



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 6th regular meeting of the 92nd SRC held on Wednesday 8th July 2020. Meeting held via Zoom.

*There was a quorum count at 6:23pm
The meeting was found quorate*

A. Meeting open at 6:23 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Felix Faber be elected Deputy Chairperson.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Vivienne Goodes to Felix Faber
Hang Gao to Anne Zhao
Paola Ayre to Lauren Lancaster
Isabella Fox to Amanda Dheersekara
Shailene Wei to Eliie Wilson

The proxies and apologies were noted.

Kelly Chen proxied to Lia Perkins at 7:27pm

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Mengyuan (Derek) Zhu resigns his seat to Yiman Jiang.

The Secretary to Council is awaiting confirmation from the other members of his ticket if they would like to take the seat before council can consider Mengyuan's nominee.

The resignation was noted pending confirmation of other unelected members of the ticket.

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 5th meeting of 92nd SRC Council held over till the next Council meeting

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. President's Report

Liam Donohoe tabled a written report:

Lenin is often attributed with having said that there are decades where nothing happens and days where decades happen. While there might be some doubt about whether he actually said that, there can certainly be no doubt about the relevance of that adage at this point in history. Between the Morrison government's disgraceful attack on the University sector and Victoria's second wave, and the ongoing fight to prove that Black Lives Matter, the past month has brought yet more change and misery to a year which has already seen its fair share of both. In this report I will not only outline what I've been up to over the past month—which, fortunately, includes some positive changes—but will make contact with these significant changes to demonstrate the various ways I've tried to minimise their impact.

Activism

Education

What's happening?

On 19th of June, the Morrison government declared war on the University sector. Using COVID-19 and associated economic turmoil as a scapegoat, Education Minister Dan Tehan announced a suite

of changes which individually, and cumulatively, complete the process of gutting and Neo-Liberalising higher education which began back in the late 1980s.

As always, the details are complex. Instead of regurgitating what I have already written and spoken about at length over the past month, in the appendix to this report you'll find a post I prepared for USyd Rants / Discussion Group which informally explains these changes. The key things to note are:

1. Net funding for the University sector will be decreased.
2. Though the overall number is contracting, proportional funding to “job-ready” courses / degrees will increase. To use a metaphor, the government funding pie is decreasing in size / diameter, but the “job-ready” courses will get a larger segment.
3. However, while these courses might be getting more funding compared to other categories / courses, they WILL NOT BE GETTING MORE FUNDING COMPARED TO WHAT THEY GET IN 2020. In other words, “job-ready” courses will have less government funding now compared to 2020. The segment may be larger proportionally, but the pie has been shrunk so significantly that in absolute terms these courses will be doing worse.
4. At the same time, the government is tinkering with the price of courses, ostensibly to influence student decisions. “Job-ready” courses are having their fees lowered, while the rest are having their fees decreased.
 - a. However, the majority of students are not especially price-sensitive, so it's unlikely to make a significant difference to enrollment and graduation patterns. There will of course be some decline (mainly low SES people opting not to pursue higher education / certain degrees), but not significant enough to achieve what the government wants.
 - b. By lowering “student contributions” and government funding for “jobs-ready” courses, “job-ready” courses will be hit with a double whammy, with both sources of funding reduced. This will inevitably mean staff cuts, less courses, and austerity aimed at reducing overheads. Indeed, these courses are likely to run at a loss, reducing incentive for Universities to even supply them, no matter how much demand they may stimulate.
 - c. By increasing “student contributions” for other courses the government actually increases overall funding for them, albeit from an unacceptable source (student fees). This will mean that Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (HASS) courses will be comparatively well-funded, and will generate large surpluses (or profits) for the University. This in turn creates incentive to increase supply of those courses, no matter how much demand may decline. This will lead to over-enrollments, and will defeat the alleged purpose of the government's changes.
5. These attacks will actually exacerbate the existing revenue crisis for Universities. USyd estimates they'll lose at least an extra \$50 million on top of the \$360 million they already estimate they're going to lose in 2020. Any funding decreases will apply from next year, particularly fee decreases.
 - . Some Universities will be able to sustain “job-ready” courses by cross-subsidising them using the surplus generated from HASS courses. This won't be very fair on the students accumulating huge debt for their HASS courses.
 - a. Universities with less prestige and money will struggle to offer HASS courses—overall student demand will decrease, and elite Go8 Universities will capture most of the remaining demand. While this may improve the rankings of Go8 HASS departments, others will cease to exist.

- b. If Universities cannot run HASS departments then they won't be able to cross-subsidise "job-ready" courses as well. As such, they may cease to exist.
6. Once post-graduate and international student contributions are factored in, between 80 and 90% of the University's overall funding will come from student fees. It has not been above 50% since Gough Whitlam, and it has never been this bad. Some domestic students will be paying for 93% of their course costs.
 7. This will increase most students' HECS debt significantly, while offering a laughably small (<20%) decrease for the rest.

As if these changes weren't enough, the University is continuing to reduce course offerings and work for casuals. Semester two will see significant decreases in student choice and course diversity, particularly in HASS and Creative Arts subjects.

All of these changes must be fought tooth and nail. At March's Council meeting I told the council to be on the war footing in what was undoubtedly my most prescient moment—we have worked hard, but much more will need to be done to ensure we are the victors.

What have we / I been doing?

I have been doing absolutely everything I can to fight back against the attacks. Among other things I:

- Spoke at the rally on the 26th (of June) outside the Liberal Party's headquarters. This was an outstanding rally, attended by a passionate and sizeable crowd featuring many new faces. I have attached the speech I gave there as the second appendix to this report.
- Helped build the rally on the 26th, and have been helping to build the upcoming one on the 18th, particularly by reaching out to diverse groups and people who would not normally be involved in activism.
- Have attended countless USyd Education Action Group and NSW Education Organising meetings, contributing extensively to discussions about outreach and building.
- Spoke with school strikers to help kickstart the massive "Students Against Fee Increases" Facebook group, of which I'm one of the admins. As part of that I've not only participated in national Zoom calls, but also offered considerable advice on how to strategize around and convince the cross-bench.
- Have been assisting the promising "Clubs Against the Cuts" organising space by offering ideas for building and participating in meetings.
- Met with Vice-Chancellor Michael Spence and experts in his office on the 29th and 28th, respectively, to get a clear picture of the proposed changes and how they will affect USyd specifically. Beyond that, I have tried to get a sense of the University's position on the matter, pushing them to take an oppositional stance in public. It is clear that the University supports our fightback, but not clear that they are willing to do anything serious to help us realise it.
- Have spoken with contacts at GetUp! and other organisations with deeper knowledge about how parliament is likely to vote, getting their advice on how we might be able to influence key cross-benchers.
- Have reached out to key media figures and organisation to try to increase publicity, including by getting tip-offs about where Liberal ministers may be so we can bomb their

media appearances. I am pleased to report that I'll soon meet with Charles Firth, from the Chaser (and a veteran SRC / Stu. Pol. hack), to that end.

- Attended the History students' speak out and banner drop on the 2nd of July.

While we should all be pleased with the organising and enthusiasm around this issue so far, there is undoubtedly still an enormous amount of work to be done. NTEU management continues to endorse highly compromised wage reduction agreements at campuses across the country. USyd continues to gut courses and reduce work for casuals. The government continues to watch with glee while the entire sector burns. I look forward to undertaking this work, including by building for the next big rally on the 18th of July.

Black Lives Matter

Despite over a month of rabid protest, Black Lives still don't seem to matter to the powerful. All around the world Black and Indigenous people continue to be killed and abused by police, while closer to home the largely non-white residents of public housing estates in Melbourne have been subject to dehumanising authoritarianism after decades of neglect. The SRC remains committed to the BLM cause, and I have been doing my best to support the cause in a few ways, including:

- Attending last Sunday's Black Lives Matter rally in the Domain.
- Supplying paint and calico to Indigenous activists who used them to make banners for last Sunday's rally.
- Coming into the SRC outside of work hours (including weekends) to print and guillotine thousands of flyers and posters for various activist organisations.
- Helping resource masks, sanitisers, etc. for events.
- Making social media posts to draw attention to upcoming rallies and broader injustices.

Relatedly, I also attended the refugee solidarity rally on the 13th of June in the City, which demanded the immediate release of all refugees in off- and on-shore detention. A rather guerilla affair, the rally formed part of a broader National Day of Action and was heavily policed. I want to express my full solidarity with any protestors who were intimidated by the cops at their place of residence shortly after.

Other activist initiatives

Despite the Police trying everything they can to shut them down, I have attended a few other protests outside NSW Parliament over the past month. On the 16th of June I spoke at a rally demanding Housing Justice, which was catalysed by the expiration of the NSW government's measly moratorium on evictions. It is shameful that the NSW and Federal government(s) will watch on while thousands are driven out of their homes and into the streets. I commend the work of the Housing Defence Coalition, which will be more important than ever over these coming months.

Beyond that, on the 1st of July I attended a snap rally against the NSW government's changes to the victim's support scheme, which will make it significantly harder for survivors of sexual assault to achieve justice. The SRC totally opposes these changes, and demands increased funding for sexual assault support, domestic violence shelters, and other government initiatives which demonstrably improve the welfare of survivors.

The SRC's operations

Away from the streets life has been just as busy, with the SRC offering its fair share of changes. There are a few key things to announce / detail.

Appointment of our Electoral Officer for 2020

I am pleased to announce that the Executive, via the selection / hiring committee, has completed the hiring process for the SRC's Electoral Officer for 2020, and would like to recommend Mr. Geoffrey Fields for the role. Mr. Fields has extensive experience in all manner of elections, having worked on basically every local, state, and federal election since the 90s. He also demonstrated an impressive appreciation for the rigours and realities of student elections, an essential criterion for any applicant. The selection committee was quite impressed with Mr. Fields, and looks forward to seeing how he performs in the role.

Legal service personnel update

I am also pleased to report that our new paralegal, Yumi Bhattarai, has commenced in the role, while the Legal Board recently voted to extend the contract of our junior solicitor, Cade Badawy, past its probation period. It has been wonderful to see the Legal Service expand from 1 member at the start of the year to 3, and I have no doubt that students are benefitting considerably from the extra attention-to-detail and processing times that come with it.

Regulatory change

As I hope everyone at this meeting is aware, Myself and many others have been diligently chipping away at regulatory reform in time for the 2020 SRC elections. This has not only involved considerable brain power and typing, but also meetings with university and other key stakeholders. While we have decided to delay the proposal of these regulations by a few weeks in order to give more time for people to articulate various concerns, we will be finalising these regulations next week and putting them to council well before the end of this month. I look forward to passing these regulations, which will not only enable us to conduct an online election should it be necessary, but remedy many of the processes and rituals which are despised by staff and students alike.

Publications updates

In addition to the above I also met with various editors of Honi Soit and the SRC Publication Managers on the 22nd of June to discuss some potential changes to the SRC's publishing policy. Of particular concern is the question of who owns what Honi publishes, and whether contributors ought to be able to request that Honi hide or delete their article. As a result of that meeting, it was decided that the regulations concerning Honi Soit need to be updated, and so this Council can expect further changes to regulations beyond the electoral ones due by the end of this month.

Other

Beyond the above I have also been working on:

- The SRC's plans for semester 2 Welcome Week—I encourage all OBs and collective members to have a serious think about their plans for outreach in early semester two.
- Improving our social media game, including by creating a form for OBs to use if they want to post something to social media.
- Clarifying the differences between matters for Casework / Legal and matters for students / Office Bearers, including by creating a flowchart for easy reference going forward.

Committees

This report would not be complete without mentioning the smorgasbord of committees I've attended—this role is nothing if not a glorified committee attendee. In addition to my weekly meetings with key University personnel most Fridays, I also attended:

- The University Executive Education Committee meeting on the 29th of June. As a result of that meeting I can confirm that some classes / parts of the University will return to in-person activity next semester, however it will not be sweeping. Lectures are unlikely to ever return, and most tutorials will remain online (at best students may have an in-person tutorial every few weeks, on a rotating basis). Labs, practicals, and other things which obviously need to happen in-person will be prioritised, though overall foot traffic is unlikely to be even half of what it usually is. Moreover, the University intends to continue using ProctorU to at least some extent, and we should oppose that as much as possible.
- The meeting(s) of the Academic Board Academic Quality Committee, and Academic Board Academic Standards and Policy Committee on the 30th of June.
- The Thematic Review (Languages) committee meeting on the 25th of June. (See appendix C for its recommendations).

All in all it has been a frightfully busy month in what has been a frightfully busy year. Every week another attack or shitty thing rolls by to create more work and heartache for us. But while we may not know what next week will bring, one thing is for certain—myself, and countless others, will be here to devote ourselves entirely to defeating any attack on students, workers, or the oppressed.

Appendix A—post I prepared for USyd Rants / Discussion Group

It's really important people get their heads around the attacks on Uni funding. THIS IS NOT JUST A STEM VS ARTS ISSUE. ALL OF US LOSE.

Arts students have to cop increased fees, but many of their courses will be better funded overall. Non-arts students cop cheaper fees (in some cases), but their courses will lose a lot of funding (in most cases). If you're a STEM student, that should really concern you. Underfunding will lead to:

1. Reduced staff numbers (think bigger class sizes)
2. More online learning (far cheaper)
3. Course cuts
4. Less money for the materials needed in pracs
5. Less research opportunities and scholarships.

The HECS debt might be a bit smaller, but the reduction in quality will be greater than the reduction in cost! And what happens when the funding isn't enough, quality is low, and Unis can't

make up the difference? It creates the pressure / conditions for fee increases! It won't be long before the government goes, "oops our changes stuffed up STEM, I guess we need the STEM students to pay more". And, finally, these fee and funding reductions will apply from next year, so a lot of the issues described above will actually apply to current students (esp. given the existing COVID funding issues). Current science and engo students will see the impacts of reduced funding IMMEDIATELY.

Moreover, because STEM subjects are so expensive to run, they will actually become unprofitable / loss-making. It's hard to predict what will actually happen, and it will definitely vary from Uni-to- Uni. But, despite the complexity, it seems likely that—because they make very little money—Uni will reduce enrolments and opportunities in STEM fields. While the government claims they want to produce more STEM graduates, the opposite is very likely: while there might be more demand for STEM subjects, there won't be enough supply to keep up. For that reason, there could be less STEM graduates, and the graduates will probably be lower quality because their education was poor and underfunded! In fact, it may lead to more Arts graduates than we have now: even though there'll be less demand for Arts / Humanities subjects, the courses will be quite profitable, meaning Unis have a massive incentive to supply those courses if they can. Even if you believe in market forces / market economics this is madness! The government's use of subsidies and spending will create a situation where: supply and demand don't align, (probably) less STEM graduates, and (possibly) more Arts graduates, undermining their alleged motivation!!!

That's why it's really important we all stand together and resist these attacks, regardless of our courses. Creating more "job-ready" graduates is not the purpose, it is an absolute lie. What this is really about is reducing government funding, and using the culture war to divide us and make it seem justified. The government is literally trying to screw all of us by reducing our education quality, but trying to trick a few people into thinking that it's a win so they don't get angry about it ! WE. ALL. LOSE.

Don't believe me? Here are the numbers:

- Engineering and science students will have their fees reduced by 21%. Seems pretty good right? Sure, until you realise the government is also reducing their funding by 14%. This means there'll be a 16% decrease in funding (\$4,758 per student). Imagine if your engineering and science faculties had 16% less funding. That means 1 in every 6 staff members won't be around anymore, less money for essential materials for labs and research, etc.
- Maths students will have their fees reduced by 62%, resulting in a \$3.5k (17%) decrease in funding per student. Again, 1 in 6 staff, bigger tutorials, less opportunity to ask questions, more online learning.
- Undoubtedly the most fucked: environmental studies (arguably the most important discipline of the 21st century) having fees reduced by 21% and gov. funding reduced by 33%. This will reduce overall funding by 29%, or \$9,000! Unis will simply stop offering those courses because it'll be too unprofitable.
- Behavioural Science, Social Studies, Political Science fees increased by 113% and government funding reduced by 90%. Interesting that they're targeting people who study government and politics???
- Education fees down by 46%, but an overall decrease in funding of 6%.
- Clinical psychology fees down by 46% but overall funding down by \$3k (15%)

- Nursing fees down 46% but overall funding down by ~\$2k (8%)
- Computing, medicine / dentistry, and English are the only courses that are getting: a) reduced fees, and b) an increase in overall funding.

This situation is obviously complex. But at the end of the day, basically every single subject suffers. We should all support fee decreases, but not a decrease in government funding. We should all support fee decreases, but not an increase in fees for others. The government has more than enough money to reduce fees while increasing funding FOR EVERYONE. So, what should students believe / fight for?

1. We should support all proposed decreases in fees. I am really glad that many students will have cheaper fees from next year, and no one is suggesting that's a bad thing.
2. We should vehemently oppose any decreases in government funding, even if fees are being lowered. These changes are purely designed to reduce government spending on higher education, but we know for sure they have the capacity to INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALL (e.g. by increasing taxes on the wealthy and corporations, or just by recognising that tax doesn't even pay for gov. spending in the first place, currency printing does).
3. We should oppose any and all fee increases for other students. I don't care what your faculty is, it's pure selfishness to stand back and watch while other people cop a DOUBLING in their fees and debt. There is no actual scarcity of resources here—we don't actually have to pick and choose between one of the other. The government could lower fees for everyone and increase funding if they wanted to, but their actual aim is to just decrease government spending and pit STEM students against Arts students to decrease the backlash.
4. We should fight for increased government funding for all subjects. Again, we can certainly afford it.
5. We should fight for free education for all. Again, we can certainly afford it.

As President of the SRC I'm going to fight these changes tooth and nail. We will push for amendments / new legislations which:

1. Maintains fee decreases without reducing funding. This is essential for the quality of STEM / non-Arts courses. If we let them reduce funding it will seriously reduce quality and ensure courses are mainly online. Absolutely no one should support this.
2. Opposes all fee increases for ANY students, including Law, Commerce, Accounting, Arts, etc. students.
3. Increases overall funding from the government, instead of reducing overall funding.
4. Pushes for free education. I don't think anyone should pay or go into debt. I totally support any decreases in fees, but even they don't go far enough—it could and should be free. What this means is: a) we push for total fee abolition for ALL students, b) we push for a significant increase in government funding to make up for fee abolition.

It's not going to be easy. In fact, it's going to be super hard. But students have waged these fights before and won. In 2014 they tried to increase fees for everyone and basically reduce government funding to zero. We hit the streets in the thousands and created the public pressure which led to the cross-bench (the Senators with the balance of power) voting it down. In 2012 in Montreal (Canada) students undertook radical direct action to challenge the state, and ensured no fees

were introduced. Higher education in Australia used to be free, and still is in Germany (it's super cheap in other European countries) because students stood up for their interests.

We're all in this together. Some of us benefit in some ways, but lose in other ways. No one wins in every way. We need a change that means WE ALL BENEFIT IN EVERY WAY. We can definitely win, but we'll need as many students involved as possible. As a first step, come to the protest this Friday (<https://www.facebook.com/events/583399925946838/>), and join us at the meeting on Saturday to discuss the long-term campaign approach! <https://www.facebook.com/events/714183109126328/>

Appendix B—speech given at the rally on the 26th of June

Let's be very clear about what is happening here. A bunch of hypocrites who didn't pay a cent for their education want the government to stop funding the sector and for students to pick up the slack. To make the attacks more palatable, they've tried to stoke a culture war, giving marginal fee decreases to certain students while claiming the overall package is motivated by labour market concerns. In reality, these attacks will do little to help the economy, will undermine the quality of education for the students they claim to help, and will saddle the majority with lifelong HECS debts at a time of unprecedented economic malaise.

Will explain why the government is lying, and outline what this is actually about. Will do so by asking a few questions.

Will it do anything for economy?

- Want to start with this one, because government claims that's what this is about.
- Straight off the bat: Unis are not about employment or labour market outcomes. Never their purpose.
- Past few decades have seen increasingly neo-liberalisation, moulding to the whims of capital.
- This will complete the process, turning most Universities into nothing more than degree factories which theoretically increase human capital in service of profits. The Coalition has made no secret about this fact: their marginal fee decreases are designed to increase demand for vocational subjects, ostensibly so graduates have the skills needed by the post-COVID economy.
- But in reality, won't do shit:
 - Even before COVID recession, aren't enough jobs in a lot of these vocational industries.
 - 20-30% of people in fields like science, maths, clinical psychology don't find a full-time job within 4 months.
 - Sizeable portion of those who do report that they never use the skills they learnt.
 - Teachers nurses high drop out rate.
 - Is this a surprise? Government chronically underfunds the sciences, underpays
 - Will reduce quality and possible even quantity of graduates, as will explain later.

- Larger debt won't necessarily deter, but will punish.
 - Will take years to reflect.
- Upshot: bald-faced lie from a government that is totally failing.

Are there any winners?

- Another important thing to address, since some see this as a win. Unfortunately some students.
- Fee increases are measly: at best 20%.
- Perversely, will mean less funding for the fields:
 - Maths courses will suffer a 17% decline in overall funding per student.
 - Engineering will cop a 16% decline. 15% for psychology, 8% for nursing, and—in perhaps the most egregious move of all—a whopping 29% for environmental science.
- Funding felt immediately. USyd \$50 mill on top of \$350 mill already lost.
 - Long-run: may be too unprofitable to run these courses at all.
- What does this mean?
 - Even less staff, reducing intimacy
 - Less course diversity, reducing specialisation and passion.
 - More online learning, lecture recycling, and other shortcuts to save money.
- Most important thing: will come after their fees later.

What does this really mean for Unis and students?

- It's not about the economy, it's not about reducing fees, it's not about rewarding STEM.
- What really about? What does it really mean?
- First, about punishing certain disciplines and individuals associated w them.
 - Some Unis will not be able to run Arts courses.
 - Some Unis will shut down altogether.
- Second, about decreasing gov. funding.
 - At USyd some estimates say 80-90% of overall funding will come from student fees.
- Third, creating lifelong debt for young people during the most perilous economic period in a century.
 - HECS introduced 20% contributions. Now, some students pay 93% contribution
- Finally, about making education and certain disciplines elite and exclusionary.
 - While many will cop an unfair and significant debt increase in order to pursue their passions, it's the most vulnerable who will be deterred from certain pursuits or University altogether. It'll be Indigenous kids, who see degrees which cost more than a private school education and decide against pursuing social change through politics or journalism. It'll be migrant kids, without financial backing, who opt for a miserable 9-5 instead of pursuing their passions. And it'll be working class kids—kids who know the dangers of debt better than most—who opt out of University and lose out on the social mobility it might have provided.

Vision

These attacks are a desperate attempt to conclude the Neo-Liberalisation of the University. They are a declaration of war on students, on critical thinkers, on the Left, on young people, on dissidents, and, most significantly, on the poor, one which will quickly deteriorate an essential public service in the name of inequality. But for all their careful politicking, and for all their sneaky divide and conquer, there was one thing the Liberals forgot: that we can raise hell. That in 2014 they failed to deregulate Uni fees because we hit the streets en masse. That fear of student backlash delayed their ideological fantasies by decades, even though they had broad consensus among the ruling class. That these groups, united, can not only never be defeated, but can win whatever they fucking want.

And that's why I'm really here—because I recognise that we can not only defeat these attacks, but achieve a better and fairer University system that supersedes the pathetic excuse for one we've got right now. Because I know that we can win free education for all students, regardless of their nationality, age, or vocation. Because I know we can win a quality education for all students, which facilitates best-practice pedagogy and pays staff fairly for increased intimacy. And because I know that the government can pay for that education in its entirety, by taxing the rich for every fucking cent. So I implore all of you to fight and finish the war they started—we don't just have an Education to Defend, but an entire fucking world to win.

Appendix C—recommendations from Thematic Review Committee meetings

1. Endorse the development of the English Language support strategy.
2. To the extent that resources allow it, we endorse the rolling out as quickly as possible of the early intervention strategies. E.g. triaging.
3. The Statistical Analysis of English Language Pathways and Performance report be provided annually, reported to AQC, UE Student life, and UE Education
4. The University develops a referral system, modelled on that of Academic Integrity, where at risk students who are identified by an academic are referred to a team of academics who are credited with the time and have the knowledge to provide English language support, directing the student to appropriate resources.
5. As students in our Foundation Program fare least well of all of the entry schemes we have, work with USFP to assist with the transition of their students to university.
6. Academic English is part of the pre-arrival transition
7. Support for academics and upskilling is provided
8. That the strategy work with and complement resources already in the faculties, enhancing work already undertaken, with the central portfolio and faculties working together
9. Interview new students who are at risk of not having competent levels of English to begin engagement with academic studies on their own. This should be a 5 minute viva with each student. Those who do not pass must undertake a compulsory English language unit

Discussion:

Felix Faber's connection had issues so Charlotte Bullock assumed the Chair

Jack Mansell asked about the regulations changes, saying that he had deep concerns about the proposal to move the elections online and the consequences for the democratic process and the dangers to the student union movement in general. Adding that while he understand that these have been proposed due to the covid19 situation there are many concerns about the process as the history of online elections in student organisation has seen an erosion of student union activism on campuses. Adding that moving elections online make the campaign a lot more about branding and marketing and less about student activism and that face to face campaigning is better at engaging the student population and also leads to more scrutiny of the process which is better for democracy. He concluded noting he did not think the sunset clause was watertight and could be explained to bring back online elections in future years, and that these proposed changes will be used to diminish student democracy in the future.

Liam Donohoe responded to Jack's comments noting that they were not unexpected and that he did not feel that Jack respected how serious the Covid19 pandemic was.

Lily Campbell spoke to the report

Liam Donohoe responded to Lily's comment

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Mikaela Pappou

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

L2. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 3rd June were circulated.

Motion to accept the minutes of the Executive meeting held 3rd June 2020

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Liam Donohoe resumed the Chair

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Charlotte Bullock and Felix Faber tabled a written report:

Since our last council meeting, the state of higher education in Australia has changed significantly. With the announcement of unprecedented changes to the way fees are structured, the government has chosen to intervene in students' choices and studies to shift the balance of university education towards what they deem more 'employable'. The past several weeks have been important for the student movement as the campaign against the fee hikes develops. Along with other office-bearers,

we have been working to stop these hikes, attending EAG meetings and protests and raising our concerns with university management in our fortnightly meetings. Through the Interfaculty Committee, Felix has formed Clubs Against the Cuts, a group of clubs and societies at USyd working to engage students from a wide portion of the University community in the campaign against the fee hikes. So far, several clubs have signed onto the campaign, and many ordinary club members have gotten involved. We consider this an important means by which students who would not usually be reached through activism can express their frustration at the fee hikes and get involved in the campaign. As the wider education campaign continues to grow, we look forward to engaging as wide a portion of the student community as possible to fight the fee hikes.

Since our last council meeting Charlotte has attended some of the regular meetings between university management and student representatives. At the meeting she most recently attended, she was able to provide feedback on the plans for Semester 2 face-to-face classes. This is an issue she is particularly concerned about and she looks forward to providing more feedback as the situation becomes clearer. There was also useful discussion about the way exams were carried out this semester, with the focus on the advantages of online take-home-style exams versus traditional exams.

Both Charlotte and Felix have also attended meetings of the Standing Legal Committee, working on the regulations changes as they continue to develop.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Abbey Shi and Liam Thomas tabled a written report

Over the past weeks we have continued to liaise with the University in regular meetings, with the focus now predominantly centred around the Uni's return to campus strategy as well as plans for Welcome Week/Day for Semester 2. We have continued to address with the University issues regarding international students and their access to bursaries - which there have been a number of issues around. I am pleased to report that these issues are slowly being worked through and the hardship funding application has been amended to ensure that the process is streamlined so that eligible students are applying and able to access the funding. Previously, there was a significant issue surrounding student applying and receiving funding when they were ineligible (in some circumstances moving money between bank accounts). Through our conversations with the University in these meetings we've been able to have a strong input as to the return to campus, having pushed for on-campus learning to the greatest extent possible in the current circumstances, which we acknowledge are ever-changing.

Liam has also been involved with the SRC's successful Mutual Aid program, helping to deliver hampers to students. This was my first opportunity to help out with the delivery process and it was incredible to see how far this project has come and the extent to which it is helping students in need. The program is a credit to the SRC and all staff and students involved in organising the

program and getting it off the ground. If anyone is able to drive there are still opportunities to help out with more packages needing to be delivered.

In our capacity as members of the SLC we have continued to be actively involved in the regulations changes process. A number of issues have arisen from the recent proposed changes, however the process has been a relatively successful collaborative effort. As everyone is aware, due to the issues we have had to delay the regulations change. I strongly encourage everyone to please attend the next SLC meeting. At the last meeting only us, Felix, Liam D & Janek were present, which is obviously not representative of the broader SRC. In order to ensure we do have changes taking place that are in the best interest of the SRC and reflective of the views of the organisation it is imperative that people do show up to the upcoming meeting to raise their concerns.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Courtney Daley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the 1st and 2nd meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 18th of June and 2nd July 2020 were circulated.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Jazzlyn Breen and Jack Mansell tabled a written report

The EAG has been working on two main campaigns over the last couple of months;

1. The *No Uni Cut's* campaign; focused on rejecting cuts to units of study which make staff and students pay for the covid crisis.
2. The national *campaign against uni fee increases*; focusing on rejecting the LNP changes to university funding which sees every student worse off in terms of government support.

Below is a list of the public events we have organised over the last couple of months. We have also continued to hold regular internal EAG meetings, hold working bees, attend relevant events and work in collaboration with other uni clubs and societies.

No Uni Cuts campaign - event timeline

May 14th - Forum/ public meeting “Students and staff demand: Stop the cuts! Save our Education!”. Speakers; Rob Boncardo (National Tertiary Education Union USYD Branch Committee member and head of the casuals network), Jazzlyn Breen (USYD SRC Education Officer).

May 21st - We attended the NTEU national day of action car convoy and co-hosted a socially distant speakout on USyd campus shortly after.

May 22nd - National Day of Online Action “No Uni Cuts”. Online NDA via Zoom.

May 28th - We hosted a forum to discuss the cuts to units of study across universities, with a specific focus on USyd. Speakers included; Toby Fitch, (Lecturer in Creative Writing, NTEU member and Casuals Network activist), Alma Torlakovic (NTEU Branch Committee member), Jack Mansell (Education Officer).

May 29th - we hosted a rally on campus (with strict social distancing) “No USYD Cuts! Staff & Student Protest”. This was well attended by both staff and students and we heard from a variety of speakers including casual staff, student reps and academics.

Campaign against fee increases - event timeline

June 18th - We broke the news about the changes to higher education funding allocation and launched a petition against uni fee increases. This petition has attracted approx. 4000 signatures so far.

June 20th - We held the first of many NSW wide organising meetings to discuss the university fee changes. We had been contacted a few days previously about the changes to university fees and subsequently broke the news on facebook. Over 100 people attended this first meeting, many of whom were still in highschool or had never attended an organising meeting before.

June 26th - We held a rally in Town Hall against the fee increases with hundreds of people in attendance. Social distancing was enforced, masks and hand sanitiser were available. This rally was chaired by UNSW education officer Shovan Bhattarai and USyd education officer Jazzlyn Breen. Speakers included: Will Glen (A high school student), Greens Senator for NSW Mehreen Faruqi, Sydney Uni SRC President Liam Donohoe, Dashie Prasad NUS LGBT+ officer, and Jack Mansell (USyd education officer).

June 27th - We held a second NSW wide organising meeting, this also had a huge number of people in attendance. At this meeting we decided to hold a forum leading up to another rally on July 18th.

July 1st - we held a building event to help promote our next rally “No Uni Fees Blitz: banner paint, poster, leafleting”

July 8th - we hosted a public online forum to discuss the impact of fee hikes and help build the July 18th rally.

Black Lives Matter

The EAG has been in constant support of the BLM movement in Australia, and we are very glad to see it's resurgence in popularity in recent times. We have been in attendance and helped build every Sydney BLM rally so far, and will continue to actively show our support wherever we can. We have also provided financial assistance to activists organising these rallies - because this council has come before the next exec meeting i would like to pass the following expenditure here in this report so it can get back to those who are out of pocket asap.

Hi-vis vests X 26 = Purchased for marshaling and legal observing black lives matter rallies. These will be used by all collectives for various other events in the future.
Total cost = \$281.42

Motion: that the report of the Education Officers with included expenditure (\$281.42) be accepted.

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

02. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Ellie Wilson and Vivienne Guo tabled a written report

Black Lives Matter

Over the last few weeks, the Women's Collective has been involved in the numerous Black Lives Matter events. We held a working bee to create a banner and signs for the Black Lives Matter rally held by ISJA, AAA and ACAR on 6 June, and numerous members of the collective have attended the various Sydney rallies that have taken place around this issue, including the rally that took place on Sunday 5 July. Women's Officer Ellie Wilson also went to the Black Lives Matter rally in Kempsey on Friday 3 July.

Snap Rally: Stop the Changes to the NSW Victims Support Scheme

On Wednesday 1 July, the Women's Collective held a snap rally in front of NSW Parliament to protest the changes to the NSW Victims Support Scheme where three activists locked onto the front gates. The NSW Government announced on Friday 26 June that the changes to the NSW Victims Support Scheme proposed in April this year were to be implemented starting on Wednesday 1 July. The crux of these proposed changes is that people looking to get support after experiencing violent crimes will now have to gather their own evidence and file their own requests, rather than working with experienced support workers. This means that victim-survivors of violent crimes will need to gather all of their own supporting evidence and cover the costs of doing so out-of-pocket, and upload this evidence through an online-only application portal. This cuts out so many of the most oppressed people in our society from being able to access the support they need and deserve, including compensation payments for lost wages due to violent crime, free counselling, and recognition payments. These changes have been strongly opposed by organisations working within the sector, who have asserted that these changes would make it harder for victim-survivors to get the help they need. This event was attended by just over 20

people and was spoken at by Women's Officer Ellie Wilson, Sexual Harassment Officer Kimmy Dibben and Education Officer Jazz Breen.

We also participated in the related National Online Day of Action the week prior to this event and posted a public statement to our social media to call for the government to halt the changes to the scheme.

Feminist Police and Prison Abolitionism

Women's Officer Ellie Wilson was invited as an expert stakeholder to help Community Legal Centres NSW formulate a policy framework for preventing and responding to sexual and domestic violence under a police abolition framework on Wednesday 8 July.

This is in line with the Women's Collective's previous work around police and prison abolitionism, which includes a number of pieces in Women's Collective 2020 publications and a Feminist Prison Abolition Discussion Group held in Semester One. We intend to work with other Office Bearers both at the University of Sydney and at other universities to continue this work going forward, and have so far been involved in numerous inter-university meetings to discuss what the future of an anti police and prison student campaign should entail.

WoCo Condemns Dyson Heydon

In an investigation by the High Court, Justice Dyson Heydon has been found to have sexually harassed six associates. A subsequent investigation by the *Sydney Morning Herald* has found he sexually harassed other women lawyers and law students at universities and barristers chambers throughout Australia and the United Kingdom. Despite the fact that the Dean of the University of Sydney Law School has expressed "solidarity" with Dyson's victims, he remains an Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney. That a judge who abused his position of power to victimise women continues to hold an honorary title at this University speaks volumes about the place of women within the Law School, this university community and the legal sector in Australia.

Stand Up to the State: Police Accountability and Community Protection Practical Training Workshop

The Women's Collective co-hosted a practical training workshop on 14 June with other activist groups including ASEN. The topics that were covered included your rights with police, effective legal observing, countering police equipment, street medic basics, and crowd strategies against police brutality. This workshop took place shortly after the June 6 Black Lives Matter vigil where police attacked protesters with pepper spray.

NSW Inter-University Women's Collective Organising

The Women's Officers of a number of universities across NSW met on 13 June to discuss statewide feminist organising and how we could work on a cross-university basis to achieve our goals in organising. We have set up a preliminary Facebook group to bring in members of Women's Collectives across the state and to enable us to communicate more broadly and more efficiently. A

topic of interest has been the expansion of the Dismantle the Colleges campaign and for it to include a demand more generally for more safe, affordable, and accessible student housing

Motion: that the report of the Women's Officers be accepted.

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Jazzlyn Breen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Welfare Officers

This month I have been heavily involved in organising against Dan Tehan's reforms to education. These reforms will make some students pay up to 90% of their courses- putting up prices by up to 100%. This is class war and will be disastrous for working class students. Today young people face many obstacles their parents and grandparents did not- welfare is at its lowest point, the job market is shrinking and now student debt will reach into the hundreds of thousands. Fighting against these attacks is an important step to fighting against this dire future. The reforms also represent a cut to higher education overall, so all students (even the ones who will have lower fees) will be negatively affected. To protest this, I helped organise a successful rally of over 200 ppl on the 3rd of July. I also organised a forum today to spread awareness and am building for another rally on the 18th. This is a crucial fight, and building a sustained campaign is needed for us to win.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

The key campaign that the Sydney Uni SRC should be focusing it's efforts on at the present is the No Fee Hikes Student Fightback campaign. The government is rolling out the biggest attacks on higher education since 2014 when the Abbott government attempted to deregulate university fees. The proposed measures will see arts fees double and major increases for a number of other courses including law and commerce. While the government has attempted to justify these attacks by arguing that it's about making students more 'job-ready' in a context on recession, it's clear that this is a bullshit excuse for doing what they've wanted to do for decades. For years the approach of both Liberal and Labor has been to remodel the university sector to make students pay a greater proportion for education, and the new measures will see a net increase in the student contribution and a net decrease in government funding. The long-term goal is a US-style system where students are forced to rack up tens of thousands (sometimes hundreds of thousands) of dollars for an education. Education should not run on a market-based system. It should be free and a right for all students.

I've been part of organising and building the student fightback campaign, attending organising meetings, designing promo material, leafletting, poster and more. The 2014 campaign shows

that students CAN defeat attacks when a campaign is national and has an approach to mobilising as many students as possible. The 2014 campaign won because it made the new legislation politically unsavoury enough for it to lose support amongst scores of senators who didn't want to risk their political careers in the face of mass opposition. As Global Solidarity OB I will continue to build the campaign as it is the key issue concerning students. In addition to the ed campaign I also attended the rallies and postered for the ongoing Black Lives Matter campaign.

Discussion:

Holly Hanye spoke to her report and raised concerns with the previously mentioned regulations changes.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Jack Mansell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

P1. Proposed Regulations changes for the Council's consideration.

Note these changes are not up for adoption. They are presented merely for the council to discuss.

The draft amendments were attached in a separate document for ease of reading.

Discussion:

James Ardouin spoke on the proposed regulations changes.

Grace Bowskil spoke on the proposed regulations changes

Maddie Powell spoke on the proposed regulations changes

Mikaela Pappou spoke on the proposed regulations changes

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Felix Faber

Liam Donohoe spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Lily Campbell spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Liam Donohoe spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Jack Mansell spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Courtney Daley spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the proposed regulations changes

Discussion was closed and the meeting moved to the next item on the agenda.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Motion to support 'SYD Student Protest: NO Fee Hikes, NO Education Cuts!'

Preamble:

1. Dan Tehan's proposed reforms to higher education is the most significant attack on our education since Tony Abbott's attempt to deregulate fees in 2014.
2. The reforms will increase the cost of various degrees significantly. Students studying subjects such as history, philosophy, politics, law, economics and business degrees, will pay \$14,500 per year in fees, an increase of as much as 113%.
3. The measures will also decrease the overall contribution of government funding to universities. Instead of the government providing 52% of funding to education, now they will only contribute 48%. In real terms this means per student government funding has dropped by \$2760.
4. This is in the context of the greater crisis to university funding. To make up the revenue shortfall from the university administrations are now looking to enforce historic cuts: firings, income cuts, course cuts, switching to online content permanently and increasing class sizes.
5. Like in 2014, Dan Tehan's cuts are widely hated by students and the greater community. We have a huge opportunity to create a campaign that can fight back, involve new layers of students and win.
6. As such, an organising meeting to fight these measures was launched by the Education Action Group immediately after Tehan's announcement.
7. On the 3rd of July a rally of over 200 people took place outside Town Hall.
8. Another protest is planned for the 18th of July:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/562597034415546/>

Platforms:

1. The SRC condemns Dan Tehan's proposed education reforms.
2. The SRC supports the Education Action Group and the NSW Education Organising group in organising the fight back.

3. The SRC supports students and staff with the principle that staff working conditions are students learning conditions.
4. The SRC condemns university management for putting the costs of the crisis onto staff and students.
5. The SRC condemns the for-profit model of education and demands fully funded and free education.

Actions:

1. The SRC will share the event for the July 18th protest on Facebook, through email lists and will send the event to clubs and societies.
2. The SRC will print materials for the 18th where possible.
3. The SRC will fund promotions including Facebook boosting, badges and t-shirts.

The SRC will bring a contingent to the rally.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion

Alex P spoke to the motion

Liam Donohoe resigned the Chair to Charlotte Bullock

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion

Moved: Jack Mansell

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Liam Donohoe resumed the Chair

Q2. Reverse the Changes to the Victims Support Scheme!

Preamble

The NSW Government announced on Friday 26 June that the changes to the NSW Victims Support Scheme proposed in April this year were to be implemented starting on Wednesday 1 July. The crux of these proposed changes is that people looking to get support after experiencing violent crimes will now have to gather their own evidence and file their own requests, rather than working with experienced support workers. This means that victim-survivors of violent crimes will

need to gather all of their own supporting evidence and cover the costs of doing so out-of-pocket, and upload this evidence through an online-only application portal. This cuts out so many of the most oppressed people in our society from being able to access the support they need and deserve, including compensation payments for lost wages due to violent crime, free counselling, and recognition payments. These changes have been strongly opposed by organisations working within the sector, who have asserted that these changes would make it harder for victim-survivors to get the help they need.

Actions

1. The SRC opposes the changes to the NSW Victims Support Scheme.
2. The SRC stands in solidarity with people who will be affected by these changes.
3. The SRC calls on the NSW Government to stop these changes from going ahead and to reverse all changes already implemented.

Discussion:

Ellie Wilson spoke to the motion

Liam Donohoe resigned the Chair to Felix Faber

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion

Moved: Ellie Wilson

Seconded: Kimmy Dibben

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. Condemning Justice Dyson Heydon

Preamble

In an investigation by the High Court, Justice Dyson Heydon has been found to have sexually harassed six associates. A subsequent investigation by the *Sydney Morning Herald* has found he sexually harassed other women lawyers and law students at universities and barristers chambers throughout Australia and the United Kingdom. Despite the fact that the Dean of the University of Sydney Law School has expressed “solidarity” with Dyson’s victims, he remains an Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney. That a judge who abused his position of power to victimise women continues to hold an honorary title at this University speaks volumes about the place of women within the Law School, this university community and the legal sector in Australia.

Alone, the sexual harassment of these women by one of the most senior figures in the legal sector deserves condemnation. But it also highlights, in the words of one of Heydon’s former associates, Chelsea Tabart, that the culture of law in this country is “broken from the top down”. Almost half of all women lawyers in Australia report being bullied or harassed at work. The vast majority of victims of sexual violence will never see justice done; men like Dyson Heydon know that. And for the minority of victims who do see a successful trial where their voices are heard, the prize is not

accountability, justice and real change in the behaviour of their abusers. It is punishment, retribution and continuing cycles of violence which fail to rehabilitate offenders.

It is a system designed to protect those who know they can get away with it. It fails victims. It cannot deliver real justice.

The SRC must stand in solidarity with the victims of Justice Dyson Heydon. We must condemn not only the actions of Justice Heydon, but the failing in the legal system he represents.

Actions

1. The SRC expresses solidarity with the victims of Dyson Heydon.
2. The SRC condemns Justice Dyson Heydon.
3. The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to condemn Dyson Heydon.
4. The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to strip Dyson Heydon of his Emeritus Professor position.
5. The SRC President will deliver a copy of this motion to Dean of the Law School, Simon Brommitt.

Discussion:

Ellie Wilson spoke to the motion

Maddie Powell spoke to the motion

Vivienne Guo spoke to the motion

Moved: Ellie Wilson

Seconded: Nina Dillon Britton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R1. End the Public Housing Lockdown – Healthcare Not Racist Policing

The Sydney Uni SRC opposes the Andrews government's "hard lockdown" of public housing residents in nine public housing estates.

In a move reminiscent of authoritarian regimes, over 500 police have been deployed to lock down around 3000 residents, with police to be stationed on every floor. Residents are not allowed to leave for any reason. They can not go to work, school, or the shops. There was no warning of this imprisonment. This is policing of poverty, not healthcare. It is also a racist measure. The majority of affected residents have migrant or refugee backgrounds, and many residents confront systemic racial profiling and the unwarranted criminalisation by police.

Despite stage 3 lockdown restrictions in place across metropolitan Victoria from Thursday, Premier Daniel Andrews says the far stricter lock down of the towers will continue until testing of tenants is completed. This will take days.

Policing is not the way to address the health crisis. Victoria has had three times as many fines as any other state, yet it now has the worst growth in COVID-19 cases. The Black Lives Matter protests have exposed that police are not a neutral force in Indigenous and marginalised communities.

We need more healthcare, services and social support, not more racist policing.

Acting national Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly has called the housing towers 'vertical cruise ships', but 'hard lockdown' risks creating exactly the cruise-liner like conditions the Victorian government claims to be addressing. COVID-19 has spread rapidly amongst trapped passengers, now residents will be trapped at close quarters in exactly the same way. With proper testing and contact tracing, this kind of lockdown is unnecessary.

As of 5/7/2020, 23 residents across the nine public housing estates have tested positive for COVID-19, with more people likely exposed to the virus. [update 6/7/2020: incredibly the government has now admitted that some towers have no Covid-19 cases but are locked down anyway, making the discrimination of the lockdown even more stark].

The health of the residents, and the wider community, has been put at risk by the failure of the Andrews government to provide a COVID safe environment for public housing residents.

The government has long known that social distancing is difficult in the flats, and yet families have been left cramped into tiny units, and lifts often don't work. Hand sanitizer was installed but only on the ground floor of towers, and in some ran out within a week and was not replaced.

The Andrews government is spending \$2 billion on a new private prison, and there has been a \$3 billion funding boost for police, but there is no money to keep public housing residents safe.

Unfortunately some organisations, for example the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) have made concessions to this draconian response by supporting the lockdown.

But the lockdown risks making the situation worse. Elderly and immunocompromised people have no way out, and police have a track record of harassment of these communities. We need rapid testing, tracing and isolation of known cases. That requires hundreds of health workers, not hundreds of police. It shouldn't take five days to test all residents.

As one resident Tekeste Hailu told the ABC: "many people would have willingly been tested and stayed at home if they had been asked instead of just bombarding us with 500 police at once and locking us down" ...By late on Saturday night, Mr Hailu said he was yet to see any professional health workers, social workers or interpreters to support the hundreds of residents in his building... "Especially with what's happening in the current situation with the police and the African background, all the youths are very terrified of the police," Mr Hailu said.

The attack on public housing residents goes hand in hand with the Andrews' government's approach of blaming ordinary people for the outbreak. The talk of COVID-19 being spread at large family gatherings has been code for migrant communities. Andrews has also blamed security guards for sharing cigarette lighters, rather than taking responsibility for their lack of training and the lack of PPE for the privatized, poorly paid guards of the quarantine hotels.

Insecure work contributed to the spread of COVID-19, and is a compounding of the anxiety of public housing tenants, many of whom have insecure frontline work and will be cut off from income by the lockdown. The leaking of COVID-19 from the quarantine hotels has caused the upsurge in Victorian cases, and now public housing residents are paying the price.

The pandemic has exposed racism and brutal inequalities in our society, we must mobilise to turn them around.

Platform

The Sydney Uni SRC calls for:

- No to racism; culturally sensitive healthcare, not policing
- Free sanitizer, and PPE for all public housing residents
- No lockdown - police off the estates
- Mass testing with test results returned in 24 hrs
- Job guarantees and Covid-19 leave for all residents
- Extend the rent-freeze for public housing residents
- State government guarantee to improve and expand current public housing stock

Action

- The Sydney Uni SRC will promote this motion on social media to express solidarity
- The Sydney Uni SRC will formally sign on to the online version of the statement above here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIrnzGNp1gjmG8NymfWmAvOzvMoDJQw3eLcTP55OFh5tqN9w/viewform>

R2. Healthcare workers not cops; Solidarity with people locked in Melbourne Public Housing Towers

Preamble:

Approximately 3000 residents of 9 of Melbourne's public housing complexes have been locked inside their homes over the last few days, with a heavy police presence introduced into the community at a rate of one police officer to every 6 people, with 500 police officers working per shift. This police-enforced "hard lockdown" was implemented on July 4 by the Daniel Andrews Labor government in Victoria in response to a recent resurgence of COVID-19 in Melbourne, and

means that residents cannot leave their buildings for any reason. These are the harshest restrictions imposed in Australia so far, where isolation is being enforced effectively at gunpoint.

Healthcare workers, not police, should be responsible for mitigating this outbreak. Social housing communities are made up of already marginalised groups within society; groups which are over policed, racially targeted and over represented within the carceral system to begin with. These groups are also often dependent on support systems and networks which they now do not have access to.

The treatment of these communities locked up in these towers presents a number of concerning situations, namely;

- Children locked inside with no access to fresh air or exercise.
- Families who rely on careers for day to day living who are unable to access that support.
- People with alcohol, drug or other dependencies going through withdrawals around an armed police presence and no access to proper support.
- Lack of sufficient food that caters to dietary requirements.
- Families separated from loved ones in hospital. Specifically, the case of one mother separated from her premature baby in the NICU.

Additional concerns have been raised as donations contributed by the community have been turned away despite government-provided materials being inadequate.

It must also be noted that people who are able to afford plane tickets out of Victoria have not been barred from leaving the state, with 48 people recently landing in NSW from Victoria without being COVID tested on arrival despite the hard lockdown of public housing towers happening concurrently.

The residents of the locked down housing complexes have published a list of demands;

“1. All public housing estates to be placed under stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions like our neighbours so we can still leave our homes for work or education, exercise, medical care or care giving, or shopping for supplies.

2. The Victorian Government must withdraw all 500 police and Authorised officers from the inside of all public housing estates.

3. The Victorian Government must implement infection prevention measures such as regular disinfection and cleaning of communal spaces, and distribution of masks.

4. The Victorian Government must set up testing sites in walking distance of the nine public housing estates instead of inside of the public housing estates in order to prevent the risk of spreading COVID-19.

5. The Victorian Government must coordinate services in support of current community led activities that are responding to resident’s food, medical, financial, mental health and social services.”

Platform:

1. The Victorian government's response to the resurgence of COVID-19 has condemned residents of public housing to what have been called 'open-air prisons' whilst residents of private housing in the same postcodes do not face these restrictions.
2. The residents of the public housing towers have been unfairly targeted by these punitive measures which have left many people without necessary supplies and have cut people off from vital support systems.
3. No similar restrictions have been implemented anywhere else, despite there being numerous other disease hotspots.

Action:

1. The SRC stands in solidarity with people locked in Melbourne's Public Housing Towers.
2. The SRC calls on the Victorian government to:
 - a. Immediately remove all police patrolling public housing.
 - b. Financially support residents of the public housing towers, as well as all other economically-insecure people, to enable adequate social distancing.
 - c. Establish a lockdown for non-essential services with guaranteed pay for workers and job loss prevention until it is safe to reopen.
 - d. Fulfil the demands put forward by residents.
3. The SRC publicly shows its support for those affected by sharing relevant content, updates, petitions and fundraiser links on its social media accounts.
4. The SRC takes a solidarity photo supporting the residents of the Melbourne public housing towers in lockdown posted alongside their demands.

Discussion of both R1 and R2 were held concurrently:

Sofie Nicholson spoke to motion R1

Vivienne Guo spoke to motion R2

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Felix Faber

Liam Donohoe spoke to motion R2

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motions

Jack Mansell spoke to the motions

Motion: Healthcare workers not cops; Solidarity with people locked in Melbourne Public Housing Towers

Moved: Sofie Nicholson

Seconded: Felix Faber

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Motion: Healthcare workers not cops; Solidarity with people locked in Melbourne Public Housing Towers

Moved: Vivienne Guo

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Liam Donohoe resumed the Chair

R3. International Students are Welcome, Racist are Not!

Preamble

Between the increasing parochialism of the COVID world and the broader geopolitical antagonism between China and the West, 2020 has seen a radical increase in anti-Asian racism over the past few months.

In the past year, Chinese international students on campus have faced vile acts of racism, including being physically and verbally assaulted. This is located within a broader context of national antagonism towards China, starting with the travel ban at the beginning of the year, which restricted Chinese international students from continuing their studies in Australia.

Despite the government allowing Australians living and travelling overseas to return to the country at the height of the lockdown, international students were effectively barred from returning to Australia to continue their studies here. Additionally, international students were still required to pay the same high university fees despite studying online from their home countries whilst simultaneously not having similar access to the necessary university facilities and services like domestic students do.

The Australian government has recently announced that they will allow international students to return regardless of individual state border closures. The NSW Government has proposed allowing 30,000 international students to return, starting with 250 a day in July, however, this was rejected by the Federal government and the state government was asked to revise it downwards. It is imperative that international students are physically allowed to return before the beginning of the semester in late August otherwise they risk missing out on part of their studies which may affect their overall studies.

Platform

1. The SRC stands in solidarity with International students who have been affected by the travel bans, and by the COVID-19 related surges in Anti-Asian racism and xenophobia.

Actions

1. The SRC calls on the University to allow international students to resume their studies within the university.

2. The SRC will take a solidarity photo in support of international students who have been affected, to be posted on the SRC's social media at the earliest convenience.

Discussion:

Kedar Maddali spoke to the motion

Vivienne Guo spoke to the motion

Moved: Kedar Maddali

Seconded: Vivienne Guo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 8:51pm.