opposing the war in Russia are brave.

Mikaela Pappou responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments saying she could not believe the commentary made by him on this motion and dared him to find anyone who is not a young liberal who would find Scott Morrison's actions worth complimenting, adding that if you don't believe in the student movement to please just leave.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Jasmine Al-Rawi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. Solidarity with the Adelaide University SRC against right-wing attacks on student democracy

Preamble:

The Adelaide University SRC is currently subject to an anti-democratic attack from a right-wing student bloc who control the Adelaide University Union (AUU) board.

In the last student elections, the Adelaide uni student body voted overwhelmingly to reject the coalition of the LNP and the right wing ticket Progress, and elected students from Socialist Alternative, the Greens, and Labor. In response, the right implemented an undemocratic 'funding agreement', which prohibits the SRC from using its funding for anything disagreeable to the AUU. This agreement has been invoked to block spending on O'week materials, specifically left-wing material. Funding for a counter-guide to highlight the cuts being made by the Adelaide Uni administration, NUS material, and anti-fascist stickers printed to counter far-right propaganda stickers which have been appearing on the campus have all been blocked.

This is a way for the right, which has lost the student elections, to bureaucratically stifle left wing student representatives in an attempt to prevent them from carrying out the activities they were elected to do. The right is seeking to undermine both opposition to uni cuts and the left-wing president, Ana Obradovic. Additionally, student media on campus have been subject to pressure to not publish content disagreeable to the AUU board.

Platform

1. The Sydney University SRC condemns the right-wing, anti-democratic attacks on the Adelaide Uni SRC.
2. The Sydney University SRC recognises the importance of campus activism, and opposes efforts to stifle campus activism and unionism.

Action Points:

1. The Sydney University SRC will sign on to the Adelaide Uni SRC statement to defend student union democracy:
<https://www.facebook.com/adelaidesrc/posts/255109323461311>

2. The Sydney University SRC will share this statement on their facebook page.
3. The Sydney University will send the Adelaide University SRC \$1500 in the spirit of solidarity to cover the cost of the blocked activist funding – funding breakdown to be determined by the Executive committee in consultation with SRC departments

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin waved their speaking rights.

Tom Williams spoke to their motion covering its main points and how left wing unions have an impact and that management find that threatening and do what they can to get rid of them. However this also shows the effectiveness of student action and campaigns.

Lauren Lancaster just noted for the council that \$400 has already been sent by the Executive to Adelaide University SRC.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion and highlighted it's importance and the importance of supporting other student organisations in their fights against management, but wanted clarification on where funding was coming from.

The motion was amended accordingly by the movers to reflect that the funding breakdown would come from the Executive committee in consultation with SRC departments.

Keira ?? spoke to the motion saying that this attack on student unions shows that management believes they can attack student organization when they want to and this need to be opposed to preserve student democracy and ensure that student organisation can continue to fight for student rights.

Ella Hied spoke to the motion highlighting that when student on the SRC returned to campus and found fascist materials they immediately countered with antifascist materials, a basic things to do but this was stopped by the president of the AUU saying that the SRC should represent all students regardless of political views. An apolitical position like that wouldn't just be ineffective it out be actively right wing, and would be complicit support of such positions.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Tom Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion: to limit speaking time to 1 minute

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

Deaglan Godwin spoke against the procedural calling for maintain 1.5 minutes speaking time.

The procedural motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. Motion to support the March 25 Climate Strike

Preamble:

School Strike for Climate has called another climate strike on March 25. Usyd Enviro will be participating in this strike by forming a student contingent, meeting at 10:15 at Fisher Library on Friday March 25. The demands of the Usyd Contingent are as follows: 100% public renewable energy by 2030. A just transition, including guaranteed climate jobs for fossil fuel workers and land rights and jobs on country for Indigenous people. No new coal and gas projects - no Kurri Kurri gas plant and no Narrabri gas project.

These demands are crucial at a time like this and speak to the necessity for real and meaningful climate action - as demonstrated by the 1000+ students that have already signed our petition in support of the strike. The March 25 climate strike is a huge opportunity for us in an election year, not just in terms of rebuilding the climate movement but also smashing Scott Morrison. The Morrison government has seen the ramping up of horrendous climate crimes, not the least of which are the Kurri Kurri gas plant - set to be built using \$600 million dollars of taxpayer money - and the Narrabri Gas Project - which would see Santos open up 850 gas wells on Gomeroi country in North-West NSW.

It's not just the proposed developments that are concerning. Although these would certainly lock us into climate catastrophe, we can look to what is happening right now as a stark reminder of the need for climate action. Just this past week, at least 8 people have died in flooding. This has been hailed as unprecedented, but that's exactly what they said about the fires in 2019, the famines in Madagascar, and the rising sea levels in the Pacific. These climate criminals have blood on their hands, and we have to hold them accountable. We need to be out on the streets, standing in solidarity with all those impacted by climate change and increasing extreme weather events, and particularly with vulnerable fossil fuel workers and First Nations peoples. The current system has absolutely nothing to offer for these people, as it recklessly closes fossil fuel projects these workers are dependent on while providing no transition to renewable energy; and similarly as the government refuse to offer an alternative to Santos' gas-fired dispossession. Jobs and climate action cannot be counterposed - they are inextricably linked and we can't win one without fighting for the other.

The March 25 climate strike is absolutely essential, and will see tens of thousands of students, workers, and First Nations peoples come together to demand real climate action. As university students we need to be doing our part, which means bringing a strong contingent with strong politics, to affirm that climate justice and workers rights are one struggle and one fight - and that this is a fight we will continue to be involved in, and a fight that we will win. On March 25 Usyd students will gather to say no to Kurri Kurri, no to Santos, and to smash Scott Morrison once and for all. An event of this scale needs all the support it can get.

Platform:

The Usyd SRC supports the March 25 climate strike and its demands, in particular the Usyd Contingent meeting at 10:15 at Fisher Library.

The Usyd SRC endorses the official climate strike called by School Strike for Climate.

Action:

The Usyd SRC will promote the event on social media and share relevant content from the Usyd Enviro Collective.

Discussion:

Angus Dermody spoke to their motion speaking to its main points and highlighting its importance as we see more and more severe weather events each year. Calling the government shameful for continuing to promote the fossil fuel industry, and that everyone should attend the climate strike and fight for a better future.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to their motion saying there need to be a strong presence from the SRC at the strike and hope everyone can get involved and there are organising meetings if anyone is interested to get in touch.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the motion saying this is such an important movement, and that the movement needs to continue to build especially after 2 years where that has been incredibly hard.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying its great there is a climate strike happening in Sydney and we need to take the fight to both sides of government, and point out to everyone how both state and federal governments would rather see people die than take action on climate change or fund emergency services properly

Ben Jorgensen spoke about the positive actions of the Morrison Government has been doing on climate change and its effects saying that Labor supports the same projects as the Morrison government, adding that the emission reductions proposed by the Morrison government are higher than France and Canada over the same period of time, and there has also had the highest level of investment in renewables and is rolling them out at greater rates than Europe.

Angus Dermody responded to the comments of Ben Jorgensen asking Ben not to comment on issues he does not understand. Adding that its about public investment not private investment and it's clear Ben does not understand what the Climate strike movement is demanding and fighting for. Concluding saying that right now Morrison government has 10 deaths on the hands from these floods, and the government continues to expand in gas and fossil fuels and asking how can you justify these actions and lack thereof.

Onor Nottle spoke to the motion and responded to comments of Ben Jorgensen saying that it's not just the deaths from flood we are going to see but more and more deaths from heat, fires, floods and storms year after year and that clearly the Morrison government isn't doing enough.

Grace Lagan spoke to the motion and responded to comments of Ben Jorgensen recommended that Ben read the enviro-collectives publication combust where he can read all about climate activism as well as the inaction of the federal government and their delays in supporting net zero targets, and they are still scrapping the bottle of the barrel on the date of hitting that target.

Alexander Poirier responded to comments of Ben Jorgensen asking if he was saying that because Labor supported the Kurri Kurri mine project we should just stick with the Liberal government? or calling for anarchy and dismissing them both?

Moved: Angus Dermody

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q5. Student Unions and the Federal Election

As the approaching federal election more and more begins to shape politics in Australia, student unions around the country will come under pressure to support one of Australia's major political parties. Student activists must be prepared to stand up to this pressure by refusing to moderate our demands or our activist tactics in order to bring them in line with the policies of either of the major parties. Moreover, student unions should not throw their weight behind any political party which does not support universal free education, the scrapping of all student debts and full public funding of universities, cornerstone demands for any left-wing student union.

There should be little temptation for the USyd SRC to support the Liberal Party, an obvious enemy of all student activists, whose unabashed defence of the interests of the rich and powerful at every point is rightly reflected in the deep unpopularity of the Morrison government with ordinary people. In the last two years, the Liberals have presided over the doubling of the wealth of Australia's 47 billionaires, while the proportion of national income going to workers has fallen to its lowest level since 1959. Rather than properly fund essential public services, like healthcare and education, billions of dollars have been poured into arming the Australian military with nuclear submarines and tanks. With the climate crisis already upon us, the Liberals continue to subsidise the coal, oil and gas industries, accelerating the rate of environmental destruction. Their decision to let COVID rip through the community has overwhelmed hospitals and killed more than 2000 people since December. Disproportionately represented amongst the dead are Indigenous people, disabled people, people born in the Middle East and North Africa, and other already marginalised groups. Students have not escaped the attacks from the top: the Job-Ready Graduates Package pushed through parliament in 2020 has massively shifted the burden of higher education onto the shoulders of students, ratcheting up fees for many degrees while cutting government funding, such that for the first time since the end of free education, students' fees pay for more than half of teaching costs.

The Australian Labor Party, however, presents no alternative to the Liberals' pro-capitalist, anti-worker, anti-student policies. Labor does not stand for a redistribution of society's wealth in the interests of ordinary people. Instead, they have indicated that, if elected, they will maintain the Liberals' income tax cuts for those earning more than \$180,000 per year, slashing \$43 billion from government revenues which could otherwise have been used to fund serious improvements to welfare, healthcare or education. When it comes to welfare, Labor have made no concrete commitments, saying only that they will "consider" increasing Jobkeeper payments. No commitment has been made to reversing in full the Job-Ready Graduates reforms, let alone funding free tertiary education for all. Labor's one gesture towards this demand - free TAFE places for students enrolling in areas of 'skill shortage' - is entirely in keeping with a vision of higher

education as a means to produce productive workers for Australian industry, rather than a right everyone should be able to access. Their commitment to Australia's fossil fuel exports equals the Liberals', promising a laughable 43% net reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 while floods and bushfires wrack the continent - and on the off chance any coal barons might be worried by this, opposition leader Anthony Albanese has issued assurances that this target is fully compatible with continued coal mining up to and beyond 2050. On questions of Australia's appalling refugee detention regime, and the ratcheting up of military tensions with China, the ALP has attacked the Liberals from the right, and disgracefully, Labor recently voted for the Liberals' bigoted religious discrimination bill in the lower house.

The uncanny similarity of Labor and Liberal policies on every important political issue at stake in the world today is a product of their shared commitment to running Australian capitalism. For both major parties, the first priority will always be defending and increasing the profits of big business. To the extent that Labor presents itself as a reforming force, then, it offers only those reforms which do not undermine the profitability of the Australian capitalist class.

This means that if we want to win universal free education, immediate action on the climate crisis, serious increases to wages and welfare, or any other victory for students and ordinary people, it is not enough just to focus our energies on voting Morrison out in favour of the ALP. This is true even of election campaigns that offer some criticisms of Labor while arguing that the main goal for the left must be to get rid of the Liberals. Such campaigns implicitly present Labor as a lesser evil for the left, disarming students against Labor's own right wing policies and setting back attempts to build independent activist movements. As always, the way that we win our demands is not by looking to a parliamentary savior, but by fighting for them, using our power on the streets and in the workplaces to force concessions from the system regardless of who is in parliament. It was a confrontational protest movement of students that defeated the Liberals' savage attempt to deregulate university fees in 2014; moreover, it has been strikes and industrial action, like those organised by teachers, transport workers and nurses in recent months, and which we can expect on our own campus this year, which have won every meaningful improvement in living, working and learning conditions for ordinary people.

These protests and strikes have power because they hit the ruling class where it hurts, disrupting the flow of profits and threatening the stable functioning of institutions like our universities. Our priority now must be rebuilding the kind of intransigent activist movement which could build, support and extend those struggles, and in order to do so, we must be prepared to stand up against arguments to fall in behind any political party which puts the interests of the rich ahead of those of students, workers and the oppressed.

Platform:

The USyd SRC:

- Does not endorse any political party which does not stand for free, fully-funded education for all
- Asserts that regardless of which party is in government, the key to winning students' demands is organising students to fight for those demands in activist campaigns
- Condemns the attacks of Liberal and Labor alike on the rights and conditions of students, workers and the oppressed

Action:

- The SRC will not endorse or produce any material supporting the election campaign of any political party which does not have a firm commitment to free, fully-funded education for all

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to their motion covering its main points saying that not only is the Liberal government doing nothing for the climate crisis neither is the Labor party and they simply mimic the policies of the Liberal party and are just as happy to stoke imperialism fearmongering as much as the liberals.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to their motion saying there is a logical consequence of this lack of difference between the political parties and that is we need an independent student movement that fights these battles without suggesting that a Labor government would be a solutions to the challenges we face, and not facing a compromise by supporting the Labor party expecting it to be the solution.

Mikaela Pappou asked how this motion achieves anything, saying that the movers refuse to offer a solution to the problems that they have with the ALP, saying if you join the party you have a voice and a vote, and she would like an explanation how attacking the Labor party helps get the liberals out of government when the liberal government is objectively worse and a Labor government, and she would be campaigning for Labor in NSW in the upcoming federal election while Socialist Alternative will be driving down to Victoria to campaign for Victorian council who are not a viable alternative, so what do they suggest people do.

Grace Lagan echoed Mikaela Pappou comments and spoke about purity politics, and how it's not a viable solution for society to say that the Labor government is no alternative to the liberals when they've seen tonight how the liberals treat motions which otherwise have support of all faction on this council.

Owen Marsden-Readford said the Labor party won't support students, won't support education activists wont challenge the neo-liberalisation of university or oppose the tax cuts of the rich. They offer no alternative but supporting them says they can walk all over us, we need a strong social movement building the student movement that can't be attacked less there be wide spread protests and support for students in the street that the government must listen to a campaign that is hindered when student organisation would rather align themselves with a party who will not represent their needs.

Julian Alley echoed Mikaela Pappou and Grace Lagan's comments, saying we are in a two-party system and need to be practical on some things, and that opposing both major parties means you are pushing a narrative for the Liberal party, because the Labor party is a party that needs to appeal to the while country and not just Sydney's inner west.

Ben Jorgensen spoke against the motion listing the Morrison's governments work in education, saying that the council has mischaracterise the works of the federal government's support of the education system and they have a record investment in the vocation training and asking that these are not supporting education in Australia?

Lia Perkins responded to Ben and spoke to the motion saying that the job ready graduates package, has decreased funding to education across the board and noted that we should be campaigning not for a party but for issues such as free education, and the SRC should be fighting for issues and not for a political party.

Angus Dermody spoke to the motion saying we should be focused on activism and not campaigning for a political party. Also responded to Ben Jorgensen's comments, saying he did not understand what he was talking about and not supporting Labor was not supporting the Liberals.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion about pushing on political demands and not fighting for the lesser evil of a political party and continuing to push for a radical activism movement. Issues have been one under the liberal government despite Labor having the opportunity to change them in the past and they were one from activism not supporting the Labor party.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the motion agreeing that the SRC should be fighting on issues not shilling out for a political party but fighting on the streets.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Ishbel Dunsmore

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying that the SRC will not shill out for outdated political parties, the SRC is an activist body and make sure that the information the SRC absorbs and puts out is accurate and pushes for the best conditions for student which neither major party will deliver.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion echoing Lauren's statements and emphasised that taking a stance is important in pushing for radical change rather than a moderate campaign like the National Union of Students is pushing for.

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R. General Business

R1. Mardi Gras is a protest! Kill the bill!

Preamble:

The activist collective Pride in Protest have called a protest and march on this weekend, March 5. A crucial part of this protest is opposing the Liberal party's religious discrimination bill. This bill is

an outright attack on LGBTIQ rights, and it must be opposed. Mardi Gras should be a protest, not a ticketed event at the SCG.

Demands:

- Decriminalise sex work
- Fund services not police
- No pride in detention
- Transition leave now

The demand for transition leave is directly related to us at USyd as it is one of the demands the NTEU is bargaining for in the current round of bargaining. Staff who identify as transgender should be allowed to take transition leave more than once, and shouldn't have to take unpaid or sick leave.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC supports the Mardi Gras rally on March 5th
2. The USyd SRC endorses all demands of the Mardi Gras rally

Motion:

1. The SRC will share the Mardi Gras protest on its social media accounts, and support its collectives' student contingents.

Lia Perkins spoke to their motion highlighting its main points and pushing that this is such an important thing for the SRC to support.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion saying that it was great there was a protest happening at Mardi Gras and not just a corporate float event. And that everyone should get out to that.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to their motion saying that the motion really important and it was sad how corporatized and liberalised every year and it's so important that people continue to keep Mardi Gras and radical priteset

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying he corporatisation or Mardi Gras is a total farce and echoed the sentiments of the past speakers and said that Qu.AC and Wo.Co will be meeting up at Hyde Park to form a contingent.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion saying that having the police at Mardi Gras is appalling considering that just last year they moved motions to let police send people for disease testing as it targets marginalised people and spreads misinformation about diseases and persecutes people. These days it's a commercial act to make money by plastering rainbows on products.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.