



src activism
advocacy
representation

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

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MINUTES:

of the 3rd regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on Wednesday 7th April 2021. Meeting held via Zoom.

*Quorum count called at 6:28pm
The meeting was found quorate*

A. Meeting open at 6:34 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Anne Zhao 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

Jayfel Tulabing Lee to Aydin Varol
Sonya Zhou to Victor Liang
Priya Gupta to Azziza Mumin
Sarah Haslan to Tom Cleary
Zhouyan (Kristin) Miao to Yiqian Zhao
Zhengjie (Grace) Fei to Anne Zhao
Mary Khoury to Esaias Feng
Ben Jones to Tiger Mathieson
Isabella D'Silva to Antoine Nguyen Khanh
Tianyue (Edith) Chen to Tina Lee
Shiyue (Stephanie) Zhang to Maria Ge

Moved:
Seconded:
The apologies were accepted.

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E2. Consideration of any resignations

Resignation of Honi Soit editor William Solomon and appointment of New Honi editor Samuel Garrett

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Vivienne Guo

Seconded: Deaundre Espejo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of 93rd SRC Council held on 3rd March 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 3rd March 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Business arising from the minutes will be discussed in the President's Report.

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

There was no report from the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 16th and 25th February 2021

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 16th and 25th February 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 3rd March to the 6th April 2021.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

President's Report - April

This month has been a busy one and a lot of it has been spent working on activist and policy initiatives. Before launching into details, I'll just note that I'll be on leave between Thursday 8/4 and Monday 12/4. In that period, please direct all enquiries to Priya Gupta who will be the Acting President. As usual, my report is organised according to the type of activity that I've been engaged in.

Grievance process and corresponding investigation

As I'm sure you're all aware, a grievance process was initiated at last month's meeting of the council in response to the censure motion against Raymond Ngan. The corresponding investigation has not been totally completed and is being run by the SRC Legal Service (to accord all parties procedural fairness). It is likely that the process will take significantly longer than expected, given the huge backlog of matters in the SRC Legal Service. Updates will be forthcoming at the next meeting of the council.

Student General Meeting

The Enviro Collective has successfully collected the signatures of 500 students and has validly called a Student General Meeting for the 28th of April. The aim of the meeting is to vote to strike at the next Climate Strike, and to avoid any penalisation for staff and students engaging in the strike. More details will be forthcoming in next week's edition of *Honi*.

12 Week Semesters

As I'm sure you're all aware by now, the University has proposed a reduction in the length of the Semester from 13 weeks to 12 weeks. This proposal has previously been attempted a number of times, and was defeated at the Academic Board in 2017 and in 2020. The proposal aims to remove the "light, introductory course guidance weeks" at the start of each Semester, which the University sees as superfluous. The only benefit proposed is an increased offering of intensive

units in the Summer and Winter breaks. Much of my time over the past month has been spent trying to respond to this proposal in various ways.

Forum

I've organised a staff-student forum to discuss 12 week semesters on April 22nd at 5pm. It will consist of a panel discussion including me, someone from SUPRA, two people from faculty societies and then representatives of both staff unions. The whole discussion will be moderated by the Education Officers. After that there will be an opportunity to discuss student and staff grievances with 12 week sems and University generally. I highly recommend that every member of the council come and participate - all the grievances that are raised will be taken directly to the University and will also inform staff demands during the enterprise bargaining period. It'll be a great opportunity to get students involved with the SRC and engaged with the academic issues that are going to affect them greatly. This forum should also hopefully build into a larger protest and restart the Education campaign for this year.

Committees and Timelines

The 12 week semester proposal has been going through various faculty boards, University committees and Academic Board subcommittees. At each one, it's faced pretty strong opposition from me and other student representatives. For the most part, students are pretty opposed and staff are pretty opposed, but there are specific faculties and staff that are either ambivalent or in support. The final & decisive vote will be at Academic Board on the 7th of May, so it's important to signal as much disagreement to the proposal as possible before then.

Survey

I organised and completed a successful survey into the 12 week sems proposal, and Priya presented it to the University Executive Education Committee last week. Of the 375 or so respondents, 93% were opposed to the proposal. The results of the survey are available on the SRC Facebook Page and website.

Report

I also wrote and submitted a report to the DVC (Education) about 12 week sems that articulated all the associated issues. This report is also available on the website and on the Facebook page.

Activism and Policy

This month has also included a fair bit of policy work and activism, which I've done in collaboration with the executive and external stakeholders.

ACNC Governance Standard 3

The ACNC has proposed to change the rules governing the registration and liability of charities, with the ostensible purpose of cracking down on activism and preventing "activist organisations from masquerading as charities". As we are an activist organisation that is a charity, this obviously greatly affects the SRC. Myself, along with a few others, put together a submission to the Treasury in relation to these rule changes. We were also assisted by CLCs, the National Justice Project and Professor Simon Rice. The full submission can be found on the SRC's Website

Housing policy

I've been working with Lia and the Welfare Action Group on some issues relating to housing policy. At the moment we're planning on doing some research and a survey about student housing and its impacts on student life, and hopefully putting together a report. The end goal is to get lots of media attention and build into a large campaign. I went to a Young Labour Left housing event last week and built contacts with community housing groups, Shelter NSW and academics who are researching housing. It will be a good opportunity to engage community groups, unions, international student groups and others in a large-scale project.

Protests

All of my contributions relating to 12 week semesters have been outlined earlier. Just as an addendum, I spoke at a protest organised by the EAG, with a specific focus on the 12 week sems proposal. Aside from this, I've continued my engagement with the Legal Observers Network. The Network requires Legal Observers for Saturday's Black Lives Matter protest, so any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

I also met with the Registrar and heads of student associations to discuss protests on campus. Nothing actionable arose from this meeting (which was without prejudice), but I articulated the SRC's opposition to any restrictions on the right to protest on campus.

Committees

Unsurprisingly, I've been sitting on many University committees, presenting student concerns to University management. As I've already mentioned, I've presented the SRC's opposition to 12 week sems at numerous committee meetings. This has included the specifically convened "Semester Advisory Working Group", where I sit alongside staff union representatives and SUPRA.

Student appeals policy

Notably, the Registrar presented numerous changes to the student appeals policy at a meeting of the Academic Standards and Policy Committee. Without going into specifics, the changes were ostensibly to reduce waiting times. However, we identified a number of policy changes that were going to worsen waiting times and create unintended consequences for students trying to access the appeals process. These concerns were well received by the Registrar, who commended me and also reached out to the SRC and SUPRA for greater consultation and feedback.

JRG Bill

At UE Ed and other committees, I've consistently proposed measures to help the University deal with the consequences of the Job Ready Graduates bill passed last year. Most notably, I've been consistently encouraging greater updates to special considerations and the introduction of a "Special Consideration" grade between a pass and a fail to prevent avoidable fails and prevent students from being kicked off their Commonwealth Supported Places.

PNR & Pissgate

I've passed on many of the WHS concerns regarding PNR in the wake of the "Pissgate" article published in *Honi* last month. COS, the PVC Student Life and others have responded and have provided updates about the status of improvements. Hopefully my advocacy and the continued reporting in *Honi* will prevent issues like this from arising again.

FoodHub and Textbooks

Not a huge amount to report in this category, only to note that the free textbooks were a huge success and the initiative has been wound up. The surplus textbooks are being stored in the FoodHub space - if any faculty c&s or others would like to access the books, feel free to let me know.

Casework

I'm very pleased to announce that we've hired a new caseworker to replace the vacancy left by Mel's promotion to manager. His name is Max Schintler, and he was the best candidate in a very competitive interview process. The selection committee was happy to hire him immediately and he will begin on the 28th of April.

Legal Service

The Legal Service has been hit by a huge backlog of matters, as we have just had one of our solicitors depart the service. In the meantime, we'll probably begin looking for PLT students to start at the practice so keep your eyes peeled if you're a law student.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Anne Zhao

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resumed the Chair

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes per person.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Maria Ge and Roisin Murphy tabled a written report:

Volunteer

- Technique

We met problems related to technique issues. We are searching for alternatives and samples and trying to fix it.

Lots of students who are taking part in SRC events are really working hard and making contributions. They care about others and sacrifice their personal time but they do not work for money. There is one thing I think we could do for them is to provide them with certificate publicised by SRC officially.

- Standardisation

President, Julia and I (Maria) have talked about it and decide to give out volunteers certificate if they make contributions. Now we are trying to make the requirements into details. No matter in which situation, it will be disciplined by SRC.

Promotion of SRC to international students

To build a better eco-system for SRC , to let students have more choice, to let the students find what they belong to, I(Maria) am taking steps to do more promotion of SRC to them. To begin with, I have had a deepen discussion with University of Sydney Center in China on the focus of achieving this goal. Our first step is to invite some students working in SRC to have a speech of SRC in USYD Center in China in person and through zoom.

Promotions of caseworkers

From our research, we found that when international students have problems in the uni, namely, academic and legal issues, they tend to get help from some agencies instead of the caseworkers or other departments of the uni. It truly gives rise to other risks. When working with caseworkers, I also found it is not only for international students but also for all the students. Hence, I think it is really important to promote caseworker help, which is one of the major function of SRC, and can truly help students. So we choose international students as a pioneer point. I work together with Melissa and the international student officer to create a plan for the promotion. We are going to host the first lecture related to academic issues through zoom to those who are not fiscally studying in Sydney. Also, we are thinking of more promotion through Facebook for all the students in the following days.

International students survey promotion

I am working on the promotion of the survey with the focus on International Sentiment Tracker provided by Australian Government. We really hope the feedback can

Vpn improvement plan

After communication with Philippa Ryan and the President, we decided to submit the report written by Haomin through his survey and research in the next Education Committee. We really hope to improve it ASAP.

13-12 weeks promotion

We work with General Secretary and helps them to promote the survey in multiple social media platforms.

Feedback related to Student Center and ICT

We have got some complaints related to Student Centre and ICT. We have done the first step of survey through having chat with some related students. Later we are going to sending out the surveys and trying to find what is really happening, whether it is a common case or not, and how we can make it better.

More party

To create a better working environment for students in SRC, to eliminate the impact of the epidemic and provide a place for us to know each other better, we are planing to have more parties. I(Rosin) have already contacted with Herman and handled Covid-19 impacts. Hope to see you in the party.

Outcome and influence of previous campaign

We have lots of campaign in the past few month. I(Roisin) have done lots of research and I am going to make surveys to find what is the outcome and influence of our previous campaign. I hope this can help us learn from it and make our future actions work better.

Kind regards
Maria

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Drew Beacom

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

12 Week Semester Proposal

We are getting stuck into organising a campaign around the university's proposal to decrease the current 13-week teaching semester to a 12-week one. As a whole, this proposal would have a profound impact on education quality and has no real benefits to students. It seems to be the first step in the gradual trimesterisation of USyd.

Priya has recently collated and analysed the responses gathered from the SRC survey on students' responses to 12-week semesters and presented a report of our findings at the University Executive Education Committee. Whilst Anne assisted with pre-work of the survey. As predicted, the findings of the survey were that students do not support the proposal, and are well aware of the varied negative impacts this will have on the quality of our education and general time at university. 93% of respondents explicitly opposed the proposal, and only 3% supported it, with other students not having enough information or being unsure. Many students indicated that the 12-week semester in Sem 2 2020 was an extremely difficult one, where they felt more rushed and stressed than usual, of course having a profound impact on students with other large commitments, namely working alongside university. Data and student testimonies from this survey will assist our campaign going forward. The report can be found on the SRC website here, alongside the SRC submission to the university with general feedback on the proposal:

<https://srcusyd.net.au/council/policy/>

We have also been assisting Swapnik and the Education officers in beginning to plan for the Student and Staff Forum on this issue planned for Week 7 (22nd April, 5pm), the facebook event of which should currently be online.

International fee rebate work

At many formal and informal university committee meetings, Anne has raised that international students (both those studying overseas and those studying in Sydney but with online classes) have no specific fee rebates for 2021 tuition fees. However, some university management have mentioned that there are two types of financial support, including 'General bursaries' and 'Interest-free loan' which is open to all students (advertised bursaries haven't been exposed yet). The bursary amount that international students can apply each semester and limited to 2 applications per year. Furthermore, the maximum amount that USyd can give is not much, nor is

there a guarantee of a successful application. Management has indicated/confirmed that USyd has no intention to offer any financial support specifically for international students in 2021. Other universities have offered 2021 fee rebates for (eligible) International students studying remotely. These include a 20% fee rebate from the University of Adelaide, 12.5% from the University of Queensland, a 20% rebate from the University of Wollongong (in NSW), and 20% fee waiver from the University of Newcastle.

Since there are no specific fee rebates for international students, especially those who are studying online overseas and unable to come due to Australian border policy but not self-decided, there is a necessity to refund partial tuition fee to the eligible students described above.

Moreover, the intentional proposed cut of the 13-week semester to 12-week also fired international students' emotions as they are paying more and more with limited financial support, while studying online which already offers a poorer quality education and learning outcomes. Hence, we collected and will continue to collect more students' opinions towards fee rebates for international students in different conditions, whether what amount or percentage they think is fair, and also their enrolment status from 2020 to 2021 and the impact of overseas study to their study quality today etc. Then we will present the results to the Heads and have further discussion with them to see if further action is required.

Staff Selection Committee for SRC Caseworker

Priya is working as part of the Staff Selection Committee for a new SRC Caseworker. This has involved developing the application criteria, sorting through applicants and interviewing applicants. This process is coming to an end, and hopefully soon we will be back up to our regular number of caseworkers with a new addition.

Working with OBs and Collectives

As per usual we have been involved in the organising and activism of the various collectives and assist other OBs with their work. Some of the recent rallies we have attended have included the Ed rally on course cuts and 12-week semesters, the Women's Collective's counter-protest at the Day of the Unborn Child, and the Welfare forum on student and public housing. Some upcoming events we are assisting OBs with include a social barbeque to support and connect international students. We have also been assisting the International Student officers in working together with caseworkers to provide international students with general academic support.

More SSAF

Alongside Swapnik, we have both continued to work on SSAF negotiations with the university, and re-configure our application as we have been doing for the past few months.

Budgets

Alongside Chitra (admin manager of the SRC) we have been keeping track of OB spending and have made a spreadsheet of updated budgets to OBs which we will send out (likely done by now). This will indicate what has actually been purchased and how much of the departmental budget is remaining. This will be updated fortnightly and should make it easier for OBs to keep track of their budget and plan ahead for use of the remaining funds.

We are also planning to slightly reconfigure the current system so that OBs are notified quickly and clearly of the outcome of funding requests from Exec.

International Orientation Handbook update

We decided to delay the publication of International Orientation Handbook as we want it to be used the most efficiently, newly enrolled international students will see them at the beginning of the semester. Moreover, students are most likely to check this kind of information at the beginning of semester when they have some time and general academic questions without pressure of assignments and exams.

Other

- Contributed to a senate submission regarding proposed changes to the *ACNC Governance Standard 3* which have the potential to impact the SRC's status as a charity. Not a great bill at all. Read the submission here: <https://srcusyd.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SRC-Submission-for-ACNC-Governance-Standard-3.pdf>
- Helping to begin organising an SRC party!

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Maria Ge

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Madeleine Clark and Thomas Williams tabled a written report

We successfully organised our first education protest against the cuts on the 24th of March. This was a vibrant rally and although numbers were smaller than expected (building was deterred due to rain) it was a great to see familiar faces from the campaign last year. The rally marched down City Rd and converged with the UTS rally at the UTS Tower. It was excellent to hear the speeches from both USyd and UTS and to see the similarities. Both campus' management are going on the attack despite high enrolments and surpluses.

We met up with Rob Boncado from the left of the NTEU to discuss plans for the rest of semester, in preparation of the EBA negotiations and strike. This was really helpful and it was encouraging to see that there is a mood among staff that they deserve better conditions. We drew up a rough plan for actions for Semester 1 that include a staff and student forum, a student rally and then a staff rally. As we write this we have organised an EAG meeting on the 1st of April to discuss more concrete plans.

We really want to build awareness and enthusiasm for the strike among students. We've seen so many attacks and this EBA is the best way of fighting back. Having students on board can be the difference between staff striking and not!

There are also so many other campaigns to get involved with. We've been coordinating with the other collectives to organise a Panel on Police Abolition in preparation for the Stop Black Deaths in Custody on April 10th.

There are other initiatives in Environment and QUAC that are similarly important to go to.

Approve \$150 for ASL speaker for police abolition panel

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark and Tom Williams spoke to their report

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

Motion: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written report

WoCo snap rally: Justice for survivors

On the 17th of March, WoCo held another action against sexual violence, following the ongoing sleu of sexual violence cases still coming out from parliament, and a lack of action (at the time) on perpetrator Attourney General Christian Porter. Though he has been shifted in roles now, we believe all perpetrators should be removed from positions of power, including removing Christian Porter from parliament. The snap action was held as a speakout, to give voice to survivors, amidst the silencing of so many.

Day of the Unborn Child counter protest

On the 21st March, WoCo attended the annual ridiculous anti-choice event at St Mary's Cathedral, amidst torrential rain. Since the last of this event, abortion has been decriminalised in NSW and after last month, is now fully decriminalised across Australia. The fight now continues towards holistic reproductive justice.

Justice for Mhelody & Trans Day of Visibility

WoCo sent contingents to two rallies for trans liberation last month. On the 27th was the rally for Trans Day of Visibility, and on the 29th was a vigil/rally for Mhelody Bruno, a trans Filipino woman who was killed in 2019. Mhelody's family is yet to receive justice for her death, and stands with abolitionists in calling for true justice by abolishing all prisons and police. We will be in the streets again soon to protest the transphobic Mark Latham Bill.

Radical Sex and Consent Week

WoCo is still in preparation to bring back Radical Sex and Consent Week later this semester. This week forms a large part of the anti-sexual violence movement, towards positive conversations and education on sex. Including: consent, pleasurable sex, sexual health, sexuality and gender, and more! If you'd like to help us organise panels, workshops, and sexy events - message Kimmy or Amelia!

Stop Black Deaths in Custody

This week a man imprisoned in Perth died, marking the fifth Black death in custody in the past month. This comes just before the 30th anniversary of the Royal Commission, and after over 430 Black deaths in custody since its publication. This ongoing violence reveals how justice cannot be reached until police, prisons and this very colony are abolished.

WoCo will attend the Stop Black Deaths in Custody rally on April 10th in solidarity with families affected.

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

Motion: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Maria Ge

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Environment Officers

Enviro has been very busy over the last 5 weeks.

O week saw about 450 new sign ups, which led to many fresh faces at our weekly meetings. Zoom constraints and the rain have put a bit of a dent in meeting attendance each week, but we are back in person and organising for a range of big actions coming up.

On Tuesday 30th March we held a successful forum on the anti-gas movement in the Pilliga (north-west NSW), with guest speakers Ian Brown, activist from Gamilaraay Next Generation, Dr Madeline Taylor, a USYD academic specialising on the anti-gas protests and legal challenges of expansion attempts by Santos near Narrabri, and Niko Chlopicki, a UWU rank and file organiser and representative from Workers for Climate Action. Each had a different and fascinating perspective on some of our key focuses as a collective - fighting the expansion of coal seam gas projects and destruction of First nations sites. By the time of this report, we will have just hosted our Mid-Sem Workshop day, upskilling members on design and propaganda creation, clarifying our anti-capitalist, anti-colonial politics and sharing building knowledge for stronger campaigning moving forward. Thanks to all facilitators and attendees.

2021 continues to pack punches, with extreme flooding, torrential rains and heat waves occurring within weeks of each other. This weather is not freakish, it is the expected manifestation of the climate crisis - and will only worsen over time. We must not allow that to happen. We must keep climate action front and centre on the agenda of the government, the university and the radical left. That is why we have been stalling, lecture-bashing and having conversations with students all over campus for the last few weeks about radical climate action. We have already amassed over 200 signatures for our petition calling for an SRC-led Student General Meeting, which will bring together a quora of undergrads to discuss the urgency of climate action now. This constitutes part of our building for the major upcoming May 21st Global Climate Strike, headed by School Strike 4 Climate. We urge all students, staff and others to attend this protest, we need everyone in the fight for action. It has never been more important to speak truth to power and demand #nomorebrokenpromises. Join our contingent here: <https://fb.me/e/7XD802sWC>

From Deaglan:

As one of the environment officers, I helped build and attend several important rallies throughout March. I'd like to highlight two in particular: Reclaim Mardi Gras and March4Myanmar.

The Reclaim Mardi Gras was a lively rally and I'm sure it stood in stark contrast to the corporate, dull affair that happened in some stadium somewhere. It was good that Pride in Protest and Community Action For Rainbow Rights organised it, and I think it will help to reinvigorate queer activism in the year going forward, especially with the essential fight coming up against Mark Latham's bill.

The March4Myanmar, organised by several groups of young Burmese and Burmese-Australians, was a powerful show of solidarity with the Myanmar revolution and in opposition against the coup. It's essential that we organise events like these, because they bring attention to the heroic resistance and brutal repression of the Myanmar people, they involve those students previously less political, and they help to reintroduce the politics of international solidarity.

In the vein of these two, I would like to draw the attention of Council to two motions being moved by myself and my comrades in Socialist Alternative, the first concerning Latham's bill and the April 17 CARR protest against it, and the second concerning the Myanmar Spring Revolution.

Without going over too much what might be discussed when those motions are moved, I think it's sufficient to say everyone of us must be at the April 17 rally, and must be involved in building it. This bill represents the attempt by the conservative right within and outside of the Liberal Party to attack trans people, and in their minds, also go after other oppressed groups. Building the open and loud resistance to this agenda should be the priority of all of us.

Secondly, the Myanmar Revolution marks an exciting turn in the struggle of workers across the world against authoritarianism and against capitalism. For over 2 months, the Burmese working class have withstood the military's ruthless attempt to achieve its takeover of power. Anyone who is for the overthrow of this sick system, must be following closely this process and expressing their support of it.

The Suez Canal crisis of a week ago only shows how structurally weak capitalism is. The revolution in Myanmar demonstrates which force in society has the capacity to resist the attacks of the ruling class. As the pandemic rages on, we must remember that only revolutionary socialism provides an alternative to the multitude of crises, imperialist, environmental and economic, which are making capitalism ever more barbaric by the day.

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

Motion: Riley Vaughan

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

There's been many amazing displays of resistance and protest in the last few weeks. The struggle in Myanmar has been inspiring to watch, as protesters - workers and students united - have taken to the streets and heroically battled against the Tatmadaw, facing violent repression in the fight for democracy. As student activists, we should look to Myanmar as inspiration for our own struggles here, which is why the solidarity with Myanmar protest in Town Hall was a great step forward.

In March as well, Sydney Staff for BDS got in touch with Students for Palestine USYD for a speakout on campus in solidarity with Palestine. It is excellent to work with staff over the question of Palestine and I will continue to do so, as pro-Palestine academics and activists are often repressed by the university. The University of Sydney also has ties to Israel and military companies that sell to the IDF, which maintains the oppression of Palestinians. It was important to fight against this and to spread the issue of Palestine solidarity on campus for these reasons. In the context of the global pandemic, this solidarity is even more important, as Israel has been blocking vital resources and medical aid to Palestine, exacerbating the existing conditions that perpetuate poverty and oppression. I will continue to work with Students for Palestine and Sydney Staff for BDS in the coming months to help build support and activism around Palestine on campus.

I have also been building for the next Community Action for Rainbow Rights protest against Mark Latham's transphobic bills on April 17th at 1pm, Taylor Square. The hard-right in Australia have made transphobia a cornerstone of their politics, so it's critical to push back against this. I have been leafleting both on campus and early in the morning in Newtown. CARR's demonstration for trans rights last year managed to mobilise 500 people, despite the pandemic, and heroically fought against police repression and the ban on protests, so the upcoming rally will be very exciting and I'm proud to attend. Make sure to join us in the fight for trans rights on April 17th!

Sophie Haslam, Global Sol OB.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Residential College Officers

Within the past month, the Residential College Officers, and in particular — Victor and Alexis — has focused on aspects of work in relations to the motion passed last month regarding the coordinated dissemination of information related to COVID-19 vaccines.

During this time, we have expressed to PVC Student Life Professor Susanna Scarparo of the possibility for SRC cooperation with the university; with this being something that Professor Scarparo has also agreed to. We have also received confirmation from Professor Ian Marshall, head of the University Health Services, of the governmental approval which has already been received for the UHS to administer COVID-19 vaccines at least in the current phase of vaccinations — Phase 1b.

We have also reached out to St Andrews College and Vice Principal Dr Hester Wilson; whom Alexis has had a meeting with — with an agreement being reached also for the SRC to help with the distribution of vaccine information. A possibility has also been raised regarding the co-branding of posters — and is something which we would explore in the future.

Finally, despite government announcement of delays within the vaccination rollout — we have also been in touch with our fellow SRC Intercampus Officers; who has been extremely helpful. They have compiled contacts for student and staff organisations of USyd’s satellite campuses, as a valuable source of information which we would hope to leverage in the future.

These are all things which we have done over the last several weeks; and are things which we believe would lay the foundations for a coordinated dissemination of vaccine information to students in the future during Phase 2b of COVID-19 vaccinations.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

06. Report of the Welfare Officers

Since the last SRC meeting, the Welfare collective has held its first speakout. Whilst small, it was a success a variety of important issues were discussed as well as raising the profile of the collective. I also helped to organise and chair the first Students for Palestine rally of the semester alongside Sydney Staff for BDS. Considering the situation of vaccine apartheid in Palestine, it was an important time to hold an Israeli Apartheid Week action and stand in solidarity with Palestinians. I also attended and built the first EAG protest and have begun to build for the Community Action for Rainbow Rights protest against Mark Latham's anti-trans 'Parental Freedoms' Bill. This appalling attack has now gained support from Liberal MP's so it's even more important to come to protest on April 17 against Mark Latham and anti-trans bigotry

Lia:

The Welfare Action Group has been continuing to hold meetings and actions. We had our speak out in week 2 which went very well, a huge thanks to all of the other office bearers and students who spoke about a range of issues, some being: #80aday, education cuts, sexual harassment and disability justice. If any students would like to join the group and attend meetings email or message us!

Public housing forum and campaign

On Wednesday 17 March we held a forum about public housing and student housing in NSW. We had a speaker from Hands off Glebe, Friends of Erskineville, Shelter NSW and a USyd international student. The audience and I came away with a strengthened understanding of the campaign, and lots of important things to do to mobilise with residents and unions.

Street kitchen

We are helped out with the Community Defence League (CUDL) street kitchen at Martin Place on Sunday 28 March. We cooked a huge curry and brought a load of volunteers to assist giving out food. If you've missed out and would like to come next time join the Welfare Action Group Facebook page. We're going to return every month or two going forward with the next date being 25 April.

Cross-collective events and April 10 BLM rally

Along with many of the other collectives I organised educational events to build for the April 10 Stop Black Deaths In Custody rally (at Town Hall). These include a reading group, forum and film screening. It's been over 30 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and nothing has changed.

Other activism

I will continue to attend rally's organised by the women's collective about ending sexual violence at school, in parliament and everywhere in society, demanding justice for survivors. leafleted, postered for, and spoke about education cuts, austerity measures and the need for free education at the Education Action Group rally on 24 March demanding NO CUTS, NO FEES.

Student housing

Another focus for this year is student housing. Students should have access to safe, subsidised and affordable student housing. We are going to organise a contingent to the public housing rally on May 12. At our last meeting we decided to organise a report about how inaccessible and expensive student housing is, and the dangers of living in student accommodation.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Social Justice Officers

Fighting sexism

Revelations of the extreme sexism that pervades the Australian parliament have provoked outrage around the country. It comes as no surprise that ruling class figures the likes of Christian Porter, whose Liberal Party credentials include slashing funding for sexual assault counselling services and driving welfare recipients to suicide through the 'Robodebt' scheme, have cultivated the kind of personal misogyny, elitism and contempt for those they deem lesser than themselves that characterises these acts of sexual harassment and violence. This anger is at its most powerful when directed into protest against the attacks on women's rights perpetually demanded by the capitalist system, and this month I took part in both the march on NSW parliament in response to Christian Porter's disgusting sexism, and the pro-choice counter demonstration to the anti-abortion "day of the unborn child".

LGBTQ+ rights

I've also worked to build protests for LGBTQ+ rights, from the Mardi Gras march which took back Oxford street in the tradition of the mass protests and rioting of 1978, to this year's Trans Day of Visibility demonstration. Around the world, trans and gender diverse people are facing down attacks from conservatives on their right to gender recognition, access to public spaces such as bathrooms and ability to receive crucial medical care including puberty blockers. These attacks are the cutting edge of the right's broader project to roll back the gains made for the liberation of oppressed groups - gains that were achieved through protest and mass defiance.

In Australia, Mark Latham's appalling "Parental Freedoms" bill in NSW parliament has received the support of Liberal secretary for Education Kevin Conolly in its attempt to censor the existence of trans and gender diverse people in classrooms and isolate trans youth and teachers; already, two teachers' developmental associations have faced disaccreditation for acknowledging the existence of LGBTQ+ people. These attacks on the trans community are some of the most severe we've seen in decades, and this April I'll be throwing myself into building the fight against them at the next "Kill the Bills" protest at 1pm on April 17th, organised by Community Action for Rainbow Rights.

Solidarity with the struggle for democracy in Myanmar

The heroic fight against the military coup in Myanmar continues, as the mass of ordinary Myanmar people use their power in the workplaces and on the streets to wage a civil disobedience and strike campaign against the repressive Tatmadaw. The publication by student unions and other Bamar-majority activist groupings of apologies to and expressions of solidarity with Myanmar's minority ethnic groups, particularly the brutally persecuted Rohingya, represents a significant development, demonstrating the possibility of breaking down barriers of racist oppression through the struggle against the military. The emergence of (as yet somewhat localised) strikes in factories producing military vehicles and supplies also represents the potential for the deepening of the struggle against the junta. In Australia, where our government until recently provided training to the Tatmadaw, and continues to subject Rohingya people fleeing the military's terror, the left must stand in solidarity with the incredible courage of the Myanmar people, and I was proud to be able to demonstrate in solidarity with that struggle earlier this month.

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

Motion: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

08. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers

Hello everyone!

As proven by 2020, there has been no end to colonial violence with the continued disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous adults and youth, deaths in custody, child removals, and the destruction of sacred land. We intend to keep up the momentum that has been propelled internationally by the Black Lives Matter movement, and will continue focusing it locally on justice for Indigenous deaths in custody. Specifically, we hope to build upon the National Indigenous

Youth Education Coalition's #LearnOurTruth campaign regarding contextualising the education system with local Indigenous voices and history. Additionally, we will remain vigilant against Covid-related racism and campaign against the rise of facism in light of the ongoing pandemic.

ACAR stands in solidarity with, and sends our love to, the grieving families and communities who have been affected by the deaths which have occurred over the last few weeks. There have been three Indigenous deaths in custody and a racially-motivated mass shooting in the United States. It is important to keep in mind systemic racism is closely linked with gender and class, and that these are only the reported instances of racial violence. We must dismantle the settler-colonial state system. We aim to work more closely with ISJA to make sure Indigenous issues are fought for, and to build for greater awareness around COVID-related racism through social media campaigns.

We have had five meetings so far; including a working bee/banner paint for the vigil held for those who have fallen in Myanmar. We hosted a inter-uni picnic with UTS Ethnocultural Collective and UNSW People of Colour Collective on the 19th of March to discuss plans regarding the commencement of more cross-uni collaborating and organising this year.

ACAR has organised a film screening which took place on the 31st of March alongside the Women's, Welfare, and Environment collectives. 'In my blood it runs' is a documentary about the inheritance of resistance and resilience, it celebrates love and learning. We handed out our zine that follows the theme of abolition at the screening. This is in anticipation of the April 10th ASEN event against black deaths in custody.

Planning for our autonomous edition of Honi Soit is also underway. We are currently looking for expressions of interests to make submissions to be published, please get in contact with the convenors to learn more about how you can contribute!

Motion: that the report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers be accepted.

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

The meeting returned to E1. Report of the Electoral Officer

E1. Electoral Officer's Report of the 2020 Annual Elections

Julia Robins Secretary to council noted there needed to be discussion of the report and the recommendations read carefully before being accepted. But also noted that a number of the recommendations were already existing practices of the council.

Cole Scott-Curwood asked about where there was little recommendations around the IT issues on what has happened and wanted to know if some recommendations should be sent to the Electoral Officer for consideration

Julia Robins (Secretary to Council) said that now the report had be delivered the Electoral Officers role was effectively complete and that any other suggestions would be best sent to the Standing Legal Committee.

The Electoral Officer's Report was noted to be further discussed at a future meeting.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Long live the Myanmar Revolution!

Preamble

1. The Myanmar revolution has entered into a new phase. From February 22, a general strike has halted the military's attempt at a coup. Another call for a general strike went out on International Women's Day, and demonstrates the determination and the strength of the Burmese working class. Workers on the railways, in garment factories and even in military factories have all used the most powerful tool available to them: the withdrawal of their own labour.
2. Yet tied to this deepening of the resistance is a severe escalation in the repression the junta have applied to the movement. Each day, the death toll rises, with the highest yet being on so-called Armed Forces Day. After weeks of stalemate through February and March, the military see the only way to victory being drowning the revolution in blood.
3. The remains of the old NLD party, its cadre and leadership, have been forced to flee Yangon and the cities, and seek refuge in Karin state. Aung San Suu Kyi remains in prison. Because of this, the NLD has a loose grip over the political and strategic leadership of the revolution, with those workers who have organised both in their workplaces and on the streets, going far beyond the politics of bourgeois democracy and its compromising with the military.
4. Students and student unions have played an influential role in advancing the revolution. Students were some of the first to go out onto the streets following the coup. The student unions have made important steps in recognising the previous failures of activists in not standing with the repression and ethnic cleansing of minorities such as the Rohingya and the Karen people. Indeed throughout the movement, there is an understanding that divisions between ethnic groups only work in the favour of the military and must be undermined if victory is to be made possible.
5. As radicals and revolutionaries outside of Myanmar, we have an urgent responsibility to stand in complete solidarity with the Myanmar revolution and against the military regime. This is regardless of whether right-wing organisations or governments also rhetorically

condemn the coup. The difference is in our goals and our means; we should want the victory of the revolution and the establishment of not only formal democracy and equality, but real democracy and equality, i.e revolutionary socialism. Australia, the US and China wish for a liberal state with some parliamentary democracy, but which helps to facilitate regardless the exploitation of Burmese workers and the cleansing of ethnic minorities. Thus, unlike those imperialist organisations and states, we explicitly reject any attempt or demand for military intervention by any other nation state. The Myanmar revolution will only succeed through the self-activity of the Burmese class, in conjunction with solidarity shown by the working classes of other nations. Indeed, the workers' movement in Australia has a proud history of opposing imperialism and supporting revolutions at the same time. For example, wharfies in Wollongong refused to load ships bound to Japanese-occupied China during the 1930s. Because of the current weaknesses of the trade union movement, this is hardly feasible at this time. But as student radicals and revolutionaries, we must express, and express vocally, our solidarity with the Myanmar revolution.

Platform

1. The USYD SRC stands in complete solidarity with the Myanmar revolution against the military coup
2. The USYD SRC calls for the extension and deepening of the general strike. We urge the Burmese working class to strengthen the general strike committees established to win workers to the revolution. These strike committees should begin to take up questions of organisation of production so as to begin to provide an alternative to the military-capitalist regime
3. The USYD SRC echoes the calls for the right to self-determination for all ethnic minorities in Myanmar and understands that unity can only be achieved from a position of equality
4. The USYD SRC rejects the politics of either siding with our own government, or with its imperialist rivals. We stand proudly with the international working class, which has no state
5. The USYD SRC endorses the recent March4Myanmar rallies and endorses further attempts to organise solidarity actions in Australia
6. The SRC does not support sanctions by the Australian government.

Action

1. The USYD SRC will take a solidarity photo and publish it alongside this motion from the SRC Facebook page.
2. The USYD SRC will send this motion to various student unions in Myanmar as an expression of our solidarity.
3. The USYD SRC will provide material support, in the form of printing posters and purchasing materials, to those organising solidarity rallies in Sydney.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion, noting the importance of the resistance to the military coup in Myanmar. Saying that there are millions of people who are standing up against a military coup by withdrawing their labour and as a result have held back the military coup, and while facing a military who are willing to kill their citizens. It's important to note that the working class is not

dead or weak and can play a strong role opposing capitalism and authoritarianism. They have shut down businesses and campuses and students here could learn a lot from what happening there.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion wanted to highlight the importance of students as revolutionaries, having recently spoken to a student who has been organising over as part of his student union. His full name was not able to be said because of fear from police repression and he had to leave to a safe house cutting the conversation off. During this time his politics matter, being a revolutionary and a militant is important in organising. And now you are seeing a mass organising for democracy with the working class apologising for the genocides against the Rohingya people, it wasn't their fault it was the military but they are seeing that they should have done and could have done more and that an injury against one is an injury against all.

Oscar Chaffey an amendment "the SRC does not support sanctions by the Australian government" to be added to the platform.

It was amendable to the movers but they noted they have already made this point in the platform, though not as explicitly.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. Extension of the USYD Food Hub to the Conservatorium of Music

Preamble:

In response to the widespread impoverishment of both domestic and international students as a result of the economic shut down due to Australia's Covid-19 response, the SRC, USU and USYD Student Life created the USYD Food Hub to support students experiencing food insecurity. This program is funded by the NSW Government, Study NSW, and Food Bank Australia and has supported hundreds of students since its inception in 2020.

The Food Hub is located in the Wentworth Building and easily caters for Main Campus Students. The Conservatorium of Music, which has over 1300 students enrolled in 2021 does not have easy access to this support. The Australian Arts and Cultural Sector is arguably one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Students in the performing arts, and music especially, are facing a future of continued government cuts, casualisation of positions and a permanent reduction on work available as most businesses in the industry establish long-term austerity measures to remain viable. Arts students' work at present has been made impossible due to Covid-19 and their work in the future even less secure than pre-pandemic conditions.

Additionally, When faced with food insecurity and extreme financial stress, the opal fare to another campus alone is enough to deter uptake of this service by Con students. In addition to this, such financial conditions are often accompanied by mental illness in response to financial insecurity; A student who struggles to get out of bed each day is going to struggle even more to

make it to the Wentworth Building on top of a full day of classes at the Conservatorium. The humanity and compassion behind extending the Food Hub to the Conservatorium of Music is obvious and should be a top priority for this Council.

Platform:

1. The Conservatorium Students' Association (CSA) and the Conservatorium of Music represented by Susan Newsome, *Associate Dean (Student Life)*, have reached out to the Inter-Campus officers to partner with the SRC to deliver the Food Hub program to USYD students at the Con.
2. The CSA is able to be responsible for the collection and distribution of Food Hub supplies to Conservatorium Students and has the full support of the Faculty in this endeavour.

Actions:

1. I acknowledge that the Food Hub is not the sole responsibility of the SRC but it should be this SRC's priority to petition for the extension of its services to the Conservatorium of Music with the USU and Student Life.
2. The SRC Executive will meet on behalf of the Council with the committee or individuals that run the Food Hub and propose the following:
 - 2.1. That a portion of the donated supplies be made available to the CSA for distribution at the Con.

Discussion:

Matthew Carter spoke about the food hub a program run jointly by the SRC, the USU and with support from student life. And was asking if the SRC would advocate to have the program extended to con students who may find it difficult to get onto the Camperdown/Darlington campus.

Grace Hu spoke to the motion noting that another factor for students is the drop off of job keeper. And that It's great that Camperdown campus has such a vibrant culture which allowed the program to exist and hope it can extend to the Conservatorium students.

Julia Robins Secretary to Council noted that Matthew just needs to email her and she will coordinate a pick-up of packs to be taken to the con.

Moved: Mathew Carter

Seconded: Grace Hu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

Motions without notice

R1. Support for the student contingent to May Day at Willow Grove

May 1 is the international workers' day. As students and workers ourselves, we are united in demanding an end to the capitalist system of exploitation, and all forms of oppression that keep us divided.

This year in Sydney the May Day event will be held at the site of Willow Grove, an historic building which is now under a Green Ban as declared by the construction division of the CFMMEU. Defending this green ban on a historic building is important because green bans have direct power to disrupt capitalist development, as shown by the legendary Builders Labourers Federation (BLF) in the 1960s and 1970s. We are excited and encouraged by the declaration of the first green ban in decades, and offer our full support to the unions and workers responsible.

As the climate crisis escalates, the united power of workers here and around the world will be essential to avoiding social and environmental catastrophe. The need for change goes beyond the need for more renewable energy — we urgently require deep social, economic, and political revolution to achieve a sustainable future. We cannot rely on the whims of corporate bosses, state bureaucrats, or politicians to drive this change, we know that we must create this change for ourselves as workers, students, and communities. That is why we support the self-organisation and direct action of workers at every opportunity, including demonstrations such as May Day, and will be out in force this year under the banner of Green Jobs and a Just Transition.

As students, most of us have jobs that are casual and precarious. Bosses and companies large and small exploit students (especially international students) through wage theft and poor conditions, just as they do other workers. At the same time, the very institutions we study at are engaged in millions of dollars worth of wage theft from its teaching staff. We demand an end to casualisation, exploitation and wage theft at the places we work and study at, and unite under the general demands of the May Day strike as outlined below.

For the main May Day event see here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1325457714504097/>

The May Day demands are:

1. A rise in the minimum wage
2. The right to industry bargaining
3. Free, properly funded public education from early-childhood to uni
4. An immediate transition to a carbon neutral economy that lifts every worker into conditions of dignity and respect
5. Justice for all Indigenous people

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC understands the history and significance of green bans and supports the green ban at Willow Grove.
2. The USyd SRC supports the above union demands at May Day 2021.
3. The USyd SRC supports the student contingent demands for climate jobs and justice.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will attend the student contingent to May Day.

2. The USyd SRC will co-host and share the student contingent event from its page.
3. The USyd SRC will materially support building for the contingent by printing flyers and posters.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying that this year May Day has been called to take place at Willow Grove which at present has a green ban on it to prevent its destruction. Reading out the demands of May Day.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Honey Christensen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R2. Support NSW government's plan on returning more international students back!

Preamble:

On the 1st of April, the Australian and SMH reported the NSW government's plan to convince the federal government to support international students to return to NSW from the second half of this year, by providing quarantine accommodation for international students, like seen in the Northern Territory for students at Charles Darwin University. Similarly, USYD has participated in the Temporary crisis accommodation scheme since June 2020. When we spoke with one university staff, she confirmed that the university is working closely with the NSW Government for the purpose of international students' return.

Platform:

1. The SRC should help promote both the quarantine accommodation plan and the COVID-19 crisis accommodation for International students.
2. The SRC publicly support NSW government's decision and effort in bringing international students back, and also push for a fee rebate possibility for international students who are unable to come to Australia.

Action:

1. The SRC will post on social media with updates on the progress of the NSW government's plan
2. The SRC will continue to push the University to promote and update information about the NSW government's plan with International students. The SRC will also continue to push the University to provide sufficient details about international students' options for returning (once the plan starts to progress).

Discussion:

Anne Zhao spoke to the motion saying that the NSW government is trying to pus the federal government to allow more international students back. And that the SRC should support getting international student back from overseas as soon as possible.

Siyao (Melanie) Liu spoke to the motion not much to add that's not already in the motion, and that it's important to get international student back as soon as possible to let them get back to classes as normal again.

Deaglan Godwin spoke saying that welfare provisions should be extended to international students, and their treatment but universities as cash cows is appalling and should not occur, but does not support a program to simply return the number of international students, which just increases the risk of contracting COVID-19. As much of the success we've had containing the virus is by having those restrictions.

Khanh Nyguen spoke in support of the motion, saying that many international students trapped at home are feeling isolated. Mentioning a Sydney Morning Herald piece on how the University and Study Abroad Australia are creating replacement spaces for the University, using things like Airbnb which should not be the case. More international student can be brought back on top of the current 3000 cap and we should do as much to support these students as possible as the isolation is real.

Anne Zhao spoke to her motion responding to Deaglan's comments asking if he would like to add an amendment to talk about other aspects of international student welfare. Reiterating that international student really need to be able to access more of the university's services especially consider what they are paying and if the university and the government can provide a safe return they should be allowed to do so.

Lily Campbell spoke against the motion saying she was opposed to the motion because the NSW government cares about the welfare of international student or their isolation overseas but to profit from them. With international student stuck out of the country it's very difficult of the universities and the State to profit from them, as such the SRC should not support their actions, and as a student organisation we should be standing up against this exploitation that puts international students a risk and instead be fighting always for their better conditions at all times.

Moved: Anne Zhao

Seconded: Siyao (Melanie) Liu

The motion was put and **FAILED**

R3. Motion to support Community Action for Rainbow Rights 'Kill the Bills, Protect Trans Youth' rally on April 17th

Preamble:

The recent Church and State Summit in Brisbane, packed out with hardened conservative Christians and far-right bigots, made clear the right is seeking to attack the transgender community. One Nation senator Malcom Roberts passed a lunatic motion, with the support of Liberal senators, attacking the use of gender-inclusive language. The idea that trans activists are "erasing" words like mother, father etc. is a dog whistle to the rabid right. This is a warning sign

that the federal government could well be preparing for a return of the "Religious Freedoms" bill that would take LGBTI rights massively backwards.

NSW parliamentarian Mark Latham's "Parental Freedoms" bill will be up for committee hearing soon. The bill proposes a blanket ban on schools accommodating trans students, using their correct pronouns, or even mentioning the existence of transgender people. Teachers and counsellors would be immediately fired for doing so. This is a disgusting transphobic attack, seeking to cohere and embolden a bigoted, right wing audience. It is an attack on trans students as well as the working rights of teachers and school counsellors. Already, two teachers' developmental associations have faced disaccreditation for acknowledging the existence of LGBTQ+ people. These attacks on the trans community are some of the most severe we've seen in decades. This is coupled with the news that vile sexist Christian Porter is reportedly preparing a third "religious freedoms" bill, attacking the rights of LGBTQI+ students and teachers under the cynical guise of religious freedom.

Mark Latham's transphobic bill has shamefully received support from key members of the NSW liberal government, like Parliamentary secretary for education Francis Conolly. NSW parliamentary committee just backed one of Latham's bills, to allow religious bigots to spread bigotry from any platform without ramifications. If this goes unchallenged, Latham can build parliamentary support for his other, very very extreme bill attacking trans youth. This despicable bill is gaining support in the Liberal party - yet again the Liberals and One Nation are working together to attack the oppressed and advance their reactionary social agenda.

Protests and rallies for transgender rights, however, have been gaining in steam and popularity over the past few years. Young working-class people and students are increasingly emboldened to stand in solidarity with the trans community and against attempts by the Liberals to further oppress gender-diverse people. The upcoming Community Action for Rainbow Rights demonstration on April 17th is the next step in opposing the 'culture wars' of the right and the 'Parental Freedoms Bill'.

Fuck Mark Latham, Trans Rights Now.

Platform:

1. The SRC opposes Mark Latham's anti-trans 'Parental Freedoms' Bill and any future 'Religious Freedoms Bill'.
2. The SRC endorses the upcoming 'Kill the Bill, Protect Trans Kids' rally and any further rallies opposing this bill.
3. The SRC condemns Mark Latham, One Nation and the Liberal Party for their reactionary culture wars and attacks on trans youth.

Actions:

1. The SRC will promote the April 17th rally by sharing it on Facebook and promoting through email lists.
2. The SRC commits to printing leaflets and posters for the rally.

Discussion:

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion spoke about the rally that occurred earlier, and said that the support and argument that this was a parents right is the thin end of the wedge in being able to demonise trans people and particularly trans kids. This would make it illegal to even simply be a transgender teacher, which is an attack on trans rights and workers rights.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion this is an important issues and clearly a galvanising of the right working together with this and the resurrection of the religious freedoms bill, as well as massive attacks on the right of women and the LGBTQI+ community. There has been little criticism or backlash on the actions of the Liberals and One Nation from the major parties or the mainstream, and we need to have clear rejection of this bill.

Mary Khoury spoke against the motion saying that Trans people should be treated with respect and any bill that oppresses trans people is a bad one but that she does not believe that's what this bill does, and that treating trans people with respect is mutually exclusive with allowing parental autonomy in the education of their children. And parents have always held an important role in the education of their children and the that the UN convention on the rights of the child states that they have the right to freely practice their religion and should do so with the guidance of their parents, and the maligning of conservative Christians from the start doesn't help and this should be an opportunity to come to the table and discuss this more openly. Concluding that she would like to thank the movers for bring this motion today and had respect for them for doing so.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded to the comments of Mary Khoury saying that he didn't not want her respect or thanks and he is glad to have nothing but antipathy toward her political position, and that is was hypocrisy to talk about the UN right s of the child when this is a bill that attacks the most vulnerable children. And this bill by Mark Latham is nothing more than the first wedge which will be used to attack the entire LGBTQI+ community. The rights of the family argument is bullshit, and that this is about putting LGBTQI+ people back in a box and push back on the rights gained during marriage equality and its also a Thatcher-esq attack on teachers, and is opposed to all of this and need to fight back by taking to the streets against this reactions agenda. [some content was missed due to a bad connection cutting the sound in and out.

Oscar Chaffey responded to comments by Mary Khoury saying do not come to council and dissent on a motion on a rally t support trans people and pretend you care at all about trans people. There is no middle ground in the support of trans people right to exist.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Eddie Stephenson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R4. Support "no cuts" forum & rally

Preamble:

1. Staff and students have the same interests. Cuts to staff conditions and wages directly impact the quality of education students receive. This has been evident in recent

decades with cuts across the higher education sector. As permanent staff have been replaced by underpaid casual staff, class sizes have ballooned and student satisfaction has declined, reaching its lowest point a couple of months ago.

2. Cuts to the sector reached unprecedented heights last year with course cuts, casual staff being made redundant and hundreds of permanent staff took voluntary redundancy. These were reflective of cuts across Australia. The NTEU estimated that more than 17000 jobs were lost, equivalent to 13% of the workforce.
3. Sydney University plans to continue these cuts this year. One major cut proposed is changing our 13 week semesters to 12 weeks. This would increase the workload for staff, put more pressure on students to get through the same amount of course work and overall make headways into changing our semesters into trimesters.
4. In an SRC survey given to students about this change of the 375 respondents, 93.6% did not support a reduction in semester length. Students identified a number of reasons why they did not support the change, including: increased workloads, the value of an introductory week, decreased educational quality, increased stress and the same fees for less teaching time. At RMIT shortened semesters are being used to push for summer and winter courses and more casualisation, as well as justifying trimesters. Staff are not in support of the change.
5. The best way to fight these attacks are through staff going on strike with student support. Strikes halt the everyday functioning of the university and have a direct economic impact. They are the best defense against the university's attacks.
6. Staff have the potential to strike this year in their Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiations. This will happen early next Semester. This is a great opportunity for staff to fight for fair workloads and pay.
7. Students can play a key role by telling staff they support them going on strike and by not going to classes. To raise awareness the EAG has organised a forum raising awareness about the cuts in Week 7 on the 22nd of April at 5pm. The EAG has also organised a rally on the 28th of April at 1pm.

Platform:

1. The Sydney University SRC denounces the drastic cuts made to staff working conditions since 2020.
2. The Sydney University SRC condemns the planned cut to semester weeks from 13 to 12 weeks.
3. The Sydney University SRC supports staff taking strike action to fight for better working conditions and pay.
4. The Sydney University SRC supports the left of the NTEU fighting for industrial action.

Action:

1. The Sydney University SRC will share the forum and rally event from Facebook and connected social media accounts.
2. The Sydney University SRC will promote the forum and rally through printing posters and leaflets.
3. The Sydney University SRC will support the EAG in organising stalls and poster events.

Discussion:

Tom Williams spoke to the motion encouraged everyone to come and start building and supporting this campaign, its about livelihoods, the conditions of education on this campus, please get involved and lets get this campaign going.

Madeleine Clark's sound wasn't working so she shared the link to the Facebook event and encouraged everyone to join and attend.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion making mention of the newly appointed VC Mark Scott, who has spent 5 years cutting funding to state education and attacking teachers conditions there and also at the ABC. Deaglan Godwin noted the importance of having as much student support as possible to assist the NTEU in gaining all their demands.

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Tom Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R5. Solidarity with Stop Indigenous Deaths In Custody

CW: This motion mentions the death of Indigenous people

Next week will mark the 30th anniversary of the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody's final report, tabled in parliament in April 1991. Since the landmark report, more than 470 Indigenous people have died in custody. In the past five weeks, there have been a further 5 Indigenous deaths in custody.

On March 2, a man in his 30s died in custody at Long Bay Prison hospital. On March 5, a woman in her 50s died in Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre. On March 7, another man died in Victoria's Ravenhall Correctional Centre. On March 18, 37-year-old Barkindji man, Anzac Sullivan, died after suffering a medical episode during a police pursuit in Broken Hill, NSW. On the 3rd of April, a 45-year-old man died at Perth's Casuarina Prison after he was taken to Fiona Stanley Hospital to undergo a medical procedure.

We demand:

- An end to Black Deaths in Custody and all police violence
- Abolish all cops, courts, and prisons
- Support for families affected by Black deaths in custody

Platform

We stand in unequivocal solidarity with the Indigenous families affected by Black deaths in custody. We demand justice for the victims of the carceral state, and an end to the violence colony that is 'Australia'. No justice will be had until all cops, courts, and prisons are abolished.

Action

1. The SRC will share Paul Silva's fundraiser to support families affected.
2. The SRC will support, mobilise for and give resources to campaigns in solidarity with Stop Black Deaths in Custody taking place in Sydney, as well as campaigns for Indigenous justice in general.
3. The SRC will promote the April 10th Stop Black Deaths in Custody event on the Facebook page.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion this Saturday is the stop black deaths in custody rally, it's been 30 years since the royal commission into back deaths in custody, since then over 470 Indigenous people have died in custody which is shameful. Lia read out the demands of protest.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion saying there have been 5 deaths in as many weeks is an indictment on the Australian colonial system and that Australia need to take note from what has the rolling calls on edge and that was the black live matter protests in the US that spread around the word and we need to build the movement in Australia to be as loud and defiant as anywhere was.

Moved: Bonnie Huang

Seconded: Aziza Mumin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R6. Motion to condemn the actions of the UTSSA executive

Preamble:

The Labor-run executive and president of the University of Technology Sydney Students Association (UTSSA) have undemocratically censored officer bearers, impinged upon the principle of collective autonomy and eroded the ability of committed activists to fight for change. The USyd SRC condemns these actions and believes that conservative restrictions and arbitrary decisions to silence student activists cannot get in the way of the livelihoods of staff and the education of future generations.

On Monday, Ellie Woodward, the Education Officer of the UTSSA was censored by the President and executive, stripping the Education Action Group of their budget and access to the UTSSA space. These actions were taken in response to the Education Action Group (EAG) voting to repost a statement on Facebook that they would continue to poster on campus despite threats from the university to fine the EAG and to the EAG decision to protect members by withholding their attendance. The decision to repost the statement and to continue postering was democratically decided at an EAG meeting. The President of the SA should not have the ability to overturn this democratic decision.

It is appalling that Aidan O'Rourke, President of the purportedly independent UTSSA, is acting as a spokesperson of the university, implementing harsher punishments than the university itself. It is especially ironic as he promised in his electoral campaign to head 'a fight against cuts to higher education'. If he genuinely believes the threats of the university he should be defending student

unionism and activism on campus by fighting against university threats to fine students for posterings.

It is important that student unions across the country are united in their struggle for free education and against austerity measures weaponised to harm staff. At their core, the union's duty is to fight for a quality education for every student. The building of an active Education Action Group at UTS this year is promising, with a very successful rally already tucked away. It is abhorrent that Labor bureaucrats would dare to shut down this burgeoning fight-back, and doubly so that they would side with the university to silence democratic dissent.

Here too, we condemn a specific motion that would require collectives to send the UTSSA President the confidential attendance lists of autonomous collective meetings, including record of people who do not want to be registered in the minutes. Collectives shamefully have no say in the by-laws passed, in addition to Unity removing autonomous access to their own budgets. No activist collective should be beholden to the whims of the Labor run executive.

Considering the extensive role that federal Labor has played in demolishing higher education, particularly those in the right factions of the party, it comes as no surprise that Labor student bureaucrats are siding with the bosses. This sham of a workers party has a history of destroying free education, busting grassroots movements and crippling student unions. It would be an admirable change for the youth wing of the party to live up to their rhetoric and if not enact, then enable some worthwhile change on campus.

Education action groups, or any equivalent fightback, must be empowered on all campuses. Their resistance is essential to fighting for what little we have left, and maybe even more.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns the actions of the President and executive of the UTSSA in censoring the Education Action Group.
2. The USyd SRC supports the Education Action Group in their decision to continue posterings on campus, and act according to the decisions made by the collective.
3. The USyd SRC supports collectives in their ability to make decisions autonomously, and supports changing the new regulations.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will send this motion to the President of the UTSSA and calls on the President to present a written apology to the Education Action Group and Education Office Bearer.
2. The USyd SRC calls on the National Union of Students (NUS) to condemn the actions of the UTSSA around their treatment of the EAG and dismantling of collective autonomy.
3. The USyd SRC council resolves to support the UTS EAG and office bearers in their activism and provide solidarity.
4. The USyd SRC calls for UTS collectives to have autonomous control over their budgets.
5. The SRC calls on the National Union of Students to condemn the actions of the UTSSA

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion highlighting its main points and read a statement from Ellie Woodward “The moves of the UTSSA president against the EAG, and the attempts to impede on the autonomy of collectives, are completely undemocratic, dictatorial and also just super weird. They are not only inconsistent with how a student union should be, but are actively squashing the attempts of the EAG to build activism on campus and oppose the University’s cuts. Amid the fight we are all engaged in for staff and students, the complete repression of the EAG over blue tac, meeting attendance and a Facebook post, is incredibly ridiculous and impedes our ability to fulfil our role on campus. I’m very grateful for the solidarity and support from USYD SRC and the USYD EAG especially.”

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying that this was a perfect example of the uselessness of bureaucrats when a student organisation sides against students with management over blutac. Adding that Strikes work and they need building, and the staff strikes at UTS need support and are in students interests and not supporting these is an example of how another Labor run organisation has turned it’s back on students. This is a time for the UTSSA executive to admit they were wrong and realise that they need to stand up and fight for the rights of students and for the ability to blutac posters on their own campus.

Dashie Prasad spoke to the motion noting they were once a officer of the UTSSA and having Labor run organisation stopped autonomous organising of the collectives there and that this has been an issue for many years. And that this move was disappointing considering that the campus life was just starting up against and was being shutdown by the president of the organisation. Dashie then said that student unions needed to stand up for other unions and support the movement and condemned the actions of the Labor student at the UTSSA.

Grace Hu spoke against the motion saying she’s not fully aware of the issue as the Honi Soit article on the issue is currently down to technical error. Adding that she failed to believe that this is purely a Labor created problem, or that the UTSSA Labor students would be preventing other officers from doing good work or would work against a union as the unions are core to their values as members of the Labor Party.

Deaglan Godwin responded to Grace’s comments and spoke to the motion. Noting that Grace’s comments were surprising considering this is a common action of unity at student unions around the country as they wasn’t to be union official and politicians and their role is to discipline rank and file militants and campaign organisers and workers from above in order to not jeopardise their political aspirations. And that fighting back against these actions and techniques is necessary to win rights for students.

Lia Perkins noted there was a typo in action 4 where UTS needed to be added in front of the word collectives and added an action point calling on NUS to condemn the actions of the UTSSA executive. Adding that the Usyd EAG will continue to show support and solidarity with the UTS EAG.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Tom Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The chair moved to move to agenda item R8. while the movers and seconders sent the motion R7. to the Council.

R8. Motion to support a Student General Meeting for the Climate Strike

Preamble:

Over the course of the past couple of weeks members of the USYD Environment Collective and its allies have been campaigning and building for a Student General Meeting (SGM) on campus to support the upcoming climate strike on May 21. This has involved countless hours dedicated to stalling, flyering and lecture-bashing in order to build a strong student contingent to the Climate Strike similar to the contingent of 2019.

This has occurred as a response to the escalating climate crisis. Within the last 18 months, we have witnessed catastrophic bushfires across the world, extreme floods in our city only weeks ago, and the continuing decline of biodiversity in natural ecosystems. These have been punctuated by a global pandemic that has destroyed lives and livelihoods, and that is to become commonplace as we continue to degrade ecological boundaries, trade wildlife and sprawl into the habitats of wild animals. Working class people have borne the brunt of the consequences of these catastrophes - wages and jobs slashed, welfare schemes decimated and healthcare systems failing. We know those in power do not care if the earth, or the working class people on it, die.

The Climate Strike on May 21 marks a return of radical environmentalism to the mainstream political and activist sphere and unequivocally warrants the support of activist organisations like the SRC. It confronts the LNP's 'so called gas-led recovery' and platforms the importance of a just transition to a system of publicly owned renewables. Gas expansion plans in the Hunter Valley, Queensland and the Pilliga form part of a farcical lifeline thrown by the Coalition to a dying fossil fuel industry. They are entirely unviable and deeply irresponsible, so we reject this recovery and note it as yet another example of our government's callous disregard for our future. A just transition recognises the importance of supporting workers in the move to a renewable energy future, for there is no climate justice without workers rights, particularly those currently employed by the fossil fuel industry.

The Student General Meeting at USYD has been triggered by our petition that has already gained over 600 signatures from across the student body. Students care about their future and we must fight to radically change the path our country is on. The SGM will be an opportunity to bring together the student body in support of the Climate Strike, emphasising the importance of striking as the way to force change in systems of neoliberal capitalism. It is historic - the third SGM ever at USYD, and the first to be called in response to the climate crisis.

Platform:

1. The SRC will support the demands of the May 21st Global Climate Strike
2. The SRC will support and build for the April 28th SGM

Action:

1. The SRC will use its social media platform and Honi Soit to endorse and advertise the May 21st Climate Strike
2. The SRC will use its social media platform and Honi Soit to endorse and advertise the April 28th SGM (as outlined in the SRC Constitution)

Discussion:

Drew Beacom spoke to the motion reading out the motion for the council.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion noting that Indigenous justice need to be centred in these discussions as well. That a student general meeting has been called and she hopes that the council will also support this motion.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu that the SGM has been officially called during his report and another formal notice will go out tomorrow.

Moved: Drew Beacom

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R7. Affirm the SRC's support for anti-racism with respect to international students and CALD communities

Preamble:

Following weeks of reports of attacks in the United States on the Asian-American community and an increasingly China-sceptic media landscape, such as that demonstrated in a *De Minimis* op-ed calling for a ban on Chinese international students in response to Xinjiang allegations, Chinese and Asian international students risks facing further casualised discrimination under the false guise of hawkish policies. The potential for discrimination is especially concerning given that [a report by the Asian-Australian Alliance](#) found that COVID-19-inspired verbal and physical threats to Asian-Australians and international students are “not isolated incidents” from an analysis of 470 reported cases between April-June 2020 alone. For international students, this is compounded by a Government that told this community to “go home” in April 2020.

Given the severe limits of Australia's hate speech legislation under exemptions in s 18D of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cth) to address these cases, it is vital that international students and by extension, CALD communities, be assured that institutional resources are on hand to listen and address concerns. Indeed, these fears are wholly unwarranted given structural disadvantages that many international students across areas such as housing. For instance, recently released [research found that as of 2019](#), some 22,750 students were “hot-bedding” across private rentals in Sydney and Melbourne. These constitute outrageous practices

that damages not only Australian universities but most of all, relegate affected students to gross disadvantages.

The perception that international students are merely cash cows are fundamentally misguided and is an affront to anti-racist, radical politics that must embody higher education. It is therefore in students' political and social interests to stand up with the international student community against casual racism.

Platform:

1. The SRC unequivocally condemns sino- and xenophobic sentiments and threats directed at international students and CALD communities, whether verbal or physical, in person or in media.
2. The SRC connects anti-racism efforts within the international student community to wider discrimination facing Asian-Australians and CALD communities, alongside campaigns for affordable tertiary education.

Actions:

1. The SRC supports the joint UTS/USYD ACAR action on a date to be confirmed against Sinophobia.
2. The SRC calls that fees be reduced by at least 30% or more for international students, regardless of nationality.
3. The SRC calls for the University to be transparent about its new International Student Award which, despite being significant, is not known to all students.

Discussion:

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion speaking about the rise of Sino-phobic attacks in America and also seeing an increase in fearmongering in the Australian media around Chinese international students. International student should not be seen as cash cows, and highlighted the many financial challenges faced by international students highlighting hot-bedding as one such circumstance. Concluding that SRC needed to condemn all Sinophobia

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying it was a really important motion that highlighted the challenges faced by students and the conditions they are studying in while also dealing with rising sinophobia in the community as well.

Moved: Khanh Tran

Seconded: Aziza Mumin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Swapnik Sanagavarapu inquired if there was any more business.

There being no further business he declared the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 9:17pm.

