



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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

**Students' Representative Council,  
University of Sydney**

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

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## MINUTES:

of the 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the 95<sup>th</sup> SRC held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2023**. Meeting held in the New Law LT 104.

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*There was a call for a quorum count at 6:03pm.*

*The meeting was found quorate.*

### A. Meeting open at 6:06pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Rose Donnelly be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

Akee Elliott to Keira Garland

Satvik Sharma to Aryan Ilkhani – Satvik was later able to attend.

Bryson Constable to Luka Fon

Cooper Gannon to Freya Leach

Owen Marsden Readford to Tamsyn Smith

Honey Christensen to Alev Saracoglu

Simon Uptis to Lauren Finlayson

Michael Grenier to Khanh Tran

The apologies were noted.

### D. Changes to Membership

### E. Electoral Report

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

Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of the 95<sup>th</sup> SRC held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Alex Poirier

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business for this item.

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

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

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

**K. Elections**

**K1. Election of 3 Indigenous Students' Officer/s \*\***

**K2. Election of 4 Mature Age Students' Officer/s**

**K3. Election of 3 Ethno-Cultural Officer/s \*\***

**K4. Election of [2 Queer Officer/s \*\***

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

*There being no nominations the positions remained vacant.*

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

**L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**L2. Report of the Executive**

Report of the executive from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Feb to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023.

The report was circulated and noted.

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

### **L3. President's Report**

Lia Perkins tabled a written report:

#### **Activism**

##### *NTEU Strikes*

I was at the pickets on April 5th, and it was great to be on the picket lines with staff at the University, talking to students, staff and visitors about what a better education system would look like. The following week, NTEU members voted not to strike in week 10. The NTEU campaign at USyd so far has been incredibly inspiring for students and staff across the country, has massively increased union membership and participation, and has made some important gains. However, the outcome is still disappointing, and I know myself and many others hoped that the NTEU demands would be won in full, which would involve a significant reshaping of the University, in meaningful ways - such as targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and casual conversion.

##### *No to AUKUS, no to war and fossil fuels*

There have been two recent actions opposing AUKUS and climate destruction. The first was a snap-speakout on April 13th, while the CEO of Universities Australia was in the United States to attend meetings to discuss the involvement of Universities in the AUKUS deal. I spoke at the speakout, addressing the harm of the profit motive for Universities, and arguing that militarism and warmongering has no place in University education. In particular, we don't want to be part of a deal that jeopardises our future. I attended the EAG and Enviro Collective speakout last week, and it was great to hear from Ishbel, Simon, Simone, Nick Dean and Jack about the ways that the University is tied up with weapons manufacturers and climate destruction. This campaign will need to continue, and on May 6 there is a rally in Wollongong (<https://fb.me/e/2LGWS00IG>). When the QUAD meeting comes to Sydney there is a protest organised by the Sydney anti-AUKUS coalition (<https://fb.me/e/RlhD4nGp>).

##### *May Day*

I set up a student contingent from the SRC for May Day. I'm submitting this before May Day so I hope the rally went well! Join your union today!

##### *HECS indexation*

Last week, the rate of HECS indexation was announced, and it will be 7.1%, which is an extra \$1677 for the average HECS debt, and much more for many people. The entire system of HECS is broken, while it is heralded as "The Best Loan You'll Ever Get" by those on the right, it throws young people into a debt spiral. As degrees have increased in cost, and real wages have gone down or remained stagnant, many people on lower incomes are forced to pay off their debt at the cost of food, housing and medication. With high inflation this year, the government must urgently freeze indexation so that students aren't stuck in this spiral for longer. Ultimately, the indexation shows that HECS is a broken system, and should immediately be replaced with free, fully funded

higher education which is accessible to all. Unfortunately I couldn't attend the NUS/Greens speak out about HECS indexation, but I made some graphics from the SRC addressing the NUS. Sign their petition here: [https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/freeze-student-loan-indexation?just\\_launched=true&fbclid=IwAR0UTfXeY4IM8YunDMHvw35FmrylYstB7CEaVY8Nf8UzCC2zqAw0CRjbe](https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/freeze-student-loan-indexation?just_launched=true&fbclid=IwAR0UTfXeY4IM8YunDMHvw35FmrylYstB7CEaVY8Nf8UzCC2zqAw0CRjbe)

#### *Women's Collective public forum: Abolish the Colleges, public housing now!*

The Women's Collective hosted a public forum with speakers including Jenny Leong, Nina Funnell, Ethon Lyons and more. Congratulations to the Women's Officers Iggy and Alev for kickstarting this campaign again. The colleges have found themselves time and time again incapable of reform out of their elite, misogynistic, ableist and racist patterns. The University does not hold itself accountable for the actions of the colleges, and the proposal for NSW parliament to take away the ownership of the colleges from the churches would be an important step. Fundamentally, speakers addressed the need to end this culture at the University and broadly, making campus a place with zero incidents of sexual violence, racism and elitism.

Other actions:

- *Randwick Council Vigil*: I attended the Vigil organised by the Australian Palestinian Action Network outside the Randwick Council meeting.
- *Future FASS, FASS campaigns*: details have been shared with the EAG. I look forward to being part of this, and will continue to advocate for discipline based honours units that allow for student choice and flexibility.

#### **Projects and SRC work**

##### *5-day simple extensions*

Everyone should have seen the news about 5-day simple extensions. We will continue to advocate for a fair system that takes into account complications and difficulties for students. We received 800 results on our survey, and are putting together social media graphics and a report. Thanks to Tiger for his help with this, I will keep everyone updated about any changes that we hear about. The University is making these changes very quickly and with what feels like limited foresight into the long run of what students need in their education.

##### *100+ years SRC international students*

Our project is coming along well, with a group of students working on campaigns, social events and information sessions the SRC will run around the time of SUPRA's planned celebration events. Thanks to all involved, and if you are interested in getting involved please email me at [president@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:president@src.usyd.edu.au)

##### *SSAF Contestable applications*

Myself and the Gen Secs are working on contestable SSAF applications, and we have quite a few projects we will be applying for SSAF for the rest of the year. I will update the council on these at the next meeting.

##### *SRC Faculty Society Committee*

The SRC VPs, GSs and I held a Faculty Society Committee meeting, and we were pleased to have attendance from a range of faculty society Presidents. A big discussion was around the strikes, and

we were keen to give them more communication about upcoming strikes and encourage them to attend the pickets and support the strikes. Unfortunately, the May strikes this was referring to were called off. I was pleased to create this avenue of communication which has been underutilised, and to hear concerns from the students – one particular concern was about the inflating class sizes at the University, which make it difficult for student to learn and get the adequate attention they deserve.

#### Other

- The Social Media Intern has just started in the publications team
- I attended a meeting discussing colour scheme in the disabilities space, and I would like to help the disabilities officers where it is useful to get this project off the ground

#### Committees

*An overview of the committees I've attended recently and any important outcomes*

- UE Education
  - 5-day Simple Extensions, see above in projects
- Academic Board – there was a presentation from some students and a researcher about using AI, such as ChatGPT as a tool for learning.
- Academic Standards and Policies Committee

#### Other things

- I'm only doing my consultation hours on Wednesday because Monday was not very busy
- Over the weekend I completed Mental Health First Aid Training through the student leadership thing run by the Uni. It was good to be more prepared for crisis situations.
- I attended Nick Riemer's book launch of 'Boycott Theory and the Struggle for Palestine'
- I had a zoom meeting with Crystal, President of the Western Sydney SRC, and it is unfortunate to hear about the lack of independence of their SRC, which allows the University to restrict events

#### Discussion:

Lia Perkins covered the reports main points.

Thomas Thorpe asked if higher staff wages at the university would lead to higher student fees and student debt?

Lia Perkins noted that the university has had massive profits and can pay their staff properly, and the government should be paying for higher education.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Daniel Bowron and Rose Donnelly tabled a written report:

**Happenings:**

- We had our first stall on Tuesday 18th of April for usydstudentsforthevoice led by Ben (SRC Indigenous Officer) in partnership with Uluru youth dialogues. We will be holding the same stall each week 3-5pm on campus. Follow our instagram @usydstudentsforthevoice for more.
- Rose attended May Day Rally in Belmore Park to celebrate international workers day
- Rose attended the NUS forum about HECS indexation.
- First meeting of the Faculty Societies Committee was convened with the VPs co-chairing and Lia in attendance. We had a good discussion with the various Presidents who attended about current priorities for students in the Camperdown and satellite campuses.

**Foodhub:**

- The ABC has visited us a couple of times in recent weeks to gather footage and testimonials about the need for services such as Foodhub in the current climate. We look forward to (hopefully) seeing more light being shed on the struggles of students who are trying to make ends meet in an increasingly inhospitable economic environment.
- As of yesterday, 1181 visits have been made by students. A typical week in semester now sees 100-200 users.

**Events Upcoming:**

- YARNING CIRCLE- Cross-campus event with UTS & USyd held at UTS May 22nd - all welcome, non autonomous
- NUS STUDENT POVERTY RALLY - May 9th 10am @ Parliament, Civic in the afternoon

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

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Tom Wilks

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**N. Report of the General Secretaries**

Jasmine Donnelly and Tiger Perkins tabled a written report

Much has happened in the month since we delivered our last report to the council.

**FacSocComMeet** - We attended the first Faculty Society Committee meeting of the year, where various Faculty and Society student presidents and exec could register their concerns with the SRC to help us better coordinate in fighting for student interests on campus. Of major concern across the board was class sizes, which are continuing to grow, having a severe impact on the quality of education we receive. We thank the people who attended this meeting and note we have raised your concerns among other things with the University.

**Accords Submission** - We assisted Lia and the SRC Caseworkers in making a submission to the government on their Universities Accord. Our submission highlighted the need for free education, the abolition of student debt, the demilitarisation of unis and their disentanglement from fossil fuels and weapons manufacturers. Asking nicely will obviously not lead to the government abandoning the accords but it is also important to make clear the position of our student union and coherently argue against the accords.

**Contestable Funding** - We have begun meeting to discuss contestable funding, which we receive from the uni for one-off or continuing projects that aren't covered by our annual SSAF allocation. As Rad Ed Week is funded by this contestable money, rather than our base funding, we have postponed it until sem 2. There are a number of projects that come under contestable funding that we will be applying for. These include: Radical Education and Radical Sex and Consent Week; funding for Semester 2 Welcome Week; promoting this year's SRC Elections; projects around 100+ years of international students as well as a number of other things.

**UE Ed & Simple Extensions** - In attending a Uni Exec Education meeting a couple of weeks ago, it became clear that the uni is trying to move away from 5-day simple extensions in favour of 3-day ones, despite our strong protestations. As we have heard nothing but positive feedback from students since the SRC secured these extensions last year, we quickly put together a survey to evidence our case, which has now amassed 900 responses, almost unanimously wishing to maintain the current length. This led to creating a submission to the Academic Standards and Policy Committee, next in the pipeline for ratification of the proposed changes before it eventually makes its way to Academic Board. Using data such as that 881/897 surveyed students wish to maintain 5-day extensions rather than switch to 3 alongside a pedagogical rationale, we will argue at the May ASPC meeting to enshrine 5-day extensions.

Another point of interest to come out of UE Ed was the uni's concern about increasing fail rates. The table below shows the number of units of study within fail rate ranges for both semesters of 2022. It is truly abysmal that there are a number of units with fail rates greater than 50%, especially in the context of the JRG and the punishments it imposes for failed subjects and longer-duration degrees.

	Semester 1	Semester 2
0 - 5%	1491	1556
5 - 10%	427	443
10 - 15%	222	282
15 - 20%	116	135
20 - 25%	48	62
25 - 30%	14	27
30 - 35%	10	24
35 - 40%	3	6
40 - 45%	3	2
45 - 50%	0	0
>50%	3	5

**Staff Strikes** - In more disappointing news, the staff strikes look to be wrapping up without securing all the demands in the NTEU's log of claims. Although the current offer is an improvement on management's original, with concessions won only through the nine days of strike action, workers deserve all of their entirely reasonable demands. To highlight just some of what was accomplished, the USyd NTEU secured a new benchmark for wages in the higher ed sector, paid sick leave for casual staff and annual gender affirmation leave. These wins are not to be sneered at. All power to workers.

**May Day** - We attended the May Day rally on Monday where it was heart-warming to see many thousands of proud unionists marching through the streets in recognition of their historical and future struggles. It was great to hear an emphasis on the politics of a just transition and climate change from a number of speakers. There was also a distinct anathema to Labor's maintenance of a number of IR laws from the RCLA-induced crackdown on climate activists to the incoming ban on EB periods longer than nine months set to take effect later this year.

**LEPC** - We attended the Learning Environment Planning Committee in place of Lia, where the main thing to note was that students are taking on average fewer units in the domestic cohort. This was raised bc it is affecting the uni's finances. They acknowledged this is likely because students are often working more. Moving forward it will be important to think about what impact the JRG will have on this w degree timeframes as discussed above.

**Thales and Santos Rally** - Tiger went to the action last Thursday in the Quad to protest the presence of French weapons manufacturer Thales and fossil fuel giant Santos on campus. It is of the utmost importance that we continue to fight against war and climate destruction before it is allowed to further entrench itself in this country. The SRC has an important role to play in this and as Paul Keating said at May Day yesterday, "peace is union business."

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins spoke to the report and covered its main points.

Hersha Kadkol noted that keeping 5 day simple extension might help prevent the higher fail rate the University has been concerned about

Tiger Perkins agreed and spoke about the simple extension survey results.

Annabel Pettit ask about the social media internship, if they have been hired, and asking if it is a paid internship, and why that money was not put towards increasing activist budgets instead.

Lia Perkins responded saying that in many ways there was an increase in the activist budgets, and that this position was from a raise in base funding specifically for the publications department for this role. The position is to work with OBs to promotes the events of the collectives and protests the SRC is involved in.

Alex Poirier asked if there was more data on what faculties had the higher fail rates?

Tiger Perkins noted there wasn't a clear breakdown given but that law is expecting more fails.



Hersha Kadkol ask if there was a general base funding increase why wasn't this passed onto the activists?

Lia Perkins clarified that the way base funding uplifts are done, noting that the increases are for specific projects, this application was made last year, we can ask for a Officers budget increase for next year but this role is about working with the OBs to promote these events so the Inter will be contacting you on your OB emails to ask about what events you have planned and can help develop graphics and social media posts to promote your events, as well as  
- the way base funding uplifts are done is done is for specific things, this was done last year we can ask for an increase in OB funding next year, but this role is about

Hersha Kadkol so there needs to be a request to increase the Office Bearer budgets in the future.

Lia Perkins if that's what the council wants to request I would defiantly support that.

Tiger Perkins noted that base funding uplifts are not just a general uplift in funding, the increases are always tied to specific applications.

Deaglan Godwin noted that it should also be a real base uplift considering inflation. The cost of everything goes up so activists are getting a cut in what their budgets can do.

Lia Perkins agreed.

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

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

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

Ishbel Dunsmore and Yasmine Johnson tabled a written report

It's been another very busy month! How time flies. Here's what we've been up to:

#### **Anti-War Campaign**

Last Thursday we co-hosted a great rally as part of our anti-war/Thales off campus campaign with the enviro collective, calling on university management to scrap their dodgy deal with Thales, and commit to fully divesting from fossil fuel criminals like Santos. We had great support from various anti-war groups, both at the rally and online, which indicates that this is not a minority position. Building back the spirit, strength and politics of previous anti-war movements - such as those during the Iraq and Vietnam War - is another task we need to take up on the left.

The commitment by the Albanese government to advancing their imperial march to war with China via the AUKUS deal and the funding of greater capabilities for long-range missiles at the same time the cost of living, housing and climate crises escalate gives us that ammunition to build resistance amongst workers, the left and even the most small-L liberal pacifists. As students, we are also given the short end of the straw as our universities are becoming increasingly militarised. Catriona Jackson, the CEO of Universities Australia was in the US last month working out how best to fill the 20,000 jobs that will be created as a result of the AUKUS agreement. Can you guess where these job-vacancies will be filled from? That's right, universities! Between the agreement uni management and Thales hold, these new developments across the university sector, and the existing lack of government funding in tertiary education, we can only expect our universities to be further corporatised and militarised unless we do something about it.

This is part of the reason why students should join us in our events to come! Join our contingent to the May 6th Port Kembla rally (the proposed building site for Albanese's nuclear subs) to say NO to war with China, as well as our contingent to the protest against the Quad meeting on the 24th, which will bring together the worst of the worst - Biden, Albanese, Modi and Kishida - to discuss how best to push for a bloody war. This proposed drive to war does not have "democracy" or "freedom" in mind, it is very obviously in the interest of maintaining a 'rules-based order' in the Indo-Pacific, and ensuring Australia has a big enough slice of the imperialist cake baked by the US. More on this in our motion later in the agenda.

We have also, excitingly, set up a reading group with the Autonomous Collective Against Racism to get more discussions going on war and it's dehumanisation of the other, how this racism is weaponised by the elite and the media in war times, the role of racism in refugee crises, western imperialism and more on the history of student mobilisation against war (e.g. Vietnam War). This will happen on May 17th at 4PM.

May 6th: <https://fb.me/e/5LuqGFL4w>

May 24th: <https://fb.me/e/1dVhuoVHz>

May 17th (reading group): <https://fb.me/e/QmUJ640b>

## **May Day**

We had the privilege of attending May Day - the International Workers' Day - this past Monday! It was great to go along with the student union and stand alongside workers and staunch unionists to demand better working conditions, in addition to an end to the climate crisis, an end to the cost of living crisis and say no to war, all issues which will or have been deeply affecting workers.

## **NUS Campaign - Freeze HECS debt, free education now!**

Following the Albanese government's recent decision to index HECS debt to skyrocketing inflation rates (wow, starting to sense a pattern of bad decisions here), your education officers participated in and spoke at the NUS rally to freeze student debt, and (once again) demand education be made free. With the cost of living crisis escalating and course cuts ever present, there's never been a worse time to be a student, and never a better time for free education. Join us in Canberra on the 9th to disrupt budget day and demand more from Albanese!

## Strike Update

As members of the Education Action group and the student union more broadly, we had a big hand in organising students to go out and support staff on strike, because we believe unequivocally and without question that staff working conditions are student learning conditions. A huge part of fighting for these conditions is through strikes, and we believe that sustained industrial action is the way to win. Unfortunately, strikes have been voted down as many of you know, which means bargaining will wrap up fairly shortly. We are proud to have stood on the side of staff on the picket lines and beyond, and will continue to fight for the right to a liberatory education, one which is run by and for staff and students.

## Honours Cuts

The continuation of the Future FASS program, prompted by the 2020 Job Ready Graduates package has meant that several more course cuts have been revealed in discipline-specific honours units. Cuts to Gender and Cultural Studies, English, Linguistics, Political Economy, Anthropology, Ancient Greek, Ancient History, Visual Arts and more have either happened or are in the process of passing. This is another thing we must stand up and oppose. Cuts to these discipline specific units will only serve to generalise degrees, and students will lose so much of the value of undertaking honours if they cannot learn about higher order research methodology in their specific discipline.

## Upcoming events

Disrupt Budget Day 09/05: <https://facebook.com/events/s/disrupt-budget-week-protest-th/202473945892006/>

Protest Labor's Budget for the Rich 19/05: <https://facebook.com/events/s/protest-labors-budget-for-the-/616177400091693/>

Weekly Meeting: Thursday 11AM

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the report and covered some of its main points

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the report covered the remaining points of the report and spoke about the consequences of the University's EBA deal which still includes a real wage cut.

Luka Fon asked if the pay at the university is so bad why don't academics go work somewhere else

Ishbel Dunsmore responded noting that every university is in the same position. Most universities are going on strike right now fighting the same issues, there is nowhere else for people to go when it's an industry wide crisis.

Ben McGrory asked what the Education Officers think of the University's Indigenous employment targets.

Yasmine Johnson responded saying the University has not done enough and they don't really care.

Ben McGrory asked what the EAG is doing going forward to provide support for this issue.

Ishbel Dunsmore noted that the EAG and Education Officers are not the NTEU and do not negotiate for staff.

Ben McGrory asked if the Officer would come talk to the First Nations Collective/Students or speak for them. Asking if this is something the SRC would be pushing the NTEU to fight for.

Yasmine Johnson said they believe in supporting the NTEU and pushing for all the demands being met.

Hersha Kadkol asked Yasmine Johnson about the protest held that morning and if there were more coming up.

Yasmine Johnson said the protest this morning was about the University's attachment to arms dealers and listed a number of upcoming protests.

Jack Scanlan asked if the EAG will work with disabled students and work to make the EAG and more inclusive space for disabled students who have had negative experiences trying to participate.

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

Moved: Tiger Perkins

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

Iggy Boyed and Alev Saracoglu tabled a written report

Over the last month we've been largely working hard on our Public Forum which happened last Thursday and we'd like to say a big thanks to everyone who came to that. Particular thanks goes to our panellists, Jenny Leong, Nina Funnell, Khanh Tran and Stacy Drougas, as well as Nadeena Dixon who performed a Welcome to Country for us. We are very grateful to all who showed up and contributed to the discussion, which we believe to be an incredibly important one. Some points that came up included

- That St Andrews in particular is a huge hygiene risk for those living there due to continued and regular reports of rat infestations and students defecating in the halls. We hope that on top of mandatory, in person, 1 on 1 consent training, the Colleges also institute some method of ensuring that residents are toilet trained. Of course this wouldn't be an issue if the Colleges were taken away and that housing was provided to those who need it, as we are quite sure they would make ample use of the bathrooms in those buildings if they were given the opportunity.

- Campaigning for a federal rent freeze, alongside outlawing more than 30% of anybody's income being charged on private rent.
- Demanding direct funding from state and federal governments for public housing. As it stands all that money is first placed in a fund in the "hope" that it will accrue interest, yet any kind of money-making from interest in a fund takes many years and this money should be spent on maintaining and expanding public housing immediately. The bureaucracy and red tape must be eliminated from the process of funding public housing, and vastly more money needs to be directed towards public housing now.

We'll be holding a rally in the coming weeks which we called at the end of the Forum, we encourage everyone to keep up with our socials to see more on that and come to our organising meeting tomorrow to get involved with it.

We also attended the May Day rally on Monday, which had a very strong attendance including walk offs from workplaces. A great showing and evidence to the fact that the principles of unionism and workers solidarity are not dead in this country, but rather suppressed by state and federal governments. As we continue to barrel headfirst into one of the stupidest wars of all time, which is saying a lot, it will be the movement of rank and file unionists in response that will provide the first and last lines of defence against militarism. In that same vein, we also attended the EAG and Enviro Collective's joint protest against Thales and Santos on campus. It is an absolute evil to force students, and workers, to participate in defence research and manufacturing, particularly when it occurs without students' consent or even knowledge in many instances.

The Sunday before last was the Ashfield Town Hall on combating homophobia and transphobia in the community, particularly in reference to the rise of the Christian Lives Matter hate group as of late. The fellow from the Uniting Church honestly spoke beautifully, correctly noting that it is absurd that anyone could claim religious groups have the "right" to discriminate against vulnerable children who have been placed under their care and supervision. Indeed, homophobia and transphobia are not religious beliefs but instead political beliefs which should be treated and rejected as such.

Finally, big shoutout to ACAR and PAG for the Hands off Al Aqsa rally in Town Hall and the Randwick Council Vigil for Palestine that were both held in the last month. Any support from governments, local or federal, for Israel must be treated the same as support for South Africa was in the 1970s onwards and WoCo will continue to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people against the violent and flagrant violation of their rights by the Israeli government since 1948. We'd encourage everyone to make it out to the rally commemorating 75 years since the Nakba on the 13th, both remembering the lives lost and condemning the ethnic cleansing and apartheid that it has since enabled.

Discussion:

Iggy Boyd spoke to the report covering its main points

Alev spoke about the Safer Communities working group and working on the consent training

that's also in the works.

Thomas Thorpe asked for the women's officers their position on Basketball Australia's decision around Lexie Rodgers eligibility to play for the Kilsyth Cobras.

The Chair dismissed the question.

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

Moved: Grace Porter

Seconded: James Sheriff

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion: to limit speaking time to 1 minute per person for reports, and 2 minutes per person for motions.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

### **03. Report of the Welfare Officers**

This week it was announced that Labor's \$368 billion AUKUS deal includes an extra contingency cost, an allowance of \$123 billion dollars attached which may be triggered by a "*contingent event*". We abhor that the Labor Government is willing to spend nearly half a trillion dollars on nuclear-powered submarines to assist the USA in their imperialist war-mongering endeavours, money which would be better spent on the ongoing cost-of-living crises affecting Australians nationwide.

Blocking the government's terrible housing future fund, the Greens plan to introduce a bill to parliament next month which would freeze rent prices nationwide for two years, and introduce a rent increase cap of 2 per cent the following years after. Further, the Greens have been pushing for the Albanese government to coordinate with the national cabinet on resolving this housing crisis, coordination they have parked in previously in responding to rising energy prices and placing a moratorium on evictions during the COVID pandemic. Despite the misinformed ramblings of Labor party politicians, the crises is not simply the by-product of a "*supply problem*" but rather a policy problem at the state and federal level, policies which have enabled the wealthy to own vast amounts of uninhabited properties, and landlords to drive up the rents unreasonably.

Harrison has been collaborating with Action For Public Housing, a coalition of several inner-west activist groups, to oppose the NSW government and their refusal to defend and extend public housing. The Welfare Action Group will be assisting A4PH in their plans, and are currently organising a rally set for June 3rd. Keep your eyes peeled for more updates.

On Tuesday the 9th of May the Federal Labor Government will announce their 2023 Budget. From preliminary announcements, their budget is expected to fail to combat the cost of living crises faced by the Australian people. Despite recommendations from the government's *economic inclusion advisory committee* advocating for a *substantial* increase to social security payments, Labor appears opposed to any such change. There has also been the rumour that any increase to payments like Jobseeker will only affect individuals over 55, leaving thousands of Australians without the financial support they need. On the 9th of May students from all states will visit Canberra to challenge the government's proposed budget, where there remains no promise to change the age of independence or raise the rate of youth allowance. To get involved please email [welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:welfare.officers@src.usyd.edu.au) or visit the Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/K6n2bK6z>.

WAG is hosting a speakout on Thursday the 18th of May at 12pm on the Quadrangle Lawns opposing management's refusal to provide affordable student housing. Over the past decade, the university has rejected the responsibility for the safe and affordable housing of students, relying instead on private corporations to provide shelter. During a cost-of-living crisis where inflation sits at 7% and wages remain stagnant, Igloo, Unilodge and Scape continue to charge thousands a year for shoe-box apartments, one of the few accommodation options students have if they want to live closer to university. For more information on the event, please check the Welfare Action Group Facebook page.

NSW Education Organising (NEO) has organised a budget reply action with the NUS Get A Room Campaign set for Friday the 19th of May at 5:30 pm in Town Hall. I urge all to come along to the event and keep updated with the NUS Get A Room Campaign via their socials.  
<https://fb.me/e/3xDr9wEU5>

It's vital that students continue to challenge the state and federal governments, pushing for policies and budgets that reflect the people's needs.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the report covering its main points.

Ella Haid spoke to the report focussing on the May Day rally, and the rent freeze demands from the Greens, saying that there is still a long way to go and parliamentary action won't get us there. Concluded plugging the May 19 protest.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **O4. Report of the Queer Officers**

March and April were major months for Queer issues both in Australia and globally. This is coming from both great celebrations of our community and ongoing resistance as seen by the major turn out for Trans Day of Visibility, but also incidents that prove our struggle is ongoing as seen by attacks from the far right at various scales. In response to these turbulent times, queer students are continuing to engage within political spaces on campus to not only push for our rights, dignity and respect, but to address issues that underscore a multitude of contemporary social issues. Not only are queer students turning up in greater numbers, but do so in light of the Far Right which works at every turn to erase our voices. We as a collective whole heartedly condemn what happened to activists in CARR at Belfield, now is the time to show our power in the streets, that their threats cannot shake us, and that as a community we can come together and push them back. We have seen staggering numbers of people turn out in defense of Queer rights across the country, an estimated 7,000 people at TDoV events – 3,000 in the streets of Sydney despite the pouring rain.

On campus specifically, we had our first speakout of the semester about transphobic comments that had been made by USyd staff towards a prominent member of QUTE. We discussed social and policy changes that need to be made both on our campus and in this country to improve the material conditions of trans people. We have also begun a stickering campaign around the issue of gender discrimination in restrooms, to a mixed public reaction – though it may not seem like a huge issue to address, feeling safe in private spaces is a key issue for the trans community. Finally, we have restarted the Coming out by Candle light, which drew attention to the fact that despite our different journeys there is an abundance of common experiences. It is clear to see that our community is growing, and we will continue to turn out to future actions.

Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews and Ella Pash read through their report.

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

Moved: Rand Khatib

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **O5. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers**

The Refugee Rights Office recognises the service provision arm of the SRC as an untapped resource when it comes to supporting students with lived experience on campus. The office is working towards holding a focus group comprised of students with lived experience to understand how the uni can better support students over the course of their studies. We are also working with the Refugee Language Program on campus to gain a greater insight into barriers to tertiary education from refugees not currently enrolled at USyd.



Plans for USyd Refugee Week have been pushed back to Week 1/2 Semester 2 due to clashes with the USU elections. However, we are pleased to have the Refugee Council of Australia, the Refugee Advice & Casework Service, and the Bread & Butter Project lined up to be part of the week.

Amelie Roediger

This month the Refugee Rights Office has been involved in building towards the campus forum organised by Students for Palestine, happening next Tuesday the 9th of May. This will be an important and impressive discussion marking 75 years of Palestinian resistance to apartheid. The office has been supporting this event as solidarity with Palestine is a crucial question for all those who want to oppose racism, imperialism and apartheid. There has been a recent escalation in Israeli settler violence that calls for left-wing institutions all around the world like student councils to organise solidarity campaigns with the Palestinians.

The council has annual Tamil Genocide Day rally happening on Sunday the 14th of May. This day marks the 14th anniversary of the Mullivaikal Massacre, which was the final blow to end the 30-year struggle of the Tamils against the religious-chauvinist Sri Lankan state. It is a day not to just mourn, but to continue to criticise our own government for their own ongoing role in supporting the Sri Lankan state, an important imperial ally. To promote this event the Refugee Rights Office are hosting a film screening and QandA together with the Tamil Refugee Council on Monday the 8th of May on campus, where we will watch the documentary 'No Fire Zone', which goes through some of these horrific events of 2009.

The Refugee Rights Office will also be joining the contingent of students organised by the Education Action Group down to Port Kembla, to show opposition to plans to build a nuclear submarine base there. This proposed nuclear submarine base is part of a broader escalation towards war, which if left unopposed will lead to countless more displaced people and refugees in the decades to come.

We show our solidarity with protests in the UK, which have unfolded over the past few months in response to the deeply racist 'illegal immigration bill'. This bill would allow all refugees arriving by boat in the UK to be detained for 28 days without access to a lawyer and without the right to apply for bail. Should this bill be successful, it would also allow the government to pursue their plans to send those seeking asylum in the UK halfway across the world to Rwanda. To justify this bill, leading members of the British parliament like the Home Secretary and the Immigration Minister have had to create a racist hysteria of lies about refugees being involved with crime and gangs, intent on 'cannibalising the compassion' of the UK. The Refugee Rights Office condemns this vile bigotry and sees it as not at odds with our own government's notorious refugee detention system, which the Labor government have made no moves to dismantle.

Annabel Pettit

Discussion:

Amelie Roediger spoke to her report and recommended everyone read the UN report on the problems with Australia's Refugee Policies.

Annabel Pettit spoke to her report and cover the main points and upcoming events.

Thomas Thorpe asked if Israel is racist, is Hamas racist too?

Annabel Pettit said that Israel is an oppressor nation, Palestine is an oppressed nation and the power imbalance is such so that Hamas is acting in self-defence.

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

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O6. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

This month, the social justice officers Julius, Eddie, and Keira have been campaigning around a variety of social justice issues.

Students for Palestine and SRC Global Solidarity officers have been organising a very important forum to be held on Tuesday 9th of May at 1:00pm discussing the questions of contemporary Palestinian politics.

For the Palestine forum, the Social Justice officers have been putting up posters, handing out flyers, and arguing its importance to students. This forum is being organized in the context of deepening attacks on Palestinians conducted and encouraged by the new far right Netanyahu government in Israel, and it requires our attendance. It is essential that on the anniversary of Al-Nakba, 75 years since the start of brutal ethnic cleansing in Palestine, that this fight is being led on this campus by leading activists.

The nuclear submarine deal and the housing crisis are two of the biggest social issues in Australia currently. We reject the military spending being undertaken by the federal Labor government as it is contributing to the drive to war. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, more than \$368 billion dollars are being spent on nuclear submarines that could be used instead on measures that would prevent everyone's living conditions from sliding backwards. Protestors in Tasmania drew attention to this by rallying against the building of a new \$700 million dollar stadium in the state with the sharpest housing crisis. They called out the government for its spending on enterprises like stadiums and submarines, at a time when so many are struggling to simply get a roof over their head. We welcome this high-profile opposition and are contributing to activism on similar issues in NSW.

We have been putting up posters for the Port Kembla March against the Nuclear Base on Saturday May 6th, designing and painting anti-war banners with the Education Action Group, and protesting the connections between our university and the military-industrial complex via its ties to Thales.

We have also been organizing and promoting the upcoming Protest against Labor's Budget for the Rich on Friday May 19th, 5:30 pm. This protest action is imperative because the Albanese Labor government has refused to use its federal budget to prevent living conditions from declining, through raises to job seeker payments and rent freezes. It will do nothing to benefit students facing skyrocketing HECS debts in this inflation crisis.

Discussion:

Kiera Garland spoke to the report and the importance of the upcoming rallies and forums happening in the next month and the importance of showing solidarity with Palestine.

Julius Whitforth spoke about the upcoming protest in Port Kembla opposing the nuclear subs and war escalation and that no one in the local community is in support and they realised this has nothing to do with defence of Australia but an aggressive escalatory tactic.

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

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **07. Report of the Environment Officers**

### Political situation:

The expansion of the fossil fuel industry continues to be an important priority of the government. Today the Beetaloo Basin has been approved by the Northern Territory government. Tanya Plibersek has also approved a new coal mine in Queensland, along with the Santos gas project in the Surat Basin. These are a few of the projects to go ahead in the near future. With the debate on the safeguard mechanism out of the news cycle - after the Greens voted for the legislation - there has been almost no criticism of the government's climate policy. The anti-protest laws are still on the books in every state that Labor governs. More polls reveal that most people want immediate climate action.

April also saw the release of the ADF strategic review. In it, the authors argue that Australia needs a large investment in our military capacity to fit a rapidly changing security environment in the Pacific. In other words, they want money for war with China. The Albanese government has enthusiastically accepted, promising a \$19b investment over the next couple of years. This follows March's announcement of \$368b for nuclear submarines as part of the AUKUS deal. As well as devastating for human life, the storage of nuclear waste in Australia and the increase of a risk of nuclear war is a major threat to our environment.

Meanwhile, the same government has baulked at the prospect of raising the rate of Jobseeker above the poverty line and dismissed calls to pause indexation of student debt. The money is there, the government just doesn't want ordinary people to think it's for them.

### Thales & Santos Off Campus Rally

The Environment and Education collectives organised a rally against the university's ties to weapons company Thales and its investments in fossil fuel giant Santos. The rally focused on the drive towards war and how the university will support this. It was good to focus on the on - campus aspect of Australia's militarism and fossil fuel investments and how the university benefits and profits off these destructive industries. There was a good turn out and Nick Deane from the Marrickville Peace Group was one of the speakers. It was a lively rally and actions like this are an important starting point for building up anti-war sentiment amongst students.

### Next actions

We are planning on making an "honest management ad" for the university and put out more information on AUKUS, the university's role in Australia's escalation to war and the environmental impacts it will have.

We will also be organising with the Cross Campus Enviro group around June 5th which is World Environment Day.

We will be attending the student contingent to the Port Kembla action on Saturday protesting against the nuclear base being planned there.

### Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to the report and condemned Labor for their approvals of mining and fracking licences and also their push towards war with their investment in nuclear submarines also plugged the port Kembla

Deaglan spoke about Labor's investment in fossil fuels and submarines and the lack of support work worker and students, what are you doing to address thins

Madeleine Clark said that there wasn't enough money for students and rental assistance in the budget yet there is constantly enough funds for weapon companies and the rich. Adding they would be promoting the upcoming budget protest on campus.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **08. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers**

Yesterday, Khader Adnan died after an 86-day hunger strike in protest of his detention without charge or trial. He was denied medical attention in an Israeli prison. The Israeli army responded to the protests by Palestinians by firing rockets to the Gaza strip.

Israeli apartheid and violence never ends, yet our government and governments across the world are pledging support and celebrating Israel's 75 years of independence. There is nothing to celebrate. To reclaim the truth about the Nakba, I have been involved in organising a forum with Students for Palestine on "75 Years of dispossession and resistance in Palestine." We will be discussing the ongoing Nakba which is Arabic for "catastrophe". This date signifies the beginning of dispossession and ethnic cleansing in Palestine. Since then, the Israeli occupation has expanded settlements, and continued to escalate violence against Palestinians with near daily raids, settler pogroms and increased policing of Palestinians. Human rights organisations such as Amnesty International rightly describe this as apartheid.

Palestinians have always resisted the occupation. Through mass uprisings, general strikes and acts of daily defiance, they have opposed the apartheid regime. 2021 saw the most recent outburst of Palestinian resistance, inspiring millions across the world, including here in Australia. With such a significant date coming up, marking 75 years since the Nakba, it is really important that the SRC mobilises to show solidarity with Palestine. There is the Al-Nakba rally on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, but also the students for Palestine forum on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, in Carslaw lecture theatre 375.

The SRC has a history of supporting pro Palestine motions, so it is important that is put into practice and councillors and office bearers mobilise for the most important time of the year for Palestine activism.

We both attended a May Day celebration hosted by a collection of Iranian socialists. This annual event was particularly touching this year as it comes in the wake of the greatest protest movement to shake the Iranian regime since 1979. Those who we talked to, many political exiles from the '79 revolution, emphasised the importance of continuing the tradition of marking May Day as the day of the International Working Class. It's similarly important to learn from the current protest movement in Iran, the inspiring and militant role played by students, and the strategic power of the working class to win the demands of all of the oppressed.

In the coming month, we will be throwing ourselves into the anti-AUKUS activist events. The AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines represent the most significant escalation in the drive to war with China, and we steadfastly oppose them. Australian students and workers have no interest in a war waged to defend the economic and geopolitical interests of the Australian and US ruling classes. Against the nationalism of our ruling class, we stand for the internationalism of workers and students. This starts with building up a movement against war and militarism. All anti-war councillors and office bearers should be at the May Day march against the Port Kembla nuclear base- this is the most significant protest yet against AUKUS and we welcome the decision of the South Coast Labor Council and Wollongong Against War and Nuclear (WAWAN) to call it. We will also be building and attending the Students Protest the Quad Meeting on May 24. These protests are both important first steps in opposing the escalating drive to war, and the SRC should lend its institutional weight and resources to helping promote them.

Deaglan and Jasmine

Discussion:

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke to the report covering its main points, encouraging everyone to attend the

upcoming forums and rally.

Deaglan Godwin continued saying that it's not just about attending these events but building them talking to your friends about them and putting up posters and promoting the event, and also said that students need to talk about the ..

Freya Leach asked about the Israeli civilians who were killed in an attack by Hamas and where is the support for them.

Jasmine Al Rawi said that there have been 5 times as many Palestinians Killed this year by Israeli forces. And repeated Annabel's comment about the difference between an oppressor nation and an oppressed nation.

Freya Leach responded saying that response doesn't answer the questions saying there are still 35 innocent people who have been killed. And could the Officers confirm that what they are saying is they do not stand in solidarity with the 35 civilians killed purely because they are Israeli?

Shovan Bhattarai said that it was important that the SRC stand in Solidarity with Palestinians, and support the upcoming forum and asked if the officers could talk about some of the speakers for the event.

Deaglan Godwin said that one is Nick Reimer, who has written a book on boycott theory, Peter Slezak an anti-Zionist Jewish academic from UNSW, Lucia Sorbera and Ban Hasanin. Deaglan Reiterated that they stand in solidarity with oppressed nations not apartheid regimes.

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

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Julius Whitforth

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

### **Disability space**

Construction of the disability space will be started in May and be done over the Winter Holidays and construction is still slated to be finished in September (or early semester 2).

Designs and the colour have been selected and Khanh and Jack will periodically go to space and talk with the USU and the Uni to see how progress is going.

### **Disability Inclusion Week**

The week that the Disability Space is opened it is planned by SUPRA and the SRC and disability collectives to launch disability inclusion week. This week will be filled with events to help celebrate the launch of the disability room and how disabled students should be more included on campus and in society.

## **Disabled Honi**

Submissions for disabled Honi will be opening after the next Disco meeting to get a head start on hopefully making a full issue of Disabled Honi this year. We wish for all Disabled students and carers to submit their ideas or produce art of the issue.

## **The “WE NEED BOTH CAMPAIGN”**

The “WE NEED BOTH CAMPAIGN” had its first rally in front of Jason Clare's Office because of his role as the Federal Education Minister he is pushing for the abolishing of hybrid learning options around the country. Him and his office has been constantly ignoring messages and phone calls from Isabell Harding as the NUS disability officer.

This made it necessary for us to do a rally in front of Jason Clare’s office. We organized a hybrid protest where we had speakers from across the country all speak using digital means to show that hybrid options are available. We also walked into Jason Clare’s office to speak to his staff and we could not get a hold onto anyone and were told to just do more calls and emails.

So we did call and email, we organised phone banks and emailing sessions in which we called and sent hundreds of emails over the course of a week to overwhelm his ministerial and electoral office.

No changes have been promised, and the campaign will still keep going.

## **Senate select committee on the cost of living**

Many disability organisations sent off submissions to the senate’s select committee on the cost of living. The committee met in Warwick farm for a public meeting, Jack Scanlan was chosen as a speaker to try and get 5 minutes of speaking time. Jack did not get approved for speaking time. Jack did attend the public hearing and did try to speak to any senator and their staff to try and pass on how hybrid learning helps rural and disabled students.

## **NDIS submissions and NDIS reboot**

Minister for the NDIS Bill Shorten has announced that the NDIS will be rebooted and the disability collective will be lobbying and submitting to the NDIS review. Disco members have worked with other organisations to get submissions to the NDIS. Disco will keep up the fight for the NDIS.

Thanks, Jack Scanlan and Khanh Tran

Discussion:

Khanh Tran and Jack Scanlan covered the main points of the report.

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

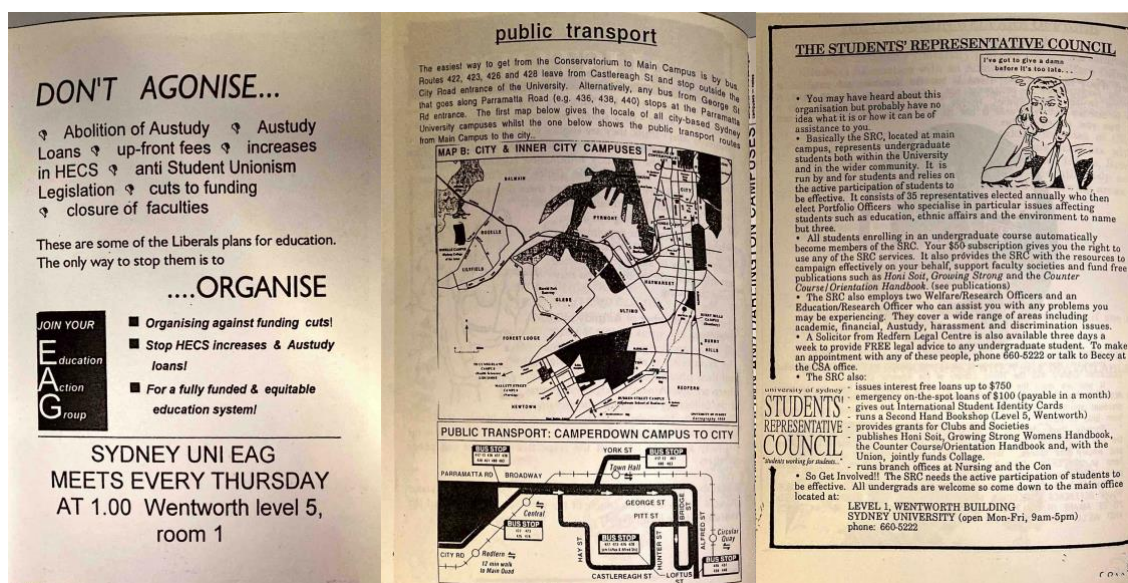
Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Tom Wilks

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## O10. Report of the Intercampus Officers

- There have been a significant number of events at the Conservatorium, including:
  - o A panel for international women's day
  - o We've had success in getting the Conservatorium faculty to pay for a trial of 3 Pixii pad and tampon dispensers over 3 months, one for each level's major bathroom of the Conservatorium - a major step in the campaign for free period products on campus, as the University has never approved this
    - Once we can get results from this trial, we'll look to getting results from the currently run programmes by the USU, SULS, Engo societies, SRC, and other groups providing free period products to then put forward a proposal/campaign to the University to finally fund this
  - o The CSA have approved a budget for the Musical Unionism Series, which we're looking to bring to the SRC later in the year (hopefully to align with Rad Ed)
  - o The revived Conservatorium Representative Council has had a lot of successes recently, and is doing some great work over there
    - Looking into the appalling state of the rooms, with significant issues with mould in the practice rooms and pianos
  - o We've also found some archival materials of CSA Handbooks, right after the Con was amalgamated, looking at the history between the Con and SRC and other collectives. We'll be looking to share any of this, and look into how we can include this kind of stuff going forward.



- I've been looking into some reforms to be made to the Intercampus Committee, to update it to reflect the current state of the University, including members from:
  - o Dental Association - Surry Hills dentistry
  - o Health, medicine, and nursing societies - various hospital placements, Westmead
  - o Conservatorium Students' Association - Music
- A particular concern we're looking into is future-proofing the SRC for the expected expansion of the Westmead campus to include 25,000 students



- What are the ways we can ensure their needs are met, and they are represented by the SRC?
- How can we support the creation of a Westmead Students' Guild?
- What are some lessons we can take from the previous major health satellite campus in Cumberland, and the Cumbo Students' Guild?

Lydia Ellis, Rheu Hou, Alexander Poirier, Theresa Xiao

Discussion:

Alex Poirier spoke to the report and covered its main points.

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

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Yasmin Andrews

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **O11. Report of the Interfaith Officers**

Thomas Thorpe:

- Fellow Interfaith Officer Sargun Saluja has responded to my email and am hoping to organise an interfaith panel soon
- Thomas Thorpe spoke about Easter and quoted Colossians 2.
- Asked everyone to love one another as God loves us

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

Moved: Quiana Harvey

Seconded: Luka Fon

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

### **O12. Report of the First Nations' Officers**

Ben McGrory:

- Trying to build the collective and bring in more OBs has been a challenge as students feel they have others speak over them
- Voice debate continues and encouraged anyone who doesn't want the voice but want's a treaty to look into more closely as there will be no treaty if the voice fails
- NTEU
  - Attended a meeting with staff today and the University has let us down
  - We are trying to push the NTEU to push further in negotiations with us for better Indigenous staffing quotas
  - It would be good to have SRC, and EAG support in this fight with the University

- There is also the University moving forward with their new identity policy.

Discussion:

Jasmine Donnelly what the ID policy was.

Ben McGrory noted that it was first proposed last year, and the University is trying to bring it back after it was heavily criticised. It's a policy that would lock out the most vulnerable First Nations students from being able to attend University. In the past when there was 'consultation' the University took the opportunity to abuse students, and many left the consultation process in distress.

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

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **P. Special Business**

There were no items of special business.

#### **Q. Motions of Notice**

Procedural motion to move Q1- Q5 and Q10- Q13 to the end of the meeting.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **Q6. Motion to Dismiss Christine Lai as an Editor of *Honi Soit***

##### **Preamble:**

In the Student Representative Council's Constitution and Regulations, under Section 4 of Part 6, there is a provision that permits the dismissal of an Editor of *Honi Soit*.

*(i) In cases of serious misconduct, Council may dismiss a sitting Honi Soit editor through the following procedure:*

*(i) Notice of motion to dismiss the editor shall be given in writing not less than ten (10) working days before a meeting of the Council;*

*(ii) The motion shall be included in the Motions on Notice section of the Agenda for the meeting of the Council;*

*(iii) Deleted 2020.*

*(iv) The consent of at least two-thirds of Honi Soit editors shall be required for an editor to be dismissed.*

The remaining nine Editors of *Honi Soit* wish to dismiss Christine Lai. We measure Lai's "serious misconduct" against our working agreement, a document drafted before our Editorial term, and

to which all ten Editors mutually assented. We submit that Lai has repudiated this agreement with respect to workload.

Before we begin this statement, we would like to address the definition of “serious misconduct”. The preliminary advice that we received from Standing Legal is that the meaning of “serious misconduct” is loose, and that we are entitled to make submissions as to Lai’s breaches of our working agreement. We have consulted the SRC, who indicated that there is no precedent for what constitutes “serious misconduct”. In the Council Minutes from 6 March 2013, when this provision was inserted into the Constitution and Regulations, there was no discussion of the definition of “serious misconduct”. No Editor has been removed by this provision; there have only been cases of resignation. The question of whether Lai’s conduct constitutes “serious misconduct” is up to *this* Council alone.

## **1. WORKLOAD**

Our working agreement contains the following stipulations as to workload: that we share an equal workload as Editors; that we inform each other of commitments that may get in the way of our editing; and that we attend all meetings, events and weekend Editorial shifts. Lai failed to meet all of these expectations.

Lai consistently ignored our messages, refused to increase her workload when requested, submitted pieces late and to a poor standard, pitched almost no news stories despite her membership of the news working group, engaged in no administrative work, did not explain her lack of attendance at meetings, did not engage in pitch meetings, did not attend our Welcome Week layup, did not assist with *Honi’s* Welcome Week obligations, and overall, did not put the interests of the paper above her own. This list is an understatement of Lai’s misconduct as to workload: please consult our attached statement for further detail.

We note that given Lai’s attendance and stalling commitments at Welcome Week, she contributed to other campus groups. We encourage Editors to contribute to SRC collectives, and many of us proudly did so; what we do not accept is when an Editor makes no contribution to *Honi’s* extensive workload at Welcome Week.

We also note that in the period from December 1 to the end of Welcome Week, Lai published 15 articles in the publication *CityHub*, and 38 articles in the *Star Observer*. Lai did not disclose this to us. In one of her *CityHub* news stories, Lai reported on a protest that she had refused to attend for *Honi*, and that we were therefore unable to cover. When Lai has so extensively contributed to other publications during her term as Editor, we do not accept any argument from her that she was unable to contribute to *Honi*.

For completely abrogating her duties to share in *Honi’s* workload, and thereby compromising the paper’s integrity. we submit that Lai’s behaviour constitutes “serious misconduct”.

## **2. DUE PROCESS**

In Welcome Week, the remaining Editors contacted Standing Legal, who advised that we follow the above regulatory procedure. This is what we did: we obtained the consent of at least two-thirds of *Honi* *Soit* Editors.

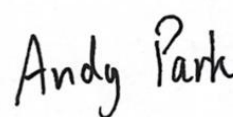
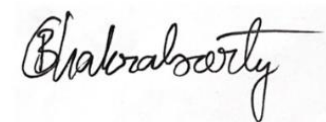
Crucially, we attempted to meet with Lai on numerous occasions after our first meeting on Welcome Week. Lai ignored the majority of our texts, and with no explanation, she delayed our subsequent meeting to a week later — despite the fact that we regularly saw her flying on campus.

We then pursued the form of due process advised by the SRC, and sought legal advice. Our solicitor encouraged us to organise mediation with Lai — respectfully and on equal terms. Immediately after this appointment, an external body emailed Lai to request a mediation session. This request was made on the morning of March 8; Lai has still not agreed to mediate, or even discuss this dispute with us.

Given the sheer burden of work that editing *Honi* involves, we needed to engage another Editor to support us. We did this before the Semester 1 census date, so that a prospective Editor would have the chance to reconsider their study load before beginning their work as an Editor. This has proven to have been essential, as Caitlin was able to adjust her workload to account for the overwhelming commitments of *Honi* prior to census date. Caitlin has been a dedicated, enthusiastic Editor, and instantly contributed to the paper in the way that Lai did not. However, Caitlin cannot be remunerated by the SRC until this motion passes: only some of the remaining Editors are able to pay her out of their own (taxed) pockets, and Caitlin does not receive superannuation or employment protection. Lai is still receiving the SRC's money, even though she has shown a consistent unwillingness to engage with the team through mediation, or commit to the paper as a whole.

Overall, we are at a loss of what to do. Lai has demonstrated that she cannot share in our duty as Editors, and for this reason, her position as an Editor is no longer tenable. This situation has now been going on for nearly three months, prolonging what has been an unreasonably difficult time for those involved. We would like to get back to editing the paper.

Please find the signatures and consent of nine *Honi Soit* Editors below.



Misbah Ansari, Katarina Butler, Luke Cass

Bipasha Chakraborty, Ethan Floyd, Veronica Lenard

Luke Mesterovic, Eamonn Murphy, Andy Park

**Platform:**

1. The SRC recognises that Christine Lai, for not contributing to *Honi's* workload, has committed serious misconduct.
2. The SRC accepts the signatures of nine *Honi Soit* Editors, thereby satisfying the consent of at least two-thirds of Editors.

**Action:**

1. The SRC dismisses Christine Lai as an Editor of *Honi Soit*.

Discussion:

Luke Cass spoke to the motion covering the points and the background of why this motion is being put

Katarina Butler spoke to the motion and why it's no longer tenable to work with Christine Lai.

Ethan Floyd spoke about asking Christine Lai to resign but she wouldn't and so the rest of the Honi editorial team are asking the Council to remove her as an editor.

Yasmine Johnson said it was appalling there has been more cheering for a motion to sack someone than for anything left wing proposal in this council. Adding the story being told does not cover what Christine Lai was asked. Noting that Christine was told quit Honi or quit Socialist Alternative. Saying that this is not about political affiliation as there are 3 members of the Labor party on the editorial team but an attack because Christine is a member of Socialist Alternative.

Katerina Butler responded saying the situation was not sustainable and asked the council to support the motion.

Tiger Perkins said that being a organised socialist and an Honi editor are not mutually exclusive but that Socialist Alternative don't value Honi at all, so it makes sense that a member of Socialist Alternative wouldn't do any work on/for Honi.

Satvik Sharma said that the only thing socialists hate more than right wingers are themselves. Adding that the reason this motion is being proposed is because the editor in question isn't doing any work and that it was a hilarious notion, a socialist doing no work, adding this is why they say tax the rich because they can't earn money themselves. As a result he has no idea which way he will vote on the motion.

James Sheriff said he would be voting against the motion and the council should not be the arbiter of who is or isn't doing work, noting that every Honi team has have a mixture of people who are doing different levels of work.

Hersha Kadkol responded to Tiger Perkins' comments saying that despite your comments that the two are not mutually exclusive, you are supporting the removal of a socialist from the paper admitting it's because they are from socialist alternative. Adding that there is a history of Honi

being a radical paper but the current team is not radical, but a right-wing pro-Labor paper. In the past this paper campaigned against wars and supported students rights, the current paper does not do these things.

Thomas Thorpe suggested that Honi should use Spark Plus and then quoted Hilary Clinton's "love trumps hate" and Colossians 2 again.

*Satvik Sharma was named.*

Rose Donnelly noted that NLS did not think enough had been done for mediation at the start of this process, but more has been done to try to address that since. Adding that since then factional issues and competence issues had been conflated, noting that she doesn't agree with people being fired, but if people are getting paid out, and Christine has not been working for a while, she has effectively been paid out at this point. Adding that this motion is because she is an incompetent editor not factional

Alastair Panzarino read from and Honi articles to present that Christine's supposed incompetence should be dismissed as there is nothing well written in the presented article, and that this is a move motivated on political grounds and voting for this motion is a vote for insipid and banal content and a vote against is a vote for a political student paper.

Deaglan Godwin held up the paper, spoke about the cover and noted that activists need to beg for promotion of the back cover, and piggy backing off other activists work isn't radical. Adding that just claiming that Honi is radical doesn't make it so. Concluding saying Tiger Perkins is voting for this motion because he opposes Socialists in this paper, and that he thinks when Christine looks back on this, she will decide she made the right call by joining a socialist group.

Moved: Luke Cass

Seconded: Misbah Ansari

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

*The chair moved to Q17.*

### **Q17. SRC to hold a public forum on the Voice to Parliament**

#### **PREAMBLE/BACKGROUND:**

Previous meetings of this SRC have heard various positions on the upcoming referendum regarding the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, with repeated calls to either platform or seek out the voices of Aboriginal students and members of the community. This motion is a call to follow through on these positions, and endorse a public forum held by the SRC on the subject of the Voice to Parliament.

Left-wing members of this SRC may recall the speeches made at the Invasion Day rally in Sydney this January. Respected and trusted leaders from communities across the state made clear their

position on the Voice, standing in unanimous opposition to the proposal put forward by Albanese's Labor Party. MC of the rally, Lizzie Jarret, put it in no uncertain terms:

"We already had a referendum in '67 and it's done nothing for our rights. We are the voice. When the vote comes, vote no for a voice."

As Councillors have stated in previous meetings, it is crucial to platform and respect the voices of Aboriginal activists and communities. While the progressive 'Yes' campaign has the support of national institutions and the media, grassroots activists have not been given comparable opportunities to raise their genuine concerns and dissent to the Voice proposal. This SRC, as a majority left-wing body, has an obligation to correct this imbalance and ensure that working class, grassroots Aboriginal voices are not silenced or ignored.

We therefore propose that the SRC use its reach and resources to formally provide a public platform for Indigenous community leaders, representatives, and students to discuss their positions on the Voice, with students invited to join and participate in this discussion. We suggest that this meeting be held on Wednesday May 17, before the end of Semester 1.

Possible speakers could include:

- Lizzie Jarret, Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr, and Bundjalung woman, chair of 2023 Invasion Day rally in Sydney and leader in the campaign to end Black deaths in custody
- Nadeena Dixon, artist and granddaughter of renowned activist Charles 'Chicka' Dixon
- Ian Brown, Gomeroi activist leading the campaign against Santos in the Pilliga
- Kieran Stewart-Assheton, Yuin man and President of the Black Peoples Union
- Ben McGrory, USyd First Nations Officer
- Yvonne Weldon, First Aboriginal City of Sydney Councillor and Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Senator Lidia Thorpe, Gunnai, Gunditjmarra, and Djab Wurrung woman.
- Any other proposed speakers

ACTION:

- The SRC Executive to work with First Nations Officer and any supportive councillors to organise a public forum for the proposed date
- Invitations to be sent to proposed speakers ASAP
- Forum to be publicly advertised on SRC social media

Moved: Alev Saracoglu

Seconded: Honey Christensen

Discussion:

Alev Saracoglu read out the motion.

James Sherriff spoke to the motion saying this is not a call to support a particular position, but a to have a nuanced conversation on this. Saying that we need to platform grassroots and working-class activists, not just those with national platforms and greater power.

Ben McGrory proposed an amendment:

To add action point 4 that “Jacinta Price AND Warren Mundine be invited to speak on the panel”  
It was not amenable to the mover.

James Sherriff spoke to the amendment saying that this was supposed to be a progressive space for people to voice their position for or against who do not already have a large platform to express their views.

Lia called for a vote on the amendment.

Moved: Ben McGrory

The amendment was put and **FAILED**.

Rand Khatib spoke to the motion saying that ACAR will always be against giving any racists a platform.

Jack Scanlan spoke against the motion saying that this council has continuously not been working with the First Nations Officer and the collective, adding that when this motion was put up they put a list of speakers to Ben but they did not speak to him when he was already working on a speaking series with the USU and the Gadigal centre. Adding that he thought it was disgusting that Solidarity continues to say we need to do this but we’re not going to communicate or work with the Indigenous Officer or collective, but we will put motions up without consulting them. Concluding saying the motion should be voted down for a lack of consultation or engagement with First Nations students on campus.

Zebadiah Cruickshank spoke against the motion saying that this disregards the work from by activists and the debates that lead to the voice, treaty, truth statement at Uluru. This motion is paternalistic attitude towards Indigenous people, and contempt for the community and the idea that Indigenous people can’t come up with their own programs, and pushing back against this will ruin the reconciliation process for a generation by pushing the process backwards.

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the motion saying that this motion is not about taking a particular position on the Voice debates but to have a more nuanced conversation and that simple yes or no one currently being pushed.

Alex Poirier wanted a point of clarity saying that at this time the USU has no confirmed panels for discussions on the voice. The USU is looking into conversations with Indigenous members but the two should not be conflated.

Satvik Sharma spoke against the motion saying socialist want to do the same thing to propose a panel on an Indigenous issue and not let Indigenous people speak on the issue and are not willing to engage with all Indigenous perspectives. Adding what is the point of such an event if you’re not



willing to hear all the perspectives, and that this is about destroying the values on which this country was founded and this is about the left no willing to tolerate free speech.

Thomas Thorpe spoke to the motion saying that it is a good idea to have a panel, as it is important to be informed, but the is the point if only one side is going to be presented or listened too? Adding what is the point of having and Indigenous Officer if you're not going to listen to them, you don't need to agree but you do need to listen to many people and ideas to make an informed decision.

Freya Leach wanted to reminder everyone what the actual voice to parliament apparently actually is. Saying it is designed to give Aboriginal people who are silenced in general society the ability to make representations to the government to improve the outcomes of Aboriginal people's lives, this is a very noble goal. And asked people to reflect on what is happening here, some are suggesting that some Aboriginal people, just because of their views on a particular issue, should not have a voice. This is particularly ironic considering we just have a motion on not expelling member of Socialist Alternative from the Honi Soit editorial team because of their political views, yet when the tables are turned double standards applied, and asked everyone to turn around and look at who the real racists in the room are.

James Sherriff responded saying that people with large political platforms already have a voice, we are asking for people to listen to community members, those who don't have that platform, to hear their views on these issues. James noted that many people were not consulted in the process for the development at the voice, and we should be listening to these people not those who have a chance to share their position.

Ben McGrory said that Lidia Thorpe has a platform as an elected member of parliament. And that if the aim is to hear alternative voices they should First Nations voices be from all places on the political spectrum. Ben Added that he will be organising such an event anyway and that if this is something the movers wanted he would have organised it, but that Indigenous students on this campus want to have a voice on the issues affecting them.

Rand Khatib said she did not know why the First Nations Officer needed to be consulted for this as the event is platforming First Nations activists and she didn't see the First Nations Officer at any events happening on campus except to talk about this one issue.

Bridie Zorz spoke about the consultation process that lead to the voice, how many people were consulted, and that it is unfair that Indigenous people need to homogenous but other groups are allowed diversity. Adding that the assertion that you are speaking with Indigenous people when the Indigenous students on this campus are not being consulted, means you are not.

*Alev Saracoglu was named*

Hersha Kadkol said that the official no campaign is extremely racist and rests on a Law and Order style campaign aimed to entrench racism, and that since Peter Dutton and Jacinta Price head this campaign people have seen it for what it is and Dutton's approval rating has plummeted. The no

campaign cannot be seen to be given a win on this issue, but we shouldn't think that the voice to parliament will deal with tangible change for Indigenous people, this debate is just a distraction.

Zebadiah Cruickshank spoke against the motion saying that what they hear from the left tonight is suspicion that the community could never have concluded what they need, 80% to 90% is a pretty significant level of support, and nearly impossible to achieve. Dutton is awful, and I'm glad everyone in the Liberal party lost their jobs and Dutton will never be Prime Minister and will kill the Liberal Party. I understand too that there are indigenous people who do not support the Voice campaign, but If you're not Indigenous you need to back the 90% not the 10%.

Angus Dermondly spoke to the motion saying it's a sensible proposal and that listening to those from the both the Yes and No on the left is important, we should be hearing from people fighting against mining companies, and this forum is a good opportunity to do so.

Ben McGrory said that the Voice to Parliament is part of a long history pushing a a voice and recognition, this was not a mandate given to the Albanese government, it was given to the people, and the process is Voice, Treaty, Truth.

There was a request for a named vote  
The request was put to the council and **FAILED.**

Moved: Alev Saracoglu

Seconded: Honey Christensen

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

The following representatives wished to record their vote:

Satvik Sharma – Against

*In accordance with the Regulations there was a 15 minute break at 8:34pm*

*Quorum count at 8:53pm*

*The meeting was found quorate*

*Meeting resumed at 8:56pm*

Procedural motion to recount the vote of Q6.

Moved: Grace Porter

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting returned to **Q6.** for a vote recount.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to Q7.

**Q7. Title: Motion to Appoint Caitlin O’Keeffe-White as an Editor of Honi Soit**

**Preamble:**

In the Student Representative Council’s Constitution and Regulations, under Section 4 of Part 6, there is a provision that permits the dismissal of an Editor of *Honi Soit*.

*(v) Council may appoint Honi Soit editors to fill casual vacancies in the Honi Soit editorial team through the following procedure:*

- (1) A majority of remaining Honi Soit editors must sign a motion calling for the appointment of a specified new Honi Soit editor to fill a casual vacancy;*
- (2) Council may choose to ratify or reject the motion through a simple majority vote;*
- (3) This motion may be moved at a Council meeting without prior notice.*

The Editors request that the Council appoint Caitlin O’Keeffe-White as a new Editor of *Honi Soit*. Please find the signatures and consent of nine *Honi Soit* Editors below.



Misbah Ansari, Katarina Butler, Luke Cass

Bipasha Chakraborty, Ethan Floyd, Veronica Lenard

Luke Mesterovic, Eamonn Murphy, Andy Park

**Action:**

1. The SRC appoints Caitlin O’Keeffe-White as an Editor of *Honi Soit*.

Discussion:

Katerina Butler spoke to the motion saying that they need another editor and that Caitlin O’Keeffe-White has already been doing the work.

Luke spoke to the motion and explained why they chose Caitlin O’Keeffe-White.

*Deaglan Godwin was named.*

Satvik Sharma spoke against the appointment of Caitlin O’Keeffe-White, saying this was anti-democratic and it was an abuse of liberties and human rights and this is denigration of human right and he would stand against this till the day he days and we need to “stop the steal”, which was chanted several times.

Thomas Thorpe spoke against the motion saying that this is not a democratic process, the editorial team was elected by the students so why is it that the Council and Honi can appoint Caitlin without holding an election? Adding that he called for a bi election.

Freya Leach proposed an amendment, but it was ineligible as it was not in line process set by the regulations.

*Satvik Sharma was named.*

Moved: Luke Cass

Seconded: Misbah Ansari

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **Q4. Labor students condemn the decision by the Federal government to build eight new nuclear-powered submarines.**

##### **Preamble:**

The Australian Government has committed to build a new fleet of submarines in Adelaide. The full cost of the program will be between \$268 billion and \$368 billion.

There are many problems with this abhorrent use of taxpayer money. Firstly, to use the words of Paul Keating this project is like ‘throwing toothpicks at a mountain.’ These eight submarines will not serve Australian people in any legitimate manner. We are not a player in the submarine industry and forays into the area distract from actual solutions that might protect Australians from projected wars. To simplify: this project will not produce substantial gain compared to the substantial loss of up to \$368 billion. The second point is to address the submarines being

powered by nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is an incredibly haphazard solution to our fossil fuel problem, and not one that the Labor students believe is sustainable, or a respectable alternative to coal and gas. Renewable energy that doesn't have the potential to destroy sites, making them unliveable (every dystopian novel warned us) is the way forward. If we are building extremely expensive new stuff, such stuff should not be powered by nuclear energy. Not to go on but the Cold War and every other war is a great example of how an arms race can lead to war. Beijing released a statement on the 14th of March warning against this move: the verdict: "fuels arms races and hurts peace and stability". The third and possibly most pertinent problem with this massive waste of money is the stakeholders that this project inevitably remunerates.

**Platform:**

The SRC condemns the use of \$368 billion dollars of Australian taxpayer money for the submarines.

**Action:**

The SRC with the assistance of the collectives will create a pie chart which will be transformed into a poster of how one could better spend \$368 billion dollars. Current inspo: housing, renewable energies.

**Discussion:**

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion covering its main points and said she wished Labor had to followed through with this Liberal created deal and as Labor students we need to fight against this move, not just on campus but in all areas we can.

Daniel Bowron spoke to the motion saying that the AUKUS deal is an incredible waste of money and it also a worrying degradation of Australia's control over its defence capabilities, by giving the US and the UK such control over our taxpayer's money and predisposes us to being dragged into conflicts by those countries. Adding that the next time we are looking to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a program education and health would be a better option.

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion saying the is just another way the US can increase control over Australia and spoke about the unions standing against this and promoted the Port Kembla protest and encouraged everyone to come down and show support for this action.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion but wanted the motion to do more criticise the Albanese's government on this matter and expressed concern that some of the language could be seen as encouraging greater defence proliferation, and was hoping for clarification.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion saying that AUKUS is an imperialist treaty to make Australia just a vassal states of the UK and the US, costing millions of dollars at the expense healthcare,

housing and education for the people of Australia, the right of the Labor party are always talking about being fiscally responsible yet this move is a waste of money and to spend 4% of the GDP on something like this is ridiculous.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke about the AUKUS program and how it should be spent on housing and education and that we need to fight against the War agenda as a whole and oppose any escalatory and aggression techniques totally.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion saying while not a Labor student supported the motion and spoke about the engineering of the purchased submarines and the lack of what they actually offer and how before they arrive they will be out of date.

*Satvik Sharma was named.*

Lia Perkins noted that Satvik Sharma has been named three times and asked him to leave. Satvik Sharma objected, and Lia Perkins called for a vote to remove Satvik Sharma from the speaking list for the rest of the agenda.

Lia Perkins moved from the chair that Satvik Sharma not be allowed to speak for the rest of the meeting.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Freya Leach spoke against the motion saying that the submarines offer security with greater endurance, range and capability. Adding that people are complaining about a fiscally austere budget but never want to spend money on defence and asked the council how much is our freedom, social justice and activism worth to you saying that 2 activists were sentenced to 12 and 14 years for attending a peaceful meeting and we need to be able to defend ourselves from those countries that do not share our vision for a western society, and spoke about the Uyghurs, most of whom are Muslims in China with over 1 million being held in camps.

*Tiger Perkins was named.*

*Gerard Buttigieg was named.*

Peter Gu spoke to the motion saying that what Liberals are saying when they say self-defence, they mean more imperialism. And the Military proliferation leads to war not preventing it. Adding that he appreciates the concern for democracy in China, but the dictatorship in China is not worse than Western imperialism. The workers of China need to free themselves, not be freed by Western imperialism. War just means the death of Chinese and Australian workers. And it is workers who need to reclaim their power.

Ella Heid spoke to the motion saying that she supports the Labor students for putting up this motion and noted that Freya well articulated the current Labor Party position on this issue and we need to speak about this as it is the ALP who are funding warfare and driving up aggression. We

should be opposing AUKUS, not just because it's not economically sensible but because it is a part of war mongering escalation. We are not economic advisors we are anti-war activists and Australia not just a lacky to the US and UK it is its own imperialist force.

Moved: Rose Donnelly

Seconded: Daniel Bowron

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to debate Q9. and R2. together.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Q9. Nuclear Submarines...Subpar: The SRC opposes Albanese's signatory to AUKUS**

#### **Preamble:**

On 14 March 2023, Anthony Albanese stood with Joe Biden and Rishi Sunack, his American and British counterparts, to reaffirm Australia's commitment to the AUKUS deal, wherein Australia will receive nuclear submarines from the US and the U.K.

This is an egregious continuation of Scott Morrison's imperialist legacy, emitting a potent stench of aggressive militarism that must be opposed by this SRC. Albanese's AUKUS clearly stokes the flame of warmongering which will line the pockets of weapons manufacturers to the detriment of everyone else - in the same way that the University of Sydney has renewed its devilish partnership with Thales, encouraged by clear profiteering endeavours, to the detriment of everyone else. AUKUS also signals a shameful endorsement of US hegemony in the Indo-Pacific by demonstrating a willingness to submit itself to American foreign policy for the next thirty years. If historical precedent is anything to go by, this will involve unnecessary, cruel and illegal foreign interventions spurred by electoral desperation. Further, AUKUS establishes a precedent. A precedent that allows aggressive military use of nuclear power to be accepted as common practice, reinforcing the ways in which this policy contravenes the interests of everyone BUT the profiteering 1%.

In addition to this, amidst systemic housing injustice, amidst a chronic shortage of public housing, amidst the basement rates of social security payments, inter alia, it is abhorrent that \$368 billion will be funnelled into AUKUS. It is a ludicrous political justification that the agreement will create 20,000 jobs over the next 30 years to 'counterbalance' the extreme costs, which, by virtue, is a blatant middle finger to those who struggle to put food on the table.

Moreover, AUKUS poses grave concerns for the environment, in particular, reducing Australia to a dumping ground for high-level radioactive waste and promoting defence forces which are

enormous emitters of fossil fuels. It is an agreement so out-of-touch with the harsh realities of climate change that when these nuclear subs are being received (2039-35), global temperatures will have risen 1.5C above its pre-industrial state.

Therefore, by virtue (or lack thereof) of its aggressive militaristic and imperial nature, its excessive expenditure which spits in the faces of those struggling in the housing crisis, and its inevitably mammoth consequences to the environment, the Labor government's commitment to AUKUS should be vehemently opposed by this SRC.

**Platform:**

- The SRC opposes AUKUS and will support activist initiatives, such as anti-war forums and protests, in the fight against it.
- The SRC will continue to organise against militarist policies which includes, inter alia, the University of Sydney's ties to Thales.
- The SRC, in its sustained endeavours to protest for housing justice and the environment, recognises the Labor government's wrongfooted priorities in considering Albanese's commitment to AUKUS.

**Action:**

- The SRC will post a statement that makes its opposition to AUKUS clear.
- The SRC will support the Education Action Group in their campaign fighting against the University of Sydney's military ties.
- The SRC will endorse and commit resources to future anti-AUKUS actions in Sydney.

**R2. Student unions must act against AUKUS**

We're faced with a world of increasing tensions between nuclear-armed powers. The Albanese government has pledged \$368 billion for nuclear-powered submarines. New costings predict that this amount will actually only build 5 new SSN-AUKUS class submarines - the full 8 will cost over half a trillion dollars. The fact that the Albanese government has put a 50% contingency (i.e. \$122bn) aside for unexpected future costings reveals the seriousness of their commitment to militarism, as does its disregard for the warnings from anti-nuclear and non-proliferation advocates.

The billions of dollars currently being spent on the military could be used to solve the cost-of-living crisis being faced by ordinary people. The \$19 billion promised in response to the strategic review is nearly twice as much as the federal government's annual spending on public universities. This money could be used to increase public sector wages, raise welfare payments above the poverty line, or cancel student debt. Instead, the political establishment is siding with the US war machine, rapidly expanding Australia's military capacity, and beating the drums of war in an attempt to win popular support for its project.

In response to the recently released Defence Strategic Review, the government has also promised an extra \$10 billion over four years towards increasing the military's capacity to project force over



long ranges. Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles argued when the review was announced that Australia needs to be able to "project with lethality". Australia's own military expansion only adds to the drive towards war between the US alliance and China. Any war between these powers would have a devastating human and environmental cost.

In this context, students have a particularly important role to play. Universities themselves are tied in with militarism - the Universities Australia CEO spent a week last month in the US, cementing ties with universities there to better provide the skills and technology necessary for expanding the war machine. The commitment by UA CEO Catriona Jackson to use universities to provide training for a "whole lot of disciplines we'll need a bit of extra grunt in – from doctors and nurses in defence to psychologists and logistic planners" signals a real need for students and their unions to build concrete opposition to war, as they have done in the past. At Sydney University, SRC activists stood up to Australia's bloody involvement in the Vietnam war and the invasion of Iraq. Student statements of opposition and mobilisations like these can help set a tone for broader anti-war activism.

The Education Action Group and SRC are organising a contingent to the march for peace, jobs and justice at Port Kembla on May 6. The South Coast Labour Council have called their May Day rally at Port Kembla, where the federal government is proposing to build the AUKUS submarine base. This base, as South Coast Labour Council secretary Arthur Rorris notes, puts "a nuclear target on our backs", presents serious environmental concerns with regard to nuclear waste, and may even decrease the number of jobs available in the area. Local activists will be attending this rally as part of the Wollongong Against War and Nukes campaign group. This mobilisation of trade unionists and anti-war activists is a continuation of a long legacy of working class resistance to war in the Illawarra, and is a significant step in building opposition to nuclear power and to the AUKUS deal more broadly. We'll be meeting at Central Station at 9am on Saturday May 6 to travel to Port Kembla.

On March 24th, the QUAD - consisting of Australia, the US, India and Japan - will meet in Sydney. Anthony Albanese, Joe Biden, Narendra Modi, and Fumio Kishida will be in attendance to discuss a furthering of the US alliance in the Indo-Pacific. What they describe as the 'rules-based order' involves upholding the global dominance of, in Martin Luther King's words, the greatest purveyor of violence in the world. The Education Action Group, with education collectives from other campuses, is organising a Students Protest the QUAD Alliance event, and will join other activist groups as part of the Sydney Anti-AUKUS Coalition rally on the day. The presence of the US head of state shows the seriousness of the gathering: students shouldn't let this meeting go ahead without opposition. Between the increasing presence of AUKUS across the university sector, the deals being struck with weapons manufacturers on our own campus, and the warmongering of the Albanese government, it is critical that we mobilise a left-wing student resistance to the coming imperialist war.

#### Platform

1. The USYD SRC opposes AUKUS and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue and demands Australia's withdrawal from these alliances
2. The USYD SRC opposes the decision of the federal government to spend \$368 billion dollars on nuclear-powered submarines and the expected construction of a submarine

base at Port Kembla. It recognises that nuclear waste from the project and the construction of the base have significant human and environmental costs

3. The USYD SRC opposes the funding boost for the expansion of long-range missile projection capacity
4. The USYD SRC demands that money for the AUKUS submarine pact and other increases to defence spending be redirected into fixing the cost of living crisis, funding education, healthcare, and a just transition to publicly-owned renewables.
5. The USYD SRC recognises the immense human toll any conflict between the US alliance and China would take. It recognises that Australian military expansion only adds to the drive to war
6. The USYD SRC stands against the drive to war and will actively campaign against AUKUS and the Australian arms buildup

#### Action

1. The USYD SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means
2. The USYD SRC endorses the Port Kembla: March Against the Nuclear Base event on May 6th organised by the South Coast Labour Council, and supports the Wollongong Against War and Nukes campaign against militarism.
3. The USYD SRC endorses the Students Protest the QUAD Alliance event
4. The USYD SRC will share these rallies from its social media accounts and circulate them to their email and other lists
5. SRC office-bearers and collectives will promote these rallies from their personal and OB social media accounts

#### Discussion on Q9 and R2:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to their motion (R2) – spoke about the cost and how that could be better spent and how the choice to spend this money on this weaponry shows their priorities and push towards aggression.

Ishbel spoke to their motion (R2) and spoke about the connections of universities to the military industrial complex and the push to engage with the industry as the money being funnelled there is coming away from fighting the cost of living crisis.

Jordan Anderson spoke to their motion (Q9), and spoke about the lack of change or action taken by the Albanese government and how the lack of action and continued support for AUKUS shows tacit endorsement of all Scott Morrisons policies by not changing them.

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motions and the history of imperialist wars by Australia and how there was no reason to go forward with this purchase.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motions saying it was positive that most of the factions have come out against AUKUS but I disagree that this is just the ALP falling in line with the Libs but that there is a

long tradition of the ALP having their own aggression and falling in line with all establishment power.

Tamsyn Smith spoke to the motions and about the broad support of the motion and the Port Kembla protest coming up. Noting that Albanese's comment that Australia will still have a proud non-nuclear proliferation when he's bringing in nuclear subs to Port Kembla was ridiculous.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motions and what social order that Australia is falling into and that US imperialism and aggression and Hegemonic power. And said that as student we should be protesting this and war will always be felt by the working class across the world. Encouraged everyone to come to the protests.

*Freya Leach was named.*

Alex Poirier spoke to the motions adding the cost is too much and requires too much in maintenance cost too. And quote the Conservatorium new chair of vocal studies Deborah Cheetham Fraillon a Yorta Yorta/Yuin woman on the importance cultural diplomacy as a way of creating understanding and preventing othering " in every major conflict is have though the other of those who they believe cause problems to build support for their cause if we use the holocaust as an example it was through the othering of Jewish, Romani, Queer and disabled people seem like not people to let them die, in through playing music and showing art from Uyghur, Tibetan many other oppressed peoples that we can support and best stand up for them in China and other places that we are not needing to defend ourselves with guns and knives..." And spoke about the importance of highlighting and celebrating cultures and that force that isn't the best way to deal with issues of human rights.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion and about nuclear proliferation and they types of core that are needed to run these submarines is closer to weapons grade uranium, and asked why we would need first strike capability if just for defence.

Peter Gu spoke to the motion saying there is concern for the students, it's good to stand up to the party, but do they need to stand against imperialism. You need to do more than condemn the party, you need to take action, to campaign in the communities, the unions and to organise the anti-war movement. Adding that he is personally disappointed in the Honi editor motion earlier ass the Left needs to build unity not more division.

Lawrence [unknown last name] spoke against the motion saying that he grew up in China and is also a member of the Australian Army Reserves, saying that it is WWI when Russia declared war on Germany... Due to volume the recording was compromised and much of the statement was lost. But seemed to be along the lines of only a war between two superpowers such as at the time Russia and Germany and now China and they US can create enough suffering to trigger social

revolution so those on the left should like such a war as that is what Lenin needed to be taken seriously in Russia it was the conditions of the war that triggered the Russian revolution.

Hersha Kadkol spoke to the motion thanking Lawrence for reminding everyone that WWI ended because people took back their power. And Continued talking about the tensions between the US and China and Australia and China, speaking about the ALPs escalation in their rhetoric on China being the enemy and its being pushed as a part of ensuring the prosperity of the elite. Adding that on the issue of unity, Socialist Alternative is happy that we are pushing for unity on this but we also need to debate our differences.

The motions were put and voted for en bloc

Q9

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

R2.

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motions were put and **CARRIED.**

## **Q15. TERFs off our turf, and their Neo-Nazi friends too**

### **Preamble**

On the 11th of March, Posie Parker (or Kelly Jay Kean) began her Australian ‘Let Women Speak’ tour. Over the next 12 days, including that day itself, she would be met by counter protests much larger in numbers than her speeches in essentially every city she traveled to. Kean, and transphobic talking heads such as her, claim that their transphobia is a left wing position; this is disproven by the political messaging of the crowds that come out to support her. In Melbourne, or Naarm, the National Socialist Network arrived to support her against the counter-protesters. The NSN is led by Thomas Sewell, a noted participant in the United Patriots Front who also attempted to recruit the Christchurch shooter into his other white nationalist group The Lads Society. As per their name, they are a very explicitly neo-nazi group, and they held a banner saying “Destroy Paedo Freaks”. Kean and her ilk have attempted to claim that they felt threatened by the Nazis and that they were not there for support, yet they clearly didn’t come to counter-protest so they evidently did come to support.

The virulent transphobia that Kean masquerades as “campaigning for women’s rights” is plain for all to see and we need not accept the framing that Transgender Rights come at the cost of Women’s Rights. The Rights of Transgender people and Women’s Rights are intertwined, for there are many women who are also transgender. It is equally plain to see the ties that bind the TERF movement globally with the far right and neo-Nazism. We call for the SRC to condemn the

transphobia of Kelly Jay Kean. Equally, we call to recognise the active support the far right gives to transphobic movements globally and the active links between TERFs and Neo-Nazis, in their shared fight against the rights of transgender people.

**Platform:**

- The SRC opposes transphobia in all its forms and will support activist initiatives, such as pro-trans rights protests, in the fight against it.
- The SRC will continue to organise against transphobic policies in NSW Parliament which includes the lack of protections for queer people, particularly young queer people, in the Anti-Discrimination Act.

**Actions:**

- The SRC will post a statement highlighting the interrelationship between the politics of the TERF movement and the politics of the far right, including the Neo-Nazis in Melbourne, and affirming support for Transgender Rights.
- The SRC will support the Womens' Collective and the Queer Action Collective in their future actions against transphobia and for trans rights.
- The SRC will endorse and commit resources to future anti-transphobia and trans rights actions in Sydney.

**Discussion:**

Iggy Boyd spoke to the motion reading out the motion.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying that it is important that we talk about and reflect on what has happened recently and that it was deeply shocking to see these neo-Nazi's out on the streets of Melbourne but also unsurprising. And the importance for standing against the Far Right and point out the connections between the far right.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion making quotes from white nationalists to demonstrate their stance and highlight why they need to be stood against and how these groups would rather align themselves with neo-Nazis than get along with other people.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion saying that Posie Parker had been emboldened by right wing rhetoric around the world, but due to protests left Australia saying it was the worst place she'd ever been and that Posie Parker is part of a tiny bigoted minority.

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the motion saying that if you are speaking from the TERF perspective you're not a feminist.

James Sheriff spoke to the motion saying it was important to note that TERFs are people who have

tried to move around many different political sections been removed by all, and now have to hide behind Nazis. Adding that TERFs have no place in feminism or the left.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion speaking about the attacks on the Queer community in history, and those that have been occurring recently, and the danger and violence the LGBTQI+ community has been subjected to.

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion saying it is important as now there is such work happening to dehumanised people in the trans community and that these people are not just anti-Trans they are also anti women and anti-disabled people. There is no benefit to aligning yourself with these bigots and there's no safety is hiding behind Nazis.

Moved: Iggy Boyd

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to hear Q16, R5 and R1 in that order.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Ella Haid

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Q16. Disrupt Budget Day!**

Preamble:

The ANU Housing Action Collective is hosting a Disrupt Budget Week protest on the 9th of May. They are working with the ANU Students' Association, the NUS Education Department, the Get A Room campaign, and other groups to build a coalition to fight the housing crisis and the cost of living crisis.

Property developers and landlords are prioritised over the working class time and time again, and the government's budget is going to reflect this. The Housing Australia Future Fund is investing 10 billion dollars into an 'investment fund' for housing, and claiming that putting money directly into public housing is impossible. Meanwhile, they are investing 368 billion dollars into nuclear submarines and will be giving landlords a total of 101 billion dollars worth of tax cuts over the next four years.

Students are one of the many groups who will get the short end of the stick in these deals - and we need to fight for real housing change. This campaign is fighting for rent caps and rent freezes, an end to privatised on-campus accommodation, and calling for public housing to be at least doubled.

This campaign is being organised on-the-ground in Canberra by its students and activists. Though the NUS has been informed of this protest, they have proceeded to organise a different protest in the morning. This will undercut the effectiveness of both protests. Furthermore, the NUS protest plan is more inaccessible to students and activists than the one organised by local activists, and the location alone will make attending both protests extremely difficult - not to mention that protesting for 4 hours on a Tuesday means that many will be forced to choose between the two protests. Instead, the NUS should be working with local activists on building a campaign together in order to maximise attendance and effectiveness. Students should be working together, not against each other, on fighting the housing crisis.

Platform:

- The USYD SRC endorses the ANU Housing Action Collective's 'Disrupt Budget Day' protest
- The USYD SRC encourages the NUS to work collaboratively with local activists and campuses

Action:

- The USYD SRC will advertise the protest and support building a Sydney contingent to the protest.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to their motion highlighting the importance of protesting considering the lack of supports being offered to people and the lack of direct investing into public housing and other essential services spending money instead on nuclear submarines.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion speaking about the legitimacy issues of the ALP while they make decisions that only benefit the rich and the military industrial complex at the expense of those they purport to represent.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion saying the ALP is running the economy in favour of the wealthy, and moving money away from social securities, housing and healthcare and focused on war and supporting the wealthy.

Freya Leach spoke in favour of the motion saying that the budget doesn't do enough for working families with no plan for paying down the debt.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R5. Labor's Budget is For War and The Rich**

## **Preamble**

Labor promised in February to deliver a “responsible” government that would deliver “sensible cost of living relief”. The mainstream press narrative echoes the government’s own talking points, suggesting that the treasurer Jim Chalmers has to “walk a fine line between compassion and restraint” (in the words of the *AFR*) in the current conditions of inflation and cost of living pressures. Less than a week out, it’s clear that the May 9 budget will have “restraint” for the poor and “compassion” for the wealthy. It is forecast to include enormous handouts to the rich through major income tax cuts, fails to raise revenue from big property holders, and will spend big money on new weapons - all while refusing to give serious funding to welfare recipients and public housing.

On Monday last week, the Defence Strategic Review promised a further \$19 billion on military spending over the next four years, which will take the defense budget above 2% of annual GDP. The next day, the government again refused to raise the rate of Jobseekers, with senior ministers at different points repeating that they “can’t fund every good idea”. However, the money that is being directed towards defense could easily be diverted to lift jobseeker rates, which would only cost \$24 billion over four years. Jobseekers told the economic inclusion advisory committee that the payments were so low, that they routinely skipped meals, or sold off items from their homes, or were unable to afford essential medications. Now that jobseeker rates are increased for the 220,000 on the payment over the age of 55, we have to be clear that those who are struggling to make ends meet on the payment are of all ages.

Similarly, instead of using budget funds for direct investment in public housing, the government will cut red tape for developers and create a fund for private companies to increase supply and build “social housing”, in numbers that are inadequate to address the severe shortfall in housing for the most needy, and keeping power in the hands of construction companies. Meanwhile, former students are repaying their ballooning study debt faster than their wages can keep up, as the government has refused to end indexations on HECS.

Money for these measures could also come from repealing the \$254 billion worth of income tax cuts, largely for the wealthy, to be implemented over the next 10 years, or from abolishing negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions. However, Chalmers has made it clear that these policies will remain in place.

In this context, it’s important for the SRC and office bearers to show their opposition to the budget and resist the narrative that it “combines compassion and restraint”. Opposition to welfare spending restraint in the upcoming budget has been significant in the context of many students, workers and poor people struggling to meet the cost of living. Student unionists should aim to give this an activist response. Supporting, promoting and attending the May 19 budget response organised by NSW Education Organising and the Get A Room campaign will be important for the whole SRC.

## **Platform**



1. The USYD SRC recognises that the May 9 Labor government budget represents an attack on the poor and working class in a cost of living crisis in service of military funding and concessions to the rich
2. The USYD SRC opposes the military funding boost for nuclear-powered submarines and long-range missiles and demands from the Albanese government the immediate redirection of these funds towards welfare payment increases, public housing, federal public sector wage rises and education. In particular:
  - a. The USYD SRC demands that the jobseeker welfare payment increase is generalised from over-55s to all ages on the jobseeker cohort
  - b. The USYD SRC demands that the Housing Future Fund policy is replaced by direct investment in public housing to meet the current shortfall
3. The USYD SRC demands the Albanese government repeal the stage 3 income tax cuts
  - a. The USYD SRC additionally demands the Albanese government abolish negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions that have contributed to the current housing crisis by privileging landlords in the housing market
4. The USYD SRC calls for the abolition of HECS indexation in advance of the 7.1% increase in June
5. The USYD SRC endorses “Protest Labor’s budget for the rich” organised through NSW Education Organising and NUS Education’s Get A Room campaign for Friday May 19, 5:30 pm at Sydney Town Hall.

### **Action**

1. The USYD SRC will publish the preamble and platform points as a statement from its public Facebook and Instagram pages.
2. The USYD SRC will commit resources including those of the Social Media Intern towards promoting the upcoming “Protest Labor’s budget for the rich”.
  - a. The USYD SRC will promote all social media material produced to publicise this rally from its Facebook and Instagram pages.
  - b. The USYD SRC will circulate a promotional message for this rally through its email and other relevant lists.
3. SRC OBs and councillors who support this motion commit to attending the upcoming “Protest Labor’s budget for the rich”.
  - a. SRC OBs and councillors who support this motion will promote the rally from their personal and collective social media pages.
  - b. Factions which support this motion will mobilise their members to attend the rally.

### **Discussion:**

Annabelle Pettit spoke to the motion and the importance of the budget and it speaks to the priorities of the government, and this budget tells us we have a government that wants to transfer wealth from the poor to the rich. This highlights why it is importance that we organise a response to this and make clear that we did not expect these priorates from this government while the population faces the one of the most challenging cost of living crisis.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion saying that the government has chosen austerity for the working and middle classes and socialism for the rich, military and he encouraged his fellow members to hold the ALP to account.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion, and spoke about the importance of building up the May 19<sup>th</sup> protest in Sydney, as it has greater importance than the one in Canberra.

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **R1. End the Occupation: the SRC supports the events commemorating the 75th anniversary of al-Nakba**

Israel was founded 75 years ago this May. For Palestinians, the anniversary marks 75 years of ethnic cleansing and oppression.

In 1948, following the decision of the United Nations to partition Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state, Israel declared its independence. This sparked a genocide, in which hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled from their ancestral homes. Countless Palestinian villages were destroyed, often alongside massacres of their inhabitants. The period is known to Palestinians as al-Nakba, The Catastrophe.

Today, the Nakba continues. Even basic expressions of Palestinian identity are criminalised. Benjamin Netanyahu currently leads Israel's most right-wing government ever. In January, Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir banned the public flying of Palestinian flags. In March, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said publicly that "there is no such thing as a Palestinian nation. There is no Palestinian history. There is no Palestinian Language". In the year to March, 75 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, with hundreds more injured, including by settlers on rampages sanctioned by the current Israeli government. This is an extremely concerning escalation in far-right rhetoric and violence.

Despite this, resistance to Israeli occupation and expansion continues. In the last year, Palestinian protests have taken place in all major cities in occupied Palestine.

The Australian government is complicit in the oppression of Palestinians through the diplomatic and political support it offers to Israel, as well as through industry and defence partnerships. Successive Liberal and Labor federal governments have been vocal in their political support for Israel, often claiming Israel has "a right to defend itself" even when it is violently attacking Palestinian communities, such as during the semi-regular bombings of Gaza. Supporting Palestine means opposing the policy of partnership between our government and Israel.

Platform:

- 1) The USYD SRC supports the resistance of Palestinians to their oppression.

- 2) The USYD SRC opposes the diplomatic and political support offered by the Australian government
- 3) The SRC endorses the Rally to Commemorate Al Nakba, 75th Anniversary: End the Occupation. The demands of the rally are:
  - a) End Israel's military raids on Jenin and Nablus in the West Bank
  - b) Support the Right of Return for Palestinians
  - c) End the siege on Gaza
  - d) End the Occupation of Palestine
  - e) Hands off the Al Aqsa Mosque
  - f) Australia: Cut ties with Israeli Apartheid
- 4) The SRC endorses the upcoming forum hosted by Students for Palestine - Sydney Uni on 75 Years of Dispossession and Resistance in Palestine.

Action:

- 1) The SRC will share promotional material for the Rally to Commemorate Al Nakba from its social media pages, on its website and through its email and other lists
- 2) The SRC will share promotional material for the forum hosted by Students for Palestine from its social media pages, on its website and through its email and other lists.
- 3) SRC office-bearers and collectives will promote these rallies from their personal and OB social media accounts
- 4) *When this motion as passed the council will take a photo with the Palestinian flag in solidarity*

Discussion:

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke to the motion

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion saying he wanted to see support in in motions translated into actions.

Amendment:

To add to action points:

- When this motion as passed the council will take a photo with the Palestinian flag in solidarity  
*It was amendable to the movers*

Iggy Boyd spoke to the motion

Freya Leach wanted to acknowledge it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel independence and noted it was the only true democracy in the middle east, and the chant of Hamas of “from the river to the sea” means genocide for 7 million Israelis. Adding that you can’t be for anti-racism and against the state of Israel.

Hersha Kadkol what “from the river to the sea” means one democratic state where Jews and Palestinians can live in peace together. Israel has had a slide into antidemocratic practice. Adding that the pro-Palestinian movement on campus is really important, and to hear from the speakers on the work they’ve been doing, it’s really important that people be in Sydney on May 9<sup>th</sup> for the forum.

Rand Khatib said that to collate the freedom of Palestinian people, with the genocide of Jewish people is incredibly racist, as Palestinians have never called for that. Rand then encouraged everyone to come to the Nakba Rally.

Moved: Jasmine Al Rawi

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The following representatives wished to record their vote:

Satvik Sharma – Against

Alex Poirier – For

### **Q18. Demand fair pay for mandatory student placements**

#### **PREAMBLE/BACKGROUND:**

The opportunity for students in various faculties to undertake professional placements is important and valuable as a method of practical learning. However, it is generally required for students to undertake these placements entirely without remuneration. This means over 500 hours of unpaid labour for students studying education, and a minimum of 1000 hours for social work students. Without fair pay for hours worked, these professional placement arrangements are exploitative and harmful.

Unpaid placements disproportionately impact students from marginalised communities who may not have the financial resources to support themselves while working for free. Many students are forced out of their degrees and future careers because they cannot complete the required placement hours without financial support. This perpetuates systemic inequalities by effectively barring disadvantaged students from employment in these industries. Unpaid placements prohibit the decolonisation of social work and teaching professions, making completing a degree more difficult for Indigenous peoples who have been impacted by the ongoing effects of colonisation, as well as for migrant communities who may face additional language, cultural and especially financial barriers to studying and working in Australia. Many students are already doing unpaid support work in their own families or communities, or cannot sacrifice paid work hours that are needed to support themselves or their household.

Students in the Department of Education and Social Work have drafted an [open letter](#) to call for an end to this mass exploitation, with the following demands:

- Education providers and placement agencies must ensure that social work and teaching students are paid at a rate which is at, or above, minimum wage.

- The AASW and NESAW must take immediate steps to enforce their codes of ethics, ensuring that their members and affiliates are aware of their obligations to provide fair remuneration for student placements.
- Action must be taken to lobby for the increase of Centrelink allowances for students undertaking placement.
- Universities provide compensation at a fair and equitable rate for students undertaking mandatory placements where agency remuneration is not available or sufficient to meet the minimum wage.

**PLATFORM:**

This meeting of the SRC:

- Supports the demands of students in the Department of Education and Social Work, as listed above and in the open letter.
- Acknowledges the exploitation perpetuated by mandatory unpaid student placements
- Demands fair pay for all students completing mandatory placements, at or above minimum wage.

**ACTION:**

- The SRC will distribute the open letter via social media and email and encourage students and staff to sign on
- All councillors and office bearers will have their names added to the open letter
- The SRC executive will put the demands of the open letter directly to Sydney University management, and to the relevant industry bodies for education and social work.

**Appendix:**

Link to the Open Letter - <https://forms.gle/Cv7Fp2HNOvqWGWms7>

**Discussion:**

James Sherriff spoke to the motion reading it out and noting that this particularly relevant to education and social work students.

Yasmin Andrews finished reading out the motion to the council.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion and highlighted the cost to students and the expense of working for free during a time of a cost of living crisis.

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion.

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the motion.

Moved: Yasmin Andrews

Seconded: Alev Saracoglu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*There was a break at 10:55pm*

*There was a quorum count at 11:12pm*

*The meeting was found quorate.*

*Meeting resumed at 11:13pm.*

### **Q19. Condemn the Belfield gay-bashing: Fight the religious Right!**

#### **PREAMBLE/BACKGROUND:**

On the 21st of March, a small protest led by Community Action for Rainbow Rights was attacked by a mob of hundreds of far-right protesters. The incident took place outside of a talk by One Nation's Mark Latham, held after a Catholic Mass at St. Michael's Church Belfield. Far from being a "clash" as the media reported, this was a targeted, one-sided, cowardly attack by far-right goons on a small group of LGBTQIA+ protestors.

The gay-bashing mob attack last night is the culmination of years of mobilising within ethnic minority Christian communities—mainly Catholic and Orthodox—by dedicated queerphobes. Anti-queer organising began to ramp up during the cuts to Safe Schools and the No campaign in the marriage equality postal survey. Large numbers of people mobilised at rallies, social events and special prayer meetings, where priests and other "community activists" told the faithful that gays are coming to groom their children; an efficient move to distract parishioners from the systemic child rape that occurs in religious institutions, and the continuing attempts to block survivor compensation claims.

This has been legitimised by politicians in One Nation and the Liberal Party arguing for "religious freedoms" and "parental rights", and promoting the idea that it is a human right to be a bigot toward queer people, as well as the Labor party who is still humouring discussion about the Religious Discrimination Bill and enabling fundamentalism and queerphobia to fester and consequently inciting such violence. The corporate media has been more than happy to enable this not just by reporting on "gender whisperers" as Scott Morrison likes to refer to non-binary educators, but by stirring up moral panic and spreading misinformation about trans people in particular.

We call on all councillors to condemn these attacks and the transphobic religious Right. We have to stand in the streets to defend and extend both the right to protest, and the rights and safety of

queer people. The power of religious institutions has to be broken, and far-right politicians like Latham need to be driven into irrelevancy.

PLATFORM:

This meeting of the SRC:

- Unequivocally condemns the violent attacks that took place in Belfield on March 21
- Expresses its support for the activists from Community Action for Rainbow Rights who were attacked
- Stands against the “Christian Lives Matter” movement, Mark Latham, and any other conservative, religious, transphobic or far-right bigots

Discussion:

James Sheriff spoke to the motion

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion

Luka Fon moved an amendment:

To remove “ and the liberal party” and “ The corporate media has been more than happy to enable this not just by reporting on “gender whisperers” as Scott Morrison likes to refer to non-binary educators, but by stirring up moral panic and spreading misinformation about trans people in particular.”

*It was not amendable to the movers*

The amendment was put to the council

Moved: Luka Fon

Seconded: Freya Leach

The amendment was put and **FAILED.**

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion

Yasmin Andrews spoke about the dangers to queer youth this rhetoric has, asked to add an amendment.

Proposed amendment: to add that the SRC sign on to CARR’s open letter.

*It was amenable to the movers.*

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion and spoke about going to an conservative Anglican school and the importance of not allowing groups to target vulnerable people to forward their own agenda.

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion saying these people are fascists, this is coming from powerful people in the church, and these are the dying throws of a broken system.

Thomas Thorpe said that violence is not right, but to condemn Christians as all far right people for the action of the few, is akin to blaming all Muslims for a terrorist attack, for all leftists for a leftist stabbing. I talked earlier tonight about showing love, and asked all people have a relationship with Jesus Christ, and that we do not need to be perfect because he is, and quoted Romans 5.

Moved: Honey Christensen

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to debate and vote on Q20 ad Q21 en bloc.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded:

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Q20. Help support the "we need both" campaign and fight against the "Academic integrity" narrative**

#### Background

The "WE NEED BOTH" campaign has been launched by the National Union of Students and we must support this movement and help build for it.

The "WE NEED BOTH" campaign is about putting back the government's requirement for online, hybrid, and accessible learning options that were implemented in 2020. These changes are up for review in July 2023, and many universities (including USyd) have already pledged to not bring back accessible learning options.

The removing of remote and hybrid learning options including USyd. Many universities are using the excuse of academic integrity to shield them making university and education at large inaccessible.

Online exams have a 2% of academic misconduct, the same percentage as physical exams. This shows that universities do not care about academic integrity and are just using it as an excuse to not provide services and options for disabled students.

Online and accessible learning options can be implemented as seen in the 2020-2022. These changes and the redocic is just a cost cutting measure targeted at disabled students. From the 2019 national disability survey done by Children and Young Adults with a Disability (CYDA) 10.8% of students report being excluded from exams, 9.9% remote not being able to attend class because of their disabilities. We should be fighting for the most accessible education at any cost.



## Platform

- The SRC supports all the points of the “We need both” campaign
- The SRC will write a letter to Jason Clare, the Department of Education (State and Federal), and Mark Scott about our support for the “We need both” campaign
- The SRC believes that “academic integrity” is being used a shield to excuse to discriminate against disabled students and make university less accessible

## Action

- The SRC will support the upcoming rallies, phone banks, email drives, and petitioning for this issue and encourage all students to get involved building and working this campaign
- The SRC will protest and lobby for universities across the country to implement the “We need both” campaign demands from the National Union of Students
- The SRC will push for accessible education to be enshrined into universities charters, laws, and the upcoming university accords

## **Q21. Don't ban laptops in class**

### Background

There have been many teachers across the university that in their lectures have banned laptops or other digital devices. They are fully allowed to do this under the university charter. The problem is that many disabled students have been denied the use of laptops and other digital tools, even when talking to teachers and staff why they need these devices.

### Platform

- The SRC supports and will advocate for all students and especially disabled students to have access to digital tools to best learn
- The SRC believes that digital tools are necessary for some students and students should not be blocked to use these tools

### Discussion:

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motions

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motions and the

James Sheriff Proxies to Ella Pash

Alex P – spoke to the motion saying ableism intentional or otherwise should not be tolerated and the university should find other ways to ensure academic integrity

Q20. And Q21.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motions were put and **CARRIED.**

## **Q22. Accessible activism**

### Background

Accessibility is key for a fighting student union. Disabled people are often left out of activism, events, and campaigns where their voices are needed.

### Platform

- The SRC acknowledges that many physical forms of activism are inaccessible or physically or mentally dangerous for disabled activists
- The SRC will work with disabled activists, the disability officers, and the disability collective to get advice and put in place accessibility features in our activism when necessary
- The SRC notes that fully accessible activism is not possible but being as accessible as possible in our activism is a goal to strive for

### Action

- Any activism endorsed by the SRC should if possible follow these accessibility guidelines
  - Having activists with mobility differences to be allowed and prioritised to stand at the front of a march or rally
  - Having march paths be along smooth, flat, hard ground to help activists with mobility issues
  - Having spaces or accommodations for people with sensory issues by having areas (either in the back of a march, or off to the side) that allows people with sensory issues to de-stim
  - Meeting and forums should be held inside with accessible entrance and exits and should have online options if possible
  - Respect the social distancing, mask wearing, or physical contact rules of immunocompromised activists
  - Accepting and putting plans in place for support animals, objects, and people to be at a demonstration
  - “Bio breaks” of 5-15 mins be implemented every 1-2 hours for meeting or round tables to allow people to take a break and some self-care
- The SRC will not denounce or block any activism that is not accessible but will encourage activism to be as accessible as possible and for planners in this action to talk to the

disabled students, the disability officers, and the disability collective for advice on how to improve accessibility in activism where possible

Discussion:

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion saying these are guidelines and we need to be creating a more accessible space in our activism.

Satvik Sharma proposed an amendment: Remove all action points and replace them with - to support disabled students in activism the SRC will no longer participate in protests for the future

*It was not amenable to the movers*

*The motion was put as a foreshadowing motion*

The debate on the original motion continued.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion and found the amendment and the giggling at this motion offensive. Alex also noted that some of the largest protests have been by disabled people pushing for their human rights.

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion saying that it was well written and made it clear and not restrictive suggestions and this is basic and should be supported. Adding that all the motion is saying is to be inclusive where you can.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*As the motion passed the foreshadowing motion **LAPSED.***

## **N. General Business**

### **R3. The USyd SRC stands with French workers against the reform!**

#### **Preamble:**

In France, workers are continuing to strike against the Macron government's plan to raise the pension age from 62 to 64. Electricity workers have cut power to businesses and rich neighbourhoods while granting free energy to poor neighbourhoods and hospitals. Garbage worker strikes have forced garbage to pile up on the streets, while oil refinery workers have nearly exhausted the country's supply of petrol.

These incredible strikes aren't the product of a certain disposition inherent to French culture or people. They are possible because the working class has maintained the tradition of striking in the face of government attacks. Every time the government has tried to raise the pension access age, or increase the minimum number of years worked in order to receive the pension, workers have fought back with strikes and protests in their millions. This points to the strategy necessary to rebuild the workers' movement here in Australia.

French university students have consistently stood in solidarity with these strikes, walking out of their universities and barricading them on the days of national strike action. They've set up joint assemblies with workers and hosted mass student assemblies to vote on what to do next. When Macron used 49.3, it was student groups which called immediate rallies, which morphed into nightly protests drawing in more and more people, often confronting immense police repression. University (and high school) students are acting as a militant spark to the existing anger of the working class, while also attempting to create spaces of political discussion outside of the official union channels.

This year, the pension age in Australia has been raised to 67 years, one of the highest in the world. This pension age has been steadily increasing since 2017 when it was 65. French workers and students are showing us the fight that would be needed to win better conditions here. Our government does not care about Australian workers. To lower the inhumane pension age in Australia, a union strike wave around this issue would be needed.

**Platform:**

1. The USyd SRC stands with French workers and supports their strikes and protests against Macron's pension reforms.
2. The USyd SRC commits to rebuilding a fighting student movement which can play a similar role to that being played by students in France today.

**Action:**

1. This meeting of the USyd SRC will take a photo in solidarity with the movement against the pension reforms.
2. The photo and motion will be shared onto the SRC's social medias

**Discussion:**

Keira Garland spoke to the motion and about the action being taken to fight back against the Macron government and also how these action could work here to ensure support

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion.

Julius Whitforth spoke to the motion, saying what is happening in France at the moment is the best thing happening in the world right now, and shows the strength of the unions and shows that the working class and students have kept the traditions of striking alive.

**Proposed amendment to platform three:**

To add "that the SRC would condemn violent militant unionism and will only condone peaceful action"

*It was not amenable to the movers.  
The amendment was put as a foreshadowing motion.*

Debate resumed on the original motion.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and that this is about strategy and maintaining the fighting traditions.

Lawrence [unknown] spoke against the motion saying that the reforms of Macron are necessary, and France's Gini coefficient shows it has a high level of equality and high level of taxation and what is being fought against is unsustainable.

Moved: Ella Haid

Seconded: Keira Garland

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to move all remaining motions en bloc and to cut all all speakers but hear the mover, seconder for all en bloc, and one for and one against for all en bloc

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**

The following representatives wished to record their vote:

Thomas Thorpe – against

Satvik Sharma – against

Luka Fon – against

#### **R4. Motion to Renovate PNR Study Space**

##### **Background:**

The PNR building is not a nice spot to study. It is stuffy. The aircon breaks. The bathrooms leak and flood seemingly once a semester. Some of the computers do not work. There are limited places to study. It is generally not a nice place to work.

There is the new J03 building which fixes many of these issues, but the amount of seating is even less.

In saying this, there are some positive aspects to the PNR building. The virtual reality laboratory and the kitchen come to mind. Therefore, the learning centre should not be completely overhauled.

Renovating the existing PNR building would allow the good parts of PNR to be retained, while enhancing the rest of the building to the benefit of the engineering students who use it.

**Actions:**

- The SRC believes that all students should have access to a study space which is conducive to optimal learning, including good airflow, working aircon and bathrooms, functioning computers and sufficient space to study
- The SRC, as a representative body of the student population, pressures the university to renovate the PNR building study space to address the above concerns
- The SRC will send a letter, with the option for students to sign onto, to the university pushing this motion

**Q1. Industrial Relations reform**

Australia's modern day industrial relations system is currently one of the most bloated, job killing and inefficient regulatory frameworks in Australia. By giving power over wages and conditions away from individuals and businesses to unelected bureaucrats, our current system undermines small businesses and makes it harder to produce. All that the award system and the minimum wage allows for is media storms to dominate the airwaves about supposed wage theft, when in reality it is just businesses being punished for paying the market rate. Well meaning advocates may argue that this is to protect the worker but in actuality, workers lose jobs, and prices are higher for consumers.

Now the new labor government has taken this a step further by proposing a disastrous industrial relations framework that takes us days back to the horrors of the continual strikes of the 1970's. Government's role is to simply provide a framework for individuals to cooperate and produce, not to intervene and dictate prices and wages. By introducing multi employer bargaining, the Albanese Labor government risks harming the economy and business simply because they want to serve the interest of trade union bosses.

**Platform**

- The USyd SRC opposes the Albanese government's industrial relations system
- The USyd SRC calls for the abolition of the award system and the minimum wage, in light of the harm it does to workers
- The USyd SRC supports minimising the scale and scope of the Fair Work Commission
- The USyd SRC supports the reimplementation of the "WorkChoices" reform of the Howard Government

**Action**

- The USyd SRC executive make a statement on all social media within 5 working days publishing this motion as official SRC policy.
- The USyd SRC use all available means, through advocacy and activism, to oppose workers rights being trampled by big government and political trade unions.

## **Q2. Motion to Reintroduce Order of Australia system of honours**

### **Preamble:**

The Australian system of honours has historically recognised outstanding achievement and service. The Order of Australia confers the paramount recognition for such work. The federal government website states that honours “help define, encourage and reinforce national aspirations, ideals and standards by identifying role models”. This explanation provides two reasons for reintroducing the knighthood system. First, it rewards people for good deeds, thus both demonstrating that that is something we, as a nation, value and incentivising individuals to perform good deeds. Second, it provides a way for good role models to be identified, something which is important for all Australians, particularly young Australians who we are supposed to be building up for the future.

### **Motion:**

1. The Usyd SRC supports recognising outstanding achievement and service performed by Australians.

### **Action**

1. The Usyd SRC will pressure the government to reintroduce the Order of Australia system of honours through a continuous campaign throughout the year.
2. The Usyd SRC will post the preamble of this motion as a statement on all of the SRC’s social media within 5 working days

## **Q3. Trotskyism as the lesser of all evils**

All flavours of Marxism are so profoundly broken and wicked that, in an ideal world, they wouldn’t be rationally considered as viable forms of government by university students. That said, should students attending the University of Sydney wish to be part of the revolution (in solidarity – solidarity forever – with their comrades worldwide), it is necessary for the SRC to assist them in understanding that Trotskyite Marxism is indeed the lesser of all Marxist evils, as it is the only realistic global form of government.

Leon Trotsky was a realist who understood the practical limitations ignored (or, indeed, overridden with force) by other Marxists. History has proven that Trotsky’s vision of permanent revolution is a necessary component to achieve any form of stable socialist transformation of the world. Why? Upon reviewing the historical record, it seems to be the case that Marx’s two-stage theory hasn’t successfully materialised anywhere. The idea that capitalism (and workers fighting

within a capitalist system) would eventually cave to a Marxist state has been empirically disproven. In fact, the political capital of workers – which Marxism should supposedly inherit over time – has instead rejected this ideology of greed, dehumanisation and destruction. By contrast, it is capitalism that has raised their standards of living far beyond any precedent in human history. Marx claimed, in a society under capitalism, that: “The lowest and the only necessary wage rate is that providing for the subsistence of the worker for the duration of his work and as much more as is necessary for him to support a family and for the race of labourers not to die out. The ordinary wage, according to Smith, is the lowest compatible with common humanity, that is, with cattle-like existence.” Given the amount of university students from all backgrounds with iphones and laptops at our university, and presuming they’re not all the bourgeoisie, Marx is wholly incorrect. Can we really call the modern lives of the vast majority of the population ‘cattle-like existence’?

Therefore, to implement a worldwide Marxist revolution, we need to deceive the workers on an international scale (hiding capitalism from them) in Trotskyite ‘permanent and international revolution’! Many claim the USSR failed as they saw the comparative wealth and success of the West. We can avoid this by ensuring all worldwide are equally downtrodden and unable to see the benefits of free markets, and have declining Marxist states assist in overthrowing largely functional liberal Democracies to impoverish them too. Go Trotsky!

**Platform:**

- Marx, Engels and Lenin were detached from reality. Trotsky was slightly less detached from reality.
- Stalin and Mao were genocidal maniacs who demonstrated the final product of attempting to forcefully implement the utopian ideals of communist and socialist theory.
- It seems Trotsky was a practical thinker in his ideal of ‘permanent’ and ‘international’ revolution.

**Action:**

- Beside advocating fiercely for the benefits of capitalism, the USyd SRC will support all future actions that support the Trotskyite struggle over the (very) slightly more catastrophic ideas of mainstream Marxism, Leninism, Marxist-Leninism, Stalinism and Maoism.

**Q4. Motion to officially endorse Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida as the Sydney University Student Representative’s Council’s preferred candidate for the 2024 US Presidential Election**

**Platform:**

That the USyd SRC officially endorses Ron DeSantis to be the 46th President of the United States

**Action**



- That the USyd SRC publish a statement on all forums practicable (including but not limited to every social media platform run by the USyd SRC) endorsing DeSantis within 5 working days after the 1st meeting of the 95th Council
- That the USyd SRC sends a notice, informing the office of the Governor of Florida of its endorsement, and any major Centre Right organisations in the United States and Australia of its endorsement within 10 working days after the 2nd meeting of the 95th Council
- That the USyd SRC offers to send the DeSantis Campaign any material, financial and other aid practicable to be provided, while complying with relevant foreign interference legislation.

### **Q5. Return and Earn motion**

#### **Preamble:**

Since its implementation in 2017, the 'Return and Earn' scheme has been a successful initiative to reduce the volume of litter in NSW. The NSW EPA identified that in 2020 "there was a 52% reduction in the volume of eligible container litter in NSW, and over 300,000 tonnes of materials recycled."

With the present use of drink containers at the university, a reverse vending machine, which is used to refund people for their bottles, seems like a good strategy. However, there are none, and the closest one is two kilometres away in Rozelle. This is notwithstanding that there are a few over the counter refund locations near the university, but having some on campus would be much easier for students. If we are realistic, no one is going to walk to Broadway for a 10-cent refund on their bottle, but they might use a machine if it was on their way to class.

As we look around the university, we see overflowing bins with bottles sticking out, and rubbish left on the floor. This looks untidy, is gross and does no favours to the environment. In the pursuit of ecological sustainability, the university should consult with the state government to have reverse vending machines installed on campus.

#### **Platform:**

- The USyd SRC supports the Return and Earn scheme implemented by the NSW government as a means to reduce litter
- The USyd SRC desires a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly campus
- The USyd SRC wants students to be able to be refunded for their bottles

#### **Action:**

- The USyd SRC will pressure the university to work with the state government to install Return and Earn reverse vending machines on campus

### **Q10. Motion to Launch "don't be a tosser" anti-litter campaign on campus**

#### **Background:**

It does not take long to find rubbish scattered on the ground when walking through the university. This looks bad and is not helpful for the environment.

The NSW Government launched the “Don’t be a Tosser!” campaign in 2014 in an attempt to combat litter. According to the NSW Environmental Protection Authority, “93% of the community want the NSW Government to address the issue of littering”, and “96% of the community approve the Tosser campaign message”.

The NSW Litter Report 2016-2020 explains that since 2013-14:

- NSW litter volume decreased by 43%
- NSW littered items decreased by 19%

This is a testament to the effectiveness of this campaign, alongside complimentary initiatives. Furthermore, “after being exposed to the campaign, community members demonstrated positive changes in awareness, attitudes and behaviours around littering.”

In order to reduce the amount of litter on campus, the university should launch a similar campaign.

**Platform:**

1. The SRC supports the Tosser campaign as a means to reduce litter
2. The SRC desires a cleaner and more environmentally-friendly campus

**Actions:**

1. The SRC pushes the university to take initiative to combat the amount of litter on campus.
2. The SRC pushes the university to launch an anti-litter campaign to deter rubbish on campus.
3. The SRC will publish a statement to condemn littering on campus within 1 week of this motion being passed.

**Q11. Motion to fix squeaky doors in J03**

**Background:**

The doors in the new engineering building (J03) are squeaky and annoy students who are meeting or working inside the study space.

**Actions:**

1. The SRC supports having study spaces which are free of squeaky doors.
2. The SRC believes that the doors should not be designed to squeak.
3. The SRC requests that the university arrange for the doors to be fixed.

## Q12. Motion to commemorate ANZAC Day

### Platform:

That the University of Sydney SRC

1. Acknowledge the sacrifice of our glorious Australian warriors in fighting to defend Australia and Australian values
2. Acknowledge ANZAC Day as a day of extreme national significance, and a day of commemoration to remember the sacrifice Australian soldiers made in defence of our nation
3. Commemorates the sacrifice that Australian soldiers have made for western values.

### Action items

1. That the University of Sydney SRC participate in ANZAC Day memorial services held at the University of Sydney
2. That the University of Sydney SRC put out a statement acknowledging the sacrifice made by Australian soldiers in **defence of our values of democracy, human rights, private property rights and individual liberty.**
3. That the University of Sydney SRC provide whatever reasonable support to veterans organisations as requested.

## Q13. Motion of well wishes for His Majesty, the King

### Platform:

That the University of Sydney SRC

1. Wish His Majesty on a glorious and successful reign.
2. Congratulate His Majesty on his accession to the throne.
3. Acknowledge the importance and significance of the crown as an important and valuable institution, both in Australia, the UK and globally.

### Action items

1. That the SRC post on all social media platforms a congratulatory message congratulating him on his accession to the throne, in consultation with the movers of this motion.
2. That the SRC encourage the viewing of His Majesty's accession, and hold a watching party to encourage greater viewership of His Majesty's accession.

#### **Q14. Motion to sing the national anthem**

That at any general meeting of the Student's representative council, the council sing the national anthem before proceeding onto general agenda items.

Discussion of the motions en bloc:

Thomas Thorpe spoke about the action of bloc-ing the motions together and cutting all speaking time as being anti-democratic and spoke directly to Victor Zang saying if he does not support these motions, he's not working for engineers and then to the rest of the council that they are focused on issues that are not in the interests of the student body.

Satvik Sharma spoke to the council saying that it's time to fight the work left, they aren't willing to debate work place relations reform, we should be endorsing Ron DeSantis for the US primaries.

Yasmine Johnson spoke against the motions, saying that the SRC has been speaking about some of the most important things like the rising imperialism, and they want to talk about the British monarchy. Yasmine also spoke about how most of the people in this room hate the Liberals but that the current federal government also needs to be held to account.

Rose Donnelly spoke against the motion saying she heard there was a party for King Charles' coronation but would be more inspired by his death.

R4. Q2. Q5. Q10. Q11.

Moved: Thomas Thorpe

Seconded: Satvik Sharma

Q1. Q3.

Moved: Cooper Gannon

Seconded: Satvik Sharma

Q4. Q12. Q13.

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Cooper Gannon

Q.14

Moved: Satvik Sharma

Seconded: Thomas Thorpe

The motions were put en bloc and **FAILED.**

*The meeting closed at 12:06am.*