



src activism
advocacy
representation

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

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

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

MINUTES:

of the 5th regular meeting of the 96th SRC held on Wednesday the 12th of June 2024. Meeting held in the ABS Lecture Theatre 1110 and via Zoom

*There was a quorum count at 6:30 pm
The meeting was found inquorate.*

Procedural motion to wait another 15 minutes for quorum

Moved: Rav Grewal

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

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

There was another quorum count at 6:35pm

The meeting was found quorate.

A. Meeting opened at 6:35 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Deaglan Godwin be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Ivan Samsonov

James Dwyer to Daniel O'Shea

Grace Porter to Jeremy Ison

Jordan Anderson to Alastair Panzarino

Jamie Bridge to Wendy Thompson
Sofija Filipovic to Luke Mesterovic
Martha Barlow to Rand Khatib
Alex Mcevoy to Tyberius Seeto
Angus Dermody to Jacob Starling
Simon Upitis to Taleen Jameel
Ned Graham to Mia Williams
Ayran Ilkhani

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Thalia Arnold resigns as Social Justice Officer

E2. Appointment of the 2024 Electoral Officer

Request that the Council approves the appointment of Riki Scanlan as the Electoral Officer for the 2024 SRC elections.

E3. Appointment of the 2024 Electoral Legal Arbiter

Request that the Council approves the appointment of Edward McMahon as the ELA for the 2024 SRC elections.

Motion: To accept E1. E2. and E3. en bloc

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of 96th SRC Council held on 3rd of April 2024 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 3rd of April 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Ethan Floyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 26th of March and the 14th May 2024

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 26th of March and the 14th May 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Eliza Crossley

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 6th of March to the 30th April 2024.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Harrison Brennan gave a verbal report:

- We've been at encampment last 2 months, now at day 50.
 - o Movement began in the USA at Colombia University, and we set up soon after
 - o This has been set up in solidarity with the Palestinians as they face ongoing destruction and attacks from Israel
 - o As well as the encampment there have been rallies and other protests
 - o The Uni is complaining about the cost of the encampment in security, and this shows how much it's been effective
 - o We've been engaging students and we've also got the SGM coming up to continue this momentum
- Looking at possible pickets at weapons manufactures' buildings and at the Labor conference.
 - o This is important as all they've offered is weasel words to Israel asking them to be careful and doing nothing to put pressure on Israel to end these attacks
- At the next council there will be
- We've now formally appointed Riki Scanlan as the Electoral Officer for the 2024 SRC Elections

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Eliza Crossley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Jasmine Donnelly and Deaglan Godwin gave a verbal report:

Deaglan Godwin

- Being with the encampment
 - o Biggest student movement on this campus for years, and has brought the student movement starting in the US and now around the world and USyd has placed a leading role in Aus, and seen encampments starting up all over the country such as Utas and Deakin
 - o We've also seen the attempts of management to shut the camp down to hide the success and student engagement
 - o Since the last council meeting the genocide in Palestine has only intensified, with more massacres like the ones we are seeing in Raffa, and it has shocked the world seeing what Israel is willing to do to terrorise and massacre Palestinians,
 - o We are very proud to be a part of the fight for Palestinians, and that we are pushing back against management and keeping pressure up where other campuses have caved early and where other Student Unions are run by certain factions are more worried about their political appeasement than they are about the activism, and this is why we've been successful

Jasmine Donnelly

- Commended Deaglan Godwin and Harrison Brennan on the encampment
 - o Condemned the Labor party position on Palestine
- Ran a drug reform event at the Con which went well

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore asked about the Vice President's report in Honi and why was it so unserious

Jasmine Donnelly it wasn't meant to be unserious, but a humorous approach.

Deaglan Godwin distanced himself from the report, adding that he didn't think it was appropriate, and concerning that people were focused on that and not on doing the work of the needed activism.

Jasmine Al-Rawi responded saying she was concerned by the lack of involvement in the encampment by Jasmine Donnelly and Labor. Adding that this is the most important activism happening right now and that condemning the Labor party doesn't achieve anything.

Jasmine Donnelly disagreed with the premise of the commend saying hat NLS has been at the encampment, maybe not as much, but they have been there.

Shovan Bhattarai inquired if Jasmine Donnelley planned to have the same level of involvement going forward, or would they do more to build the SGM

Jasmine Donnelly replied that they would be building the SGM.

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

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Ethan Floyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Daniel O'Shea and Rose Donnelly tabled a written:

Budget overview:

Office Bearer Budgets		2023 Numbers	2024 Numbers
Education	Department Discretionary	19000	19000
Disabilities		3220	3220
Environment		6900	5800
First Nations		1100	1100
Global Solidarity		500	500
ACAR		4200	5500
Intercampus		300	0
Interfaith		300	0
International Students		2000	2000
Refugee Rights		600	600
SASH		1500	1480
Student Accommodation		500	0
Social Justice		500	500
Queer		3800	4800
Welfare		3000	3500
Women's	Department Discretionary	6580	6000
Honi Soit	Department Discretionary	9000	9,000
Total		63000	63000

Rose hosted a drug reform event with the Conservatorium Students Association & their president Alex Poirier, & Chloe Linstrom. Saying there were a panel of speakers including Ben Mostyn, Alice Salomon, Gino Vumbaca OAM, who encouraged students to push the government to a drug summit to review the current approach to illegal drugs in NSW.

Daniel O'Shea noted that the budget is mostly the same as last year with some small changes. Some smaller budgets have been reduced to bolster more active departments.

Wendy Thompson spoke about disappointment in the budget is less than the \$6000 promised, and that QuAC/ Queer Department has been a very active this year and this doesn't reflect that

Rose Donnelly noted that this budget has been put together to reflect plans for the year and it's admirable that the Queer collective has been so active but would have to cut into other budgets more to afford the increase to \$6000.

Wendy Thompson noted that some departments got a much greater increase than others, such as ACAR, but Queer didn't despite being more active. Noting that the budget doesn't reflect what the Queer department is doing, let alone planning.

Rose Donnelly noted there was \$9000 in pool funds that any department can apply for, for special events or projects. There is an application to access these funds and encouraged them to apply.

Wendy Thompson responded that those funds are guaranteed like the general budgets are.

Harrison Brennan responded noting that the SRC was unable to get a base rise in funding so applied to contestable funding for extra money for projects run by the different departments. So that money is available to everyone for the extra funds you may need for a given project.

Wendy Thompson noted that the Queer Collective has been spending the money on the presumption that there was a guarantee of \$6000 in their budget.

Rose Donnelly encouraged the collective/department to apply for those funds through the pool then.

Eliza Crossley asked the General Secretaries if, as members of the ALP, they would join the student protest outside the Labor conference as a proposed motion later in the meeting compels members of the SRC to do.

Rose Donnelly noted that she does not support the Labor party's stance on Palestine/Israel conflict and does not support the party for backing genocide, but that she has a different approach to activism. Noting the NLS (National Labor Students) was at every Palestine Rally, and the Young Labor left have been taking action on this issue. Adding that she will happily protest the Labor party, but has not decided if she will join that particular protest, and doesn't even know if she will be attending the conference.

Deaglan Godwin responded saying that Rose's response was disingenuous and that NLS across the country have sold out the encampments. Adding that you may have attended the Sunday rallies but you've not been involved in any organising.

Rose Donnelly asked those present to be quiet so she could respond. Adding that those asking know why they've not been present. Those organising and participating have been sectarian, and while all the groups involved agree for the need of a free Palestine, there are different political approaches to achieving this. And while she and NLS are happy to help with activism in this area, they have other approaches to it so it's not going to look the same.

Shovan Bhattarai responded saying the average student has done more for Palestine activism than Rose Donnelly/NLS.

Angus Fisher said that was "bullshit".

Deaglan Godwin asked about the budget, saying that you said it wouldn't be cut due to Palestine activism.

Rose Donnelly responded saying there was never a guarantee that there would be no cuts.

Deaglan Godwin responded saying that the environment collective has been one of the most active on campus in recent years, and ran the climate strike campaigns so why has their funding been diverted to groups like QuAC.

Rose Donnelly noted that had already been addressed.

Procedural motion to limit questions per report to 3 questions

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Angus Fisher

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Wendy Thompson said that some of the money for QuAC had gone to Enviro due to their Palestine activism which disregards all the work being done with Queers for Palestine.

Rose Donnelly said this has been structured so it's clear and visible. Noting that all groups want money and this is trying to cover all the different areas.

Wendy Thompson said that \$6000 was promised to so what happened?

Rose Donnelly said they needed to speak to Harrison Brennan.

Madeline Clark spoke about the Environment department, saying it was important not just to note the work on Palestine but also Climate Change people have been doing, adding that the budget should not have been cut.

Rose Donnelly noted there were many conflicting interests and they tried their best to find a compromise.

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

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Angus Fisher

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural Motion: to suspend standing orders to move to Q1. then R1.

Moved: Madeline Clark

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Protest the ALP State Conference on July 27

Palestine Action Group have called a rally outside the upcoming NSW Labor Party Conference on July 27 to protest Labor's ongoing support for Israel's genocide in Palestine. The genocide in Gaza has been raging for nine months, and the death toll has passed 37,000. During this time the ALP has shown its true colours by supporting the massacres down the line. They have also recently condemned pro-Palestine protests in front of Labor offices, with the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese labelling these protests "anti democratic" and "violent." Rightfully, Greens leader Adam Bandt said in response, "I will not be lectured to about peace and non-violence by people who back the invasion of Gaza...instead of talking about the victims, the prime minister wants to make it about himself."

After facing mass opposition, all the Labor Party have been able to offer is weasel words about red lines and humanitarian laws. But despite this they have continued to materially and politically support the genocide, such as defunding UNRWA and awarding the Israeli weapons company Elbit Systems a contract of over \$900 million. Albanese and Minns have rightfully become hate figures for pro-Palestinian people in Australia, so we can't miss the chance to protest their conference.

This is also an important protest for the USYD SRC to support. The recent protest against the Victorian state ALP conference in Melbourne shows that this protest has the potential to be a really rowdy and confrontational one that decent numbers of people will be keen to get out for. Having a sizable presence of USYD Students for Palestine and members and OBs of the SRC will be important for carrying the momentum of the protest back onto campus in semester two. The USYD solidarity encampment has re-energised the Palestine movement in Sydney and is an important springboard to protests like this that can continue and grow the campaign and set us up for a strong return to campus. Factions and members of this SRC should make a serious effort to mobilise sizable contingents to this rally and help promote it in the lead up.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the Labor Party's support of the genocide in Palestine.

2. The SRC condemns the \$900 million military contract with Elbit Systems.
3. The SRC affirms its support for protests for Palestine.
4. The SRC supports the protest against the ALP State Conference on July 27.

Action

1. The SRC will help promote the rally against the ALP State Conference through printing, sharing on its social media accounts and through its networks.
2. The SRC will mobilise its Office Bearers and associated collectives to attend this rally.

Discussion:

Julius Wittfoth spoke to the report and the importance of the motion, noting that the ALP is not just supporting the genocide overseas but they are also pushing back at protesters in support of Palestine, allying with the conservatives to all these protesters anti-democratic, violent. Even Albo said that the protest at the Melbourne ALP conference, was violent because people yelled at the ALP members of parliament for their support of the genocide, which is ridiculous. Considering what people in Gaza are going through everyday.

Lauren Finlayson spoke to the motion mentioning that she was at a politics in the pub event where protesters got a lot of support. Noting that we are looking at a political party that doesn't care about genocide and plans on destroying education. We should be shutting this event down and physically oppose these people.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion and wanted a concrete answer if NLS will attend and push back at Labor, or will they avoid the most important issue of our lifetime.

Taleen Jameel spoke to the motion and about the connection between our uni and weapons manufacturing and the role of the government in ensuring that these relationships occur in the first place. Adding that it is the government that supports these connections and this genocide. Continuing Taleen Jameel said at the moment the enemy is not the Liberals, it is the ALP, who are in power and these are the ones we should be against. And that protesting the conference will be showing solidarity with Palestinians. Echoing Ishbel Dunsmore in wanting an assurance and NLS will be coming and protesting. Concluding saying that NLS have tainted their record by not showing up to protests, and it is atrocious what we are seeing from NLS, they should leave the party and show up to this protest to show they stand against genocide.

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion saying that this protest is really important and everyone should be coming and not going to the conference. Adding that those in Labor should be ashamed to be in the party. Continuing saying that this is the party that not only won't join the protest, but whose leaders have joined with the Libs in calling these protests undemocratic. We've not just seen no action around Palestine but there has been nothing on Job Seeker, nothing on climate change, and nothing on anything they were elected to do. Concluding saying that we're seeing it too in domestic violence policy where women seeking assistance aren't getting it and are being murdered or accused of 'cop-shopping', so those in the ALP should be ashamed.

Mia Williams responded to that debate reiterating the stance of NLS which is in support of the protests and that NLS will be pushing a line in support of Palestine from the conference floor. Adding that if you want to talk about sectarianism, let's talk about how [Socialist Alternative and Grassroots] ice everyone out, making the encampment incredibly uncomfortable for anyone else. Concluding that NLS will support this motion and will support Palestine on the conference floor.

Tamsyn Smith responded saying it was a contradiction to say you support the protest while still attending the conference. Adding that you will be going into a room with everyone who we know what they've already done and are going to do with regards to Palestine and that not show any support, and it's just disgraceful. Even Anthony Albanese did some protesting back in the day and look where he is now, and you [NLS] won't even engage a little. Concluding that if NLS is serious about being left wing, about being political they won't be in the room.

Rand Khatib responded to the line being used by NLS is "we were there" but there hadn't been any tangible support. There has been no handing out flyers and it's not good enough. NLS has members and power and influence to make change, and if NLS doesn't think they have enough influence then walk away from the party. Adding that there hasn't even been any action on the government agreement with HP, which is a part of the BDS companies and s would be a tangible to boycott that company. Adding that it was NLS that abstained from voting at the last Young Labor conference rather than vote down a motion because they were worries there wouldn't be enough votes. There has bee no support of the Palestinians, or condemnation on the attacks on them, or on the occupation of Palestinian land by NLS.

Madeline Clark spoke to the motion nothing that since the beginning of this current war, Australia has supported Israel and supported the United States on all votes in the UN, and the deals with weapon manufacturing, and maintaining their connection to the violence occurring in Palestine. Adding that this is a continuation of the fights we are having here on campus with the University's relationships with weapons manufacturing. The government is very involved in seeing these relationships succeed to build up for involvement in future wars. Concluding saying we need to put pressure on the government, they may say that it's misinformation to say they have connections with Israeli weapons but they absolutely do, and we all, all factions need to be involved in this protests to prevent the government from pushing for future wars.

Moved: Julius Wittfoth

Seconded: Lauren Finlayson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R1. R.1 Support the Student General Meeting! Next steps for the Palestine campaign

Over the past month we have organized one of the biggest and most sustained campaigns for Palestine our university has ever seen. Inspired by students in the US, activists in this SRC set up our own encampment. We set up our camp to show solidarity with Palestinians in the current genocide and to demand our university end its complicity in that genocide by cutting its financial

and research ties to weapons companies, most prominently Thales. We have protested weekly, held teach-ins and involved hundreds of new students and staff members to take up the fight for Palestine.

The university has felt pressure from this campaign. Mark Scott has frequented news outlets, sent all staff and all student emails and has tried numerous underhanded ways of disciplining our student activists. The university also met with student representatives to give us a so-called deal in return for ending the campaign.

While the deal ignored all our key demands we should not be disheartened. It just shows that we need to ramp up the pressure to break the ties the university has to Israel and weapons companies. These ties hit right at the heart of what Australian universities are today. Developing research for weapons companies is a project of universities that the government wants to fund and expand. Ideologically and politically supporting Israel is as important to the university as it is to the wider Australian political establishment.

Our fight must escalate. We have publicised the links between universities and weapons companies and we have involved hundreds of students in activism but we can't stop here. We need to broaden our campaign to include more students and put more pressure on the university. They must know that students will not be silent while our university profits off genocide.

We have called for a Student General Meeting next semester as the next step to grow our campaign. In this meeting we will vote on our demands. At the University of Queensland last week a similar Student General Meeting brought a historic 1500 students to vote. Their lecture room was so small that they had to have multiple overflow rooms to hold all the students there, they then marched onto the Chancellor's office chanting. This was the largest single action for Palestine on an Australian campus ever.

To replicate this would be an incredible step to broaden the campaign, draw in more participants and to clearly show the university that our demands are supported by the student body. We need everyone in this SRC to throw themselves into making this a success and building the fight that can seriously challenge our university's ties with genocide.

Platform:

1. The SRC endorses a Student General Meeting next semester to demand the University cuts ties with Israel.
2. The SRC calls on all students to attend the SGM and to vote Yes to cut ties with Israel
3. The SRC supports a free Palestine.

Action:

1. The SRC will promote the Student General Meeting on its socials.
2. All office bearers and councillors are expected to attend the Student General Meeting and to campaign for it during the winter break and start of semester 2.
3. The SRC will allocate funding and resources to campaign materials to promote the Student General Meeting and encourage students to vote Yes to cutting ties to Israel.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and spoke about the actions happening on campus, the encampment, the rallies, the teach-ins and we now need to think about what we are going to do to escalate. At the University of Queensland there was an SGM where 1500 student showed up, they needed 3 lecture rooms and couldn't even get them all registered in time. We need to replicate this here. Adding that we have the basis to achieve this here, but to achieve it the whole union needs to be dedicating to all our resources to building the SGM and getting students out to come to the meeting and voting yes to the motion. It's going to take a lot of work, but its necessary work if this is going to success. Deaglan Godwin concluded saying there needs to be more pressure put on the Uni, and we need build on the momentum, I want to hear from every faction what you are going to do to build this SGM to make it a success.

Rand Khatib spoke to the motion saying the Deaglan Godwin had touched on what she was going to say, that this is the most important event at the start of semester 2, and we need to dedicate re-Welcome Week to Palestine. Adding that it was really heartening as a Palestinian to see how many people showed up at the University of Queensland and see the mobilisation of people in the street, adding that the Student General Meeting [SGM] here should be something we should all be getting behind and doing the work for - making reals, making posters and handing out flyers.

Harrison Brennan resigned the Chair to Luke Mešterović.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion and on some of the work already being done, in building the encampment, and bringing in clubs and societies and we should be getting more people involved. Adding that non-active friends in Queensland that were excited to get involved and vote at the SGM there, so it's important event here and we need to make sure there is a strong number to come out to the vote in support of the motions at the SGM.

Red Tilly spoke to the motion, saying the NLS is keen to make this the biggest event of the SRC for the year, postering flyering whatever is needed.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motions saying that this s going to be the most crucial event for semester 2and we need to continue to build off the moment from the encampment. Adding that to do so everyone needs to put in all the effort possible, everyone one needs to find 10 people to bring and they each need to find 10 more people and so one to make sure this is as big as it can be. Concluding saying that SGMs have been such a crucial part of student movements in the past, and this is about getting 1000s of students involved in the campaign and bringing further attention to what we are seeing unfold before our eyes, this doesn't start in semester 2 this starts now.

Lucas Pierce spoke to the motions and responded to the comments from NLS noting that their observations that is was a small group that started them encampment and they were the ones to took it upon themselves to start that encampment with the hope of growing it, and more groups would get involved and that happened. This can happen with the SGM as well. It isn't just about showing up, it's not an isolated event, it about the principal of your activism and you need to actually commit to doing that activism.

Rav Grewal spoke to the motion saying while they didn't have much to add to the debate, wanted to echo the past speakers on the motions and speak in support of the SGM and note how great the encampment was, and noting the SGM was historic as SGMs have not happened many times in the History of the SRC.

Alastair Panzarino spoke to the motion and spoke about how it is not just about the SGM, but also about the long-term commitment to activism. Noting that it's a lot of logistical work, groundwork and effort and it was very important, all factions get involved.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion speaking about how the beginning of the year there was an argument that Palestine activism has to be where we throw all our efforts and energies. Noting that at the time some disagreed, but the last few months are evidence that has vindicated that approach. Adding that for the upcoming SGM – 'if you've not done something every single day to build and get people to the SGM, then you've failed'. Shovan Bhattarai continued, saying that that the world has failed Palestinians, and we need to have the biggest event we possibly can, to be the best possible event we can, with the most students mobilized, to take a stand against genocide. Concluded saying that she wanted everyone to say what they will be doing to build this, and that she would be reaching out to everyone on canvas, putting messages on there talking about the general meeting, as it was first thing we should be doing before results come up, and asked everyone to put their hand up if they were willing and able to do that.

Harrison Brennan noted that he has some message scaffolds to send out.

Shovan Bhattarai noted that they were looking at having a working bee next week to build this action. And encouraged everyone serious about this issue to get involved and attend and wanted everyone to send proof that they have been sending out these messages.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Secunder: Rand Darwish

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting returned to standing orders.

Procedural Motion to move all the reports en bloc and move straight to a vote

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Secundered: Madeline Clark

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Grace Street and Shovan Bhattarai tabled a written report

It has been a big past couple of months for student activism as a war that is supported by our University and government continues to rage on in Gaza, and as the corporate university repeatedly rears its ugly head with more course cuts.

The USyd Gaza Encampment is a great success in bringing the fight for a Free Palestine and for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions to our university campuses as we demand disclosure and divestment. Following off the back of the Thales Off Campus campaign started up by last year's Education Officers, we have been highlighting USyd's insidious ties to and Memorandum of Understanding with Thales Australia. Both on campus and at Thales' Rydalmere office last week, we have been bringing people in to say 'no' to weapons manufacturers in our institutions and in our neighbourhoods.

Universities should not be part of the war-machine, and yet our University has many ties to Thales, the ADF, and hosts Ben Eggleton's research group on campus that collaborates with L3Harris and Lockheed Martin, amongst others, who are directly involved in the genocide in Gaza. Universities should not work with and legitimise apartheid states, and yet our University has partnerships with four Israeli universities all with ties to the Israeli Occupation Force and offers a propagandising unit with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on stolen land. Students and the community have been appalled to learn about these profit- and power-driven partnerships. However, the University has so far refused to cut any of these ties and meet the demands of the encampment.

We hosted a forum 'School of War' to delve into these ties and explain how USyd is aiding and abetting Israel's crimes. We also launched a Freedom of Information request under the Government Information (Public Access) Act to demand information about investments in the Uni's Endowment Funds, reports by the Uni's Investment and Capital Management, and a list of Israeli companies that provides services to, trades with, or holds investments of the University – particularly those which appear on the Office of the UN Human Rights Commissioner's list of 97 companies conducting business in illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

We are appalled to hear the University's recent proposal to cut 25 units from the Philosophy major and minor, only to be replaced by 5 broader, more general units. Their 'update' of Philosophy is in line with the slew of cuts across FASS in the last few years, citing low enrolment numbers to justify replacing smaller, specialised classes with generalised core courses. The profit-making model degrades academic disciplines and the student experience, all while students amass an ever-increasing amount of HECS debt. Last year, Sydney University recorded a surplus of \$351.8 million. Their relentless cutting of courses, increasing class sizes, and pursuit of corporate partnerships is absolutely unnecessary.

Next up is planning for a Student General Meeting early next semester to bring in as many students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, as possible to show the University the deep support for boycotting and divesting from Israel. We applaud the University of Queensland for their recent SGM with over 1500 people and hope to emulate the success at USyd, so we need everyone on board to make this as big as possible. We'll continue building over the break and you should join us!

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

No report received.

O3. Report of the Welfare Officers

May Report:

First and foremost, thank you to everyone for showing up and sharing the USyd Encampment for Gaza. It is an extremely important action to hold our University accountable for the tens of thousands of murders that they are complicit for in Palestine. As we know, the campaign for our University to cut ties with weapon companies has been going on for a very long time and we need to take big actions now more than ever. With the genocide in Palestine worsening by the minute, we have to ensure that our energies and efforts are there supporting Palestinians and other pro-Palestine activists. We have seen a huge amount of support by both the attendees of this action and the community around us and it has been incredible. The media response to this action was insane. I think it's fair to say that everyone who was there, helped organise and kept promoting it throughout has just made history. And in this SRC, we will continue making history.

In the background of these amazing campaigns, the Welfare Officers have also been involved with the Tenant's Union and Sydney Alliance on campus. We assisted in hosting a Renter's Hub on Eastern Avenue, allowing students to come and share their stories with renting and corrupt landlords. There will be a housing forum on May 20th in Town Hall that you can register for through the link in the WAG Instagram bio to hear more about the housing crisis and people's experiences. We also have the NUS Change The Age week of action in the running from 16th to 19th May. It would be amazing to see everyone there for the rally to support ending student poverty.

Insta: @usyd.welfare.action

With love and solidarity,
Ellie Robertson and Gerard Buttigieg

June Report:

Over the past month welfare officers Jasmine and Julius have been participating in the historic Gaza solidarity encampment to demand Sydney uni cut ties with Israel and the genocide in Gaza right now. The solidarity encampment has been a significant moment for activism at USyd and in Sydney generally because it has re-energised the campaign for a free Palestine and drawn a new layer of students into the movement. It has been politicised campus by drawing attention to our own university's ties to the genocide in Gaza and putting significant demands on uni management. However so far management's response to the demands on the encampment has been unsurprisingly terrible. They have tried to muddy the waters by refusing to acknowledge the many ties they have to apartheid and genocide, and offered nothing more than a vague proposal to disclose some ties to the public. It is unacceptable and insulting in the context of Israel's genocidal assault on Rafah taking place right now that Sydney uni would prefer to obscure and defend their ties with Israel than break them. In order to break our universities ties with Israel we need to escalate the campaign by growing the number of students involved. There are two key ways to do this.

The first is by drawing new students into the campaign with off-campus actions during the winter break. The upcoming protest against the ALP's state conference will be a crucial one. The ALP's brazen support for Israel's genocide has made characters like Albo, Penny Wong and Chris Minns into real hate figures for young left wing people. Nothing they are discussing at their conference will be good news for Palestinians, students or workers, and by holding a confrontational protest outside their conference we can draw new people into the campaign. The protest against the ALP state conference held recently in Melbourne was a great success and a blueprint for us to follow, as it was successful in mobilizing public opposition to Labor's support for genocide and numerically growing the campaign.

The second will be making a strong return to campus with a massive student general meeting for Palestine. Management have offered us nothing and will not budge. They are trying to obscure their ties to Israel and pretend that they are seriously considering our demands. Mobilising a huge amount of students for the SGM to put our demands to management is how we can cut through the weasel words. The 1000-student SGM held recently at UQ gives us a glimpse at how we can escalate the campaign.

04. Report of the Disabilities Officers

May Report

Hello everyone!

We had a busy month with multiple initiatives and campaigns throughout April and now in May. We give our thanks to Dr Lina Koleilat and Dr Ryan Al-Natour, and everyone who came to our discussion panel on disability justice and Palestinian liberation from the bottom of our heart. We learned about Palestinian sign language, the gross erasure of Palestinian deaf culture in favour of an Israeli Zionist deaf culture and how our collective liberation cannot be without liberation for Palestine. Disability justice means everyone, not least because society can be disabling to any of us at any time, rather than limited to popular misconception that disability is a standalone or alien concept.

We are also raising funds for Donation Deaf Gaza -- a grassroots community fundraising for the deaf community in Gaza and Palestine.

We also published Disabled Honi 2024 and we would extend our gratitude not only to Mahima Singh who made the front cover standing in solidarity with Palestine but also to our writers and artists who chipped in. We hope you enjoy the edition as well as our joint launch event with the Women's Collective if you came.

Khanh Tran and Victor Zhang

05. Report of the Environment Officers

This past month we have been continuing the fight for Palestine! The genocide continues in Gaza as shown most recently with the massacre at the Nuseirat refugee camp. It is appalling to see our government and university - including our own - stand fully in support of Israel.

That's why we have thrown ourselves into fighting against our university's ties to Israel. We have camped for almost two months and involved hundreds of students in regular demonstrations.

With the winter break, we are continuing to have actions and are protesting off campus targets. We picketed outside of the Thales offices in Rydalmere on Friday. We are also planning to disrupt the NSW Labor Party's Conference in July.

We will also be campaigning this break to get people along to the Student General Meeting, early next semester. This meeting will vote on whether or not to cut financial and research ties with weapons companies that are profiting off the current war in Palestine, as well as cut ties with Israeli academic institutions.

We reiterate: Disclose, Divest, We will not stop, We will not rest!

O6. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

The Gaza Solidarity Encampment has been a huge boost to Palestine activism on campus - drawing in more students to the fight for a free Palestine, generating historic rallies on campus and kicking off a national protest movement.

Now, we're going to be throwing ourselves into the ongoing campaign. The Student General Meeting next semester will be the big priority for all of us going forward. The UQ SGM had massive success, getting out at least 1500 students to vote for their campus to divest from Israel!! UQ sets the bar we should aim for here at USYD. Over the break and going into next semester we should do everything we can to build this. August 7th!

We'll also be building for the ALP NSW state conference protest on the 27th July! The ALP should be held accountable for their complicity in this genocide, so we'll be making a big deal of this protest in the next few weeks.

The attack on Rafah is only escalating. The massacre at the Nuseirat refugee camp is the latest of Israel's horrendous crimes against the Palestinians. More and more people are being shaken up by these events. We should get all of these people involved in the protests we have coming up.

Motion: that the Officer Bearer Reports be accepted.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Madeline Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Procedural motion: to hear two motions from the floor

Moved: Rav Grewal

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R2. Solidarity with Beatrice Tucker - condemn the ANU for expelling pro-Palestine students

This SRC meeting notes that student Beatrice Tucker has been expelled by the ANU for comments they made in an interview with the ABC regarding the campus encampment.

Bea spoke of the right of Palestinians to resist the genocide by any means necessary, while criticising some of those tactics.

This is the first expulsion on political grounds by an Australian university for many years and, if left unchallenged, will have a chilling effect on Palestine solidarity work.

The SRC condemns the ANU for its attack on free speech and the Palestine solidarity movement and expresses its solidarity with Bea.

Too often “safety” is cited as a reason to silence discussion on Palestine and support for the victims of genocide. But Bea’s expulsion demonstrates that it is people standing up for human rights in Gaza whose safety is being threatened.

Such institutional complicity adds to the green light given by Western governments to the continuing genocide in Gaza, placing more Palestinian lives at risk.

We stand by the union principle, “Touch one, touch all”.

The SRC agrees to write to the ANU Vice-Chancellor expressing these sentiments and add our organisation to the signatories of the statement in support of Bea Tucker issued by Students and Staff Against War ANU.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC condemns the ANU for expelling Beatrice and demands that their expulsion is immediately revoked.
2. The University of Sydney SRC affirms the right of Palestinians to armed resistance, a right afforded to them under international law as an occupied people.
3. The University of Sydney SRC demands that the ANU immediately cut its ties with Israel and divest the over one million dollars invested in weapons companies profiting from the genocide of Palestinians.

Action:

1. The SRC President will write to Vice-Chancellor of the ANU condemning the expulsion of Beatrice Tucker.
2. The SRC will sign on as an official organisational signatory to the solidarity statement for Beatrice Tucker, found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeK7s-z2YsFwf8NVEJ425DuJwzzf5g-k_YGgKLtpW014I4rEQ/viewform
3. The SRC will post the statement in solidarity with Bea (found in Action point 2) on all social media and encourage people to sign and share.

Discussion:

Vieve Carnsew spoke to the motion speaking about Beatrice Tucker and how they were expelled for talking to the ABC about how Palestinians have the right to defend themselves, this is the first time someone has been expelled on political grounds and this is attempts to dampen the movement as expressing support for Palestinians is seen as punishable with expulsion. Vieve then read out the actions of the motion.

Jacob Starling spoke to the motions saying that this was an attack on political speech on campus, and we need to stand up for anyone speaking about the plight of Palestinian people and we should fight for their rights.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and said that it was very concerning that ANU management have taken this stance to expel this student on political grounds for comments made off campus. Adding that it would be no better if the comments had been made on campus, but it shows how the university is reaching into every student's life. Deaglan continued saying management can do and say what they want when signing onto agreements with weapons companies, but students speaking out are to be punished according to management. Concluding remarking that he condemns the expulsion and demand the immediate reinstatement of Beatrice Tucker.

Grace Street spoke to the motion saying that the expulsion set a dangerous precedent, adding that ANU also threatened to call the federal police on protesters and forced them to move from one location on the grounds that it was an evacuation zone, once moved there was a fire evacuation, and the space wasn't even used. Concluding noting that these protests are about protecting people's lives and standing in solidarity with those in Gaza.

Moved: Vieve Carnsew

Seconded: Jacob Starling

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R3. Stop the crackdown on solidarity with Palestine – USYD immediately revoke the suspensions of USYD students fighting for Palestine!

Preamble:

The SRC stands in full solidarity with Angus Dermody, Maeve Larkins, and any other USYD students that face disciplinary action for protesting for Palestine on campus.

Angus' and Maeve's immediate one month suspension is an attempt by USYD management to silence students exposing USYD's ties with genocide, and an attempt to reinforce support for Israel as it commits genocide in plain sight.

Their suspension is a result of them doing announcements at the start of classes about USYD's ties with Israel's genocide and encouraging students to be involved in the campaign for Palestine.

This attack on free speech and the right of students to expose USYD's support for genocide goes against the principles of open debate and learning that USYD supposedly holds so dear.

In the campaign to force USYD to cut ties with Israel's genocide, a number of pro-Palestine students have been doing similar announcements in classes. Such announcements before classes begin do not seriously disrupt teaching activities, and usually finish before staff are ready to begin the class. They are a routine part of campus life and have been given around many political issues in the past.

But it now appears there is an effort in some classes and departments to ban these announcements. This follows an all-staff email sent by USYD management encouraging staff to refuse students the right to do announcements in classes about Palestine.

Student activists have heard that there have been some complaints about announcements by students who do not want to hear about Palestine. But as VC Mark Scott himself has declared, just because hearing about Israel's oppression of Palestinians makes some feel uncomfortable, this does not negate students' right to free speech.

On May 9, the USYD branch of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) voted overwhelmingly for the cutting of ties with Israel and all weapons companies and passed a motion of support for the encampment and to defend it against repression. USYD management is now fighting against student and staff's unified demand for USYD to cut ties with Israel. The suspensions imposed on Angus and Maeve are an attack against all students and staff that are fighting for USYD to cut ties with Israel, and it is an attack on all pro-Palestine activists. It is an attempt by USYD management to prevent campaigning by the student encampment that has been at the Quad Lawns for over 7 weeks.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC demands that the suspensions against Angus and Maeve be immediately revoked.
2. The University of Sydney SRC demands that the subsequent disciplinary proceedings against Angus and Maeve be immediately dropped.
3. The University of Sydney SRC condemns Vice Chancellor Mark Scott for attempting to silence pro-Palestine activism on campus.
4. The University of Sydney SRC reaffirms the demands for USYD to cut all ties with Israel.

Action:

1. The SRC President will write to Vice-Chancellor Mark Scott condemning the suspension and Angus and Maeve and demand that their suspensions be immediately revoked.
2. The SRC will sign on as an official organisational signatory to the solidarity statement for Angus Dermody and Maeve Larkins, found here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uQ9VG4n4g70GtUijnkwFVUbvZlPXH7eDYls7_Wm5_bw/edit
3. The SRC will post the statement in solidarity with Angus and Maeve (found in Action point 2) on all social media and encourage people to sign and share.

Discussion:

Jacob Starling spoke to the motion saying that this semester Maeve and Angus were suspended for giving lecture announcements about the encampment - all universities in Gaza have been destroyed or are unable to function right now, and it's abhorrent to suggest that we cannot raise this in our classes. Adding that the expulsion of Beatrice Tucker is also concerning, with the hearing of Angus and Maeve coming up next semester.

Vieve Carnsew spoke to the motion, noting that Jacob Starling had covered the main points, but added that teaching spaces are not neutral places, and so should not back down from taking action, as this is impacting management. Vieve continued saying that management has made up accusations of intimidation because they don't want to say they are suspending students for speaking up on this issue.

Moved: Vieve Carnsew

Seconded: Jacob Starling

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.