



src activism
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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 8th regular meeting of the 95th SRC held on **Wednesday the 6th of September 2023**. Meeting held in the New Law Lecture Theatre 104, and via Zoom.

*A quorum count was called at 6:10
The meeting was found quorate*

A. Meeting open at 6:15pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Tiger Perkins 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.

Ben McGrory delivered the acknowledgement of country and spoke about the upcoming referendum on the Voice.

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies were received from:

Satvik R Sharma
Matylda Hayne
Cooper Gannon
Qiana Harvey
Thomas Thorpe
Honey Christensen (late apologies, 8.19PM)

Proxies

Tom Wilks to Will Jubb, then to Angus Fisher (from 8.19PM)
Daniel O'Shea to Daniel Bowron

Ella Haid to Shovan Bhattarai
Lydia Elias to Julius Wittfoth
James Sheriff to Jamie Bridge
Zoe Coles to Lia Perkins
Owen Marsden-Readford to Lauren Finlayson

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Emma Garrett resigned at a previous Council meeting resigned to Vedant Patel.

Noted.

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 95th SRC Council held on 2nd of August 2023 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 2nd of August 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

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.

Lia Perkins indicated that questions after reports is not correct practice, and that questions for Officers and their reports should be put at this time.

Deaglan Godwin asked why the Grassroots President / caucus are scared of questions to the OBs?

Lia Perkins replied that if we want to change the Standing Orders to do so, then Council can choose to do so.

Victor Zhang asked if we can move the Question Time after the Reports?

Procedural: That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to allow two questions after each report.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Victor Zhang

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 **

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 25th of July to the 19th August 2023

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 25th of July to the 19th August 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L2. President's Report

Lia Perkins tabled a written report:

Activism

Over the past month:

- LGBTQI+ Rally at the start of August
- Students Against Placement Poverty campaigning
 - Regular organising meetings
 - Attended an Edsoc event about placements to spread the SAPP message
 - Banner Paint earlier in the month to create a banner for upcoming stalls
- Women's Collective
 - Strategy day just before semester
 - Picnic – meeting and speaking to new members
- Radical Education Week – congratulations to the Gen Secs and others who organised the sessions

- Some of the sessions I went to were: world without prison and police, climate collapse, AUKUS and War on China, SAPP, equality bill, Indigenous Justice in 2023
- I found the final discussion, Indigenous Justice in 2023, incredible and I thank all the speakers for taking the time to share personal experiences and perspectives.
- ROCA Forum, organised by Amelie, Refugee Rights Officer.
- Concession Opal Cards Campaign
 - We spoke to hundreds of students at the 100+ International Students BBQ
 - Meeting with SUPRA about planning the next steps and a petition to NSW Government
- Black Lives Still Matter Rally
 - An important rally a couple of weekends ago. The rally was fantastically chaired and the speech about the racism of the healthcare system was very powerful and moving.
- I spoke at a rent freeze/housing forum hosted by Jenny Leong. At this event I found Lorna Munro's speech and poem about gentrification in Redfern particularly important and powerful.
- I attended the APAN annual dinner on Sunday

Upcoming:

- Fix the Rental Crisis Rally
- September 14th Student Contingent to the Stop Coal Seam Gas Rally starts at 10:30am at Fisher Library, and we will hear a few speeches before heading to Customs House.
- Radical Pride and Consent Week in Week 9
- Housing Justice Summit on 8th October
- Climate Action Rally 9th October
- Forum: Are we headed to a summer of hell on 18th October at 5:30pm

SRC

- The SRC farewelled Paula, who was filling in the role as Administration Manager, earlier this month. We also welcomed Chitra back from parental leave.
- I spent a bit of time working with the SRC's WHS Officer on solutions to health issues in the Honi room.
 - Mould testing – results came back without issues, so we discovered mould was not the issue in the Honi room or the SRC
 - Clean-up – removing things that could gather dust. Getting the office deep cleaned and carpet steam cleaned.
- A Covid case in the office meant we closed for a few days, and reopened once it was safe
- I prepared regulations for the OBs and tidying the Honi section to move at this council meeting
- SRC Casework and I prepared a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the worsening rental crisis, submitted last Friday.
- The seasonal break for 2023/4 is from 22nd December to 5th January, and the SRC will be closed during this period, reopening on Monday, 8th January.
- I made a statement from the SRC on the day that the date of the Referendum was announced, including a statement from the Indigenous officer.

Committees/University

- Academic Quality Committee
- Scams and Student Safety
- E-tools Review Committee
 - I argued against the approval of Cadmus because of significant concerns for privacy and student safety and was successful in holding off the approval for now. Thanks to Honi for reporting on this and raising awareness
- Student Consultative Committee
 - Lots was spoken about on food initiatives on campus. What was alarming to me was the justification of the University that rent increases would happen at Sydney Uni Village and University owned accommodation. The University makes a profit from student accommodation, and they must not make students suffer the burdens of high inflation.
- Academic Board – happening Tuesday. I'm glad that the work of ACAR and the SRC makes it appear that the University will not adopt the IHRA definition. Academic Board moved to support the Uluru Statement and a Yes vote in the voice to parliament.
- Release of the University's Sexual Misconduct Report last week revealed how few students know how to access reporting mechanisms on campus or have little faith reporting an instance will make change. No instance of sexual assault or sexual harassment on campus is okay, and we will campaign on this issue until
- I have heard reports of Indigenous students experiencing racism on campus particularly around misinformation on the Voice or pressuring Indigenous students to share their position on the Voice. Of course, I believe that this is completely unacceptable, and will look to use the SRC to send clear messages opposing racism on campus.

Other

- I recently completed Ethical Bystander Training

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the report covering its main points.

Madeleine Clark spoke housing affordability saying that the housing rally on Saturday and its demands saying that is was really important given the housing crisis is the biggest issue at the moment and asked if Lia Perkins would be attending and if she was doing any work to build the campaign.

Lia Perkins said that while she supported the rally and would be supporting through social media posts she would not be able to attend due to prior family commitments.

Ben McGrory asked about a previous conversation about a DVISS policy for Frist Nations students and their advocacy around their activism for the Voice campaign and asked why this hasn't been communicated with SUPRA, the Gadical Centre and does not apply to Honours students.

Lia Perkins noted at the committee meeting they pushed the Univeristy to take action on this policy but there has been no update from the University as of yet around this but would do a follow up.

Ben McGrory asked why the First Nations Officer was not consulted before this went to an Academic Board meeting where the Voice campaign was discussed?

Lia Perkins said that No Office Bearers have been invited to any Academic Board meetings but would look into this for the future.

Ben McGrory noted that SUPRA has brought Office Bearers to OB meetings in the past, and asked why Lis did not talk with SUPRA about this.

Lia Perkins noted that SUPRA and the SRC are different and operate differently, but that if Office Bearers or Councillors have an interest we can look to doing this in the future.

Ben McGrory asked what the outcome of the meeting was.

Lia Perkins said that the Academic Board voted to endorse the Voice to Parliament and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Eliza Crossley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Lia Perkins resumed the Chair.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Daniel Bowron and Rose Donnelly tabled a written:

Voice Campaign

- Referendum date announced for 14 October!
- Many events held over the past month, notably the BBQs and Voice Gig.
- Recently held a Yes23 phone bank last Friday @4pm - highly successful.
- Demonstration at the Quad to be held on Friday 8 September @4pm. Everyone please share around and come along!

FoodHub

- More than 500 people per day using the service.
- In desperate need for more volunteers: please reach out to us (vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au) or our FBs if you have even an hour or two to lend over the next couple of weeks!

Also:

- We have reserved six badminton courts through SUSF on Thurs 19 Oct from 1:30-3:30pm for the international students badminton tournament.
- Rose handed out on the stall for the international students concession Opal card campaign in August.

- Daniel attended a workshop with other representatives to discuss the student leadership training program and provide some insights for how it can run into the future. It would be good to hear any opinions about the trainings from any OBs who have done MHFA, First Aid, RSA, Accidental Counsellor, etc. through the university so that we can continue providing some feedback.
 - Keep your eyes peeled on the FB group for more training announcements.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly and Daniel Bowron spoke to the report covering its main points.

Simon Upitis asked Rose Donnelly about the Honi Election Edition, noting that there was a lot of grandstanding around the need for a left-wing SRC, particularly around climate action, and where has she been with regards to the Environment Collective meetings and working outside the SRC, asking what she had done to build the climate movement.

Rose Donnelly responded saying she has done work to build the climate movement, around issues such as no new coal/gas mining campaigning and that the collective meetings have felt like just fights between Socialist Alternative and Student Left Alliance.

Jack Scanlan asked what the significance of the badminton tournament was and why is it often linked to international students?

Rose Donnelly said it was to celebrate 100 years of international students on campus and would hopefully become an annual event, and had been organised in collaboration with Bowen Gao, Lily Wei, and Clare Liu.

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

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Henri Collyer

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion: to limit speaking time to 1.5 minutes per person for reports and to 2 minutes per person for motions.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Jasmine Donnelly and Tiger Perkins tabled a written report

So excited to be with you this September council. You all look debonair. The General Secretaries have been up to:

- Festival of Radical Thinking: a campus-wide success. It was great to see you all at the BBQ for the Voice, as well as informative events on Palestine, police, abolitionism, and the housing crisis.
 - o Quick budgetary update– we were allocated \$6000 for this project and have not overspent meaning we can reallocate this to other projects!
- Missing equipment: There are megaphones, speakers and batteries missing from the SRC which disappeared after a protest in early August. Please keep an eye out/ return SRC resources. We're going to have to change the policy back to loaning expensive things out of the front office if they keep disappearing.
- Voice to Parliament awareness on campus: Jaz has been working with the Vice-Presidents on the NUS Voice Campaign and SRC Indigenous Officer Ben McGrory.
 - o **8th September: Demonstration at the Quad for the Voice**
 - o If you support the Voice to Parliament, Uluru Statement from the Heart - show up!
 - o Referendum date: October 14
- Chitra has returned as admin manager of the SRC– thank you to Paula for your time in the office.
- Tiger has been doing lots of environment organising over the last couple of weeks, including a number of USYD enviro meetings and cross-campus collective meetings as well as flyering and stalling alongside the UNSW Enviro Collective for their O Week. Some upcoming events:
 - o The September 9 Fix the Rental Crisis housing rally, 1pm at Town Hall
 - o The September 14 Stop Coal Seam Gas rally, student contingent meeting at Fisher at 10:30am
 - o The October 9 Climate Action rally with a march from UTS to Tanya Plibersek's office that Tiger will be co-chairing

Jasmine Donnelly and Tiger Perkins spoke to the report covering their main points.

Harrison Brennan asked what Revive/Labor was doing around housing activism?

Jasmine Donnelly replied saying Harrison Brennan should ready Revive's policies.

Ben McGrory asked what have they done around organising for the Yes for Voice campaign?

Jasmine Donnelly replied giving more details about the campaign noting it was being headed by Ben McGrory and many more people have donated their time to educate us on the history of the voice to parliament and that it's not a new campaign.

Tiger Perkins responded to the claim that Grassroots is doing nothing on the Voice campaign, noting events around Radical Education Week where there were various sessions addressing these issues.

Ben McGrory commented that there was no invitation to the Gadigal Centre to present.

Tiger Perkins noted that the event did not invite any specific organisation to present at Radical Education Week.

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

Moved: Alexander Poirier

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 31st of August 2023 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the Standing Legal Committee meeting be accepted.

Motion: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Alexander Poirier

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Report of the Chair of the Standing Legal Committee:

On August 14th, I received an email from Deaglan Godwin making an argument to me as to why Maddie Clark (who is at present suspended by the University for political activity) should be permitted to be selected as a candidate for council despite her suspension. This email didn't directly pose any particular question to me or refer to any particular interactions with the EO that they had had regarding the issue. I replied on August 18th via email, giving general advice on the matter, saying in brief that I believed Maddie would be eligible to run under the SRC Regulations and Constitution as they are, and giving reasoning for that opinion (which I have outlined below).

I then was contacted by the EO on August 23rd, who asked me about the interpretation, as subject to SRC Regulations Part 8, Section 4(d)(i), no interpretation made after the opening of nominations is binding on the EO, and at that stage the nominations were open, which at that time I was not aware of. I replied on the same day and informed the EO that insofar as the general advice I gave could be considered an interpretation, I withdrew my interpretation because it was not binding on the EO at that stage. As per the Regulations, this left the issue to the EO's discretion to determine based on the Regulations, Constitution and any interpretations made prior to the opening of nominations.

At the request of the EO, I included in my email to them my general reasoning for my opinion on the matter:

“my opinion on how a member of the ‘student body’ should probably be interpreted is partially made in reference to the objects of the council in Constitution Section 8 (a) and (b), which would favour an interpretation which, similar to how a union would represent a worker who had been temporarily suspended, would allow the SRC as a student union to support the interests of students by considering as part of the ‘student body’ a student who has been temporarily suspended by the University, under contested circumstances. Returning to Constitution Section 1(a) which defines the student body for the purposes of Section 3(e), given that the student body is inclusive of students who are unmatriculated at a given time, and who ‘enrol’ (not are ‘currently enrolled’) in a course at the University, that I favour an interpretation that would be inclusive of somebody who temporarily was for a period of time unenrolled but midway through a course they intended to continue when permitted to.”

At this stage all enquiries relating to elections, including those about the Constitution or Regulations, should be directed to the Electoral Officer, not Standing Legal.

Motion: that the report of the Chair of the Standing Legal Committee meeting be accepted.

Motion: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Victor Zhang

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

We're looking forward to the Fix the Housing Crisis rally coming up on Saturday September 9. The rental crisis isn't going anywhere, and the Labor government have doubled down on their refusal to fund public housing, cap rents, or increase JobSeeker - which means we're going to have to keep fighting them! This rally has been organised as part of the Get a Room: Students for Affordable Housing campaign, in collab with the NSW Greens. The rally will be at Town Hall at 1pm, and will demand that state and federal governments:

- Freeze rent now
- Build public housing
- Raise rent assist
- Tax property developers
- Strengthen renters' rights
- End for-profit student accommodation
- Implement a corporate super-profits tax

There has been impressive industrial action at Melbourne Uni, with staff from arts, law, student services, libraries and other areas going out on a 7 day strike last week! This was the longest strike at an Australian uni in over 10 years, and coincided with the university's census date. A number of faculties decided to go on strike because management decided to stonewall staff, refusing to meet with the union after months of denying them their demands. Staff struck for ambitious claims like an 80% permanent employment target, when more than half of the current workforce are casuals or on insecure contracts. The turnout to the rallies throughout the week was substantial, and buildings were picketed - including the student info centre on census date! Further strike action is now being discussed for later in semester.

We're also planning to protest the Times Higher Education World Summit, which is being held at Sydney Uni over the mid-semester break. This is a meeting of all the worst people in higher education - all while students struggle with increasing HECs debts, cope with increasing uni fees and general cost of living expenses. Vice Chancellors from across the country, who've spent years slashing courses, sacking staff, and stealing wages, will join corporate bosses to discuss how to make more profit from education and tie universities to industry. Tickets cost close to \$3000.

Sydney University Vice Chancellor Mark Scott, on a \$1 million salary, is responsible for running the university for profit. He has overseen millions of dollars of wage theft, serious cuts to unit

offerings, and a slashing of the size of the workforce over the pandemic. He'll be speaking alongside other corporates and VCs at 11am on Thursday 28th - and we'll be rallying to demand an end to the corporate uni!

Looking back on the last month as well, we're pleased to report that our Welfare Not Warfare action last month went swell, with a turnout of 100+ to USyd. We heard from a number of student and activist speakers demanding money for health and education, not nuclear powered submarines, and an end to the imperialist war-mongering coming from the Labor government. In addition, we went to the Black Lives Still Matter rally last month to demand an end to black deaths in custody, child removals, medical racism and demand land back now. The rally, organised by Blak youth, was hugely successful, and really points to the necessity of not letting decolonial campaigns fall to the wayside in the wake of the huge BLM rallies in 2020, and perhaps more pertinently, the October referendum.



Our next meeting will be next Tuesday at 11AM, come along to help organise the fight back!

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore and Yasmine Johnson spoke to the report covering its main points.

Jack Scanlan asked for more information about scab information the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) distributed.

Yasmine Johnson responded saying for context for others UMSU sent out emails to students saying it was right for students to go to class and would not endorse the strikes or support the campaign. Yet the strikes still had around 800 people at the in the last week and that's a sign that there is support there.

Madeleine Clark noted that it has been an inspiring campaign, noting that it was the longest strike since 1860 '8 hours' campaign. Asked the education officers if students should take a side on a union debate and – in light of the divisions in the Melbourne Branch – should they advocate for escalating industrial action?

Yasmine Johnson replied saying student should take a side, and that students are a part of the building of campaigns and their voice matters in these debates in the union and here at USYD.

Ishbel Dunsmore noted that student play an important role in supporting staff. We can argue about why at USYD it ended up failing, but students are an important mobilising force, adding that at USYD, she did not agree with the EBA but was not an NTEU member so was not her agreement.

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

Moved: Alex Poirier

Seconded: Eliza Crossley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lia Perkins resigned the Chair to Tiger Perkins

02. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Iggy Boyd and Alev Saracoglu tabled a written report

From Iggy Boyd:

It's been a fast-moving last month and a bit since the last council meeting for the Women's Collective, with the most notable occurrence being Uni Management's release of their recent 2022 Annual Report on Sexual Misconduct. Whilst it is promising to see the University's increased commitment to transparency around reporting on sexual violence on campus, it is nonetheless alarming to see so clearly that the University's sexual misconduct reporting systems are not increasing their reporting numbers at a sufficient pace. It is also an exclusively internal report despite the deep need for independent oversight at USyd being very well established by past reports, and it fails to comment on where these incidents are occurring on campus. It also fails to comment on the details of the outcomes of the processes, undermining the stated desire for transparency.

We were prompted to give feedback to the Student Sexual Misconduct and Student Sexual Misconduct Response Procedures Policies by the Pro-Vice Chancellor of Student Life, and we did so. Main points of feedback we gave were the need for confidentiality requirements for complainants to be completely removed, the need to protect survivors from retaliation by their offenders due to reports, the need for an independent review into University sexual violence and the need for even more transparency by the University in these processes. Currently, there is essentially no information available that tells you who has access to your reporting information, where it is stored or who even determines a number of the legal determinations included in the policy. We also need compulsory, University-wide peer-to-peer consent education and training which runs over multiple sessions and covers a wider range of topics than the ones which currently run. Consent is not complicated, but the reality of sexual violence is that it is confounded by a number of social ills such as misogyny, racism, queerphobia and ableism. We can see this

from past surveys which have always shown that women, disabled students, queer students, people of colour on campus (particularly indigenous students) and other minority groups are subject to a higher rate of sexual violence than students who are not part of those minority groups. We need consent training that is capable of understanding this, and incorporating education around a range of issues to respond to this.

Members of the Women's Collective also attended a number of actions and other events over the last month, one of which was the Welfare not Warfare rally on August 9th. It was great to see such a strong turnout, and it's always fun to have such a range of different activists at a campus event. There were a lot of students on campus that day who saw the action and some even joined in, which is definitely a positive. We were unfortunately not able to make it to the Pilliga to support the rally to Back the Gomeroi against Santos, but our solidarity with that struggle continues just the same and the continued endorsement of destruction of Indigenous land by both the State and Federal Labor Governments is disgusting.

We also went to both the Decolonising Colour party organised by ACAR and the Black Lives Still Matter rally the next day. The BLSM rally was an incredibly important event, particularly in this time when the mainstream political discourse of this country has been dominated by racism against indigenous people. The speakers were excellent, speaking on issues of medical racism, land theft, the continued colonial process of child removals from indigenous families that has been perpetrated by both Labor and Liberal governments, and more. With every passing day, and as the discussion of Indigenous rights continues to be dominated by non-Indigenous people, it becomes increasingly important to support Indigenous voices in their fight for sovereignty, land back and liberation.

Finally, we also attended a number of the Radical Education Week sessions which were put on last week. The discussion was great and it's excellent to see a return of in person Radical Education Week.

From Alev Saracoglu:

This "support for indigenous voices" as part of a predominantly white council, apparently means it is not the place for the Women's Collective to criticise which Indigenous voices are platformed and consequently we welcome the politics Indigenous people from the Liberals and One Nation.

Discussion:

Iggy Boyd spoke to the report, Alev Saracoglu was not present.

Jack Scanlan noted that an email was sent out a couple of hours ago from the University re incident Fisher Library 31st. Asking if Iggy think it is appropriate for the University to only air out what they're doing after public attention is brought to it?

Iggy Boyd noted that this is a serious issue that the Uni only does post hoc responses. Noting that rather than prevention; the refusal to commit to consent training that is more than simply the definition of consent. There are many intersecting factors that impact how at risk of sexual violence someone is.

Ben McGrory asked about Alev Saracoglu's report noting that many Indigenous women don't feel comfortable coming to the Women's officer because of its stance on the Voice.

It was noted as the question was for Alev Saracoglu and she wasn't present so was not responded to.

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

Moved: Tim Duff

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lia Perkins resumed the Chair.

03. Report of the Welfare Officers

Ella Haid:

I'm sure it was very easy for landlord & prime minister Anthony Albanese to get up at the national Labor conference last month and proclaim "There is nothing like a roof over your head to give you the sense that the sky is the limit". This would be a sweet sentiment if he weren't ongoingly residing over Australia's worsening cost-of-living crisis.

Financial comparison site Finder's latest cost of living report revealed that almost a million people are now working multiple jobs (a new record) after 89,000 people added a second job in the first three months of this year.

They also found that the share of disposable income going to housing costs is averaging over 25 percent, the highest rate in 39 years.

As ever, it's a crisis for workers, students and the poor only. Because the rich are rolling in it! Out of all this pain, the banks are making a killing. Commonwealth Bank, which holds a quarter of Australian mortgages, posted a record \$10.2 billion profit this year. Their CEO Matt Comyn was paid an eye-watering \$10 million salary.

The Federal Albanese Labor Government continues to shovel money from the poor to the wealthy.

That's why I've spent much of my time flyering, postering, graphic-producing and class-announcing for the important upcoming Rally To Fix The Housing Crisis happening 1pm this Saturday at Town Hall!

I implore everyone to attend, announce in their own class, and bring as many people along as they can.

Harrison Brennan:

Hard to believe we are almost halfway through the semester, but a lot of things have happened so far!

The Welfare Action Group has been discussing various different projects for the semester, with a focus on recruiting. We'll have some fun posters plastering campus next week.

Harrison met with a few students from Sydney University Village (SUV) who are being hit with a shameful 14-15% rent hike, whilst others are seeing a 9% increase in student accommodation costs. The university has also announced a 6.3% average increase to all university-owned accommodations, basing the increase on the current CPI and "market research". We oppose any increase in student housing, particularly in a cost-of-living crisis where students are being pushed out of an unaffordable and inaccessible housing market, particularly in areas closer to Sydney. This is and will have devastating effects on international students trying to access housing, the most accessible forms being student housing, and will lead to hot bedding scenarios seen pre-COVID.

I chaired a launch campaign for the MAKE FARES FAIR campaign, fighting for opal concession cards for international students and part-time students. We were joined by Greens member for Newtown Jenny Leong, Professor Kurt Iveson, SUPRA president Weihong Liang and International Student Officer Ashrika Paruthi. Harrison was also spruiking this campaign, and the FIX THE HOUSING CRISIS rally for the 100 Years of International Students stalls, and is very excited to continue the campaign.

The NSW Government continues their obsessive venture to demolish and privatise every public housing estate they can get their hands on. It was recently announced, despite an election promise to protect Waterloo from demolition, that the NSW government will demolish one of the largest public housing estates, rebuilding and privatising half the available properties, and lend the remaining home to social housing organisations.

This Saturday at 1 p.m at Town Hall is the FIX THE HOUSING CRISIS rally, organised by the Greens and NUS GET A ROOM campaign. Recently we saw the outcome of the national cabinet discussions on the rental crisis, an outcome that promises nothing for renters, swearing only to standardize minimum standards and limit rent increases to once per year. It's a pivotal time to oppose Labor governments across the country whose proposals promise nothing for students and the wider population experiencing rental stress.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to his report.

Jack Scanlan asked about the Welfare Action Group (WAG) meeting last week and why was it only created 2 days before the meeting and no location added till the hour before?

Harrison Brennan noted that Jack Scanlan was a convener, and it would be good if he also attended. Adding that the time was changed last minutes to accommodate Sydney University Village (SUV) students.

Jasmine Al-Rawi said that Grassroots puts themselves forward as radical student and asked why 'fair fares for International students' with regards to concession cards was happening when we should be demanding free public transport, not something that accepts the price on transport.

Harrison Brennan responded saying it's important to make tangible wins for students in the meantime, we're working with international students, and we will push for free public transport, but at the minimum this campaign is a fair demand.

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

Moved: Simone Maddison

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Environment Officers

Climate catastrophe continues to unfold in the Northern Hemisphere. Record heat waves and fires have been deadly.

The Labor Party has proven it is aware of the dangers of climate change yet are committed to increasing our exports and reliance on fossil fuels. Their intergenerational report shows the cost of climate change on our economy, with working class people expected to pay the most. The government did not release a report on climate change and national security which is highly concerning. Albanese in a Rio Tinto top was just the cherry on the top of conveying their total support of these criminal companies. Despite horrific impacts Australia's emissions will have to Australia and to the rest of the world, the government is continuing their expansion of fossil fuel projects.

Radical action is needed if action on stopping emissions is to happen. We have been busy organizing activism around this issue both at Sydney Uni and through the cross collective group that links up different environment organizing groups across Sydney. It is positive to have these actions planned, especially with attention growing on what this summer in Australia could look like and fears we are not prepared for another bushfire season.

Next actions:

September 14th uni student speakout to the Stop Coal Seam Gas Rally

Rally to demand climate action now on October 9th

Forum on "Are we headed to a summer of hell?"

Discussion:

Simon Upitis and Maddie Clark spoke to the report covering its main points.

Lauren Finlayson asked what does this Labor National Conference show about Labor's position on the climate?

Simon Uptis said that there was zero debate at the Labor National Conference, where there the Left had the majority. On all important questions, from AUKUS to climate, left-wing motions were talked up and came to nothing. The question of Labor and the environment is one that should give Labor Left pause for thought that they couldn't put a motion up to criticise the government.

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

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Social Justice Officers

Last month social justice officers have been focussing on promoting the September 9 rally Fix the Housing Crisis.

This is the latest rally organised by the Get A Room campaign for affordable housing. Students and workers are baring the brunt of the Labor Party's unapologetic and nakedly pro-landlord housing policy that prioritises the wallets of landlords and property developers over the basic human need for housing. Excitingly this rally has been endorsed by the Greens along with other relatively influential institutions, reflecting both how far to the right this Labor Party is and the overwhelming popularity of real action on housing.

We have been promoting this rally by relentlessly postering and leafleting students off stalls to chat to them about the rally. The overwhelmingly positive reception we have found is indicative of two things: the simple fact that the landlords have had it way to good for way to long, but also the key importance of organised activists making a concerted effort to promote the rally and convince people that these rallies are key to building popular opposition to Labor.

Discussion:

Julius Whittfoth spoke to the report, adding comments about the Mint My Desk campaign which shows the potential for organising young casualised / precarious women workers, as well as the influence of one socialist in a workplace. It shows what an institution like the USYD SRC could do; every left-wing person should do everything they can to build the Housing rally on Saturday.

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

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers

Last month the case against the Australian government for the murder of a 23 year old Iranian man Reza Baratti was settled. In 2014 Reza was beaten to death on Manus Island using rocks and a length of timber that was spiked with nails, but the settlement of the case includes no admission

of responsibility by the Australian government in his death. This attack on Reza was part of an act of retribution against the refugees on Manus, who had been holding protests against their deplorable conditions in the offshore prison throughout the month of February. The two men who killed Reza are already walking free again. There continues to be no justice for those who have suffered under Australia's detention regime.

Even once on employer-sponsored visas, migrants in Australia face deportation if their individual employers who sponsor their migration don't choose to nominate them for permanent residency. This means that unless the government intervenes into individual cases to grant protection, then thousands of migrants have their visa status tied up to their employers discretion - leaving them open to exploitation and insecurity. Sponsors have an immense amount of power over the course of these people's lives, who should be granted permanent protection directly by the government without conditions attached - whether or not they are "contributing" to the economy or meeting a need of Australian capitalism.

The refugee rights office continues to be involved in the Get A Room campaign for housing affordability, with the main upcoming project being the rally on Saturday the 9th of September, co-hosted by the Greens. We will be in attendance to demand real solutions to the housing crisis, as opposed to the halfway house, pro-business measures of the Labor Party and the racist scapegoating of the Liberals.

Annabelle Pettit spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

This month mass protests have taken off in Syria. The demonstrations were centred in the government-controlled province of Sweida, the heartland of Syria's Druze, a religious minority. A general strike was called and there has been continuous civil disobedience. Protestors in Sweida raided local offices of the ruling Baath party and partially blocked a highway that connects Sweida to Damascus.

Surging inflation and mass poverty set the backdrop to the protests, where the currency declined by 121% over the month and 90% of Syrians live in poverty. The end to fuel subsidies is what finally sparked mass resistance. Protests spread to the north-west and other government-controlled areas like Aleppo.

Protesters are now calling for the fall of President Bashar Assad's government, "Our only demand is the overthrow of the regime as a whole because it is corrupt."

The Global Solidarity office stands in full solidarity with the protesters.

In addition, this month, Global Solidarity officers Jasmine and Deaglan attended the community action for rainbow rights rally to defend LGBT+ rights against the attacks by the current Labor government to introduce a new religious discrimination bill. We have also been involved with building the rally to fix the housing crisis, happening this Saturday at 1pm at Town hall. We hope to see other OBs come along this weekend to demand real action on the worst housing crisis in decades.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi and Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report covering its main points, and adding there was a upcoming memorial for the Chilean September 11.

Rand Khatib asked for more information about the Monday Chilean Commemoration.

Jasmine: The GS office plus EAG is putting on this event to memorialise the Pinochet coup and massacre. Saying it was at the request of student to organise this event. The SRC should support such left-wing initiatives. We're meeting at Manning Rd, where this student, Carmen, has been organising posters to put up on string.

Simon Uptis asked Jasmine Al-Rawi about the uprising in Syria. Adding that the 2011 revolution had mass involvement and politicisation with grassroots neighbourhood organising, and asked how have people been politicised in this recent crisis?

Jasmine Al-Rawi said that it has spiralled into a much bigger question than just economic inflation. That people are sick and tired of the dictatorship and war. The regime has to go, no justice can be achieved without total overthrow. People are organising into neighbourhood committees with revolutionaries calling to not just destroy the regime but overthrow capitalism.

Deaglan Godwin noted that another important aspect is the regional component of the 2011 revolutions; a new movement in Syria could spark a new movement across the Middle East; Lebanon has similar conditions: poverty; Iran has intertwined social and economic struggle with women's rights and economic demands; I encourage global solidarity USYD contingent to the rally for the death of Mahsa Amini called by the Iranian diaspora.

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

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O8. Report of the Queer Officers

QuAC's August started strong with the student contingent to CARR's LGBTQI+ rally. We saw a smaller turnout to our contingent than at our contingent to the June 25th Rainbow Rights Coalition rally, likely due to so many revues having rehearsals on that day. We also held our gender-affirmation supply drive, and are in the process of receiving the materials to be sent out.

On Saturday the 2nd of September we organised the “Whose Streets? OUR STREETS!” protest and party, with NUS Queer and Pride in Protest. We organised multiple wheat pasting, postering and flyering sessions for it, and an open event to paint the event’s banner which, I might add, looks absolutely incredible. We heard speeches from a number of speakers, including USYD queer officer Jamie Bridge. The rally used the context of bigoted rallies and hate crimes on oxford street, and the pretext of a party, to widen discussion out to demands relating to the passing the equality bill in full, gender-affirmation leave, the cancellation of drag events, sex worker protections and getting cops off Oxford St, both during Mardi Gras and throughout the year

Discussion:

Jamie Bridge spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Tim Duff

Seconded: Wendy Thompson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

09. Report of the Disabilities Officers

Jack Scanlan gave a verbal report.

- Disabled Honi is in progress with a meeting on Friday 4PM.
 - Please send ideas through.
- Thursday 6 September, Disco Trivia at 6PM at Hermann’s.
- September 16th, Sydney Disability Pride Fest is on at Ashfield Town Hall 11AM – 2PM.

Yasmine Johnson asked about the AUKUS agreement and why was there not a motion at Labor National Conference. Why wasn’t there a successful motion to challenge AUKUS?

Jack Scanlan noted that it got voted down. There was interventions from the PM and Ministers. My own motion was merged with others, and it was voted down. The fact that there was an intervention shows how strong the movement was within the Labor Party to challenge AUKUS is.

Jasmine Al-Rawi aksed where do we go from here? (With regards to AUKUS)

Jack Scanlan said we continue to fight in the movement an in the union movement. The union movement has a strong history of anti-nuclear campaigning, and I would like to see that revitalised.

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

Moved: Rand Khatib

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O10. Report of the Indigenous Officer

Ben McGrory gave a verbal report.

- I do not support Jacinta Prie or Warren Mundine, who do not represent the majority of views of Indigenous students on campus.
 - Some of them do support their viewpoint; as Indigenous Officer I must be respectful to their viewpoint even where there is disagreement.
 - At UNSW assisting the Indigenous Officer there in lobbying,
 - and at USYD to prevent racist No campaign coming onto campus.
- Had Uluru Dialogues with a yarning circle, where we answered students questions.
- Government / Academic forum
- working with the USU to promote panels on the Voice;
- and campaigning outside the university by representing students
- We plan to mobilise the Yes campaign and shut down the racist No campaign.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly asked what it will take to achieve a Yes result in the referendum?

Ben McGrory said that we need students involved, we need young people to get involved in demanding Voice, treaty truth, to create something which won't be cut, because it is constitutionally enshrined.

Jamie Bridge said they didn't think we needed to respect racist viewpoints and asked for a clarification around how to handle these racist views.

Ben McGrory said that we can arch up against them, call them racist, but we need to do them in a respectful way.

Jack Scanlan asked about the diversity of opinion, when you say "being respectful," what do you mean by your way of respectful in the case of outright racism or bullying or toxic behaviour?

Ben McGrory we would need clarification; there's cultural protocol with First Nations mob about how to address these issues. We would keep on campaigning without them.

Motion: that the report of the Indigenous Officer be accepted.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O11. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officer

Rand Khatib gave a verbal report.

- Stipends introduced for the Ethno-cultural Officer (and others) which has been helpful for activism.
- The Ethno space is now open on Manning ground floor.
- Helped organise Black Lives Still matter rally
 - Follow ACAR Instagram account for more.
- Film screening of 'Concerning Violence' which was a success, with a reading group has come out of it.
- Bake sale
- Rad ed Week
- USYD Anti Racism Statement was given to seek input, it is piss weak.

Jamie Bridge asks why the Queer Officers were not given stipends with the other OB's.

Rand Khatib said she thought that every convenor should get a stipend, and this can pave the way for that. This is about starting small and trying to do what we can, with Queer OBs to come next.

Tiger Perkins asked if there was any update on Uni's adoption of IHRA statement.

Rand Khatib said that the University is releasing the Anti-Racism Statement, with a reference list that mentions the IHRA definition as well as the JDA(?). These definitions conflate criticism of Israel with antisemitism. We've requested inclusion of critical definitions, or at least a definition of anti-Palestinianism.

Motion: that the report of the Ethno-Cultural Officer be accepted.

Moved: Simone Maddison

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O12. Report of the Intercampus Officers

Alexander Poirier gave a verbal report.

- Sydney Con and Faculty of Medicine and Health have endorsed the Voice.
- The Regulations change is in the meeting to remove this OB and introduce a new committee.
- The Con is to get a second campus in Westmead.

Jasmine Donnelly What is the theme of the Con Ball?

Alexander Poirier asked what the relevance to this department was the question but added that the theme is Firebird, based of Firebird Suite/Ballet.

Jasmine Donnelly asked if that was a Hunger Games or Mockingjay reference?

Alexander Poirier said no it was in reference the Firebird Ballet. But also revival?

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

Moved: Tiger Perkins

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Lia Perkins resigned the Chair to Tiger Perkins

Q1. Proposed Changes to the Regulations: Intercampus Committee

These changes are to be moved on bloc. As there are quite a few changes, I've attached the changes in a separate file for ease of reading.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion saying that the Intercampus Committee roles have not had any function for some time. By replacing it with a committee that draws from the different intercampus groups would be better, the committee is chaired by a Representative of the Council; a similar committee will be introduced for Fine Arts so that they are properly represented by the SRC, where they have different issues and interests than main campus students.

Lia Perkins noted that committees are not the most effective ways for the SRC to organise. The Intercampus Officer can be useful as Westmead grows. Adding if we're not thinking about organising there then that would be a mistake. I don't support the creation of discipline specific committees where we're not doing that across the board. It's important that we're all in the SRC together, so that's why I will not be supporting these.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke against the motion saying specifically it was because of the Fine Arts Committee, where the rationale says that they experience unique oppression. Studying Fine Arts is not the same thing as experiencing a genuine oppression; this is not a necessary body to create.

Alex Poirier responded to the comments saying the Intercampus portfolio should become a committee so that it is more central to the SRC's work. Adding that most collectives don't engage students outside main campus, and on the Fine Arts issue, it is offensive that you say that Fine Arts students won't be poorer, the reporting consistently shows that artists are the ones living on the poverty line.

Moved: Alexander Poirier

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

Tiger Perkins resigned the Chair.

Election of a second Deputy Chairperson.

Deaglan Godwin was nominated

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Jordan Anderson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Lia Perkins resigned the Chair to Deaglan Godwin

Q2. Proposed Changes to the Regulations: Office Bearers

These changes are to be moved on bloc. As there are quite a few changes, I've attached the changes in a separate file for ease of reading.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Tiger Perkins

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying it was moving to have joint positions, once again, because of a weird effect of the Constitution interacting with the Regulations. Adding that the second part tidies up the Honi section, as well as adding Ethnocultural Officer; and another moves the Chair of Standing Legal elsewhere in the Regs.

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion saying it was reverting them to the norm before the last year; rather than some crazy change.

Jack Scanlan spoke in support of the motion because it closes a weird loophole that could cause a crisis if 8 people are elected to a stipend role, which then becomes a question of how to split the stipend.

Jamie Bridge asked if this meant where a collective has three OBs, will someone have to resign?

Lia Perkins noted that yes, it will have to work like that.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Tiger Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

In accordance with the regulations the meeting took at 15 minute break at 8:38pm.

There was a quorum count at 8:55pm

The meeting was found quorate.

Meeting resumed at 9:00pm

R. General Business

R1. The USyd SRC Opposes Student Housing Rent Hikes

University management has approved a slew of rent increases across all university-owned accommodations set for 2024. All uni-owned student accommodations will see at least a 6.3% increase in rent per week, with students in locations such as the Sydney University Village (SUV) facing a 9-15% increase, setting SUV in particular as one of the most expensive non-collegiate accommodations on or near campus.

USyd claims that their university-owned accommodation is lower than market price, but the basis of this claim is unclear. Most sharehouses in the inner west cost far less than student housing rooms/share apartments. Further, the quality of accommodation provided by the university and third-party providers sports all the same flaws as homes across the inner west - i.e. poor internet connection, mould, faulty appliances, etc.

Below is an excerpt from a petition that students have started describing a slew of issues they've experienced whilst residing at SUV.

- "1. The 91 residents of Building 1... have to compete to use **one of the three stoves daily**.*
- 2. All +660 residents... only have direct access to **two study rooms**.*
- 3. Students... (are) liable to pay **\$1800** for a fire alarm set off in their bedroom, even if it's a false alarm (such as steam produced from the shower or blow-drying items).*
- 4. Free food nights... (are) **limited** to the lucky 120 people who arrive at the event first.*
- 5. Students... continue to have **poor internet connection**. It... (is) remains **one-tenth** of the speed of other accommodations and continues to crash during busy exam periods.*
- 6. Students... have to **pay 2 weeks of rent** if they cancel their contract."*

As the cost-of-living crisis worsens, students are among those most adversely affected. Students should not be punished for needing to live closer to university, or for being driven out of an unaffordable rental market, a market completely inaccessible to international students. Student housing must be an affordable and accessible alternative to the rental market, and the planned increases in SUVs and other university-owned accommodations is an affront to students struggling to cope with cost-of-living pressures.

The SRC must fight for these students beyond the rent hikes planned for 2024, and campaign to ensure that student residents are legally recognised as tenants. Currently, under NSW legislation, they are neither recognised as tenants nor occupants and are not subject to the same legal protections as renters.

Platform:

- The USyd SRC recognises that housing should be considered a human right, not a commodity from which to extract profits.
- The USyd SRC acknowledges that international students are among those most adversely affected by rent hikes in student accommodation, and opposes their continual treatment as "cash cows" by management and the federal Labor government.
- The USyd SRC opposes any and all rent increases to university-owned and non-university-owned student housing.

- The USyd SRC demands that student housing residents be recognised as legal tenants, subject to the same protections as renters.

Action:

- The USyd SRC will post to their Facebook and Instagram page the petition created by SUV residents opposing the rent hikes planned for 2024.
- The src endorses the Saturday 9 Get a Room rally to fix the housing crisis and will take a solidarity photo to post from the src page.

Discussion:

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion saying that all student housing will see a 6% increase in rents. And that the Sydney University Village (SUV) will see a 9-15% increase. These increases are being implemented despite the quality not being good. The SUV has a situation where 93 students share three stoves; blow driers set off fire alarms. Rent increases in a cost-of-living crisis, with students being aggravated by these changes. Students who want to live closer to campus are being affected by this, with international students especially affected. This is a hint of what will come for this.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying that even discounting the insane costs for living close to campus, students aren't legally classed as tenants, which means they cannot challenge their living conditions in court. With the sexual violence crisis on campus, we need to take action as a fighting student union, to challenge the policies set up by the Coalition and the current Labor government. We need rent freezes; the abolition of colleges, and the SRC should support this motion and come to the rally on Saturday.

Annabel Pettit suggested an amendment to the action point to endorse the Get a Room Rally (Sat 9). Saying that the motion is non-objectionable and true. Adding that it's criminal how the University sells off its properties to private businesses; student accommodation should be capped at \$100 a week. It's bizarre that the motion does not mention the Sat 9 rally.

Amendment: to add to Action Points "The src endorses the Saturday 9 Get a Room rally to fix the housing crisis and will take a solidarity photo to post from the SRC page."

Moved: Annabel Petit

Seconded: Jack Scanlan

The amendment is amenable to the mover.

Jacob Mulholland spoke to the motion saying that the situation with student housing is fucked and that it's happening across Australia. Students are being targeted by the financial crisis and the unis; this is not in a vacuum, with Labor not doing anything about this. 1/3 of mortgaggers are in risk of default, and Labor kicking out public housing tenants. Adding that he HAFF has no plans for public housing. They can fix it with the homes held off the market by developers, but not doing anything about it. The \$2bn for housing is dragged into this. Concluded saying that the current Labor government is more right wing on housing than Menzies.

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion and noted missing the rally due to cousin's wedding, but attempting to get QMB residents to attend. Our posters are being taken down, because under the

“Agents” clause, residents must not attach posters to the common room, which are taken down by cleaning staff. Student common spaces are not controlled by the students. The failing of affordable housing is that people are scared to act out and organise against the University. Adding that the University thinks that residents are replaceable, which means demands for their interests are impossible (e.g. rent strikes). The failure to build housing hurts students but also takes away power to negotiate.

Shovan Bhattarai said that the rally on Saturday should be a priority for the SRC over the next few days. In the middle of this crisis, the situation for renters and homeowners is getting worse in the face of no response from the Labor government. This is a wonderful initiative by the NUS, supported by the Greens, and the kind of approach the SRC should take around these issues i.e. areas of total negligence by the government. Concluding that the Socialist Alternative page has engagement from high schoolers around rent issues and the SRC should give a progressive lead on these issues.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Ishbel Dunmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lia Perkins resigned the chair to Tiger Perkins.

R2. End Rape on Campus - Demand Real Action Now

USyd released their 'Annual Report on Sexual Misconduct' last week to students via email and on their website. The Uni received 121 reports last year, of which 23 were complaints. The others were disclosures, meaning students didn't expect the University to act upon the complaint. Further down in the document, it shows that the University followed 6 reports through to a resolution, for the year of 2022. To put that into context, if we assumed that the 2021 NSSS numbers were applicable to 2022, this would mean there would've been around 1161 incidents of sexual assault on campus last year, of which less than 10% would've been reported. The issue here is that the 2021 NSSS numbers are not applicable to 2022, due to the massively increased student accommodation occupancy rates and numbers of students on campus last year compared to 2021. Most students were in online classes in 2021; this just means that the percentage of incidents on campus being reported is likely even lower than that, potentially by a decent margin.

Students who report sexual misconduct to the University are bound to silence over that report. This can be seen in Section 14 (Confidentiality) of the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy, in which it states that complainants are required to 'keep confidential' the name of the perpetrator, the information collected throughout the report (which just means the facts of the incident) and the fact that a report has even been filed. Breaching this is a student misconduct worthy offence. Why bother complaining about sexual violence if it holds you to a gag clause and you can't even get support from your friends through the process without risking being misconducted?

Management continue to make gestures towards transparency and action on this issue, but they wish to do so without addressing the Colleges, or sexual violence in student accommodation in

general, in a comprehensive fashion. That is to say, they wish to condemn sexual violence without taking action on the places on campus with the highest rates of sexual violence. A cursory glance through the document will show that the Colleges are only mentioned in, essentially, the preamble and with reference to the in person consent training introduced there in 2018 (and expanded slightly in 2020). If the University doesn't know what to do about the Colleges, it should respond to the continued calls for independent reviews into sexual violence on campus and sexual violence in student accommodation. Given that the majority of student accommodation residencies are managed by third parties, it is impossible to truly oversee the process of improving their culture around sexual violence. For this reason USyd has to accept that they cannot advertise housing to students that they cannot ensure safety for students within; the fact that they haven't only demonstrates that profit, rather than student safety or satisfaction, is the Uni's primary motive.

The University cannot both prioritise profit making and student wellbeing at the same time; this has become quite clear. Students need action on sexual violence on campus, they need academic considerations for survivors, they need an end to restrictive confidentiality clauses in sexual misconduct policies and they need a Free University that acts comprehensively and rigorously on sexual violence on campus, rather than prioritising cost-cutting and profit-making.

Platform

1. Sexual violence and sexual harassment are hugely significant issues on campus and USyd Management's commitment to incremental, rather than large scale, change on this issue demonstrates how they prioritise profit and image over student wellbeing.
2. Sexual violence and sexual harassment are student issues and limiting
3. The SRC continues to support the work of the Women's Collective and Sexual Harassment Officers in campaigning for real action to prevent sexual violence on campus.

Actions

- The SRC condemns the failure of the University to facilitate an open discussion about the issue of sexual violence on campus and implement all of the recommendations of the 2017 AHRC 'Change the Course' and 2018 Red Zone Reports.
- The SRC demands that all unadopted recommendations from past reports into sexual violence on campus be immediately adopted in full.
- The SRC condemns Universities Australia for refusing to commit to another National Student Safety Survey.
- The SRC supports calls for independent oversight over sexual violence on USyd campuses and USyd student accommodation.
- The SRC continues to fight against sexual violence on campus wherever possible by committing to supporting future WoCo statements and actions in semester 2, both on the sexual misconduct report and on sexual violence and sexual harassment on campus in general.

Discussion:

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion saying that the University released a report on sexual misconduct, showing limited awareness of the reporting mechanisms, that of the many reports made only 6 were resolved. The university fails these students, with the form inaccessible on the website and impenetrable to students. The confidentiality clause in this is a gag order that instructs them not to talk about the names or nature of the violence they have experienced. This is unsafe, because you cannot confide in other people. Adding that we are pushing the University to change this and make it more accessible. Rape and sexual violence on campus is not the University's responsibility alone, noting that Labor has backtracked, saying they want to have "conversations", and we want to push the University to do more on this.

Lia Perkins said that any instances of sexual violence on campus is not okay and is an instance of systemic sexism on campus that we must destroy. Adding that we should get involved in feminist organising on campus to support the demands to end sexual violence on campus. It's not safe it's not okay, and it destroys lives. It is a disgrace that the University uses the same reporting system for sexual violence as for student protesters - these are different processes and they should not be grouped together. "Conversations" are not what's needed action is.

Grace Porter said that there's a lot more sexual violence going on than was reported in the report. The form is not accessible and it muzzles student voices, women and other students continue to feel unsafe yet management treat it as minor issue. Adding that the University don't want to draw attention to these issues because it will hurt their reputation, and that they put profit before the welfare of students. USYD and the colleges / student accommodations have an undercurrent of a culture of misogyny, which is not just cat calling etc but violence; until the government implements recommendations from report this will not change.

Harrison Brennan said that if there are only 121 cases, with the AHRC stats, it's telling the number is likely to be double, triple, or quadruple. It's shameful that the gag order silences students. It's important to engage in feminist organising to demand action on this.

Jamie Bridge said that we cannot be relying on management to deal with our issues. Adding that the gag order is the point – to silence students. This disproportionately affects queer students; this is such a broad issue with the university complaints system to silence students, e.g. with discrimination / Queer Honi debacle; it's despicable and insidious.

Moved: Eliza Crossley

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lia Perkins resumed the Chair.

R3. Albanese is fuelling the climate crisis

Preamble

A survey on Australia's quarterly emissions was released last week. The results show our emissions are increasing. In the 12 months to March, Australia's greenhouse gas emissions were

higher than they were at the end of last year, and even higher than they were at the end of 2021. This is before taking into account the 72 new coal projects and 44 new gas and oil projects under development. If all of these projects go into production, Australia's exported share of global emissions will rise from 5 percent to 10.3 percent. They are committed to these projects, no matter the cost, as conveyed when they overturned the already weak Heritage Laws in WA. Now, mining companies like Rio Tinto will have even more scope to destroy and mine Aboriginal land.

The Labor Party is dedicated to these projects despite their own Intergenerational Report illustrating the multi-billion dollar cost of climate change to the economy. As Michelle Bullock (RBA Governor) also conveyed in her speech on the economy and the climate, climate change will make insurance and housing more expensive for ordinary people. These impacts will not be felt by our governments and corporate elite however, and the cost pales in comparison to the trillions that will be created by expanding Australia's oil and gas reserves.

Despite the horrific impacts of climate change, it's clear that the government is planning for fossil fuels to play a large and enduring role in Australia's economy and future. This role is also seen on our campuses, with the university making plans to increase their ties with corporations, including giving Rio Tinto (amongst others) an office in a redeveloped Wentworth building. It's because of how entrenched fossil fuels are and are becoming that only radical solutions will be able to win action on climate change. It is positive that Greens MP Adam Bandt is promoting direct action and encouraging people to attend Rising Tide's November blockade at the world's biggest coal port, but we need more than platitudes. Climate activism is essential in building up resistance to these fossil fuel projects and fighting for climate justice as the impacts of climate change become more severe and class divided.

That is why the SRC should support and endorse the upcoming student speak out and contingent organised by the Cross Campus Enviro Organising group to the Stop Coal Seam Gas rally happening on September 14th. In 2022, Santos, one of Australia's largest oil and gas companies, pleaded for the Australian and NSW governments to fast-track the delivery of their pipeline licence and approval to drill \$3bn 850 coal-seam gas wells in the Pilliga Forest in Northern NSW. With backing from government, Santos put forth a Future Acts Determination Application to overrule the native title claims of the Gomeroi people, the Native Title Tribunal ruling that First Nations people had not been able to illustrate the "grave and irreversible consequences for the Gomeroi people's culture, lands and waters and (that the project) would contribute to climate change". We are subsequently demanding Santos off Gomeroi land, in addition to the following:

- No new coal and gas: No Pilliga gas project
- Fund green jobs and a just transition to 100% public renewables
- Break uni ties to the fossil fuel industry
- Stop native forest logging now

Anyone who can see the clear intransigence of the Labor government on the question of climate and Indigenous justice should therefore make the effort to build and attend the contingent, starting Fisher Library at 10:30 on Thursday the 14th of September.

The SRC should also support and endorse the Cross Campus Enviro Organising and USyd, UNSW, UTS and Macquarie Collectives' October 9th rally at 12PM starting at UTS to march on Tanya Plibersek's office to demand action now.

Platform:

- The SRC opposes the expansion of Australia's fossil fuel industry.
- The SRC supports the drastic measures needed to stop emissions including an end to all fossil fuel projects and an immediate transition to renewable energy.
- The SRC opposes all links the university has to fossil fuel and mining corporations.

Action:

- The SRC will share the September 14th student uni speakout and contingent to its socials.
- The SRC will share the October 9 Climate rally to their socials.
- The SRC will share the Environment collective's forum on "Are we headed to a summer of hell?" to their socials.
- The SRC will print posters and leaflets for these events.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion explaining how Labor is expanding fossil fuel production. Labor is aware of the effects on climate change, in the context of national security, but they've not released the report's results. The government is preparing for sea level rises for border security and refugees; the Intergenerational report states that climate change is going to cost billions of dollars. Concluding saying that this is a dystopian future that is not far away and we should use the time we have to protest them.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion saying that it's right to take an oppositional stance to Labor. Even when the Left holds the majority on conference floor, they couldn't get the numbers to vote down forest logging etc. If Labor Left believes in change from within, they must be having a identity crisis right now. This why we need to rebuild a culture of politics for a just transition, starting with the University cutting ties with fossil fuels companies. Adding that the SRC should support and endorse the upcoming speak out and contingent to the stop CSG rally on the 14th.

Rose Donnelly spoke in support of this motion, and to discuss as a Council saying sometimes we focus on many smaller campaigns — it's more complicated than getting Tanya Plibersek on side, it would need a Royal commission to really get to the heart of politicians not taking action.

Tiger Perkins said that it's important to talk about the corruption of the government. Adding that he didn't understand the comment about lots of smaller campaigns noting that the demands of the enviro collective have been the same for years. This is why we work hard to build every climate rally we can; we flyer, and poster, and build the rallies. There's a lot of issues for us to fight on; we can't just fight on just transition, but also getting Santos off our campus, or land rights; it's farcical that the Albanese government has refused to talk about land rights or ending extractive capitalism on Indigenous lands.

Lauren Finlayson said the interests of fossil fuel companies are no different from the Labor government. The Labor party has allowed 47 thousand liters of Australian water to be used for gas extraction. Adding that the ALP want a nature positive summit in OCT24, while overturning in WA the protections of Indigenous lands, which came in 2020 with the Rio Tinto blowing up Indigenous sites. The Labor party is equally as bad as the fossil fuel companies

Simon Uptis said that progress on climate has been way too slow. It's good that people are recognise that there's way more work to be done. The climate movement has to say we're not seeing progress, there's no transition, because the Labor party is expanding fossil fuels. Progress is way too slow on emissions reduction. We need to stop burning fossil fuels now; we need immediate action. The Labor Party is hiding behind excuses of protecting jobs but they're poisoning the planet.

Harrison Brennan said that the other week Albanese appeared in a Rio Tinto uniform. Labor is in control of donations from fossil fuel; Labor has the ability not to appoint heads of former fossil fuel companies to environmental bodies. Rose mentioned that there's a lot of work to be done; that means everyone attending environment meetings. There's not enough of a ruckus being caused in the Labor party by its youth wing, and this speaks to the futility of the project. Change on climate will come from the people and communities, not from Labor.

Angus Dermody said that the contribution from Rose was ridiculous. Adding that the idea that the SRC has too much going on, for every Yes poster going up, then the enviro posters should go up; What Labor is doing is expanding the fossil fuel industry, but Labor students are not working to rebuild the working class! It's important we need to build real action that comes from workers, First Nations communities, and the climate movement.

Shovan Bhattarai said that the most important question is clarity on what's happening now. Right now, there's a historic expansion of fossil fuels carried out by Labor, which makes them the key enemy now. Adding that the call for a single mass campaign, we can see from the history of social movements that they all begin with small demonstrations; so I disagree with Angus Dermody that we can magic into existence a mass movement. Concluded by saying that a mass movement is ultimately what we need, but the here and now requires us to small protests where we can, to build up layers of activists and the movement.

Victor Zhang said that engineers are often the ones to push for climate solutions to transition into renewable future. Funding for this research is done through corporate mediums setting up on campus. Mark Scott pointed out on QANDA where Australia is the lowest GDP research; and he called for more industry partnerships. How can we have the research we need when the money comes from Santos, Rio Tinto? We need to kick these companies off campus so we can have a renewable future.

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R4. Annual Badminton Competition: 100+ Years of International Students (SRC x SUSF)

Preamble:

For the first time, the SRC is hosting a badminton competition with SUSF to celebrate 100+ Years of International Students at USyd.

In 1923, Sydney University accepted its first Chinese overseas student, N.Y. Shah from Wuhan, who was studying to become a teacher back in China. Since then, international students have made invaluable contributions to university life. Enshrining the Badminton Competition as an annual staple is a way to acknowledge this.

International students have created amazing social life on campus, engender cultural appreciation and have offered academic benefits to USyd. However, how international students are treated does not reflect the vibrancy they bring to the campus.

International students are not eligible for HECs/ HELP Commonwealth Assistance, despite making up 28% of the undergraduate cohort. This is especially unjust as international students pay up to 400 per cent more than Australians when it comes to higher education.* Additionally, international students are not given access to concession Opal cards—something the NSW Labor Government must implement during their term.

We need to celebrate our international students and welcome them back to campus with festivities. Through collaboration with other SSAF funded organisations like SUSF, we can truly revive university life for all.

*<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/ockhamsrazor/why-are-international-students-charged-high-fees/6908188>

Platform:

1. The SRC should celebrate 100+ years of international students with a badminton competition.
2. The SRC acknowledges and appreciates the contributions international students make to university life.
3. The SRC reaffirms their commitment to lobbying USyd management and NSW Government to improve conditions for international students.

Action:

1. The SRC will host an annual badminton competition to celebrate international students on campus.
2. The SRC will post this motion on its social media accounts.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion saying that we want an annual badminton competition as a celebration of international students.

Lily Wei spoke to the motion saying it would be a great celebration of international students at this campus.

Julius Whittfoth said that this motion identifies how international students are getting robbed blind, who are seen as a cash cow for the uni bosses. It's ridiculous to think that to alleviate this, we should have a badminton competition to prove that they're worth having on campus. Education should be a basic right, for international students or otherwise; we're not going to get justice by playing badminton.

Alexander Poirier said that this SRC, instead of trying to make its services accessible to international students, doesn't want to engage international students. This is the first step for engagement for international students.

Deaglan Godwin was named.

Jasmine Donnelly spoke to the motion saying that the badminton idea came from the International Student OBs, to call this paternalistic is a willful misinterpretation. Asking why those against the motion were against anything fun or campus life? Adding that in terms of engagement, you're looking bad. This response is blowing out of proportion the question of badminton.

Jamie Bridge asked if we were here for a fun time or to get things done? The USU and SUSF is for this stuff, but the SRC is for representing students. If you want to engage international students, you should be flyer international student events about rallies and the SRC.

Angus Dermody said that it's ridiculous that the SRC's engagement with international students should be badminton; right now, our university is getting ready to engage in the governments' push for war with China, which is far more serious for Chinese international students.

Jack Scanlan said that we need to recognise how much this can mean to students, badminton games are fairly common thing, with a history. Even though you see it as just as a badminton game, it holds a lot of weight. There was segregation with international students with badminton games representing a way to bridge that divide, just because you don't see the symbolism, the history – especially when you're not linked into that history – it is easy to dismiss this as stupid.

Deaglan Godwin said that it was absurd that the White Australia policy was fought by sport; absolute paternalism from Alexander Poirier that we should engage only with sport and not politics. Adding that it says that students aren't able to engage with politics or protests. Two concrete examples: two international students who came to build the Get A Room rally, or the Chilean international student who came to organise around the Pinochet memorial; both instances are international students who approached S.A. to build political actions.

Ben McGrory spoke in support of the motion. Adding that Alexander does have some recognition as a representative of First Nations Canadians, and that students some don't engage with activism. International students want a break and have a place to talk to other international students; they want cultural events to have a space to take a break. And we should support our international student officers who have put this forward.

Moved: Rose Donnelly

Seconded: Lily Wei

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R5. Annual SRC NAIDOC Week Celebration

Preamble:

This motion was written on stolen Gadigal land of the Eora nation. The USyd SRC also does most of its work on this land, which was never ceded.

Next July, the SRC should host an annual NAIDOC Week with the student body to celebrate and learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history. This can be funded through contestable SSAF funding for 'student weeks', same as how the Festival of Radical Thinking was funded.

For 2023, the SRC should host a NAIDOC Ball in November. We will work with the USU, SUPRA and other relevant student bodies to fund and make this event a success. NAIDOC stands for 'National Aborigines' and Islanders; Day Observance Committee. The idea behind NAIDOC goes back to a letter written by William Cooper that was aimed at Aboriginal communities and at churches. It was written on behalf of the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association, an umbrella group for a number of Aboriginal justice movements. The association gathered together a wide circle of Indigenous leaders including Douglas Nicholls, William Ferguson, Jack Patten and Margaret Tucker. In 1937 they were preparing for what would become the famous Day of Mourning in 1938. It not only sparked a very effective one-off protest. It also stimulated a national observance that was at first championed by churches, and is now a national celebration.

NAIDOC Week Suggested structure + some ideas:

- 3 Day Festival
- Pay Indigenous student artists to perform gigs around the uni
- Host an art exhibition/ competition with prize
- Create a history walking tour around Sydney Uni to learn about the land & colonial occupation in USYD's past

Platform:

1. The SRC recognises the long history of perseverance and resistance of Indigenous peoples in Australia.
2. The SRC acknowledges that it operates on stolen, unceded, Gadigal land.
3. The SRC will centre truth-telling and celebration of Indigenous culture in its work.

Action:

1. The Council will consider this proposal for an annual NAIDOC Week celebration starting next July.
2. The SRC will host a NAIDOC Ball in November 2023.

Discussion:

Ben McGrory spoke to the motion saying that need a NAIDOC week ball. Adding that through consultations with various student societies, we have identified that we want the University to fund a NAIDOC week celebration and Ball.

Rose Donnelly said that we haven't done anything for NAIDOC week this year, and we could benefit from education about what's happened on this soil. I'm surprised that we don't have anything for NAIDOC week.

Rand Khatib said that NAIDOC is a great idea for a celebration, but asked where the funding would come from.

Jasmine Donnelly said that Student Life Grants could be used to fund this event.

Amendment: *Delete* action point 2 "The SRC will host a NAIDOC Ball in November 2023."

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

It was not amenable to the mover

It was put as a foreshadowing motion.

Shovan Bhattarai said that NAIDOC week should not be used to host a ball, and we shouldn't be lobbying the University for this. There are massive backward steps for Indigenous rights in front of us now, and we should be clear about the seriousness of the situation in front of us now.

Ben McGrory responded saying there was a bunch of non-Indigenous people dictating what we should do. Our consultation has shown that we want this to happen; we're entitled to make this happen. We need to listen to elders and alumni who want this to happen to celebrate their efforts for Voice, Treaty, Truth.

Jamie Bridge said that the UNSW has an amalgamated SRC/USU; if you want a ball, then you should make it happen through the USU. We're not here to have fun; we're here to get things done. SRC funds should not go towards a ball.

Alex Poirier said that it was hard to hear that Indigenous people should not be able to celebrate their culture; their existence can be a protest when people don't want to see them. They should be able to have the opportunity to have a chance and a space for their culture. I'd query how the Queer Office Bearer can oppose this when they ran a Pride Party.

Tiger Perkins said that he was not in support of a ball. Saying it was an expensive way to celebrate NAIDOC week but as long as the money doesn't draw on SRC funds, then I'm happy to assist the Indigenous Officer in preparing the Student Life grant.

Ben McGrory said that every day that Indigenous community members, elders, are alive is a protest. Members of Socialist Alternative don't understand the struggle of racism that Indigenous students go through every day, in tutorials. We deserve a platform to celebrate our existence.

Shovan Bhattarai said that the point of the SRC is not to lobby for more parties.

Moved: Ben McGrory

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*The foreshadowing motion **LAPSED**.*

Lia Perkins resigned the Chair to Tiger Perkins.

R6. Condemn ALP National Conference for Voting Up AUKUS

Preamble:

At the 2023 Australian Labor Party National Conference, many anti-AUKUS motions were put forward by rank-and-file members and trade unions. These motions would have amended ALP policy to oppose AUKUS, war, and nuclear submarines—and were widely supported by many rank-and-file members and trade unions.

These motions would have passed if not for the last minute intervention from the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Representatives of the parliamentary Labor party actively sought to persuade rank and file members of their case and vote up AUKUS— despite dissent.

The Prime Minister and leader of the ALP should not be intervening in the National Conference and not attempt to bend the party's base to his whim. It is a shameful stance the Prime Minister has taken and shows he has prioritised the military industrial complex over rank-and-file or trade unions.

Many ALP members, politicians, and trade unionists stood up to the prime minister and the pro war movement against AUKUS.

Platform

- The USyd SRC reaffirms their stance against AUKUS and the drive to war.
- The USyd SRC condemns the prime minister and the members of the ALP national conference who voted for AUKUS.

Action

- The USyd SRC will continue to fight against any politician and political party that supports AUKUS.
- The USyd SRC will post this motion on their social media.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion saying it was a continuation of Labor's faction's public opposition to AUKUS, and what happened at National Conference. We want to publicly condemn this and we are working to get this changed. The AUKUS agreement feeds into Australian imperialism.

Grace Porter spoke to the motion saying reinstating USyd Labor's opposition to AUKUS. Large numbers of rank-and-file members put forward motions against AUKUS, were it not for the PM and ministers, they would have passed. Albanese chose foreign interests over our own, with \$368bn wasted in war.

Ishbel Dunsmore said to think that the Left of Labor were bent at will to vote against anti-AUKUS positions; they cannot hold the line on anti-war politics. Adding that had you attended the AUKUS forum at Radical Education week, you would be aware of these issues.

Gerard Buttigieg said that it's no joke that the ALP National Conference has degenerated. It is theatre, where factional heavyweights deal for positions and is not reflective of the grassroots membership of the party. I condemn the factional leadership and I encourage not just fighting on the street but also fighting in the party and standing up to the Albanese leadership. Concluding saying that Whitlam would be rolling in his grave at this.

Jack Scanlan said that the Party has degraded alongside the destruction of the union movement. What we get instead is a backlash for bourgeois parties like the Greens which are just saying stuff unless they are linked to the union movement.

Harrison Brennan said that it's unfortunate that the union movement is linked to the Labor Party. If they were delinked, union movements could be stronger. The National Conference shows the futility of the change from within strategy; on renewables, on AUKUS. The Labor Party thinks that investing in war is what's necessary in a crisis of housing, climate, etc.

Tamsyn Smith said that this is a real indication of the state of things; this is the logical conclusion of working within the Labor Party. This isn't going to shift the party; this is a party that has supported every major imperialist war. How we build up real resistance to AUKUS is not from within the Labor Party but instead build resistance on the streets; this is how every movement against war has been built. Students played a key role in the Vietnam war opposition mobilisation.

Moved: Rose Donnelly

Seconded: Grace Porter

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lia Perkins resumed the Chair.

R7. Streamline Sydney Student

Preamble

Sydney Student is extremely inaccessible, for domestic and international students. It does not work properly on mobile phones, it's excessively bureaucratic, and is a massive barrier (and vibe kill) for incoming and new students.

Students deserve better than to constantly fret about whether they are meeting their degree requirements with no help from the University's enrolment system (a website that could probably be designed better than your average computer science student), especially when paying tens of thousands for those degrees.

The University must acknowledge the stress and difficulty that Sydney Student has imposed – and continues to impose – upon students just trying to get through their degrees.

Platform

- The USyd SRC acknowledges that Sydney Student is an awful website.

Action

- The USyd SRC President will write to the University demanding a redesign of the Sydney Student enrolment system to address its many failures and become more streamlined for use by students on all devices.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion saying this is an accessibility motion, and we want to see change to improve student conditions.

Daniel Bowron said it was a straightforward motion.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion saying that the most recent Disabilities Collective meeting discussed the need for an independent watchdog that looks at the accessibility of various tools that university students use.

Moved: Rose Donnelly

Seconded: Daniel Bowron

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R8. USyd for Yes: Pushing for the University Senate to take a bolder stance for Yes on the Voice to Parliament

Preamble:

Ngyini ngalawangun mari budjari Gadinurada / We meet together on the very beautiful Gadi Country.

The University of Sydney sits on the land known as Gadi or Gadinurada (Gadi Country), belonging to the Gadigal (Gadi People) of Eora (the Eora Nation). This land was never ceded in any sense of the word, but was instead stolen through violent means; removing it as a place of indigenous knowledgekeeping and storytelling, and instead to be explicitly used for European thought and belief ("*Sidere mens eadem mutato*").

On 14 October, Australians will be asked whether our Constitution shall be amended to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through a protected Voice to Parliament made up of First Nations peoples that advises the government on matters concerning those peoples. The is the first part of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, made in 2017, the other two being treaty and truth-telling.

It was in 2021 that the Sydney Law School - the country's oldest colonial law school - formally endorsed the Uluru Statement. Two years later, with the Referendum called to enact the first part of the Statement, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Faculty of Medicine and Health, and Business School have all formally voted to endorse the Uluru Statement and the Voice to Parliament, hopefully soon to be joined by the other facilities and schools of the University. The University's Indigenous Strategy and Services portfolio has also released a statement in support of the Voice, and the University of Sydney Union is in the final stages of drafting a similar statement.

Despite this significant number of groups on campus supporting the Voice, the University Senate has released a lacklustre statement that does not take any explicit position on the Voice. This lack of position means it is one of three universities in the Group of 8 that have chosen not for their campus to be a place of progressive discussion and thought, and has conceded to the conservative No campaigners.

The Conservatorium of Music is also on the unceded and violently stolen lands of the Gadigal, its location being a long-standing place of learning, music, and storytelling for the Gadigal, and a significant place for coming-of-age ceremonies for their young men. Similarly to the University, it was founded as a place to teach music to an "equal or higher standard than conservatories found in Europe", promoting aristocratic European music above all, and unintentionally removing that space for the Gadigal - something which the Conservatorium is yet to fully reconcile.

The Conservatorium Dean, Anna Reid, initially thought it would be best for the Conservatorium to hold a publicly neutral perspective because of potential pushback supporting the Voice. Concurrently, the Conservatorium Students' Association (CSA) started the *Artists for Yes* campaign to bring together artists from all walks and media for the Voice, and has garnered support from some of the country's biggest creative minds. It was from seeing the wealth of student support for the Voice, that the Dean then proposed to the Indigenous Strategy and Service Committee to write up a statement for Voice endorsement from the Conservatorium. That statement was then put to the Conservatorium School Board, and received unanimous (bar one) support, and great support on the announcement of the position on social media.

This campaign is led by Cianna Walker, a proud Yuin and Gumbaynggirr woman, musician, the First Nations Officer of the CSA, and niece of Aboriginal civil rights activist, Chika Dixon. Without her work, the Conservatorium would not have ended up putting its values out more broadly, demonstrating a continuation of its incredible steps for First Nations musics, knowledge keeping, and storytelling.

Being the oldest and one of the most complicit universities in the destruction of indigenous peoples and cultures, anything short of an explicit position is abysmal. The University is broadly taking steps in reconciliation but these are focused to work by schools and individuals, and all its previous indigenous-support strategies have been subpar. The University of Sydney needs top-

level support for the Voice, to listen to what its students and staff have said, and to fix the wrongs of its past.

The SRC has been at the forefront of many major campaigns, and should be at the forefront of this campaign as well. The SRC can use the experience of the CSA's *Artists for Yes* campaign to expand that to include the entire University, growing and further supporting the *USyd Students Vote Yes* campaign, and

Always was, always will be.

Platform:

1. The SRC acknowledges over two centuries of continued deliberate violence, racist policies, and institutionalised discrimination that colonisation has brought against First Nations peoples in Australia, and how these actions have left such peoples at a lower status and quality of life than others.
2. The SRC supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and its calls for Voice, Treaty, and Truth, acknowledging that these cannot happen without the other; and calls for all state, territory, and federal governments to implement in full the changes asked within the Statement.
3. The SRC acknowledges there are a variety of valid opinions on the Voice to Parliament within both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian groups, but will not engage with those which deliberately spread misinformation about the Referendum, nor those which are racist against First Nations peoples.
4. The SRC supports indigenous sovereignty, recognising that no treaties have been signed between any Indigenous and colonial groups, and that sovereignty was never ceded but instead violently stolen.
5. The SRC calls for the University Senate to listen to the many schools, faculties, students, and leaders of its campus and change its stance on the Voice to Parliament from one that is neutral to one that supports a Yes vote in the Referendum.
- ~~6. The SRC supports Ben McGrory, its First Nations Officer and his statement on the Voice to Parliament Referendum.~~
- ~~7. The SRC supports Cianna Walker, the First Nations Officer of the Conservatorium Students' Association and her statements regarding the Voice; and endorses the Artists for Yes campaign she leads.~~

Action:

1. The SRC will email all members of the University Senate with an open letter in support of the Voice to Parliament, signed by members of the SRC, and any other student representatives and staff at the University.
2. The SRC will call for an extraordinary Senate meeting to discuss this open letter, and vote upon a new position on the Voice to Parliament.
 1. (This is because the next scheduled meeting of the University Senate is 25 October, after the Referendum.)
3. Encourage members of the SRC to attend the Demonstration at the Quad in support of the Voice, on Friday 8 September at 16:00.

Discussion:

Alexander Poirier spoke to the motion.

Martin O'Flynn spoke, reading Cianna Walker's speech in her absence, as the planned seconder for the motion.

"Hi Everyone!

Thanks for all coming today. First and foremost as a proud Yuin and Gumbaynggirr woman I would like to acknowledge the country and it's people on which we meet today, the Gadigal people of the City of Sydney areas.

Firstly and foremost, in the beginning of times for my people, we had creation times or dreaming. Our old dreaming continues to this day and connects us to all aspects of our lives. Our Culture, Language, Country, Kin, and traditional practices. And each aspect of our lives is connected, when one is lost, the other suffers. Where there is no Country, there is no People, and where there is no People there is no Culture etc.

When Captain Cook landed on these shores and "discovered" this land, it marked the beginning of a systematic dismantling for my people. Each aspect of our life is connected, meaning if one is lost, the other suffers. Where there is no Country, there are no People; where there are no People, there is no Culture.

The pain, trauma and great resilience that came from years of the implication of the white man taught my people to be strong, to be resilient, and to lead - we didn't let this overcome us. Especially my Elders, the people who have fought to recover what was lost during colonisation, and today are beginning to restore our voice.

For years, people have called and demanded for change, a decades' long struggle for recognition and respect. Only a few examples are the 1965 Freedom Rides with Charlie Perkins, the 1967 Referendum, and the Tent Embassy in 1972 - which was co-founded by my Uncle Chicka Dixon.

It was in 2017 that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from around the Country gathered and called for three things: Voice, Treaty, and Truth. They called this the Makarrata: the coming together after a struggle. Those leaders gave an opportunity for all of Australia to walk with us, to recognise First Nations peoples in the Australian Constitution, starting with an establishment of a Voice to Parliament.

The Voice will provide advice to the Parliament on proposed laws affecting First Nations peoples. The Parliament will be better-informed about the impact of laws on First Nations peoples and will work towards positive outcomes and change for First Nations.

I think it is so important to be able to have these meaningful conversations around The Voice, particularly when it comes time to vote. The Voice is nothing to be scared of. It's something we should be proud of. A stepping stone towards so much bigger for my people.

As a proud Yuin and Gumbaynggir woman, I have a voice that is etched into the Songlines of my ancestors and the dreaming. My people are the knowledge holders, the trailblazers, leaders and the story-tellers of this Nation. They are my brothers, sisters and cousins. My aunties, my uncles; my mums and dads. They are my totems, my language, Country, cultures and spirituality. My peoples continuing resilience and our fight for recognition in this Country will not go unnoticed.

We are the past, present and future of this Nation.

All you need to do is listen.”

Amendment to remove Platform points 6 and 7.

It was amenable to the movers

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the University’s refusal to endorse the Voice Yes campaign. Adding that if a No vote wins, it will have a terrible effects. But I don’t support a motion that uncritically supports the statements made by particular individuals named in points 6 and 7 (Ben McGrory and Cianna Walker). The general content is fine, however.

Ben McGrory said I don’t appreciate Socialist Alternative misrepresenting me., Adding that First Nations mob don’t fight each other, we have a right to live on this continent without being threatened.

Moved: Alexander Poirier

Seconded: Martin O’Flynn

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R9. Voice to Parliament: opposing the racist ‘No’ campaign means voting ‘Yes’ in the referendum

Preamble

Anti-racists must vote ‘yes’ in the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament to oppose the racist ‘No’ campaign. Despite how ineffectual the Voice to Parliament will be at seriously addressing indigenous oppression in this country, we must recognise that a ‘No’ victory in the referendum would embolden the racist right and be a step backwards for the cause of Indigenous rights and anti-racism.

The right wing ‘No’ campaign led by Liberal Party leader Peter Dutton has brought racist anti-Indigenous rhetoric back into the mainstream and set political terrain on this question backwards by decades. Dutton has claimed that the Voice will ‘re-racialise’ Australian society, undermine democracy and give ‘special privileges’ to Indigenous people. This racist rhetoric, combined with declining support for the Voice in national polls, has raised the confidence of the right-wing of Australian politics. The right will only be further emboldened by a ‘No’ victory in the referendum. To prevent this outcome, left-wing student unionists should support a ‘Yes’ vote.

Encouraging students to vote 'Yes' in the referendum does not mean holding illusions in the ability of a Voice to Parliament to deliver real change for Indigenous people. The Australian Labor Party has reassured big business that the Voice will remain a toothless, symbolic institution with little to no power. Previous bodies similar to the Voice (such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission), or overseas equivalents as exist in Canada and New Zealand, have made little difference to the lives of most First Nations people.

On top of this, the Australian Labor Party has proved time and time again that they have no interest in actually challenging racism in this country. On the 8th of August, the state Labor government in Western Australia shamefully overturned the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act, which provided a modicum of protections against the wanton destruction of Indigenous heritage that was carried out by Rio Tinto at Juukan Gorge in 2020. Just two weeks ago in Queensland, the state Labor government recently changed the law to criminalise breaches of bail conditions by young people and suspend the Human Rights Act in order to allow the detention of youth in adult watchhouses. Queensland has the largest youth prison population in the country, 62.6 percent of which is made up of Indigenous youths. Labor, in power federally and in every mainland state, is entrenching racism towards First Nations people.

These leftwing criticisms are not the content of the mainstream "No" campaign. While a minority of progressive Indigenous and non-Indigenous people support a No vote in the referendum, they are marginal to the debate around the Voice. The overwhelming majority of those voting No will do so on a right wing, racist basis. The reality is, a victory for the 'No' campaign will be a victory for Dutton and the rehabilitation of racism. A win for the No vote will make it harder not easier to fight for more serious anti-racist reforms.

To oppose this outcome, left wing, anti-racist students must support the 'Yes' vote and continue their support for the collective struggles of Indigenous people in the fight for anti racism and genuine reforms.

Platform

- The SRC endorses a 'yes' vote in the upcoming referendum in opposition to the racist 'no' campaign spearheaded by Peter Dutton and the conservative right.
- The SRC condemns the racist rhetoric of the right-wing 'No' campaign spearheaded by Dutton and the far-right.
- The SRC recognises that the Voice to Parliament would be a largely ineffectual body which will do little to change the plight of Indigenous people in this country.
- This SRC redoubles its commitments to mobilising for and supporting activist protest campaigns such as the demonstrations each year for Invasion Day and rallies to stop Black Deaths in Custody, and continue campaigning to defend land rights against attacks from the mining corporations like Santos and Rio Tinto.

Action

- The SRC will share this statement on its social media accounts.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark waived speaking rights to Jasmine Al-Rawi

Jasmine Al-Rawi said that the Voice losing would embolden the right; the debate so far has ceded ground to the right, with racist arguments being lodged from the right. At the same time, there are criticisms of the Voice.

Amendment: *Add* to the Preamble

Although we support a yes vote in the referendum, we recognise the importance of the autonomy of First Nations students, communities and activists to vote as they see fit and in particular acknowledge respectfully the progressive no and boycott positions reached by a number of prominent First Nations activists. It is not our place, as a mostly non-Indigenous council, to tell First Nations people how to vote.

It was not amenable to the movers.

The amendment was moved: Tiger Perkins
Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

Debate began on the amendment.

Tiger Perkins spoke to the amendment.

Deaglan Godwin said that the amendment is against the spirit of the motion, which explains that regardless of subjective intentions for campaigners for a no vote, that emboldens the reactionary racist no campaign. The worst aspect of the referendum is the unleashing of the racists. To introduce a clause which is agnostic on the referendum is against the entirety of the motion.

Rand Khatib noted that the language in this motion has been problematic; to say that antiracists must vote yes is patronising to First Nations activists who have thought about it, and to say that they are not antiracist because they are not voting Yes is ridiculous. The last paragraph with the amendment adds room for nuance.

Shovan Bhattarai said that the point of the SRC is not just to reflect opinions but to chart forward left-wing positions on the issues of the day. On this issue, the only victors of a no outcome will be the right. The point is not to say that people are secretly racist if they vote no, but for this SRC to call on students to vote Yes.

*The amendment was Put and **FAILED.***

Amendment: “off” to “on” in the action points

It was amenable to the mover.

Jamie Bridge noted that to say ‘you must vote yes’, or say we can’t oppose the Labor party without it meaning we support the Liberals seems wrong, here to oppose the Yes vote doesn’t mean we support the No vote.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion saying that it is good to recognise the negative impacts of the Voice failing to pass and its effects on Indigenous people. Cianna Walker always is pushing for

what she believes in; she's been exhausted and burned out dealing with people while campaigning; she's been excited and surprised with seeing people supporting her; her older sister doesn't support the Voice because she's distrustful of the government yet proud of Cianna.

Ben McGrory said that this motion has a valid point and it should be supported. Many First Nations progressive No's will support Yes because it will lead to a constitutionally enshrined Voice. We need a motion that opposes the racist no that would turn the clock back on this country.

Shovan Bhattarai said that the debate over the Voice has brought out the racist undercurrents into the mainstream as a consequence of the referendum. These people are celebrating the slide into the No vote, which is emboldening their racist rhetoric and aims to wind back Indigenous rights. It's incumbent on left-wing people to vote and campaign yes — but we must be clear that it isn't a silver bullet for Indigenous justice.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural to close the meeting.

Moved: Rand Khatib

Seconded: Tiger Perkins

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

*The meeting **LAPSED/CLOSED** at 11:24pm.*