



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES of the **13th** meeting of the Executive Committee, 91st SRC, held on 11th July 2019 in the Gosper Room, SRC Offices.

PRESENT: Jacky He (Chair), Niamh Callinan*, Dane Luo^, Josie Jakovac, Vonnie Li, and Xiaoyu Jin.

Apologies: Caitlyn Chu and Alex Yang

Absent: Yuxuan Yang and Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance: Chitra Narayanan and Amanda LeMay

Meeting Opened: 11:11am

*^Joint position holders, counted together towards quorum.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Sydney Students Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present of the Eora nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Alex Yang and Caitlyn Chu

Dane Luo noted that Alex Yang now had 8 absences and had attended only 1 meeting. He asked the executive to remember that if you have work to please remember to say when you are available, and that when people miss so many meetings it's no longer excusable.

Dane also note that this was the third meeting in a row with absences and Yuxuan Yang has not missed 6 meetings 3 with apologies and 3 without.

Motion: To accept the apologies of Caitlyn Chu but not Alex Yang

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Josie Jakovac

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 27th June 2019 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 27th June 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

Josie Jakovac asked if Dane Luo had heard back about the Unit of Study survey results

Dane Luo said that the next Student Consultative Committee meeting was in August and he did not expect to hear back until that time.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

6. Workplace Health and Safety Report

There was nothing to report

Jacky He resigned the chair to Dane Luo.

7. Report of the President

Since the 12th Executive meeting I have:

- Successfully conducted a group appeal for students affected by exam errors in ACCT2011, and obtained good outcomes for students
- Continued to deal with an internal workplace HR issue
- Worked with general secretary to review SRC Legal Service documentations
- Assessed applications for the role of a casual caseworker, and conducted interviews for the shortlisted applicants along with caseworkers Mel and Sharon and General Secretary Niamh
- Beginning to prepare next semester's Welcome Day merchandise
- Negotiated with the USU for a 50% discount on Welcome Day Marquee
- Attended a meeting regarding an update on the SACS Policy with Chitra and Mel
- Helped to organise written article works on WeChat
- Engaged in industry partner interviews as a part of the University's thematic review of student internship and placement experiences
- Engaged in industry partner interviews as a part of the University's thematic review of student internship and placement experiences

Upcoming Plans:

- Prepare and organise stalls and merchandises for Semester 2 O-day
- Hosting a Sex and Consent Day in Week 3 of next semester. I will be reaching out to caseworkers, Wom*n's Officers, convenors of the Wom*n's Collectives
- Ongoing presence on WeChat

Discussion:

Jacky He added that the good outcome for students in the ACCT2011 was that all students received 1-2 marks extra on their exam.

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Xiaoyu Jin

Seconded: Josie Jakovac

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Jacky He resumed the chair

8. Report of the Vice Presidents

Since the 12th Executive meeting, we have:

- Met with staff representatives, alongside the President and General Secretary, on negotiations for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;
- Worked on Welfare Week by making arrangements with USU and potential stall holders, and planning for food events during the week;
- Welcomed and greeted 30 exchange students under the Study Abroad program from Baylor University;
- Discussed issues pertaining to DSP attendance and media law compliance for publications of the Council, including *Honi Soit*, with the Publications Managers (see their report in this meeting) and An Li;
- Assisted the National Education Officer and Senior Executive organise printing, purchase banners and materials, and the overall organising of NUS Education Conference (EdCon) (see below);
- Attended four plenaries and seminars at EdCon pertaining to mental health, environmental policy, homelessness and higher education policy; and
- Working on the website, advertising materials and information sheets for the Textbook Subsidy Program.

Upcoming plans:

- UE Research Education Committee later today;
- Co-organising a trivia event for Study Abroad students at Courtyard Café on Monday 15 July 2019;
- Welfare Week (semester 2 week 2) will be our largest focus;
- Preparing to host a stall for the SRC on Welcome Day on Monday 5 August 2019;
- UE Work Health and Safety Committee on Thursday 8 August 2019;
- Preparing to host a stall for the SRC on Open Day on Saturday 31 August 2019;
- Satellite campus visits (semester 2 week 3);
- Negotiating for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;
- Assisting with the USU Health and Wellbeing Week (semester 2 week 10); and
- Hosting 90th Anniversary Reunion for late October or early November.

Update on the Textbook Subsidy Program

At the last meeting, the Executive passed the Textbook Subsidy Program, which we are very delighted with! We are now working with the caseworkers and Publications Managers to get the website up and running and to prepare for a launch as soon as possible.

In response to questions about when this program will begin, we answered that all undergraduate students can apply online at the end of July with caseworker interviews happening during weeks 1-4 of semester 2. Dane is currently working to explore the possibility for an email to be sent to every undergraduate student. Full details of the application process will be published on the SRC website by the end of next week.

ISANA International Student Conference

ISANA is an organisation that works on international student services, advocacy, teaching and policy development. The SRC is a member of ISANA and that provides tremendous benefits for our caseworkers. We have seen the benefits of this network this year in the connections that caseworkers Mel de Silva and Sharon Maher built, which helped us with the Health Day initiative. We are requesting the Executive cover the cost of student registration of \$580, conference dinner of \$130 and a \$700 allowance for flights and accommodation for the entire conference. In the mid-year staff consults, some caseworkers suggested that the SRC should send student representatives to their annual conference to better understand services and issues faced by international students, and Dane worked with the caseworker to reduce costs.

Motion: That \$1410 be approved for the ISANA International Student Conference.

NUS EdCon

We inform the Executive that the SRC incurred a number of costs in hosting EdCon, including printing forms and conference readers and making purchases for them. Dane made purchases for the conference at the request of the conference organisers. We propose to send an invoice to NUS to cover costs incurred by the SRC, including that reimbursement.

Motion: That \$384.96 reimbursement for NUS EdCon expenses be approved and the SRC invoicing to the NUS for expenses.

Julia Robins (Secretary to Council) and other staff have spent a tremendous amount of time assisting the National Office Bearers and Senior Executive to make it all work. We thank Julia and everyone for their incredible contribution.

Due to the last-minute nature of organising this conference, some elements were not thoroughly planned for a conference 370-people-large. Firstly, our staff were rushing to organise their catering that was only finalised the working day before the first day of the conference. Secondly, changes to the conference reader – a document provided to every attendee – were being negotiated between factional head kickers in the corridors of the conference on Monday 10am – a mere two hours before the conference was scheduled to commence, requiring our staff to print over 8000 colour pages into booklets in an extremely short timeframe. Thirdly, over the three days, the SRC's cutlery items were misplaced and last-minute purchases had to be made for various items. Having been involved in organising and working with the conference organisers, Dane recommends that the Executive should not rush to place tenders for EdCon in the future. The Executive needs to carefully consider whether we have the resources to host a large conference. It needs to be aware that some members of the Council have, in the past, raised concerns regarding holding EdCon at our campus,¹ and Dane believes that it should be held at a small and regional campus. Also, in 2016, we paid \$15,000-\$20,000 to host EdCon.² If our campus is hosting in the future, the SRC must be given a longer timeframe and play a more significant role in preparation and organising, rather than leaving it almost entirely to National Office Bearers.

July Council meeting

¹ See Minutes of the 3rd Ordinary Council Meeting of the 88th SRC, 6 April 2016, item R2.

² See Minutes of the 9th Executive Meeting of the 88th SRC, 19 May 2016, item 9.

We are extremely disappointed that the ordinary July Council meeting could not meet despite all Representatives being aware that this meeting would be happening and that the Electoral Officer needs to be approved. As the meeting did not proceed as there were 17 apologies received before the meeting commenced, we were unable to provide our ordinary report to the Council. The report was as follows:

Events Plan for Semester 2

We are very excited for the start of semester 2 and the events that we have planned for. This represents a culmination of a year's worth of preparation and work, and stems from our focus to address welfare and wellbeing issues of students, particularly international students.

Week 1: *Welcome Day on Monday 5 August 2019 – we will be speaking to all students about the SRC's services, how they can be involved and what we do.*

Week 2: *Welfare Week from Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 August 2019 – we have decided to build on the work of Adriana Malavisi to make this initiative bigger and better. We are partnering with student-led organisations SUPRA and USU to deliver three jam-packed days with information stalls from collectives, departments, NGOs, student organisations and unions, free breakfast, BBQ, food trucks, markets and talks. This will include a dedicated part for interfaith groups, which is an area that we would like to work on.*

We have decided to build on the work of Adriana Malavisi to make this initiative bigger and better. We are currently in talks to partner with SUPRA and the USU to deliver three jam-packed days. This is a fantastic opportunity for all student organisations to showcase their services and work to all students on Eastern Avenue over those days. If any Representatives, Officers or students would like to get involved and help out by running a stall, helping with food or doing something else, please email us at vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au.

Week 3: *Satellite campus visits to Nursing on Monday 19 August 2019, Conservatorium on Tuesday 20 August 2019 and SCA on Thursday 22 August 2019 – we will be spending leftover Health Day funds to host a smaller event at the Conservatorium (TBC possibly partnering up with the Conservatorium Students' Association).*

Week 4: *Open Day on Saturday 31 August 2019 – we will be speaking to prospective students about the SRC's services, how they can be involved and what we do.*

Week 10: *USU Health and Wellbeing Week from Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 October 2019 – this is largely coordinated by the USU and we are working with them to organise some activities. Details TBC.*

End of the semester: *90th Anniversary of the SRC – we are working with our staff members to begin planning for a celebration as the SRC turns 90! This will likely happen in October or November. Details TBC.*

NUS EdCon

The National Education Officer notified us two weeks ago that the NUS needed to make a last-minute change to the location of their Education Conference this year due to an increase in registrations. It would be helpful in the future for NUS to contact us earlier as the deadline was very tight and many things had to be turned around in a short period of time. We helped move their conference from UTS to USyd in under two weeks

with tremendous assistance from Julia (Secretary to Council), Jacky and the General Secretaries. This involved making room bookings in the Eastern Avenue and Carslaw, designing maps and writing guiding information, contacting the USU about using their safe spaces, organising printing of forms and conference readers, information about the SRC and USyd, and catering for 370 attendees. We want to give a massive thank you to Julia for dedicating so much time to make everything work and sharing her wealth of experience from EdCon 2016.

Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations

Dane has been joining the President and General Secretary to meet with staff representatives on the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. So far, the meetings have been going well and this process will continue over the next few months.

Textbook Subsidy Program

This is an initiative that Dane has been working on since December. It involves providing a subsidy for textbooks and other learning equipment that students need (e.g. science lab coats, gloves, calculators). We made a request from the University in the SSAF application process for a pilot program. We met with several representatives from the University to discuss the implementation and importance of such a program. And we are absolutely delighted to roll it out in semester 2 2019.

Many students find it difficult making the transition from high school to University. This includes financial difficulty with textbooks, Opal fares (which are, sadly, still at full adult fares for international students), food, rent and everyday expenses. This is particularly the case for international students who are not eligible for the Student Start-Up Loan.

Having textbooks and learning equipment is important for students to do well in their studies. Going into classes unable to afford them means that those students are unfairly disadvantaged. To address this, we worked on a Textbook Subsidy Program. The Textbook Subsidy Program involves giving a subsidy of \$100 per student to 400+ undergraduate students from a low socio-economic background or in need of financial support.

The Textbook Subsidy Program would operate as follows:

- All undergraduate students will be notified via email and in advertising about the Textbook Subsidy Program;*
- Students who are in need can find details on the SRC website and apply online for an interview with a caseworker;*
- A caseworker will conduct a short interview with the student and run through the eligibility criteria with them (currently Mel de Silva has expressed interest in doing this); and*
- If the student is confirmed to be eligible, they will receive the subsidy via electronic funds transfer.*

In preparing the Textbook Subsidy Program, we have consulted with individuals from the University Financial Support Service and ensured that it is consistent with the Executive's long-standing position that the SRC offices should be cashless.

We have received \$100,000 from the University for subsidies under the Textbook Subsidy Program. The Executive has approved \$40,000 for a Textbook Subsidy Program in semester 2 2019 to be administered by a caseworker and overseen by the Vice Presidents with regular reporting to the Executive and Council. The remaining \$60,000 in a Textbook Subsidy Fund for the 91st or 92nd Council and Executive to distribute to students through a Textbook Subsidy Program.

We want to thank Jacky He, Niamh Callinan and Yuxuan Yang for supporting us with SSAF and to Mel, Chitra and James for working with Dane throughout this year to make this work. We are really proud of this initiative and we really hope that this will benefit many students who need that support to do well in their studies. We really hope that the Textbook Subsidy Program will be able to continue beyond 2019 and future Councils will commit to expanding it!

We welcome any feedback or ideas to this initiative to vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au.

Expanding the Casework Department

As this can be the busiest time of year for casework and the staffing is required to ensure the operation of the Textbook Subsidy Program involving 400+ applicants over 5-6 weeks in semester 2, the Executive has approved a casual Casework and Policy Officer for 8 weeks.

Reminders

We want to remind all Representatives and Officers that the SRC office is a shared space with staff. Issues have been raised about how some people have been treating the shared kitchen and restrooms, and we want to stress the importance of keeping the space clean and tidy. For the kitchen, please remember to return any cutlery, cups and plates used and also wash them. There have been some issues with SRC kitchen items going missing.

Also, some staff members would like to get to know the Executive and Officers better. So please remember that the staff are friendly, approachable and here to help!

The Council needs to do its job

Section 3(c) of the *Constitution* provides that:

The election of representatives shall be conducted each year in September in such a manner as the Council may prescribe, subject to this constitution, by an Electoral Officer appointed by the Council.

Part 8 section 3(a) of the *Regulations* provides that:

The Electoral Officer (hereafter, EO): (a) Shall be appointed by the Council at least fifty (50) days before the close of voting in the case of the Annual Elections and at least twenty (20) days in the case of By-Elections;

In interpreting the last preceding provision, regard must be had to part 8 section 1(b) of the *Regulations*, which provides that:

A day or period of days hereinafter referred to in this part of the Regulations shall not include Saturdays, Sundays or any day which is a University or Public Holiday

The Council ordinarily meets once per month - on the first Wednesday of each month. Both the June and July Council meetings have been unable to obtain quorum as Representatives have been on holidays or otherwise unable to attend. The next scheduled ordinary meeting is 7 August 2019.

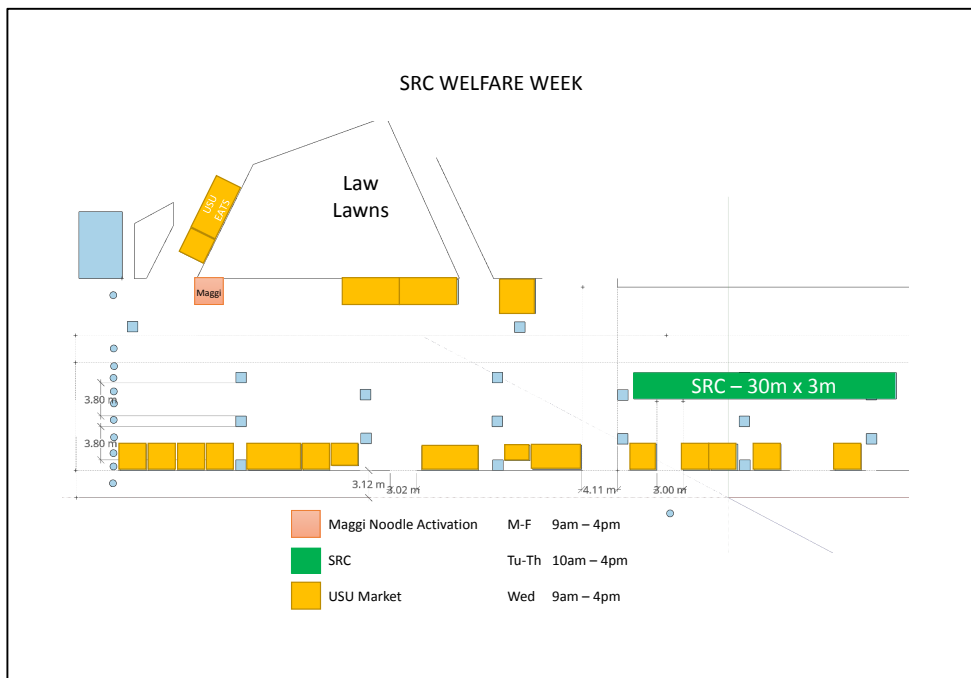
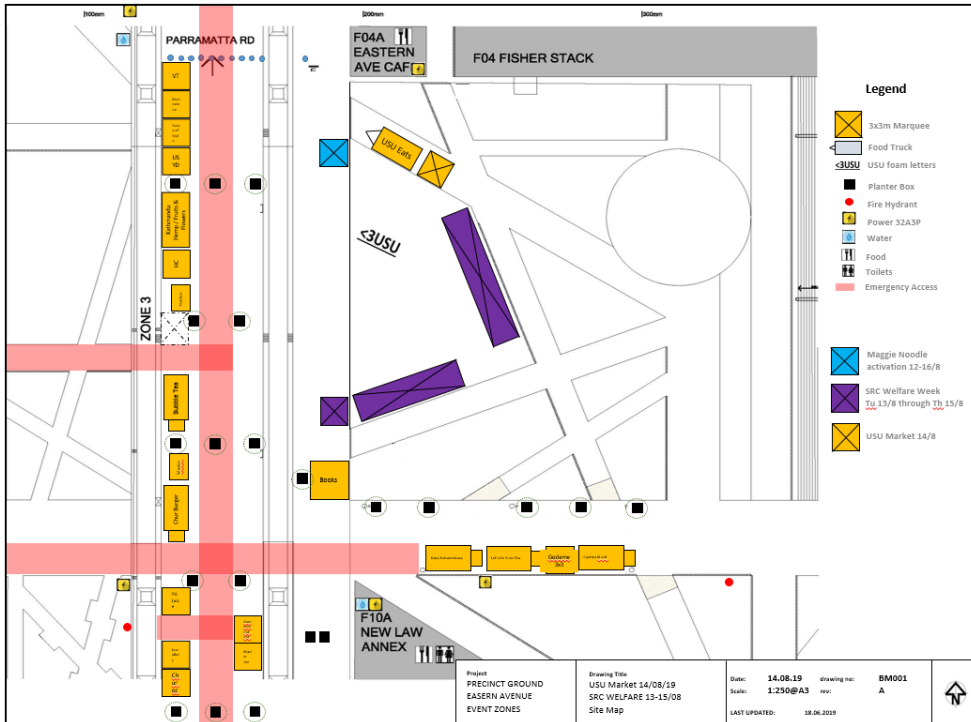
If the elections are to be conducted in the last week of September (as required in the *Constitution*), the close of voting, as provided by part 8 section 13 of the *Regulations*, will be on Thursday 26 September 2019. 50 days prior (excluding weekends and University and public holidays) is Thursday 18 July 2019. The Council needs to do its job and exercise its powers to appoint an Electoral Officer in accordance with the *Constitution* and *Regulations*.

Yesterday, Dane spent almost the entire day messaging and contacting elected Representatives to urgently call a special meeting, working with Julia and Chitra to work out how best to proceed, and working with Mel to send texts and emails to Representatives. Dane has also received advice from Simone Whetton (Immediate Past Electoral Legal Arbitrator). A Special Meeting has now been called for Wednesday 17 July 2019. To facilitate attendance of Representatives by phone, Mel has suggested the best way, given the large number of Representatives wishing to call in, is to use Skype Call.

Motion: That \$50 be approved for Skype credit for the Special Meeting of the SRC on Wednesday 17 July 2019 and for any leftover funds to be spent by Casework and Policy Department.

For Discussion – Welfare Week Presence and Location

We want to seek the Executive's views about where the SRC's presence in Welfare Week and our collaboration with the USU. At the Executive meeting, Dane will explain this diagram and seek the views of Executive members.



*The “1 <3 USU” foam letters will not be in the SRC section. If the USU wants that, they should pay for it to go elsewhere.

Discussion:

Dane Luo asked the exec to look at the layouts for the welfare week

Niamh Callinan asked if there was a WHS issue if the stalls were on the lawns

Dane Luo said that the cords and power would not be an issue

Josie Jakovac asked what would be happening with the I<3 USU structure

Dane Luo responded saying he had told the USU they couldn't use it unless they pay for the event and that this was an event they were invited to not that they were running.

There was agreement that there wasn't a strong preference for one over the other and that practicalities should take priority in deciding.

Niamh Callinan asked about the ISANA conference and costs

Dane Luo noted that it was \$700 per person funding request

Dane Luo also noted that the NUS funding request would be reimbursed to the SRC by NUS.

Niamh wanted to echo the comments in the vice presidents report on the responsibilities of council.

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

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Josie Jakovac

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

9. Report of the General Secretaries

EBA

Niamh has been working alongside the President and Vice-President in representing the SRC throughout the EBA negotiations with the staff representatives. This process is currently in the beginning stages and there are number of various aspects that are yet to be discussed and amended. This process will be an ongoing commitment and will most likely take the duration of this year. Throughout this process, we will engage with the executive particularly in relation to any changes that will require executive involvement.

Research Projects Update

The two research projects that are concurrently being conducted have started to take shape with both our researchers reaching a point of finalising their scope and conducting their theoretical investigations. The first project- student housing- will be a multi-faceted examination of the issues 0that students face in relation to housing. This includes accessibility, affordability, the adequacy of the housing as well as the factors that impact the choices of students to rent. The purpose is to great a holistic understanding of the issues students' face with housing and to provide a series of recommendations and findings that will assist the caseworkers and student representatives in advocating on behalf of students on this prevalent issue.

The second research project is going to take a broader approach to the welfare and well-being of students within the context of balancing studying/work and other challenges many students now face including lack of support services. In doing so the expectations of the university in relations to the student experience will

also be explored, in order to understand if a disjuncture exists and if so, how best to improve this in order to adequately enable students to be able adequately supported during their period of study.

Both research projects are about to reach the point of needing volunteers to assist in undertaking their surveys and questions to gather the data that will be necessary. Once this has been finalised, I would like both the executive and councillors to both participate and encourage as many people as they know to also engage with this. By doing so, we are enabling students to have a voice on these issues, as well as using students lived experiences to transform the current systems and services that are available.

Education Conference

Last week the NUS held their annual Education Conference on campus. This was originally meant to be conducted at UTS however, after an increased number of applicants and attendees the location was changed. We would like to thank Julia for the time and effort that she put into assisting in room bookings and catering. We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the USU, who allowed their Safe Spaces to be available throughout the duration of the conference.

Niamh attended this conference, and found that the discussions, plenaries and seminars held were highly informative and relevant to the work that the SRC undertakes. There were two main points that are relevant to our organisation which could be points to pursue.

Firstly, the EROC group noted that a free hotline for sexual assault victims and survivors was dismantled recently. For numerous reasons this is abhorrent and therefore we believe that it is imperative that the SRC (as it did previously) lobbies for this to be reinstated particularly before the Sexual Assault Survey is conducted next year. This is a necessary mechanism that has and will continue to be beneficial for any person who has been victim to be any type of sexual assault.

Secondly, the issues that the SRC has already identify as significantly impacting students, mental health and housing were discussed. These were discussed at length, with various options of how to improve service provisions, increase general awareness and how action can be taken. One of the reoccurring questions was how can student representatives be involved in advocacy on these issues. We would like this point to be considered by our officer bearers but potentially one course of action in relation to Housing, is signing the SRC up as Campaign Partner to Everybody's Home- the national campaign regarding housing.

Motion: that the SRC executive commits to further advocacy on all identified issues and options of engagement that has arisen out of the Education Conference.

Student Housing Round Table Discussion

Two weeks ago, Niamh attended a Round Table Discussion hosted by students participating in the Susan Wakil Fellowship investigating the issue of student housing. This was a highly engaging discussion with a number of other student representatives from universities including UOW, WSU, UNSW and UTS.

The discussion focused on the various issues that the representatives found most pressing within their universities, as well as the various systems and providers of student housing and accommodation on the various campuses. One highly interesting point was that some representatives have been in discussions with their various universities committees in establishing a crisis accommodation fund in order to provide adequate services and contacts for students faced with immediate housing and accommodation issues. Other representatives have been trying to expand their own representative services to include providing

crisis accommodation services, as an attempt to remove it from the university administration and streamline independent service provision.

These are all options that the SRC could consider and will be highly interesting to attach these options to the findings of the research paper and potential avenues the SRC could start pursuing, establishing a platform to be furthered next year.

Welfare Week

We are currently in the process of assisting Dane and Caitlyn with the Vice Presidents project of Welfare Week. We have reached out to a number of unions to ask if they are willing to be involved, as working rights are an imperative and inherent part of students' wellbeing and welfare. We are also assisting in gathering volunteers to help out throughout the days this will be held and we seriously encourage all OBs, Councillors and Executive to consider being involved to reach out to students at the beginning of Semester 2.

Welcome Day and Open Day

We are currently in the process of organising material and volunteers for Welcome Day and Open Day. The current idea is during Welcome Day to aim to engage with 500 students, again handing out bags with some promotional material, information booklets and flyers and if possible, some student discounts- similar to the bags that were handed out during Welcome Week. In regards to Open Day, as this is more in relation to future students, we will be holding a stall with various items of information- most importantly material relating to Centrelink and general services available to students.

The purpose of this is to recognise that not every person that engages with the stall on Open Day, may become a student at the University of Sydney; therefore, information regarding academic issues and other services attached to the University will not be relevant to them immediately but also that even if they do not become students here they have been provided with information that will assist them throughout their time as a student.

NUS Affiliation

The SRC NUS Affiliation fee is due on the 1st of August. This is a fee that the SRC pays annually to be involved with the National Union of Students, a peak body of representation for students across Australia. The NUS have and continues to provide advocacy, representation and support for all students on a national level with a large network that enables the NUS the ability to shape decision making that impacts students.

The importance of ongoing affiliation is three-fold; firstly, it reinforces the SRC, as an inherently advocacy and representative organisation, as committed to the principles of student unionism and the power that national student solidarity provides with being involved in this peak body. Secondly, it is an opportunity to allow students at the University of Sydney to be involved in peak body representation, an option and opportunity that all students should have access to. Through the NUS, students are able to access national networks, build relationships with other national student representatives and be engaging in national campaigns, activism and lobbying on behalf of students in order to inherently impact change on various issues that continually impact students.

The third aspect of NUS affiliation, relates to the access of information, conferences and networks that affiliation has provided the University of Sydney SRC over the years and will continue to provide. One of the common factors that universities who have either disaffiliated or have never affiliated with the NUS is the lack of institutional knowledge that the NUS provides regarding how to advocate, types of campaigns to be

involved in and even the benefit of having a peak body of support. The impact of not being affiliated with the peak body of student representation, would render many of the campaigns and activism that the SRC is able to do, limited and potentially ineffective without the support networks and other benefits that the NUS continually provides.

Motion: that the executive approves the payment of 63,657.00 to remain affiliated with the NUS.

Dane spoke to the affiliation with NUS saying that he supports a national body for student representation, however believes that University of Sydney students and the SRC get a poor deal. Explaining that while other affiliated universities have their delegates and vote calculated on both undergraduates and postgraduates the structure at the University of Sydney means the SRC is only allocated representation according to undergraduates as SUPRA is not affiliated, however when it comes to affiliation fees the SRC is the third highest but don't receive the representation that reflects this.

Niamh added to her report and spoke about NUS education conference which she found valuable and informative. Two things she wanted to bring to the executive's attention from the conference are the sexual assault survey that will be conducted next year and asked the SRC support the work of End Rape ON Campus. The other was the mental health and house campaign being launch by NUS which is around changing how social housing is supplied and changing perceptions of homelessness, she encourages the SRC to partner in.

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

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Josie Jakovac

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

10. Report of the Administration Manager

- Need to restock the kitchen as things are missing old or broken.
- In process of moving to google for our emails, it's a much better platform

Dane Luo thanked Chitra for all her work.

Motion: that the report of the Administration Manager be accepted.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

11. Report of the Casework and Policy Manager

There was nothing to report

12. SRC Legal Service Report

Niamh Callinan gave a report on behalf of the legal service board.

Working on updating:

- the SLS constitution

- Memorandum of Understanding with the SRC
- Duty statements

To clarify the roles and responsibilities of the SLS.

Hoping to have this completed in the next 2-3 weeks.

Meeting moved in camera at 11:47am

Meeting moved ex camera at 12:02pm

Motion: that the report of the SRC Legal Service be accepted including an additional \$10 000 for external legal counsel.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

13. Approval of Payments

13.1. Reimbursements

Mickie Quick (Honi distribution):	\$2062.07	Petrol Costs for Honi Distribution
Melissa de Silva (casework):	\$20	Clicksend for appt. reminders
Gabi Sticker-Phelps (Women's):	\$120	NOWSA conference ticket
Dane Luo (EdCon):	\$384.96	EdCon costs
		(NUS to reimburse SRC)

Motion: that reimbursements be approved en bloc.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

14. Any Other Reports

14.3. Report of the Publications Managers

Following are suggestions aimed at improving and professionalising the checking process and risk management of SRC publishing, including publishing Honi Soit in print and online. The current system has a range of problems including:

- DSP's are elected by STUPOL factions and thus may have a conflict of interest other than the interest of the SRC.
 - DSP's are effectively being asked to provide a form of legal advice, but are not adequately equipped to do so.
 - DSP's sometimes do not show up to their shifts, effectively leaving the checking and sign-off to the SRC President.
 - DSP's sometimes do not show up to all training provided.
 - Honi Soit editors are fiercely protective of their editorial independence to the point of being highly resistant to any form of article modification no matter how justified. They also expect their publication to be sent to the printers even if only checked by the SRC President.

- The resistance described above, is effectively based on fear (real or imagined) of heavy handed political intervention by the SRC President in their editorial space, rather than based on sound professional legal advice.
- While legal advice can and is sought from time-to-time from the SRCLS, it is generally reactive in so far as it is a response to a problem that has been pointed out by DSP's or the President and is in the heat of an editorial dispute, rather than sound preventative advice.

Suggestions are as follows:

Professionalising the checking and approval process for SRC publishing.

The SRC needs to professionalise the checking process and engage an independent solicitor /Media Law professional to check all content published by the SRC for Honi, and report on legal risk for each edition, including online articles to the DSP's and SRC President. This should include articles and content published outside the regular Monday deadline. The SRC President and the elected DSPs should then make decisions based on the report.

Engaging a professional to review and report, is aimed at augmenting the current process and does not necessarily require making changes to the current SRC Regulations. DSP's can still check the paper, but they will do so in conjunction with a professional report. Decisions can then be made by students based on professional advice.

The report should entail:

- Is there are any legal risks in the edition and what are they specifically?
- Is the article safe to publish in its current form or are changes required?
- Suggestions of what is required to get it over the line? For example, further evidence gathering or modification of the article.

Please note the intention of the report from the solicitor would be to let the SRC know if there a risk and if possible what would make it safe to publish, not to decide what to publish, that will remain as per the SRC Constitution and Regulations, the role of the DSP's and SRC President.

The biggest implication here is cost. The choices are:

- A. Engage a Solicitor/Media Law professional on contract basis (eg. 3 hours per week during publishing weeks), plus any additional time as needed.
- B. Use the SRCLS for 3 hours per week on a Monday to read and report on Honi. This is maybe not the best option due to other duties and priorities and or representation conflict.
- C. Use a combination of both, with the SRCLS taking up cases if required and additional time outside contract hours if needed.

Publishing Articles outside the Monday publishing day

All material published should be checked and approved for legal risk prior to publishing.

So yes, articles published outside the Monday deadline still need to be checked and should be submitted for review, thus the soliciter may also need to be allocated hours outside of semester.

Comments on Honi Soit Social Media - Who moderates?

The SRC does not traditionally moderate posts or comments on Honi Soit social media, and in the past it has basically been left as a complaints based system. In the rare event of a complaint, the editors, as admins would be asked to moderate / make the changes. Facebook and other platforms also have a complaint procedures.

In the light of the recent Dyllan Voller ruling, the SRC may need to re-think/ get advice on this. Here are some choices

- A. Leave it to Honi Soit editors to moderate - Honi editors (not DSPs & President) would then be fully responsible for moderating social media comments. They can live moderate, or they can moderate comments via the Social Media approve-then-publish functions.
- B. Get all comments moderated by a Media Law professional and have the SRC President and DSP's decisions be based on professional advice.
- C. Have comments read and moderated by DSP's. The SRC President makes decisions based on that advice (not recommended) as it's not professional.

We can only offer suggestions to the SRC Executive and President who need to implement the changes and engage a solicitor/ Media Law professional and/or undertake to pass any regulations changes through Council or SRC Executive.

Amanda LeMay & Mickie Quick

Amanda LeMay entered the meeting at 12:05 to speak to her report

Discussion:

Amanda LeMay spoke to her report saying that Honi and other publications needed to be better resourced to protect from legal issues and the problems are varied and difficult to catch. DSP availability, attendance and training are all factors. While she understanding the importance to Honi of editorial independence there needs to be independent legal advice to avoid issues and make sure it is not a liability. Main thing is to see this implemented by semester 2 with a review of the process in November with the hope that a lawyer will be seen as more politically distant than the DSP's or the President. Noting that problems have been increasing this year.

Dane Luo thanked Amanda LeMay for her report and that he has been in discussion with the publications managers for quite some time now on this. Agreed that it should be implemented in semester two, but the cost to the SRC needed to be considered as this could become quite expensive. Recommended that this request be included in next year's SSAF application.

Amanda LeMay suggested that it be included in the duties of the SRC Legal Service and give them additional hours to do the work as it was important and needed to be done.

Niamh Callinan asked if Chitra Narayanan should be consulted with regards to budgeting.

Amanda LeMay said she had already spoken to Chitra Narayanan about costs and budgeting and that the best way to minimise cost was to include this in the SRC Legal Service's duties.

Dane Luo recommended that the SRC Legal Service board members on the executive take this to the next board meeting.

Jacky He said he wasn't certain the SRC Legal Board could get back to the Executive in time or if the SRC Legal Service would be able to take on the role.

Dane Luo said he understood is as the DSP's who are students, requesting this service which would fall under that SRC Legal Services work.

Amanda LeMay said to her understanding there was nothing preventing the SRC legal service from providing this but that she understood they had a heavy caseload.

Josie Jakovac asked that since there was a variety of option still to be explored and no concrete cost given to the executive if they could have more time to considered the options and wanted to clarify that the SRC Legal Service Board member were happy to take this to the next board meeting.

Niamh Callinan said that the SRC Legal Service Board would do that.

Josie Jakovac asked for clarification that this was just making sure there was legal support offered and that students would still have the final say on whether something went to print or not.

Amanda LeMay verified this.

Motion: That the Publications Managers report be noted and that the SRC Legal Service Board discuss this at their next meeting and report back to the executive on their possibility of the Legal Service taking on this responsibility.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

14.1. Report of the Women's Officers

Safer Communities Advisory Group:

Gabi is submitting a paper to this meeting, which is included below in this report.

Author	Gabi Stricker-Phelps, Women's Officer- SRC
Reviewer	Amber Coulhoun, Project Manager- Student Support Services
Paper Title	Devising a Strategy to address bullying, racism and discrimination
Purpose	For this group to discuss future and existing strategies that act from both the pre-emptive and punitive perspectives in relation to bullying, racism and discrimination.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The number of anti-Semitic incidents in Australia continues to rise. The latest report of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry recorded a 59% rise in incidents in the last year. A few months ago, convicted terrorist Ihsas Khan revealed he had plans to kill Jewish students wearing skull-caps at the University of Sydney. This threat is but one manifestation of the alarming upsurge in anti-Semitic incidents on the University of Sydney campus. Reports of islamophobia and discrimination against international students are also cause for concern.

I wish to suggest discussion and action by the Safer Communities Advisory Group in regard to all forms of bullying, racism and discrimination at the University of Sydney. There is a pressing need to consider measures which the university might put in place, both from a pre-emptive perspective to prescribe the standards to which faculty and students are required to adhere, and the punitive responses if they fail to do so. In order to do this, we must engage groups and representatives of societies across campus.

Two weeks ago, Pro Vice Chancellor Wai-Fong Chua and Amber Colhoun met with the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Vic Alhadeff, the USYD Australasian Jewish Union of Students (AUJS) President and me to discuss concerns about the rise in anti-Semitic and racist incidents on campus.

Mr Alhadeff shared the ten protocols asserting firm policies on racism, intimidation, antisemitism, bigotry and other forms of bullying which were recently introduced on TAFE NSW campuses for this committee to consider when discussing how we may approach combating racism and bigotry at the University of Sydney. I have included the ten protocols below as endorsed by the TAFE NSW Executive Leadership team:

- a) **Create a centralised Student Discipline Register.** Work on this register will commence once a new Student Management System currently in development is in place.
- b) **Establish a Staff Help hotline/email.** In 2019 a framework will be developed on how to prevent and manage bullying and discrimination complaints, including a reporting process and staff hotline.
- c) **Ongoing professional and capability development.** Code of Conduct and Bullying and Harassment training is now part of on-boarding new staff and annual mandatory training for all employees.
- d) **Provide easy website and intranet access to clear, plain English information on identifying and reporting misconduct.** The TAFE NSW Student Guide 2019 is now available through the website and students have been familiarised with it through their student orientation sessions. It clearly outlines student roles and responsibilities and information on identifying and reporting misconduct. In addition, a Student Conduct and Discipline procedure manual to support staff as they manage issues of misconduct is in production and will be completed and online next month.
- e) **Inform and update all students of their rights and responsibilities.** An online student induction program has been developed that outlines students' rights and responsibilities and draws attention to the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy. Participation in this can be captured. When the online program is not available, and paper-based induction occurs, the current practice is for students to manually sign a register, however, this process should be possible to automate when our new Student Management System is in place.
- f) **Centralised TAFE complaints management.** TAFE NSW has centralised the process and complaints are now managed by dedicated complaint handling employees bringing it into line with best practice. Complaint response training is being rolled out to all staff responsible for this part of the complaint process, and a complaints network has been established to ensure consistency of approach and share good practice.
- g) **Establish diversity and equity as a TAFE NSW focus.** TAFE NSW is establishing a Culture and Engagement Committee and one of the focuses of this committee will be diversity and inclusion.

- h) **Diversity and Cultural Inclusion training.** Phase 2 of the Diversity and Cultural Inclusion will be launched, targeted to teaching staff, customer facing staff and support staff.
- i) **Expand diversity awareness and education to students.** This is ongoing and will be through a range of on-campus programs.
- j) **Measure impact.** This has commenced and will be ongoing through Voice of the Customer and Employee Engagement research, as well as staff surveys, feedback and complaints trend analysis.

It should further be noted that TAFE NSW is also in the process of developing a new Multicultural Plan.

It is imperative to note that the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and members of the university administration in affirming that the University of Sydney will not tolerate any form of bigotry on the campus and will adopt stern measures to stamp it out whenever it occurs. It is vital that we as a committee ensure these strong messages are conveyed to all staff and all students if the university is to protect and enhance its reputation and stature as one of this country's premier universities.

As always we are happy to bring forward any comments on other agenda items that the Executive would like as to raise. We will continue to raise the issue written about previously surrounding campus security and walking services. The meeting will be on Wednesday July 18th.

Meeting with USU Women's Portfolio Holder:

We met with newly elected USU board director Cady Brown to discuss potential collaboration with the USU and SRC for upcoming events including the USYD Women Past, present and future event, health week and sanitary items projects. We are also happy to assist in suggestions for the renovations of the Women's Room in Manning.

Meeting with Chancellor Belinda Hutchinson:

We had a meeting with the Chancellor to discuss our work on July 10th.

ENID Videos:

According to a recent ABC report, 78% of Australian women are dissatisfied with appearances. We are in the process of filming short videos to encourage women to develop positive body image. Our leading roles in the video are USYD women from different communities and backgrounds. The filming and video editing services are being done by a professional photography studio, the filming is scheduled on 12th July – 13th July.

USYD Women Past, Present and Future Event:

We had another meeting this week to finalise details for the event including catering, invitation design, venue logistics and communications with keynote speakers and panelists. The formal invitations will be sent next week and the event is now active on eventbrite. The invitations and posters have the SRC logo on them and are attached below. We are also requesting \$100 of our budget to contribute to catering costs for the event where we are expecting between 80-100 people.

Niamh Callinan noted that \$100 was not a huge sum for an event and should be approved.

Motion: that the report of the Women's Officers be accepted including the \$100 for the USYD Women Past, Present and Future Event.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

14.2. Report of the Residential Colleges Officers

Unfortunately, as the Council has not been able to examine the Residential College Officers Reports since March, we submit this Report for the Executives consideration.

To summarise our April-July Council Reports:

The Collective Executive has met formally twice since its creation in April. It has discussed a number of items:

1. Nick Comino has been appointed as Treasurer, Saurav Bansal as Social Director
2. The 1 year plan has been agreed to, where the Collective will seek to achieve:
 - a. An Intercol Noticeboard shall be created
 - b. A Collective Facebook page shall be created
 - c. Doing an event with SRC/USU C&S program and the Intercol Community.
 - d. A Charity concert between one of the Colleges and the SRC, where all profits shall go into a student-issue related charity.
 - e. To lobby USU for change of the College Students Clubs funding model; and also the change in the Palladian Dance venue from Manning to the Seymour Centre.
3. To lobby the SRC for additional funding for the Collective.
4. To aim to reengage College Students with the SRC and its services.

The Collective would also like to thank the General Secretaries for their assistance in processing our budgetary requests.

The Collective Executive has also discussed and agreed to examine the current requirements for the SRC Residential College Officers. We have noticed there is no requirement on this position to be held by current residents or alumni of Residential Colleges. The Collective would like the Executives input on the question: *"Does the SRC Executive support the Collective recommending to the SRC regulation reform pertaining to the Residential College Officers being Residents or Alumni of the Colleges?"*

The Collective will examine the Executive's response to this and report back to the Council by the August meeting.

Dane Luo recommended that the Executive approve the reports but should decline to comment citing that the request does not pertain to the role of the executive and that this is a matter for the Council.

Motion: that the report of the Residential College Officers be accepted but decline to answer the question to the Executive and asked it be presented to the Council.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Josie Jakovac

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

15. Other Business

15.1 Staff Leave

Sharon Maher Annual, 28/08/19 – 13/09/19, 15 days, 105 hours
TIL, 03/06/19, 1 day, 7 hours

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

15.2 Circular Motions

C13 Motion: That Casper Lu be appointed Deputy Electoral Officer until the appointment of the Electoral Officer by the Council.

The motion **CARRIED** on 03/07/19.

The following comment were written in the response to the circular motion.

Circular comments:

Dane Luo:

I am disappointed that the Council meeting won't be able to go ahead tonight. We received 17 apologies in the afternoon.

However, the organisation needs to begin its electoral process for the 92nd Council and NUS delegates for this year's National Conference. Under the Regulations, only the Council can appoint the Electoral Officer and Electoral Legal Arbiter. Pursuant to the standing pt 8 s 28(e) of the Regulations, there will need to be a special meeting soon as the ELA can no longer be appointed by an ordinary meeting.

Until then, Chitra has said that we need people to work on preparing the elections as nominations need to open in a few weeks under the Regulations.

The Selection Committee has recommended Casper Lu be appointed the Electoral Officer. I propose that he be appointed the Deputy Electoral Officer as an interim measure until the Council can meet. He will be paid at casual rates under the EBA.

I hope that a special meeting can be called soon so we can move forward with this. I apologise to the staff who are affected by this and I thank those Representatives who were committed to attend and those Officers that authored reports for the Council.

Caitlyn Chu:

I agree with the same sentiments as Dane expressed. All the councilors should take responsibility to attend council meetings.

Josie Jakovac:

I agree with the sentiments of Dane, Jacky, and Niamh. Despite my replacement exam tomorrow, personally, I was looking forward to finally making these appointments and going through the agenda items that backdate as far as April.

Resorting to a circular to approve a temporary Deputy Electoral Officer is a very disappointing result. It is a testament to the lack of commitment and spirit of dysfunctionality that many Councilors have shown this past year.

While it's recognised that each and every Office Bearer has other commitments outside of the SRC, and that many are overseas, the time-sensitivity of appointing an EO and ELA made this Council meeting tonight essential. I am extremely disappointed at the large number of Councilors who are still in Sydney yet, knowing that numbers would be tight, refused to attend.

I approve that Casper Lu be appointed Deputy Electoral Officer until the appointment of the Electoral Officer by the Council. And I hope that the Council can meet to appoint a new EO and ELA soon, as we were so tasked. It is a duty that we owe to the SRC staff and the University of Sydney student body who elected us last year, and should be taken seriously.

Niamh Callinan:

I would firstly like to echo the sentiments of Dane. I too am highly disappointed that this is the situation we as the executive are having to deal with as a result of the lack of councilors being able to come to this council meeting.

I approve the motion put forward to the executive.

I would like to also apologise to the staff who have been impacted by the delay in this process and thank them for their patience.

15.3 Request for NUS Edcon report

Motion: The Executive request that the Education Officers submit a report to the executive on the NUS Education conference and what the attendees got out of it.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Josie Jakovac

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

It was also noted that there had not yet been NUS conference feedback

The meeting was declared closed at 12:38pm.