



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 10th regular meeting of the 92nd SRC held on **Tuesday 10th November 2020**. Meeting held via Zoom.

A. Meeting open at 6:41pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Charlotte Bullock 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

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Zhenxu (Joseph) Yang to Telita Golie Holly McDonald
Aayush Bhattacharya to Oscar Chaffey
Charlotte Ainsworth to Grace Hu
Paola Ayre to Jayfel Tulabing-lee

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 8th and 9th meeting of 92nd SRC Council held on 2nd September and 14th October 2020 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 8th and 9th meetings 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, which may be extended by resolution for a further 15 minutes.

Ellie Stephenson asked the President and Education officers what they thought of the passing of the Higher Education Amendment Bill and what that means for future education campaigns?

Liam Donohoe said there was an article just published in Honi on this, and recommended everyone read it. Adding that the result is now the campaigns for protecting students' rights and access to education needs to become a more active campaign. The way we need to campaign has changed and we need to push and not have reactionary campaigns but ongoing strong ones so that things get better when times return more to normal rather than just fighting to return to the status quo. With the EBA negotiations coming up next year at the university we need to working on the industrial power leverage there as well to ensure quality of education for students.

The second question was what conclusions or reflection would you draw from the SRC elections this year.

Liam Donohoe noted that the council could probably talk for days on this experience, and if other wanted to answer as well they were welcome to join. Saying he felt overall this was a disappointing, frustrating, and stressful situation, not just from the perspective of a candidate and campaign manager, but also as someone who is vested in proper conduction of the election. Hopefully this was the last time doing online elections and next year will be different.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

Procedural motion to set the speaking time for reports to 2minutes and 30 seconds

Moved: Jack Mansell

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

*The procedural was **WITHDRAWN**.*

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 15th April and the 9th November 2020.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L2. President's Report

Liam Donohoe tabled a written report:

Well, this is it. After 48 weeks, and 33 written reports, I feel weird to have reached, finally, my last for Council. And while at times it felt like it would never come, or that it couldn't come soon enough, I am still surprised, and perhaps just a bit unprepared, to find myself here so soon. In light of this, and the fact that it has been 3 months since our last Council meeting, I hope you can forgive a shakeup to the usual structure of these reports. In place of a thematic overview of all my activities in this period, I have instead broken this report down into: A) A summary of key activities since our last meeting, B) A chronological, week-by-week breakdown of my activity (my Honi reports), and C) Some final indulgences, building off my final Honi report this week.

Summary

Activism

I have attended all sorts of activist events over the past few months, from environment protests, to BLM demonstrations, to countless panels, seminars, and meetings. Of all of that, the fight to defend our education has been, without question, the most important and time-consuming aspect of these past few months. I've attended countless meetings, given half a dozen speeches, and quarrelled with the odd cop or two. The exact scale and quality of this fight is hard to communicate. Amidst an unprecedented (but increasingly suspect) revenue crisis, countless local and national fights have emerged. Locally, we have been fighting to save jobs, reverse course cuts, and improve the quality of our education. Nationally, we have demanded the government step in to plug any revenue shortfalls, and opposed the Morrison government's fee hikes legislation.

That opposition brought me down to parliament house in Canberra for a rally the day those attacks passed. Sadly my speech was not enough to convince the fuckwits inside to stop the attacks, particularly the Centre Alliance, and now students will have to face higher fees and the perpetuation of the revenue shortfalls that provide impetus for cuts. I apologise to all students for not defeating this legislation, but assure you that we tried our very best.

Indeed, USyd led the national fight against these fee hikes and has set a radical example for other unions and Universities in their local battles. The radicalism of USyd students has been nothing short of inspiring over the past few months. We have taken City Road more times than I can count. We occupied the F23 building, a feat I previously thought impossible. We even wrote the biggest and best report to the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill 2020, to ensure no stone was left unturned.

While these fights had some short-term losses, particularly the fight against the HESA Bill, the reality is those battles are ongoing and will not end with the conclusion of my term. They have been, in many ways, a great success—while COVID made organising very difficult, I am confident that we did about as much as could have been done, and organised about the best fight we could

have. What COVID took from us in terms of numbers we gained back in terms of militancy and bravery. The lessons learnt from the challenges and successes of 2020 will be precisely why we win these battles in the future.

Advocacy for students

As always, I have spent an enormous amount of my time in committee meetings. Summarising all of these would be hard. Some important events and highlights include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Defeating the 12-week semester proposal via the Academic Board after careful collaboration and pre-caucusing with staff and student members.
- Meeting with Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Life) Susanna Scarparo about changes to the Learning and Maths Centre(s), expressing our concern with potential job losses and reservations about pedagogical implications.
- Contributing to debates about admissions processes in light of the devastating effect of COVID-19 on high school graduates.
- Contributing to the Thematic Review into support for English Additional Language students, which has made a number of recommendations I think will seriously improve support and outcomes.
- Pushing the University to significantly reduce use of ProctorU, explore alternative assessment approaches, and to work on developing their own in-house online invigilation service.
- Permanently enshrining academic support procedures introduced to deal with COVID- 19, including removal of statutory declarations from special considerations processes and other lenient reforms.

Operational matters

I have also tended to the operations of the SRC. Among other things I have:

- Overseen the appointment of our new Acting Principal Solicitor, dealing with the complex implication of our Principal Solicitor going on leave. Our new Acting Principal, Jahan, is incredible, and a real asset to this organisation
- Finalised SSAF Base application for 2021 and overseen the general SSAF application process.
- Almost finalised a vision for sweeping Constitutional and Regulatory reform, which will restructure many aspects of the SRC's operations and particularly improve representation and democracy. I have met with Minters Ellisons, a law firm assisting, numerous times in addition to my own drafting
- Assisted with getting the SRC Informs program off the ground
- Assisted with the Mutual Aid program, particularly sorting and cleaning our storage spaces and participating in discussions about its long-term future
- Stressed about the running of the 2020 SRC Election.

Handover and transition

I have also been putting a lot of work into the handover and transition process to ensure Swapnik and the 93rd Council's Office Bearers hit the ground running and make 2020 even more successful. I look forward to confirming those Office Bearers at tomorrow's Reps-Elect so I can share my handover documents and blueprints for some big picture plans.

Chronological overview

Week 4 (7-13 September)

Though we are only four weeks into the semester, you could be forgiven for thinking it's been longer. For one, thanks to the extended holidays we're now basically already half way through September. For another, the return to class, and, for some, classrooms has been dramatic. But of late the epicness of the early semester, with its arrests and protests, has given way to a calmer freneticism, with the SRC offering its usual beneficent services while activists quietly laid seeds for grassroots action. And with this Wednesday's Day of Action against the cuts likely to mobilise hundreds of students, I suspect this calm will come before the blooming of a rather large storm.

Unsurprisingly, preparations for the Day of Action dominated my week. For those unaware, the Day has been organised by the SRC in conjunction with the Education Action Group and the Staff and Students Say No Cuts (SSNC) campaign. In contrast with previous protests, which have attempted to bring together as many students as possible in a single location, the Day will involve a number of simultaneous but physically separate demonstrations, with each contingent featuring a theme and no more than 20 people. This approach not only ensures compliance with health restrictions, thereby (hopefully) avoiding police repression, but also allows staff and students to air more specific grievances which might otherwise go unsaid at a larger rally. With contingents organised for law, medical science, the Environment Collective, and everything in between, prospective attendees are spoilt for choice.

Myself and others in the SRC have been heavily involved in building the Day. On Tuesday I attended a student strike assembly organised on Zoom which, at its peak, featured 109 people, one of the largest turnouts to a USyd-specific organising meeting I've seen. Not to be outdone, Thursday and Friday saw further meetings to finalise logistics, the former through the Education Action Group and the latter through SSNC meeting itself. As it happens, Friday's meeting followed a serious discussion with University management about our plans and how we intend to deal with the likely police presence. I'm pleased to report that, after a bit of negotiating and explanation, the University seemed, at least ostensibly, happy for us to protest—with any luck we won't have to deal with police repression again. And while I was unable to help with Wednesday's massive day of leafleting and lecture bashing, I did prepare resources for activists engaged in those activities, including a QR code which helps advertise and coordinate contingent registrations. There are many student and staff activists working tirelessly to make the Day of Action a success—I commend them all for their diligence and, on behalf of the student body, thank them for their service to our education.

Beyond this, I have also been promoting the rally as widely as possible to maximise numbers. Aside from the obvious social media solicitations, I was also lucky enough to be quoted in an SMH weekend feature and to appear on Saturday night's SBS news, sneaking a promo into the former while in both cases speaking to the rage and growing political consciousness of the student body. I implore all

students to get involved by joining a contingent or forming their own, and to bring friends along too!

But despite all this, protest was not the only type of education activism on the agenda for the week. Indeed, for a lot of the week I was in assignment mode as I chipped away at the SRC's 16 page submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill 2020. This inquiry, which was the indirect result of grassroots campaigning, has not only given our allies in parliament an opportunity to delay the Bill, but has also given the SRC and other concerned parties an opportunity to articulate their criticisms and offer recommendations to the Inquiry / Parliament. Our comprehensive and well-researched submission disputed the government's rationale for the amendments and also drew attention to the hardship and inequality they would engender. Many thanks are owed to SRC Caseworker James Campbell, Honi Editor Nina Dillon-Britton, former Honi Editor Pranay Jha, and 93rd President Swapnik Sanagavarapu for their help on the submission, which should be publicly available by the time of print.

Between submission writing and protest building I also found the time to tend to the operational side of the SRC. On Thursday I met up with representatives from the Foods not Bombs program to discuss how we might be able to link it in with our Mutual Aid program. Relatedly, on Monday I participated in a big working bee for the Mutual Aid program, which involved, among other things, removing perished goods from existing packs, moving them from Gosper to Women's, and preparing them for drop-off / pickup. We have since reached out to all the students who requested help to let them know about our new pickup options, and we hope to clear all remaining packs by the end of this week. Many thanks are owed to the countless volunteers who assisted with the working bee—if you would like to help, or are in need of help, please do not hesitate to reach out to the SRC, particularly as we look to initiate a new round of provisions and enshrine MAP as a permanent program. This week also saw the appointment of our new acting Solicitor, Nas Hanafi, who will oversee the legal service for the next 3 months. I am looking forward to working with Nas over this quarter, and thank him for stepping in at relatively short notice. Nas' arrival will allow the service to satisfy our obligations to existing clients and increase the quality and quantity of support we provide the student body.

The week ahead promises to be among the most exciting yet. In addition to Wednesday's Day of Action—which may prove even more dramatic than its predecessors—it will also feature an Academic Board meeting, the second SRC Informs session at 1pm on Tuesday, and the launch of the Democracy is Essential campaign at 6pm on Wednesday night, to name just a few. I look forward to seeing the rich traditions of education and rebellion, so steeped in the fabric of the student experience, channelled and reinvigorated in the days ahead.

Week 5 (14-20 September)

The spectre of police repression continues to haunt the USyd campus. On Wednesday, as with a fortnight before, NSW Police descended on the Camperdown campus en masse to move on, fine, and even detain, despite the decentralised actions being COVID-safe and compliant with public health orders. But while the repression may have been cruel, it certainly wasn't successful—students are now angrier than ever, and plan to show up for an even bigger Day of Action this Wednesday, the 23rd. But while education activism continues to be my priority, I am still diligently contributing to internal University and SRC matters, and having success in the process, as I detail below.

Whatever the case, Wednesday's Day of Action was the most significant event of the week. The Day saw over a dozen simultaneous protests organised on campus for 1pm, with each focused on a different issue. Many 'contingents' were faculty-based, highlighting issues specific to their discipline, although a few Collectives organised protests as well. As positive media coverage later reported (particularly a great article by the SMH), it was hoped that these gatherings of less than 20, with distinct intents, would not run afoul of health orders. But despite initial optimism that the police would not feature and that the protest was legal, an enormous police operation greeted us.

Before the police could shut down the Education Action Group protest outside Fisher, a large crowd spontaneously gathered to listen to my speech, with many stopping on their way from the library. These students, and other protesters assembled around Eastern Avenue, were eventually chased to the Law lawns with students in larger and denser gathering watching on aghast while small groups of socially distanced protestors were harassed. At the same time, down near F23, police were particularly repressive, issuing fines to 7 different students while detaining activist Adam Adelpour overnight. The SRC condemns Adam's arrest and intends to help any victims of repression however we can, particularly as the campaign escalates in the coming months.

In spite of the repression, though, a bunch of us managed to regroup later at a separate location to protest uninterrupted. Many of those same people then joined a post-meeting forum featuring legendary political economist Frank Stilwell and veteran activist Paddy Gibson, who both spoke inspiringly about past struggles and infected the audience with some much needed courage and hunger, before heading to the timely launch of the new "Democracy is Essential" campaign, which demands the restoration of the right to protest in NSW.

But any hopes that we could rest after Wednesday's actions were quickly dashed when news broke that Senators Lambie and Sharkey intend to betray students by supporting Morrison's fee hike legislation, and that, therefore, the legislation may pass within the week. Buoyed by positive coverage and increased attention on our cause, activists have called another Day of Decentralised Action for this Wednesday the 23rd of September in response. As one of the key people behind the push for this Day of Action, I have made sure to apply myself to the task of building these actions—not only have I attended a number of meetings over the weekend, but I've also been furiously messaging staff, students, and celebrities to increase numbers. Beyond mobilising the same contingents and students as last time, we hope the breakthrough media coverage helps us attract previously uninvolved students and form entirely new contingents. This may be our last opportunity to protest before the sector is shamefully destroyed and students face disgraceful fee increases. As such, it is more important than ever that students stand up for themselves and their future—I implore you all to join what will be a landmark Day of Action.

But as important as the streets are, I have also been fighting for students in the meeting room too. On Tuesday I attended an Academic Board meeting, where we voted on the University's controversial proposal to (temporarily) reduce semester length to 12-weeks. I had previously spoken against the proposal in numerous public fora and University committees, and had been organising to defeat it with other student representatives and numerous staff members. I'm really pleased to announce that, thanks in part to our organisation and diligence, we defeated the proposal! As such, semester 1 2021 will be 13 weeks, though it will start a week later to reduce workload on staff.

Aside from activism and advocacy, there was plenty to do on the operations front as well. On

Monday our interim Principal Solicitor, Nas Hanafi, informed me that he was unable to juggle supervision responsibilities with his own practice, and so stepped down from the position. Faced with the stressful possibility that the practice might be wound down, and concerned by matters still before the courts, myself and Maggie Hayes, the SRC's original Solicitor and long-time volunteer, urgently hired Mr. Jahan Kalantar as Acting Principal Solicitor for the next 3 months. While Mr. Kalantar has incredible experience and skill, his familiarity with the SRC legal service and commitment to our mission made him an easy choice. I offer my sincere thanks to Mr. Hanafi and Mr. Kalantar for their help during this stressful time.

Other SRC service provision continues to go well. Our Casework and Policy Manager, James Campbell, presented on accessing Centrelink as part of the second SRC Informs session, with the video enjoying hundreds of views already. Students have also taken advantage of the Mutual Aid program's new pick up option, while a few delivery runs were initiated. Further meetings of the Mutual Aid program are likely during the next few weeks, where we will determine our long-term strategy. Similarly, another SRC Informs session will be announced in the coming week. We encourage all students to participate in both, and to request help from the Mutual Aid program if you need!

It was yet another busy and auspicious week, but also one which will likely blur in with the craziness of this unprecedented period. I look forward to the week ahead, and remind students to attend Wednesday's massive Day of Action for what may be our last opportunity to publicly dissent to the destruction of our livelihoods.

Week 6 (21-27 September)

With the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Amendment Bill 2020 formally recommending the Bill, and pork barrelling making its passage likely, higher education in Australia is poised to receive one final fatal blow. But rather than copping the destruction of our education, the SRC has led the fight against cuts on-campus and Morrison's fee hikes Bill. This week was no exception, with the usual operational demands of the Presidency trumped by a memorable education protest on Wednesday.

To that end, the battle for the future of our education yet again dominated my time, expressing itself once more in protests which unapologetically defied the Police's repressive enforcement of public health orders. Motivated by the success of last week's Day of Action, a number of activists in the Education Action Group pushed for a repeat one week later, on Wednesday the 23rd at 1pm. With the support of the Women's Officers, who had already called a National Day of Action highlighting the gendered impacts of the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill, organisers quickly moved motions, stalled, and organised decentralised actions. In addition to broader building, I also personally organised an action for Philosophy students.

Despite the small size of the actions and their general legal compliance, protesters were once again met with a large police presence. Concerned by the threat of further repression, a number of staunch staff allies organised an education event, 'Higher education and democratic society: perspectives on dissent', on the law lawns around the same time. This incredibly informative event not only attracted students otherwise uninvolved in the Day's actions, but was also given official sanction by the Arts faculty and so became a complex matter for the police. As such, the event later became a safe haven

for protesters as their respective actions were shut down by Police, with the various contingents converging, angrily, on the law lawns. The chanting mass, at least 200 strong, marched into Victoria Park before breaking into a spontaneous sprint as it became clear they could beat the police to the corner of Cleveland Street and City Road. The sight of a couple hundred students militantly careering to claim one of Sydney's busiest intersections is the most compelling image of student rebellion I've personally witnessed in my 5 years on campus.

Our march down City Road was soon intercepted by riot squad and mounted police, with protesters reversing their trail and frantically racing the cops back to the law lawns. While many students managed to outrun them, galloping horses cut a number of students off at the Victoria Park gates, kettling the unfortunate students stuck in the park. In the end at least 21 \$1,000 fines were issued, with students holding placards or megaphones arbitrarily arrested. Once again, the police stopped at nothing to prevent public dissent, aggressively targeting vulnerable attendees to prove a point and save face after initial embarrassment. Not to be deterred, the attendees regathered in the Seymour Centre plaza for an incredibly positive post-rally meeting, which even featured legendary members of the Chasers', Charles Firth. Many thanks to Dr. Nick Riemer and all the staff for their support, and contribute to the GoFundMes assisting protesters with repayment of fines if you have the means. With the Morrison government's fee hikes legislation likely to coincide with their imminent budget, and Uni management revealing a 2020 surplus, the fight for our education is only going to escalate. This Wednesday we are hosting a staff student assembly to organise the October 14 action, which will be taking place in conjunction with staff and the NTEU. In preparation for that, I attended an Education Action Group meeting on Thursday afternoon, where the assembly was finalised. Disgracefully, another organising meeting for the October 14 action, which was scheduled for Friday through the Staff and Students Say No Cuts (SSNC) groups, received a visit from the Police, who harassed protesters and suggested that they might be breaking the law by carrying megaphones. The SRC condemns this outrageous intimidation of meeting attendees, and believes this harassment is a new low in the NSW Police's race to the bottom of the draconian wellspring.

The Climate Strike I attended on Friday, just before the SSNC meeting, faced similar difficulties with the police. The Environment Collective's action at Hyde Park fountain enjoyed an impressive turnout and a diversity of interesting speakers, but quickly attracted the Police's scorn, with riot squad members issuing aggressive move on orders when the action separated into two small marches on either side of Elizabeth street. Many thanks to the Environment Officers for reintroducing environmental issues to a crowded political agenda, and congratulations on the successful action.

After all the week's tomfoolery with the Police, Friday evening was a fortuitous time for the inaugural Democracy is Essential organising meeting, in which I proudly participated. The meeting was incredibly well attended, with over 100 at its peak, and engaged a broad segment of people. I look forward to building this campaign in the coming months so that we can restore and expand on basic civil liberties after decades of subtle erosions.

Aside from activism, the usual Presidential duties beckoned. The Days surrounding Wednesday's actions saw extensive media work. Tuesday saw a relatively uneventful admissions subcommittee meeting. Thursday saw a staff committee meeting where, among other things, we began considering what a return to in-person operations might look like. Through it all, case work and legal continued their dependable hum, helping students through their most challenging circumstances.

The week ahead is forebodingly future-oriented. 2021 SSAF plans are going to be submitted. Mass protests are going to be organised. The 2020 SRC elections are going to conclude. But as we plan and elect the future, it is essential that we assume and build on the courage and selflessness seen this week, and perhaps throughout this entire year. And that means, if nothing else, ensuring the SRC remains committed to activism and the radical action needed to defend our education.

Week 7 (28 September-5 October)

While the mid-semester break was (hopefully) relaxing for most, it was certainly not a calm or positive one for me or the countless student activists involved in the defence of our education. On Thursday the 8th of October, the Senate disgracefully passed the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill Act 2020, locking-in unprecedented attacks on the funding and accessibility of University education. I would like to start this report by apologising to students for this short-term defeat. I assure you that I did everything in my power to prevent this from happening, and am proud that the USyd SRC was the most effective and dedicated student union in the country, leading and inspiring the national response. Nonetheless, though a promising movement is emerging to reverse these attacks, the Right's (temporary) success in dismantling lingering traces of quality and equality mean that, for now, October the 8th will be known as one of the darkest in Australian higher education.

The passage of this outrageous Bill did not go unnoticed by that promising movement, however. Beyond attending at least 3 meetings and contributing to the broader building, I also had the honour of addressing over a hundred staff and students on the lawns in front of the Parliament House of Australia on Tuesday the 6th as part of a protest organised by the National Union of Students and co-hosted by the SRC, ANU Students Association, and other groups. With the Federal budget, announced later that night, reducing relief and programs for precarious Australians, my speech situated Morrison's attacks in a context of broader class warfare, noting how the additional joblessness and reduced economic opportunity adds insult to injury for students and low income earners.

Though the Bill passed, largely due to a gutless capitulation by the Centre Alliance which was as gullible as it was evil, the protest nonetheless affirmed the dedication of the USyd Left, if nothing else. It was inspiring to see so many car convoys from Sydney—despite the 3 hour drive, we must have made up at least 50% of the crowd—and I am particularly grateful for the drivers and Canberra comrades who made it happen. But while this is undoubtedly a devastating blow to the sector, and a short-term victory for the Right, I have seen enough in the dedication of education activists and the broader student movement throughout this period that I know we can win what we always really wanted: free, fully-publicly-funded higher education.

To that end, I implore all students to attend this Wednesday's teach-in at 1pm on the Quadrangle Lawns. The teach-in will bring together a diverse range of contingents and provide an opportunity for a thorough response to the success of Morrison's attacks and the ongoing austerity of USyd management. After the last rally on campus, which resulted in hundreds of students occupying City Road, we are hoping to significantly boost numbers so we are not suppressed by the (likely) substantial police presence. In order to aid that, I attended a planning meeting on the 30th, a logistics meeting on the 11th, and will be participating in a building day on the 12th.

Closer to home (both physically and temporally), last Wednesday I attended a rally against cuts at Macquarie University in solidarity with my comrades there. Our eventual occupation of the Chancellery, which lasted at least an hour, was only thwarted once we were given official move on orders by the Police and chased off campus. Not to be outdone, just the week before I attended a small but poignant demonstration against cuts outside the Anderson Stuart Building. My congratulations and regards to all those involved in both actions, particularly the Macquarie University Women's Collective, who succeeded in defending and restoring the Gender Studies major after savage cuts.

Activism was just one of the duties to which I tended over the break, however. Alongside Swapnik Sanagavarapu, the 93rd President of the SRC, the current Executive and I are in the process of preparing our Student Support and Amenity Fee submission. The SSAF is collected by the University and distributed to the various student organisations following an application process. We expect to get the entirety of our 'base' funding back this year, which should ensure we can continue to pay wages of all professional staff, fund our services, and sustain our collectives and activism. Beyond that, we will also look to secure extra funding to consolidate the Mutual Aid program and other services, via the SSAF contestable funds. We would love to hear any feedback or thoughts on the projects we ought to pursue next year.

One project that we will certainly continue funding no matter what, though, is the SRC Informs program, which we launched earlier this semester. This Tuesday's session will feature last year's SRC Research Officer, Altin Gavranovic, in conversation about the report he completed last year on the realities of student experience at USyd. The conversation and presentation should be live-streamed via Facebook from 1pm.

The break also saw the usual anthology of committee meetings. Tuesday the 29th and the 6th saw relatively uneventful Undergraduate Studies and Standards and Policies committee meeting(s), respectively. Thursday the 8th saw an interesting Academic Board Indigenous Strategy working group meeting, where plans for more holistic support for Indigenous students were finalised before recommendation to the Academic Board. And Monday the 28th saw my penultimate University Executive Education committee meeting.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the SRC elections, which commenced, finished, and announced successful candidates over the break. While our first ever online election was not a very smooth one—countless technical errors, communication issues, and delayed announcements come to mind—it is nonetheless finally over. Commiserations to unsuccessful candidates, and congratulations to those who got up—I can't wait to see how you improve the SRC and world next year!. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on your perspective) I was also elected to Council, so I'll be around next year to keep an eye on you all!

In the end, the break was as productive as it was disappointing, and, as any mid-semester break ought to be, replete with important learnings: that the USyd Left is the most dedicated and effective in the country, that the Centre Alliance are complete scum, and that the battle for free, fully publicly-funded higher education starts now. I look forward to landing the first blow alongside you on October the 14th.

Week 8 (12-19 October)

It seems like every week the NSW Police reach a new low in their repression of protest and our campaign to defend our education. This week that campaign was once more in the headlines, with the cops particularly brutal in their repression of attendees at our protest against University management's cuts and Morrison's attacks. And although dealing with that repression was particularly tiresome and demanding for myself and the SRC, there were still a number of other operational and administrative duties of note as well.

As in the past, the staff were crucial to the National Day of Action protest on Wednesday the 14th. Allied staff members once again organised a teaching event to coincide with our demonstration, and in so doing provided an entree and starting point for those looking to protest, as well as refuge for the risk-averse or endangered. The event was, by all accounts, a resounding success, and the large crowd reflects its relevance to the University community.

But while many subsequent protesters began at the teach in, many more were scattered across Eastern Avenue and the Law Lawns in unassuming, informal groups, blending amongst the broader student body to complicate things for the Police. When the clock struck 1, though, the hidden forces quickly sprung into action and set a determined pace down Eastern Avenue towards City Road, hoping to take the Butlin Avenue intersection. A walk turned into a jog, and a jog turned into a sprint, and soon a stampede of at least 200 tormented into the bus stops. After a brief tet-a-tet at the intersection, a small group who broke the line were body slammed and tackled to the ground, with one student dragged by their backpack into the gutter.

Not to be deterred, the furious mass dashed across Victoria Park towards University Avenue, outpacing and outsmarting Police cavalry in the process, before attempting an occupation at the lower Parramatta Road gates. Here we were once more met with police resistance, which drove people back into the University and up a sidepath of the Chau Chak Wing Museum back towards University Place. After reconvening at the teaching event on the Quad Lawns, and building a sizable march procession, we took Manning Road and made for the upper Parramatta Road gates near Ross Street. In the ensuing chaos, which featured numerous attempts to take the road and a lot of confusion, Police brutalised a number of students and legal observers, including USyd law Professor Simon Rice. The violent bullying and thuggery was caught on tape and became the subject of significant public scrutiny, with many decrying perceived political repression and contributing to the payment of 13 fines. The SRC extends its full solidarity to anyone brutalised or fined at the protest, and we promise to support you however we can.

While it was incredible to channel student anger so resoundingly and to go toe-to-toe with the police with some success, better tactics and training would have made it even more successful. Monday's Education Action Group meeting will be a good opportunity to evaluate the goals of the campaign and our strategy for achieving them. With any luck the extra media coverage will increase the amount of people organising and attending subsequent actions.

Wednesday's Day of Action was not the only Education demonstration this week, though, with the NTEU hosting a legally-sanctioned / court approved protest in Victoria Park. As a member I was entitled to be one of the 95 people in attendance at the event, though I also joined the student solidarity contingent later. The small event was a good opportunity to mobilise members—we are

going to need more staff attendance and participation as the fight enters the more proactive and positive struggle for free education. We look forward to the next NTEU protest planned for the coming weeks.

But while protest is undoubtedly the most important and effective part of the work we do, it's not the only way the SRC advocates for the interests of students. Just before Wednesday's protest, for instance, I joined two of our caseworkers, James and Sharon, at an 'educational case management' meeting with the Registrar, Peter McCallum, and other members of the University Administration. The meeting gave the SRC an opportunity to contribute directly to a review into managing academic progression, late discontinuation, and educational integrity, as well as their interaction with special consideration, appeals, and student misconduct processes. The SRC caseworkers are incredibly knowledgeable and passionate advocates for students, and it's a shame the University doesn't ask for their advice more often. I am hopeful that the productive conversation was a harbinger of future improvements to these much-maligned processes, if only by establishing more regular lines of collaboration between casework and University policy setters.

Earlier in the week the 92nd Executive and I completed our first draft of our SSAF base submission, with the help of SRC Administration Manager Chitra Narayanan. The SRC has a number of significant projects and programs in mind for 2021, including many of those we had begun implementing in 2020 until the University revoked our SSAF contestable allocations. Funding for our Mutual Aid program—which had a meeting I attended on Thursday—will be a priority, subsuming the functions of the food bank for which we received SSAF contestable funding earlier in the year. Funding for our Legal Service—which also had a meeting I attended on Thursday—is also of paramount importance as we look to modernise and rigidify the service under the guidance of our Acting Principal Solicitor, Jehan Kalantar. Thursday's SLS Board meeting gave Jehan a formal opportunity to expound his plans for the service, which we all agreed would improve its effectiveness and expand its reach while realising our principles even more fully.

The busy week was capped off with another meeting about Regulatory change on Thursday with Standing Legal Committee Chair Janek Drevikovsky, where we discussed a substantial redrafting of section six, Publications, aimed at clarifying ownership rights, as well as clarifying sections pertaining to Affirmative Action to avoid annual interpretational antics.

Another busy week lies ahead, with yet more organising, meetings, and, in all likelihood, headlines yonder. I wish everyone the best as we approach this crucial part of both the semester, and the battle for a quality education.

Week 9 (20-25 October)

The end of a tough and tiring year is in sight. Though the thought of a break is appealing, there is still much to do before the end of the semester and my term. Important improvements to the internal operations of the SRC await finalisation, while protests against the destruction of higher education are likely to grow with news that some forms of protest have been legalised. The week gone by was no exception.

The biggest story of the week was Friday's announcement that, with government approval and if certain conditions are met, up to 500 people can gather for outdoor protests. After months of

repression and brutality, it is a relief to know that future protests won't automatically expose attendees to fines or injury, and also validating to have won a concession from the state after so much bravery and sacrifice. Getting here forced Black Lives Matter protesters to be slandered by the media and brutalised by police. Getting here cost over \$50,000 in fines to student activists. Getting here took inspiring courage from thousands, particularly USyd students, defying the police because they put what's right ahead of what was easy. I'm incredibly proud of those students, and the SRC's involvement in the campaign and protests which forced this concession.

But though we should celebrate this important win and the freedom it permits, let's not get too ahead of ourselves: the partial re-legalisation of protest is the absolute least the state owes its citizens, and also the least it could do to correct for a year of repression. Even before the pandemic there were serious concerns with the level of power police exercise over protests—it defies common sense to let those being protested determine whether they can be protested, whether through Form Ones or other approval bureaucracies. But aside from the in principle / theoretical question, there's also a more substantial political question about the strategic limits of a 500- person protest. Most protests rely on mass attendance to achieve their attention-grabbing and disruptive effect(s), and we will certainly need more than 500 to address the vast inequalities and oppressions which COVID has only exacerbated.

On Saturday I was fortunate enough to make these points in an interview on FBI Radio's Back Chat program. Many thanks to former Honi Editor, Millie Roberts, for organising the interview, which I hope shed some light on the history and significance of Friday's announcement. I also used the platform to plug the big Education protest on November 6th, which will be the first student protest since re-legalisation, and therefore probably our first chance at attracting a genuinely mass audience to our education protests. In anticipation of what will be a large and eventful day, I joined members of the Education Action Group for a logistics meeting on Friday, at which it was proposed and decided that I address the crowd on November the 6th. I look forward to addressing the largest crowd yet!

The Education protest on November the 6th isn't the first legal one, though. On October the 28th the NTEU will have a legal protest on campus, their first that did not require court approval. And tomorrow (the Monday immediately before publication) I will be joining thousands in TheDomain for a Black Lives Matter rally to stop Black deaths in custody. The wave of anti-racist sentiment that oscillated through the West in June may not reverberate as intensely in the headlines, but for Australia's Original Peoples, and the activists amplifying their struggle, the need for mass protest and outrage has not subsided. We will need more protests, with even more people, to achieve the justice so many committed to in June but so few have realised since. I look forward to seeing you all there!

But though my consistent emphasis and focus on protest may suggest otherwise, I have never limited myself to 'outsider' strategies, trying to squeeze every bit of support for students from the countless committees on which I sit. And while this week's Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting (my final for the year) and weekly meeting with senior administration were not especially eventful, I am hopeful that the SRC can achieve even more out of my remaining committee meetings and the hundreds my successor, Swapnik, will deal with in 2021.

On that note, laying the foundations for 2021 is an increasing focus of mine. On Thursday I met with staff in the Administration department to discuss plans for the 2021 Induction. The online format will

make some things harder, but we're hoping for larger attendance and to embed any presentations on our website so Office Bearers can get quick, easy help if they have any questions during their term. Similarly, at Friday's staff committee meeting our return to work plans were discussed and updated, with members of the Administration and Publications department likely to increase their face-to-face time in the office over the coming weeks. This slow transition to normality—which is being guided by the preferences and limitations of our staff—should make life easier for Office Bearers and other student representatives who rely on the hard work of our staff to undertake their activism.

But plans for 2021 go well-beyond a return to pre-pandemic conditions or the usual training for Office Bears. I'm pleased to announce that the Mutual Aid progra, one of the highlights of my term, will continue better than ever in 2021, with the USU and SRC about to co-launch a Foodbank in the Wentworth building. This incredible initiative, for which we can thank the USU's generosity and Secretary to Council Julia Robin's diligence, will see us continue to provide free food and other items to students in need. The physical location will legitimise and formalise the program, and hopefully bypass the delivery bottlenecks which have limited how many students we can help. Though many details need to be finalised, we are likely to begin occupying the former USU wellness lab site, opposite Laneway Cafe, in the next few weeks. Stay tuned for further announcements!

This week will be another busy one, with two protests, at least as many committees, and a meeting with Minters Ellison about Constitutional reform, along-term project of the 92nd Council. Amongst all that I'm hoping to finalise some handover documents for the 93rd Council, including a list of goals and policy priorities, as well as a timeline for completion. I look forward to seeing you all at the BLM protest on Monday!

Week 10 (26 October-2 November)

It is hard to summarise the scale and varieties of hardship faced by students and the University sector in 2020. Though the destruction of higher education has happened at an unprecedented rate, that is only one aspect of our struggle. The past few months has also featured a dramatic increase in youth unemployment, with unequal and insufficient social security leaving no safety net to catch tumbling living standards. To top things off, the iniquitous 'K-shaped' recovery, which is conferring unprecedented prosperity on the wealthy while grinding the marginalised further into the ground, is stamping itself onto history. Those students who haven't already started skipping meals fear they might have to start soon. Those students who weren't already stressed about their job prospects before COVID are wrapt with anxiety now. Those students who weren't already dealing with housing issues see the evictions on the horizon.

In that context, it is not surprising that dissent of unsummarisable scale and variety has been the other defining feature of 2020, particularly in the Universities. This week students wrote another chapter in that story of dissent, spontaneously occupying all 5 levels (and 2 basement levels) of the F23 building, the main administration building on campus, for the first time in history.

The occupation followed, but was ultimately separate to, a rally on the Quadrangle Lawns organised by the USyd branch of the NTEU, the first since the recent re-legalisation of protest. Though the rally enjoyed a healthy crowd, including the best staff turnout since COVID, it particularly drew attention to a matter which will prove sickly—USyd's planned decimation of the Medical Sciences faculty.

Thanks and congratulations are extended to all speakers and attendees—hopefully this begins a serious increase in staff mobilisation.

After marching down Eastern and commencing a secondary rally outside F23, though, the agitation took an unplanned and unofficial turn. With speeches coming to an end the building's sliding doors accidentally parted, offering the hordes outside a wide entrance. Students quickly rushed into the foyer, a scene of previous skirmishes, before evading a thin and understaffed line of security guards protecting the stairs. After a stampede to the fourth floor, a dense crowd of students surrounded the Vice-Chancellor's office, helping themselves to the kitchen while filling the concrete cavern with their chanting. Though we are becoming accustomed to this spontaneous anger, bravery, and militancy, this sudden rush of zeal was particularly unique.

And yet, believe it or not, an even more militant display was still to come. After the initial enthusiasm of the rebellion wore off, and most had left, a militant few remained and declared a prolonged occupation. Media releases were fired off, a solidarity rally planned for 5pm, and F23 symbolically declared under student control. Shaken by the militant occupation, management put the entire building into lockdown, making it impossible for anyone to leave or enter. That, unfortunately, meant that I could not return after initially leaving to prevent a minor alt-right blogger from filming unconsenting students.

With the building in lockdown, and space ceded to the occupants, the word "occupation" was emblazoned across the panoramic windows of the level 5 boardroom. Protesters then spent the entire afternoon and evening occupying, attracting a sizable crowd of staff and student allies in the process. Later, when workers were let out of the car park to go home, these allies broke into the underground, almost managing to join the occupants on the top floor, while senior management dismissed the possibility of peaceful negotiations during a hostile exchange. When doors were briefly reopened a few goodies, including new protesters, managed to sneak in, and pizza was enjoyed by occupants in the top floor.

Unsurprisingly, the riot squad eventually arrived. In a testament to the strength of occupants, and perhaps the police's reticence to brutalise after the pressure we've sustained of late, the police offered to negotiate instead of immediately busting heads. After unanimously agreeing to vacate, the occupants exited peacefully to raucous applause. While the ordeal was no doubt annoying for some staff, activists have received extensive contact from staff expressing their support, including staff in the F23 building who were superficially affected. And though it did not achieve any specific change (and didn't really seek to) the anger displayed, the momentum achieved, and the bravery gained will only enhance our movement.

Fortunately we can apply that hypothesis very soon. This Tuesday we will host our first rally since the re-legalisation of protest. The No Job Cuts! No Course Cuts! rally will commence at 12.30pm, and will feature yours truly as a speaker. I implore you to come along to what will be one of our largest rallies yet, particularly in light of the recently announced cuts to the Learning and Maths Centre(s), which will be particularly devastating for International Students.

Wednesday's occupation was not the first time I've been on the upper levels of the F23 building, with many committees meeting there. While I stayed on Zoom, the last of three such committees took place this week. I have enjoyed my time on the Academic Quality and Academic Standards and Policy

committee(s), where I have incessantly challenged changes which would bring harm to undergraduates while also contributing productively to debates about pedagogy. The University Executive Education committee has been one of my favourites, serving as a forum for extensive advocacy at the start of the pandemic during the transition to online learning. Thank you to my staff and student colleagues for tolerating my dissidence—though I honestly think committees are not always our best route to change, they shouldn't be ruled out entirely. I look forward to working with next year's administration to get more out of our advocacy on committees. The year has certainly gone quickly.

Aside from committees and activism I've also been tending to the usual operational matters, as usual. I continue to chip away at handover and long-term planning processes, including finalising documents for Constitutional and Regulatory change and plans for next year. Next week promises to be a much bigger and busier one—Radical Education week, an annual highlight for the SRC, will be raging. In the middle are two events which promise to change the political landscape—our first legal student protest, and the US Presidential election. I look forward to reflecting on these in my next report.

Week 11 (3 November-9 November)

Sections of this report have been removed and reproduced in the Reflection section below

Before I get to those deeper reflections, though, it would be remiss not to mention this week's (admittedly, relatively scant) activity. On Tuesday morning I met with the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Student Life, Susanna Scaparo, alongside our caseworkers and USU staff to discuss planned changes to the Learning and Maths Centre. While we appreciated the opportunity to hear the full details and rationale behind mooted changes, we made clear that we would not be comfortable with job losses and that we would take time to consider the pedagogical implications of their new model. I will keep the student body updated of any further developments, though I suspect immediate responsibility for the matter will fall to Swapnik imminently.

Around the same time Radical Education week began with a Welcome to Country from Aunty Rhonda Dixon. Radical Education week is an annual educational event organised by the SRC and its Collectives. I was grateful to witness a bunch of this year's presentations, which, as usual, platformed radical student and staff perspectives on important issues. I was particularly impressed with Tuesday afternoon's eco-feminism panel, featuring USyd's Dr. Astrida Neimanis, and Swapnik Sanagavarapu's Money and Finance for the Left talk. Many thanks are extended to all the speakers and organisers who made the week a resounding success.

In a fitting twist of fate, education protests marked both the start and end of Radical Education week. Friday's speakout outside the F23 building, which aimed to pressure the USyd Senate into abstaining from fee increases, bookended proceedings and saw at least a hundred protesters gather on Eastern Avenue after the plans to physically blockade the meeting in Martin Place were thwarted when it was moved online. Tuesday's protest against cuts to the Medical Science faculty set a radical tone for the rest of the week, as we once again spontaneously took control of City Road, getting almost as far as Broadway before the Riot squad could catch us. While this year's protests may not have always attracted the largest numbers, bravery and militancy have certainly not been in short supply among the protesters. The relaxation with which so many students interact with hostile police—the ease

with which the crowd escalates—is certainly new, and no doubt due in equal measure to the brave example set earlier in the year and the dystopian police antics that have dominated headlines in 2020. Tuesday’s protest was a fitting reminder of just how far so many students have come in what has been a remarkable year.

Reflections

I have a number of more practical reflections and recommendations I intend to make to the Council via my final report to the Executive at the end of this month. Below are some more personal, or even existential, reflections on the year.

I have come a long way this year, I think. I would be lying if I said it was easy, or that I was happy for much of it. Even at the best of times, the responsibilities conferred on the President of this Union are onerous and all-consuming; amidst a global pandemic, they were, at times, soul-destroying. In March there was the brutal revelation that our SSAF contestable funding would be frozen, preventing me from fulfilling many of my campaign promises and from realising the vision I spent years refining and half-a-decade trying to implement. In October there was the passage of the Morrison government’s fee hikes legislation, and with it the crushing realisation that, despite my best efforts, I could not defend our education from further inequalities, funding loss, and desecration. And all throughout, in the periods in between and beyond, I was rapt by the same social, economic, and mental angst that seems to have defined 2020 for most, no doubt cushioned by the (ephemeral) security of this position, but also no doubt exacerbated by the guilt of feeling as if I’d let people down.

Indeed, on that note, I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to my constituents, the Undergraduate student body at the University of Sydney, and particularly to those people who voted for me. I would like to apologise if relationships strained under the weight of this position. I assure you that every promised coffee or beer will come to fruition, and that I have infinite time and love for everyone, even if I struggle to fully express that all the time. Similarly, I apologise for any unrealised campaign promises. If it is any comfort, we were mere weeks away from ushering in what would have been an unprecedented number of new programs and important reforms, all the careful result of years of reflection on this Union, dashed only by a sudden decision to freeze the funding essential to realising it. But what I would like to apologise for most substantively is losing the fight for our education both locally and nationally, at least for now. Until greater people cohere a greater response and win a decent system, these defeats will reverberate through history, pumping wave after wave of phillistinean destruction

And that’s the ultimate difficulty in all of this. While I intended to finish up as President with a different world and University to the one I inherited, I didn’t expect it to be this different and to have these features. In the end, things have gotten worse, not better, and we are even further away from the vision that animated me than we were before. But as Sisyphean as this task may feel, and as crushing as the rolling rock may now feel, there’s one thing that cannot be denied by myself or my harshest critic (indistinguishable though they may be)—that I rolled the damn boulder up the hill.

Indeed, it’s precisely because of that rolling that I saw a glimpse of the horizon, and perhaps even wrung the only possible drops of beneficence from the malefic chamois of fate. Rather than sitting back and being a mere caretaker, I tried not only to preserve the SRC, but to continue in my quest to expand and improve it. I’m proud of helping to initiate national efforts to expand social security to students and catalysing the Mutual Aid program, which both provided significant relief and were

undeniably beneficial. I'm proud of my diligence; that I took on countless extra, thankless duties, for no extra pay, while still delegating few, if any of my responsibilities, simply to ensure the Union could function and activism could happen. I'm proud that USyd carried the national fight against fee hikes which was defeated by the smallest possible margin (1 vote!); that we proved, yet again and with regular frequency, that no VC, no politician, and no Capitalist can destroy our education easily. I'm proud, at risk of arrogance, that I helped make the SRC more well-known, more relevant, and more helpful than it has been in my time on campus, if not longer

These are just a few of the things that make me proud. There are certainly others. Thank you to every friend, family member, teacher, campaigner, voter, and comrade who helped me realise this life changing ambition. As honest and sobering as my reflections may be, this year has been the greatest of my life, and every second of it has been an indescribable honour. Saying goodbye is, thus, bittersweet and surreal, particularly because of how hard the rock rolled over me and how far from the peak we now find ourselves. Next year Swapnik, and the Office Bearers elected at Wednesday's Representatives-Elect, will roll the boulder up the hill. I'm sure they will suffer their own tumbles, take their own routes, and strive for their own peaks. It certainly will not be easy. But if there is any good to have come from this year of chaos and hardship, any sceric of redemption to come from the 5 years of effort which led to this point, it is the certainty that the rock will not only continue to be rolled, but with the same diligence, resolve, and attitude, onwards to the peak I could not myself reach and the view I could not myself see. And while a much-delayed rest is on the cards in the immediate future, I can't wait to join them on the mountain, hand on boulder, for one final push.

Liam Donohoe gave a summary and overview of his report. Wished the incoming Council well for their term.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Charlotte Bullock

Seconded: Isla Mowbray

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Charlotte Bullock returned the Chair to Liam Donohoe.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Charlotte Bullock and Felix Faber tabled a written report:

October report

Since the last council meeting, we have been working alongside other office bearers in the campaign against the government's higher education package. As at writing, the package has not been passed nor voted down in the Senate; however, it is scheduled for this week. We have been engaging as fully as possible in this campaign. We both attended the rally on the 16th of September that was shamefully shut down by the police, despite strict adherence to social distancing. Felix also attended the rally on the 23rd, where he received a fine for protesting. Since

then, he has been continuing to assist with organising further actions, attending organising meetings held by the EAG, and continuing to engage Clubs Against the Cuts in the campaign.

Since last council Charlotte has continued to attend regular committee meetings, as well as fortnightly meetings with university management. Of particular importance was the most recent meeting of the Academic Board on the 15th September, at which a vote to decide the term dates for next year, including whether to continue with 12 week semesters as per this semester or shift back to 13 weeks was put to the Board. Charlotte and other student representatives voted against the proposal to shorten semesters next year to 12 weeks, voting up a plan to delay the start of first semester, but maintain 13 weeks. This was an excellent result, but it does not keep the issue of 12 week semesters off the table, and a permanent move to 12 week semesters will be put to the Academic Board after Charlotte's term will have ended. Charlotte has also recently attended the UE: Education Committee, as well as the UE: Student Life Committee. Both Charlotte and Felix also met with other members of the executive to discuss SSAF for the upcoming year.

November Report

This year has obviously not been the year any of us expected. We started our term as Vice President in a time when no one had heard of Covid-19 or could have imagined that the we would spend part of this year under lockdown, become all too familiar with Zoom, attend uni online, see our right to protest significantly eroded and our higher education system fundamentally altered for the worse.

This year has undeniably been a difficult one, but we are proud of the work we were able to do during our term and the work the SRC has done, more broadly. We are thankful for this opportunity, and for the opportunity to work with all of you, and we wish our successors all the best for 2021.

Since our last council meeting, Charlotte has continued to regularly attend fortnightly meetings with university management, as well as committee meetings. Most recently, Charlotte attended the Student Life Committee on the 21st October. There are a number of committees, including Student Life, Student Consultative Committee and Academic Board that are being held after this Council meeting, which Charlotte will also attend. At recent fortnightly meetings, issues of degree progression have been of particular concern. While details are not clear, the university is concerned about the impacts of the Government's policy regarding students who fail subjects and HECS on the wellbeing of students. There was also some discussion at the most recent meeting regarding the outage of Canvas and other University websites that occurred on Thursday 5th November, resulting in some students not being able to access their online classes.

Felix has been helping organise the SRC's affiliation to the NUS for 2021 and has begun to organise aspects of the VP handover, including a handover meeting of the Interfaculty Committee. Charlotte and Felix have also both been in attendance at some of the recent protests against staff cuts and changes to fees.

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 tabled a written report

October Report

Hi All,

Just quickly from the outset, I would like to quickly apologise for the lack of General Secretary reports and attendance in recent weeks, unfortunately, due to a period of ill health and hospitalisation I have been out of action over the last 2 months, however, I'm now back in action and excited to serve out the rest of the term.

Firstly, I've been in attendance at several meetings with representatives from University management, where a broad range of issues have been discussed. One of the key discussions had been around the precarious situation for tertiary education with the passing of the Government's shocking education reform bill. This bill is undoubtedly the most serious attack on higher education we've seen in years, if not decades, with cuts to funding for every course and even more barriers put in place to accessible, affordable education. In these meetings, there has been discussion about how the University will respond, with the University considering possible measures to help students, particularly on the issue of failing first-year units locking students out of HECS.

On top of this, I've been engaged in meetings with other members of the SRC Executive to put together the SRC's application for SSAF funding for 2021. The constantly changing circumstances around COVID and uncertainty as to the impacts it will have continuing into next year is an unprecedented challenge for us to deal with. Over the past year, the SRC has been able to provide a number of critical services for students in a tumultuous year such as our mutual aid program, and there is no doubt that programs like these will continue to be vital for many students in the year to come. We hope to be able to continue and expand upon programs like these next year and as such have identified it as a priority area for funding.

Also, over the last weeks, we have seen several protests held to fight back against the education cuts. Whilst I have been unable to attend the recent protests, I would like to commend the student activists involved in organising around this critical issue. Furthermore, I condemn the repressive actions of NSW Police breaking up socially distanced protests and intimidating, harassing and fining student activists. In recent weeks we have even seen police from the riot squad attend a lunchtime organising meeting of fewer than 20 people, for no reason other than to intimidate and harass students. Further to this we saw today even more brutal action from the police, with disgrace violence directed towards unarmed staff and students. I will continue to push the University management in the meetings I attend for answers as to whether the police are here with University permission, a question that I have yet to receive a comprehensive answer on.

Liam Thomas

November Report

Well, here we are. It honestly doesn't feel like that long ago that we were stuck in an overcrowded, sweltering law lecture theatre for Repselect 2019. This year has been an incredibly challenging year for many of us, myself included, and for the organisation.

When I was elected last year I honestly thought we were going to be in for an incredibly uneventful year. COVID-19 truly shook up those expectations and this year has been anything but uneventful.

With the enormous challenges we have faced this year, I am so proud of the work that the SRC has achieved throughout 2020. This year we've seen a global pandemic and economic crisis, unprecedented attacks on higher education by the Liberal Government, the first mostly online SRC election, extreme police repression on campus and more.

Despite all this the SRC is still in good stead and we've seen incredible work done to help provide for students with programs such as mutual aid. The level of advocacy and service provision the SRC has delivered this year is something I have not witnessed in my 4 years at USyd.

Thank you to every single person who contributed this year, be it organising campaigns, running collectives, helping out with the mutual aid program or something else. Thank you also to all the staff who work for the SRC, they are the backbone of this organisation.

Since the last council meeting a lot has occurred and there probably isn't much point covering most of it. I have been in regular attendance at meetings with university management discussing a range of issues from police repression on campus to how the university will respond to the changes to higher education funding. I have worked with members of the Exec in finalising our SSAF base application. I have been involved in helping with the mutual aid program, delivering packs to students in need, as well as was in attendance at the October 28 protest.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve as General Secretary this year and look forward to working with the incoming team to ensure that they can hit the ground running.

Yours in Unity, Liam

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Isla Mowbray

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Report of the Chair the Standing Legal Committee of the interpretation of the Affirmative Action provisions inf the SRC regulations was circulated.

[attached separately]

Liam Donohoe spoke to the interpretation saying this was for clarity and was a return to the interpretation as it was a couple of years ago.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Vivienne Guo

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:

Tonight is our last council meeting as Education Officers. Tomorrow we will know who our replacements are for 2021. This year has been stacked with unexpected challenges. An unprecedented convergence of global crises; health, economic, environmental, has changed the terrain of politics for the vast majority of ordinary people. Even sleepy Sydney has been hit by this shift in world politics, and the university campuses have become ground zero for an onslaught of austerity that will inevitably manifest across the economy and society more broadly.

While we can't know exactly what next year will look like, the situation is unlikely to improve of its own accord. We can stand proud of our achievements in building a fighting campaign that has undoubtedly improved the state of the student movement and set the SRC on a fighting footing for the struggles ahead. Along the way, on the back of defiant student mobilisations, we have managed to score some crucial victories.

We have been faced with cuts to every conceivable part of the university. Casual staff lost their jobs overnight, told they are surplus to requirement. Those who managed to retain positions have been put on reduced hours, and forced to pick up the workloads of others. Subjects have been ravaged, with some departments seeing well over 30% of offerings cut. Some classes go without teachers or rely on regurgitated online content. Limits on class sizes have been raised. Fees have been raised by the Morrison government, and punitive measures have been introduced to kick struggling students of HECS.

In the face of this, students and staff have refused to take it lying down. At every twist and turn, we have been organising, and clearly saying: we will not pay a cent for this crisis in higher education, the university and government must shoulder the cost. And we have thrown ourselves into organising around that principle. In the process, hundreds of students were mobilised regularly throughout the latter half of the year. This would be an achievement in any year, let alone in the midst of a global pandemic and a ban on the right to protest.

This resistance was criminalised. University management, in collaboration with NSW police, conspired to shut down our actions from the beginning of semester. While staff and students were forced into unsafe classrooms, union meetings on campus were banned. Most egregiously, NSW police began to utilise public health orders that restrict outdoor gatherings to 20 to enforce a

de facto ban on protest. Understanding this for the cynical plot that it was, our student campaign defied the orders, mobilising hundreds of students on repeated occasions to take a stand.

Saddled with tens of thousands in fines, dozens of arrests, and countless scrapes and bruises, we emerged victorious. In the process, we were able to raise public consciousness and anger not only about the ban on protests, as well as the barrage of attacks facing universities. By defying the orders, continuing to organise, and being willing to stand up to the thugs in blue, students have set a crucial precedent for organising into the future. God knows we will need it in the face of the myriad of crises that ordinary people face.

In the midst of all of this, we have thrown ourselves into organising solidarity with the swathe of other struggles that have emerged in 2020. Most notably, the Black Lives Matter rebellion which has swept the United States and beyond. 25 million people have joined protests in the United States, offering hope amongst the detritus of electoral politics and the last year of a Trump presidency. We are proud to stand on the side of the exploited and oppressed of the world who have been fighting back this year, from Thailand to Lebanon, Belarus, Nigeria, France, Bolivia, Chile and everywhere else in between.

Whatever next year throws at students, staff, and all ordinary people, we have no choice but to fight. We are proud to have contributed something to that struggle this year, and eagerly await what our successors get up to.

Discussion:

Jack Mansell spoke to his report saying it was sad to be at the end of his her term but that he was proud of what he's been able to do over the year, and show that there is no need to roll over and capitulate to crisis rhetoric and instead fight for students rights and education.

Jazzlyn Breen spoke to her report and talked about the achievements for the year and thanked everyone for being apart of it and that the fight continues into next year.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Isla Mowbray

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Ellie Wilson and Vivienne Guo tabled a written report

RADICAL EDUCATION WEEK

This year, Radical Education Week took place from Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 6th November. Held every year by students for students, Rad Ed Week aims to share the radical knowledge that has been created, mobilised and sustained inside and outside of academic institutions, by collectives, community activists, and many others. Rad Ed Week events are open to everyone and free, as all education should be. This year, we held workshops, panels and talks

that discuss disability activism, radical approaches to the university, anarchism, sex work activism, Sinophobia, unions and much more.

WOCO SUPPORTS THE STUDENT OCCUPATION OF F23

Following a protest held by the National Tertiary Education Union against cuts to medical science at the University, students rallied and occupied the F23 Building for 6 hours. During that time, university security invited the police on campus and trapped staff inside the building to prevent anyone from entering and exiting the building, including through fire exits.

WoCo refutes the University's blatant lie that student protesters prevented staff from leaving the F23 Building. We support the democratic right to protest and disrupt punitive systems of power that do not serve us.

SOLIDARITY WITH DJAB WURRUNG

Throughout this year, WoCo has put a lot of our energy into supporting movements of Indigenous justice and sovereignty, as a collective that has always held staunch anti-colonialist values. The destruction of sacred country and birthing trees must be condemned across so-called Australia, and it must come to an end. The actions of the Andrews' government down in Victoria are deeply shameful. The trees currently being cut down to build a highway are older than the concept of 'Australia' itself, and Indigenous peoples have cared for this country for tens of thousands of years before that. Shame on Dan Andrews and the Victorian government! Protect sacred country!

GOODBYE 92ND COUNCIL!

It has been a long, strange year. COVID-19 shattered our old 'normal' and the world as we knew it. The world that emerged from months of isolation remains deeply flawed, but as activists we carry on and hold out hope that there is a better, brighter world out there; we will fight for it. This year, WoCo engaged gladly in the mutual aid campaign and fought for the future of higher education, against the callous mistreatment of staff and students by university management, against the cutting of funding, staff, courses and pay. We raised thousands of dollars to support Indigenous communities and engaged in movements of Indigenous justice and sovereignty, because feminist activism must always be intersectional and anti-colonial; to echo the inimitable Audre Lorde, we are not free while anyone is unfree, even when their shackles are very different to our own. As we pass on the baton and look back on the past year, we are thankful to have had the platform and freedom to fight the good fight and acknowledge that there is much more work to be done. Thank you to the 92nd SRC and to the council for your support.

P.S. We're getting shirts.

Discussion:

Vivienne Guo spoke to her report outlining its main point and wanted to say thank you and goodbye to everyone in the 92nd SRC.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Roisin Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Welfare Officers

This month I've helped organise the defiant education campaign protests. This is really important, as the attack continues to mount on students and our education. The fee hikes bill which raises uni fees by up to and exceeding 100% will see education become a privilege for the rich. The class divide in universities will worsen, and it will be exasperated by the dire economic prospects for young people. As such, fighting these education "reform" bills is a key priority, and it has been great to see so many people come out week after week. It has also been amazing to see the protests beat back the COVID restrictions, which were cynically used to crush dissent. Through defying the laws and pushing the conversation into the public sphere, the NSW police were shown to be using their powers opportunistically. Another campaign I have been involved with is the protest campaign against Mark Latham's transphobic bills. The protest against this a couple of weeks ago was a fantastic show of support for the LGBTI community. Queerphobia is an oppression many young people face, and it is important to take a stand against public figures using their platform to propagate harmful ideas. Another protest is being planned for the 28th of November so it would be great to see everyone there.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to her report covering its main points, spoke to the years achievements and shouted out the education campaign as being really strong despite the restrictions on it due to COVID-19.

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

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Winning back the right to protest

Preamble:

1. Using the pretext of COVID safety and using loose interpretations of the NSW COVID laws, the NSW police effectively banned the right to protest in Sydney for months during this year.
2. From July 28, when the police broke up a Black Lives Matter protest, every protest was smashed up and repressed. For the NSW government and police, unsafe activities were permitted as long as they were making a profit, while protests that criticized the government were crushed.
3. This became increasingly apparent as protests of under 20 were broken up, while other activities were opened - including footy matches with over 40 000 attendees and the casinos with over 300 attendees.
4. Instead of continuing to accept this draconian state of affairs, activists, and in particular the Democracy is Essential campaign, organised protests that fought and defied the laws.
5. The education protest that did this on September 23 successfully defied the police was an inspiring moment where students managed to march onto the street. This protest gave the education campaign much-needed media attention, and also brought to light the undemocratic use of the NSW Covid health orders. Furthermore, it marked an important step in the campaign to a perspective of fighting police repression.
6. Similarly the CARR protest against Mark Latham's bill on the 10th of October, effectively defied police laws, and over 300 protestors were able to gather in one group and march.
7. The media attention, coupled with the low covid case numbers, culminated in an incredible victory on October 22, when the COVID laws were changed to allow gatherings up to 500 people.
8. Although the limit still exists, the subsequent protests have had considerably less police presence, and if a protest does exceed the 500 person limit it is unlikely the police will have enough manpower to prevent the protest from marching.
9. Overall, the positive result of the campaign to end the police crackdown on protests was successful due to its defiance, radicalism, and by unabashedly conveying the cynicism and role of the police.

Platform:

1. The Sydney University SRC supports protesting in defiance of the NSW health orders.
2. The Sydney University SRC stands with protestors who were fined for attending illegal protests.
3. The Sydney University SRC endorses the next CARR rally against Mark Latham's bills on November 28.

Actions:

1. The Sydney University SRC will share the next CARR rally on its Facebook page, and other affiliate social media profiles.
2. The Sydney University SRC will print CARR rally materials including posters and leaflets.
3. The Sydney University SRC will give legal and financial support to protestors who have been fined at previous illegal protests.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to her motion highlighting how important the right to protest is, and that COVID-19 should not be used by the police to shut down political discourse.

Jack Mansell spoke to the motion and noted that this should be seen as a model for how we can win all campaigns, and to not allow the Uni and police collaboration to undermine the fight or deter confrontation. Pointing out that democratic rights are not given they are fought for and that fight needs to continue and grow.

Amelia Koen spoke to the motion highlighting what has been won and how it still has further to go. The need to grow and get in the way of the university and the police and having more mass rallies into the new year.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion mentioning the smaller rallies that were not as successful and how over the semester the campaign learnt how to become more effective and got more attention and momentum.

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Jack Mansell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. Motion of Censure

Preamble

Over the last three months Co-General Secretary of the SRC, Abbey Shi, has been absent from all the required duties of the role. As her fellow Co-General Secretary I have made over a dozen attempts since September to communicate with Abbey to no avail. Other members of the SRC Executive have similarly tried to communicate with Abbey and been unable to do so.

Abbey has been uncontactable, and has not advised anyone from the SRC as to why she is unable to perform any of the required duties as General Secretary. Abbey has provided no reports as to her activities and has been absent without apology at consecutive Council, Exec and Legal Board meetings.

When requested to take over General Secretary duties whilst I spent a number of weeks in hospital Abbey ignored all communication from me, effectively leaving the position vacant during a critical time for the organisation in the leadup to the election.

As one of the SRC's few paid office-bearing positions this is especially egregious. Over the past three months, whilst performing none of her duties and failing to communicate with the SRC, Abbey has collected thousands of dollars from her General Secretary stipend.

Collecting student money whilst failing to perform your duties is never acceptable, however given the financial implications of COVID-19 and the strains it has, and will continue to, put on the organisation, it is particularly disgraceful.

The SRC this year has played an incredibly important role in representing students and providing essential services at a difficult time and this is only possible because of the hard work put in by officebearers and councillors, many of whom are unpaid. It is deeply unfair that an officebearer would collect money whilst making no effort to work for the students they were elected to represent. Officebearing positions, especially those that are paid, should not be treated as merely a line to add to your CV.

Action

1. The University of Sydney Students Representative Council (“SRC”) condemns Abbey Shi for her unexplained absence from her duties as Co-General Secretary over the past 3 months.
2. The SRC calls on General Secretary Shi to explain her absence from her duties and calls on her to take responsibility for receiving thousands of dollars in student money whilst failing to perform any work or communicate with the SRC.
3. The SRC calls on General Secretary Shi to repay to the SRC the entirety of her stipend from the previous 3 months.

Discussion:

Liam Thomas spoke to his motion noting that Abbey Shi has been completely uncontactable and not responded to any messages not even those just asking if she was ok and what was going on.

Liam Donohoe resigned the chair to Charlotte Bullock

Liam Donohoe spoke to the motion saying this isn’t something anyone wanted just no one has been able to even have a conversation to check if Abbey Shi is around, ok or anything making it really difficult to get anything done.

Moved: Liam Thomas

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The following requested their votes be noted:

Grace Bowskill abstention

Jack Mansell abstention

Q3. Oppose Corbyn’s suspension: Anti-Zionism isn’t Anti-Semitism

Preamble

Jeremy Corbyn is the victim of a monstrous campaign of slander. His suspension from the British Labour Party in October, on the pretence of his supposed anti-Semitism, is an attack upon the anti-racist and anti-imperialist left internationally and the Palestinian solidarity struggle in particular.

Jeremy Corbyn is not anti-Semitic. There is no evidence that he has ever done or said anything indicating prejudice against Jewish people. The accusation is a cynical lie intended to intimidate

and silence the left. Unlike many establishment politicians and journalists who are joining in the pile on, Jeremy Corbyn has a decades long history of activism against racism and fascism.

What the leaderships of the British Labour and Conservative parties and the mainstream media object to is Corbyn's support for the Palestinian struggle against the racist, apartheid state of Israel. They are trying to paint any serious criticism of Israel as anti-Semitism in an attempt to undercut the growing opposition to Israel's war crimes against the Palestinian people. As a bonus they can paint the left more broadly as anti-Semitic in an attempt to smear any opposition to the system.

This is all the more concerning as the revival of the far right internationally has led to a growth in actual anti-Semitism. However the critics of Corbyn are blind to this and either exclusively focus on false accusations that the left is anti-Semitic or else try to draw an equivalence between all right anti-Semitism and left wing opposition to Zionism and the Israeli state.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC rejects the claim that Corbyn is anti-Semitic and opposes his suspension from the British Labour Party.
2. The SRC also recognises that the suspension of Corbyn is part of a broader attack on the anti-racist and anti-imperialist left, and in particular on those seeking to show solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and justice.
3. The SRC rejects the idea that opposition to Zionism is anti-Semitic. Instead it affirms that opposition to Zionism and the apartheid, racist state, of Israel is a legitimate anti-racist and anti-imperialist position

Action:

1. The University of Sydney SRC will publicly advertise its position on Corbyn's suspension of the SRC's social media platforms.

Discussion:

Lily Campbell spoke to her motion saying that unlike many in the establishment of the Labour Party in the UK Corbyn is not racist and has been involved in anti-racist campaigns. Adding that being in support of the Palestinian people isn't anti-Semitic its just anti-racist, and it is the far right who are deeply anti-Semitic.

Jack Mansell spoke to the motion saying the neoliberal establishment of the UK Labour party are attacking Jeremy Corbyn for supporting the rights of Palestinians and framing it as anti-Semitic, despite sharing the same view as many Jewish people around the world who are against Zionism and against the associating of Judaism and Zionism which are not

Maddie Powell spoke to the motion We are witnessing a resurgent in antisemitism in society, but it is all coming from the far right, with fascism and far right violence. And the only way to shut down it to fight against that, and it's of great concern that during this very real rise of antisemitism

the focus is on a non-existent rise in the left, and many are disregarding that many Jewish people who speak up in support of Jeremy Corbyn have been labelled fake or self-loathing Jews, which is a deeply antisemitic stance to take suggesting that all Jewish people must be in support of the state of Israel. And these same people who level these accusations say nothing about the blatant and violent antisemitism in the right

Nickolas Comino spoke against the motion that this motion stems from found 70 complaints of antisemitism, and the suspension comes from the fact that Corbyn's office interfered in 23 of them, this report and suspension is an internal Labour process and not relevant to the SRC. Corbyn is not the popular politician you make him out to be, and since he's left the Labour party is doing better. This is a pointless motion.

Oscar Chaffey spoke to the motion saying the this is just an attempt to smear Jeremy Corbyn name to make it easier to expel him from the party for standing up to the party establishment. Echoing others in the meeting saying that Jeremy Corbyn has been an ally to Jewish people by always fighting against far-right fascism, and that internal report was a joke. And was up against a media was astounding and that he did as well as he did with that opposition to everything, he did.

Liam Thomas spoke against the motion saying that the wouldn't comment on Corbyn's suspension but that the idea that him being left wing means he cannot of have allowed antisemitism is insane, just being left wing doesn't mean you can't be racist, nor did he believe that being critical of Israel was inherently antisemitic but that doesn't mean that people can't also be antisemitic. Saying that most of this motion boils down to but what about the right, and yes it occurs there too, but that doesn't mean it doesn't happen in the left.

Lily Campbell responded to Nickolas Comino's comments saying Jeremy Corbyn wasn't suspended because of the report, but because of what he said about the report, but that Liam's argument was the more dangerous one because as it doesn't acknowledge that there is continued pressure to say that those who even just support the idea that the Palestinian deserve a modicum of justice and right will get you labelled an anti-Semite to delegitimise any arguments you have against the state of Israel. Noting that Uni students have been dragged through disciplinary actions simply for showing support of the Palestinian people.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion saying that Corbyn was not suspended for being antisemitic, but for the suggesting that the report made him out to be responsible for any anti-Semitism in the party. And the internal report showed that most complaint came from one person and furthermore that many in the right wing of the Labour party were fighting to get rid of Corbyn because they didn't like him taking away their power. Adding that no one is talking about the deep antisemitism in the conservative party such as Boris Johnson's own book which alluded to 'Jewish controlled media' and other racist, antisemitic xenophobic actions of the conservative party. Adding the idea that a man who has dedicated his life to justice would oversee anti-Semitism in

the Labour party is absurd and again mentioned that many Jewish groups came out in support of Jeremy Corbyn.

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Jack Mansell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The following requested their votes be noted:

Zac Pitkethley – against

Nickolas Comino – against

Angelina Gu – against

Julia Kokic – against

Grace Hu – against

Q4. No Support for a Biden Presidency

Preamble

1. Donald Trump was an enemy of all workers and the oppressed, a sociopath who ruled only for the rich. He embodied everything wrong with the system; a billionaire, a vile misogynist, a racist and a wannabe authoritarian. His presidency has seen a massive transfer of wealth to the rich, hundreds of thousands dead because of a pandemic, an emboldening of the far- right both inside and outside the Republican Party, and an increase in anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim racism.
2. Joe Biden has been and will remain a loyal attack dog for the American ruling class. He began his career as a Democrat proud to oppose measures to desegregate his state of Delaware and has continued these reactionary politics for the rest of his career. Under Bill Clinton, he co-authored the 1994 Crime Bill, leading to mass incarceration of black and brown youth and openly brags about this as part of his law and order credentials. He was central to passing George W Bush’s Iraq War resolution through a Democrat-controlled Senate and subsequently oversaw the continued occupation of the Middle East as well as drone attack after drone attack as Barack Obama’s Vice President. Along with Obama, he deported the largest amount of immigrants under any presidency, greater even than under Trump. And again, as Obama’s VP, he bailed out the banks after the 2008 financial crisis, handing billions to the criminals responsible while leaving millions with their homes remortgaged and without a job. He is thoroughly pro-capitalist, a war criminal, a segregationist and a vile misogynist with sexual assault allegations.
3. Kamala Harris is a former “top cop” prosecutor who presided over the very policing and prison system millions have protested against this year. She has used laws to charge working class parents over their kids’ truancy, has championed solitary confinement, has prevented early release of prisoners in order to use them as a cheap, source of prison labour and has defended police from prosecution. Her reelection campaigns in 2011 and 2014 to the position of Californian Attorney-General, received funding from none other

than Trump himself. Harris is the enemy of working class and poor black and brown people, her election to VP is no victory at all for the thousands she has locked up.

4. Many on the left argued that the necessity of defeating Trump demanded voting and campaigning for Biden and Harris. The argument that Trump would implement a fascist regime and was a danger to liberal democracy has proven ridiculously exaggerated, with the only moves to a “coup” being a couple of tweets and a press conference in a suburban carpark. Instead we have seen a return to the status quo, a status quo which meant untold misery and violence for the majority within and outside of the US. The left’s capitulation to the lesser evil argument has only weakened our side in the necessary fights to come against a Biden presidency.
5. Trump has been defeated but Trumpism is far from dead. In fact, it was the disaster of the Obama years which allowed a far-right to grow inside and outside of the Republicans. Threats of fascist violence, while real, will never be confronted by a Democratic Party which only legitimises mainstream violence and repression, and confronting these far-right groups requires the politics of mass, working class movements. The Democrats do not represent an alternative. The most essential thing right now is that the Left destroys all illusions in Biden and begins a serious fightback. A Biden presidency will deliver nothing progressive without a serious fight.
6. The only hope for the multiracial American working class is to continue the BLM movement, continue the street mobilisations while also building it amongst angry and militant workers. Clearly American capitalism and imperialism can’t be improved or made to be nicer, either by neoliberal thugs like Biden or moderate social democrats like Sanders or Alexandria Occasio-Cortez. The wave of global revolts will continue to make its presence felt in America, and even here in Australia, and only the politics of revolutionary socialism can achieve the hopes and aspirations of the billions of workers globally.

Platform

1. The USYD SRC opposes Trump and all that he stands for, and stands in solidarity with those bravely resisting the far-right on the streets.
2. The USYD SRC opposes Biden and Harris, and offers no support for Biden’s Presidency.
3. The USYD SRC stands in solidarity with protests already happening in America in support of Black Lives Matter. We support an immediate lockdown, the closing of all the camps, the immediate withdrawal of American troops, the immediate increase to the minimum wage and unemployment welfare, abolish of police departments and Medicare for All.

Action

1. The USYD SRC will publish this motion from its Facebook page.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to his motion saying that the US election was a farce and showed the worst of American politics and society with Donald Trump, who is an own right wing authoritarian who only concerns himself with the needs to the rich and Joe Biden who’s political Carer which is also built on fighting for the ruling class and attacking the poor through bills like the Crime act, fighting against desegregation and supporting the Iraq War, as well as Kamala Harris who was the

top cop of California and put many people in prison on the crime of being poor. Trump was a fascist evil that ended up just being a few tweet and a press conference in a car park. Months earlier we saw something more impressive in the Black Live matter movement fighting against the oppression and attack on black people and the poor in America. Leftist and radicals cannot give Biden a break as he has offered nothing but the status quo. US political matters a lot in Australia and so it's important to stay on top of what we see happening there, this is about the politics about weather the people at the top are our saviours or if the masses need to take back power.

Grace Bowskill spoke to the motion saying that this was an important motion and that it was a disgrace the left has line up behind the candidate of the American rulings class, and the argument to support him is that Trump is too great a fascist threat and that's the justification, but grace would rather die than offer Biden any political support. Biden is just as if not more than conservative as trump and has been responsible for more damage to the American working class than trump. This year would be very grim without the BLM movement this year. Adding that Biden and Kamala Harris should not be seen as a win for BLM when they are part of the establishment that holds up the system that doesn't value black lives.

Mikaela Pappou spoke against the motion with some clarifiers saying that she doesn't support the Biden/Harris Presidency but she's grateful that trump was voted out and those who think that he would be better do they need a hug.

Roisin Murphy spoke against the motion with some clarifiers saying yes Biden/Harris is not ideal but the idea that there is no difference between the two side is incredibly reductive and unhelpful, and a pretty privileged position to sit in. Saying that the worst progressive government is always better than the best conservative one. It's very privileged to say you would not vote at all rather than vote for Biden.

Simon Uptis said that he didn't believe they were the same at all, but that looking at Biden's history it shows that the Dems are just as in favour of neoliberalism and cutting welfare as the republicans and the Biden is closer to Regan than he is to the left in support of cutting taxes for the top income earners bracket. Noting that he's nothing of substance, and he's not going to support Medicare for all, and the left needs to be sceptical of him as an ally as he's supported the ruling class over the working class again and again.

Angelina Gu spoke against the motion with some clarifiers wanting to echo Mikaela Pappou and Roisin Murphy's comments. Adding that saying you're not going to vote is how right-wing governments get elected, and that while she agrees with point 1 and 2 point three of the motion is

Jack Mansell wanted to correct the record that it is somehow privileged to say you won't support a Biden/Harris presidency, saying that the Dems have always been the supporters of the American capitalist class and not supporters of the people, and that the American capitalist class which is responsible for death of people of colour around the world. Adding that more wars have been started by the democrats and Obama departed more people in his first term than Donald Trump did. Adding this is not a progressive government it's a reactionary government, and the fear of the right is what lead to the deeply reactionary, Islamophobic presidency of Immanuel Macron.

Madeline Clarke spoke to the motion saying it was not a progressive government and this lesser evil argument was not a good outlook and reiterated many of the previous comments about Biden's voting history and the history of the democrats.

Alev proposed to change "defund the police" to "abolish the police"
It was amendable to the movers

Lily Campbell said that it was outrageous to call someone privileged for not wanting to vote of a war criminal and who is responsible for millions of lives lost. And that what would be better is if people stopped supporting the democrat just for the sake of it, and we need to stop supporting people who imprisoned people for struggling with a broken system, and we shouldn't give them any political legitimacy. Concluding that the privilege argument is simply not legitimate.

Jason Howard spoke against the motion but wanted to say that it was interesting there is not left candidate for curtailing American global surveillance, and why that there was more criminal reform under Trump than a democrat that it was and interest interesting observation but he thought Biden would have a good Presidency for America and Australia.

Deaglan Godwin reiterated his previous points and added that the lesser evils argument isn't legitimate and those who support it also support the Labor party, and reiterating the points of Lily Campbell, Jack Mansell and Madeleine Clark. Adding that the election was over and there's no need to support him now, there is no risk, so no reason to defend a Biden/Harris administration.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Grace Bowskill

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The following requested their votes be noted:

Nicolas Comino – against

Angelina Gu – against

R. General Business

Quorum count requested at 8:51

The meeting was found inquorate

Motion to wait for 15 minutes or until Abbey's motion from the floor was formally submitted, which ever came first

Moved: Jazzlyn Breen

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

There was a quorum count at 9:05pm

The meeting was found quorate

The meeting resumed at 9:05pm

R1. Motion of Apology

1. Public apology and explanation for absence of duty as General Secretary for the past 3 months
2. Response to the request of refund – all 3 months stipend (approx. \$3000) will be refunded to the SRC
3. Response to the critical financial situation of the SRC and student Unionism, inf or the of a charitable donation of the SRC
4. Apologies to Liam Thomas for not being in contact while he was unwell and thank him for his support.

Discussion:

Abbey Shi spoke to the motion apologising for being uncontactable, and acknowledged and accepted the censure motions. Abbey Shi spoke about how it had been a very difficult year due to COVID-19, and apologised for not keeping up with her duties. Thanking Liam Thomas for holding down the role that she should return the stipend for the person of time, and will check the amount needed to be refunded with the SRC staff. Abbey Continued noted that she's been working a lot for her community and students even it wasn't always noticeable by some. Adding that noting that the Uni cuts have been difficult for the SRC's financial position and in response to that she would like to donate of \$50 000 to the SRC, in support of student unions in there difficult times is something she can do. And will talk to the staff about how to make that donation.

Jack Mansell spoke against the motion saying he was concerned that \$50 000 was being transferred to the SRC and no one want's to speak about that. Adding this has been a weird meeting that began with a censure motion, and then that same person donating \$50 000 at the end. Adding that he wanted to thank abbey for her support and activism on issues where many people tried to pressure students to support authoritarian dictatorship, but the whole situation was weird.

Lily Campbell asked if this was even legal. And was it ok to accept a charitable donation from someone who's just been censured.

The Secretary to Council said that there was noting in the regulations that forbade it and the SRC could accept donations.

Lily Campbell added that she thought it might be a bad precedence that one could bye their way out of censure.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion saying the there was nothing wrong with making a generous donation and the motion said nothing about removing the censure and that the council shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth and there was no political mandate on how this money must be

spent that would control how the council operates. Thanking Abbey and the council for an interesting year.

Liam Thomas spoke to the motion. His comment were unable to be heard by the Secretary to Council due to a computer error and recording glitch.

Moved: Abbey Shi

Seconded: Liam Thomas

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The following requested their votes be noted:

Grace Bowskill – against

Jack Mansell – against

There was some general discussion about the speed with which the final motion was **CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 9:24 pm.