



src activism
advocacy
representation

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MINUTES:

of the 7th regular meeting of the 92nd SRC held on Wednesday the **19th August 2020**. Meeting held via Zoom.

A. Meeting open at 6:28 pm

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.

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Charlotte Bullock be elected Deputy Chairperson.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Grace Bowskill to Lily Campbell
Zachary Pitkethley
Shailene Wei
Alev Saracoglu to Prudence Wilkins-Wheat
Nicholas Comino to Maia Edge
Jack Mansell to Deaglan Godwin

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Mengyuan Zhu to Yiman Jiang

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 5th and 6th regular meetings of 92nd SRC Council held on 10th of June and 8th July 2020 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 10th of June and 8th July 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

H. Question Time of 15 minutes. There were no questions.

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

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L1. President's Report

Liam Donohoe tabled a written report:

It has been quite some time since our last regular Council meeting, and as such there is much to report. Indeed, the countless weeks which have elapsed since early July give new meaning to that old 'weeks where decades happen' quote—in this case, it almost does feel like a decade. On the whole, the extended holiday break has been anything but relaxing—like the rest of the SRC, I have been busier than ever, a fact which I'm sure comes as no surprise to anyone who follows the news.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to profoundly alter every aspect of our lives, and the ruling class has succeeded in passing most of the cost onto ordinary people. Many of the constituencies the SRC represents are among the worst affected—people who are young, people who are

students, and people who are workers—people who the Liberals are happy to see suffer. And instead of offering relief or support to these people—instead of increasing funding to Universities, expanding social security, or otherwise easing material concerns—the last month has seen countless more attacks. Social security programs are being hastily ceased. University workers are losing jobs as departments restructure and redundancies are offered. Students who fail a few courses might be denied HECS, and therefore an education.

The Liberals have made their interests clear: the post-COVID world is their world, one where market inflation, imperialism, and environmental catastrophe get called growth and the lumpen vote for charlatans who promise, but never deliver, a cut of the loot. One where the same Neo-Liberal mistakes are repeated over and over while global elites are insulated from the damage of their own decisions. One where the state actively helps Capitalism drain life from every institution, every good, and every person. In many ways, it's no different to the world the ruling class have always wanted, and always had, and certainly no different to the world the SRC has fought since our inception in 1929. We pledge now, as ever, to win the war they started and build a new world once we're done.

Unsurprisingly, much of this report concerns that fightback, and the activist initiatives with which I've been involved. This report also contains a report back on regulation changes, the SRC Informs program, and various committees.

Education Activism

What's been happening?

As foreshadowed earlier, higher education has certainly been no exception to the Liberals' savagery—one might even say it has been the exemplar. Since our last meeting the situation has, somehow, become more dire. The Liberals are clearly attempting to use the pandemic to mould the higher education system into the corrupted mess they've always wanted. When it comes to higher education they, evidently, want to deny it to most, and punish those who get enough of it that they stop being 'quiet Australians'.

Last month's attacks saw an overall funding decrease, "job-ready" courses losing overall funding compared to now, and a significant increase in fees for all other courses. But, as we recently learnt, they were just the start. Now the government plans to deny HECS HELP assistance to any students who have studied over 8 courses and have failed over half of them. This is an unprecedented attack—never before has the government denied HECS to undergraduates—which will most affect the vulnerable. Students with disabilities, mental health issues, and / or carer or work responsibilities are structurally failed by the education system, and are more likely to fail. ...

The government has not only attacked and abused the system, but also let it wither and waste. As previously reported at earlier meetings, the government has denied any further funding to Higher Education, and Uni managements across the country have started to pass the revenue crisis onto workers and students. Hundreds of job losses have been announced at UTS and UNSW, alongside further restructures, centralisation, and a substantial deterioration in educational quality for students. Closer to home, Michael Spence recently foreshadowed job cuts during an Academic Board report, a move the SRC will vigorously oppose, and USyd is one of many

Universities that will be paying millions in unpaid wages back to staff after a landmark wage theft case at the University of Melbourne.

The sector is well-past crisis point—we are now in the middle of a full-blown catastrophe, especially with Centre Alliance Senators saying they're likely to support the government's destructive reform bill. Students have no choice but to do what we've always done—fight back.

What have I been doing?

Unsurprisingly, there has been a huge amount of activity in the higher education sphere, and the SRC / myself have been at the centre of most of it.

July 18 No Fee Hikes Protest

On July the 18th the SRC co-hosted a protest outside Town Hall. MC'd by our Education Officer, Jack Mansell, and UNSW Education Activist Ruby Pandolfi, the rally saw a number of speakers highlight the devastating impact fee increases would have on the accessibility of education, noting that the overall reduction in funding would cost many more jobs. Though the police did their best to prevent the rally from happening, activists were too defiant and numerous for them to totally shut it down. In the end we marched to UTS, where a battalion of Riot Squad thugs cordoned off the lobby and prevented us from a planned occupation. Never to be deterred, the assembled masses rallied outside the entrance anyway, and left amid "we'll be back" chants.

In the lead up to the No Fee Hikes Protest I participated in a Clubs against the Cuts banner paint. Clubs against the Cuts is a fantastic initiative of Vice-President Felix Faber, which aims to involve USU clubs and faculty societies in the defence of our education. They brought a sizable contingent to the rally, and continue to bring new people into the movement.

July 31 Speak Out at the Great Hall

At the end of July a Speak Out was called outside the Quadrangle and saw a few dozen protestors assemble across a very large plane to protest the possibility of job cuts and the restructures at other Universities. I was honoured to address the crowd, talking about, among other things, the perverse ways the attacks would reduce the quantity and quality of environmental and medical science graduates. As a play on the 'cuts', a guillotine was prepared and brought to the protest by Socialist Alternative—it now sits in the OB room for anyone looking for one. The protest was part of / a precursor to the NUS' 'Kill the Bill' Fridays, a recurring series of protests and stunts which aim to escalate pressure on the Libs.

Buoyed by their heavy handed suppression of recent Black Lives Matter protesters, at least six cars' worth of NSW Police thugs descended on the rally, shutting it down during a great speech by Tom Williams despite the clear and substantial distance between the attendees. In the ensuing chaos, two protesters were arrested as part of the police's authoritarian "Operation Odin" crackdown, which identifies recurring protest attendees and specifically targets them if they attend any further protests. The SRC condemns the presence of the police on campus at any point, and demands that Michael Spence and University management clearly inform NSW Police that they are not welcome, particularly when students are protesting.

August 7 Footy match

After the repression of the preceding week protesters planned another action to escalate the fightback and demonstrate the hypocrisy of the government crackdown on protest. In this instance, a footy game in Victoria Park was planned, as existing regulations say sports games with under 500 people are okay.

The game was undoubtedly likely to be a dour affair, with the heavens opening and a torrent descending on the park. But the exact outcome of the first ever EAG derby would, alas, go unknown, with the Police arriving before the starting whistle could even be blown in yet another display of heavy handedness.

August 14 Decentralised actions

Last Friday education activists planned another round of protests, which were probably the most successful of the past month. Having learned from the past few weeks, these protests were designed to be small scale (<20 people to comply with the law), simultaneous, and decentralised (called by anyone). Contingents / rallies were organised by members of the linguistics department, the environment collective, USyd casuals, and members of Solidarity, among others. I had the honour of addressing one of the contingents at the F23 building, where I talked about the serious deterioration in educational standards and workplace conditions exacted by USyd management.

In the end the various protests were as well-attended as they could be (<20) and ended up descending on the main protest at the F23 building. In the end over 60 people were gathered at the bottom of Eastern Avenue, totally outnumbering police, who were ill-equipped to deal with a convergence and, no doubt, did not expect the turnout to be as large. In a moment of bold action, the crowd entered and then occupied the F23 administration building, only leaving once the Riot Squad were about to make an appearance.

Broader organising

Amid all these protests I have also been engaged in a bunch of other organising activities. For instance, earlier in July I had the opportunity to meet with Charles Firth, from the Chaser's, and Amanda Tattersalls, the 1999 NUS President, who gave me significant advice on media and communications strategy. I intend to share many of those lessons with other education activists, and am in the process of developing a more robust media strategy to aid the movement.

Beyond that, I have participated in countless meetings, including at least three NSW Education Organising meetings and at least two USyd Education Action Group meetings, including one as recently as yesterday. I think that while some elements of our campaign / fightback have been successful, there have also been a lot of ways we could have done better, particularly when it comes to media exposure and awareness of our cause. Frank reflection and sober assessment of conditions are needed as we go forward, to ensure our actions are sufficiently mass, sufficiently disruptive, and sufficiently well-known to achieve real action.

NUS Education Conference

Between the 13th and 15th of July I participated in the National Union of Students' annual Education Conference via Zoom. In addition to participating in important discussions about the direction of the Union, I also presented a seminar on effective public argumentation and communication on the first day.

It is essential for the NUS to take a radical and proactive approach to education activism. While the first semester featured a number of good new initiatives, particularly at the height of the pandemic when in-person protests were too risky, the NUS needs to ensure it is always committed to mass, disruptive activity. I was very encouraged by the Kill the Bill Fridays series proposed at the end of the conference, and the National Day of Action on the 28th of August is a fantastic opportunity for the NUS—and the broader student movement—to flex our numbers and strength.

Future activities

There are two big events next week which I believe will have a substantial impact on the success of our fightback against the government. The first of these is the first National Higher Education Action Network assembly, on the 24th of August. The NHEAN brings together students, Uni workers, and activists from all over the country in what is undoubtedly the most pluralistic and successful attempt at a united front so far, and currently features over 1,000 members in its Facebook group. The assembly on the 24th intends to lay the seeds for further strike action and disruptive activity, with motions about strike pledges and broader organising towards wildcard strikes likely to feature. I express my full solidarity with NHEAN, which I believe will become an ideal vehicle for industrial action, and hope that the SRC, and student activists more broadly, build solidarity actions to encourage and reassure staff even as we initiate our own mass, disruptive activity. I will also be attending the assembly on the 24th.

On second of these will be the National Day of Action against the attacks on higher education, which will be on Friday the 28th of August. I have the honour of addressing the crowd at that event, and am really excited to see an education protest now with the semester resumed. I think it will be a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the strength and size of the student resistance, and the first week of Uni should allow us to speak to plenty of students in the lead up. Mass demonstrations, disruptive activity, and industrial actions are all individually necessary and jointly sufficient if we want to win a better higher education system.

Other activism

Aside from the education sphere I have also had some very small involvements in other activist initiatives, including helping resource the July 28th BLM protest and attending the Environment Collective's divestment action on the 14th of August. Unfortunately the BLM protest had already been shut down by the time I got on the train there—I express my full solidarity to any one fined, and reassert my / the SRC's commitment to fighting for Indigenous justice. While BLM may not be as prevalent in the news cycle, the need for desperate change has not abated; indeed, many more people have been killed by the police since our last Council meeting. Further action is no doubt forthcoming.

The SRC's operations

The SRC continues to be as busy as ever. The SRC caseworkers have been dealing with a massive volume of requests for help, and getting back to students with an impressive 1-3 turnaround time. The last semester has, unsurprisingly, affected all aspects of student life profoundly, and so the need for appeals, re-marks, show cause, and interaction with the bureaucracy has never been larger. Many thanks are owed to the caseworkers for their tireless and essential efforts. Similarly, the legal service has been working hard, with our new migration services enjoying wide use and other matters continuing to crop up. And publications and admin have been working especially hard over the student break, going above and beyond so that our elections can take place and the SRC runs smoothly.

It is worth noting that, unlike other student organisations at this University, and other student unions in the country, the SRC has operated more or less entirely unchanged, with no loss in service availability, frequency, or quality. All of our consultations have successfully moved online, and students have just as much access to our publications output, services, advocacy, loans, and activism as before. While other organisations may need to justify their allocation of SSAF, the SRC certainly need not: we have provided a substantial return on every dollar we've been given, and even managed to implement new programs even while our promised funding was reduced.

A few of those new programs are detailed below, alongside some other updates on the SRC itself.

SRC Informs

I'm proud to announce that the SRC Informs program is going to be launched in the second week of semester. One of my campaign promises, SRC Informs is a new initiative which aims to provide expert advice and information to students on topics of interest and relevance. All seminars will be delivered virtually, and will likely be live streamed via Facebook. They will all also be taking place at 1pm on a Tuesday. Our first session, on the 1st of September, will feature the SRC's Principal Solicitor, An Li, discussing Student Visas, 500, and the pathway to Permanent Residency.

See the appendix for a full draft schedule of topics.

Regulatory change

On the 31st of July—the last possible date by which we could make the change—the 92nd Council past historic elections reforms, which are undoubtedly the biggest and most comprehensive single change to the election process and regulations this century, if not ever. In addition to introducing many necessary changes—like clauses for online elections—the regulations also significantly simplify nominations, offer more relevant and procedurally fair regulations around campaign behaviour, and fulfil basically everything on the hack wish list.

These changes would not have been possible without the simply awe-inspiring work of our Chair of Standing Legal Committee, Janek Drevikovsky. Many thanks are owed to Janek for his tireless and well-researched output, as well as to Secretary to Council Julia Robins for her patient assistance and contributions to the drawn out process. Countless Standing Legal Committee and Elections Working Group meetings were tedious, but ultimately rewarding, and future generations of hacks will never know the pain we helped them avoid.

But while the changes to elections and related parts of the regulations are a cause for serious celebration, there are still many more parts of our governance documents that need updating. Further changes to publications sections and clarifications of affirmative action requirements are likely at the next SRC meeting. Further, the broader push for a new and improved constitution continues and will likely materialise properly towards the end of semester two—on the 27th of July I met with the lawyers from Minter Ellisons assisting us with the matter (pro-bono) and came one step closer to a draft of a new constitution and regulations. Any and all changes to our governance documents are necessary and overdue—I can't wait to finalise them.

Elections

Until the end of July I was also extensively involved in the organising of our elections at the end of this year, which, for pandemic-related reasons, will be particularly difficult to implement logistically and medically. Meetings on the 21st, 28th, and 31st of July all helped clarify the new regulations, and allowed me to ensure any potential voting systems would accommodate essential needs (like the ability to vote without having registered at an earlier time). Moreover, it also train and induct the new Returning Officer, Geoffrey Fields, while liaising with publications to ensure any communications sent to students were accurate.

Our systems and approaches are largely finalised, though the Council will ultimately decide whether the election is an online one. At this point no recommendation has been made by the Executive, and so Council cannot make any determination about moving to an Online election. We should all assume that the upcoming election will be in-person, albeit with Technology Assisted Voting likely to mean many people are able to vote online. This fact contradicts some of the information which has been put online, which is—frankly—inaccurate.

Semester Two Welcome Week

I have also been involved in semester 2 orientation and Welcome Week efforts, attending a number of Orientation Committee meetings while addressing incoming FASS students at their Welcome Week event on Monday (the 17th of August).

I must admit, however, that this is one area where I think I could have done more work and been more vigilant, as the SRC has a relatively small presence in the various virtual Welcome Week events throughout this week. While I do not expect it to have a very large impact on awareness or use of our services, I take full responsibility for not doing more to organise, confirm, and deliver a more substantial orientation and Welcome Week contribution from the SRC.

Other

The Mutual Aid Program has been relatively dormant over the holidays, but is likely to reboot properly once semester returns and students are more invested in campus matters. We will re-start our sourcing and packing, complete any outstanding deliveries, and send the help request form around again so we can start devising new routes and helping new people. With social security likely to become even more restrictive, and economic conditions worsening, it is regrettably inevitable that the service will be in high demand.

Finally, I have also attended a number of Legal board meetings to deal with some important internal matters.

Committees

As always, this report would not be complete without mentioning the smorgasbord of committees I've attended. In addition to my weekly meetings with key University personnel most Fridays, I also attended:

- Academic Board 21.07
- Elections Working Group 23.07
- Academic Board Undergraduate Studies Committee 28.07
- Thematic Review 04.08
- Academic Board Academic Standards & Policy Committee 04.08
- University Executive Student Consultative Committee 06.08
- University Executive Education Committee 10.08
- Board of Interdisciplinary Studies 12.08
- Semester Advisory Group meeting 13.08
- Meeting to discuss COVID 19 module for students 14.08
- Academic Board Undergraduate Studies Committee 18.08

There are a number of key things which have emerged from those meetings.

ProctorU

Last week it was revealed that ProctorU had been hacked and user data uploaded online. As soon as the SRC found out we contacted the relevant Uni officials to raise our concerns and insist that the University cease its use of ProctorU. Since then we have clarified that no USyd students were involved in the leak, but have also received confirmation that the University intends to continue using ProctorU in semester two. This incident clearly demonstrates that the ProctorU system is vulnerable, and it is callous to expect students to give their personal details over to such a risky source simply so they can complete exams.

While we have not achieved a full abandonment of ProctorU, we have managed to significantly reduce the number of assessments which will involve ProctorU after serious lobbying, and have also pushed for on-campus ProctorU sessions so that students can avoid having to be assessed from their often disruptive and private homes. Furthermore, the University has more or less conceded that there are problems with ProctorU, and indicated their intent to switch to an alternative from next year when possible. We will continue to fight against this invasive and pedagogically dubious system.

12 week semester

This upcoming semester will be the first 12 week semester, and the Uni wants to make it permanent from the start of 2021. I am part of a working group meeting to discuss such a change each Thursday, and have had it raised at countless formal and informal meetings.

The SRC has made its position very clear. We have serious concerns that a 12 week semester will compromise learning outcomes while significantly increasing stress for students. A 12 week semester, alongside our increasingly pared-back curricula, is likely to lead to more superficial knowledge, stretched too thin and broad, and tested too frequently and rotely by a stressful assessment system. While the University is separately working on measures to reduce assessment load and work stress, the SRC would like to see those changes executed and assessed before committing to any changes which are contingent upon them. Furthermore, we have expressed our severe concerns at the fact this will reduce work for casuals, and potentially overall pay for staff in the long-run, and oppose it for those reasons too.

We encourage students to share their opinions on a 12 week semester with the SRC / the University.

No Disadvantage Assessment

At a bunch of the committee meetings I have also consistently questioned whether the University would persist with its No Disadvantage Assessment commitments in semester two. While I have confirmation that all aspects of the special considerations reforms are here to stay—in perpetuity—the CWAM is up for review. I encourage all students to pass on their thoughts—should we retain the CWAM? How useful has it been? Is it still necessary in semester two if conditions start returning to normal? Are there better ways to grade and record marks during the pandemic we haven't yet considered?

Beyond that, it is also unclear whether alternate grades will be made available as they were in semester one. Watch this space for more information.

Thematic review

The Thematic Review into language support concluded in the past month, and I am pleased to announce the following final recommendations:

	Recommendation	Responsibility
1	To the extent that resources allow it, the panel recommends implementing early engagement strategies as quickly as possible.	PVC Student Life
2	The panel recommends that the <i>Statistical Analysis of English Language Pathways and Performance Report</i> prepared by the Evaluation and Analytics Team in DVCE be provided annually to the Academic Quality Committee, UE Education and UE Student life.	Quality Unit
3	The panel recommends that the University develop a referral process for students identified as requiring specialist support for academic success to faculty resources or to a centralized team of experts. The centralized team of experts will be credited with the time to provide English language support and advice.	PVC Student Life
4	The panel recommends that the University and Taylors College work closely to ensure that USFP students are adequately prepared to achieve their academic potential at University. This is likely to entail careful analysis of University performance and possible refinement of preparatory activities at the College and at University.	DVC Education
5	The panel recommends that a pre-arrival transition program includes training in everyday English for students as well as recommendations for resources available immediately and throughout their course. Students should be made aware that they are expected to develop their academic, professional and social English throughout their course. Training in specialist academic, professional or everyday English required for a course should be integrated into the full length of the course.	PVC Student Life
6	The panel recommends that any program of English language support developed at the University includes support and resourcing for academics and provides appropriate upskilling. The panel is aware that resourcing may be limited. The intent of this recommendation is to ensure that any strategies developed include consideration of the most effective deployment of resources to support academics and staff charged with implementing the strategy.	DVC Education
7	The panel recommends that the English Language Support strategy ensures a seamless program of central and faculty support, with the PVC Student Life portfolio and faculties working together, avoiding duplication between faculty and centre work, and ensuring students are aware of the curricular opportunities.	PVC Student Life
8	The panel recommends that the University include processes for diagnostic evaluation of English skills as part of the new transition units.	DVC Education
9	The panel recommends the University promote awareness of factors impacting student communication skills as part of staff training in cultural competence.	PVC Student Life
10	The panel recommends that pre-arrival information regarding studies and other critical information be translated into the most used languages, other than English, spoken by the student body, both domestic and international.	VP International

All said, the past month and a bit has been as eventful and disturbing as ever. As always, the Liberals attacked students. As always, the SRC was a crucial lifeline for students. And, as always, student activists fought the good fight and laid the foundation for our proper counterattack. As semester two commences, and the end of my term draws near, the horns of war are sounding.

Appendix A—SRC Informs DRAFT topics and schedule

Topic	Host	Date
Penalty Infringement and challenging fines in court	An Li	
Know your rights before taking up a new job	An Li	15/09
Student visa 500 and pathways to a PR	An Li	01/09
Tenancy: Getting out of a lease, Getting your bond back	Someone from Casework team? Could check Tenants' Union NSW (Mel)	08/09
Centrelink	Someone from Casework (JC) team? Person from Centrelink (James to follow up)	13/10
Rights with the police, protests	An? Someone reach out to Redfern Legal? (An will make an arrangement, TBA)	22/09
Cooking on a budget Where to get free or cheap groceries, include nutrition overview		
Balancing activism and study time management, vicarious trauma,	Student panel	
Panel: managing time with online learning	Student panel	06/10
Mental health?	Headspace	
Academic integrity?		
Panel: Options when running out of money (food, housing etc.)		29/09

Speaking list:

Sophie Haslam commented on the report particularly on the University's proposed 30% staff cuts and the impact on student's education.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Mikaela Pappou

Seconded: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

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 the last council meeting we have been attending regular meetings with university management as well as committee meetings. At a recent meeting with university management, it was revealed that the university is considering moving to a 12-week semester, in line with most other Group of Eight universities. It was suggested that such a shift would involve the moving of orientation to courses, such as going through unit outlines and assessments, to pre-Semester. When asked to provide feedback, Charlotte raised that orientation information such as reading lists could ideally be provided much earlier than is currently the case. Students could be more prepared for class if they were able to spend more time absorbing requisite information prior to the semester starting. In addition, increased orientation information and activities would be of significant benefit to students. Charlotte also raised that a reduction in the length of semester could affect courses with reading weeks. There is also a clear concern about how such a shift could affect content. The potential shift to a 12-week semester has also been central to discussions at most committee meetings. Charlotte has recently attended the Student Consultative Committee held on the 6th August, as well as UE Education Committee on 10th August. She also attended Academic Board on 21st July.

Charlotte and Felix have also both been supporting the movement against the Liberal government's proposed changes to university fees. Charlotte and Felix both attended recent protests at town hall and at the University of Sydney.

Charlotte also recently attended a meeting with other office bearers and SRC staff to discuss the development of a series of seminars run by the SRC addressing various legal, casework and educational issues. She looks forward to contributing more to this project.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Vivienne Guo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Abbey Shi and Liam Thomas did not submit a report.

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Jazzlyn Breen and Jack Mansell tabled a written report

HECS-HELP changes

A couple of weeks ago it was announced that the government is pursuing very punitive restrictions on HECS-HELP loans. These will disproportionately hit disadvantaged students and are an attack on even the semblance of accessibility in education.

Job cuts

There have been a series of job cuts announced at campuses across Australia, cumulatively numbering in the thousands. At Sydney Uni, this has begun with a push for voluntary redundancies which we stood against on July 31.

Wage theft

Sydney Uni has been revealed to have underpaid staff by at least \$9 million over the last 6 years, and potentially the total figure exceeds \$30 million for that period.

Fuck Fee Fridays

We have organised and participated in a series of Friday actions in the lead up to the August 28 action. This included an action at Sydney Uni that was repressed, as well as subsequent actions designed to resist this repression.

August 28

The next big event in the education campaign is the August 28 National Day of Action. We'll be rallying on Sydney Uni campus and drawing together resistance to the multitude of attacks that have been levelled over the last six months.

Police repression

As mentioned earlier, our action on July 31 was repressed by police with two activists arrested. We managed to raise \$2,200 in less than 48 hours to cover their legal costs if so required. Solidarity with their case against the charges, which the two activists are pursuing alongside those targeted at Black Lives Matter rallies earlier.

Black Lives Matter

We continue to stand with Black Lives Matter and Stop Black Deaths In Custody actions, and stand in solidarity with organisers and attendees targeted by police.

Global solidarity

Solidarity with the uprisings in Belarus, Lebanon, Bolivia and beyond. The struggle of workers, students and the oppressed is global!

Speaking list:

Lily Campbell spoke to the report emphasising the bad precedent set by the university for calling the police on their own students.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

02. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Ellie Wilson and Vivienne Guo tabled a written report

No Cuts! No Fee Hikes!

WoCo has been in consistent attendance of actions against attacks on tertiary education. Over the last couple of months, we have seen both the government and University management attempt to undertake austerity measures in response to COVID-19. We have seen units for Semester 2 cut, as the University uses COVID-19 as an excuse to diminish the range of education and critical thinking. While many staff have faced unemployment and many unpaid hours, Vice Chancellor Michael Spence has taken no pay cuts and remains one of the highest paid Vice Chancellors in the country. Just today, university management have moved to try to cut 30% of Education and Social Work Staff. This is shameful - staff are the lifeblood of tertiary education. Staff working conditions are student learning conditions, and our education is under attack.

WoCo unequivocally stands with staff and students against the cuts and fee hikes. We urge students to attend protests for the future of our education, including the August 28 National Day of Action against Fee Hikes and Uni Cuts.

Meetings

WoCo will be resuming weekly meetings as we begin organising for Semester 2. Stay tuned via our Facebook group!

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Welfare Officers

This month I've been involved in the education campaign against the many attacks to our education. As part of the NUS building work for the NDA on August 28, I've been helping build weekly Friday #killthebill actions. Although there has been considerable police repression at our protests, it has been important to continue them (even if we've had to meet in smaller groups and be more creative). I've helped build the 'Footy to Fight Fee Hikes' protest - that despite being shut down by police we were able to create a cool video from. I've also been involved in the stunt of 'Politicians Selling our Futures' outside Broadway Shopping Centre. I've also been involved in the fight against Mark Latham's proposed Family Law Bill that will be extremely detrimental to queer school kids and staff. It's so important we fight against it as, if passed, it could see all mention of the LGBTIQ+ community erased from schools. I look forward to continuing these activist projects into Semester 2.

Madeleine Clark spoke to her report.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

As the triple crises in global capitalism continue to unravel, new movements and revolts continue to emerge as workers and the oppressed fight against the injustices of the system. In response to a horrific explosion caused by the sheer negligence of Lebanese ruling elite the people of Lebanon are once again on the streets demanding justice. Under immense pressure the president and the rest of the government have resigned in an attempt to diffuse public fury.

In Belarus, workers from some of Belarus' core industries have walked out in protest in response to the fraudulent election result that saw Lukashenko re-elected with 80% support. Images of soldiers burning their uniforms and laying down their shields in the face of mass protests and a general strike illustrate the depth and mass nature of the movement against 'Europe's last dictator'. The inspiring movement is far from over and will continue to develop further as Lukashenko clings to power.

In Australia, the key question for left wing student activists is the question of mobilising students to fight the attacks on higher education. Recently the government announced new plans to kick failing students off the HELP scheme, an outrageous attack on students in an attempt to push back against the idea that accessible education should be a right for all. The NUS Facebook post announcing this news received huge attention, highlighting the anger that students feel about the proposed changes. I've been heavily involved in the education campaign and have put significant amounts of time into leafletting, poster, and online promotion to build the August 28 National Day of Action. I also helped to organise a "Selling off our Futures" stunt as part of the NUS organised Friday stunt plan, where we set up a higher education themed pop up shop outside Broadway shopping centre to promote August 28.

Holly Hayne spoke to her report.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

05. Report of the Social Justice Officers

No Uni Fee Hikes

The dominant issue in higher education right now is the government's planned increase to university course fees, a vicious attack on the right of any student to get an education. The only way we can defeat these is by proving their unpopularity and by building mass opposition to it. Along that vein, I attended the No Uni Fee Hikes Rally on July 18 and have been building ever since the National Day of Action on August 28. Everyone on council and in the SRC should attend this, especially as when students in states like Victoria can't have in-person rallies, the onus is on us who can do so.

Politics domestically and internationally

The coronavirus pandemic continues to disproportionately affect workers and the oppressed, while the rich with their private hospitals and ability to stay at home escape. In Victoria, the Dan Andrews state government outsourced hotel quarantine security and now a second wave is sweeping through Victoria, with those in aged care at grave threat. Meanwhile, in NSW,

community transmission continues, primarily through pubs, restaurants and schools. All governments continue to prioritise profit over people's lives.

Resistance to this unjust system however has not gone away. From Minsk to Beirut, from La Paz to Portland, mass protests and strikes are fighting back against dictatorships, government negligence and racism. We should support these struggles, share information about them, and import their spirit, tactics and politics here.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the International Students' Officers

As the COVID-19 situation is still dire around the globe, not much work has been available for the collective. The previous plans for the collective to organize protests on the fair fare subject will have to be indefinitely postponed until the situation eases and international students allowed back into Australia. With many students still barred from entering Australia, and many of whom took the option of suspending, we are receiving significantly fewer student inquiries. However, we will continue to answer student issues and direct them to the correct department.

There seems to be little hope that international students who are currently overseas will be able to return to Australia before the commencement of semester two. Many faculties have now started offering options of both online teachings to students unable to return and face-to-face teaching to students who are in NSW. This may raise many potential issues for international students.

First and foremost, it undermines the teaching quality for students overseas. As seen from the experience of last semester, online stream poses many issues for students overseas including internet connection issues, malfunctioning assessment webpage, and a lack of opportunity to participate in class like usual. Additionally, if assessments are also separated into online and face-to-face, the fact that only a portion of students is enrolled in the online stream does not give an accurate measure of each individual's academic ability in that student who take online assessments will be significantly disadvantaged if there are any internet holdbacks, which is very likely. International students are also paying full tuition fees while missing out on campus amenity that students in Australia are having.

If the above issues are persistent when the semester starts, there should be actions made to either reimburse the students or recognize their loss in some way.

Kigen Mera spoke to his report.

Motion: that the report of the International Students' Officers be accepted.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Vivienne Guo

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Environment Officers

GREEN RECOVERY

The Environment Collective has begun work on the #GrowbackGreener campaign. This is a sustained ideological campaign that we hope to use throughout semester 2 in association with our various actions and events. It recognises Covid-19 as a turning point for the planet. Out of the pandemic and bushfire crisis there has begun a recognition that the socially-constructed 'norm' of perilous consumerism and profit-driven governance will become our destruction. The impact Covid-19 has had on our economy and lifestyle provides an opportunity to change. We are fighting for a post-covid world that is greener, centring climate justice and indigenous rights. Our campaign acknowledges the intersections of environmental issues and the various other concurrent campaigns such as Higher Education rallies, Anti-Cuts activism and the Black Lives Matter Movement - we are not only fighting for climate justice, but also indigenous justice and workers rights. For this reason Grow Back Greener is meant to be an all-encompassing call for systematic change.

We launched this campaign before our August 14th Fossil Free stunt and we hope to use it again for the next action we plan, which shall be discussed in our Welcome Week meeting.

For more context on #GreenRecovery, this is a description written by one of our members, James Sherriff and our Enviro Officer Shani Patel:

'The Covid-19 pandemic has been described as having the potential to incite revolution; by Angela Davis as "an extraordinary moment which has brought together a whole number of issues". It is at once a catastrophe and an opportunity for radical change.

Around the world, racial and economic inequalities have been heightened and exposed, and the Black Lives Matter movements have exploded in response. The woeful inadequacy of the housing system in this country has left residents fearful and at-risk, with renters pushed to their limits and unjustly evicted from their homes despite 'moratoriums' and protections. The need for a hugely expanded welfare system has exposed the instability of our hyper-casualised labour force. Ultimately, this crisis has shown our current economic and political status-quo to be completely unsustainable, and actively harmful to the health of our communities.

When it comes to the environment, things are no different; in fact, all of these issues are fundamentally intertwined. Ignorance, indifference, and greed have pushed the biosphere to its limit, and the pandemic has only exposed how close we are to the point of no return. It is likely that we have only 6 months to put in place the drastic changes needed to mitigate climate change and avoid ecological collapse. But for this to happen, "business as usual" cannot be allowed to return.

Fortunately, the COVID-19 crisis has forced us to slow down, to pause the treadmills of production (if only for a second), and to look around at the world with new eyes. We have rapidly come to

terms with a 'new normal', but if we are to avoid the impending climate crisis we will have to do the same again.

We cannot go back to the way things were. We must demand more. We have looked at the world as it is and we can see its imbalances, its injustices, its unsustainability. We must now imagine something greater, something stronger - the seed of a new world to plant in the ashes of the old.

We must [#GrowBackGreener](#).

Stay tuned for details on how to get involved and join the movement — together we can nourish this revolutionary vision.'

FOSSIL FREE STUNT

On August 14th, the Enviro Collective led a public stunt outside the Great Hall calling on the University of Sydney to divest from the Fossil Fuel Industry and condemning their inaction.

In a 2014 student referendum, 80% of students voted for the university to divest from companies whose primary business is the extraction, processing and transportation of fossil fuels. Yet as of 2019, USyd invests over \$22 million in the fossil fuel industry, funding groups such as habitat-wrecking BHP Billiton, Woodside Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Whitehaven Coal and Santos. The university is set to launch its Sustainability Strategy in September, and still has not made any commitments to divest the millions it has invested in fossil fuels. Various universities across the world, such as UBC in Canada and now UNSW have committed to divestment and we're outraged that USyd has not followed suit.

On Friday, the senate held a meeting where it was suspected that they would be discussing the sustainability strategy. We dressed up as members of the senate and the fossil fuel industry and kicked to destruction a planet-painted beach ball, representing the game the senate was playing with our lives. We led a livestream that has reached almost 1500 people and been watched by close to 1000 people. We also marched to support the incredibly successful 'Staff & Students say no to cuts' rally with over 60 others. We occupied F23 and chanted against further fee hikes and staff cuts.

COAL SEAM GAS

Nationally we've also seen the approval of a huge coal mine on Gomeroi country. The Santos Narrabri Gas Project in the Pilliga and Shenhua Watermark Mine Project in the Liverpool Plains will cause irreversible damage to Country if they are approved. The project will involve 850 coal seam gas wells being drilled on 1,000 hectares of a 95,000 hectare site that includes Pilliga forest and nearby grazing land, according to the Guardian. Nathan Leslie, a descendant of the Gamilaraay, Wiradyuri, Mandandanji and Wonnarua peoples, explains that the damage will not only destroy sacred land and Country, "but also our cultural heritage and songlines that extend right across NSW, Australia and abroad." Not only will there be cultural and spiritual destruction, but coal Seam Gas is a dirty source of energy that will severely damage the Great Artesian Basin, destroying this ancient source of water and releasing more carbon than coal. The project so far has been supported by the

NSW coalition including the Prime Minister who suggested an accelerated assessment of it under federal environmental law. We have been looking into fighting this as a collective.

Nathan Leslie has a Facebook fundraiser active at the moment in order to help them fight this project and we encourage all who can to donate.

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/300644304702080/3392223994155190/>

Another important project to donate to if you are able is to Aunt Caroline and Aunt Leaha who were arrested for peaceful civil disobedience whilst occupying a road, in order to platform the devastation of the Murray-Baaka/Darling river systems by irrigator industries. They have been on the front-lines for many months now and their finances are also dwindling in those areas too! So please support if you can!

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/317458192931224/3398602230184033/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Collective is excited to start building the climate strike on campus. The rally will be held on September 25 and we're hoping to build a massive university contingent across NSW (and hopefully Australia).

We've also been discussing the first week of semester 2 and we're hoping to lead our own digital Welcome Week with future events like film screenings, readings and other cool events and stunts! Follow our group to be involved!

Speaking list:

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat spoke to her report

Deaglan Godwin asked Prudence asked about the USU board's decision to cut staff hours and how that helps lower fossil fuel emissions and would the Environment Collective be running a fundraiser for USU staff.

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat said that was a campaign for the Education Officers to campaign on, not the Environment Officers.

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

Motion: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Down with Lukashenko! Solidarity with Belarus!

Preamble

1. Belarus has been under the grip of dictatorship for 26 years. Former Soviet bureaucrat, Alexander Lukashenko heads an authoritarian regime. However, when he announced that during the last elections he had won 80%, thousands protested in the capital Minsk at the obvious fraudulent nature of the vote. Protesters clashed with the Lukashenko's ruthless riot police, the result of which was two protesters killed and a further 7,000 arrested.
2. This repression appeared to dampen the subsequent days of protests until workers in state-owned industry struck and closed their workplaces, revitalising the movement. Workers have set up strike committees to discuss demands and strategy. The dictatorship is not only a political question for the workers; 90% of the workforce are forced to sign one-year contracts, acting as an impediment to militancy, and the government has recently even introduced a tax on unemployment.
3. Following the start of the strikes, tens of thousands have marched in protests across the country. The state has reduced its repression of the protests, but it still looms as a threat, as does intervention by Lukashenko's ally, and the recipient of one half of Belarus' exports, Russia. But the ability for Lukashenko to rely on his repressive apparatus is itself up in the air; videos have gone viral of soldiers and ex-soldiers, revolted by the dictatorship, tearing up their uniforms.
4. The students and workers of Belarus have demonstrated how to combat a murderous dictatorship. While the official opposition politicians remain far from radical, the demands and actions of the participants show a determined, militant spirit. The decision of masses of workers essential to the profits of the dictatorship to strike highlights the immense power workers have as a class. The formation of strike committees and the holding of mass, participatory meetings, have their own logic which can raise class consciousness and confidence. The future is uncertain but what is, is that Belarus will never be the same again.

Platform

1. The University of Sydney SRC wholly opposes the Lukashenko dictatorship and supports its overthrow.
2. The University of Sydney SRC stands in solidarity with the Belarusian protesters and striking workers.

Action

1. The University of Sydney SRC will take a solidarity photo after the passing of this motion and post it to Facebook.
2. The University of Sydney SRC will provide \$250 worth of pizza to deliver to striking workers, to be organised by Global Solidarity Officer Holly Hayne.

Speaking list:

Holly Hayne spoke to the motion.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion.

Moved: Holly Hayne

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was out and **CARRIED.**

Q2. No Cuts! No Concessions!

Preamble:

1. Australian universities are facing a severe loss of funding as a result of the current COVID-19 crisis and the Liberal government's attacks on the higher education sector. In addition to cutting funding for universities, it has now been announced that first year students who fail half of their first year units may be entirely cut off from financial support for their education;
2. Instead of dipping into their vast financial assets and reducing the salaries of Vice-Chancellors and upper management, universities are seeking to push costs onto staff and students. On campuses across the country, staff have already suffered serious cuts to jobs and conditions. At UNSW, nearly 1000 staff took a huge pay cut by opting to decrease their capacity by 20%. This didn't stop 493 jobs from being cut last month, while the university goes ahead with the construction of a \$1 billion defence force campus in Canberra. At UTS, up to 500 full-time jobs could be lost next year, while at Melbourne University 450 job losses are in the works, despite \$4.2 billion dollars being allocated to capital works over the next decade. University managers' claims that they cannot afford to pay staff wages are entirely disingenuous, and should not be accepted as justification for the austerity measures being implemented;
3. Severe cuts to casual staff numbers and unit offerings have already occurred at Sydney University, however it is likely that further attacks will ensue. The university has already begun to explore the idea of reducing semesters to 12 weeks, which would degrade quality of education and put extreme pressure on already overworked staff;
4. The national executive of the NTEU have repeatedly demonstrated that they are willing to negotiate sellout deals with management behind the backs of members. These union officials have been the key agents pushing university staff to accept pay cuts, reduced leave entitlements, and other concessions. This strategy is diametrically opposed to the rank-and-file struggle which is necessary in order to defeat the simultaneous attacks of government and management, and must be seen as complicity in attempts to force the costs of the current crisis onto staff;
5. Staff and students must demand free, fully funded higher education which is not run for profit. However, they must also refuse to accept university management's attempts to lay the blame solely on the Liberal government. This means taking up a position of opposing all attacks on staff and students, through involvement in student campaigns run in

conjunction with the National Union of Students, and supporting the work of unionists in NTEU Fightback;

6. In order to fight back against attacks on higher education, the National Union of Students has committed to organising 'Kill the Bill Fridays' events each week to build the education campaign towards a National Day of Action on August 28th. The Sydney event for this day has been organised through the NSW Education Organising group, and will begin at Sydney University.

Platform:

The USYD SRC:

1. Takes a position that no cuts to staff numbers or conditions should be accepted, and supports NTEU activists organising against cuts and concessionary deals with management at Sydney University;
2. Condemns both university management and the Liberal government for forcing the burden of the funding crisis onto staff and students;
3. Supports the National Union of Students campaign against fee hikes and specific attacks imposed by management on campuses.

Action:

1. The SRC will work alongside NTEU activists in order to oppose any potential course cuts, job losses or other attacks on conditions;
2. The SRC will take part in the No Fee Hikes! No Uni Cuts NDA on August 28th by attending the rally at Sydney University;
3. The SRC will promote the event for the NDA on social media platforms and encourage student attendance;
4. The SRC will commit financial resources to online promotion, t-shirt printing, badge printing and other materials for the campaign through the Education Officers' budget.

Speaking list:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Q3. Solidarity with US BLM Protesters in the Fight Against State Repression

Preamble:

Since first breaking out in May, the Black Lives Matter protest movement in the US has remained a source of both inspiration and crucial lessons for the struggle against racism around the world.

Protests and riots against the violent, racist institution of the police and the systemic racism they enforce have been met with severe, ongoing attempts at state repression. In Portland, after some 50 nights of protests, federal agents began a militarised crackdown on the demonstrations as part of Trump’s “Executive Order on Protecting American Monuments, Memorials, and Statues and Combating Recent Criminal Violence”. Under the auspices of this order, protesters have been brutalised and abducted in unmarked vans by federal agents as part of a strategy of intimidation. Portland has been treated as a testing ground for the federal force by the Trump administration, with plans already signalled to deploy the agents in Chicago.

While Democrats such as Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot may posture as a progressive opposition to Trump, they too have presided over the systemic racism and brutal policing that protesters are rebelling against. Lightfoot, who in May called in 375 National Guard soldiers to repress the initial wave of demonstrations, has recently argued that the deployment of federal agents in Chicago could “add value”, provided the agents “work in partnership” with the notoriously racist Chicago police department. The expansion of police budgets and powers across the US has been the bipartisan project of Democrats and Republicans, as is the repression of the Black Lives Matter movement today.

Inspiringly, Portland demonstrators have mobilised en masse to beat back state repression. Protests in recent weeks have drawn some of the largest numbers since the movement began in the city, with protesters borrowing anti-repression tactics from the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong such as the use of leaf blowers to disperse teargas. Their remarkable mass resistance has since forced the withdrawal of federal agents from the protests.

In Chicago, protests have been revitalised by the police shooting and arrest of a Black man, Latrell Allen. Over 100 protesters were arrested in the initial riots and protests against the act of brutality on August 10. Protests in solidarity with the detainees and against systemic racism in one of America’s most segregated cities are ongoing.

Platform:

The USYD SRC:

1. Stands in solidarity with BLM protesters resisting state repression in Portland and Chicago
2. Condemns the use of federal agents to brutalise, abduct and detain protesters
3. Recognises that Republicans and Democrats alike have presided over the entrenchment of racial inequality and expansion of racist policing across the US

Action:

1. The SRC will take a photograph in solidarity with the ongoing BLM protests in their resistance to state repression
2. The photograph will be published from the SRC facebook page

Speaking list:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Sophie Haslam

Motion put and **CARRIED.**

Q4. Living Incomes for Everyone

The grassroots campaign, 'Living Incomes For Everyone' aims to build a national movement of activists, unemployed and low income workers to stand together and demand dignity and an income that brings people out of poverty and gives everyone a chance of a better existence and access to opportunities that many others take for granted.

This crisis has plunged thousands of workers into unemployment, and for a brief time, the rate for jobseeker lies above the poverty line. However, it does not extend fairly to all, leaving out disabled and migrant people, and is only temporary. At any time, but especially during a pandemic coupled with a recession, all people must be able to live safely and without the failings of the current welfare system.

The LIFE campaign is asking organizations to sign onto the following motion:

The SRC:

A. endorses the following demands of Living Incomes For Everyone (LIFE).

1. Keep the Rate!

- NO cuts to JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments.
- JobKeeper direct to workers.

2. No-One Left Behind!

Raise all other allowance payments and pensions (Aged Pension, Disability Support Pension, Youth Allowance and Carers Pension) to a minimum \$1100 per fortnight.

- Extend the JobSeeker and JobKeeper allowances to recent migrants, overseas workers and international students.
- Increase the minimum wage.
- Keep free childcare.
- Massive new investment in public and affordable housing.

3. End Harassment! For Social Security with Dignity.

- Abolish Mutual Obligation. End the Community Development Program (remote Work for the Dole) and forced income management provisions such as the Cashless Welfare Card and Basics Card.
- No return to Robodebts.

- Stop harassment by dodgy Job Providers.
 - Public ownership and control of Social Security and Employment Services.
- B. will nominate a representative to liaise with LIFE, and if possible attend LIFE’s weekly online general meetings.
- C. will encourage our members to support LIFE demands and participate in LIFE actions, particularly the week of action from 17-24 September.

Speaking list:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion.

Holly Hayne spoke to the motion.

Moved: Tom Williams

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Liam Donohoe resigned the Chair to Charlotte Bullock

Q5. That the Council set affiliation fees to zero and avoid any costs to nominating to participate in the 2020 SRC Elections

Preamble

Per section 13 of the SRC Constitution, Council determines whether an affiliation fee is set:

13. MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS:

- (a) The Council may set a fee structure for affiliation to the Council.
- (b) Where the Council sets an affiliation fee equal to \$0, every member of the student body shall be considered to have paid the affiliation fee to the Council.

Furthermore, the section 22 of the new election (part 8) regulations make it clear that the Council may, from time-to-time, set nominations fees, which are distinct from affiliation fees.

22. NOMINATION FEE

- (a) Nomination fee means any fee provisional candidates are required to pay in order to become validly nominated candidates.
- (b) The Council may require provisional candidates to pay a nomination fee in an amount specified by Council.
- (c) The amount of the nomination fee, as specified by Council from time to time, must be listed in the Policy Document.
- (d) Nothing in this section requires Council to require provisional candidates to pay a nomination fee.

Whether for affiliation or nomination fees, clearly the Council decides whether any cost should be associated with nominating to participate in elections, and no person or body other than the Council can decide whether there will be fees of any kind.

Election fees are often a barrier to participation, and reward factions which can rely on significant resources or party contributions to finance involvement. They are also not especially necessary—fees do not raise much money for the Council, and go nowhere near recovering the costs associated with the election. We could certainly abolish fees and notice no real difference to our bottom line, with no compromises on our approach to the election.

In light of that, I propose that the Council set its affiliation fees to \$0—making all electors automatically eligible for candidature—and abstain from setting any nomination fees this year. I further propose that anyone who has already paid any fees associated with the 2020 election get refunded to ensure there are no inequalities.

Platform

1. The SRC commits to making participation in elections as accessible as possible, particularly by removing financial barriers.
2. The SRC recognises that all electors have a right to run as candidates and become Representatives, regardless of their financial background.

Action

1. The SRC shall set its affiliation fee to \$0 for 2020.
2. The SRC shall not set any policies which introduce any fees or costs associated with nominating to run in the 2020 SRC election.
3. The SRC shall refund any candidates who have already nominated and paid any fees.
4. The SRC shall assume that all potential candidates have paid the \$0 affiliation fees, ensuring no one is ineligible for candidature, election, or representation on that basis.
5. The SRC shall update the Returning Officer of this decision.
6. The SRC shall update its nominations processes and information to candidates to ensure this change is reflected and prospective candidates are not lead to believe that they must pay some sort of fee to be validly nominated in 2020.

Speaking list:

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion.

Lily Campbell spoke against the motion.

Liam Donohoe responded to Lily Campbell's comments and concerns.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and CARRIED

The following noted their dissent:

Lily Campbell

R. General Business

R1. USyd, Divest from Fossil Fuels

Preamble:

In 2019, the University of Sydney had \$22.4 million invested in various fossil fuel companies, including BHP Billiton, Woodside Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell, Whitehaven Coal, and Santos. All of these corporations burn huge amounts of greenhouse gases, contributing directly to human-induced climate change. Shell and BHP are among the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters. Others have 100% of their assets in coal, oil and gas. Most have no concern for human and non-human rights. The University needs to take swift action to counter and delegitimize these companies, not subsidise them.

The University's investment strategy doesn't consider the downstream emissions from these sources, essentially allowing them to reap the financial benefits and ignore the direct environmental impact. On Friday the 14th, the University Senate gathered to discuss the implementation and funding of the new sustainability strategy. As it currently stands, the strategy has no specific targets or requirements for divestment — they remain obstinate, and are actively contributing to climate change. This is unacceptable, and must be opposed.

Platform:

1. The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to transition to 100% renewable energy sources immediately.
2. The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to divest from fossil fuels and weapons manufacturing by 2022, redirecting investment towards renewable energy projects.
3. The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to commit to a sustained ethical investment portfolio, and to implement a more ambitious sustainability strategy which includes allocation of sufficient resources and staff directed towards achieving the above demands.

Actions:

1. The SRC must share from the SRC social media accounts a condemnation of the University's continued investment in fossil fuels and weapons manufacturing. The post must also include the above demands.

Speaking list:

Prudence Wilkins-Wheat spoke to the motion.

Moved: Prudence Wilkins-Wheat

Seconded: Shani Patel

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R2. Motion: To Support the National University Staff Assembly

Preamble:

We are at a critical turning-point in Australian higher education. If the reforms pass parliament, government funding will, for the first time since fees were introduced, cover only a minority of university teaching costs. This will intensify austerity measures even further in a sector already brought to its knees by the coronavirus pandemic. The consequences will be the most severe for younger, casualised and precarious staff, for women, and for indigenous colleagues. Moreover, attacks on staff working conditions will always adversely impact student learning conditions

The National University Staff Assembly on August 24 is the initiative of a new national collective of university staff, the 'National Higher Education Action Network' (NHEAN), which intends to campaign alongside existing unions and other groups in the sector for democratic, public, and well-funded universities. The long-term neglect of universities as well as their current crisis mean that we need more voices defending them, not fewer.

The assembly will vote on a motion opposing the government's proposed reforms to university funding, and call for the properly supported, equitable tertiary education that society needs. As well as debating and voting on the motion, the meeting will hear a proposal from the National Higher Education Action Network for a careful, strategic and democratically organised sequence of actions that tertiary education staff can take over the longer term, in conjunction with students and the broader public, to campaign for federal support for universities commensurate with their vital contribution to society.

Information can be found at nhean.info and at the Facebook event, here: facebook.com/events/744652439629959.

Platform

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council endorses the National University Staff Assembly called for August 24th to oppose the disastrous Tehan university funding cuts and to build for further actions aiming to achieve democratic, properly funded universities.
2. The SRC supports the motion of opposition to the Government's proposed reforms that will be raised at this assembly, and recognises that the Government's reforms will have the effect of increasing inequity and saddling students with excessive HECS repayments, while also diminishing the quality of their learning.

Actions

1. The SRC encourages students and staff to attend, and will promote the assembly on the our social media platforms.
2. The SRC stands in solidarity with the NHEAN and intends to support their organising efforts through *inter alia* strike actions and solidarity protests of our own.

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Charlotte Bullock

Speaking list:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion.

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion.

Yasmine Johnson against the motion.

Lily Campbell against the motion.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The following noted their dissent:

Lily Campbell

Deaglan Godwin

Julia Kokic

Jason Howe

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.