

MINUTES

for the 2nd regular meeting of the 98th SRC held on **Wednesday the 4th of March 2026**. Meeting held in the Law Annex Building Law Annex Lecture Theatre 024 and via zoom: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/82686494028>.

*There was a quorum count at 6:19pm
The meeting was found quorate at 6:20pm*

A. Meeting open

The meeting opened at 6:20pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Bohao Zhang be elected Deputy Chairperson.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Aron Khuc

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:

Patrick de Haan
Jaseena Al-Helo to Jaehyun Kim
Lucy Sullivan to Leyla Bensen
Srishti Chadda

Evan Costa to Edu Setiawan
Julius Wittfoth to Lucas Pierce
Eva Sutherland to Starla Bilby

Motion: that the Council accept the apologies and proxies.

Moved: Bohao Zhang

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

D. Changes to Membership

There were no changes to membership.

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Gerard Buttigieg resigns to Ava Cavalerie

Motion: that the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Bohao Zhang

Seconded: Suryansh Tomash

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes

Minutes of the **1st** regular meeting of the 98th SRC held on **4th Feb 2026** were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4th Feb 2026 be accepted.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Dana Kafina

The motion was put and carried.

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

Shovan Bhattarai speaks to the SRC budget and questions why there was restrictions and cuts to Global Solidarity.

Grace Street responds to the question and states that departments with bigger budgets will support smaller ones, as Global Solidarity often collaborates.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

There was no business for this item.

K. Elections

Lara Ri acting Secretary to Council

K1. Election of First Nations' Officer/s

There being no nominations – position was declared vacant.

K2. Election of Mature Aged Students Officer/s

There being no nominations – position was declared vacant.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 10th of February 2026.

Motion that the minutes of the executive meetings from 10th of February 2026 be accepted.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 1st of December 2025 to the 25th of February 2026.

The report was circulated and noted.

L3. President's Report

The thing at the top of everyone's minds at the moment is the illegal attack of the US and Israel on Iran on Saturday, which has caused death, destruction, and destabilisation across the Middle East. I send my condolences to all those and their loved ones who are impacted by the attacks and uncertainty, particularly during Ramadan and Lent. Please see the SRC statement and our website for more information and resources to help you at this time regarding your wellbeing, mental health, and academics.

The first world leader to speak up in support of this imperialist aggression was our own, Anthony Albanese, from the so-called 'socialist left' of the Australian Labor Party. This same Labor Party continues to crackdown on protest and free speech, which has made its way onto our university campuses and manifested in intimidatory surveillance and unfair restriction of Palestine-related activities.

That is why the SRC *is* and *must* be a political space, and why we need students to get involved. We stand for justice and peace, and against imperialist aggression. All of the challenges that students face – housing, cost-of-living, crushing international student fees and HECs debts, institutional racism and bad university governance – are *political* and tied up with these larger global issues. The SRC brings students together to make their voices heard and count to combat greedy governments and institutions seeking power, capital, and land instead of looking after their constituents.

It is truly one struggle, and one fight. That is what the SRC has always stood for and will continue to do, even if the powers that be wish for us to be silent and focus on providing the basic services for students that they fail to. That is why we are putting our weight behind actions like the upcoming National Student Strike for Palestine next week on Wednesday 11 March, and why we need students to leave their classes and join us on the streets.

Orientation activities

It has been a pleasure for me to present or to host SRC stalls at so many welcome events, including the Scholarships, International Students, Gadigal Centre, Architecture Design and Planning, Engineering, and the Conservatorium of Music Welcomes for new students. Thank you to the SRC Office-Bearers who helped out on these stalls.

I was proud to show off and promote our beautiful new SRC tote bags for this year which were designed by one of our USyd students, Krystal Dallinger-Simpson, with the inclusion of Gadigal language from Aunty Nadeena Dixon. You can read more about the symbolism and Krystal's artist statement on an Instagram post pinned to our page.

We have 3,000 of these bad boys filled with our Welcome Handbook, flyers from the SRC and unions, a bottle opener, and more – if you didn't already get a tote bag, make sure to keep an eye out for us around campus in the next few weeks or swing by our office from Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 5pm.

Yesterday, the SRC would have participated in SUPRA's Welcome Fair in the Great Hall, which is bringing together various student organisations and C&S with key University services. We will continue outreach at this early stage of the semester through various events and stalls.

SRC activism, projects and campaigns

I have been busy with our SRC Casework and Policy team to provide detailed feedback on the University's new Sexual Harm and Gender-Based Violence policies and procedures. We had a first meeting with the relevant team from the Uni this week and will continue to meet to discuss the best ways to make these new policies and procedures as effective and trauma-informed as possible before the mid-year review.

I attended the USU Safety Conference with 2026 SRC Women's Officer Maxine and 2025 SRC Women's Officer Martha where we got to hear from amazing speakers like Nina Funnell, the author of the Red-Zone Report, and brainstorm with Safer Communities about making our campus and justice systems better for students and our community. These were also issues that I discussed with other student leaders and representatives from the National Student Ombudsman and Department of Education's Gender-Based Violence Regulator at the 2026 National Union of Students Presidents' Summit in early February.

As part of our ongoing campaign around sexual and gender-based violence on campus as well as the elitism and sexism of the Residential Colleges, WoCo hosted its annual 'Abolish the Colleges' protest during Welcome Fest. This called for an end to the private college system and for more safe, affordable, and student-run housing both in place of the colleges and across the Uni, including in former residences like International House. The response online from entitled college kids and random bigots is very telling, and shows us the enemy we are up against. This is why we need more parts of the SRC to show up meaningfully for this campaign.

The SRC is, as you hopefully know, an apartheid-free zone. We abide by BDS principles and this year are escalating the fight to make other areas of the University do the same. It was really disappointing to see that Coca-Cola was a huge and visible partner of the USU's Welcome Fest this week, with a big set-up right outside the University's Great Hall. The SRC had already called out the Coca-Cola stall at Welcome Fest last August and in September were told that the USU recognised BDS in principle, so we were astounded to see an even bigger Coca-Cola partnership this year. We need students and their clubs and societies to support us in the campaign to make the USU and University apartheid-free, so keep an eye out for upcoming announcements and initiatives. We are additionally looking into our own SRC practices and choice of default superannuation provider, Hesta.

I, and many of our SRC Office-Bearers, attended the 9 February rally against the visit of Israeli President Isaac Herzog. We are outraged by the excessive force, violent arrests, and intimidation shown by NSW Police at the peaceful rally at the request of NSW Premier Chris Minns. Many of our students and community members were in attendance and faced the brunt of heavy-handed tactics, indiscriminate and excessive use of pepper spray, kettling and crowd-crushing methods, attacking a group of Muslim men praying, and more. This is an escalation of the police violence against the pro-Palestine movement and a continuation of the government and police's mischaracterisation of the movement to legitimise state violence and repression against it. Demanding an end to our government's and institutions' material and ideological support for Israeli apartheid and genocide is not a crime. The pro-Palestine movement stands for justice and peace for all, and is firmly against all forms of racism.

We are equally outraged at the silence of our institutions. The University of Sydney has apparent commitments to human rights, safety, and social justice, but has been silent on this highly-publicised and stark instance of state repression and brutalisation of peaceful protestors, which includes many students and alumni. Additionally, the University sent communications before the event to try to stop the SRC's material support and association

with the PAG protest against Herzog, despite it being a legal rally and a protected political freedom. The SRC had planned to support a bus to transport students safely between the Bisalloy picket in Wollongong and the Sydney Town Hall Herzog rally, which we were told was not allowed. Additionally, the SRC and representatives were warned that any association between themselves at the rally and the University — whether as students or SRC representatives — could result in misconduct due to the rally potentially involving ‘unlawful conduct’. Even if this was the case, it is a new low for the University to assume illegality and to generalise it to all protestors and attendees at an anti-genocide and pro-humanitarian law protest as a way to protect their reputation. The SRC is an independent student union with elected student representatives who should not be facing intimidation and possible disciplinary actions for standing up for human rights and against government corruption.

Since, there have been important actions against this state violence and against the demonisation and criminalisation of slogans related to Palestine activism. These infringements on free speech and on protest are very worrying for our society, and must be fought loudly and visibly. This weekend, I also attended Pride and Protest’s snap rally and marched to the entrance of the Mardi Gras parade after they were refused participation in the parade at the last minute. It is appalling to see the increased corporatism and centrism of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Board. All of these restrictions and demonisation of protestors create a silent society – not one that is more ‘socially cohesive’, but just one that is repressive and shying away from truly progressive change.

SRC day-to-day issues

The most glaring issue we (or at least I and the staff) face currently is our own office. We are desperately trying to make our SRC space (or a new one) accessible and compliant with WHS concerns due to ongoing mould issues and a lack of accessible entrances, pathways, or bathrooms. I have escalated this with the DVC Education & Students and the Head of Facility Services. We are also to have a meeting with the relevant parties following the rejection of our application for CPP funding for the refurbishment of our new office space.

Our SSAF acquittal is due at the end of this month, which requires a lot of work to get all the data and reports from last year’s activities to justify our expenditure in line with the planned activities and priorities for SSAF funding. Once the acquittal is in, we will explore avenues to roll-over any unused funds into fixing our office and moving, as well as filling the gaps of key SSAF contestables that were rejected in the 2025 round of negotiations for 2026. These are:

- \$29k pool for student weeks (Rad Ed, SRC Week, Reclaim and Resist), OB projects, tech for reps
- \$10k increase for student media conference to match total 2025 expenditure
- Increase for Honi Soit editor stipends to match those of Office-Bearers
- Archiving and digitisation of records

Budgets for 2026 are currently being discussed and planned, which just means that Exec can approve or reject expenses based on how much a collective or department has been expected/allocated to spend in 2026. Your budget requests and allocated budgets are not approval for expenditure – they are merely a guide for both OBs and Exec. Please note that the same overall amount of funding across collectives and departments is the same as last year (\$64k total) but without the complementary \$29k pool for student weeks, OB projects and tech for reps that we had the last few years. However, there are still other lines of contestable funding that OBs can apply to Exec (same process as your normal expenditure from budgets) to use, including from

- The \$5k pool for campaign materials and student representative training
- The \$7k pool for engagement and community outreach
- The \$35k technology budget
- An increased budget for orientation and transition which can offset some costs from Welcome Week merchandise and activities

Please note also that last year most collectives did not nearly use up the full amount of their budgets nor the contestable funds as above (apart from the final costs of the exorbitant amount of people we sent to NatCon in December and the costs of the SRC fleeces). Additionally, printing costs are not included in your budgets or your expenditure – printing is done and costed via a separate process.

Other cool things

Amongst the chaos of Welcome Week, there are some new and returning campaigns and initiatives to keep an eye out for and to get involved with, including:

- Free period product dispensers hopefully in March – I met with the COO of *On the House*, Maisy, and the University's head of Facility Services. We are waiting for the University to provide guidance and permission about the installation.
- Soft-launching the SRC's guide to period products on campus, which you can find and contribute to [here](#)
- Launching the SRC newsletter
- Free influenza vaccination scheme dates locked in soon – these will be spread over a few weeks after mid-semester and across different campus(es) for reach and ease
- Ran an Office-Bearers/Collectives training day with our Caseworker Jazzlyn and Aesha Awan, a union organiser with 7 years of experience across multiple unions and industries.
- Hired a new Secretary to Council to cover long-service leave and a new Senior Lawyer for the SRC Legal Service – welcome Lara and Robert!
- Working to implement a new SRC project of free NAATI-certified translation for essential documents in other languages for students

In solidarity,
Grace

Grace Street spoke to her report, the protest for Iran tomorrow, and her meeting with Honi Soit today.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Aron Khuc

Seconded: Dana Kafina

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The Deputy Chairperson resigned the chair back to the President.

M. Report of the Vice-President

Happy late Lantern Festival to all!

It has been a pleasure working with the International Student Collective and the Executive throughout the beginning of this Semester. Orientation Week was a huge success, with the freebies we had been planning during the break being quickly distributed. It was a pleasure to meet new students, many of them international, and introduce the services which the SRC provides. With an upsurge in following both on the Instagram and RedNote Collective account, it is imperative that we now shift to advertising the vital casework and legal services which the SRC provides, which international students oftentimes are not aware of.

As semester ramps up, committees, boards, and working groups throughout the university will begin their sessions. Alongside SRC Executive meetings, I have also attended Academic Board with Grace and Vince. I would also like to acknowledge that ISRC is beginning to organise a working group to plan an annual conference bringing together international student leaders from across the country. This is something the International Student Collective should seek to get involved with.

I would also like to take time in this report to address the increasing hurdles the Labor Government is placing for international students, noting the overnight doubling of Temporary Graduate Visa fees from \$2300 to \$4600. This was an unexpected, uncalled for, and unnecessary move with little prior consultation. Australia is increasingly proving itself to be an unwelcome place for international students, with this move simply being the latest of many similar barriers to staying in Australia. It is also prudent to note that the now-\$4600 fee is not refundable: if the visa is rejected, the money is taken nonetheless.

Such policies are not the only reason international students are less keen on studying in Australia. There is a crisis when it comes to the price of living and a lack of options for all students. However, with the unused state of International House, it is a tragedy the University management has yet to take action in giving a definite plan as to how it will increase beds — despite promising to do so.

Similarly, FoodHub is still a service that is severely underfunded and under-advertised. I look forward to communicating with the USU in my term this year to hammer out next year's funding for a FoodHub that is more accessible, perhaps with multiple outlets across campus.

Bohao Zhang

Bohao Zhang spoke to his report, wanted to note translation services for supporting international students and condemns Labor government's increase to graduate visa fees, which was shameful and happened overnight.

Shovan Bhattarai gave a verbal report and speaks to attacks of Israel on Palestine and the US on Iran. There were 800 people killed in Iran by Trump's egregious attack and we condemn the right's justification of this. SRC must take a strong stance against this. Our government is complicit in a genocide and the weapons trade. The Middle East is seen as a playground for these right-wing, western imperial forces. We need to prioritise the national student strike for Palestine.

Motion to accept the report of the Vice President.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Vince Tafea

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretary

- Happy Lunar New Year to all. We have been busy doing your budgets as the 2026 SRC General Secretaries and look forward to the robust question time from this report.
- There are still many tote bags, so bring them to your classes, bring them to your friends. Spread the love.
- We have hired a new senior lawyer to our SRC legal team to strengthen our legal services that deliver high-quality legal advice and representation for all undergraduates.
- We have also been busy working with the collectives to understand and help organise upcoming campaigns, events and visions for the year. It has been a pleasure hearing your plans as well as a delight chasing up those who were reluctant to provide anything promptly.
- Based on these conversations, we have finally finished the SSAF budget (hoping to ease the excitement many of you have had attempting to see your budget early), and we are now working on the SSAF acquittal. Unfortunately, this is no easy task and should be kept in mind as you work within your collective budget this year to produce positive outcomes for USyd students.
- Fidget spinners were a huge success in getting engagement at the SRC stall, increasing the SRC Instagram following by at least 300. This allowed us to engage with younger and newer students who would otherwise be uninterested in an 'SRC' stall. It allowed us to inform students about the services we provide, the importance of universal student unionism, and the positive change that comes from collective organising. A slay if you will.
- RAFFWU flyers in the tote bags and merchandise were a great way to get students aware of the union that oversees common jobs for uni students.

- The ongoing (as of writing) attack on Iran from the USA and Israel is fucked. You cannot bomb people to liberation. This is a concerning escalation of violence. We acknowledge the devastating human cost of aerial bombardment and the broader destabilisation such actions bring to the region. Civilian lives, infrastructure, and regional security are being placed at immense risk. Military force cannot meaningfully deliver liberation, democracy, or lasting peace. We recognise the seriousness of this moment and the urgent need for de-escalation, accountability, and action over the continued warfare.

Building for the student strike on March 11 (next Wednesday) is extremely important. I attended the SFP meeting last Friday and would like to reiterate the importance each of us has in spreading the word, getting more people involved and standing out against the genocide of the Palestinian people. Importantly, we should use the momentum of this strike to deepen our broader campaigning work. This includes continuing to challenge and oppose the University's funding and research ties to weapons companies. The strike is not an isolated action; it is part of a sustained effort to demand accountability and divestment.

We know that the majority of USyd students do not give informed consent to their fees and university resources being directed toward research partnerships that contribute to weapons manufacturing and militarisation. Each of us has a responsibility to:

- Inform students about these institutional ties
- Make the political and material implications clear
- Create avenues for students to meaningfully oppose them
- Build collective pressure for transparency and divestment

In solidarity, Ava.

Budget Preamble

It's time for the 2026 Budget!

- We have \$64 000 for collective budgets this year, which is a \$1,000 increase from last year's SSAF. We received 12 budget proposals, which we have used to assess the plans and budget requests
- It is key to note that the \$64 000 total and these allocated budgets are not the extent of or limit to your and the SRC's expenditure this year. The \$64 000 is drawn from base funding specific to OB budgets. This means we have the ability to draw funding from the contestables area (such as the \$7,000.00 for community outreach and engagement) if OBs have proposals that require more funding. This is also crucial to keep in mind as we are in a highly uncertain period and can't predict what will come up throughout the year.
- Please note that this budget does not have exec approval. Specific requests will need to get approval from the executive. This is only a guide for OBs and exec so we know how much to approve when you come to us for it.

In whatever handover you give to your next officer in 2027, emphasise the importance of checking your email. This year, we, the gen secs, made it a lot easier and simpler to do the budget with a highly organised spreadsheet. We also attempted repeatedly to organise meetings, and this was to varying success (somewhat).

After reading over all submitted budget proposals, there is a significant amount of overlap and similar campaigns that collectives want to be involved in. As a result, we suggest that you work together and contribute to each other's campaigns and events, as this will enable you to see bigger outcomes, have more collective power, and produce beneficial results for students.

Importantly, we have not received the usual funding for “Student Weeks, Office Bearer Projects, Tech for Reps”, which usually sits at \$29,000k. This is a significant loss from previous years. To adapt to this variation, we have restructured allocations to preserve flexibility. Where possible, we can use this funding pool as well as other contestables to help OB’s throughout the year. Specifically, this will also allow us to preserve SSAF for Radical ED week and whatever other events and projects may arise.

Throughout the year, there will be consistent communication from us with all OB’s to keep track of what you are doing and how your spending is going. For this to be a smooth process, we request that you keep up to date with your emails as well as the Facebook page, so you know when we are meeting and what the expectations are. You must all keep track of your campaigns and plans as they are made concrete or commence; this will also help us know where we can help, whether that be in the planning stage or in getting more students involved.

If your budget has not been spent, or looks like you will not spend it all, we will work with you and other collectives to ensure that this money does not leave student hands and does not go back to the university.

SRC Council Budget 2026	
SSAF Funding	\$3,573,225
Casework and Policy	
Staff	\$780,701.00
Staff	\$3,000.00
Publications and communications	
Staff	\$236,546.00
Other	\$68,000.00

SRC legal service	
Staff	\$256,358.00
Other	\$13,000.00
Administration	
Staff	\$540,555.00
Other	\$155,000.00
Elections	
Staff	\$70,000.00
Other	\$7,000.00
NUS	
Affiliation	\$60,000.00
Administration	\$19,571.00
Student representatives	
Stipends	\$321,015.00
Collective Funding	\$64,000.00
Orientation and transition	
Publications	\$13,030.00
Other	\$50,000.00
Total Base Funding:	\$2,657,776.00
Contestable funding	
International Student Support Officer	\$137,526.00
Cold calling	\$5,000.00
Conferences and training	\$6,000.00
Clinical Supervision	\$18,000.00
Grocery vouchers	\$5,000.00
Migration Lawyer	\$111,517.50

Annual Honi Soit Writing Competition	\$10,000.00
Workload mgmt and comms training for Honi Soit editors	\$5,200.00
Video Equipment for Honi Soit	\$2,000.00
Honi Soit signage decals for new stands	\$1,200.00
Payroll extra day	\$35,467.61
WHS Due Diligence for Executive and Senior Managers training	\$3,850.00
Long service leave cover	\$25,778.36
Calculators loans for exam periods	\$2,250.00
SRC Elections infrastructure	\$6,250.00
HR External consultant	\$5,000.00
Technology budget	\$35,000.00
Engagement and Community Outreach Budget	\$7,000.00
Free NAATI -Certified Translation Service	\$20,000.00
Student Media Conference	\$30,000.00
Stipends for autonomous office-bearers (continuing)	\$265,383.37
Campaign Materials and Student Representative Training	\$5,000.00
SRC-led Influenza Vaccination Scheme	\$35,500.00
Additional Casework and Policy Staff	\$137,526.00
Total Contestable Funding: \$915,448.84	

Student Representatives Budget Allocation

	2025 Allocation	2026 Budget Request	2026 Allocation
Education Action Group	\$17,500	\$21,729	\$20,000
Executive & Radical Education Week	-	\$1,000	\$1,000
Honi Soit	\$10,500	\$12,250	\$9,050
Autonomous Collective Against Racism	\$6,200	\$6,483	\$6,100
Women's Collective	\$5,800	\$11,000	\$6,000
International Student Collective	\$5,000	\$7,485	\$4,500
Enviro Collective	\$5,000	\$6,110	\$4,000
Queer Action Collective	\$4,800	\$15,130	\$4,900

Disabilities Collective	\$3,200	\$3,680	\$3,300
Welfare Action Group	\$2,100	\$7,310	\$2,500
Student Housing	\$1,200	\$1,094	\$700
Sexual Violence	\$650	\$930	\$750
Social Justice	\$350	-	\$350
Global Solidarity	\$350	\$800	\$500
Refugee Rights	\$350	-	\$350
First Nations Collective	***		

**(Repeat of 2025) Given that there are currently no First Nations Officers or a First Nations Collective who would be able to use a budget even if we allocated them one, we have worked with ACAR to create a dedicated part of ACAR's budget to First Nations advocacy. In the case that we do elect First Nations Officers; they will be able to access this money through ACAR. If not, ACAR will work to use it for solidarity with First Nations people, groups and campaigns.*

*Sincerely,
Ava and Vince*

Vince Tafea spoke to their report and the SRC budget, key things to note- gave EAG the largest budget they've ever had because it is an enterprise bargaining year, First Nations Collective budget can be accessed through ACAR, they tried to organise meetings with all the collectives.

Ava Cavalerie says there was no intention to cut Global Solidarity's budget, at the point of the meeting, budget had been mainly finalised. There was no actual cut.

There was some discussion around the budget and its allocation.

Deaglan Godwin asks a question about the budget, questioning funds allocated to cold calling, Honi Soit's organisation and training, and the technology budget and the issues with it last year.

Grace Street responds saying it's a caseworker cold calling, that the Honi Soit's management and training budget is from the publications budget and she addressed the technology issues in her report.

Jesper Duffy asks why the Queer collective only got an extra \$100 this year as they have been the most active collective out in the real world.

Ava Cavalerie said many budgets have been cut and they have tried to improve the budget for all collectives. The Queer collective did not use their full budget last year.

Jesper Duffy says they under requested their budget last year and members were left out of pocket.

Vince Tafea states that the budget is just a guide and there is room to work around it.

Motion to accept the report of the General Secretaries and the 2026 SRC budget.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Procedural motion to move agenda item O en bloc.

Moved: Dana Kafina

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

O. Reports of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Women's Officers

Welcome Week was an all-encompassing task for WoCo this February.

Every year, Welcome Week remains the most dangerous time on campus for feminised people, with 13% of all acts of sexual violence occurring this week alone. WoCo continues the call to abolish the Residential Colleges, as they facilitate and enable rape culture which remains particularly dangerous as new students move into accommodation, and as the hazing rituals begin. The university cannot continue to allow the perpetration of sexual violence on our campus and must work harder to support victim-survivors. On Friday 20th of February, WoCo held a demonstration outside F23 to force our university to no longer remain silent about sexual violence, with speakers from each of the collectives, as well as members of other student activist groups. This had a good turnout with plenty of new participants, which was encouraging to see.

However, it is impossible to discuss protests without discussing the protest at Town Hall on February 9th. WoCo participated in this peaceful protest against Isaac Herzog, the Israeli head of state, and we experienced extreme police brutality, where many of our comrades got pepper sprayed or beaten. Lone female protestors were brutalised and a crowd of muslim protestors were beaten up whilst engaging in prayer. This behaviour of the NSW police is utterly shameful and repugnant, and we stand with the call for Chris Minns to resign as Premier, due to apologia for this violence and police brutality.

Furthermore, we condemn the USU for its collaborations with companies complicit in Israel's genocide against Palestine, allowing Coca Cola to have promotional space at the USU fair. This is utterly shameful, as Israel enters its third calendar year of the most recent stage of genocide.

February was a strong month for student activism and organising, but it also involved heavy suppression of protestors and activist movements. As students, we must continue the fight against the corporate university, sexual violence on campus, and Israel's genocide.

In love and rage,
Maxine and Avin

O2. Report of the Disabilities Officers

Happy start of semester!

On the 11th of February, we had our 'covid conscious crafternoon' which had 10 people in attendance, including new students! It was great to engage with the community through a chill, cosy event. Clearly, there are still students seeking community that is cautious of the ongoing realities of Covid. Disco is here to make sure covid consciousness remains on the agenda!

Both of us did a lot of work for the various Welcome programs: Remy helped with packing the SRC tote bags, the both of us helped at the SRC stall at the Conservatorium Welcome Day, Kayla presented at the Conservatorium's disability workshop, and we ran a very successful stall alongside SUPRA's Disability and Inclusion Network (SDIN) at the Disability Hub during Welcome Fest. We are very pleased to have done background work in the lead up with the USU to negotiate for better visibility and accessibility for the Disability Hub. Our stall was very successful, receiving many visitors seeking information about our work and disability resources. Many students shared troubling stories of inaccessibility and ableism on campus, and were pleased to know that the Disabilities Collective exists to advocate against such issues. We will be compiling a report with SDIN to improve accessibility further for the next Welcome Fest, including introducing measures to prevent heat sickness.

Another key issue we identified after feedback during Welcome Week was the availability of sharps bins on campus, and we will be investigating this moving forward!

Over January, we co-wrote a submission to the Clean Indoor Air Inquiry. You can read the submission [here](#). On the 19th of February, Kayla attended the inquiry's first hearing at NSW Parliament to give evidence to the committee alongside SUPRA Disabilities Officer, Sarah Huffman. Many students whom Kayla and Sarah surveyed shared harrowing reports of dangerous study and living conditions, as well as mental distress and exclusion as a result of compromised indoor air quality. Since then, Kayla has been testing the air quality of rooms around campus and has begun discussions with relevant staff to install air-conditioning, fans, and/or air purification systems in classrooms. We are also working to get DIAP funding for an air purifier in the Khanh Tran Room, and intend to get an air purifier in the OB Room.

We had our first meeting on the 26th of February, where we introduced students to the Disabilities Collective and mapped out our plans for the semester. We hope to see you in attendance going forward!

We are currently planning a welcome event in collaboration with SDIN in early March to bring all new students together.

We also talked to Chitra to fix an error with delays to students' renewed access to the Khanh Tran Room. Please reach out if you experience continued issues accessing the space!

Going forward over March, we will be working with the President to organise the promotion and rollout of the influenza vaccination drive across multiple campuses.

In solidarity,
Kayla and Remy

O3. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers

We attended the Invasion Day/Survival Day march on 26 January, which had a brilliant turnout. The rally significantly dwarfed the embarrassingly small turnout for the counter-protest run by white supremacists and neo-Nazis. As Refugee Rights Officers, we must acknowledge that the land we live, study, and organise on is stolen and never ceded. First Nations people have been and continue to face displacement from their own lands and robbed of a right to freely live on Country as a result of colonisation.

Asylum seekers sent to Nauru are struggling to feed themselves adequately, as they are only given \$230 fortnightly for food and other necessities. In Nauru, all asylum seekers are forbidden from working; any foreign person without a working visa who is found to be employed to work is at risk of prosecution, deportation, or having their stipend cut. Asylum seekers are also threatened with deportation if their protection claim is rejected. All those who are fleeing a country that is unfairly persecuting them must have the right to asylum. Nauru must provide a liveable stipend for all asylum seekers immediately as is their human right. We call for the end to mandatory detention and off-shore processing now!

We condemn the continuance of violence undertaken by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Turtle Island ('the United States of America') and the Border Force on this continent. It has emerged that a private prison company that is used by ICE, Management and Training Corporation, is being hired to run detention centres for the 'Australian' government, highlighting the global links of state violence. We lament the countless murders and kidnappings that have robbed countless people of a right to live or freely cherish the presence of loved ones. Under international human rights law, the 'USA' government is required to follow the principle of non-refoulement. We demand that all refugees are guaranteed asylum globally!

Furthermore, Muslim ICE detainees are reporting that their Ramadan suhoor and iftar are being delivered late, even after fasting begins which means they miss a meal. Detention centres are not providing adequate food, with portions too small, minimal or no halal options, food causing illness, and no food accommodations for medical conditions. Accessibility for prayer is also inhibited, by restrictions to congregational prayer, delayed or no access to the Qur'an, and no proper prayer space that is clean and quiet. We demand the end to ICE's racist kidnappings and detention of people, the release of all political prisoners,

and fair treatment and respect for all, including our Muslim siblings during the holy month of Ramadan.

Across in France, 31-year-old Kanak man and independence leader Frédéric Grochain was found dead in his cell. Grochain was deported illegally to France with other prisoners of Camp Est, the main prison in Kanaky, and forcibly imprisoned in French jails, in reaction to the Kanak uprising in May 2024 following electoral roll manipulation, shifting the majority of voting power to French settlers. No warning was given to these prisoners or their families. Shame on the French colonial state, who say that Grochain died from “natural causes”, but we know that their lack of medical care provided to Grochain, as well as the colonial violence has that been perpetuated for over 170 years in Kanaky, resulted in Grochain being martyred. Grochain’s family was not even notified of his death by the French government, highlighting the coloniser’s inhumane attitude to all who challenge the existence of any occupation and fight for autonomy. Vale Frédéric Grochain and solidarity with all the Kanak freedom fighters illegally imprisoned by the French colonial state.

04. Report of the Queer Officers

Pro-Palestine Queers have been repeatedly brutalised in just one month. QuAC members attended the rally against Isaac Herzog’s visit on Feb. 9th and experienced first-hand police indiscriminately using pepper spray and assaulting protesters. Riot squad officers also taunted visibly queer protesters with homophobic slurs, shaking cans of pepper spray. QuAC members have since been involved in exposing this brutality.

QuAC also had a presence at the Mardi Gras Street Rally on Feb. 15th, calling for an end to this very police violence, for an end to religious discrimination loopholes in the ADA, and for an end to systemic violence against transgender youth and their healthcare. With a turnout of 500, it was a strong show of fury at continued queerphobic attacks.

Just this week, drag kings and trans people were assaulted by NSW Police at the Mardi Gras Parade. After Pride in Protest, a community queer collective, was banned from marching less than 24 hours before the parade for calling out Zionism, members affiliated with other floats were singled out by police. Riot cops accosted community members, drag kings, and activists as they prepared to march, ripped a Palestine flag away from them, and threw parade participants against fences and on the ground before dragging them out of the parade area onto the street.

It is clearer now than ever, as the violence of the NSW Police echoes that enacted against queer activists who marched in the first Mardi Gras in 1978, that cops are an enemy of the queer community. We keep each other safe, not the police, and we must keep up the fight for a world free of queerphobia, pinkwashing, and police brutality. Cops out of pride now!

Continuing this fight is the National Day of Action for Trans Day of Visibility. Join us March 29th at 1pm in Pride Square, Newtown to demand our equal rights!

05. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

Over the past month the global solidarity officers have been busy continuing to stand in solidarity with everything that has and is happening. One of those being the recent strikes on Iran by the USA and Israel. This operation, while still developing, is not only a brutal showing of imperialism but has also already claimed the lives of upwards of eighty-five primary school girls. How events will play out from here is unknown; however, it is, without a doubt, going to continue with the death of more Iranians due to Israeli and US strikes. In this we stand in solidarity with the horrific showing of imperialism.

The global solidarity officers have been busy helping with O-week and meeting new activists and people getting involved for the first time. Also, we have been building for the student strike, helping to organize SFP organizing meetings and helping to get the word out to new or old students to get as many people as possible. Global solidarity is committed to helping to build this and get as many people involved as possible, as the strike is the most important tool we can use to show solidarity and put pressure on the university to cut ties.

06. Report of the Ethnocultural Officers

On February 9, ACAR attended the PAG rally at Town Hall, where we joined the protest against 'israeli' president Isaac Herzog's 'australia' tour. The police response to the crowds of peaceful, anti-genocide protesters was utterly abhorrent and violent. The NSW Labor government reared its ugly head with a full display of unadulterated state violence. Cops were kettling crowds of people, aggressively pursuing protestors in hordes, bashing the elderly, and physically assaulting Muslims who were praying in peaceful opposition. Dozens were arrested, and many individuals, including elected officials and teenagers, were physically injured. Shame on Chris Minns!

The Ethnocultural Officers also spoke at the WoCo rally calling for the colleges to be abolished. Sexual violence is used to maintain patriarchal, racist capitalist states, and that marginalised peoples in particular, like students with disabilities, international students, students of colour, women, queer students, and gender-diverse students, are vulnerable to the oppression and harm perpetuated by institutions like the elitist colleges. Colleges, the breeding ground for the elite, teaches them to encourage and create harm and isolate marginalised peoples for the sake of power, exclusivity, and profit.

In Week 1, we hosted a Welcome Dinner to promote ACAR and come together with members, old and new, to mark the start of the new year. We had a bunch of new members come along to learn more about our collective and socialise with older members over some food and drink. We are excited to further grow our collective through more social events, meetings, and political education workshops.

The report based on the Racism@Uni Study, Respect at Uni: Study into antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and the experience of First Nations people, was released last month. It found that racism is widespread and systemic in 'australian' universities. The report states that, "Racism remains a significant barrier to equity and inclusion in Australian universities,

affecting both staff and students, and undermining the sector's commitment to academic excellence and social responsibility." We call on the community to demand better standards for tackling racism and for all universities to carry out significant reforms to remove the perpetuation of structural racism from their institutions.

ACAR is continuing our campaign to pressure the union cosplayers at the USU to adopt BDS principles, become an apartheid-free zone, and drastically overhaul their partnerships policy. It was disgusting to see them unabashedly double down on their unethical partnerships by giving genocidal corporation Coca-Cola a big space at Welcome Fest to promote their products, as well as hosting Cerave, Vaseline, and Nescafé. It is clear that the USU will not make changes unless we target their reputations and get as many individuals and groups on board to support our campaign. They have basically admitted that they prioritise "maintain[ing] commercial viability" over human lives, nor do they possess any moral compass in their running of the corporate 'union'. We plan to run an email campaign for individuals, groups, and clubs and societies to get involved. We are also in the process of planning a guide for USU clubs and societies to use so that they can adhere to BDS principles and be more ethical in their purchases in general. BDS has also reignited calls for 'australian' superannuation funds to divest from all corporations complicit in the genocide in Gaza and the occupation of Palestine, including UniSuper, which has a branch in the Holme Building. We also plan to educate people about divestment and promote the BDS campaign calling for UniSuper, among other funds complicit in the genocide, to divest from all 'Israeli' corporations.

Around the world, Muslims are restricted in their ability to practise customs for the holy month of Ramadan. In Sudan, at least 18 people were killed on 19 February, their first day of Ramadan, by a drone strike of a water collection point in West Kordofan State. The same day, a UN fact-finding mission said that violence in El-Fasher undertaken by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) during their October takeover last year shows three markers of genocide, namely: "killing members of a protected ethnic group; causing serious bodily and mental harm; and deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction in whole or in part." Over in Amerikkka, Muslim ICE detainees are reporting their suhoor and iftar are being delivered late, food is greatly inadequate and unaccommodating, and accessibility for prayer is greatly restricted. In Gaza, Palestinians continue to celebrate amidst grief and destruction perpetuated by the Zionist entity, yet the genocide has prevented people from having decorations due to the lack of electricity, and the cost of lanterns doubling due to the ban on goods entering. Palestinian prisoners held by the Zionist entity are not being given the proper knowledge for the time to begin and break their fast, or were not even told Ramadan had started. Our Muslim siblings should be able to peacefully observe Ramadan with ease, as is their human right to freely practise their religion.

Our first organising meeting will be in Week 2, followed by a non-autonomous Ramadan Iftar in Week 3. Israeli Apartheid Week has been called by BDS, which will occur in Week 5. This will coincide with the launch of the autonomous BIPOC edition of Honi Soit, ACAR Honi. A rally will take place outside the NSW Supreme Court supporting the proposed constitutional changes repealing anti-protest laws on 26th February. On 27th February, there will be a flag raising at Leichardt Town Hall for the 50th anniversary of the Western Sahara National Day.

The same day, we will also be attending the Stop War on Palestine rally, providing water for the iftar during the protest. There will be a rally calling for the end to the blockade of Cuba and Venezuela on 28th February at Sydney Town Hall. Furthermore, we encourage everyone to attend the National Student Strike for Palestine on March 11th at Sydney Town Hall, and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination rally on March 21st at Hyde Park!

We must not forget the 7 First Nations people who have died in custody since 1 January 2026.

Vale Frédéric Grochain, a Kanak freedom fighter forcibly imprisoned and martyred in France by its colonial government.

07. Report of the Environment Officers

This year's Welcome Week comes off the back of even more terrifying climate statistics flooding the news as our governments and institutions continue to invest in fossil fuels, generative AI and war. Trump's America and Israel have just launched a terror campaign in Iran under the banner of 'liberation', endorsed fully and immediately by the Albanese government. The US government pushes to remove guardrails on military artificial intelligence as data centres pop up in full swing across the world, poisoning the 13 years of clean water we have left, and expediting our collective demise. Governments around the world have manufactured consent to terrorise civilians. Chris Minns giving the police explicit licence to use excessive force and violence on peaceful protestors resulted in the carnage that was the anti-Herzog rally.

It is unsurprising but inspiring nonetheless that one of the greatest takeaways from Welcome Week was the sheer volume of people galvanised to take an activist stance to fight for intersectional environmental justice and resist the systems of oppression which seek to pillage and kill in the name of profit. With over 250 new followers to our Instagram account, and overwhelming engagement success marked by giving away nearly 300 tote bags and 200 copies of Combust, it is safe to say that welcome week was a great success for the collective, and is proof that the climate movement has a living, breathing heart on this campus.

The marketplace of environmental ideas that the great conversations we had during welcome week put on display assures that this year's environment collective is in an incredible position to resist the oppressive prerogatives which threaten our survival. Up next, we're beginning our regular meetings to get started on making actionable change on campus and beyond for a sustainable future, so stay tuned for more!

Kind regards,
Aria and Lucas

08. Report of the Education Officers

Domestic and international politics continue to change at a rapid pace. The education officers stand in solidarity with the people of Iran and in opposition to US and Israel strikes. The bombings have been justified with hypocritical “concern” for the Iranian people, while killing almost 150 people in a school in Minab. Of course, the Australian government was the first to vocalise their support for the strikes. Only the people of Iran should determine their own fate, and they have shown courage time and time again to stand up to tyranny. The intervention of the US and Israel only brings more destruction and entrenched instability, as shown by the massacring of a million Iraqis in the early 2000s in the name of “democracy” and “regime change.”

In domestic politics, we have seen a worrying escalation in the support for Pauline Hanson’s One Nation. A recent Guardian poll found that almost 60% of Australians say they are ‘open to voting for One Nation.’ Politics is getting more polarised, racism and islamophobia is becoming more mainstream. The right is radicalising and the Labor party continues to echo racist tropes about migrants and demonize the Palestine movement, only validating the concerns of the right.

With such a tumultuous world, the education office has been building up the momentum of the Palestine campaign at welcome week, letting students know about the upcoming student strike for Palestine on March 11. Building up the Palestine movement is the key way to push back against our government’s undemocratic laws restricting protests and slogans. The genocide is ongoing, all crossings where aid trucks enter Gaza have been closed, and Trump’s board of peace is actioning their outrageous plans to reconstruct Gaza for investors.

We encourage all the Obs and councillors of the SRC to attend the strike on March 11, join the USYD contingent at 1pm at Eastern avenue and get the word out to your classes and friends.

O8. Report of the Student Accommodation Officers

The Student Accommodation Office has started planning an office revitalisation. In recent meetings we have chosen to target the University’s lack of transparency around land holdings and real estate endeavours, in hopes to understand more about their apparent need to hold off on reopening International House.

This is occurring concurrently with other actions aimed at building broad pressure to reopen International House this year.

We hope to have the entire SRC's support as we move toward stronger advocacy for student accommodation across our campus. We're very excited and have much more to come!

O9. Report of the International Student Officers

The International Students Collective has been focusing on strengthening our international student community. We have been reaching out to more students and inviting them to join

us, with the goal of working together to build a more connected and supportive environment on campus with O-Week and International Student Welcome, as we had +3000 following on our social media.

We have also started planning our major Week 5 event. This event will include a panel discussion and a social activity session to introduce ISC and share useful information about visa matters and career pathways. Our aim is to create a space that is both informative and welcoming, where students can learn and connect at the same time.

In addition, we have begun supporting students facing accommodation challenges. We are helping bridge communication between those looking to transfer their lease and those searching for housing. To better understand the situation, we have created a survey and are currently collecting responses. The information gathered will help us explore further solutions to improve accommodation support for international students.

We have scheduled a meeting on Wednesday(3.4) to discuss the implementation of the Free NAATI-Certified Translation Service program. Following the approval of \$20,000 in SSAF funding for Ethan's application, we will be supporting the establishment of this service for students. The purpose of our meeting is to discuss operational details, including implementation structure and collaboration with translation companies.

O10. Report of the Welfare Officers

Hi everyone, this is the Welfare Collective. This year, we are hoping to build a community with real, tangible benefits — one where students' needs are genuinely met, and where people feel supported both on and off campus. We want to make welfare organising feel accessible, practical, and welcoming to all students, especially those who are most often overlooked.

In hope to make liaison with WOCO

Welfare Collective also stands in full solidarity with WoCo's ongoing campaign against sexual violence on campus, and to continue to give genuine support, we would also like to bring this as a welfare awareness topic and use this collective in helping those who menstruate. Thanks to the work by SRC, especially the Women Collective, more free feminine products will be distributed across campus, as women myself in the welfare position, I hope that period poverty, as a real and underreported issue, can be resolved, and I will also be willing to work with WOCO on installation and soft-launching on the digital platform, and at school.

Technology & Student Welfare — Charging Stations

In response to consistent feedback from students, the Welfare Collective is working to fund the installation of multi-device charging stations in common student areas. With the rising cost of living forcing many students to spend longer hours on campus — studying between shifts, commuting from further away, or simply unable to afford going home and coming back — reliable access to power has become a basic necessity, not a luxury.

A dead phone is a safety issue. It is also a daily stressor that students should not have to deal with. We will work with campus facilities to identify the best locations for permanent stations, and in the meantime, charge boxes will be made available as a short-term measure.

[Example from King's College London](#)

Housing & the Cost-of-Living Crisis

As an international student myself who went through all the struggles in applying for accommodation, from university residence to third-party rentals and private rentals, I can confirm that the housing crisis can significantly impact students. We are hoping to plan information sessions on housing rights, campaigning and promoting housing rights information sessions with relevant legal services and unions. We are also planning to produce campaign materials such as stickers, tote bags, and flyers that make the pro-renter argument visible on campus.

As an international student myself, I have gone through every stage of apartment hunting: from university residences, third-party providers, and private rentals. It was stressful, expensive, and time-consuming. The housing crisis is upsetting me, and I hope to bring this issue and resolve it via the collective.

Sydney's rental market has become more unaffordable for students. We are planning information sessions on housing rights by inviting relevant legal services and tenant unions, so that students know what protections they have and how to use them, including the internal resources offered by SRC. We will also be producing campaign materials: stickers, tote bags, and flyers — that put a pro-renter argument visibly on campus.

Collaborative Events with USU Clubs

This semester, the welfare collective is following a new model of community-building through collaboration with clubs such as the Matcha society and the Chocolate society run by USU. The logic is - students show up for things they enjoy, and we can bring welfare information, sign-ups, and community connection into those spaces without being too formal. Planned events include a “sip and sign” afternoon where students can enjoy matcha while learning about tenant's rights and campus resources, and a "sweet talk” panel on the cost-of-living crisis paired with a chocolate event. These events are co-opted, stitching both our reach and our budget.

In solidarity,
Connie

Motion to accept the reports en bloc.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Vince Tafea

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to suspend standing order to the following order, Q7, to hear R1 and Q9 en bloc, and then move to Q4, Q2, Q5, Q6, Q8, Q11, Q1, Q10, Q3

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion is put and **CARRIED.**

P. Special Business

There was no special business.

Q. Motions on Notice

Q7. Support the nationwide student strike for Palestine on March 11

Preamble:

On March 11, university students, highschoolers and TAFE students all across the country will be walking out of class for Palestine. We are demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza, for the severing of ties between our universities and weapons companies, and for the protection of free speech and our rights to demonstrate. The SRC should spend the next week using its resources and networks to build this protest.

Students for Palestine has been postering, leafleting and announcing in classes on campus to get the word out for this protest. If we are going to build the momentum of the Palestine campaign and our capacity to resist repression, we have to mobilise students in protest. There are still no universities left in Gaza, the government wants us to believe the ceasefire has ended the genocide, but our mass protests can push Palestine back on the agenda of politics.

Amidst Israel's escalation of its imperialist efforts in the Middle East, Gaza's Rafah border crossing has been shut, preventing the influx of vital aid and the possibility of evacuation for critically ill and injured Gazans. Since the implementation of Donald Trump's "peace plan", Israel has violated the supposed ceasefire over 1600 times, through bombings, direct shootings, and raiding of Palestinian homes, killing over 600 Palestinians.

In Sydney, opposition to the genocide has been met with brutal repression. The February 9th rally against the invitation of Israeli president Isaac Herzog was met with massive police presence and the deployment of violent tactics by riot police. Protesters were kettled, pepper sprayed, and attacked outright - sanctioned and then defended post-hoc by ALP premier of New South Wales, Chris Minns. The ALP has also gladly backed the recent joint Israel-US attacks on Iran, making clear their support for and complicity in the imperialist domination of the Middle East by the West.

It is more important than ever for the SRC to support the student strike on March 11th, and commit to sustaining the campaign for Palestine in the face of repression and intimidation by our government and universities who still refuse to cut their ties with Israel.

Platform:

1. The SRC supports the National Student strike for Palestine on March 11 organised by Students for Palestine.
2. The SRC condemns the federal and state Labor governments for their continued complicity in the genocide in Palestine.

3. The SRC demands sanctions on Israel and an end to the two-way arms trade.
4. The SRC demands that all universities cut ties with weapons companies which have directly or indirectly profited from and/ or aided the mass murder of Palestinians in Gaza.
5. The SRC condemns Donald Trump's plans for an imperialist takeover of Gaza under the "Board of Peace" and demands Australia cut ties with Trump's America.

Actions:

1. The SRC commits to mobilising for the National Student Strike for Palestine on March 11 and calls on students to attend.
2. The SRC will provide all necessary financial and practical resources required to build the National Day of Action on March 11.
3. The SRC will take a solidarity photo endorsing the National Student Strike for Palestine.
4. The SRC and its Office Bearers will advertise and build the National Student Strike for Palestine on March 11 on social media and in person.

Discussion:

Starla Bilby spoke to the motion and the lack of aid going into Gaza, it is vital that the movement continues at the University as Pro-Palestine activism is being restricted by the University. First year students are passionate about fighting against the genocide in Palestine. SRC needs to represent the students seriously, action needs to be taken properly.

William Ursu spoke to the motion, asks the room to raise their hand if they have handed out a leaflet for Student strike, encourages those without their hands raised to get out and help advocate for the student strikes. We need to get serious, the SRC should set up a stall to help build the movement. We need as many students there as possible. Everyone who endorses it should get out and help build it.

Carolyn Zhao spoke to the motion and the importance of the student strike as a priority for the SRC and condemns the violation of ceasefire by Israel. The most critical thing is to send a nationwide message in support for Palestine, call for university to stop divesting money in weapons companies.

Jill McInnes spoke to the motion and the decimation of Rafah and condemned Albanese and the Herzog visit. Student strike is crucial to the movement. Encourages all students to continue to promote and build up the strike. Speaks against Minns government's protest laws. We are the students not the university. SRC needs to endorse the student strike.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion, Israel is exterminating Palestinians, we cannot stand by and watch this occur. Israel and the US have a fascist government, Albanese is the first leader of a first world country to speak up and endorse Israel and US strikes on Iran. We must fight this.

Vince Tafea spoke to the motion, the continued genocide, the murder of schoolgirls in Iran. The strike in 2024 brought in many new student activists, encourages everyone to promote the student strike, activism and advocacy for Palestine.

Aron Khuc spoke to the motion we need to encourage students and staff to get involved. Aid is still not being received in the west bank. Condemns the Labor government for their complicity.

Lucas Pierce spoke to the motion, informs that there will be an SRC run stall on Monday to support this student strike. Passed around a sign-up sheet to man this stall.

Leyla Bengan spoke to the motion and supports the strike, USYD is an important student body for activism.

Marco Sgaravizzi spoke to the motion, his first protest was the student strike for Palestine last year. He is Assyrian, his people were exterminated and mirrors the genocide in Palestine. Every student should be in support of this student strike.

Moved: Starla Bilby

Seconded: Will Ursu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

R1. No War on Iran: Condemn the US-Israel war of aggression

Preamble:

The US and Israel have unilaterally launched a war of aggression against Iran. On the morning of the 31st of January, a barrage of missiles were fired on dozens of locations across Iran, including residential areas in Tehran, and the Shajareh Tayyebah girls school in Minab, now estimated to have killed over 100 children. Since then, the joint operation has taken out Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, as well as multiple high-level government officials and military commanders, in a blatant attempt to create the conditions for regime change. In retaliation, Iran has conducted strikes on US military assets across the Gulf region in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar.

This attack is the naked, bloody face of western imperialism. Might is right, and war is peace. The preceding weeks of 'peace' negotiations were nothing more than a carefully choreographed prelude to war, an exercise in box-ticking to provide the necessary pretext for a unilateral, unprovoked offensive. Israel called it a 'pre-emptive strike', as if an act of aggression is actually one of defence. And Trump repeated verbatim the lies rinsed since the 1980s that Iran is perennially only a few weeks or months away from developing nuclear weaponry and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The backdrop of this attack is a more aggressive, hawkish American foreign policy stance intent on securing western hegemony in strategic regions to prepare for conflict with China. At the Munich Security Conference last month, secretary of state Marco Rubio said that "what President Trump and the US want to do now" is revive "the West's age of dominance". The invasion of Venezuela and the kidnapping of Nicolas Maduro, the blockade on Cuba, the threats to annex Greenland, the strikes against Iranian nuclear sites last June, and what we're seeing now, are part of the Trump administration's strategy to reshape global geopolitics to more openly serve American interests and abate imperial decline.

Politicians and ruling class figures across the world have lined up to back this latest round of imperialist aggression. First among them was our very own Anthony Albanese, who put out a statement reading 'Australia stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against oppression', as if the liberation of the Iranians from the brutal Khamenei dictatorship could come out of the bomb rack of an F-35. The Labor government's quickness to support an attack which massacred over 100 school girls is just the latest example of their sycophantic commitment to the US alliance, no matter the blood spilt in its name. Canada's prime minister, Mark Carney, supposedly an anti-Trump idol, was also quick to throw his support behind the attack.

Albanese said that Iran has been a "destabilising force in the region" - the most destabilising force in the Middle East is the US and Israel, who have unleashed war and terror on the Palestinians for the last 2 and a half years and attacked almost every country in the region, from Lebanon to Yemen. In this hour of escalating imperial violence, we must stand with the ordinary masses of Iranians against this imperial onslaught who only weeks ago were being slaughtered in the tens of thousands by their own government.

Their liberation will not come through the restoration of the Shah, nor the maintenance of the Mulahs, but through a revolution in the region capable of sweeping away both empire and despotism. As a January 3rd statement by the sugar-cane workers of Haft Tappeh said, 'political demarcation from Zionism, monarchy, and military aggression is more essential to the working class than bread itself'.

Platform:

- The SRC calls for an end to the war on Iran and condemns US-Israel military aggression
- The SRC condemns Israel for its massacre of over 100 school children in Minab
- The SRC condemns Anthony Albanese and Penny Wong for committing Australia to supporting this war of aggression, and repeating the unsubstantiated claims of the Trump regime regarding Iran's nuclear capabilities
- The SRC stands with the workers and ordinary people of Iran in their fight against both western imperialism and the despotic regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Action:

- The SRC posts this motion on its social media
- The SRC reposts Students for Palestine statements regarding the war on Iran

Q9. No war on Iran! Albanese and USYD must cut ties with Israeli and US warmongers

Last week, Israel and the US launched a massive bombing campaign against Iran. One of the first places bombed was an elementary girls' school in Minab, in southern Iran. At least 165 children and school staff were killed. Over 500 people have now been killed across Iran. Trump says he is bombing Iran because he wants 'peace throughout the

Middle East and indeed the world'. But the only peace Trump knows is the peace of the graveyard.

Israel and the US, with Australia's support, have killed tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza. Trump has bombed at least six other countries in his second term. At the start of this year the US kidnapped Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro.

The idea that imperialist intervention, carried out with US and Israeli bombs, will bring peace or democracy to Iran is a farce. The years of war and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan where US imperialism killed hundreds of thousands, using the same talk of 'freedom' as cover, made this clear.

Bombing Iran will not bring freedom. And the US and Israel should not determine the future of Iran - that is for the Iranian people, who rose up in 2022 in the Woman, Life, Freedom movement, and again in January of this year, to determine. Many cite the Iranian regime's brutal crackdown on the protests in January this year, when as many as 30,000 protestors were killed, as justification for the bombing of Iran. But as the Workers' Union of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company stated during those protests: "We have said many times and we repeat it again—the path to the liberation of workers and toilers does not lie in the path of a leader carved from above the people, nor in reliance on foreign powers, nor through factions within the government".

The task for activists here standing in solidarity with the Iranian people is to oppose our government's complicity in these bombings which can only bring more chaos, violence, and repression.

Disgracefully, Albanese was the first Western leader to declare support for the attack on Iran. Albanese is echoing the 'weapons of mass destruction' lie that saw a million killed in Iraq, now claiming to support the US bombing to stop Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. But there is no evidence that Iran is producing a nuclear weapon. He has also lied about Australia's involvement, claiming that we are not 'directly active in the current military strikes'. In reality, intelligence from the Pine Gap spy base in the NT, fed directly to the US by linked satellites, will undoubtedly have been used by the US and Israel in their strikes on Iran.

USYD is also complicit in this round of imperialist violence against Iran. USYD hosts the US Studies Centre, whose self-declared purpose is to provide solutions for Australia's military alliance with the US. By hosting an institution whose role is to build public support for the US-Australia alliance, USYD is whitewashing the crimes of US imperialism and helping provide the justification for a closer military alliance with Trump's bloody regime. At the same time, they want to crack down even further on our right to protest against these crimes.

We need to build the fight to end Australia's military alliance with the US, scrap the AUKUS nuclear submarine program, and cut all ties with Israel.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns Israel and the US' bombing of Iran as an act of imperialist aggression. We also condemn the Albanese. government's support for this attack.
2. The SRC calls on the University to shut down the US Studies Centre and cut all ties to Israel, including exchange programs with Israeli universities, and research partnerships with complicit weapons companies.
3. The SRC will reaffirm its commitment to scrap the anti-protest Campus Access Policy that seeks to silence criticisms of Israel on campus and any opposition to USYD's complicity in imperialist aggression like this attack on Iran.

Action:

1. The SRC will endorse and promote via social media the snap speak out against war on Iran organised by Students Against War this Thursday at 1pm, meeting at the New Law Lawns to march to the US Studies Centre.

Motions R1 and Q9 were discussed en bloc.

Discussion:

Lucas Pierce spoke to motion R1, the US plans new period of western hegemony, condemns these views, death and destruction shouldn't be covered up by human rights laws. Young schoolgirls in Iran killed by Israel and the US. Condemns Albanese government and their stance defending the actions of the US and Israel. SRC needs to be an active organisation to speak out against the crimes of our own government.

Vieve Carnsew spoke to the motion Q9 and the mass bombing against Iran by the US, Trump saying he wants 'peace in the middle east'. Catastrophic effect of the stance of the US. Our government and university are complicit in these bombings. There will be a snap rally at 1pm New Law Lawns tomorrow for Iran.

Kat Chaist spoke to the motion Q9, importance of our students to oppose this war, the University's Campus access policy silencing student's free speech and protest rights. Call against the United States Studies Centre (USSC) and its relationship with the United States, its main goal is to justify US imperialism.

Seconded of R1 waived speaking rights.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion R1, the bombings in Iran is one of the most important things happening in the world right now. The US is attacking and bombing the middle east to support western hegemony. The Albanese government was the first to come to support the US and its actions against Iran. Australian military is expanding to help expand the forces of the US. Our government is walking hand in hand with US imperialism. She calls on the Labor students to speak about the war in Iran.

Aron Khuc spoke to motions and echoes Jasmine's statements, condemns the bombing in Iran as the US want to normalise western rhetoric. The US is really after natural resources in the middle east. The west has never actually liberated any country. Violations of human rights keep occurring time again.

Raphael Carrasco spoke to the motions, condemns actions of Israel and US, and our government's complicity in the war. We must stand with the people in Iran; he is part of the Labor movement but expresses criticisms of his party and fights against support of the war.

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motion, speaks directly to Raphael's statement. Labor has continued to send weapons in support of Israel and the US. She speaks about the genocide in Palestine and the police brutality at the strike against Herzog. We will never gain liberation from the major parties. Our government is a lapdog to the US, she speaks against the fascist colony of the US. Our government only cares about their own interest and the resources of the middle east. Quotes Audre Lorde, 'The master's tool will never dismantle the master's house.'

Georgia Murphy spoke to the motion, Labor faction did not condemn Albanese, only spoke about the US and Israel. Why are they speaking against the international law and not the genocide. Condemns the murder of Iranian schoolgirls. No room to say anything but completely opposing Australia's imperialism, hypocrisy and complicity in this war.

Peter Gu spoke to the motion, highlights the importance of speaking out against what is happening in Iran. Australia is complicit in this war and genocide. Australia invaded Iraq hand in hand with the US. What is the difference between Labor and Liberal government if they are supporting the war on Iran? Condemns the USSC openly promoting our government's alliance with the US.

Remy Lebreton spoke to motion, wants Labor faction to put out a public statement against the Albanese government. They never speak out about their government past these council meetings.

Motion R1 and Q9 to be moved en bloc.

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Moved: Lucas Pierce

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Moved: Vieve Carnsew

Seconded: Kat Chaist

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Leo Moore responds to these questions; says Labor Unity will work together with Labor left to produce and put out a public statement against Albanese's stance on Iran.

Q4. "Racism@Uni" Report Shows Record-levels of Racism on Australian Campuses

Preamble:

The Australian Human Rights Commission released a report, *Respect at Uni: Study into antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and the experience of First Nations people*, on which an extensive national study, Racism@Uni, was commissioned back in 2024 examining racism in Australian universities. The study surveyed more than 76,000 students and staff from 42 universities. The results of the report based on the Racism@Uni study were appalling to say the least and highlighted the serious deficiency of anti-racist frameworks—if they even existed—on campuses.

Over 40 recommendations were outlined and the commission has urged the government and university institutions to act immediately in adopting these.

Proportion of respondents who reported experiencing racism by group, with Palestinian and Jewish respondents report higher rates of racism on average:

- Palestinian: 90.2%
- Jewish: 89.9%
- First Nations people: 81%
- Middle Eastern: 80.6%
- African diaspora: 79.2%
- Asian: 78.1%
- Muslim: 76.3%
- Pasfika: 75.8%
- Māori: 73.3%

Some of its most notable reported findings were (all within university settings):

- 69.9% report experiencing indirect racism, and 14.9% of respondents report experiencing direct racism.
- 19.1% of those who didn't experience racism report having witnessed it directed to others.
- 1 in 5 academic staff report experiencing direct racism in a work setting.
- 3 in 4 international students report experiencing indirect racism.
- Only 6% of those who experienced direct racism actually made a complaint, with the most common reasons being "fear of consequences" and "lack of confidence that reporting would lead to any change".
- Students and staff overwhelmingly reported being dissatisfied with how the university dealt with the complaint process.

Here were some of the most common themes of racism expressed:

- "Feeling the need to hide aspects of your identity for safety."
- "Being judged negatively because of your cultural, ethnic, or religious background."

- “Being held accountable for global events, for the actions of governments and organisations or other community members.”
- “Fear of retaliation for speaking out.”

In terms of evaluating the current state of anti-racism policy and practice across Australian universities, the results were overwhelmingly negative:

- 30 universities had limited anti-racism policies and strategies.
- 2 universities had no evidence of anti-racism policies and strategies.

Based on just a few of the summarised findings from this report alone, it is abundantly clear that universities across Australia have failed at ensuring the safety of minority and marginalised students who make up a large majority of student populations.

These findings are all particularly sinister given how our universities funnel students & staff to clearly inefficient, broken complaint systems. One of the key recommendations from this report was for universities to build accountable complaint systems. While our university’s so-called “complaint system” was being abused to punish students and staff for expressing anti-genocide views or engaging in pro-Palestinian activism, people who were actually facing racial discrimination were being mismanaged or blatantly ignored by this system.

It is also not a surprise that we are seeing this rise in racism on campus when we know that anti-migrant, white-supremacist, and fascist rhetoric has become increasingly normalised in the mainstream media and daily discourse. We saw this with the shameful “March for Australia”, where neo-Nazis gathered to spew fascist racist rhetoric and violently assaulted First Nations people, Palestinians, and people of colour.

The normalisation and festering of racism doesn’t just end with the far-right but continues with the lazy, divisive, fence-sitting centre-left politics of the Albanese Labor government. They continue to defend their complicity and support of the genocide of Palestinians and feed into the notion that antisemitism is on the rise as a result of the anti-genocide, anti-apartheid, pro-Palestinian activism. In addition, Labor continues to concede to the right by legitimising anti-migrant rhetoric and sympathising with it. From their international student caps aimed to “ease the housing market” to the sympathy they showed for “March for Australia” protesters, the Albanese and his Labor government have shown their intention to capitulate to right-wing politics.

We want to make it abundantly clear that this report on the rise of racism on campuses should not be surprising or seem “out of the blue” to anyone who understand the current climate and the history of our universities. These are all institutions founded on stolen First Nations land with the purpose of upholding Western hegemony – and that includes white-supremacist, pro-imperialist, pro-capitalist values. Australia being a European settler-colonial state which only serves to uphold the façade of a neoliberal capitalist world order means that its institutions will inevitably serve the state. That is why our universities can financially exploit its international students by charging them exorbitant fees while simultaneously allowing anti-migrant rhetoric to become commonplace in our culture. That is why our Labor government can invite a war-criminal president of a genocidal ethnostate here and brutalise

peacefully protesting civilians demanding an end to our complicity in the genocide of Palestinians.

Our institutions have a lot more work to do than just acknowledging the findings of the Racism@Uni report and making some simple reforms to their policies. Our university needs to begin by cutting ties with weapons manufacturing companies that profit off of the genocide of Palestinians and other racialised minorities. As an academic institution which prides itself in upholding and defending human rights, they need to actively oppose the pro-genocide rhetoric that our government engages in and demand an end to our complicity. They need to oppose the anti-migrant, racist rhetoric and legislation which affects its international students, as well as ensure their safety in every domain.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns the lack of action taken by universities across Australia to ensure the safety of its students and staff from racism,
2. The SRC condemns our university's past and current complicity in the rise of racism on campus,
3. The SRC demands the university implement frameworks that function to tackle racism and for all universities to carry out significant reforms to remove the perpetuation of structural racism from their institutions,
4. The SRC demands the university dismantle its pro-colonial, pro-genocide, racist foundations and to start with cutting all ties to weapons companies, stop targeting pro-Palestinian activists, and actively engage with transformative First Nations justice including but not limited to "Pay the Rent",
5. The SRC demands the university remove all barriers that target international students/staff, asylum seekers, refugees, and visa holders. This includes removing international student caps for higher education institutions, giving asylum seekers and refugees a liveable stipend and more support, and enacting reform to prevent predatory employers targeting visa holders and prevention for suspensions that put visa holders at risk of being set to a country that will harm or persecute them.

Action:

- ~~1. The SRC calls on the university to take responsibility for not taking the appropriate measures to respond to the rampant racism on our campuses and to release a full public response to the report.~~
- ~~2. The SRC demands the university, as well as the federal government and all other higher education institutions, take on all the recommendations of the report.~~

Discussion:

Aron Khuc spoke to their motion, about the expansive racism against students and staff in the University, it is not limited to only Zionists' accusations of antisemitism. The NSW police are brutalising protesters.

Maxine McGrath spoke to their motion echoed Aron Khuc's sentiment; our government and university doesn't care about their students. As the women's officer, they want to emphasise that women of colour are a group most likely to be affected by gendered violence. They spoke to the abuse of the reporting systems by Zionists. Spoke about racist remarks made against her during rallies, hecklers telling her to "go back to your own country".

Jaehyun Kim spoke to the motion, echoed Aron and Maxine's sentiment. Racism runs rampant in this society and campus, is embedded in the westernised teachings of the University.

Laura Alivio spoke to the motion and agreed with the sentiment of the preamble. OneNation is polling dangerously at 30%, with a rise in racism nation-wide. The action points in this motion need to be clarified. There has been a smear campaign of the pro-Palestinian activists by the university, these complaints can be used against left wing activists, slandering pro-Palestinian activists for opposing war. Our institutions want to conflate antisemitism with anti-Zionism. The university doesn't actually want to combat racism; they support the racist apartheid state of Israel and want to further the genocide in Palestine. She condemns Albanese standing next to Trump, smiling for a photo opportunity. She urges the council to seriously consider recommendations of this motion. Our institutions are neutral and don't actually want to stand against racism.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion and echoed Laura's sentiment about dangerous rise of support for racist OneNation party. He spoke to last year's election, AusPol is the child of multimillion dollar property investor and directly benefits from the university. He condemns the introduction of accent training from USYD. We need a strong supportive student union, students need to feel like they have space to advocate for issues. The SRC will fight for their students.

Aron Khuc spoke to their motion and agrees with Laura Alivio, moves to strike out action points and accepts the criticism.

Shovan Bhattarai gives context, Respect@Uni which is the same as Racism@Uni, recommends a working group against racism, one of the Chairs is Jillian Segal. She wants to reject the report.

Procedural motion to adjourn for 5 minutes

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Dana Kafina

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm

There was a quorum count at 8:18pm

The meeting was declared quorate at 8:18pm

Meeting resumed at 8:19pm

Mover: Aron Khuc

Secunder: Maxine McGrath

Mover and seconder **withdrew** motion Q4.

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to hear motion from floor to be known as R2.

Moved: Jesper Duffy

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

R2. NO MORE QUEER BASHINGS! NO MORE STATE SURVEILLANCE!

Preamble:

On the eve of the 48th Mardi Gras, the queer activist group Pride in Protest (PiP) were ousted from the parade for posting about Dayenu, a Zionist group who had only the week before pulled out and then backflipped.

Mardi Gras Chief Executive Officer Jesse Matheson accused PiP of bullying the Zionist group and refused to reply to subsequent e-mails appealing this decision. The alleged bullying was in reference to a PiP post exposing Dayenu's support for the genocide in Gaza.

Mardi Gras has once again silenced left-wing voices within the organisation, and has stood by in silence as the police brutalised valid ticket-holders to the parade.

PiP members who had chosen to march with other floats this year were targeted by police. Multiple community members were accosted, manhandled, and thrown against fences as they were dragged away from the parade entrance. Drag kings unaffiliated with PiP, and a trans woman holding a Palestinian flag were the main victims of this senseless attack.

This kind of surveillance mirrors what we've seen on our own campus, where campus security will have more power to single out pro-Palestine students with their new unmarked vehicles. It mirrors Luna - who was threatened with deportation - and it mirrors what happened to a lot of people at the encampment.

The Campus Access Policy (CAP) mimics the anti-protest laws rushed by state Labor. The SRC has spent a long time committing to defying the CAP. When university security surveils us, they are mimicking the way the NSW Police watches and targets people based on identifying features. They are acting as a testing ground for new methods of surveillance.

Such overreach was on blatant display when university management used a recent rally organised by feminists on campus protesting systemic sexual violence in the colleges as an opportunity to threaten to defund the SRC, highlighting how management supports college students that commit rape in return for their old money and increased profit margins. In the face of such threats the SRC can not yield. There is no point in having a well funded SRC if it's going to be a toothless organisation beholden to management. This council has committed to defying the CAP, and part of that is refusing to notify the university of upcoming protests.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns the police attacks on drag kings and trans people at Mardi Gras 2026
2. The SRC stands in solidarity with the trans people and drag kings attacked at Mardi Gras 2026
3. The SRC condemns the University of Sydney for threatening to defund the SRC
4. The SRC supports student activists defying the CAP

Action:

1. The SRC will repost information about the attack on its social media.
2. The SRC Council and office bearers will endorse and attend an open strategy meeting to combat the Campus Access Policy (CAP).
- ~~3. The SRC Council and office bearers will recommit to defying the CAP and refuse to notify the university of upcoming protests organised by student activists~~
- ~~4. The SRC will publicly announce the threats of defunding from the university.~~
5. The SRC will publicise any adverse action the SRC is subject to by the university under the CAP

Discussion:

Jesper Duffy spoke to their motion, Mardi Gras has silenced left wing voices, states that NSW police brutalised more pro-Palestine queer activists for their presence at the parade. A trans woman was dragged down the street by officers at Mardi Gras. Condemns state sponsored terror attacks on pro Palestine and queer protesters. We have fought the University to take a stand against censoring student voices. The University is mimicking state violence and repression of protesters with the CAP.

The President passes the Chair to Deputy Chairperson.

Grace Street spoke to the motion, agrees with the sentiment of the motion, clarifies that we did not get threatened to be defunded due to WoCo rally, the Uni had enquiries about CAP. We have a new student associations policy and our SSAF is contingent on us abiding by these policies. She would like to hold a meeting to discuss this policy and our approach with it. We need to focus our efforts on the Mardi Gras and University board. She explains that choosing to not abide by the policy does not get rid of it, it just harms the students and SRC that do.

Jasmine Al-Rawi proposed amendment to remove action point 3 and remove action point 4 because it has spelling mistakes and is therefore not accurate.

Mover is amenable to removing action point 4 if it is inaccurate, but not action point 3.

Amendment to remove action point 4 is amenable to the movers.

Jasmine Al-Rawi proposed amendment to remove action point 3.

The Deputy Chair has ruled that it is not substantive so the amendment will be discussed.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the amendment, states that we have to be serious about challenging the CAP because there is a university and government backed movement repressing advocacy for Palestine and free speech. These rules and laws are unjust, but breaking rules will not necessarily repeal the CAP.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the amendment, states that breaking the law and policies is the only way to make change. The only way to fix injustice is by defying the unjust system and breaking the CAP.

Motion to amend motion by removing action point 3

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Tiana Moore

The amendment was put and **CARRIED.**

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion and is looking forward to organising meeting to discuss the CAP. He was supposed to march in the PiP protest, was told at 11pm the night before that the march was banned. Condemns the despicable Mardi Gras board who don't care about trans and queer rights. Mardi Gras was a protest, a riot and it's become a corporate-sponsored party only concerned about white queer people and not intersectional issues like the genocide in Palestine.

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motion, was also supposed to be marching at the protest, protest called off last minute. The first pride was a riot. Mardi Gras is now a monetisation of queer culture. Pride is about protest and advocacy. Condemns the corporatisation of Mardi Gras.

Jaehyun Kim spoke to the motion, was also supposed to march. Pride should always be about liberation for all. Cops cannot be agents of liberation; their protection is always dependent on our cooperation. Mardi Gras should not support police at the parade.

Peter Gu spoke to the motion, was also supposed to march at the PiP which was shamefully shut down by the police. Their friend carrying trans flag was censored and harassed by Police. The Mardi gras board wants the LGBTQ movement without trans people and Palestine. Police exist as a violent machine for the state. They reject Mardi Gras working closely with the police.

Moved: Jesper Duffy

Seconded: Ydie Lardillier

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Meeting break at 8:57pm

Meeting was declared quorate at 9:19pm

Meeting resumed at 9:19pm

Dana Kafina proxies to Aria Nadkarni at 9:15pm.

The Deputy Chairperson resigned the Chair back to the President.

Q2. Actions Speak Louder than Apologies – You are a representative, represent

Preamble:

To nominate and campaign is to promise to do the work if elected. The struggle of this council to meet quorum for a meeting that occurs regularly and monthly is proof that elected representatives are transgressing this promise. There is no true accountability to ensure this council functions at all.

Persistent non-attendance undermines democratic representation, delays essential business, and places an unfair burden on members who do attend. Repeated failures to achieve quorum erode confidence in the student association, obstruct its capacity to act, and diminish its legitimacy as a representative body.

It is necessary to reinstate the integrity, functionality, and credibility of council by introducing clearer attendance expectations, an appropriate burden of proof for repeated absences, and proportionate consequences for sustained failure to meet quorum.

Platform:

The SRC recognises that:

1. Attendance is a core duty of elected council members
2. A council that cannot make quorum cannot fulfil its role
3. Burden falls upon the factional groups to ensure their successful candidates turn out as much as the individual itself

Action:

The SRC resolves to:

1. Establish a formal attendance standard that requires council members who miss more than 2 consecutive meetings must provide a valid reason for their absence on top of sending apologies or face automatic removal from council
2. Place a burden of proof on the absent council member to provide evidence of a legitimate reason, including but not limited to:
 - a. Employment obligations
 - b. Medical or health-related conditions
 - c. Carer or family responsibilities
 - d. Exceptional circumstances to be determined by the relevant officer

Discussion:

Fionn Burke spoke to their motion, says it was great that everyone showed up and debated. The people that attend that make these motions happen. Emphasises the importance of attendance to show their presence.

Zayed Tabish spoke to the motion and supports it.

Remy Lebreton spoke against the motion, says it is ironic for Labor right to move this motion as they are not active on campus. Criticised Labor left for not speaking up and moving motion, claims that these action points are a business move. This motion is restrictive and will disproportionately harm disabled people.

Leo Moore spoke to the motion, says that Labor Unity is back, commends motion, as we need to hold elected members of this union to account- they need to work for their stipend. All councillors should be doing their jobs.

Emma Searle spoke against the motion, it is a mockery of student unionism. Coming to SRC council meetings is not as important as being a fighting student body. This is like speaking to a managerial board. Attendance is not as important as the motions actually being put forward.

Zavier Szkalic spoke against the motion, effectiveness of the SRC should not be on attendance it should be on actual advocacy. This is a bureaucratisation of the SRC. Rejects the notion that the SRC should be run more like a business, this is an attack on activist work. Productivity cannot be measured by attendance.

Jesper Duffy spoke against the motion about hitting KPIs, Unity does not hit their own KPI, they do not meet their own standards, we are not a business. Encourages Unity to actually go out there and pass out leaflets, run a campaign, speak at a rally. Councillors cannot do casework, this is not their job.

Julia Robins clarified the current attendance requirements. This motion is not a regulation change motion.

Vince Tafea spoke against the motion, the movers didn't look at the constitutions and regulations properly, there are already standards in place. Echoes Emma Searle and Jesper Duffy's sentiment. The solutions and actions are typical of a bureaucratic Labor stance.

Moved: Fionn Burke

Seconded: Raphael Carrasco

The motion is put and **FAILED**.

Q5. Stop USYD's interference into student democracy

Preamble:

Student unions should be independent from university administrations. They should not be under the political and economic influence of the University. USYD has a history of political witch hunts against progressive student protests or statements. The SRC should take a strong stance against any interference from our university on the political issues our student union campaigns around and oppose restrictions on the use of SRC funds for valid political causes.

Palestine activism is the clear target of anti-democratic government policy. The government is imposing new regulations on universities to crack down on Palestine activism. One example is the emboldening of TEQSA around the recommendations of Jillian Segal. There will also be a report card system introduced by Greg Craven, who is a former vice chancellor of ACU and a regular columnist with The Australian. The report card system focuses on universities' policies that crack down specifically on "protests, encampments and display of flags, imagery and promotional materials."

USYD is not just acting under government pressure. They have been known to discipline students for political stances. Two notable cases of political repression include the Universities' misconduct threat to international student Luna for writing pro Palestine slogans on a whiteboard, and the suspension of student activists for protesting former Liberal Prime minister Malcolm Turnbull in 2022.

It is important to take a public stand against the infringements on student democracy. These cases could not be fought through the university's own misconduct procedures as they are undemocratic processes where confidentiality clauses are used to silence students, and the final outcomes are determined by a single registrar. Coming forward with opposition to political attacks by the university puts students at risk of automatically being accused of misconduct. It rests on the collective response and opposition by the student union to these attacks that we can push back against the university's intimidation.

Platform:

1. The SRC opposes any political and economic interference in our student union by Sydney University's administration.
2. The SRC opposes the repressive measures proposed by the government to crack down on pro-Palestine sentiment.

Action:

1. The SRC will post this motion on its social media.

Q6. Support the Global Sumud Flotilla to Gaza.

Preamble:

Next month, approximately 200 vessels are scheduled to set sail to form the Global Sumud Flotilla, with a mission of breaking the 18-year-long illegal siege and carrying humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. This will be the largest ever coordinated humanitarian intervention for Gaza. Several Australian activists will be joining the Flotilla carrying life-saving food, water, and medicine, including USYD student and Students for Palestine member Ethan Floyd.

The people of Gaza are experiencing sustained violence and ongoing aid restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities. At least 1.6 million people and four out of five children in Gaza are experiencing acute malnutrition. Over the past two years, Israel has also carried out a "scorched earth" policy, intentionally devastating agricultural production in Gaza, and

by the end of 2025, the Israeli army had destroyed 90 percent of agricultural land. Now, a vast majority of the population is entirely dependent on aid for survival. This has not stopped Israel from further restricting humanitarian aid and attempting to force out 37 NGOs by March 1st.

Students have a responsibility to support the mission of breaking this siege. The previous Global Sumud Flotilla in August last year was watched by millions across the world. It sparked global protests in solidarity with Palestine and against the illegal interceptions of the Flotilla by Israeli forces. There is no doubt that this flotilla will again be followed by millions of students and others.

Moreover, Ethan Floyd is a student at USYD and has been involved in pro-Palestine activism through Students for Palestine including the 2024 Gaza Solidarity Encampment. Their participation in the Flotilla makes it ever-more relevant for the SRC to support the flotilla and engage in fundraising for his essential costs and eventual legal and diplomatic fees following inevitable Israeli interception. The SRC should also commit to pressuring USYD to do what it can to support and protect their own student who is taking action against the illegal Israeli blockade.

Platform:

1. The SRC supports the April 2026 Global Sumud Flotilla Flotilla to Gaza.
2. The SRC opposes the continued illegal Israeli blockade on Gaza.
3. The SRC calls on the Australian government to support a safe passage for the Flotilla participants sailing in international waters to break the siege.
4. The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to offer financial and political support to their own student Ethan Floyd who is a participant of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

Action:

1. The SRC will promote the Global Sumud Flotilla on its social media.
2. The SRC will commit \$500 to fundraise for Ethan Floyd's essential costs as he joins the Global Sumud Flotilla.

The Chair defers the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson

Motions Q5 and Q6 were discussed en bloc.

Discussion

Tiana Moore spoke to their motion Q6, Flotilla is the largest humanitarian mission to Gaza, USYD student Ethan Floyd will be on board. SRC should support them financially and publicly. Calls for Australian government to support this humanitarian mission. The SRC should protest any interceptions.

Laura Alivio spoke to their motion Q6, the ceasefire is a sham, they are still blocking aid and enabling the genocide. The Australian government is continuing to provide support to Israel with weapons and refused to provide support to Gaza. We have a member of Students for Palestine on this flotilla, millions of people were watching the last flotilla.

Students are outraged that the University has remained silent on Palestine, encourages everyone to support Floyd- they sail in April.

Movers of Q5 waive their right to speak.

Isaac Freeman spoke to the motion Q6, echoed Laura's sentiment, Floyd's participation needs to be supported.

Grace Street spoke to motions Q5 and Q6, echoed support for Floyd, there is no ceasefire, but there is an illegal siege on Gaza. The treatment of people on the last Flotilla was horrendous; their bravery is admirable. We should hold a fundraiser to support Floyd. USYD has duty of care on the students. In the future, there will be looking back at this movement as monumental and will be backing us then. USYD needs to back this now. SRC is a democratic independent left wing student union, thousands of students support this work. The university wants to restrict and intimidate activists. We need to do what we can with our funding. We need to stand with our students. University is on the wrong side.

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motions Q5 and Q6, the female participants of last flotilla were met with sexual harassment and violence. This is the lived experience of feminised Palestinians every day. The IDF is training dogs to rape prisoners- Israel systemically perpetrates gendered violence. The University will use the wins of the student activists in their favour in the future. We should fundraise and offer protection for Floyd.

Max Dao spoke to the motions Q5 and Q6; Palestine movement has galvanised so many people. Flotilla brought Italy to a halt last year, in Sydney we tried to bring the same energy and organise snap rallies. Students are unhappy with the University's complicity. SRC needs to organise and support the movement for Palestine.

Eddu Setiawan spoke to the motions Q5 and Q6, genocide in Gaza is happening right in front of our eyes. Our government is not supporting our activists for Palestine. We have education and a platform; we need to be a fighting body against Israel. Our freedom of speech is being restricted, there is pressure from other parts of society due to report card movement.

Zayed Tabish spoke to the motion Q5 and Q6, genocide is unfolding in Palestine, this is reprehensible. Spoke against Albanese government.

Procedural motion to move Q5 and Q6 en bloc.

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion is put and **CARRIED.**

Motion Q5

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion is put and **CARRIED.**

Motion Q6

Moved: Tiana Moore

Seconded: Laura Alivio

The motion is put and **CARRIED.**

The Chair resigns back to the President

Q8. Stop the ban on protest slogans!

Chris Minns' next anti-protest law is an effort to ban the slogan "Globalise the Intifada", as part of his efforts to stifle the Palestine movement.

The law is yet to pass and NSW Parliament is likely to vote on it in its next sitting beginning on 17 March.

There is nothing antisemitic about calling for a global intifada against Israeli occupation of Palestine and against the genocide of Palestinians. Intifada is the Arabic word for uprising. Trying to ban Arabic is not just racist, but an attempt to silence the Palestine movement into accepting Australia's support for Israel.

Sydney University is following Chris Minns' lead. Solidarity student club is being investigated by management for having posters displayed during O-week saying "globalise the intifada" and "smash the Israeli terror state." When security forcibly removed Solidarity's posters, they also took down other posters advertising the Students for Palestine strike for Palestine on March 11.

We cannot let USyd management and Chris Minns dictate the language and phrases of the Palestine movement on and off campus.

And we need a global uprising - a global intifada - if we're to free Palestine. Weapons are sent from Western countries and countries allied with the US that enable Israel to carry out its massacre of Palestinians - and now Iranians too.

Dock workers in the Mediterranean showed what it meant to globalise the intifada in February when they refused to handle weapons cargo bound for the Israeli terror state.

We need to do the same thing in Australia and stop the shipment of F35 parts and intelligence from Pine Gap spy base being sent to Israel. And on campus we need to force management to end the exchange programs with Israeli universities that seek to legitimise and normalise Israel's apartheid regime, cut all programs with weapons companies like Thales, and close the pro-US think tank the US Studies Centre.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns management's attempts to stifle free speech on campus 2. The SRC reaffirms its opposition to the ban on the slogan "globalise the intifada" and supports protests expressing opposition to it.

Actions:

1. The SRC will endorse the protest on March 17 held by Stop the War on Palestine and promote the rally through social media and printing materials.
2. The SRC will support chanting "globalise the intifada" on campus at events and rallies, including the speak out against war on Iran tomorrow.
3. The SRC commits to defending any student victimised by management for using the slogan 'globalise the intifada' or 'smash the Israeli terror state'.
4. The SRC will call on management to immediately end its investigation of Solidarity student club for using "globalise the intifada" and "smash the Israeli terror state" on posters.

Discussion

Kat Chaist spoke to their motion, explains that labelling the word antifada as dangerous, is racist. It is hypocritical that Minns will ban this slogan as this is a call to end the genocide. Use it or lose it with our freedom of speech. SRC needs to be a fighting body.

Vieve Carnsew spoke to their motion, the University is following the NSW government with their stance against the phrase. The University took down the posters, but don't have the means to as it is not hate speech, bullying or harassment. Zionists feeling uncomfortable is not bullying. In the 2024 snap protest, the University claimed that text could be inciting violence just because it was written in Arabic. Encouraged everyone to come to the Rally. From Gadigal to Gaza, we need to globalise the antifada.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion, condemns Minns government's attempt to criminalise the use of the phrase "globalise the antifada", which was seen by the arrests at the Venezuelan protest in Sydney. They are trying to scare people into silence. The phrase is not against the law. We should say these slogans with our full chest.

Jaehyun Kim spoke to the motion, this is the University's attempt to incite fear and prevent them from speaking out. Censorship by the government for standing against genocide and state violence. The views against the slogan are racist, he condemns this.

Moved: Kat Chaist

Seconded: Vieve Carnsew

The motion is put and **CARRIED.**

Vince Tafea proxies to Serena Chen at 10:08pm

Q11. Condemn USyd's facilitation of institutional sexual violence

Preamble:

The University of Sydney is “Australia’s” oldest university, and carries with it an extensive history of enabling gendered violence. The Red Zone Report, written by Nina Funnell, outlines the nearly century long history of sexual violence predominantly against feminised students. Funnell largely focuses on how the privately owned Residential Colleges have enabled institutional gendered violence. This includes violent hazing rituals, femicides of residents, and a reported increase of drink spiking. College culture is so deeply embedded in misogyny, where we saw residents tear up the aforementioned Red Zone Report in the 2024 RepeElect, with students yelling “no-one cares”.

Furthermore, our university’s unwavering support of Israel is an extension of its indifference to sexual violence. During the third calendar year of genocide against Palestinians, Israel continues to use sexual violence as a deliberate form of warfare. Palestinian prisoners have recounted harrowing experiences of sexual violence, and the female participants of the most recent Freedom Flotilla reported experiencing sexual humiliation and violence.

Our university cannot claim to care about victims of sexual violence whilst allowing institutions of sexual violence to stand, and to continue its support of an apartheid state which openly uses sexual violence.

Platform:

- We condemn USyd’s institutional support of sexual violence
- Demand the closure of the Residential Colleges and repurpose them into safe, affordable and accessible housing
- Demand USyd cuts ties with apartheid Israel and its state sanctioned sexual violence

Action:

- The USyd SRC condemns the harassment, misogyny, racism, homophobia, and transphobia that the Women's Collective faced online
- The USyd SRC affirms its commitment to fighting against elitism, sexual violence on-and off-campus, misogyny, and transphobia
- The USyd SRC will post this motion on its social media accounts
- The USyd SRC endorses the International Women’s Day vigil for victims of gendered violence

Discussion:

Maxine McGrath spoke to their motion; feminist activists have been opposing the residential colleges. They have incited the murder of a woman in the 70s and an increase in drink spiking and hazing rituals. 7 students were expelled from the University for participating in these hazing rituals. They tore up the Red Zone report, symbolising that this is an issue not worth talking about. The SRC held a rally, but the colleges reacted in homophobic, sexist and racist acts. This links to the broader movement for Palestine. We need organised action to prevent sexual violence on campus. The University colleges will investigate themselves and come out with no real action. Abolish institutions of sexual

violence. On the 9th of March, the SRC will be holding a vigil in support of victims of gendered violence.

Secunder waived speaking rights.

Emma Searle spoke to the motion, rise of interpersonal and sexual violence, Epstein files and the ruling class. Sexism is core to capitalism; the population of who makes up the colleges are sons of the ruling class. There has been an increase in normalisation of choking during sex, Only Fans degrading and demoralising women, Sabrina Carpenter's album cover depicting her in a degrading position, the new Wuthering Heights depicting a woman being walked around like a dog. We need to reject glamorisation of demoralising women in sexual situations.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the Epstein files, hazing and humiliation rituals, this is about who can keep quiet about the 'boys club'. Does not stand for Only Fans slander as a sex worker. It is not rise of Only Fans but the rise of misogyny furthering sexual violence. Massage parlour was targeted for hazing rituals. Sex work is still not on the EDA, they can be fired for being sex workers. Burn down colleges and turn them into public housing.

Moved: Maxine McGrath

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q1. AI Lethargy

Preamble:

AI is the dominant technological change of our current generation, presenting challenges and opportunities which reflect and further empower the problems we already witness. It is a technological industrial revolution, and just like the mechanical industrial revolution, if left unchecked, jobs will be lost at a devastating rate. As representatives for students at one of the best universities in the world we need to act to ensure USYD students aren't abandoned and that the university accounts and prepares for an AI future ahead. What does this mean for this university and universities in general?

Dario Amodei, in May of 2025, co-founder and CEO of Anthropic stated that roughly 50 percent of all entry-level white-collar jobs, in other words university graduate jobs, could be wiped out by AI within five years. This should be a scary prediction for the future and already research is highlighting these declining job prospects. As the SRC we cannot and must not let the students we represent be lost in this wave of opportunity cuts. The threats of AI continue to be underestimated. AI is not going away and given the productivity and utility benefits of this technology, companies will continue reducing the available graduate jobs meaning the market will be more competitive and emerging skills of deep thinking, problem solving and effective use of AI will become highly valued. The European Commission has developed its "Union of Skills" in order to ensure students and workers are "empowered to build solid skills

foundations and engage in lifelong upskilling and reskilling". As the Student Union at USYD we need to be pushing to make sure our students aren't losing out.

Sydney University must facilitate better AI learning. Simply blocking students and punishing them for using AI is not the best method for preparing students for professions after university. The university needs to ensure we are the best possible prepared for the world we are entering as young graduates and this includes modern technology. This can include developing specific AI learning courses, integrating better AI teaching into current courses, expanding and developing AI research possibilities at USYD for us to be a world leader in this space.

The devastating impacts of AI for students need to be addressed and as the SRC the responsibility falls on us to represent the challenges and threats our students face.

Platform:

The SRC recognises that:

1. AI is fundamentally changing the way students experience university and workplaces and they should be provided adequate preparation for these changes.
- ~~2. The SRC and University have been delayed in supporting students and preparing them for the AI future.~~
3. AI cannot and should not be underestimated in both its potential and value but also the immense threat it poses for university graduates **as well as the environment and workers around the world.**

Action:

1. The SRC will meet with the University to discuss what the University is actively doing to meet the needs of students and push the University to invest in developing courses on AI ~~as well as further implementing AI teaching into current courses.~~
2. The SRC will organise with the Sydney University the establishment of an AI council to take into account the voices of both students, staff, and experts and the SRC will adopt policies presented by the AI council as well as push the University to adopt them to the fullest extent possible.

Discussion:

Raphael Carrasco spoke to their motion, states that AI is important; impacts will be real for students currently and when they graduate. There has been a failure of SRC and University to act. These jobs will disappear and are diminishing for students who work hard and study at this University. The University needs to be reskilling and upskilling students with AI, we need to push ahead of the curve to ensure that we are not stuck when we graduate. This is our future.

Leo Moore spoke to their motion, we are at the cusp of a industrial revolution, people will lose their jobs, this is a student issue, white collar jobs will diminish. We need to act now, to work with the University.

Aria Nadkarni spoke against the motion and suggested amendments to Q1.

Amendment to add to the end of Platform 3 "as well as the environment and workers around the world"

Amendment to remove action point 1 and 2, replace 1 with the following:

"1. the SRC President and Executive will continue their ongoing work on the use of AI in education which encourages the ethical and practical use of AI without compromising academic integrity and violations of data within the Academic Board, Student Consultative Committee, Digital Education Subcommittee, and University Executive Education and Students Committee"

Mover is amenable to adding to the end of platform 3.

Mover rejects amendment to remove the two action points, instead asks that the suggested action point be moved as additional action point.

Suggestion by mover was rejected by amendment mover.

Aria Nadkarni proposes a foreshadowed motion to change action points to remove action point 1 and 2, replace 1 with the following:

"1. the SRC President and Executive will continue their ongoing work on the use of AI in education which encourages the ethical and practical use of AI without compromising academic integrity and violations of data within the Academic Board, Student Consultative Committee, Digital Education Subcommittee, and University Executive Education and Students Committee"

Jaehyun Kim spoke against the motion, to increase the use of AI gives up future social structure, very inhumane and not humanitarian, the arts sector is being heavily affected by AI, human creativity is being restricted. We need to tackle and stand against AI.

Will Ursu spoke against motion, thinks this motion is ridiculous. AI only furthers the rise of wealth and inequality, there is a drastic decrease in living standards by the Labor government. Art is not the main issue. Student union needs a fighting body.

Leyla Bengan spoke to the motion, suggests amendment to action point 1 to remove "as well as further implementing AI teaching into current courses."

Amendment was amenable to the movers.

Leyla Bengan emphasises the ethical implications of AI such as the people working in data centres and being used for exploitative labour. We need to think about AI and speaking to the university, there should be stronger regulations. We need to protect students and intellectual property.

Zavier Szkalic spoke against the motion, states that AI is a threat to workers. The startling statistic of mass job losses is not lack of preparation of AI, AI massively decreases work, increases unhumanitarian labour. The University would love to embrace AI but the existential crisis- paves the way for increased AI use. We need to build up the power of working class.

Edward Bell-Smith spoke to the motion, AI should support not replace workers, but we need to accept that people will use it and it should be incorporated, should teach students to use it properly. Unions come out against rapid development of AI. It is currently being run by biggest corporations in the world. AI art is a real issue- deepfakes fall under the topic.

Motion to move Q1 with amendments approved by movers.

Moved: Raphael Carrasco

Seconded: Leo Moore

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Leyla Bengan suggests amendments to foreshadowed motion.

Add action point 3: "Meet with the University and the AI council regularly to ensure it protects the intellectual property of its staff and students from AI theft."

Add action point 4: "The SRC, in collaboration with the university will send a survey to students on their thoughts on AI and its role in academia, and promote this survey on its social media."

The action points were not amenable to movers of the foreshadowed motion.

Motion to move foreshadowed motion of Q1.

Moved: Aria Nadkarni

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Q10. Anti-AI

Preamble:

Artificial Intelligence usage at the University of Sydney is at an all-time high. Courses across departments embed AI into hurdle tasks, while entire university lectures are being produced by AI. There is no room for ethical dissent: passing a unit is contingent on participating in AI tasks, such as with FASS1000, and access to course content is swathed in artificially generated information. The objectionable dimensions of AI are far reaching. Not only do data centres guzzle the limited clean water we have left, pollute already marginalised communities, and drive university staff into unemployment and forced obsolescence, but generative AI increasingly plays into the hands of genocidal, terrorising forces to manufacture consent for illegal, illegitimate violence.

The terror state of Israel and Netanyahu recently signed a deal to add more pro-Israel propaganda in ChatGPT responses, such that misinformation on an already inaccurate engine is generated at an alarming pace. This isn't anywhere near the first example of AI being weaponised to legitimise genuine hatred: Grok referred to itself as "MechaHitler" and espoused neo-Nazi ideology on X. Riding the fascist tide, AI services are also participating in increasingly sinister forms of surveillance and jingoism: ICE is insidiously using AI to track, detain and torture while the Department of Defence is attempting to remove guardrails on AI programs to automate drone strikes. Just days ago, OpenAI – the company that owns ChatGPT – reached an agreement with the US Department of War for deploying advanced AI systems in classified environments, which they requested they also make available to all AI companies.

There are of course nuances to the usage of AI. It has its benefits for us as a student union, such as in transcription or translation. However, it is imperative we deeply consider our ethics and principles as a student union and limit its usage as much as possible. AI poses a serious workers' rights threat, contributes to the exploitation of Indigenous communities around the globe, farms our data and feeds it to knowledge systems that work to exploit the everyday person, and devastates communities who are already water scarce. It does not have to be the future, or *our* future, if we reject it.

Platform:

1. The SRC has committed to being an apartheid-free zone and commits to BDS principles, and this motion acts as an extension of those principles
2. The SRC stands with workers and unions in fighting for job security
3. The SRC commits to fighting for environmental sustainability

Action:

1. The SRC will not use Artificial Intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT and Microsoft CoPilot, in the creation of social media posts, including art, posters, and captions
2. The SRC will collaborate to create a document of guidelines in using AI for future purposes of this council, and for collective consensus and accountability

Discussion:

Aria Nadkarni spoke to their motion; it is unsurprising that Labor rolls over to the master's tools. Endorsing AI models ignores its use for malicious circumstances, will poison and pollute water systems and environment. ChatGPT contributes to funds to support Israel and ICE. SRC has obligation to hold a left-wing stance against AI.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion, condemns AI and its use, as well as the actions of AI companies to help develop automated weapons more efficiently, it is dystopian. He acknowledges the effects of AI on the working class. Artists are a part of the workforce; creative labour is important. AI art and its misuse is shameful.

Tobias Hansson spoke against the motion but agrees with the sentiment of the preamble. The only correct position is to vote it down. The University is rolling AI out to cut down labour costs; they don't actually care about workers, they have committed wage theft, with an accumulation of huge amounts of wealth for the University board. AI implementation is coming from the top down, it is a maximisation of efficiency. Workers and students don't have a choice over how the University uses AI. This is not an issue of consumer choice; this is a structural one.

There was some general council discussion on the approach the SRC should take to AI.

Jaehyun Kim spoke to the motion, this is a systematic issue, individual changes can be meaningful, the issue is not so black and white.

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke against the motion, clarifies that they disagree with the strategy put forward in the action point, SRC stopping their individual use of AI is not enough to enact change, we need collective power. The bigger impact is shutting down the destructive industry of war, to create a mass fighting movement.

Moved: Dana Kafina

Seconded: Aria Nadkarni

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Q3. No Report, No Pay

Preamble:

SSAF is the foundation of the SRC, a foundation subject to annual justification and negotiation with the University. While SSAF exists to support independent student representation, its continued allocation depends on the SRC's ability to demonstrate tangible outcomes for students.

Centrally, paid OB's are the heart of student life, advocacy, and organisation. The effectiveness of these people in their roles directly shape how students and the university view and interact with the university. When paid OB's use their role and resources to the fullest, they strengthen the case for student-led governance and funding.

Unfortunately, these positions are consistently viewed as résumé fodder and a tokenistic title. This undermines the SRC's credibility and negotiating position. Failing to fulfil the responsibilities embodied by the stipend only validates the calls for funding restrictions, removal of positions, and the university's constant push for institutional takeover.

An independent SRC is only possible if its officer bearers are accountable to student interests.

Platform:

The SRC recognises that:

1. OBs that utilise their elected position to create meaningful change for students increase the legitimacy of the SRC
2. OBs that do not use their elected position to a satisfactory amount, especially paid positions, only arm the university in its pursuit to defund and takeover student led organisations
3. A failure of a paid OB to provide the level of work that they are paid for by students marks a failure of the SRC as a whole

Action:

The SRC commits to:

1. Establishing clear, role-specific KPI's for all paid OB positions, to be approved at the beginning of each term, including:
 - events delivered
 - casework handled
 - campaigns executed
 - submissions made
 - budgets managed
2. Making stipend payments dependent on paid OB's submitting periodic reports outlining progress against those KPI's, with the ability to suspend those who fail to do so.
3. Ensuring all KPIs are aligned with SSAF guidelines and structured to strengthen the SRC's position in annual funding negotiations with the University.
4. Posting the following image on the SRC Instagram:



Discussion:

Fionn Burke spoke to the motion, UTS does it.

Moved: Fionn Burke

Seconded: Raphael Carrasco

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

R. General Business

There being no other business.

Meeting closed at 11:17pm.