



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

**Julia Robins**, Secretary to Council  
secretary.council@src.usyd.edu.au

**Students' Representative Council,  
University of Sydney**

Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)  
University of Sydney NSW 2006  
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007  
t: (02) 9660 5222 f: (02) 9660 4260  
int: 12871 www.src.usyd.edu.au  
ABN: 597 391 306 68

---

## MINUTES:

of the 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. Meeting held via Zoom.

---

*There was a call for a quorum count at 6:22pm  
The meeting was found quorate*

### A. Meeting open at 6:23 pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Priya Gupta 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 were received from:

Sarah Halnan to Ben Jorgenson  
Margaret Thanos to Roisin Murphy  
Kristina Sergi to Alexander Poirier  
Zeyu He to Angela Li

Harriet Zhao

Motion to accept the apologies  
Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu  
Seconded: Lauren Lancaster  
The apologies were accepted.

**D. Changes to Membership**

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Anne Zhao to Stephanie Zhang  
Liam Donohoe to Lia Perkins  
Swapnik Sanagavarapu to Ashrika Paruthi  
Varsha Yajman to Alana Ramshaw  
Oscar Chaffey resigns as Queer Officer

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.**

Minutes of the Representatives Elect meeting of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 92<sup>nd</sup> SRC held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> November and the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

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.**

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

**J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate**

Gabi Stricker-Phelps gave a verbal report

- There have been no senate meetings yet this year.
- Gabi wanted to introduce herself and say she is there to take and questions and concerns to the senate, and open up discussion between the SRC and the senate

Gabi Stricker-Phelps asked if there were any questions?

There were no questions.

Motion to accept the report of the Undergraduate fellow of senate  
Moved: Ben Jorgensen  
Seconded: Riley Vaughan  
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**K. Elections**

**K1. Election of 1 Indigenous Students' Officer**

*There was no nominee*

**K2. Election of 1 Mature Age Students' Officer**

*There was no nominee*

**K3. Election of 1 Queer Officer**

A nomination was received from Oscar Chaffey

Nominator one: Drew Beacom

Nominator two: Priya Gupta

There being no other nominations Oscar Chaffery was declared elected unopposed as Queer Officer for the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC.

**K4. Election of 1 Director of Student Publications**

A nomination was received from Meiyi (Chelsea) Cao

Nominator one: Victor Ruifeng Liang

Nominator two: Shanhua (Sonya) Zhou

There being no other nominations Meiyi (Chelsea) Cao was declared elected unopposed as a Director of Student Publications for the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC.

**L. Report of the President and Executive**

**L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.*

**L3. President's Report**

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

## **General Updates**

Having started my role in December, I've just about become acclimated to all the different parts of the job, as well as the quite strange notion that I'm in charge of an organisation and the boss of staff members who are older and wiser than I am. I'll briefly outline what each month has consisted of, before going into greater detail on the important constituent elements.

*December:* December was mostly getting used to the role. There was a very short span of time between the beginning of my tenure, the end of exams and the SRC shutdown, so a lot of time was spent learning and planning for the year ahead. It involved meetings with staff and a lot of time spent with the Exec, as well updating some of the systems in the SRC (i.e. online printing form, online swipe access, cementing the move over to Slack for the exec). I also had a holiday over Christmas (about 2 weeks) before returning to work on the 7th of January.

*January:* After returning from holidays, things have started to get busier. This month is both extremely slow and extremely fast, in that there are many significant things to do, but there isn't really the regular structure that you'd have later on in the year. I've been working partly from the office and partly from home - generally between the hours of 10 and 6. Over the past month I've mostly been working on Welcome Week things with the Gen Secs, sitting on committees, doing SSAF and budgets, continuing planning for the year and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the SRC. Looking forward to seeing what February will hold!

## **Welcome Week**

**IMPORTANT: If you have not begun preparations for Welcome Week and are planning on having a presence, now is the time! If you are confused and are struggling as to what to do, please contact me or the Gen Secs.**

**ALSO IMPORTANT: The Exec is considering running a separate "SRC Day" or even multiple days in Week 2, where we book out some space on Eastern Avenue and set up some stalls exclusively for SRC Collectives and Departments. Would councillors and office bearers be amenable to this?**

One of the major themes of the past month has been preparing for Welcome Week and dealing with a lot of the uncertainties around what Welcome Week will be like. On the SRC side, I've managed to source some customised masks and pens with the SRC logo, and Priya has ordered tote bags and stickers. We'll have our wall-planners as always, and Mickie from Publications has been hard at work on making sure that they're ready in time. I've also been in contact with a number of Unions and community groups, who have kindly offered to give us merchandise, promotional materials and information to give to students at Welcome Week. I've been relatively hands off with the Countercourse and Orientation Handbook, aside from writing my introduction, but from what I understand, they seem to have been completed within the time frame and to the high standard that we'd expect.

I've been in extensive discussion with the USU, as well as with our WHS Officer Mel about the provisions that will need to be implemented to make sure that the in-person Welcome Week goes smoothly. I've already emailed this information to OBs, as well as posted it in the noticeboard on Facebook, but here is an (updated) version of the details about Welcome Week:

- Welcome Week will be in person, between the 1st of March and the 4th of March (10am to 3pm)
- This is the first week of Uni, rather than the week before
- We will have 4 collective/department stalls, plus a generic SRC stall that will be used to hand out the SRC bags, materials from Casework, Legal, the Food Hub and from unions/community groups. The rotation has been emailed out and posted, but contact me if you have not received it or have any questions.
- We will most likely be on either Eastern Avenue or on the lawns between Fisher and the Quad
- The USU has kindly only charged us the cost of assembly of the stalls themselves
- COVID Safety Protocols are as follows (and will be emailed out to everyone once they are totally finalised)
  - There will be a width of two tables between students and the people behind the stalls to maintain social distancing
  - Everyone should wear masks while handing out or speaking to students
  - Ideally, people should wear gloves if they're handing things out
  - These protocols are in place to minimise the risk of spreading COVID between us and students at WW, but also to minimise any potential liability we may incur for negligently or otherwise giving someone COVID

I've also been involved with the University's Orientation Project Group, which is under the Student Life Committee, and have been involved in organising the SRC's presence in the University's Orientation activities. At the moment, I've organised sessions with the legal service and the casework service during that week, and will soon be producing a short video (2 mins or so) explaining what the SRC is that will be included in every student's Orientation Canvas page. I will also be presenting the SRC's Welcome Week plans to the Orientation Project Group on the 11th of February.

The final touches on our Welcome Week plans should be placed in the next week or so, at which point I'll send out another email and make more posts confirming all the details. I really encourage OBs to get in touch with me or the Gen Secs if you're worried about preparing for Welcome Week, or have any questions - I've been an OB before, as has Priya, so I'm sure we'll be able to give you some guidance.

### **SSAF and Budgets**

A lot of December and January has been spent poring over the details of our application to the University for funding from SSAF (Students Services and Amenities Fees). The process is quite a time consuming and frustrating one, and this year the University has required extensive detail about our plans over the coming year. This has required us to submit, and resubmit our application. The outcome is unresolved as of yet. In summary:

- Our initial application requested \$1,960,389 in base funding, which was approximately \$50,000 above what we received last year (indexed to inflation). We requested the increase as fixed costs had risen faster than inflation, meaning less was available in the budget to fund operations.
- The increase was rejected, and our expected base funding amount will be \$1,915,317, which is the same allocation we received last year indexed to inflation.

- Contestable spending on SSAF has been frozen for a second year in a row, derailing many of our plans yet again. In particular, permanent funding of the FoodHub, the creation and implementation of a stylised SRC newsletter, stipend reform, the hiring of paralegals and a third solicitor for the Legal Service all seem out of our grasp. The University says they may open up contestable projects in Semester 2, at which point some of these initiatives may get off the ground.
- The combination of a lack of contestable spending and rising fixed costs had created some quite unfortunate tradeoffs in our budget. Most notably, there is a direct tradeoff between the costs of funding Departmental Budgets and paying for an in-person election. With regards to elections, the University has made it clear that they will not fund the costs of an in-person election, and will only cover the costs of a BigPulse licence to run an online election. The savings that we make from moving online are roughly equivalent to the total budget for the various Departments (approximately \$60k). Placed in this difficult position, myself and the Gen Secs were of the opinion that saving activism is preferable to a return to in-person elections. If the University opens up contestable spending in Semester 2, we will request funding for an in-person element, with a setup similar to USU elections, where there are computers in polling booths.

With that in mind, the Gen Secs and I have completed the budget. We won't release it formally until the SSAF negotiations are complete, but I will give a brief breakdown of Departmental budgets here.

- Total available: \$62, 335
  - Education: 19,000
  - Disabilities: 2200
  - Enviro: 6900
  - Ethno: 3925
  - Global Solidarity: 500
  - Indigenous: 500
  - Interfaith: 300
  - International Students: 3200
  - Refugee Rights: 400
  - Residential Colleges: 300
  - Sexual Harassment : 2710
  - Student Housing: 500
  - Social Justice: 700
  - Queer: 3700
  - Welfare: 2500
  - Womens: 6000
  - Honi: 9000
- We tried to keep budgets as close to last year as possible, but some budgets may inevitably have been reduced. Almost all budgets were not up to the amount requested, but we used that as an indicative figure to determine how much to allocate relative to other departments. If you believe that your allocation is unjust, please email me or the Gen Secs and we can discuss.
- **Again, important caveat that this is not final and is contingent on the outcome of SSAF negotiations. However, it may be an indicative figure from which plans can be**

**formulated in more detail and Welcome Week spending can be measured against this allocation.**

### **Constitutional Reform**

One of the major projects from last year that was unfulfilled because of the freeze on contestable funding was wide-ranging reform of the SRC's Constitution and Regulations. I've since picked up this project from my predecessor and have been consulting extensively with the Chair of Standing Legal about the prospects for reform. There are three important reasons that necessitate this reform:

- a. Compliance with the new Students Association Policy (which now governs all student organisations)
- b. Potentially indeterminate liability for "members" of the SRC
- c. Inefficiencies and inconsistencies
- d. More details will be provided by the Chair of Standing Legal and myself at later meetings of the Council and the Executive.

### **Day to day operations**

A large part of my work over the past two months has been the management of the day-to-day operations of the SRC.

### *Casework*

It is with sadness that I report that the Casework and Policy Manager James Campbell will be retiring this month, having worked in the Casework team for over 20 years. I would like to thank James for all of his years of service to the SRC - his hard work and extensive wealth of knowledge will be sorely missed. Nonetheless, the search for his replacement has already been initiated, and we hope that the process is completed soon.

### *Legal Service*

I have been working extensively with our new Principal Solicitor, Jahan Kalantar to deal with many of the issues that have plagued the Legal Service over the past few years. Most importantly, Jahan and I have been thinking about how to clarify the mandate of the Legal Service to streamline the type of matters that we handle. For matters that fall outside the scope of this revised mandate, we are developing a network of other legal services and Barristers that may be able to assist students. The details of this revised mandate will likely be presented at a later council meeting. We are also working on a number of other changes and updates, the details of which will also be discussed at a later date, once we have greater clarity about their feasibility.

### *FoodHub*

The SRC has recently begun its FoodHub, in collaboration with University Student Life and the USU, to deliver pantry essentials to students in need. Julia Robins has been hard at work handing out these essentials to students in the Wentworth Building, but we will soon initiate a search for volunteers to assist her. As of now, the FoodHub has largely been restricted to international students but we are working hard to expand its scope. I have personally sourced donations from community groups to supplement the packs that have been kindly provided by Study NSW and FoodBank Australia. Nonetheless, I hope that we're able to extend the operations of the FoodHub by applying for extra funding during the contestable round of funding in Semester 2.

### **Activist initiatives**

My participation in activist initiatives has been relatively limited over the past two months. Many SRC Office Bearers were involved in preparations for Invasion Day, and it seemed that their organisation and promotion paid off extremely well. In terms of my own participation in activism, I've been working with a few others to help establish the Sydney Legal Observer Network. This will comprise a few community legal centres, academics, the SRC Legal Service and other interested parties and will aim to deploy legal observers to all protests and provide education and resources about the rights of protestors. In the long run, we also hope to be able to represent individuals if they are ever in legal trouble relating to their participation in protests. There will hopefully be a meeting soon with all the interested parties, as well as a website where preliminary resources and a mission statement will be accessible.

### **Committees**

A large part of my role involves participating in various University committees (I nominally sit on about 35). This year, I've hoped to delegate some of the participation in committees to members of the Executive, and the system I've developed for that seems to be working well. In the past two months, I have attended:

- Undergraduate Studies Committee
- Academic Standards and Policy Committee
- Admissions Subcommittee
- University Executive Education Committee
- Orientation Project Group
- Honours Admission Taskforce

I've begun keeping records of important issues that are raised at committee meetings, and over the year I aim for the SRC to participate more extensively by raising agenda items, proposing initiatives and collaborating with other staff and student representatives. I also aim to publicise the SRC's efforts and positions at these committee meetings to the student body (where possible), and receive a broad range of opinions on upcoming agenda items and proposals that we raise.

Discussion:

Mikaela Pappou asked about NUS accreditation and what that will be like from now and in the future and wanted to make sure we were meeting the minimum required payments

Swapnik Sanagavarapu said that the SRC was making the minimum requirements

Lily Campbell had questions about online elections happening again and the idea that there needs to be a cost payoff between elections and activism. Noting that online elections are unclear, not transparent and susceptible to technological failings. Adding that despite the challenges last year and the fact the COVID-19 pandemic is unlikely to be an issue in semester 2 with the vaccine rollout underway. Concluding that she didn't believe that there was a financial reason to not have in person elections and that the SRC should be pushing the University to fund them as they are crucial to a democratic union and not having them threatens the viability of the SRC.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu replied saying that he shared most of the concern's Lily held about online elections and would be pushing for in person elections, adding that this was the call of the council not the executive. Swapnik Sanagavarapu continued noting that the SRC has very little sway with the University in SSAF negotiations and it's been very difficult to get more funding and that if no further funding is fourth coming, he believes that having departments and officers having funding is more important than having in person elections. Saying this was about having contingencies in place so that the SRC can continue its work.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes

Moved: Roisin Murphy

Seconded: Kimberley Dibben

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

Madeleine Clark spoke about the issue with phrasing it as a choice between OB budgets and elections when they are both important and that it was an either or is an inaccurate depiction of the finances of the SRC, and a defeatist perspective.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu replied to Madeleine Clark's comments disagreeing with the idea that this is not a tradeoff, or doesn't need to be one as inaccurate. Saying that at this time the budgets for Officers and the cost of in person elections are about the same and all other budget line items are fixed, without more funding it will be a tradeoff. We can hope to get more money and if there are ways to get more money from the University please let me know but at this point we don't have that extra money.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Swapnik Sanagavarapu resumed the Chair*

#### **M. Report of the Vice-Presidents**

Maria Ge and Roisin Murphy tabled a written report:

Report of the Vice Presidents of the 93rd SRC for the February meeting of Council

##### **Maria:**

Maria's work mainly focuses on four aspects of the campus:

How the website of SRC can better serve students

How can VPN better serve international students to improve academic quality

To liaise with the Sexual Harassment Officer to help with their campaign and events. Orientation Week handbook and activities.

In the executive meeting, we talked about the issue related to the academic appeal. I proposed improving the official SRC website to make appealing easier and make more people know SRC

caseworkers' existence. Fortunately, shortly after it was proposed, the official SRC website was quickly changed, and now the information of Caseworkers can be found in a prominent place on the official website of SRC. Now, I am looking for more ways on how students can vote to reflect the sudden homogeneous technique issue related to academic appeals. I will continue to carry on this, and I am looking for more ways to improve the way SRC provides services.

At the end of last semester, I attended a meeting with the Uni about Online Learning. After discussing this, I started my work on the issue of VPN. It aims at increasing academic quality for international students. I am working with Haomin and Grace. Haomin, as Student Housing Officer, voluntarily did a lot in making a questionnaire to send out to students asking about their feedback related to VPN. He has also made progress in finding solutions. While Grace, my co-worker in the executive meeting, helped me work on the publicity of questionnaires. We also got help from International Student Office, which helped send out questionnaires to students who left their email address to ISO in the previous O-week. We have already received more than 200 replies. After finishing the report, we will convey it to the university.

I also liaise with other office bearers and help with the organization and promote the campaigns and events. The Sexual Harassment Officer reported that not all the officers and volunteers know how to treat the survivors when leading them to the caseworkers. Hence, with Student Service Liaison Officer's help, I help arrange training for International Student Officer and Sexual Harassment Officer. The purpose is to provide multi-language mental health help for all students and help the SRC better support survivors. I hope this can help the survivors be treated more professionally when being transferred from Obs to caseworkers. I have already applied for bystander training session myself and got in touch with caseworkers for more suggestions. If it is feasible, everyone who is interested is welcome to join us.

I am also working with the Sexual Harassment Officer regards to their project recently. Raymond mainly organizes this project.

In the past few years, SRC has made a great effort in making the campus a safer place to live and study. However, regarding the complaints we have received regarding sexual harassment and assault, a serious problem still exists. When the survivors turn to the university for help, it is not a single case that they are confronted with endless and hopeless meetings and waiting. This means they need to tell their unfortunate experience again and again to different people in different situations. This is terrible secondary damage to the survivors. This campaign aims to attract more attention from the university to the existing problem related to sexual harassment and assault, prompting the university to make the process easier and trackable.

The proposal of this project can be found as follows:[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14FX8X6fRYxEGDGn\\_BVlq39llj9gFJf1/view?usp=sharing,%20https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cG4vuVUxgHPP\\_GGMQ5rEzZVWSCoyLfk3/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14FX8X6fRYxEGDGn_BVlq39llj9gFJf1/view?usp=sharing,%20https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cG4vuVUxgHPP_GGMQ5rEzZVWSCoyLfk3/view?usp=sharing)

We are looking for more students interested to join us. I am working with General Secretary regards the Orientation Week handbook and activities.

**Roi:**

After a lovely Christmas break we're looking forward to a huge year of activism.

It was powerful to see a great turnout at the Invasion Day action on January 26. The fight for Indigenous justice doesn't stop there and will continue on every single day of this year. In what will be a huge year for the student movement running on from last year, it's more important than ever that Indigenous justice is at the forefront of our fight.

I attended the Save Glebe Rally on Saturday January 30 with the Student Housing Officer. The rally and march were calling on the government to reverse their plan to sell off Franklyn St social housing. Not only is this absolutely disgusting in practical terms, but also culturally - the Glebe Estate was purchased from the Church by the Whitlam Government under laws pushed for by Minister Tom Uren (Glebe Lands (Appropriation) Act (1974), a move symbolic of a Sydney that this government wants to destroy. Historically, the University has played a mammoth role in the gentrification of the area surrounding campus, so it's incredibly important that we continually show solidarity with community actions like this.

As we inch closer to semester we're looking forward to supporting the collectives in their actions and starting up conversations at O-Week about how the SRC can help incoming students. We're keen to spend February planning for O-Week and beyond so that we can make March as big as possible. Moreover, we're really excited to spend the year building the relationship of the SRC with more clubs, societies and different parts of campus.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Anne Zhao

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **N. Report of the General Secretaries**

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

Since the beginning of our term we have been working on a number of different projects including SRC's welcome week presence, Budget allocation, Orientation Handbook, Countercourse, and internal SRC matters.

### **Orientation Handbooks**

Orientation handbook is now finished! We had over 32 pages of content, written by various volunteers and ourselves, with useful information for incoming students. Some of the information included in the Orientation Handbook is health resources for students, ways to get involved with the SRC, breakdowns of how assessments work (both generally and during COVID), places to go on campus, information on online study, and descriptions of the collectives. Alongside the regular online version, we also plan to release a shortened Mandarin version online with the most relevant pieces translated to aid international students, particularly those who are not in Australia.

### **Welcome Week**

For welcome week planning, we have been figuring out what stalls for collectives and the main SRC will look like, ordering merch, and planning for a safe week.

Welcome Week planning has unfortunately been quite difficult this year, with uncertainty about numbers of students who will be attending due to the COVID public health order, the university's own rules, and general willingness of students to come in. We also struggled with the USU for a fair price for our stalls, which meant that we were uncertain even about the dates of our Welcome Week.

We have ordered tote bags, reusable face masks, pens and stickers; these either have the standard SRC logo on them, or a new design that we had commissioned and received student input on. The design is of anthropomorphic animals going about their lives in a number of frames - but you will have to wait to get a bag to see more! Our tote bags will also include the study planner made annually by SRC Casework, and other useful information for students from the casework and legal departments.

### **Budget**

Alongside the president, we have been working on the SRC budget for 2021. We asked every OB department to complete a budget request breaking down how much funding they projected to need throughout the year. Most did, which we worked off to determine how much money they would need to practically realise their plans, relative to other departments.

This year, the SSAF funding that the SRC has received has not adequately increased in line with our fixed costs. This means that in order to keep the total amount to what the university approved, we needed to make some trade offs within our budget. We chose to give up in-person elections which we heavily favoured over online, and reallocate that money to funding student representative projects. Even then, the total amount we had left after our fixed costs was less than our total for student representation last year. This meant that we had to make the hard decisions regarding which department budgets to cut. Departments who had detailed and realistic plans for the year, and who have a history of spending a large proportion of their budgets, were favoured to have budgets in line with their departments of last year, or slight increases.

We also intend to revise the budget halfway through the year. We will work collaboratively with the departments and together we will realistically figure out how much funding they need for the rest of the year, and if any money would be better reallocated to a different budget. This is to account for the uncertainty which always accompanies allocating budgets at the beginning of the year, given that issues tend to crop up which we could not have foreseen, placing a greater emphasis on the work of certain departments over others. We also intend to use our funding as best as possible. So if some departments aren't using their budgets, and others are near running out, it would be better to put the money somewhere where it will have more utility. This is because, of course, we want the maximum amount of student activities and activism, but also because we need to think about the university and the SRC in future SSAF negotiations, and show that we are using our funds to continue to get funded.

This was a reminder that the implementation of SSAF is not adequate as a replacement of Universal Student Unionism, where the SRC would not need to fight to get adequate funding to

cover student representative projects, knowing that we may not get the money which could instead go to organisations which aren't student-run or benefiting students in any real way.

Look at the president's report for a brief breakdown of the preliminarily allocated budgets for each OB department. This is contingent on our revised SSAF application being successful, which we will re-submit in the coming weeks. If you have any concerns about your budget's allocation, get in touch with us, we are more than happy to discuss.

### **Other**

Along with the rest of exec, we have been internally allocating people to committees, and have started to think about bringing proposals of specific ideas to different committees. We have also helped clean the OB room, hopefully making it more usable, and slightly helped with the food. We have also been involved in staff consultations within the SRC ahead of the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement later this year.

We have also chosen to place a cap on the amount of printing that departments can do in one round to 250 pages. This is not intended to make any difference to the practical work that departments can do with regards to printing; we support printing if it is getting used! Historically, we waste large amounts of money and paper on over-printing, which also clutters the OB room for months, making our one space less usable. Departments are more than welcome to print additional rounds of the same design as long they finish their first round, but this cannot be done all at once. This also reduces some of the printing burden for the SRC admin staff, who are often asked to print over 1000 pages at short notice, when realistically most of the pages won't be used for another few weeks, if at all. In special cases where it is clear that large volumes of printing will indeed be used, such as in the lead-up to Invasion Day, the printing cap can be removed.

Please get in contact with us at any time! We are keen to chat and hear your plans for the year and provide any help we can.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark asked about the reasoning behind the printing limits. Expressing concern that it slows down the ability of activists to get out materials, and that this impacted the capacity to leaflet and poster for invasion day.

Priya Gupta replied noting that this was not preventing more being printed it was just limiting the amount in 1 go as there are often hundreds that are never distributed which wastes paper, time, and money. This wasn't about limiting the amount that could be printed of any one thing it was about making sure it was done in batches that can actually be handed out.

Lily Campbell asked about the printing cap and the motivations behind it, saying this felt politically motivated against Socialist Alternative, and that this was an undemocratic decision that limits the ability of activist to use their own budget.

Priya Gupta replied this didn't limit the budget and that printing already requires approval

Lily Campbell responded saying it may not make much of a difference to the executive, but it will impact the ability of activists to get their work done. Lily noted she would be moving a motion to remove this restriction at either this or a following council.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded to comments on timing and printing, saying that it takes at most a day to get approval and that it is not only Socialist Alternative who prints this and also historically thousands of uncollected posters and leaflets and this is to avoid that.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Lily Campbell requested her dissent be noted.*

## **O. Report of Committees and Officers**

### **O1. Report of the Education Officers**

Madeleine Clark and Thomas Williams tabled a written report

#### **Goals for the holiday break:**

- Attend the National Union of Students (NUS) Conference
- Organise Counter course
- Organise first Education Action Group meeting
- Plan Invasion Day contingent
- Find out information about the EBA
- Have a rough plan for campaigns to start the year with

#### **Progress/ reports on these goals:**

- The NUS was really useful to attend despite it not voting on supporting campaigns. Disappointingly, although there were many motions about supporting and running activist, left wing campaigns, the union did not vote to support them. Luckily, there are still plenty of opportunities to use the reputation of the NUS to support campaigns into the future. Hopefully Sydney Uni can run campaigns separately that then pressure the union to take up a national campaign.
- Organising Counter-course went as smoothly as possible and will be a useful resource not only for new students but for the broader student body.
- We organised an EAG meeting where we: planned a leafleting event for Invasion Day, brainstormed ideas for future campaigning, discussed the plans for the EBA this year, and organised our first "no cuts" action which will be on the 24th of March.

#### **Future plans/ goals:**

- Organise O-Week stall
- Build our "no cuts" rally.
- Organise next EAG meeting and use O-Week to invite new students along

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O2. Report of the Wom\*n's Officers**

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written /gave a verbal report

### **GROWING STRONG**

Most of our time over the last month has been spent on our Welcome Week publication Growing Strong. With the collective, we have collated, edited, and layed up what we think is a beautiful new edition of the publication, and cannot wait to share it to new members of WoCo during Welcome Week and throughout the semester.

The publication reflects WoCo as a radically anti-capitalist, anti-colonial feminist organising space, and offers many articles and art across the wide scope of feminist discourse. Topics include: the politics of sex work, criticism of carceral feminism, Palestinian fashion, the gendered aspects of education organising, an abolitionist guide to not calling the police, a re-evaluation of the radical origins of identity politics, and more.

Make sure to pick up a copy during Welcome Week or from the SRC!

### **WELCOME WEEK PREPARATIONS**

#### ***Merch***

In addition to Growing Strong, we have been designing and looking for quotes on WoCo merchandise. This will include a new logo, stickers, shirts, and tote bags. Collective engagement has suffered, like all collectives, under COVID-19. A big focus of this year is to build collective numbers and engagement. We think that merch will help provide a wider presence on campus, as well as strengthen members' sense of connection to the collective.

#### ***First meeting***

We will hold our first WoCo meeting for the year next week to plan our Welcome Week stall setup, how to engage and sign up new members, and a Welcome Week social event. WoCo will also be planning an action for the week against sexual violence which notoriously follows Welcome Week, and will follow students' return to campus.

The meeting will also be a good chance to re-connect the collective and scope our intentions for the upcoming year of feminist organising.

## **INVASION DAY**

Both convenors attended the Warrang Invasion Day protest last Tuesday, alongside the other collectives. WoCo centres Indigenous justice in all of its organising. On Tuesday we showed up in solidarity with First Nations peoples on their day of mourning, and in rage with them for the continual silencing of colonial violence by this state. January 26th is not a day of celebration, but a day of mourning for FN people, and a day of shame for this illegitimate settler state. WoCo reiterates that there is no feminist justice without Indigenous justice; meaning, complete decolonisation of the settler state, abolition of so-called 'australia', and all land back to its traditional owners. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

## **WOCO SAYS FUCK TERFS**

WoCo recently made a public response and callout for a photo campaign against the recent update of the McIver Ladies Baths in Coogee which explicitly cited a transphobic policy that only allows cis women or trans women who have undergone surgery into the pools. WoCo expressed our outrage on the policy. Trans women are women. The policy does not provide a 'safer' space for women, but actively harms women by perpetuating an essentialist and inaccurate definition of womanhood. WoCo members attended a rally organised by CARR outside of the baths against the transphobic policy, and plan to attend the follow-up protest outside of Randwick City Council's next meeting later in the month.

Unfortunately, our public statement gained traction by many online TERFS from around the world, and the post is still now being enamored with transphobic nonsense and trolls. Comments can not be turned off, but the post remains up as to not waver on our stance as a collective that fights for trans liberation in the pursuit of feminist liberation.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O3. Report of the Residential College Officers**

Hey everyone! We're Rachel, Alexis, Victor, and Irene, and we're really happy to be your Residential Colleges Officers for this year. If you have any suggestions, grievances, or ideas; please feel free to contact us at: residential.college@src.usyd.edu.au

### **Past Initiatives**

In relations to initiatives highlighted in past Residential Colleges Officers' reports; we can report on the Radical Discussion Forum in St Andrews College and its continued management by Kiran Gupta, a Residential College Officer of 2020. This initiative would be overseen by Kiran for the foreseeable future; and we would like to thank him for his work. However, regarding the

Intercollegiate Collective established by the 2019 Residential College Officers; we are rather puzzled that there has been a complete lack of information on its operations, and even its existence — we cannot ascertain whether it still functions at the moment even after weeks of searching, and we would like anyone with relevant information to please come forward.

### **Current Initiatives**

With the lack of a formal mechanism for feedback to be provided to the SRC from Residential Colleges students; we will be conducting surveys on a biannual basis in 2021 with entry to prize draws as incentives, to truly have the voices of college students seen and heard. However, any college students with an existing concern individually are also welcome to email the Residential Colleges Officers directly. Additionally, we would also continue to attempt to raise awareness of SRC services to college students overall; whether that be through online noticeboards, or (pending discussions and approval by colleges) the placement of posters and handing out informational brochures overall.

### **Potential Future (In Discussion) Initiatives**

For the future, many initiatives are still up for discussion regarding their feasibility, effectiveness, and implementation — both within the SRC, but also between the SRC, Colleges, and the university. These initiatives currently in discussion include a trial distribution of feminine hygiene products and ‘health packs’ to students, potential expansions of the campus distribution of Honi Soit to Colleges and Student Housing, and more activities and events subject to participation, enthusiasm, and COVID-safe guidelines overall.

Discussion:

Victor Liang spoke to his report and outlined the role of the residential colleges.

Kim Dibben wanted to know what kind of survey was being proposed

Victor Liang replied saying it would be a basic feedback survey asking about their experiences in college their engagement with the SRC and what they would like to see more from the SRC on to help establish a direction for the Residential College Officers and what the students need.

Motion: that the report of the Residential College Officers be accepted.

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Tina Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **04. Report of the Student Housing Officers**

In this first meeting of the 93rd student representative council, we, Haomin Lyu, Cassie Zhao, Felix Faber, Kristin Miao as the student housing officers, will do our best to help students find their own homes in Sydney. Our progresses, goals we hope to achieve are here as follows:

### **Previous initiatives**

Since we heard many Chinese students' feedback that the USYD's VPN has serious defects, we have conducted a survey in the past few weeks and 223 people have responded. We have selected representative problems and contacted the technicians in the IT department, listing some possible improvement plans for the school. Further, we got in touch with the 2020 Student Housing Officer and handed over the work. We got the editorial right to the Student Housing facebook page and discussed the events we plan to hold in 2021.

### **Current progress**

On VPN part, we are preparing to write our research report and will discuss with school before school starts. We are also paying attention to the housing problems in Glebe and are beginning to discuss our countermeasures.

### **Goals for this year**

1. Informing students of their housing options
  - reliable correspondence with students raising concerns
  - Promotion of options via digital university services, social media and printed material around campus
  - Events (e.g.seminars), inviting industry professionals to speak on the safest and the best suited regions where students can seek housing options
  
2. Campaigning to improve the student housing situation for students – protests to pressure the university administration to lower the costs
  - Inviting people with knowledge of the student housing situation to speak out against the excessive cost of accommodation
  - Networking opportunities to make it easier for students looking for potential roommates
  
3. Help students enrich their life during the COVID-19 period
  - Organize online/offline trivia night to help them make friends
  - Organize a social media competition to allow students share how they spend their time at home during social distance period.

Motion: that the report of the Student Housing Officers be accepted.

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Roisin Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O5. Report of the Welfare Officers**

### **Past events:**

- Over the break I have attempted to revive the Welfare Action Group and started planning what we will do this year. I have spoken to many people about these plans but we are yet to hold our first meeting
- We have been posting from our page about some important issues that may be of interest to students and organised around. E.g. the cashless debit card, cuts to JobSeeker and JobKeeper and solidarity with workers at Smeaton Grange.

- I was involved in building for Invasion day - printing posters and flyers and putting them up.
- We are currently planning for Welcome Week and what to hand out at the stall.

**Future events:**

- I will be meeting with community organisers from Save Our Homes Glebe to plan our assistance in their campaign and ways that interested students could be involved. There is a lot more to come about public housing for all and a campaign this year
- Organising the events of the Welfare Action Group this year at the meeting
- We intend on holding a Union day on campus to contribute to building for May Day later this semester

**Relevant news/events**

- The first Welfare Action Group meeting will be next Tuesday to plan the year ahead and our campaign this semester.
- On Saturday 13th there is an action in Everleigh about the Explorer St public housing which we will send a contingent to - look out for that.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Oscar Chaffey

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

**P. Special Business**

There were no items of special business.

**Q. Motions of Notice**

**Q1. Motion to Support Petition EN2217 (Against a Complete Travel Ban for All International Students)**

Since the beginning of 2020, following the instituting of a worldwide travel ban on all non-citizens or residents of Australia; few, if any international students have been able to arrive to study on campus since. Considering that education is one of Australia's largest exports, the impacts of this travel ban has brought far-reaching ramifications — impacting the international students themselves with their inability to access campus services, decreased educational quality granted a complete online learning approach, and also with them now having a lack of experience with multiculturalism in contemporary Australian society.

However, whilst travel bans may be necessary in suppressing the outbreak of COVID-19 in Australia, we believe that the implementation of this ban to a worldwide extent, without consideration for travel from lower risk nations and regions, would pose an unnecessarily burden on those international students in preventing their access to campus or campus resources at all. These lower risk nations and regions could include New Zealand, Vietnam, Singapore, Cambodia, Macau, Taiwan, and certain provinces of Mainland China — where only a small extent of COVID-19

cases have been observed in recent months, particularly compared with the worse-hit United States and United Kingdom.

Such, we would like to call for the SRC, in light of the recent petition to the Federal Government, to publicly note its support, and to pressure the University of Sydney to also consider advocating for the extremely strict border restrictions to be eased for international students even should it be limited to low risk regions, at limited capacities, and under adherence to strict quarantine measures in safeguarding of the Australian population.

That the SRC calls for a severe fee reduction of international student fees to at minimum, below CSP rates per subject (<\$1000 a subject). The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to stand up for its student like CDU and open the boarder for international students to return to university under Health Department instruction. The SRC calls for more direct conversation with University of Sydney regarding to the issue.

Discussion:

Victor Liang spoke to his motion asking the SRC to reaffirm the commitment against the travel ban on international students, especially since the petition has been gathering support

Anne Zhao spoke to the motion noting that over 16 000 have signed the petition and wanted to suggest an amendment and asked the SRC to push the University to advocate for this as well.

Anne Zhao proposed an amendment:

“The SRC calls on the University of Sydney to stand up for its student like CDU and open the boarder for international students to return to university under Health Department instruction. SRC calls for more direct conversation with University of Sydney regarding to the issue.”

*The proposed amendment was amenable to the mover.*

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion a wanted to note that NUS is running a campaign on this issue: you can find the google form for the NUS campaign calling for individual stories/experiences here: <https://forms.gle/trfix1Ro8LwLSMft6>

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion saying that the scene of how international student have suffered during the pandemic and while stuck here and suffering for a poorer quality of education. Lily suggest there be other changes offered to international students as lifting the travel bans are there for the health and safety of all and instead push against the exploitation of international students in general and offer greater support to international student and not continue their exploitation but instead refund their fees and offer better quality education.

Victor Liang responded to comments wanting to reiterate that this isn't about if the university agrees or not, as the SRC should be about advocating and supporting students, and reopening the broader to a limited extent is bother scientific and would not harm the wider community but would allow students to return to study.

Tom Williams proposed an amendment:

the SRC calls for a severe fee reduction of international student fees to at minimum, below CSP rates per subject (<\$1000 a subject)

*It was not amenable to the mover*

Tom Williams spoke to his amendment saying that opening the borders is risky due to hotel quarantine being underfunded. Adding that there shouldn't be more exploitations so that regardless international student should be paying the same or less than domestic students for a lowered education quality.

Grace Hu asked about the amendment and what was meant by less than commonwealth supported places, as that is where student pay a part of the cost and the government pays the rest, and is this what is being proposed for international students as well?

Tom Williams replied saying this is not about the government subsidising international student fees this is about international student not paying more than \$1000 a subject.

Grace Hu said that would be less than the cost to run the subject per student.

Tom Williams agreed this was the case.

Lily Campbell spoke to the amendment saying that there should be refunds, and adding that the amendment doesn't have the changes to the motion that she was concerned with earlier, thought supposed the intent of the amendment, but the motion itself overall is still problematic,

There was a vote to accept the amendment

Proposal to amend the motion to include:

“The SRC calls for a severe fee reduction of international student fees to at minimum, below CSP rates per subject (<\$1000 a subject)”

Moved: Tom Williams

Seconded: Oscar Chaffey

The amendment **CARRIED**

Moved: Victor Ruifeng Liang

Seconded: Lin Peng

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*The Chair ruled that motions Q2 and Q3 be discussed and voted on en bloc*

*There was no dissent*

## **Q2. Support the residents of public housing in Sydney**

### **Preamble:**

The State Government is going to demolish existing public housing in Glebe (on Franklyn/Bay St) and replace it with smaller, largely private dwellings. The residents of public housing in Glebe held a rally last Saturday to highlight the harmful consequences of this change. The government also

plans to demolish the Explorer St block in Eveleigh and replace it with 70% private apartment towers against the wishes of residents.

There are 60 000 people in need on the public housing waiting list in NSW. Rather than demolishing and reducing existing dwellings, the government should convert private dwellings or build new spaces in existing areas to make sure that nobody in NSW is forced into homelessness. Private dwellings around the city are sitting empty, clearly the new developments are driven out of greed by property owners and should not guide housing policy. How could anybody justify the prevalence of homelessness for increased profits?

The situation in Millers Point shows what shouldn't be done to public housing, but it is the State Government's blueprint. The sale of these properties destroyed the unique history, livelihood and community of the residents of Millers Point, Dawes Point, the Rocks and the Sirius Building. Sydney is an incredibly spatially divided city and the Glebe public housing sell off is another attempt to allow only the extremely rich in the inner city.

These changes are happening in close proximity to Sydney University and the demolition will be visible to students who may be connected to these communities. Therefore it is in the interests of students to stand with the local residents and argue for quality public housing for all and no new private development.

**Platform:**

1. The SRC opposes the demolition of current public housing in Glebe and Eveleigh.
2. The SRC calls that no new private developments should be built in their place.
3. The SRC will fight for quality public housing which should be built and maintained to provide for the 60 000+ people in need.

**Actions:**

1. The SRC supports the actions of Save our homes Glebe and any alliances that form to save public housing.
2. The SRC promotes any actions called to save or build more public housing on social media and attends future rallies that demand quality public housing.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Priya Gupta

**Q3. Support Franklyn Street – Bay Street residents in their calls to stop the Government destroying their homes.**

**Preamble**

The Glebe Estate was purchased from the Church by the Whitlam Government under the Glebe Lands (Appropriation) Act (1974), pushed for by Tom Uren. Less than fifty years later, the Government are attempting to sell off the Glebe Estate to make way for a high-rise development. This will destroy the lives of residents and many others in the community. There is no need for this move except profit.

Movements like these ones have won in the past and will win again.

As students of one of the most active gentrifying forces, it's crucial that we show solidarity with the residents.

### **Action**

1. The 93rd Council expresses solidarity with the Save Glebe group and offers their support in building any actions where it may be wanted/needed.
2. The 93rd Council calls on the University to show the same solidarity.
3. The SRC will provide material assistance to the campaign where required.

Moved: Roisin Murphy

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

### Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to her motion noting the importance of the public housing in Glebe and this is an issues that affects our local communities and students as well. There was a rally to save the public housing there as it is going to be knocked down to build new private apartments packs which will not have adequate public housing. The motion notes that there should be no new private housing built there and there 60 000 people waiting for public housing should have new housing built so no one is homeless.

Roisin Murphy spoke to her motion noting that is was very similar to Lia's motion and wanted to note that there have been request to fix many of these properties so not only are these properties being knocked down but they've been purposely neglected for quite some time.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying that there is a trend of governments kicking people out of inner city public housing and pushing out working class people as though only the rich deserve to live near work, with views of the water and cooler temperatures. Noting that there is also already so many issues blocking people in public housing from accessing repairs and pushing them into social housing where their rights are eroded in the private sector.

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion said removing public housing in the city is a disgusting trend of neoliberalism and privatisation , making it almost impossible for the working class to live in Sydney and has been pushing them further and further out. Adding that these fights against these trends are fantastic and there needs to be more of them

The motions were put and **CARRIED.**

*A 15min break called in line with the constitution and regulations at 8:55pm*

*Quorum count was called at 9:12pm  
Meeting was found Quorate at 9:18pm  
Meeting resumed at 9:19pm*

## **R. General Business**

### **R1. Motions without notice**

#### **R1.1 Reaffirm the SRC's Opposition to Wage Theft, and to Promote Awareness of the Issue and SRC Legal Services Support**

Yesterday, on the 2nd of February, a video has emerged where violence has been used during a confrontation regarding an alleged case of wage theft between an employee against their employer; the employee being an international student, and the employer being a business in Chinatown. Noted in an ABC News report of the incident, the (translated) words of "You don't want to pay my wage, right?" had been said at the beginning of a video documenting the confrontation.

#### **Platform:**

The SRC reaffirms its opposition to any and all forms of wage theft, particularly against vulnerable and marginalised populations and the international student community

#### **Action:**

The SRC's councillors and officebearers, within the scope of their duties, would consider the feasibility of raising awareness of existing wage theft issues; and reinforce the ability for students to always reach out to the SRC and its Legal Services in relations to these issues in protection of their rights

#### **Discussion:**

Victor Liang spoke to the motion explaining the situation and noted the severity of the incident especially considering the vulnerability of the student worker. Adding that he hoped that the SRC legal service can assist and OBs can integrate information and where to access advice and support on these issues into their leaflets and information sheets.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion noting how appalling the violence is in the video and how awful it is. Adding that wage theft is endemic for international student especially since the pandemic but before that too.

Moved: Victor Ruifeng Liang

Seconded: Lin Peng

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **R1.2 No Cops, Corps or Conservatives at Mardi Gras**

## **Preamble**

The international Pride movement originates in the radical Stonewall riot in 1969. Sydney's Mardi Gras inherited the legacy of Stonewall originating in 1978 as a radical protest against conservative governments and police repression of queer lives. The 1978 Mardi Gras was suppressed violently by the police. The corporate board of Mardi Gras has fecklessly abandoned the radical spirit of Mardi Gras by inviting the police, corporations and conservative parties including the Liberal Party to participate in annual Mardi Gras proceedings. In 2021, they have taken yet another reprehensible step by holding "Mardi Gras" as a seated, ticketed event in a stadium.

The NSW police, the Liberal Party and corporations are no less harmful to queer people as they were in 1978. On October 10th 2020, the NSW police violently suppressed a grassroots protest against Mark Latham's transphobic bill and arrested members of the queer community. It is obvious that today, as in 1978, the police's class and political interests are fundamentally at odds with queer peoples' interests. They should not and will never be welcome at Mardi Gras. The Liberal government, both state and federal, despite its equivocations, continues to enable queerphobia in legislation. They too will never be welcome at Mardi Gras.

On March 6, the night of Mardi Gras, there will be a protest held to take back Oxford Street and restore the radical spirit of Mardi Gras. The march will prioritise an intersectional analysis of queerness, linking queer struggles to BLM, the fight for full decriminalisation of sex work and the fight against offshore detention centres.

The SRC council should not recognise the corporate ticketed event and instead recognise that the protest in Oxford Street on March 6 is the real Mardi Gras.

## **Platform**

1. The SRC opposes the ticketed event organised by the corporate board of Mardi Gras
2. The SRC supports the Oxford Street protest on March 6
3. The SRC connects queer liberation to the struggles for racial justice, for justice for refugees and for the struggle of sex workers.

## **Actions**

1. The SRC will promote the action on March 6 on social media and send collective contingents to it.
2. The SRC will provide material support for the action on March 6

Discussion:

Oscar Chaffey spoke to the motion summarising its main points and highlighting that Mardi Gras is and always has been a protest and that's what it was originally about.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion saying what Mardi Gras has become today it appalling when you consider its history and demands and these days its very sanities and included those who continue to oppresses and target and not support the LGBTQI+ community. Adding they support the motion and hoped the SRC will support the protest and keep the momentum that we had last year into this year.

Ben Jorgensen spoke against the motion saying that to brand all police and conservative organisations as queer hating highlights a hypocrisy of the left as they hate on those not in their echo chamber and blame other for the ills. Adding they we should hold ourselves accountable first, and responsible. Adding that on July 25 in 2010 openly gay senator Penny Wong said that she agreed with her party's (Labor) stance against same sex marriage so if you can see that people can change and better themselves, extend that opportunity to everyone. He continued saying the Mardi Gras was for LGBTQI+ people from all communities, and is disappointed that people would want to divided at an event about bringing people together and the corporate sponsorship and ticket event allow Mardi Gras to continue and get better each year.

Oscar Chaffey responded to comments saying that it is fine to criticise the Labor party and that had to be dragged along as well. Oscar added that he didn't care if he was excluding groups and "fuck the cops and fuck corporations"

Moved: Oscar Chaffey

Seconded: Honey Christensen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **R1.3 Endorse No Cuts rally on March 24th**

#### **PREAMBLE:**

2020 was a watershed year for staff and students, as the federal government pushed through its Higher Education Bill and Vice Chancellors around the country cut staff and teaching budgets. Many casual employees, including tutors, lecturers and admin staff, found out that their contracts were not to be renewed for semester 2, leaving them unemployed and unable to access Jobkeeper. Those who retained their jobs were often asked- or forced- to work unpaid hours to ensure that coursework could be delivered online. USyd, along with many other top Australian universities has been found to be engaged in criminal wage theft. It is therefore necessary that the student body continues to fight these attacks on our education. Staff teaching conditions are student learning conditions.

Having a rally early in semester one is the best way to capitalize on the momentum created by last year's No Cuts campaign, which saw 13 rallies held in 12 weeks- some of which were the most confrontational and radical we have had in years. While we were unable to prevent to the changes to the University sector at a federal level, the successes of the campaign, including resisting and eventually overturning the Liberal State government's informal ban on protests, show that a defiant campaign of protests and demonstrations is necessary to win concessions.

Going into 2021, the education campaign will be equally, if not more important than in 2020, as staff head into an EBA period. This may entail strikes or other industrial action, for which staff and student solidarity is essential. During previous EBA periods, students and staff have been on picket lines together, stopping scabs and talking to students. By forging close links with the NTEU, we can ensure that staff feel confident enough to undertake the most militant industrial action possible.

## PLATFORM

- The SRC condemns the ongoing attacks on our education, especially those of the Vice Chancellors
- The SRC stands in solidarity with staff as they prepare to enter an EBA period

## ACTIONS

- The SRC endorses a rally to be held on the 24th of March, which will be protesting attacks on our education
- The SRC agrees to share the protest event to its Facebook page and support the ongoing No Cuts campaign

## Discussion:

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion noting the education campaign from 2020, and adding that this was hopefully going to be a continuation of that momentum, especially considering there was effectively a ban on protests at the time. Noting that 2021 was going to be more important than 2020 as there will also be the EBA negotiations happening. Called on the SRC to endorse the rally and give it's ongoing support to the campaign

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion highlighting that will be proposed cuts on courses due to the drop in international students.

*Due to technical issues Madeleine Clark pause her speaking time.*

Tom Williams spoke to the motion highlighting the importance cross institutional solidarity and working together to fight cuts across the sector as Sydney uni sets the standard.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion noting the important of cross institutional solidarity as we see courses and staff cut across the sector. Lia commended the motion to council.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion talking about the expected continues cuts but also the fact that the NTEU tried to sell out it's own membership last years with cuts to pay, hours and conditions, and so we need to be pushing and supporting the membership and push for strikes to win better conditions and pay for staff. Noting the union needs to be a fighting one to be relevant.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu asked if anyone knew when the bargaining period begins? – there was no definitive clarification for that.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion said it's not a given there will be strikes and there will be very much a fight between the left and the right within the union. And there was a responsibility of student to support the left in this as staff conditions are student learning conditions and there are a lot of things to fight for especially when you consider the last year and the University made a surplus last year.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion adding the NUS will be sending info out soon but NUS will be organising a week of actions from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion spoke about the 2017 EBA negotiations and strikes and the actions that took place and noted that students can do a lot of things that staff can't like shutting down lectures and classes and make sure staff feel supported in their actions. The EAG needs to start talking to students about the EBA and what staff conditions really mean for students.

Cole Scott-Curwook spoke about how the SRC could make the March 24<sup>th</sup> action as a launch of the legal observer network.

Moved: Simon Upitis

Seconded: Grace Bennett

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **R1.4 Let Trans Women Swim: motion against Mclver's ladies' baths**

-

##### **PREAMBLE:**

Mclver's Ladies' Baths on Coogee beach has uploaded a rule to their website, declaring that only "transgender women who have undergone gender reassignment surgery" are welcome to use facilities. This policy comes as an attack to trans women, especially trans women who have not undergone surgery yet, for whatever reason. The association has since changed the wording of this policy, falling back on the NSW discrimination act, which itself is rooted in transphobia, also asserting that in order to be legally recognised as transgender, one must have undertaken a "sex affirmation procedure."

The policy of Mclver's Ladies' bath is deeply discriminatory and represents the ongoing attack against trans women by excluding them from women's spaces and enforcing the idea that womanhood and genitalia should and need be policed, which is cruel and disgusting.

The association has since refused to apologise nor change their statements regarding transgender women who wish to use the pool, and the Randwick council has not made a statement, instead saying that the jurisdiction of the pool is under the R&CLSA (Randwick and Coogee Ladies Swimming Association).

A protest action has been called by Community Action for Rainbow Rights, for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February at 5:30pm at Prince Henry Centre. A petition calling for an inclusive change to the policy has garnered over 15,000 signatures.

##### **PLATFORM:**

1. The SRC condemns the actions and policy of the Randwick and Coogee Ladies Swimming Association in excluding pre-op trans women from the Mclver's ladies' baths
2. The SRC condemns the actions of the Randwick Council and the R&CLSA in refusing to come forward with a statement, apology and inclusive policy regarding pre-op trans women using Mclver's ladies' baths
3. The SRC stands in solidarity with all trans women against discrimination and exclusionary attacks

4. The SRC supports all trans women and calls on the Council and Association to change their policy and onsite signage to reflect an inclusive position.

**ACTIONS:**

1. The SRC agrees to share the protest event happening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February to the Facebook page and other social media platforms
2. The SRC agrees to share the petition to their Facebook page and other social media platforms
3. The SRC will support the upcoming actions and encourage people to attend

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion highlighting its main points and the reasons behind the motion. Adding that it is Transwomen who are often the most threatened and the most likely to have their bodies policed and attacked. The decisions here should be seen with the lens of transphobic people trying to block trans people from accessing healthcare and support, and this is happening because there has been so much progress in LGBTQI+ rights and this is a lash back at these wins.

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion echoed Eddie's sentiments adding that this motion was already received a lot of support and there been a lot of support fighting against attacks on trans rights seen with the great turn out even during the pandemic to fight against Mark Latham's transphobic bill.

Kimberly Dibben spoke to the motion saying that this decision has been frames as though gender essentialism is there to help women which is does not and instead it keeps people down and attacks vulnerable groups. This should not be tolerated, and it was interesting the Women's Collective's post was attacked by a bunch of international TERFs.

Moved: Willow Lont

Seconded: Edwina Stephenson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **R1.5 Support International Student (with Financial Aid)**

#### **Preamble**

Most international students were unable to study on campus during the special period of covid-19 and unable to access public facilities. Due to the travel ban, some of the international students could only stay oversea while some chose to stay in Australia for online learning, waiting to return to normal learning and living order at any time.

Although the school has already issued financial aids to international students who cannot return to Australia due to the travel ban, many international students who meet the requirements have missed the opportunity to apply because they were not familiar with relevant policies. In addition, international students who choose to stay in Australia are

also facing the dual difficulties of online learning and personal life. Large percentage of international students worked part-time before the global pandemic but has lost their job opportunity and source of income. At the same time, they still have to pay the same high tuition fees as before.

The Department of Home Affairs has set out financial evidence that an ordinary student has a living cost of at least 21 thousand Australian dollars per year. Although some international students can afford such high accommodation expenses, most of them still experienced various degree of financial difficulties due to the impact of COVID. One circumstance that had further aggravated the financial burden was that most international students have paid the rent in advance before the travel ban commence but were not capable of returning to Sydney or applying for the rent refund. Aiming to assist all students to get over the difficulties, it is the best choice for the university to provide financial aid for students with housing problems. In the current situation, while the majority of international students is affected by the housing issues, only a few who meet the requirement of 'vulnerable' is eligible to receive certain aids.

**Action:**

1. The 93rd Council contact school to promote information about financial aids.
2. The 93rd Council will pressure the University of Sydney to also consider providing aids for international students who are currently in Sydney.
3. Provide further discount on tuition fee for international student oversea.

Discussion:

Angela Li read out the motion to the council.

Haomin Lyu spoke to the motion noting the high cost of student housing for international students and many who were not able to return to Australia had already paid some of the rent in advance and were not able to get a refund on those costs. Adding there is very little financial support for international students and there is more that need to be done to support them.

Nguyen Khanh Tran spoke to the motion there are very little bursaries and support offered by the University to international students are tiny around \$2000 and some require repayment, and that the emergency accommodation being offered is due to end soon. Adding that many international students are paying huge amounts for online only classes with reduced quality of education, which is not fair and a new reduced price is what should be introduced.

Moved: Angela Li

Seconded: Haomin Lyu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*There was no other business*

*The meeting closed at 10:04pm*