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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

for the 2nd regular meeting of the 91st SRC held on **Wednesday the 6th of February**. Meeting held in **New Law Lecture Theatre 026**.

Attendance: Attached

Chair: Jacky He

Minutes: Cameron Caccamo

A. Meeting open

At 6.22pm, the Chair, Jacky He, requested a Quorum Count.

The Secretary to Council conducted a Quorum Count and the meeting was found to be quorate, with 26 Councillors present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.22pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

Jacky He nominated the Vice-President, Dane Luo, as Deputy Chairperson.

Motion: That Dane Luo be elected as Deputy Chairperson

Moved: Jacky He

Seconded: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

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 have been received from:

Councillors:

Daniel Hu

Josie Jakovac

Guipeng Jiao

Dane Luo (early departure)

Layla Mkhayber

Abbey Shi

Manchen Wen

Alex Yang

Officers:

Steff Leinasars

Further apologies were received during the meeting:

Hang Gao

Xiaoy Jin

Pasindu Siriniwasa

Proxies have been nominated for:

Josie Jakovac proxies to Jack Abadee

Guipeng Jiao proxies to Hang Gao (Hang Gao proxies to Niamh Callinan)

Layla Mkhayber proxies to Seth Dias

Dane Luo proxies to Tobias Vieira

Abbey Shi proxies to Jazzlyn Breen

Pasindu Siriniwasa proxies to Alev Saracoglu

Manchen Wen proxies to Peiqing Fan

Alex Yang proxies to Du Chun

Motion: That the Council accept the Apologies and Proxies.

Moved: JP Baladi

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

D. Changes to Membership

There were no changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

There were no resignations

F. Minutes of the previous Council meetings.

F1. Minutes of Regular Meetings

Minutes of the 1st Regular Meeting of the 91st SRC, held on the 6th of February, will be circulated.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 1st Regular Meeting of the 91st SRC be accepted.

Moved: Caitlyn Chu

Seconded: JP Baladi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no Business Arising.

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

Discussion:

Vinil Kumar: Hi Jacky, how was your holiday?

Jacky He: Really good, thanks.

There were no further questions.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no Visitor's Business

Procedural Motion: That the meeting immediately move to Agenda item R6

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R. General Business

R6. Support the School strike for climate

Moved: Lily Campbell, National Union of Students NSW Vice Pres.

Seconded: Alev Saracoglu, Environment officer

BACKGROUND:

1. We are in a climate crisis. According to the landmark Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report issued last year, we have 12 years to limit temperatures rising to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. At this threshold, we are heading toward a mass extinction of coral, extreme weather events (as Queenslanders can currently attest to), sea-level rise, destruction of whole ecosystems and the collapse of vital crops. At the current trends there is little hoping of even reaching the more conservative 2 degree target. According to the IPCC, a 2 degree temperature rise would be far worse than 1.5 degrees, with all the effects mentioned earlier greatly magnified.

2. It is incumbent upon the USYD SRC, as the democratic organisation of USYD students, to take a position on this question. Not only do a majority of Australians consider climate change a serious and pressing problem (59 percent according to the latest Roy Morgan poll), but we represent university students – among whom there is even greater concern regarding the climate crisis (see Wachholz et. al. 2014).

3. Action on climate change is not a question of science, but one of politics. Politicians are unwilling to act to save the planet because of the profits and power of fossil fuel giants. The SRC is a body that has a proud tradition of supporting social justice issues and forcing change contrary to the will of those who run Australian society. Continuing this legacy by committing to standing in solidarity with school strikers is of paramount importance in order to force change from the policy makers.

3. On November 30 last year, 15,000 high school students protested on the streets as part of a national school strike. It was enthusiastically received by the media and almost all quarters of society, save for a few curmudgeons down in Canberra. The effect has been that discussion of the climate crisis has increased and there is mounting pressure on politicians to commit to a real response in the lead up to the federal election. This highlights an important reality – the way forward to prevent environmental destruction on apocalyptic levels is mass action.

PLATFORM:

1. The USYD SRC endorses the March 15 national School Strike 4 Climate, believing it to be an important initiative to help put serious action on climate change on the agenda in the lead up to the federal election.

2. The USYD SRC encourages all USYD students and staff to attend or support the demonstration in solidarity with the school strikers, meeting with university students from all across NSW at 11.30am at the Queen Victoria building.

ACTION:

1. The USYD SRC will advertise the passing of this motion with a press release.
2. The USYD SRC will co-host the central university contingent Facebook event and will share the event on its social media platforms.
3. The USYD SRC calls on students to leave their classes in the USYD walk off on Friday 15th March and commends the NTEU in their refusal to punish students for doing so.

Discussion:

Lily Campbell: I moved this motion... it's one of the most important motions in the current era. Extreme climate risk and disaster is coming; an IPCC report says unless we totally change the economy and climate we will get a 1.5 degree rise in average temperature and huge environmental damage. The issue of climate change seems beyond us, from icebergs floating away, to bushfires, to towns without water. But seeing school strikers; some of them are repressed, they're told when to go to the bathroom, where to go what to do and so on. These young people, they don't get a vote, but they're standing up. Across the country they're calling for stopping Adani, for transitioning to renewables. [The SRC] has a proud tradition of standing for social justice, we have a responsibility not just to ourselves but for future students as well. If some students are on strike, we should be with them, showing solidarity. School kids face detention and discipline, at the last strike they ducked under school fences and gates to be there. As University students we don't face that, we have freedom, but we should be asking students to push for this. Teachers won't penalise University students for not attending classes because the NTEU is supporting this and attending this. There will be a USyd contingent with a school striker speaking, then we will be going to the QVB. It's very important to show student power here, and to show solidarity to school students. I highly recommend this motion.

Alev Saracoglu: We only have 11 years to limit catastrophic climate change, if you care for the world then supporting this motion is a no-brainer.

Gina Elias: I want to echo previous sentiments; we don't exist in a bubble, climate change affects everyone. Poor people can't afford to live in a bunker or on floating cities that big corporations like Exxon are making or proposing. I think it's a huge issue; if you're committed to social justice and activism, putting forward student interests like this is important. Some of you may not know this, but funding allocation for climate action is currently being used for more coal mines. This action is at an urgent time; this issue is not being voiced in Parliament, these institutions aren't putting student interests first. We need to be part of the contingent, stand up to Scott Morrison and the like.

Brodie Gillieatt: I've been at University for 4 years, this is my first meeting because it's so important for everyone involved. It's not just a University issue. The SRC as an institution has an interest in student welfare; we have the right to

strike for our own futures, if the Government isn't supporting us then we should exercise the right to strike.

Mari Rose: There's these two inspiring primary school students in US, Rio and Magdalena, they interviewed a Senator (Feinstein, D-CA) about the Green New Deal, saying that they don't have the life or political experience she does, but they have to live through this. This is an important cause taken up by University students, school students, even primary school students.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: First, I'd like to acknowledge that we are on stolen land, and that sovereignty was never ceded. When we're talking about climate change, the most affected are Indigenous lands and peoples. We're a student union, we should be political. This isn't a divisive issue unless you write for the Sydney Tory. I wouldn't be happy to be part of a student union that would scab on this strike, a strike not only for students, but for the most vulnerable sections of society.

Deaglan Godwin: I'd like to echo previous speakers. We have a commitment to all students, primary, high school, or university, as we live our lives climate change will affect us. We have a duty to join students as they strike, even with high schoolers. Also need to show international solidarity; this is affecting people around the world, from the drying out of sub-Saharan Africa to Pacific Islands going underwater. Take a stand and fight for social change with fellow students.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: I don't have much more to add, we've had many articulate speakers have come before me. Echoing Swapnik, this is a political issue but it shouldn't be divisive, we shouldn't be voting down party lines. Western Sydney University and UNSW have voted this up, we should too. We're 12 years out from irreversible global destruction

Vinil Kumar: I want to echo Brodie, when the democratically elected Government isn't doing what we want we have to take power into our own hands. Everyone wants action on climate change, polls show a majority wants things done on climate change including closing Adani. It's the Gina Rineharts and Twiggy Forrests of the world that want us to ignore students and ignore climate change. Later we'll be talking about freedom of speech and being a political union, so this is a great start for the year.

Amendment proposed by James Ardouin (seconded by JP Baladi):

That Action Point 3 be removed from the motion.

This amendment was **NOT** amenable to the movers. As this would significantly alter the intent of the motion, the proposed amendment was to be considered as a **Foreshadowed motion**.

Discussion on the motion as it stood continued:

Grace Bowskill: The whole point of the motion is to encourage the strike, to help give legitimacy to the action. I agree with other speakers, this is a political body, that proposed amendment would neutralise the motion. We're political, we should have students see us as that, and we can only do that by endorsing this motion. We also want to show solidarity with the NTEU, their support is great, they won't punish students so we should support that.

Alex Panzarimo: I want to call attention to the name of the motion, it's a strike. Here's the definition according to google, a forcible hit... oh, that's the wrong definition, here it is; a refusal to work as a form of protest for concessions. It's also a forcible hit, it's not a passive motion, and the attempt to gut the motion... I refuse to accept it.

Himath Siriniwasa: I'd like to reiterate what's been said and say Action Point 3 is the core of the motion. We should support the NTEU, if we don't support the motion in its entirety then that it would be a travesty, we've fought for social justice for decades.

James Newbold: The SRC has affiliated to the NUS, this is a big campaign of theirs, so we should follow through on that. It's not about forcing students to go to the strike, it's about ensuring they don't get in trouble for going, it's actually a pretty centrist motion.

Vinil Kumar: The SRC is not just a representative body, it has a responsibility to lead and put forward political arguments as to what students should do. Sometimes we have to lead, to ask students here to mobilise and join the strike. We can't be passive, we have to lead.

With the speaking list exhausted, the Chair called for a vote.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

There was no report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

K1. Election of one Indigenous Students' Officer

No nominations were received

K2. Election of one Mature Age Students' Officer

No nominations were received

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the 3rd Executive Meeting held on the **18th of January** were circulated.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 3rd Executive Meeting be accepted.

Moved: James Ardouin

Seconded: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

L2. Report of the Executive

The Report of the Executive from the **31st of January to the 27th of February** was circulated.

The report was noted by the Council.

L3. President's Report

Jacky He moved the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson, Dane Luo.

Jacky He submitted this report:

Welcome Week

Welcome Week ran extremely successfully for SRC. Over the three days, we have successfully attracted 1077 distinct followers on our WeChat and Facebook platforms and made a historical record in the amount of traction attracted to SRC's social media during Welcome Week. Each day we had approximately 50 volunteers / office-bearers at our SRC stalls handing out show bags and SRC flyers. Some collectives have reportedly raised over sixty members within the three days.

The international student campus tour also ran very smoothly as well, with 60 students turning up on Monday 18th of February (20 more than the registered number of students). We received highly positive verbal feedbacks from the students expressing their satisfaction towards our service and they also had an opportunity to communicate and bond with some of the student representatives from the SRC.

Updated University Alcohol Policy

During committee meeting this week, I have taken the opportunity to speak out from a student perspective regarding the University's updated alcohol policy. To further ensure the safe use of alcohol on campus, I have proposed for a brief alcohol policy module to be created for all students to complete before their commencement at the University. The university should also reach out to colleges on campus and in a collaborative manner, ensure the safe use of alcohol within colleges.

I have also had a chance to meet briefly with the Health Services Unit at the University of Sydney, to discuss strategies on how to improve the mental health state of students – in particular international students. We are currently looking to set up further meetings to raise initiatives that will promote mental health awareness amongst undergraduate students.

Caseworkers

One EXCELLENT new that the casework team has informed me about is that within the last week, ALL casework consultation slots have been booked out. This is the first time in a very long time that this has happened, and we attribute this to the hard work that the caseworkers have committed themselves to handing out wall planners and speaking at orientation events, as well as the excellent social media campaign that we have launched targeting both international and domestic students.

Open Learning Environment

As previously stated, one of the main goals that the President is striving for this semester is changing the structure, workload and credit point allocation. Many students have complained to me about OLE – especially with the areas mentioned just then. So far, I have spoken about improving the structure and workload of the Open Learning Environment on the Interdisciplinary Board Meeting, the UE Education Committee Meeting and briefly on the Student Life Committee Meeting as well. I have also met with Professor Peter McCallum today, showing him some of the student responses towards the Open Learning Environment that have been collected through a survey conducted in late 2018. I will update the Council on any progress that has been made with reforming OLE.

Discussion

Regarding the University Alcohol Policy

Omar Hassan: Did you oppose the existence of happy hour?

Jacky He: No, didn't speak against them, I simply proposed a new module for students.

Omar Hassan: You should have spoken, getting rid of happy hour is an attack on students.

Regarding Caseworkers

Lily Campbell: I'm worried about caseworkers being booked out, we want students to be able to access the service. What do we do? Do we hire more?

Jacky He: Mel is happy, it's the first time it's happened. Should we hire more? SSAF hasn't been approved, so can't make determination. James needs to come back as well before anything can be looked at.

Cameron Caccamo: As a member of the admin staff that books these students in; we would just put them into an appointment slot the following week. We also have drop-in sessions, so students are still able to see caseworkers.

Regarding Welcome Week

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: I know organising Welcome Week was all very last minute, but why didn't we get signs for our stalls? It made branding difficult, students and even volunteers on the stalls couldn't find us.

Jacky He: The USU could only give us 10 stalls. We needed a stall for SRC Executives, one for Caseworkers and the Legal Service, one for Honi, then all the Collectives for the rest.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: Yes, but why weren't we given signs?

Dane Luo: I was Acting President at the time so I am happy to answer this. The USU wanted that information early, and not many Collectives had come to us in time. Also would mean additional costs, made it difficult and left us quite tied. We should take that as feedback for next year, maybe the USU can give us free signs.

Jacky He: We were in deficit, so we were also trying to cut costs.

Lily Campbell: Were we actually in deficit?

Jacky He: Yes, once Chitra put it all together we were.

Motion: That the Report of the President be accepted.

Moved: JP Baladi

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Dane Luo returned the Chair to Jacky He.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Caitlyn Chu and Dane Luo submitted this report:

Contributing to Welcome Week

A lot of Welcome Week activity will be covered in the President and General Secretaries' reports. We are very excited with how the SRC stalls went. Dane spent all of his time either at the SRC stall or walking around to hand out SRC bags or wallplanners. We found that handing out wallplanners at faculty welcome lectures or Great Hall sessions was incredibly successful in engaging new students. There was a lot of interest from students, giving us an opportunity to explain the different services that the SRC offers.

In week 1, our caseworkers informed us that they received a very high number of requests for assistance. Indeed, on both Tuesday and Thursday, the number of students coming to drop-in sessions were at capacity and so high that some students had bookings made for later times or asked to send emails. We are very excited that more students are engaging and using our caseworker services and that there appears to be greater awareness of it.

Engaging with Faculty Societies

Last week, we supported the SULLS First Year Crash Course for first year students. On Monday, Dane attended a meeting with the Sydney University Dental Association to speak with dentistry students. Today, we jointly held an Arts Welcome Session with SASS. We want to thank and acknowledge the Executives of those Faculty Societies for working with us to make these events a success. We have a number of joint collaborations with other Faculty Societies coming up this year.

We have been in contact with Faculty Societies to deal with recent changes to USU funding for their events and activities. For example, many small, free events (such as free doughnuts or BBQs) are extremely difficult to be held. Dane has been meeting with Faculty Society Presidents and some Treasurers to help them advocate for changes to the USU funding structure.

Satellite campuses

We love our satellite campuses! In week 1, Dane joined the caseworkers to visit Camden and Westmead (Monday), Cumberland (Tuesday), Conservatorium (Wednesday), and, SCA and Mallett Street (Thursday). Building from our engagement in Welcome Week at Camperdown/Darlington, we handed out over 2000 wallplanners in our satellite campuses and promoted satellite campus visits by our caseworkers or Skype calls. We want to thank the caseworkers for being so active in reaching out to students and look forward to working with them throughout this year.

We are currently working on running Health Days in Cumberland and Mallett Street later this semester. We are already in contact with several NGOs to see if they can come out and

assist with us. We are discussing whether we can run events at other satellite campuses as well and possibly look at smaller events like a Wellbeing Lunch. The reason why we are doing this is because our satellite campuses have historically received barely any engagement from the SRC and University. Indeed, key functions such as the Student Centre Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) are not available at satellite campuses and many students do not know what to do or where they can get help.

SSAF

At the last meeting, it was reported that our SSAF submission has been submitted and signed off by Dane. Our submission is being looked at by the University, will be taken to several committees and discussion groups, before being returned to us.

Since February, we have helped the Senior Executive work on Physical Infrastructure Requests to address some WHS issues with our office and get some new facilities to help staff, *Honi Soit* editors and Officers do their work.

We are now working on the SSAF acquittal, specifically on line items relating to Elections, NUS and O Week. We want to thank Chitra for making sure everything is organised; Mel, Amanda, Mickie and Thomas for working with the Senior Executive on the parts for their relevant departments; and, Niamh and Jacky for getting everything together. Special mention to Mel for giving us plenty of ideas and suggestions, and for sharing her many years of knowledge. We are well ahead for our SSAF acquittal and we are very happy with that.

Regulations Review

We are starting the process of reviewing our *Regulations* to improve and streamline the processes within our organisation and also address anomalies and issues within them. We want to thank Cameron for his guidance and advice on this matter. If any student would like to express a view or contribute in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us at vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au.

New Research and Policy Officer

We hope to start advertising for a full-time Research and Policy Officer to supplement our Casework and Policy Department. We believe that student accommodation on campus should be affordable and should be prioritising regional and international students. We also believe in supporting students who feel they have been unfairly treated by the University or accommodation providers, especially if a student feels they have been unfairly evicted. This is an area the Council decided last year should take seriously and fight for on behalf of these students. Dane has been working with our caseworkers for the Research and Policy Officer to work on student accommodation issues as a major project they would be doing.

Motion: That the Council determines to fill a fixed-term Research and Policy Officer position within the Casework and Policy Department.

Volunteer program

We started a volunteer program before Welcome Week. Through this program, we hope to get more students involved in SRC activities. Caitlyn posted on the information on social media and received 60 expressions of interest, which we were delighted and surprised by. Caitlyn look through all the expressions and contacted each volunteer to teach them about the SRC and introduced them to the staff. Caitlyn and Jacky held a volunteer training before Welcome Week and there are more students are interested in the SRC that were happy to help out.

A note on Cameron

This will be the last Council meeting before the Secretary to Council position returns to Julia Robins. We want to profusely thank our wonderful Secretary to Council, Cameron Caccamo, who has worked incredibly hard in this job. We send Cameron many emails and requests, and he is always willing to help us out and make things move smoothly. He has been approachable and helpful. In addition, Cameron has provided the people in the office with support in incredible ways – always caring for his colleagues, providing thoughtful advice and checking up on them. We want to thank his service to the SRC over the past number of months as Deputy Electoral Officer and Secretary to Council. And we look forward to seeing Julia return to this position and working with her this year.

Discussion:

Regarding SSAF

Omar Hassan: Regarding our SSAF application, are we asking for more or less money?

Dane Luo: You always ask for more, can't disclose much more than that because other student associations may hear and could jeopardise the negotiation process.

Motion: That the Report of the Vice President, and the motion therein, be accepted.

Moved: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Niamh Callinan and Yuxuan Yang submitted this report:

SSAF Application

On the 31st of January, the SRC's SSAF Application was successfully sent off. This was within the deadline given and included both the base funding and contestable funding aspects of the application. We would like to give a massive thank you to Dane who as Acting President

signed and officially sent the application. We would also like to say a massive thank you to Chitra (Administration), James and Mel (Casework and Policy), Amanda and Mickie (Communications and Publications), Thomas (SRC Legal Service), Karen (Elections) for the work they put into the application, and also their ideas and suggestions for improving each department's capacity over the coming year.

In regards to the final numbers of the application, this will not be confirmed until around April, so whilst the application has been received and acknowledged, we are still awaiting further communication as to the progress of the application and the final amounts the SRC will receive from the SSAF resource pool this year.

Council's First Meeting/ Reps Elect

We are very excited to finally have all the OB positions elected and we have started to communicate with all the officers in regards to what they are hoping to achieve this year. We both look forward to continuing to discuss and assist all OBs and Collectives in their plans for the coming year.

Welcome Week

Welcome Week is finally upon us; we have spent that last few weeks finalising the merchandise, the allocation of stalls, volunteers and packing all the material into the SRC tote bags.

We run out of 2000 SRC bag (including orientation-countercourse handbook, logo pen, SRC help flyer, SRC sticker and so on) and more than 2500 wall planer. We would like to thank the Welcome Week Committee for their assistance in organising Welcome Week, and also all the OBs and Collectives for their enthusiasm, time and energy they have placed into meeting the deadlines for printing and materials for this week. We are very touched and we would like to great thank to the volunteers, you help us to let more students understand src, let us truly integrate students, understand students, represent students. We look forward to more volunteers joining us.

Discussion:

Only Niamh Callinan was present to answer questions to the Report.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: I understand SSAF negotiations are going on, but where is the funding for this SASS and SRC event coming from?

Niamh Callinan: We had funds left over from Welcome Week, so we have reallocated it from there.

Omar Hassan: What was the event?

Dane Luo: It was a welcome and transition event for Arts students. Welcome Week is confronting and overwhelming so it was a follow-up for that. Talked to students about services available and how to succeed at University.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: Faculty Societies are good for engagement, but they get money themselves. Why not distribute our money to our Collectives?

Niamh Callinan: Money is distributed to Collectives, this money has come from Welcome Week. There will be enough money.

Ellie Stephenson: If there's enough money, then why didn't that money go towards tote bags for Collectives? That would have been great for all of us in terms of visibility.

Niamh Callinan: That was mostly a timeline issue, holding Reps Elect so late made it difficult.

Lily Campbell: I'm still a bit confused about this SASS event?

Niamh Callinan: it was a combined event, yes.

Dane Luo: This is not new, it was reported last meeting

Lily Campbell: So, what happened?

Dane Luo: It was a general seminar for Arts students and helping them at University, Mel came along as well.

Omar Hassan: What was the cost?

Dane Luo: \$150

Jazz Breen: I think what was said was false – last year's money was approved for tote bags and then taken away. But women's collective got tote bags, that shows your priorities

Niamh Callinan: Not going to speak to my personal opinions when it's a decision made by the whole Executive.

Liam Donohoe: Why are we expecting more in SSAF?

Niamh Callinan: I said we were hopeful. We were the first to get our application in, which is a good sign that we'll be listened to.

Liam Donohoe: Wasn't there a change in date that it was due? You should represent this properly to the Council.

Niamh Callinan: Historically we've submitted mid-February, this time it was on time in late January.

Jacky He: We spoke to the people who run SSAF, we were told it would give us a competitive edge to get it in in January.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: Back to what was said earlier – you (Niamh) said you didn't want to go through personal opinions, but you need to represent yourself. Why was that tote bag expense rescinded?

Niamh Callinan: I don't think it was in-camera, but it was due to concerns over Reps Elect and not having Officers sorted.

Lily Campbell: That's a lie, this is money approved from the previous year.

Niamh Callinan: Then I can't really tell you.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: Imagine how many more people could have been involved in the Women's Collective if there was tote bags and other things approved for them?

Lily Campbell: This is interesting, I was in the Executive meeting where this was all approved, the former Women's Officers asked for materials to run campaigns and the like the following year. This year's Executive has gone back and undone all that, which is undemocratic. It shows that you don't want political material in the women's office because they would be about women's rights. You undemocratically undid a motion, now you're not sure and can't remember the minutes. We are the Council, you report to us. This all sounds corrupt, and you should have a better answer for us.

Jazz Breen: I've got a lot more to say. We had plenty of things approved for our work running the women's Collective, and had already ordered and got paid back for it so they couldn't undo more of it. The things I approved as last year's Queer Officer were almost overturned. This was approved from last year's Executive, so I need an explanation why that happened.

Niamh Callinan: We have an exec meeting on Friday, we can write something then to explain this to all of you.

Omar Hassan: This is a bit ridiculous, you should just give WoCo \$800 to do whatever they want with. Can I make that a motion?

Motion from the floor: That \$800 be immediately allocated to the Women's Collective.

Moved: Omar Hassan

Seconded: Lily Campbell

At the Chair's discretion, the motion was voted on immediately.

The motion was put and **LOST.**

The Meeting resumed discussion of the Report of the General Secretary.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: I wanted to commend Dane on organising the SASS event, it's the kind of event the SRC should be doing.

Dane Luo: I want to commend the entire Senior Executive, Niamh Callinan worked hard in this role while doing an internship over summer, commend her for that.

Liam Donohoe: The \$150 is neither here nor there, but we deserve an explanation for this \$800 the Women's Collective is owed.

Ellie Stephenson: It's bizarre that you don't know what the decision was after you made it, it's usually you don't know beforehand.

Lily Campbell: It's bizarre that this year's group went back and changed the minutes of the previous year's exec, how was this allowed?

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: Can we please just move to a vote.

With the speaking list exhausted, the Chair called for a vote.

Motion: That the Report of the General Secretary be accepted.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officer

Yiting Feng and James Newbold submitted this report:

Your Education Officers have been flatout finishing Counter Course and preparing for O-Week. We promoted the campaigns for international student concession opal cards, stopping the Ramsay Center, promoting the climate strike on March 15, and workers rights (especially those of international students).

Thanks again to all those who contributed to Counter Course. We received positive feedback all round and the dual covers are both ones that will be remembered by future officebearers and SRC activists.

By the time council meets, the first EAG action of the year will have happened as USYD Education activists travel to Wollongong on Friday 2nd March to join their protest against the Ramsay Center.

Stay tuned for further updates on the Ramsay and Opal Card campaigns.

Discussion:

Only Yiting Feng was present to answer questions to the Report.

Zac O'Farrell: What are your reasons for being against the Ramsay Centre?

Jacky He: I think you should talk to James (Newbold), he's the one organising.

Zac O'Farrell: I just wanted to know, but I can speak to James, sure.

Omar Hassan: I also want to know your position on Ramsay Centre, but also what you've done in your role.

Yiting Feng: I've been working on the Opal Card Campaign, working on having seminars and signatures on petitions.

Omar Hassan: How many signatures?

Yiting Feng: I don't know, the petition is with James now.

Omar Hassan: So that work accounts for about three days, what about the other three months?

Yiting Feng: Just working through the Opal Card campaign.

Lily Campbell: What other plans do you have?

Yiting Feng: Mostly that, working on it now.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: I've got two questions, one to Zac about what he said earlier, but first; I couldn't attend today's EAG Meeting, do have minutes uploaded, or can you speak to it?

Yiting Feng: Firstly, Ramsay Centre, talking about speakers and posters around campus. Then Opal Card, still discussing, want to have a campaign on it after the Climate Strike march.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: Now to respond to Zac, firstly, what was your position on the same-sex plebiscite?

Zac O'Farrell: I wasn't 18 so I didn't vote.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: That isn't answering my question.

Jacky He: We should direct questions to the Education Officers.

Liam Donohoe: To Yiting, lots of people on this side of the room want the Opal Card concession campaign to win, if you want to talk to us please do. We're happy to help.

With the speaking list exhausted, the Chair called for a vote.

Motion: That the Report of the Education Officer be accepted.

Moved: JP Baladi

Seconded: Crystal Xu

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

02. Report of the Women's Officer

Gabi Stricker-Phelps and Crystal Xu submitted this report:

Since our election we have been working on both planning and delivering on the projects that we intend to focus on for 2019. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the SRC staff and the executive for their help throughout this transition process. We look forward to continuing to work with you. The following details an update on our work over the past month.

1 Welcome Week:

One of our major focuses was on editing the USYD Women Handbook 2019. This involved seeking contributors from a variety of faculties and backgrounds to write about issues they felt passionate about. We also sought graphic design contributors. The handbook had three major aims. The first was to showcase the talent and opinions of our diverse USYD Women community. The second was to provide information and tips for women starting their university careers on where to get help, how to join women focused clubs such as the Network of Women and general university survival tips. The third was to encourage female entrepreneurship by sharing the stories of current USYD entrepreneurs. Thank you to both Amanda and Mickie in particular for their help on this project. We printed a total of 500 handbooks which were all distributed. A copy of the handbook is also available online via:

https://issuu.com/srcpubs/docs/women_handbook-final-web_version

Additionally, we ordered 500 purple bags to put the handbooks in, totalling at \$544.50. Inside the bags we included Future Women Annual Memberships at the subsidised price of \$2 (normally \$79) and USYD Women 2019 Logo Stickers (1000 for approx. \$103). This is the designed logo (designed by Kate Scott - USYD student):



We also sourced 500 packets of 12 Regular U by Kotex pads, 150 Jewellery samples by Olyeu and 20kg lollies by Chinese IT to include in the Welcome Week bags. We also obtained contributions from the Sydney School of Entrepreneurship about the work they are doing to foster a support system for entrepreneurs and advice on how more USYD women students can get involved.

Discussion:

Jazzlyn Breen: Where did the money for the tote bags come from?

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: From the Executive, we applied for money.

Ella Finlay: Sexual Assault is an important issue for women, but did not appear in your handbook, but entrepreneurship appeared 28 times...

GSP: This was about entrepreneurship mostly, but did talk about other SRC services, and also mentioned shuttle bus which is something that I think is important.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: Your priorities seem to be vague and centrist, not much about sexual assault...

GSP: We have Harassment Officers to assist with that, they are yet to respond to my email.

SS: How well placed are you to continue the movement of ending rape on campus when it's obvious it is not your priority?

GSP: We're happy to work with anyone on this. Today we were at the Safer Communities Working Group, with Jazz (Breen), Layla (Mkhayber) and Maya (Eswaran, USU Board Director). We're lucky

that we have Sexual Harassment Officers to assist us. The previous Women's Officers indicated that we did need more active Sexual Harassment Officers. I may not be "Your" Women's Officer, but I was democratically elected... I'm happy to answer your questions.

Jacky He: We'll return to this at the end of the report.

2. Sanitary Item Project:

We are intending on running a program from the SRC office where all students who require sanitary items during university hours are able to access them free of charge. The excess sanitary items that remain will be used for our sanitary item project. We are in the process of reaching out to a number of sanitary items companies seeking either donations or bulk pricing options. There will also be a donation box towards the charity KindNecessities, whose Sydney executive is comprised of a number of University of Sydney Student. This would enable those women who are willing and able to contribute to the price of sanitary items to do so while contributing to the important social mission of KindNecessities.

This is an excerpt from the KindNecessities 'About Us' page to give an indication of the work that the charity engages in:

KindNecessities is an organisation that works on a local and international level to provide the necessities that should be afforded to every woman, irrespective of circumstance. Through our local commitment to transforming the discussion and stigma surrounding female hygiene, to the sanitary items that we provide to the victims of crises - our team works tirelessly to do what we can to 'normalise' the discussion in societies deemed progressive, conservative and everything in between. Almost 29% of the 4,289,792 registered Syrian refugees between the ages of 12 and 59 in Jordan's Zaatari camp are affected by the gap in aid towards female hygiene products, resulting in the use of cloths, rags and garbage bags as sanitary pads. This means that even with their allowance provided by the UN, over 1 million women and girls are having to choose between feeding their family and purchasing sanitary items. Their health is at stake, with these women opting in to put themselves at risk of infection for their families. We want to change this by providing reusable pads at no cost to the most vulnerable in our society. Their shelter, blankets, clothes and shampoo are provided for by many charities and international organisations - their sanitary items should be too, because we believe it is just as much of a necessity for women and girls fleeing from war as it is for us back home."

3. International Women's Day:

International Women's Day for 2019 is on the 8th of March and we are organising two events:

- 1) Sending a cohort of volunteers to the United Nations IWD breakfast on Friday 8th of March from 7-9 am. The theme for the breakfast is #More Powerful Together.
- 2) Holding a USYD International women's day lunch and screening of the Oscar-winning short documentary: *Period. End of Sentence* on Friday 8th March.

4. Events and Lectures:

We have secured a 10% discount for Women students at USYD who want to attend the Roxane Gay and Christina Hoff Sommers Event called "A Conversation About Feminism," on Friday 29th of March organised by This is 42.

There is also 20% discount for USYD women to attend the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association's "Women Who Lead: Stories of Success" panel talk on the 7th of March, consisting of female professionals across the business, entrepreneurship, media and engineering sectors. This is also in celebration of IWD.

5. Community, Social Media and Consultations:

We created our facebook community page: USYDWomen2019. Like or follow to keep updated with our activities, events and news. We also updated the SRC Women's Department webpage on the SRC website.

We have established our consultation hours from 1-2:30pm each week on Tuesdays in Gosper at the SRC or otherwise by appointment. Anyone who would like to meet with us can send an email or message us through our FB page.

We have also engaged with a number of Women's officers and representatives across university to organise meeting times with them to discuss potential collaborations throughout the year.

6. Sexual Assault and Harassment; NUS:

During Welcome Week the National Union of Students Women's Officer, Sarah Tynan, came to USYD to share and educate about the campaign led by the NUS alongside EROC Australia and The Hunting Ground- Australia calling for a National Taskforce into sexual violence at universities.

This is an excerpt from the open letter Sarah sent around that we have signed:

“We are calling for a National Taskforce with the following key demands:

- *That it is independent and free from university and residential college influence.*
- *That it is expert led*
- *That it Universities are assessed by the effectiveness of their policies and procedures*
- *That it reports publicly*
- *That it is consultative with students and student representatives on campus.”*

Also, we worked with one of the four sexual harassment officer, Sonia Gao, to create the USYD women’s channel on WeChat platform for international students. We posted materials about sexual assault on campus during Welcome Week and managed an emergency page for reporting sexual assault incidents through the channel.

7. Website Development:

We are currently putting together a team of USYD Women who are interested in being involved in creating an online platform to serve as a hub for women’s opinions, ideas and information on campus. We are in the early stages of the project’s development and will keep the council updated on further progress.

8. Bettina Arndt

The college letter distributed by Bettina Arndt is unacceptable, dangerous and hugely misleading. The letter invalidates the experience of victims of sexual assault and harassment. Arndt’s male apologist attitude undermines the work of student activists, the university, the colleges and importantly the #MeToo movement that have been working to create a more supportive environment for victims of sexual harassment and assault to speak out about their experiences. The letter uses emotive language and hyperbole which encourages a gender divide where men are being pitted against women on an issue that if we are serious about solving requires gender unity. If Ms Arndt was actually interested in taking part in an educational and consultative approach in creating sexual assault and harassment policy on campus this is certainly not the way to do so.

Discussion:

Grace Bowskill: International Women's Day started as a rally, it's not meant to be a bougie breakfast. This should be a working women's day, what are you doing for the rally?

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: We're not advertising that, we weren't approached by anyone to work on it.

Lily Campbell: This is in your role description though.

GSP: I don't think you would be supportive of anything I would do anyway.

LC: You're being paid thousands and you're not doing anything?

GSP: Doing nothing? What do you think we do in meetings?

Jazz Breen: I'd like to disagree with everything you say on principle... (interjection from GSP) ...but I can't because we agree on Bettina Arndt. Just on your consultation hours, consultation is explicitly outlawed, Officers can't give advice to students.

GSP: Consultation hours is probably the wrong term, it's just meant to be a way for students to talk to us.

JB: The NUS Women's Officer, by the way, packed up and left you to join us when told that you rolled the Women's Collective.

GSP: Thanks for the comment.

Gina Elias: What are you doing about the gender pay gap?

Crystal Xu: We're promoting entrepreneurship because they need jobs before they get paid well.

Vinil Kumar: So, you're saying that women should be grateful for getting work at all?

CX: No, it's a starting point

GSP: It's important that we talk about the SRC services to assist women... what we do is open discussion on the issue, which is important.

VK: You say you want to overcome these issues with networking.

GSP: That's not correct...

VK: But you talk about networking and entrepreneurship a lot.

GSP: That's part of it, yes.

VK: Have you done anything for working class women? Like introduce them to trade unions that can help in the workplace?

GSP: I don't think entrepreneurship is about bosses, it's about pushing yourself at the workplace, if working class women or any woman comes to us with goals... We were told to focus on two goals. If someone comes to us... I will take this feedback on board...

VK: If an early childhood educator came to you would you assist them or talk about entrepreneurship?

GSP: Of course I would support them.

SS: It seems like your work is tailored to rich white women, what are you doing for women of colour and working class women, against islamophobia, for trans women and non binary students, and sex workers.

CX: You mention how we should help Women of Colour, I'm a WoC I will organize events for International students, coming soon, working with companies to get internships as well.

SS: What about women that can't be helped by those ideas?

GSP: If women come forward to us we'll help them.

Liam Donohoe: Earlier you tried to discharge your duties over sexual assault to the Harassment Officers...

GSP: I never said that.

LD: Well, let the record show that. Let's talk about the Harassment Officers, they historically were an internal grievance role, and the context of what the immediate past Women's Officers had said was that you were about to roll the Collective. It's disingenuous to make that point. Is that reasonable?

GSP: I don't think that's reasonable

Ellie Stephenson: Two questions, firstly on this focus on entrepreneurship; some women can't or won't access it, for example if I'm a teacher I don't particularly care about that, what can you do for students like that?

GSP: Entrepreneurship isn't the only thing we're doing, sanitary products are another thing, I haven't heard much on that.

JB: That's a bit TERF-y

GSP: I don't know what that means... (multiple interjections) ...Moving on, I do want to talk to everyone over this, and will talk widely.

ES: For Sanitary products... what about women who don't need sanitary products or those that aren't women that do, what steps are being taken to ensure they are included?

GSP: We'll take that to the next Council to make sure everything is inclusive.

Lily Campbell: Let's talk about sexual assault in colleges, like St Paul's "rape dungeon", it's quite telling that you and your accomplice... you ran on a policy of supporting colleges.

GSP: I'm an associate of Women's College.

LC: Telling. We should oppose Colleges at every turn, they enact brutality on students and have terrible history. What are you doing to burn down the colleges and bring those guilty of assault to light? It's not enough to talk about things on the edges or entrepreneurship, there's women that experience oppression that aren't cared for. I want to know what you're doing to tear down the colleges.

GSP: I'm doing nothing to burn down the colleges. I believe that the reports that stem from the colleges need a lot of reformation. I'll continue to meet with the heads of Colleges and working with them, burning them down is destructive. Also, we have all-women colleges, how could you be feminists if you want to destroy all-women colleges?

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: I think your feminism is very individualistic, it should be activist and cover a lot more bases than what you're talking about.

GSP: I would like to speak to you to assist on those points.

Julia Kokic: I would like to commend the women's officers... the way you (points to room) are treating a fellow woman is disgraceful. Honestly your vision of feminism is so narrow, you have to be pro abortion... (room breaks down) ...Gabi wants to listen to all women, not just the niche socialist feminism.

With the speaking list exhausted, the Chair called for a vote.

Motion: That the Report of the Women's Officers be accepted.

Moved: Jack Abadee

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

03. Report of the Queer Officers

Peter Burrell-Sander and Steff Leinasars submitted this report:

Agenda

The Queer Action Collective would like to focus on the following during 2019:

1. Trans rights on campus
 - a. Gender neutral bathrooms on campus – particularly in newer buildings
 - b. Name changes on main student access portal
 - c. LGBTQIA+ staff training increased
2. Sexual assault awareness/campaigning
3. Linking up with other universities (UTS & UNSW) in support of relevant rallies in Sydney
4. Trans Day of Visibility Rally and collaboration with other organizations/collectives

Meetings Summary

February 8th 2019 – Attendance 7

Discussion about the new queer space which will be relocated to the manning building at a later date, hopefully prior to the start of welcome week. Discussion concerning the logistics of welcome week and what to include, as well as requesting to merge the half stalls with the disability collective. The collective agreed on re-purposing some shirts for promotional purposes in regards to one of the focuses for the collective for this year – trans rights/reform etc. Discussion concerning future contribution to rallies; sexual assault, brazil, conversion therapy, trans rights etc. Meeting closed with notes to be more inclusive to noise sensitivity with future meetings.

February 26th 2019 – Attendance 17 students

Discussion surrounding climate strike and rallying against that, trans day of visibility and leafleting for that. Motion passed for getting a trans indigenous performer for TDOV, not providing funding for queer collaborations in 2019, changing the movie screening title for march 13th, attending student strike from climate change march 15th. Badges and stickers were passed onto the collective for use at their discretion prior to the end of today's meeting.

Events

Past events:

1. Stop Adani USYD banner painting – February 5th 2019
2. QuAC goes to: stop forced adoptions protest – February 13th 2019
3. QuAC goes to: protest against Jordan Peterson – February 16th 2019
4. QuAC goes to: stop Adani protest – February 17th 2019
5. Welcome Week Stall – February 20th - 22nd 2019

Future events:

1. Movie screening of “Family in Transition” for QuAC members – March 13th 2019
 - a. Aim: Increase trans awareness/visibility on campus, as well as educational purposes for anyone involved
 - b. Entertainment for the collective for the start of semester
2. Trans Day of Visibility Rally – March 31st
3. QuAC stands with: *Student Climate Strike* – March 15th 2019
4. Stucco rally for inclusivity - TBA

Budget Review

Current expenditure:

1. *February 12th 2019* - Stickers and badges: for promotional purposes and active awareness on campus of queer visibility. [Total cost: \$153.15]
2. *February 19th 2019* – Clothes rack and boxes: for collective autonomous use of an all-inclusive clothing exchange for members. [Total cost: \$24.00]
3. *February 19th 2019* – Printed materials used for Welcome Week – promotional purposes for QuAC, as well as information about location of collective and the general outline of what the collective entails. [Total cost: \$6.00]

Anticipated Costs:

1. Trans indigenous performer for Trans Day of Visibility Rally – [Total cost: Pending, Anticipated \$200]

The Queer Action Collective acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and we acknowledge that sovereignty over the land on which we do our work was never ceded.

Motion: That the Report of the Queer Officers be accepted.

Moved: Jazz Breen

Seconded: Layla Mkhayber

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

04. Report of the Disabilities Officers

Wilson Huang and Hayden Moon submitted this report:

Despite delays due to the incidences of previous council meetings, we started our term with Welcome Week where we shared a stall with the Queer Officers. Our stall was run successfully, and we had 13 responses to our online sign-up sheet with others displaying interest. At the time of writing, we plan to email those who signed up and get the Disabilities collective running for 2019. We thank all who helped us at the stall.

We also had the opportunity to utilise the main stage with the Sign Language Society (SignSoc) and the Mental Awareness and Health Society (MAHSoc) where we introduced our respective societies/collective. We are planning future collaborations with these societies including a potential barbeque.

We were fortunate to have communicated with the NUS Disabilities Officer William Edwards during Welcome Week about his No Mind Left Behind campaign. A disproportionate number of students experience psychological distress, and we are dismayed by the state of campus counselling services. The University of Sydney gives students up to 6 counselling sessions per year. For many students needing long term support, this is just not enough. We encourage all students and staff to sign a petition calling for reform in campus counselling services at www.megaphone.org.au/p/nmlb. Universities need to do more to support students' mental health.

In October 2018, the USyd Disabilities Collective along with People with Disabilities Australia (PWDA) held a rally outside Redfern calling for more accessible public transport. We are pleased to announce that according to news from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, new lifts will be built increasing accessibility to Redfern Station. We continue to advocate for accessibility in public transport for all disabled people.

During the beginning of the year, two of our collective members, Robin Eames (Disabilities officer 2018) and one of the officers this year, Hayden Moon, presented at The Better Together Conference held by The Equality Project. As members of SQuAD (Sydney Queer and Disability community group), Hayden and Robin did a great job of discussing the difficulties that come with being disabled and queer in 2019 and how far we still need to go in terms of equality. The Panel was called "Queer & Disabled: Intersections, inclusion, solidarity, community."

We have continued to post on our Facebook page and we encourage all students with disabilities and/or needing long term supports to contact Disability Services. We are looking forward to more awesome disability activism in 2019!

Motion: That the Report of the Disabilities Officers be accepted.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Layla Mkhayber

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

O5. Report of the Sexual Harassment Officers

Jazz Breen and Layla Mkhayber submitted this report:

Women's Collective report / Sexual Harassment Officers report

Over summer, the Women's Collective has done a lot of work in connection with other women's officers around Sydney to organise our plans for the rest of the year. The women's officers from UNSW, Macquarie and UTS have all expressed to us their disappointment in the result of the USyd women's officer elections, and have expressed that they will help us out with funding if we need it due to the USyd SRC's aggression towards the Women's Collective.

We have set up an Instagram which is active daily, and has approx. 350 followers, and have re-activated the Women's Collective Twitter profile.

We have been in contact with journalist Nina Funnell, who is a long term ally of the Women's Collective, the organisers of fEMPOWER, and the directors of End Rape on Campus.

Welcome week was a success despite being allocated only half a stall. Unfortunately because we had limited space we were not able to have representatives from fEMPOWER at our stall as we had planned, despite letting the president, gensec's and VP's know of this. This was unfortunate as many collective members and new sign ups expressed interest in being involved with fEMPOWER's work in high schools. Thankfully, we were still able to give out flyers and organise for a volunteer to speak at an upcoming meeting.

We received approx. 200 sign ups over the few days, had a large amount of people turn up to a lunch we organised through the USU and ran a successful walking tour, headed by ex Women's Officer and SRC president Imogen Grant. We now have over 350 members of our Facebook organising group, and a 200 person email list.

Growing Strong is going well, we have decided to have an official launch party half way through the semester, to involve new collective members in the process of its creation. We have received 30+ articles on a variety of political topics and have commissioned illustrations for articles. We are in the editing process now and plan to be finished within the next couple of weeks.

We had our first meeting today (the 27th) with over 30 new members; It was very productive, we spoke about our plans for the coming year, and are very excited to be working with such a large group of political women.

Our plans for International Women's Day include a talk on the experience of international students on campus, focusing especially on the experiences of women

facing sexual assault and domestic violence. We also plan to have a stall/bake sale on Eastern Avenue to advertise the collective and upcoming events.

We have begun to organise the day of the unborn child protest. Within the context of recent abortion activism, within Australia with safe access zones, and internationally with the fight against criminalised abortion in Ireland – it is a very exciting time for this campaign.

We're incredibly excited for the rest of the year working with the collective, doing the real work of the women's officers.

Discussion:

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: Two questions, did you want to read out the bystander policy mentioned at the Safer Communities Working Group meeting today? Anyone can see me if you want to read it. Secondly, did you read my email?

Jazz Breen: No, we don't use that email address, we use the Women's Collective Gmail address.

Crystal Xu: Did you do anything on welcome week regarding sexual assault?

JB: We had a flyer with a translation on there as well.

CX: What can students do?

JB: Call security, there's an online portal as well, or you can speak to the sexual assault trained counsellor on campus. Any student can access that. The fact that you don't know that as Women's Officer is worrying.

CX: I'm working with Sonia Gao to work on posting on WeChat.

JB: I have a problem with that... some of the content in that post was victim blaming rhetoric that wasn't productive at all. I do agree that WeChat is a good platform, but are you giving them advice as that's a breach of your duty?

CX: We just advise who to talk to.

JB: I would advise not going to the police, very low conviction rate and may be triggering and worsen your mental health. You are only referring them to services, not giving advice, right?

CX: Correct.

JB: Come and talk to me and I can assist you.

CX: But what do you do if you're in a sexual assault, you can't email...

JB: Then call campus security... or fight them off I guess? What are you asking here?

CX: I was hoping to hear from you about what you're doing for international students.

JB: We're having a talk with a PhD student soon about this, we've had a flyer with multiple translations. We do not have WeChat, but if someone wants to help set that up, sure. Also on the Honi report, we were told that it was already submitted, which is not productive and doesn't help us.

Motion: That the Report of the Sexual Harassment Officers be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

06. Report of the Residential College Officers

James Ardouin and Annabel De Mestre submitted this report:

Report on behalf of the Residential College Officers for March Council Meeting

It is to our great pleasure that we're able to present the first report of the Residential College Officers in over 3 years. It is also our privilege to report to the Council that in a meeting of the Residential Colleges Officers, the Department has created the Intercollegiate Collective.

The Collective is dedicated to providing College Residents an independent grassroots voice, so that they may have input on the cultural renewal at the College Community, but also to provide a bridge between the Universities administration and the Residents.

This Collective is spearheaded by its current Executive (more will be appointed):

- Chairperson: James Ardouin (SRC Representatives, Residential College Officer)
- Deputy-Chairperson/Vice-President: Annabel De Mestre (Residential College Officer)
- Secretary: Caitlin-Alyssa Brown

Unfortunately, there currently is no budgeted funding for the Department or the Collective. As undoubtedly there will be funding required before the next budget is passed, further talks will have to be entered into by the Collective with the President and General Secretaries; of which Niamh, Jacky and Dane have already been very helpful in providing advice.

The first priority of the Collective Executive is working to ensure the structure of the Collective is set up the best way possible, considering the complicated set of dynamics that exists between different stakeholders. The Chairperson and Vice-President have been worked very hard in engaging these stakeholders, such that it can be reported that every Colleges Senior Student(s) and Principal has been contacted and either met by the Chairperson or Vice-President or locked into a meeting within the next coming weeks. However, until this is done, the Executive cannot give details of future activities that would require funding, as projects are being collated and costed currently, and will not be commented on until they're agreed on by the Executive, of which this Council will be informed of as soon as practicable.

A Facebook group will be created in coming weeks, as well as a formal launch of the Collective at an event, which the format of this will be decided on in the future. The Executive looks forward to achieving its mandate in fighting for the interests of Residents and ensuring all College Residents can experience the most constructive University experience possible.

Discussion:

Only James Ardouin was present to answer questions to the Report.

Zac O'Farrell: How was Chair decided?

James Ardouin: It was elected by the department.

Lily Campbell: Wow... was this for your CV?

JA: Actually, I'm the first one to open the email account in 3 years, I care about colleges and sexual assaults

Motion: That the Report of the Residential College Officers be accepted.

Moved: Gabi Stricker-Phelps

Seconded: JP Baladi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

07. Report of the Welfare Officers

Ellie Stephenson submitted this report:

Our focus as Welfare Officers over the last month was on our presence at Welcome Week. We designed flyers about students' rights in the workplace because being exploited at work is a major threat to vulnerable students' welfare while at university. We also distributed information from Unions NSW with more information about working rights. It was good to have a presence at O-Week and provide this useful information to students. We are also in process of restarting the Welfare

Officers social media accounts, which will be a good method to communicate information to students about their welfare.

We are planning on having a meeting regarding our agenda for the year soon, but broadly would like to focus on students' mental health, economic rights and welfare, activism on improving the safety of students in society and at university, and the services which are available to safeguard student welfare.

Discussion:

Only Ellie Stephenson was present to answer questions to the Report

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: Would you be interested in working with the Women's Officers to work on issues facing working class women.

Ellie Stephenson: Yes, I think we can do that.

Motion: That the Report of the Welfare Officers be accepted

Moved: Jazz Breen

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. We need to support Mental Health

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Nick Forbutt

Platform

The Council:

1. Takes note that the National Union of Students Wellbeing Report, conducted in 2016 alongside headspace, found that 98% of university students aged 16-25 had experienced at least one symptom of a mental health problem which impacted their ability to study, 65% experienced high or very high psychological distress, and 35% experienced suicidal ideation or thoughts of self-harm.
2. Takes note that the University is the lowest ranked G8 University for student support services in the Higher Education Standards Framework's Quality

Indicators for Learning and Teaching Student Experience Survey, scoring 58.7%.

3. Understands that Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is the University's primary provider of mental health support but imposes a cap on the number of counselling sessions to 6 per year per student. Furthermore, CAPS does not provide documentation, which hinders the ability of students to add supporting statements for Special Consideration applications.
4. Takes note that students from campuses other than Camperdown/Darlington or Cumberland need to travel to Camperdown/Darlington to access that support, which has been detrimental for students studying at satellite campuses.
5. Is convinced that supporting the mental health of students is crucial and important.
6. Urges the University to improve, expand and provide additional funding to CAPS and mental health initiatives.

Action

1. The President and any student representatives will use all mediums to the University (including on University committees) to advocate for:
 - a. Uncapping the total number of counselling sessions it offers each student per year.
 - b. Bringing counselling and psychological services, or other mental health support, to all satellite campuses by having 'travelling counsellors', setting up new facilities or otherwise.
 - c. Support mental health awareness and initiatives for all students.
2. The Council will campaign to create mental health awareness and inform students on how to seek support.
3. The Council endorses and supports the NUS No Mind Left Behind campaign.

Discussion:

Dane Luo: What I've discovered in my meetings is that the University treats mental health poorly, CAPS is inadequate, and it is not available at any satellites. The Uni needs to support CAPS and mental health on campus generally. Every time Uni makes a decision at one of the Committee Meetings I've attended, I've asked about how they will look after mental health, they now include that question and an answer in the papers of every meeting. I really want to take this fight to the Uni and pass this motion.

Nick Forbutt: We all know CAPS is awful, I've heard that voiced everywhere including through MAHSOC. I want to speak to Action Item 3, the campaign is great, tries to make sure psychologist sessions aren't capped or have waiting times, and students can choose their counsellors. Let's pass this and send a message.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: We all agree CAPS is terrible, but the question is... this in principle is good, but how do we ensure the Uni isn't just tokenistic

and actually negotiates in good faith? What do we do if they don't listen, any other ideas?

DL: I want to speak to Uni academics, if they don't listen I will build a campaign about this.

NF: Part of this is about building an existing campaign, it's powerful, and should be a focus this year.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: Speaking in favour of the motion, want to take it to Safer Communities Working Group, one counsellor is available per faculty and the Uni thinks it ok, it's not.

Deaglan Goowin: I agree we should absolutely talk about making CAPS better but this motion doesn't go to the root of mental health issues – this place is a degree factory, you work five days a week here, then have a job, then have a huge HECS debt, it all weighs on students during and after their time here. This motion needs to talk about that.

Grace Bowskill: It's silly to talk about mental health issues coming out of thin air, broader social issues are at play. Universities are run as businesses, they want students to go through as fast as possible, accommodation is expensive, youth allowance is low, of course students have mental health issues. This motion is good but needs to talk about politics underneath it, and policies that will attack the social problems that lead to this.

NF: I agree completely, would you like to put an amendment or be a part of the campaign? Please be involved.

Alex Panzarimo: This is an important motion, considering mental health issues. Question to Dane, platform six seems to be an attack on neoliberalism – do you oppose austerity and cuts to mental health services?

DL: Yes, I do.

Vinil Kumar: I would like to move an amendment to broaden what we want to ask for.

NF: That sounds good, let's write it up

Amendment proposed by Vinil Kumar:

That the motion be amended to include:

Action Point 4: The University of Sydney SRC commits to fighting against Government and University cuts to student support services, welfare, attempts to increase student fees and costs and calls on greater public funding to these services and affordable public housing.

The Amendment was amenable to the movers.

Motion: That the amended motion be agreed to.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Nick Forbutt

The motion was put and CARRIED.

At 8.52pm, the meeting was adjourned as more than two and a half hours had passed since the start of the meeting.

A Quorum Count was called at 9.18pm the meeting was QUORATE, with 21 Councillors present. The meeting was resumed.

Q2. End weekend exams

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

No student wants to sit an exam on a weekend. Exams held on a Saturday or Sunday are inconvenient, making University even more difficult for rural and regional students. Some students (particularly rural and regional students) travel more than two hours each day just to get to University, so it's beyond reasonable to expect students to travel to University on the weekend for exams when they'll end up spending more time travelling than completing or studying for the exam.

Furthermore, too many students depend on weekend work for their penalty rates, creating pressure against week-to-week living expenses. Too many students can't attend exams to observe religious holidays. Saturday and Sunday exams are added pressure during exam season.

Action

The President and student representatives on the Academic Board and other University Committees shall urge the University to stop holding exams on the weekend and seek alternative arrangements for those exams.

Discussion:

Dane Luo: Exams happen on Saturdays, they are terrible for students, hard for them if they need to work or study or need to travel to uni for it. Please read it, let's have the Uni look at ways to move that exams to another day.

Jayesh Joshi: I think it's a great idea.

Liam Donohoe: I strongly support this because working class people in unions gave their lives so we could enjoy weekends. Those unions would not like the fact that this union is run by right wing hacks, but I'll support this motion anyway.

Holly Hayne: We live through a neoliberal time, Uni's don't care about student welfare. Students are forced to work weekends, student allowances are meagre. Even if you don't work, after five days of study you need a break.

Daniel Wolfers: This is straightforward: if you're a student do you want to come in on a weekend? Of course not. There's so much pressure on students to enter the workforce, little time for leisure, political acts etc. Says something about current society, they just prepare us for work. We shouldn't settle for anything less than two days rest.

Julia Kokic: As Interfaith officer, weekends are significant for people of faith, especially Jews who observe Sabbath, as well as many other faiths that practice on Saturday. Rest is so important, basically a human right. Fully support the motion.

Motion: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Jayesh Joshi

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q3. Cigarette Litter Bins

Moved: Jayesh Joshi

Seconded: Georgia De Mestre

Cigarettes are the largest source of litter in urban areas across Australia. According to WA government report, 7 billion cigarettes are littered across Australia every year. This is obviously unsightly and unpleasant but not only this, cigarette butts have been found in the stomachs of wildlife causing damage and death to those animals. They also leech toxic chemicals such as cadmium, arsenic and lead and take 12- 15 years to breakdown once littered.

However, there is a solution. According to council reports, installation of special cigarette disposal bins resulted in up to a 65% reduction in cigarette litter in tested areas. These bins are highly effective at changing cigarette disposal behaviour as they are clearly labelled, safer and placed conveniently in smoking zones. According to the NSW EPA, full or dirty bins are an assumption that litter will be cleaned up is a key reason why smokers choose to litter.

Particular areas of the campus such as the Grassy area adjacent to the ABS is often heavily littered with cigarette butts and installing these bins on campus will go a long way in reducing cigarette waste and should result in a cleaner campus and cleaner community.

Action

1. The SRC will investigate the cost of these bins and the specifics of where and how they should be installed
2. The SRC shall make infrastructure requests for the university to install the bins

Discussion:

Jayesh Joshi: This is a common sense one, cigarette butt litter is mostly good except for some spots near ABS or behind Fisher. The way they are designed is to ensure smokers throw their butts away safely. Will solve the litter problem.

Alex Panzarimo: Pollution is a troubling issue, but seeing as that Council is now seemingly about slight annoyances let's talk about it, I was annoyed and moderately inconvenienced by a pile of trash near Fisher, also by a misplaced tile near the mechanical engineering building, and then there's so many other minor inconveniences... I support the motion.

Lily Campbell: I also have minor inconveniences, but let's talk about Jayesh as Environment Officer, he doesn't want to support climate change issues... Sure we can support this, but this is so trivial.

Vinil Kumar: If we want to get rid of trash we can have Jayesh leave the room... we should be standing for so much more, we've been part of anti-war movements and the like... you say we're aiming too high, you're aiming way too low.

Motion: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Jayesh Joshi

Seconded: Georgia De Mestre

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R. General Business

R1. Students of Sustainability Conference

Moved: Alev Saracoglu

Secunder: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Preamble

Last year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that if global surface temperatures exceed 2C° there will be more extreme weather, sea level rise, and mass climate migrations leading to increased geopolitical conflicts. In July this year, students from the University of Sydney and elsewhere are organising a conference to address exactly this issue: How do we transform society to live sustainably?

Students of Sustainability (SoS) is the largest and longest-running student-run conference on environmental and social justice in Australia. With more than 500 people in attendance, the conference runs over 5 days with workshops and panels on community sustainability solutions, the history of environmentalism in Australia, Aboriginal land rights, feminism, climate change and more. First started by four Science undergraduates in 1991, each year the conference is held in a different city and it is now organised by the Australian Student Environment Network. The last time Sydney held the conference was in 1999.

SoS is a very large conference similar to the national conferences held by the National Union of Students, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations and the Council of International Students Australia. We budget that the total cost of the conference will be \$60,000 comprising:

- \$10-20,000 inter-state transport and accommodation for Indigenous elders;
- \$8,000 for food;
- Up to \$15,000 for venue hire; and
- Up to \$17,000 for industrial cooking facilities, audio/visual equipment and staff, Welcome to Country ceremony, and printing and office supplies.

Because SoS has no affiliation to political parties and does not accept funding from corporations, we depend entirely upon the support of student unions, students themselves and community members to fund this event. We have been lucky enough to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA), which will go some way to ensuring the viability of the conference. However we still have a long way to go in fundraising. We would like to invite the SRC to partner with us in a strong relationship with terms outlined below. By supporting the Students of Sustainability conference, the Students' Representative Council will be helping to:

- Empower students to bring about positive social change through learning in open forums and skill sharing opportunities;
- Create a national and international network of environmentally-minded people;
- Inspire ecologically sustainable government policies on a local and national level; and
- Raise awareness of local student environment campaigns and other issues (e.g. sexual assault, underpayment at work, high rental costs, high university fees).

The SRC has the opportunity to be a part of an historic event. It would be an enormous pleasure to work together for climate and social justice.

Motion

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council joins the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association in supporting the Students of Sustainability 2019 conference, according to the following terms:
 - a. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council endorses the Students of Sustainability 2019 conference;
 - b. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council provides a financial contribution of \$10,000 to go towards items required to run the conference and to be administered by the Students of Sustainability organising committee;
 - c. Twenty (20) tickets are set aside for University of Sydney undergraduate students to attend the entirety of the conference for free;
 - d. The organisers of the Students of Sustainability conference will promote the SRC through its logo being displayed prominently on all promotional materials (online and in print);
 - e. The SRC will provide 1000 double-sided A4 colour pages and 500 A3 colour posters in printing for SoS;
 - f. The SoS organising committee will set aside a workshop for the members or councillors of the SRC to run on a relevant topic provided it is in accordance with the general tenor of the environmental and/or social justice themes of the conference;
 - g. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council pledges to work with the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association to support the venue application of the Students of Sustainability organising committee at the University of Sydney Cumberland Campus; and
 - h. The SRC is to be able to hold a stall at the conference.

Discussion:

Alev Saracoglu: I'll just quickly explain the motion in detail for those that don't understand (reads through motion). Also, I have Nick from SUPRA to answer questions if you have any.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: The important thing about a student union is assisting student conferences that can enact change... I've heard great things about SoS and ASEN and I think it's important we support them and raise the next generation of climate activists

Seth Dias: This SRC has worked with ASEN for a long time and shouldn't change now, it's a great education experience. We work with almost every

student union in the country, we're looking at having more support for this one too.

Jazz Breen: Let's talk about enviro justice, regardless of our own politics, politics won't exist on a dead planet so we should all support this. We start every meeting with acknowledgement of country, we care about Indigenous rights and this conference does too. Finances: this will fund 20 free tickets. I got one when I was a first year, it was my favourite part about my time at University, I would not have been able to go without that scholarship. I want to stress the connection with SUPRA, it's great we have 10k from them, would be beneficial if SRC does the same.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: When in the Enviro Collective, new students are really interested and need this, we shouldn't deprive them. It should be a right for students to get educated about environment issues and climate change. We should be getting this education not just in classrooms, but out on the street and in activism in the 12 years we have left. This is a top priority for SUPRA, it should be for us and the world.

Lily Campbell: I would like to lend my voice to support those that have spoken already. Allowing students to be a part of conferences to further their activist skills is important, I went to SoS last year and it was fantastic to extend my knowledge and share my experiences. We put on Socialism every year, conferences are great and more students should be able to join those. We live in an expensive world, difficult for organisers for political events to get money, Sydney Uni is authoritarian just on room bookings let alone anything else, so it's important student unions support this.

Nick Avery (Councillor, SUPRA): Thanks for having me, this is a long meeting, our ones are a lot shorter. I've been to two SoS Conferences and organising this one. I want to talk to this motion, Alev, myself, Seth and Jazz modelled this motion based on what SUPRA already has agreed to. We need funding and a venue. We're currently applying to the Uni to book Cumberland Campus, but we need funding too. Funding, advertising, a stall... all of these would be great. Let's make this a long relationship. If you want more info on the partnership with SUPRA please ask.

Motion: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Alev Saracoglu

Secunder: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

Discussion

Jacky He: I understand that SoS is important to students, we can work on something with the Environment Collective...

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: It's disgraceful that this was voted down, this is one of the most important issues we have... there's councillors in here that weren't even listening, do you even know what you're voting for!

Jacky He: The Executive will look into support soon.

Jazz Breen: Let's have a new motion that will only ask for \$2000.

At the Chair's discretion, a new motion was introduced and discussed.

R. General Business

R8. Students of Sustainability Conference (amended)

Moved: Seth Dias

Secunder: Jazz Breen

Preamble

Last year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported that if global surface temperatures exceed 2C° there will be more extreme weather, sea level rise, and mass climate migrations leading to increased geopolitical conflicts. In July this year, students from the University of Sydney and elsewhere are organising a conference to address exactly this issue: How do we transform society to live sustainably?

Students of Sustainability (SoS) is the largest and longest-running student-run conference on environmental and social justice in Australia. With more than 500 people in attendance, the conference runs over 5 days with workshops and panels on community sustainability solutions, the history of environmentalism in Australia, Aboriginal land rights, feminism, climate change and more. First started by four Science undergraduates in 1991, each year the conference is held in a different city and it is now organised by the Australian Student Environment Network. The last time Sydney held the conference was in 1999.

SoS is a very large conference similar to the national conferences held by the National Union of Students, the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations and the Council of International Students Australia. We budget that the total cost of the conference will be \$60,000 comprising:

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- Empower students to bring about positive social change through learning in open forums and skill sharing opportunities;
- Create a national and international network of environmentally-minded people;
- Inspire ecologically sustainable government policies on a local and national level; and
- Raise awareness of local student environment campaigns and other issues (e.g. sexual assault, underpayment at work, high rental costs, high university fees).

The SRC has the opportunity to be a part of an historic event. It would be an enormous pleasure to work together for climate and social justice.

Motion

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council joins the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association in supporting the Students of Sustainability 2019 conference, according to the following terms:
 - a) The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council endorses the Students of Sustainability 2019 conference;
 - b) The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council provides a financial contribution of \$2000 to go towards items required to run the conference and to be administered by the Students of Sustainability organising committee;
 - c) Twenty (20) tickets are set aside for University of Sydney undergraduate students to attend the entirety of the conference for free;
 - d) The organisers of the Students of Sustainability conference will promote the SRC through its logo being displayed prominently on all promotional materials (online and in print);
 - e) The SRC will provide 1000 double-sided A4 colour pages and 500 A3 colour posters in printing for SoS;
 - f) The SoS organising committee will set aside a workshop for the members or councillors of the SRC to run on a relevant topic provided it is in accordance with the general tenor of the environmental and/or social justice themes of the conference;
 - g) The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council pledges to work with the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association to

- support the venue application of the Students of Sustainability organising committee at the University of Sydney Cumberland Campus; and
- h) The SRC is to be able to hold a stall at the conference.
 - i) The SRC executive will commit to further negotiation with the organisers of SOS moving forward in the coming months, to allow for further allocation of funding and SOS support for the SRC.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: (\$2000) a measly amount, we could find \$27k for the VP stipend... we will be paying for the accommodation Indigenous elders, let's pay the rent and assist them. This conference talks about things affecting them, Indigenous people have lower living standards due to colonialism. Who says the left can't compromise, we're giving up \$8k here.

Nick Forbutt: Disgusting that no one spoke against the motion then voted it down... if you disagree then speak up!

Gabi Stricker-Phelps: Will the tickets still be available if we don't push any money?

JB: No, it's tied to that funding.

Nick Avery: Last year's conference cost \$90k, we're looking for \$60k this time. We need to fundraise, as rego will only garner \$15k. Fundraise is going well, we've got \$29k so we need at least \$15k more. That 60k is quite conservative so we may go over, we may need more. Any SRC money will be going some way to ensure the conference is viable, we need support.

GSP: Do we know how much the SRC has spent on this?

JB: historically we've given travel and rego money for students. The Enviro budget is roughly 9k because a lot of it goes here, maybe 3k.

Alev Saracoglu: Usually we wouldn't need as much but it's here in Sydney.

GSP: Could we get a report on how it'll be spent?

NA: choose from our motion. We're looking at a deposit, that \$2k might do that.

Amy Newland: I would like the cost breakdown for this conference, and also how do the free tickets get distributed?

JB: In the past, Environment Officers put out a form for collective members to answer. It's usually for students that cannot pay.

NA: Last year's Rego was \$150, so 20 tix would be \$3k, less than what we're asking for. If that was a consideration please look at it that way

GSP: When is the conference?

AS: July.

GSP: When do you need to have the budget finalised?

AS: We only have a few months, we need to be able to show we have the money soon.

James Ardouin: I want to agree with the motion, but I think it's probably better for the Executive to look at our budget to determine that we have the money for it first.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: We have money, from the bookshop closing down...

JA: There's a big difference between 2000 and 10 000.

Ellie Stephenson: Interesting that Exec can approve \$27k but Council can't pass \$10k on this, and there's a clear breakdown of how the money will be spent in the motion too.

Amendment proposed by James Ardouin:

Amend Action Point 1.b) to read: The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council provides a financial contribution of \$1000 to go towards items required to run the conference and to be administered by the Students of Sustainability organising committee;

The motion was **not amenable** to the movers. Since the amendment does not substantially alter the motion, it was discussed first.

At the Chair's discretion the Meeting proceeded directly to a vote on the amendment.

The Amendment **FAILS**

Procedural Motion: That the meeting move directly to a vote on item R8.

Moved: Jazz Breen

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion: That the motion be accepted.

Moved: Seth Dias

Seconded: Jazz Breen

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

R2. Support the SRC's action in providing Charitable work towards the homeless

Moved: James Ardouin

Seconded: Annabel De Mestre

Platform:

We the Representatives of this Student Body have a strong mandate to incorporate into our actions the type of ideals and principles that the Students of this University hold. The value of charity is one which is pervasive across all demographics of Students. Every day we walk pass the impoverished and homeless in the journey between Redfern Station and the University. We should commit to helping those where we can and it is firmly within the SRC's values to ensure we take action to this issue.

Actions:

1. The SRC shall create a working group, of anyone interested, that shall organise the SRC's actions on this.
2. This group shall contact nearby charities that work with the Homeless and investigate ways that the SRC do its part in providing a program to allow volunteers to give food to these local impoverished people.
3. This group shall create a food/donation bank and organise a campaign to the University to promote student and staff donations to this project.
4. The groups actions shall be focused on, but not limited to, the alleviation of Student and Youth homelessness, especially that of Students of the University of Sydney.

Discussion:

James Ardouin: Martin Luther King once said "what are you doing for others". I challenge those in this Council to action this. This is so we can take compelling action in this area. I have been fortunate, when I see someone less fortunate I say "By the grace of God go I". The substance of this motion is simple, there is a problem in your environment, homelessness is seen is all around, 1 in every 200 Australians are homeless, many of them are young and Indigenous. This is very important to us as a Representative body, it affects young people a lot. This requires no funding, just volunteering. This is something we can all get behind.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat: Can we acknowledge the hypocrisy of shutting down a conference that would assist low SES students and now you're trying to put this motion?

JA: I am trying to build a bridge.

Ella Finlay: One question, in a couple of decades when climate change makes millions of homeless, will you help?

Nick Avery: Important to note that Libs aren't good at dealing with homelessness. The platform is soggy, it sounds like you've just left the north shore and discovered this problem.

Liam Donohoe: Want to make a theoretical point of the inability of capitalism to create housing. Homelessness is not about individual circumstances, there are structural incentives in place to ensure people that need housing don't get them. A majority of NY apartments are not lived in, while homeless people die in the cold. Sleeping rough yourself won't help. Housing owned by the Government has gone way down from 18% to 2%. Students can't rent either. Cuba isn't a perfect model for some things, but does not have as much of a problem with homelessness because of their model

Holly Hayne: We should support motions that support homelessness, but I'm taking a grain of salt on this one because you're in the Liberal party who attack the poor and the working class. Homelessness comes from many factors that are structural, coming from selling off public housing and many other reasons. This motion is left cover, you don't care about homelessness.

Vinil Kumar: I'd like to propose an amendment that Colleges be converted to housing. People have called out your hypocrisy; charity begins at home, let's take on epidemic problem of colleges while helping homelessness. You have your own mansions to live in, let others have their place.

Amendment proposed by Vinil Kumar (seconded by Jazz Breen):

That the following clause be added: The University of Sydney SRC calls on the Sydney University Residential Colleges to be converted into public housing for homeless people and low income students, with priority given to people in Redfern and Camperdown, particularly Indigenous people.

The amendment was **not amenable** to the mover. Since the amendment does not substantially alter the motion, it was discussed first.

Discussion

Swapnik Sanagavarapu: As Liam said, capitalism produces things for value, not utility. So many houses are built but not for people to live in, but for profit. If James cares so much about Indigenous people, this motion would support Indigenous groups that would help their cause so much. Why not commit the SRC to campaign on public and low-income housing on campus

and elsewhere, rather than sweeping it all under the rug. Giving out protein bars to a homeless man will not provide that much.

Procedural Motion: That a quorum count be conducted.

Requested by: Jazz Breen

The Meeting was declared QUORATE.

James Ardouin: You've turned this into a personal attack on me and colleges. I gave everyone else respect please afford it to me. Just because Liberals do something doesn't mean I support it, that's ignorant. Yes, I'm a member. Instead of using this time to support homeless people, you've tried to take this as a personal attack against me. Let it be known that you are speaking out against the chance to support homeless people (room breaks down). Firstly you say colleges need to be bruned down, then someone else says you need structural change. It's confusing. I'm trying to do something that is bigger than myself, if you don't see the principle behind this motion then you are blinded by your factionalism.

Omar Hassan: It's frustrating it's impossible to not have a collegial discussion and that we have personal attacks levied at us instead. We should be expropriating the lands of the Catholic Church and the entire north shore. Everything you believe in causes homelessness and misery, you're smug and self-serving with this motion. This is a crucial issue to take seriously. Liberals will get kicked out soon but Labor will do nothing, so we need to continue to fight. This is existing infrastructure that can be used to support students that do actually need homes, you're all rich and can pay for your own.

Liam Thorne: We've just seen the Block been turned into 600 student housing units, moving on generations of indigenous people. This is obviously important.

Motion: That the amendment be agreed to.

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Jazz Breen

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Motion: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: James Ardouin

Seconded: Annabel De Mestre

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

R3. Defend democracy and free speech in the USYD SRC

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

Preamble

- 1) The past few months has seen a concerning pattern of undemocratic and anti-free speech conduct emerging within the USYD SRC.
- 2) On the 26th of November 2018, a failed attempt was made at introducing undemocratic restrictions on student participation in council meetings.
 - a) After decades of Sydney Uni students having the right to physically attend and participate in council meetings, the unprecedented step was taken to segregate ordinary students from elected councilors by confining each into separate lecture theatres. Students attending in such a set up were not able to raise comments, questions or objections with their elected councilors, or even reliably listen to the proceedings. This new setup was a contravention of the SRC's own regulations and democratic principles stating that all meetings of council must be open to the student body to attend and participate in.
 - b) This decision, taken by the new incoming right wing majority in collaboration with unelected members of SRC staff, was in response to a vocal condemnation of the right majority by the broad left in a previous, aborted meeting. Given the history of a strong, activist left in the SRC, the move cannot simply be justified on the spurious grounds of 'safety' (as was attempted), but has to be seen as the right mounting an authoritarian attempt to exclude, censor and silence dissenting left wing voices in the SRC.
 - c) When a group of left wing non-councilors walked into the room, took seats and asserted their right to participate in a meeting of their elected council, the chair refused to continue until these students were ejected. Disgracefully, the same university security with a history of raiding SRC and NTEU offices and confiscating union material was called upon to remove these students. Yet even security acknowledged that the students had a right to be there and did not eject the students. SRC staff then appallingly threatened to call the police, backing down only due to the cost of a call out fee. The right wing majority then voted to move the meeting 'in camera', closing it off to observers and student media. This decision was effectively reversed when the observers refused to leave and the meeting functioned as an open meeting in practice, with a vote being taken to accept the elections from the previous meeting.
 - d) Had this episode not been protested and ultimately defeated, it would have represented a dangerous new undemocratic. It would have undermined free speech, the democratic right of students to challenge and hold their elected councillors to account and would shield elected representatives from public criticism and having to answer for their actions and decisions.
- 3) On the 6th of February 2019, during the fourth "RepsElect" meeting, a motion was moved to have a "zero minute" speaking time and was carried by the right wing majority. This represents another curtailment of free speech and continues a disturbing pattern of behavior by the conservatives within the SRC of shutting down political debate. Once again, it took a concerted effort by the left wing in the SRC who protested and put forward multiple motions to restore speaking time, until it was finally successful.
- 4) The protesters on November 26 were denounced as interfering with democracy - but this presents a grossly distorted view of what democracy is.

Democracy is not elected representatives being able to do what they please and those they represent having no right to challenge or interfere with their decisions. If this were the case, no elected representative at any level in society could be criticised or protested. Such an approach to “democracy” would have meant not opposing the government’s ban on same sex marriage, not opposing university fee deregulation and paradoxically dismissing union campaigns to stop undemocratic anti-union laws as themselves undemocratic. Instead, democracy is the right of every student, worker and oppressed person in society to demand and exercise more control in a society that systematically denies it to them.

- 5) These developments are even more concerning given the context of increasing government and university repression of student unions, student activism and student protests. With Education Minister Dan Tehan attempting to restrict student protest by forcing student unions to pay the cost of repressing their own activities, it is of the utmost importance that the SRC do not fall into the same authoritarian practice of the very people we should be standing up to.
- 6) We must reject a vision of the Sydney University SRC that sees it as the exclusive preserve of student politicians who are cut off from the student body and are free to do whatever they please, shielded from scrutiny and criticism. Instead, the SRC should seek to empower those they represent, encouraging them to assert and exercise their democratic rights and participate fully in the SRC. Students are not simply stepping stones for the ascent of their self-entitled representatives, but active participants in shaping their own lives, shaping their student unions and shaping the world.

Platform

- 1) The Sydney University SRC recognises participatory democracy as a fundamental principle of student unions.
- 2) The Sydney University SRC supports and encourages the right of students to full participation in their student union.
- 3) The Sydney University SRC respects the right of non-councilors to speak in council meetings and encourages them to do so.
- 4) The Sydney University SRC recognises protest as an exercise of democratic rights.
- 5) The Sydney University SRC expects councilors and office bearers to be accountable for their words and actions, and opposes the idea that elected representatives should be shielded from criticism and are free to do as they please.
- 6) The Sydney University SRC recognises the right of students, not unelected staff, to determine how their unions operate.
- 7) The Sydney University SRC opposes the use of university security and police in the suppression of students’ democratic rights.

Action

- 1) The Sydney University SRC reaffirms its commitment to democracy, freedom of speech and participation in the political process.
- 2) The Sydney University SRC reaffirms that all meetings of council are open meetings.
- 3) The Sydney University SRC reaffirms the right of non-councilors to attend and speak in council meetings.
- 4) The Sydney University SRC reaffirms the right of student media to attend and report on meeting proceedings.
- 5) The Sydney University SRC Facebook page will publish public Facebook events for each council meeting within 48 hours of councilors being notified of the meeting.
- 6) The SRC President will publish a statement on the SRC Facebook page and in Honi Soit conveying the SRC's above commitment to democracy, free speech, transparency and inviting students to attend and participate in council meetings.
- 7) SRC councilors commit to encouraging a culture of discussion and debate within council meetings through their own participation and will avoid measures that restrict free speech through bureaucratic or procedural means. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a) Removing speaking time by proposing speaking limits equal to zero minutes/seconds
 - b) Disallowing speakers for and against during discussions of SRC motions and procedural motions

Discussion:

Vinil Kumar: We've seen very concerning issues raised recently, with anti-democratic meetings. There was a rightful protest against the November meeting, and then cutting speaking times in February... It's a shame that people are leaving.

Procedural motion: That the meeting move directly to a vote:

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Jazz Breen.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Vinil Kumar

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R4. The SRC condemns the removal of historic stickers in the SRC OB room

Moved: Ellie Stephenson

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Platform

The Council:

1. Notes the removal of historic activist stickers, including anti-racism stickers, stickers promoting queer rights, Aboriginal rights and refugee rights, in the OB room in December 2018 by members of this council.
2. Notes the value of preserving artifacts of the SRC's activist history, acknowledging the importance of remembering our past and celebrating past successes.
3. Notes that the removal of the stickers from the OB room was unreasonable censorship of harmless imagery such as an artwork depicting an Aboriginal woman. This removal can only have been motivated by censorious political beliefs, rather than any genuine offence or moral belief, because of the inoffensive and positive nature of the stickers.
4. Acknowledges the oppressive beliefs implicit in the choice to remove the stickers, namely the anti-LGBT and racist that would motivate this blatant disregard for historical materials.
5. Notes that, at best, if this was a simple act of cleaning, it was ignorant and careless for the individuals to, given let their lack of knowledge as to the significance of the stickers, remove them without thought.
6. Notes that some of the individuals reported to be involved in removing the stickers were not even members of the council.
7. Notes the irony of self-professed defenders of free speech feeling the need to censor stickers.

Action

1. The council condemns the removal of historically valuable stickers from the SRC OB room
2. The council seriously questions the judgement and principles of the individuals who removed the stickers
3. Mourns the loss of the stickers
4. Commits to preserving other important relics of SRC history carefully.

Procedural motion: That the meeting move directly to a vote.

Moved: Jazz Breen

Seconded: Seth Dias

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Motion: That the motion be agreed to.

Moved: Ellie Stephenson

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Procedural Motion: That a quorum count be conducted.

Requested by: James Ardouin

The Meeting was declared INQUORATE with only 12 Councillors present.

With no further motions, Jacky He closed the meeting at 10.43pm