



src activism
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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 9th regular meeting of the 90th SRC held on **Wednesday 3rd October**. Meeting held in the Professorial Board Room, Quadrangle

A Quorum Count was called by the Secretary to Council at 6:30

The meeting was found quorate

A. Meeting open at 6:32 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

Motion: that Nina Dillon Britton be elected Deputy Chairperson.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Timothy Seguna

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Mitch Gordon to Dane Luo

Hersha Kadkol to Lily Campbell

Kim Murphy

Chanum Torres to Jacky He

Harry Gregg

George Bishop

James Gibson to James Newbold

Steven Wu

Bella Pytka to Hektor Vineburg

Hao Zhou

Motion to accept the apologies
Moved: Dane Luo
Seconded: Yuxuan Yang
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

D. Changes to Membership

There were no changes to membership.

E. Electoral Report

There was nothing to report.

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 90th SRC Council held on the 1st of August and the 12th of September 2018 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 1st of August and the 12th of September be accepted.

Moved: Timothy Seguna

Seconded: Seth Dias

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no visitor's business.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

There was no report form the undergraduate Fellow of Senate.

K. Elections

There were no Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive Meetings from the 5th of June to the 16th of August 2018 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the Executive Meetings from 5th June to the 16th August 2018 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Thorne

Seconded: Seth Dias

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

The Report of the Executive from the 1st August till that 1st October 2018 was circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive report from 1st August till the 1st October 2018 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Thorne

Seconded: Thomas Manousaridis

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Imogen Grant tabled a written report:

The Ramsay Centre for Western Civilisation

A final memorandum of understanding has been assembled by Michael Spence and Stephen Garton. Annamarie Jagose, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, took the MOU for "consultation" at the FASS Board and Garton took it to Tuesday's Academic Board meeting. The EAG mobilised alongside rank and file FASS staff to leaflet every board member with position papers and speak against any cooperation between the University and the Ramsay Centre.

Spence has sent invitations for feedback on the MOU to colleagues in the Arts - particularly those in Art History, Classics, Ancient History, English, History & Philosophy. The SRC is also sending a submission to the Vice-Chancellor this week.

What we do know is that our University is currently dodging scholarly and political questions about the program by resorting to managerial methods. The issue is that Academic Board will be looking to the humanities experts in FASS to approve the Ramsay curriculum. If it gets through the FASS Board then Academic Board is more likely to just rubber stamp it - or at least very unlikely to vote against it. This means that the FASS discussion and vote will be far more important than anything that goes on at Undergraduate Studies Committee or Academic Board. The FASS Board is our best chance of stopping it.

Academic Board and University Executive Review into Student Wellbeing and Safety

I am currently on a committee where we are drafting a review into student safety and wellbeing, across faculties, University schools and, where applicable, portfolios. This is an issue of critical importance and one that has become the subject of regulatory attention from the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Association (TEQSA).

The Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 (HES Framework) includes Section 2.3, on wellbeing and safety, that requires providers to provide timely and accurate advice on access to student support services and to promote and foster a safe environment on campus and online.

We will be ascertaining as to whether the University is or is not compliant with these standards and drafting a report to Academic Board and the University Executive to that effect. We will also

be making recommendations for improvements on the availability, provision and communication of services and processes to ensure the wellbeing and safety of specific cohorts of students. Thank you to all the student representative that participated in the review process.

An interesting part of the process was that across the board, the thing that people have found most challenges and stresses has been the centralization of admin. That there are no longer faculty offices with academic advisors has proven centralisation to be a failure across all areas, students and staffs.

Bystander Training for SRC Councillors, Office Bearers and Staff.

We paired up with SUPRA to run a bystander program for people involved in the SRC. The MATE Bystander Program is an evidence based leadership program focused on preventing all forms of harmful and abusive behaviours. This program aims to raise awareness of the level of abusive behaviour in our culture as well as the subtler issues that support a harmful and abusive environment. Topics covered include: language and jokes, abusive relationships, online harassment, pornography, sexual harassment, sexual assault, gang rape, racism and discrimination, victim blaming and shaming, bullying and harassment, general violence.

Contract cheating campaign

The Education Strategy Department, under Pip Patterson, is becoming increasingly concerned about the rise of contract cheating. Contract cheating occurs when students outsource their assessments to a third party, whether that is a commercial provider, current or former student, family member or acquaintance. It includes the unauthorised use of file-sharing sites, as well as organising another person to take an examination.

A lot of the fear stems from the reputational costs of the 'MyMaster scandal' – where the Fairfax media exposed widespread use by students of the commercial cheat site 'MyMaster'. This led to Australian higher education providers being humiliated internationally.

The University will be speaking to student organisations to run an awareness campaign on contract cheating. We had a focus group last week to discuss messaging. It was decided that DUSA's fearmongering re misconduct outcomes just creates risk avoidance strategies (e.g. "how do I make sure I am not caught?") instead of reducing the problem. The aim is to construct an ethical framework around meaningful learning and so on. There is a lot more to be thought out around this campaign. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Change the Rules

Big Steps Campaign

A couple weeks ago a contingent of students from the SRC attended the early childhood educators walk off & protest, as part of the Big Steps campaign, outside the NSW Parliament. We heard speeches from childhood educator Gwen Alcock, ACTU President Michele O'Neil, Labor MP Tanya Plibersek and a parent Emily Mayo.

Childhood education is a booming industry and many of these educators attend university for years to be qualified. With university-level training the wage is only \$23 per hour, about half the the national average wage - childhood educators are the working poor.

Childhood educators also earn 30% less than people with equivalent qualifications in male-dominated fields. 97 percent of childhood educators are women and society undervalues these skills because they are seen as "soft," just an extension of the unpaid work performed by mothers at home.

Educators know that there's no professional sector without professional pay. They've walked off the job. They've lobbied politicians. They've even chained themselves to buildings to be heard.

Union Day

Union Day was a success on September 17 a fortnight ago with fourteen unions coming along. We know that information about students' rights at work is often hard to find and understand. That's why we organised Union Day and why we will continue to work with unions and promote the SRC's Legal Service to fight exploitation of vulnerable students, help students navigate the workplace, and combat youth poverty.

Majority of students work full-time alongside full-time study and as a result the distinction between student and worker is becoming increasingly blurred. 60 percent of international students living in Sydney are paid below the minimum wage of \$17.29 per hour. It gets worse in retail, where 90 percent of international student workers being paid below minimum wage.

While previous generations banded together in unions to bargain for increased wages, job security and social outcomes, the modern industrial framework is rigged against ordinary people for the benefit of big business.

The only way for us to rebalance the scales between the ultra-rich and ordinary people is to get organised and join our unions! Together we can make sure that the jobs we have spent so much time studying for are dependable and rewarding.

Nina Dillion Britton asked if there were any questions for the President.

There being no questions Nina Dillon Britton called for a motion to accept the presidents report.: any questions?

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Winston Ma

Seconded: Sean Young

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Adriana Malavisi said there was nothing to report.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Nina Dillon Britton gave a verbal report

Not much to report but we are putting in an extra SSAF submission.

They base the SSAF pool on how many students they think are going to be enrolled, in the past they have underestimated this number. And in the past, this extra funding has just been rolled over to student services, without a second round of negotiations with student orgs. We are contesting it and hoping to get some more from this second round. We are hoping to fund a research officer with this extra funding.

Hoping to put together a final year report would be good for a roll over and for handover documents. We don't need change the regulations to do this but it would be good if all of OBs could write a small report on what they spent their money on and did this year.

The chair asked if there were any questions for the General Secretary.

Dane Luo thanked Nina Dillon Britton for the report and encouraged the suggestion of an end of year report from office bearers.

Nina Dillon Britton said that Monash University does something similar and their's much more time consuming that we want to do. Adding that SUPRA also does something similar.

Imogen Grant said that the fact that the University may be artificiality underestimating the number of students to decrease the SSAF pool was particularly interesting especially as traditionally the student organisations were not informed of the extra funding available.

William Edwards asked what the SRC could do about the SSAF situation and the situation seemed "cooked".

Imogen Grant said that this was what had been done under Tyrone Carlin and that now that Pip Patterson was in charge the system appears to be changing.

Dane Luo asked how they calculate the SSAF pool, if it was just off semester one numbers or a combination of one and two?

Nina Dillon Britton said that she was not sure as the process is not transparent. Adding that she was not sure how they came up with lower sum and then when they realised it was too low simply gave the rest to student services. Student services ends up with more than 5 times what they get in the first round of negotiations as a result of this and that suggests they know the pool is going to be larger than the projections they give us.

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

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Brandon Hale

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

There was no report from the Education Officers

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Madeline Ward and Jessica Syed tabled a written report

Hi Hello! This is what we've been up to for the past month in dot point form:

1. Open Day

We spent our open day handing out leaflets to prospective students in front of the residential college stalls in the Quad (they were anti college flyers) This gave us a really great opportunity to talk to year 12 students about alternative accommodation available to them during their studies at USYD, as well as a chance to chat to some more open minded college students and alumni. Some college students took it upon themselves to steal our flyers, which we printed 2,000 of, so jokes on them I guess. They also called the cops on us for flyering which was very sweet.

We had a small but visual protest which ultimately raised more questions for us about the nature of security and surveillance at the university: a contractor security guard filmed us on his personal iphone for "secret security business". We asked him what "secret security business" means and he said "secrets." The more you know.

2. Colleges *gasp*

Contrary to popular belief and to the complete surprise of most of you here, we have been "engaging" "with" "the colleges". We had a meeting with the head of St Paul's College, Don Markwell, last month in which we discussed the now released Broderick Review into the culture of the college, which again was quite lukewarm in its criticisms. We suggested to Don that to build rapport between Paulines and their lowly counterparts, a program like femPOWER would be beneficial as it is run by university student. It was a very productive meeting! We love Don! He called himself a self proclaimed feminist and recited parts of the Communist Manifesto, We have another one scheduled with him to discuss the action plan to be implemented by St Paul's in light of the Broderick review confirming the existence of practices such as "students at St Paul's College eating sheep's hearts during initiations, celebrating sporting wins by taking girls to a "Bone Room" lined with mattresses, and humiliating freshmen by auctioning them off". Thanks for the tea Don!!! Can't wait to help reform this beautiful sandstone institution and its amazing traditions :)

3. Abortion Rights

We've recently had the tentative sign on of Tsuno (tampon company) to donate overnight pads to our post abortion care box initiative which we expect will be launched in late November. We have meetings coming up with Marie Stopes, Family Planning NSW, as well as a number of independent abortion clinics and providers in NSW. We are also combing through the SRC constitution and considering funding ideas to be able to subsidise abortions and contraception through the SRC for

low income students who require them.

4. Agony Arndt*

As you all know both Maddy and the other ambiguously south asian officer who no one knows the real identity of are now sexist monsters because they had the audacity to be women's officers in a student union and organise a protest against someone who says that there is a "fake rape crisis" on campus. Despite this being both an unsubstantiated and also pretty wacky claim, kkkops were called and some protestors were shoved out of the way.

The more exciting part of this story is that Bettina is now publicly pursuing a complaint against us that might see us expelled or suspended, alongside a few "KEY ORGANISERS". If we aren't here next meeting, you'll find us at the pub with a dry martini.

5. Sexual Assault on Campus etc

The new head of FASS has agreed to provide FASS staff with compulsory responding with compassion training, as well as make consent matters compulsory for all FASS students. I wrote a document detailing the new policy as well as support available to students and staff and sent it to all academic staff at usyd- we've had some positive feedback from that.

6. Misconduct

Maddy is no longer suspended but she is MAD. The upshot of this process is that the SAU is reviewing its misconduct policy and will be consulting the SRC.

*title taken from the Saturday paper

Dane asked a questions about point 6, what is the SRC submitted to that review.

Jess: Maddy and I talking to the caseworkers about the process and we are looking at review it about not making it so easy for things coming under the perview of bullying at it itself is used to bully activists.

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

Motion: Liam Thorne

Seconded: Maya Eswaran

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Disabilities Officers

Report of the disabilities officers - September

The final budget outcome was released this week, revealing the smallest budget deficit in the last decade. This is largely due to the lower than expected number of people accessing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), along with lower infrastructure payments to states and territories. Expenditure on social security and welfare was \$6.3 billion less than expected. This is not something to celebrate. Spending less on welfare means that there are vulnerable people who are not getting their needs met, many of whom are disabled.

We know that at the very least around a fifth of the population has some form of disability (3.96 million people). At the moment only 460,000 people are on the NDIS. Of course not every disabled person will need a support package, but many people who are eligible for the NDIS and could benefit from it are not currently accessing the scheme. The application process is confusing and time-consuming. Some people with chronic or mental illnesses are being told that their disabilities do not qualify as permanent disabilities for the purposes of the NDIS, and should instead be considered 'medical'. This distinction is often arbitrary.

The NDIS has been structured as a market more than as a support service as such. Disabled people accessing the scheme are framed as consumers rather than as people in need of support from their community. In some ways this is positive – a move away from disability support models based around charity and institutionalisation. In other ways it is simply creating new layers of obfuscation and consumerism, attempting to find capitalist motives to value disabled people rather than valuing us simply because we are human.

You can find more information about the NDIS at their website, ndis.gov.au.

We are hoping to have a protest at Redfern station regarding public transport inaccessibility on Friday the 26th of October. More information will be released soon.

Love & solidarity,
The 2018 Disabilities Officer

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

Motion: Thomas Manousaridis

Seconded: Timothy Seguna

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Save Amyl

Preamble

On September 10th the Therapeutic Goods Administration published an interim decision to reschedule amyl nitrate and similar inhalants into schedule nine of the Poisons Standard, the same category in which it classifies drugs such as heroin. This interim decision is open to public submissions until October 11th and a final decision will be published on November 29th. The rescheduling, if approved, would take effect on February 1st next year and would legally ban the production, sale, and use of amyl (also known as poppers) in Australia as a criminal offence.

Amyl is a popular drug which provides users with a brief recreational high and relaxes muscles across their bodies, making it popular as a sexual aid. It's particularly associated with the LGBTI community, especially gay and bisexual men, many of whom use amyl to significantly enhance their sexual health and comfort. The risks associated with amyl use are minimal and harm rates are so low as to be statistically negligible, furthermore amyl is considered neither dependent nor addictive, unlike much more harmful and legal substances like alcohol and tobacco.

Banning amyl will criminalise large segments of the LGBTI community and demonstrates a homophobic double standard. 20 years ago, the TGA legalised Viagra, a drug predominantly used as a sexual aid by heterosexual men and which is known to have much more dangerous side effects than amyl. The TGA legalised Viagra on the basis that criminalising it would not reduce demand and users would be safer if the drug was properly regulated instead of banned and pushed underground, the same argument sexual health activists are now prosecuting against the amyl ban.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the Therapeutic Goods Administration's interim decision to reschedule amyl nitrate and similar inhalants into schedule nine of the Poisons Standard, thereby banning the sale and use of amyl nitrate and similar inhalants. The SRC considers this ban wholly unjustified, damaging to amyl users, and homophobic.

Action

1. The SRC Facebook page will share Paul Gregoire's article 'Calls to Stop Baseless Ban on Amyl Nitrate', published by Sydney Criminal Lawyers on September 28th.
2. The SRC President will consult the Queer Officers and any other interested Councillors and Office Bearers to determine if the SRC should make a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration appealing their interim decision.

Will Edwards spoke to his motion drugs and similar substances are controlled by the TGA and they have decided to classify amyl as a class 9 poison. He went on read the motion.

A number of universities have come to the conclusion that with substances like Amyl or alcohol are to control its production and regulate its sale rather than make it illicit. To ban Amyl and not Viagra is simply homophobic.

Manning Jeffery spoke to the motion saying that the notion you ban something because you disagree with it is abhorrent so I will support hits motion.

Will Edwards has requested that the vote be recorded.
The chair agreed to the request

Tim Seguna spoke in favour of the motion but felt the need to clarify that Viagra is also used for other health conditions not just sexual needs.

Motion: That the motion be accepted

Moved: William Edwards

Seconded: Brandon Hale

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R.1 Report back from NUS Education Conference on Rural and Regional Students Workshop

Don't Forget About the Regions! – Workshop Summary

At NUS Education Conference 2018 a group of around 50 rural and regional student activists and their supporters met to discuss the needs of students from a rural and regional area and what the priorities of NUS and student unions should be in fighting for their rights. After I gave initial remarks about the state of students from rural and regional areas the discussion centred around three main areas; the issues of rural and regional students, how there is a disconnect between student unions and students not from the city and how NUS can fight back to beat the conservative forces that have sold the regions out. Discussion was centred around the need to fight for students who are from rural and regional areas who needed to leave, and the students who currently reside in rural and regional areas.

The Major Issues Facing Rural and Regional Students

- **Unemployment:** Youth unemployment is ridiculously high. In the Hunter it is 19% and in Lismore it is 21%. Young people are too often forced to leave when they grow up because there is no opportunity and access to education. NUS activists also noted that for older people it is also very difficult to get stable, well paying jobs especially when they have a qualification from TAFE or university.
- **Lack of Access to Public Services:** In rural and regional areas there is a distinct lack of access to important public services like public healthcare, public education and public transport. This can be due to the tyranny of distance but also due to lack of investment by government. Attendees highlighted that this can also be a real factor that causes young people to leave rural and regional areas.
- **Poor Mental Health:** Attendees noted that rural and regional mental health is at crisis levels. Recent data shows people employed in agriculture in rural and regional areas are 1.6 times

more likely to commit suicide than people employed in professions in the city (Arnautovska, McPhedran & De Leo, "A regional approach to understanding farmer suicide rates in Queensland", *Social and Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*", July 2013). Attendees said this can be compounded by isolation, unemployment and lack of access to mental health services.

- **No Preference for Rural and Regional Students in Timetabling:** Because of increasing unaffordability of housing, regional students often have to travel long distances to access a metropolitan university. For example many students travel to Sydney University from the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast and the Illawarra. All attendees agreed that universities categorically fail when it comes to taking the needs of these students into account specifically when timetabling. For example one attendee said she has to travel 80 minutes to get to university because she can't afford to live close to campus. To make an 8am class she has to get up very early. This can contribute to poor mental health, lack of sleep and stress. Attendees agreed that universities at least for compulsory classes should give precedence to students who live far away and timetable their classes in the afternoon as early morning and night time are inaccessible due to travel constraints.
- **The Demographics of Rural and Regional Universities:** Attendees noted the demographics of universities outside metropolitan areas mean that rural and regional students are poorer, older and people with more responsibilities such as childcare.
- **Lack of Knowledge About Opportunity:** Attendees agreed that metropolitan universities don't reach out to rural and regional schools enough. This can take the form of lack of advertising, not appearing at rural career fairs and not prioritising rural students in scholarships, housing and bursaries. This can create a bubble in metropolitan universities of rich, privately educated students from the city who have access to a world of opportunities that rural and regional students don't. Many attendees felt isolated and like outcasts when they moved to the city as there are the existence of cliques based on class and where they went to school. These people often stick together and monopolise student and academic life at universities.
- **No Knowledge of how University Works:** When rural and regional students start university, there is a severe lack of knowledge of how university is structured and what a student needs to know, this is especially bad if a student has had to move away from their home town. Attendees particularly noted lack of knowledge about academic support services, financial

help and job opportunities. One attendee gave an example of not knowing where to do an internship and how this differed from their Sydney born friend as their parents worked at a prestigious law firm.

- **Persecuted Students are More Persecuted in the Country:** Attendees highlighted that discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ students, students of colour, international students and women students is harsher in the regions. This can be due to historically racist, sexist, homophobic and xenophobic attitudes existing in rural and regional areas and this is felt by minorities from and living in those areas. Some attendees also pointed out that services such as counselling, support groups, sanitary items, contraception and reproductive health services are harder to come by in rural and regional areas. Attendees also noted that anti-racist, feminist and queer rights activism was much less active in rural and regional areas.
- **The National Party are Sellouts:** It may have been true once upon a time that the National/Country party always stood up for rural and regional interests but that time is long gone. The National Party now side with the Liberals 100% of the time and have endorsed the economic doctrine of Neoliberalism. Neoliberalism has led to austerity, the cutting of regional public services, wage stagnation for regional workers, a housing crisis and a two speed economy that benefits the city. For rural and regional areas to have equal opportunity and a decent life, attendees acknowledged the National Party need to be defeated.

The Disconnect Between Student Unionism and Students not from the City:

- **Isolation Within Activism:** Within left-wing activist circles many rural students feel isolated. Many attendees shared stories of feeling like they can't raise rural and regional issues in student activism, some have been laughed at and mocked for raising the issues of students not from metropolitan areas.
- **Lack of Rural and Regional Representation in Student Unions:** Students who grew up in the city with large social circles, wealth and capital dominate student elections and are often ignorant of rural and regional students concerns. Because most students from rural and regional areas have to work, they are often barred from participating in as much student activism as they want to because of the pressure to make a living. It was also noted that at metropolitan universities student unions don't talk about issues facing students from the country enough, whether those students still live in the country or have had to move to the city. Attendees agreed this is because of the systemic disadvantage in terms of wealth, time

and social capital that students from rural and regional areas face. It is this disadvantage that leads to rural and regional students being catastrophically underrepresented in student unionism.

- **Student Union Events Not Advertised to Satellite Campuses:** Attendees stressed that the further a campus is away from the CBD of a major city the less likely student unions will engage with it. Many major universities have satellite campuses away from the CBD however the student union does not engage with their issues or the students who study there.
- **Struggling to Connect with Rural Students who are Less Political:** Many attendees noted that rural students come from mostly conservative backgrounds. Whilst they may care deeply about left wing issues such as housing, economic inequality, environmentalism and human rights they may not come to university as a radical leftist. When running campaigns student unionists should seek to educate rural and regional students who might not be aware of issues that left wing student unions care about and not lock them out activism.

How do Student Unions Connect with Rural and Regional Students? How Can Student Unions Fight for Rural and Regional Students Rights?

After discussing the above issues attendees of the workshop agreed upon some ways for student unions to better engage rural and regional students and fight for their rights.

- **Reach Out:** Student unions should be reaching out to rural and regional students. This can be done through collaboration between metropolitan and rural student unions, starting rural and regional student collectives/networks, NUS, protests in rural areas and surveys. Student unions who belong to universities with satellite campuses should venture to go out and hold stalls, build rallies and hold events on those satellite campuses.
- **Powerful Student Unions Should Stand Up for Rural and Regional Students:** Powerful student unions with money, activists and resources should be standing up for rural students who don't have access to as strong student unions. This can be done by sharing media resources to rural student unions, supporting the National Union of Students who run national campaigns for student rights and better engagement with satellite campuses.
- **NUS Small and Regional Department Needs to Active:** The Small and Regional Department and Officer need to be active. The Department should be proactive in its approach and shouldn't wait for individual student unions to contact them.

- **The National Party Need to be Defeated:** In campaign material for issues like education cuts, young worker’s rights, anti-racism activism and other left wing causes it is always the Liberal Party that is attacked. NUS and all student unions should remember the National Party are just as much as to blame when Coalition governments target students and disadvantaged people in society. Student Unions should adjust their campaign messaging to acknowledge this reality and help defeat the National Party.
- **Reaching Out to Rural and Regional Groups:** NUS and student unions should reach out to organisations outside the city to gain widespread support for their campaigns, particularly NUS when they are running national campaigns. A great example raised was in NSW when the Safe Access Zones campaign reached out to the Country Women’s Association who unanimously supported Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics. This will extend the relevance and power of student union campaigns.

Conclusion:

It was really great to have a gathering of rural and regional student activists from around the country to discuss what needs to be done to make student unionism more relevant to students from the country. This report should be seen as a guide to help NUS, office bearers and student unions in general better stand up for rural and regional students from across Australia and beyond.

The report was noted but not accepted by the council.

R2 was moved from the floor

R2. Motion and call to action against conversion therapy

The queer action collective, along with community action against homophobia have called a rally against conversion therapy in the light of our new Prime Minister’s incessant homophobia and disregard for the wellbeing of LGBT individuals, despite claiming to ‘love all Australians’ (which is nationalistic and bad as a concept anyway).

The description of the event is going to double as the explanation of this motion because no one reads the descriptions of rallies anyway.

“We call for an end to the homophobic rhetoric that has been spurred on by the so-called leader of this country.

We demand an end to gay conversion therapy. This is an ongoing practice in Australia that our new PM has described as simply “not an issue for me”. We call bullshit on this. Conversion therapy has been deemed as 'torture' by the United Nations.

Morrison's response shows a deep lack of respect and is just one example of his incessant homophobia and contempt for LGBT+ Australians. Even when the postal vote returned an overwhelming Yes for marriage equality he left the room in parliament instead of voting for equality. Now since becoming PM he has re-raised the issue of religious discrimination in an attempt to roll back our rights post marriage equality.

He has also joined the train of inflammatory comments directed at trans young people and the schools who support them. As he tweets “let kids be kids” and “we don't need gender whisperers in schools” these are genuine statements that we direct back at him, conversion therapists and the government-funded school chaplains that have interfered with trans kids' lives. No person should be put through mental torture because of someone else's bigotry.”

So in terms of action, because it's all well and good to nominally not support conversion therapy I propose that

Call on the SRC to promote the rally on the 20th

Call on SRC councillors and office bearers to attend said rally

Jazzlyn Breen read out her motion.

In line with the Regulations, Part 10 Section 7(a)(ii), Jazzlyn Breen asked that the vote be recorded. The Chair agreed, there was no dissent.

Moved: Jazzlyn Breen

Seconded: William Edwards

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Manning Jeffery abstained.

David Wan abstained.

Discussion:

When asked why he had abstained David Wan said he needed more information before deciding.

Thomas Manousaridis asked Manning Jeffery why he abstained

Manning Jeffery said that he opposed conversion therapy but didn't agree with the attack on a sitting prime minister.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm.