



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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## MINUTES:

of the 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**. Meeting held via Zoom.

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*There was a quorum count at 6:10pm.*

*The meeting was found quorate at 6:15pm.*

### A. Meeting open at 6:15 pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Priya Gupta be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

### C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

#### Apologies were received from:

Matthew Harte

Sarah Halnan

Qingchun Meng

Tianyue Chen resigning

Vice President Maria Ge sent her apologies

Undergraduate Fellow of Senate Gabi Stricker-Phelps sent her apologies

The apologies were noted.

### D. Changes to Membership

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Electoral Officers Report on the 2020 Annual Elections**

Motion: To accept the report but note the recommendations of the 2020 Electoral Officer

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**E2.Consideration of any resignations**

Edith(Tianyue) Chen to Chunyu (Rita) Wang

Shanhua (Sonya) Zhou to Xianghao (Jason) Zeng

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Lia Perkins asked if Aiden from UTSSA had been contacted by the President yet.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu apologised that he had not yet been contacted but will do so soon.

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

Lauren Lancaster asked if there was any discretionary funding that had not been allocated yet.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted there was a little bit of 'wobble room' but it would be moving money between collectives not from another source.

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

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

*The Undergraduate Fellow of Senate sends her apologise and asks anyone with questions to email her.*

**K. Elections**

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

*There were no nominations*

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

*There were no nominations*

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

**L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 15<sup>th</sup> March 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 7<sup>th</sup> April to the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The report was circulated and noted.

***Procedural motion:*** *To limit speaking time to 3 minutes per department for all Officer reports barring the President's Report.*

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

**L3. President's Report**

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

This past month has been an inordinately busy one, requiring me to work multiple 12-hour days (9-9 and so forth). This busyness has paid off however, with a number of important wins being secured for students and staff. As always, my report has been organised in terms of the type of activity that I've been involved in, but I'll also frontload a few things to note that don't neatly fit into the categories.

**Things to note**

1. This is just a general notice, but please do not treat the OB Room just as a storage space. Of course the room is there for collectives to store materials for campaigns, but it is also a workspace and should be treated as such. I'd like to propose a cleanup of the OB room next week and will make a poll in the Facebook group for times to have this cleanup. Last cleanup had really quite poor turnout - those who use the space regularly and contribute to its current state should definitely be there for the next one.
2. This will be spoken about in the General Secretaries report, but it is **imperative** that Office Bearers utilise the spreadsheet for reporting turnout details and other SSAF metrics over the year (Priya will explain this further). If we fail to report our SSAF statistics effectively, it is very likely that we will lose funding from the University.
3. Congratulations to the Enviro collective and the SRC more broadly on a very successful SGM. Almost 300 students in attendance, which is a huge achievement, and everyone involved should be very proud.
4. Worrying developments in relation to last year and NSW Police's extensive infiltration of the protests against Education cuts. I will explicate this further in my verbal report.

## Activism

### *12 Week Semesters*

What is there to say, except that we won! I have spent a large amount of the past month leading the fight against this utterly absurd, unpopular and destructive proposal. In the end, it was remarkably successful with the 12 week proposal being defeated 69-10 and the amended 12+1 proposal defeated by a slightly smaller but still significant margin. Thanks to everyone who was involved in this campaign.

The vote itself and the days leading up to it were quite stressful. Between Thursday and Tuesday, I and others worked with the NTEU to send a staff-wide email, and contacted every staff member on the Board to make our case. Over the past few months, I've also been organising a cohesive student bloc, where issues are discussed and the vote is exercised collectively. Every student in attendance was organised into the bloc and we all collectively voted against the proposal. I also worked with numerous student reps to organise the specific procedural elements of the vote, so that we were successfully able to break the false binary between 12 and 12+1 provided by Pip Pattison. In the end, the status quo was maintained for 2022 and until 2026, and all of the recommendations of the proposal were rejected.

Before that, we held numerous protests with solid turnout in collaboration with the NTEU and Casuals Network. More significant however was our very successful forum held at the Royal, with the whole upstairs of the Royal packed out and many unfamiliar faces (which is always a plus). It was fantastic to hear from staff and student speakers who raised their voices very prominently. Aside from these activities, I wrote a very successful and widely read article in Honi, that was counterposed to Pip Pattison's article that was far more unsuccessful.

### *Med Sci Campaign*

While the biggest win in the past month has been the 12 week semesters win, we also had a hugely successful win against the cruel campaign waged by the management in Med Sci against honours students. This was won through hard work and struggle between myself, the NTEU and

the affected students. We campaigned hard, met with management, engaged in a wide ranging email activity and ultimately pressured management into submission.

### *SLAM*

The campaign against SLAM is kicking off soon. While I was at Academic Board, the EAG met and there is going to be an action in week 13 against the cuts. I've been chatting with a few academics and I'm keen to bring my thoughts about these developments to the next EAG and organise to get our 3rd win of the semester!

### *May Day and Willow Grove*

I attended the hugely successful and wonderful May Day rally at Parramatta, which was called to defend the CFMMEU's Green Ban of Willow Grove. I've also been in contact with Suzette Meade of the Save Willow Grove campaign to ask about what students can do to protect Willow Grove.

### **Budgets and bureaucracy**

Another huge part of my role recently has been supervision of the audit and formalisation of SSAF.

### *SSAF*

The SSAF application for the SRC has finally been approved, after months and months of excruciating back and forth with the University. The General Secretaries will discuss the budget further in their report, but it's glad to have this out of the way. I've also completed the SSAF Acquittal for 2020 with the Gen Secs, meaning that we will be reimbursed for the money we spent last year by the University.

### *Audit*

I also supervised the SRC's annual audit, which is a requirement under our SSAF obligations and under Charities law. It was a successful audit, and many thanks to Chitra and the auditors for completing it successfully. The audit will be presented to the next council for approval.

### **Legal service**

Jahan, our magnificent Principal Solicitor, has been working hard to catch up with the backlog of cases that have piled up in the services. I've also begun recruiting volunteer paralegals and PLT students to assist us in the service, and I'm looking forward to inducting them into the service in June.

### **Casework service**

Our newest caseworker, Max Schintler, has begun working as of the 28th of April. I'm very excited to welcome Max into the casework service and I'm looking forward to working with him over the next year.

### **Committees**

An unbelievable amount of time has been spent over the past month sitting on committees and dealing with the number of issues that have arisen in the University. Here are a few highlights:

1. Academic Standards and Policy: I've spent a lot of time on the ASPC going back and forth about a proposed change to the Student Appeals process. I've worked hard to come to a compromise and I'm very happy with the outcome. We've reduced the amount of waiting time for students in the appeals process, we've decreased the power differential between

the person appealing and the Student Appeals Board and we've tried to make the process easier for everyone.

2. 12 week semesters: Enough has been said about this, despite it coming up at every single committee meeting that I've been in so far.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to his report highlighting the main points

Owen Marsden-Readford asked about getting access to the email showing collaboration between the university and the police. Adding that this information should be sent to all media outlets possible and attention drawn to this issue and it's attack on student activism.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu said that he would be passing on to all media contacts adding that he and only got this information about an hour ago so hasn't had the chance to distribute it yet. Adding that he surprised they think that they have this much power and this is something you would expect in the 70s student movement and an insane level of

Lauren Lancaster echoed Owen's remarks and said this was very insidious and a huge news story.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that he will message the Chair of Standing Legal who placed the GIPA request to get access for the council to the report/emails

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

*There was no report from the Vice Presidents*

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

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

##### **2020 Acquittal and Audit, and 2021 activity logging**

Alongside Swapnik we finished the acquittal and audit for the SRC's 2020 expenditure and use of SSAF, and met with auditors to complete the process. This has all been submitted to the university. We will present the audit at the next council meeting.

In the process of writing the 2021 SSAF application and completing the 2020 SSAF Acquittal, we realised that OBs **need** to keep track of activities throughout the year so that we have data to report on when it comes time for next year's acquittal. To try make life a bit easier for whoever needs to do this next year, we have made a spreadsheet to keep track of the SSAF metrics we used - in particular, the number of events held and their attendance. This is really easy to keep track of so PLEASE DO OBs! The spreadsheet has been posted in the OB Noticeboard.

## 2021 Budget

We have presented the budget at a previous council, but it needs to be approved by council now that we have submitted the final SSAF application. The full budget is attached to this report, and Student Reps budgets are below:

Student Reps projects		
	Education	19,000
	Disabilities	2200
	Enviro	7235
	Ethno	4000
	Global Solidarity	500
	Indigenous	500
	Interfaith	300
	International Students	3200
	Refugee Rights	400
	Residential Colleges	300
	Sexual Harrassment	2000
	Student Housing	500
	Social Justice	700
	Queer	3700
	Welfare	2500
	Womens	6000
	Honi	9000
	Intercampus	300
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 62,335.00</b>

## 12-week semester proposal

Assisted in organising and building for the SRC 12-week forum which was a success!  
Vote in Academic Board on the 12-week semester proposal yesterday! Emailed and messaged students and staff of the Academic Board, and organised the student reps during the AB meeting to ensure everyone was vocal about our opposition to the proposal and.... WE WON!!! 12-week sems are no more (for the next few years)!

**Radical Education Week** - beginning to organise Rad Ed week. It is planned for Semester 2 Week 4 this year and will be in-person with live-streamings. Currently figuring out the sessions and people we would like to include - if you want to join the organising group or have suggestions message Priya if you would like to host an event.

## Committees

As per usual, we sit on a range of committees, including AB, AB subcommittees, University Executive, Student mental health and wellbeing advisory group, and other informal meetings. Assisted president and other OBs with reporting to meetings - VPN report by Haomin Lyu has been presented and passed onto university staff for further technological support.

Discussion:

Priya Gupta spoke to her report highlighting its main points.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu wanted to highlight that the budget needs to be passed today unless the council wanted to highlight any issues, and emphasised the importance of reporting numbers for SSAF metrics.

Lauren Lancaster asked what is happening with the \$730 000 for infrastructure?

Swapnik Sanagavarapu said he had meant to raise this in his report and that was extra fund the SRC can apply for from contestable pool of funding, separate to the SRC's base funding but still has restrictions such as only being able to be spend on infrastructure, but there may be other contestable funds available, which we should apply for after discussions of what we want and what can be applied for.

Owen Marsden-Readford said that the SRC's contestable funds needed to go towards running in person elections as a priority, and not a repeat of the farcical online elections of last year.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu said that he agrees the SRC should prioritise this but that this funding is explicitly for infrastructure and cannot be applied for to fund the elections but can be applied for to upgrade the SRC office spaces. At this time the University's rational for not allowing funding for in person elections is that the University Senate has voted to make all student elections online. The argument isn't not the we don't have the money in existence, it's that the University will not fund it.

Cole Scott-Curwood noted that it would be good to get some funding for infrastructure, but the timeline was very tight.

Priya Gupta noted that elections funding doesn't normally comes from the contestable funding but due to delays in knowing what funding we could and would get we were not able to secure funding for in person elections. We will see what we can do now that things are clearer.

Deaglan Godwin said that money that what is in base should be moved to contestable and then use that base funding to pay for in person elections, and move other costs into contestable

Priya Gupta noted that the SRC can't just move it where we want without the University's approval. The University also approves what we can spend out base funding on. They will see what we spend it on and will want that to line up with what they approved.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that there seems to be misconceptions on how SSAF funding worked as the SRC does not just receive a share of money to do with as they wish, but that that funding is controlled but the ACT and all activities must fit within the 10 or 11 categories it allows for. The University monitors this closely as they send that information back to the government as proof of proper process, that's why there are so many control and caveats. Much of the SRC's

SSAF will come in sections throughout the year to reimburse us for money already spent, if they are not happy with how we've spent it, it comes out of our reserves, like radical education week last year.

Deaglan Godwin said that in person elections are essential and the priority for student democracy should be making them happen. Adding if we have to have a political fight about it we should do that too. There needs to be a fix.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu said that the SRC can try every trick in the book but at the end of the day we need to convince the university of in person elections.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

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

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

Madeleine Clark and Thomas Williams tabled a written report

This month has been a very busy one for us and our "No to 12 Week Semesters" campaign. We facilitated a forum on this topic with a range of student and staff speakers. This was attended by over 30 people and was a good way to raise awareness of the issue. We also held a speak out outside of Fisher where two staff members spoke (one permanent and one casual) as well as other student speakers. It was really great to hear especially from staff members about how detrimental this move would be. Following that speak out we heard that the Academic Board would be holding the vote on Tuesday the 4th. In response to that we organised a snap action outside of the F23 building on that day at 11:30am. Although it was raining we got a decent amount of attendees and heard from more students who are against the proposal. Incredibly, when it came down to the vote, 69 voted against both 12 week semester proposals. This is an amazing victory and shows how powerful protesting can be.

We also recently heard through staff members that the university is planning to cut FASS under a plan called "Operation Blue Star". This plan will cut the FASS schools from 6 to 5, firing staff and subjects. We are organising with a group "Save SLAM" as well as the Casuals Network from the NTEU to create a student rally planned for week 13. This is a great opportunity to involve more students in the EAG.

We are now holding meetings fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm in the SRC.

Discussion:

Tom Williams spoke to his report and elaborated on its main points

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

Motion: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Drew Beacom

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

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

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written report

### **CathSoc and "Life Week"**

Thank you to those who joined our counter-protesting against the Catholic Society during their "Life Week" schedule in Week 8. USyd WoCo stands with the Disabilities Collective in denouncing the disgusting ableist behaviour shown by the Catholic Society. Any attempt to pit disabled peoples and pro-choice advocates against each other (as if the two are mutually exclusive) has, and always will, fail. We are proudly "noisy" and "angry", to quote the "Can you be pro-life and pro-woman?" guest speaker Monica Doumit. Ableist, sexist and anti-abortion rhetoric should not have a place on this campus, let alone ableist and sexist policies and infrastructures. There is nothing academically enriching or generative about these kinds of conversations that question the dignity and value of actual, living people over fetuses.

### **Rad Sex and Consent Week**

Onto better and actually important weeks in the calendar, Rad Sex and Consent Week is now scheduled for Semester 2, Week 2. Due to the difficulty of organising with university venues and the USU, we were forced to push back the week. However, this does give us much more time to deliver a more cohesive, thoughtful and engaging programme. To reiterate, as we have all year: USyd students deserve better, holistic consent education. Members of the collective have been taking great initiative with contacting speakers and forming panels. In lieu of having Rad Sex and Consent week this semester, the collective is now working on a sex and consent themed zine to be printed by the end of semester with similar topics to the Rad Sex and Consent programme.

Funding wise, the USU, at the time of writing, is putting \$500 towards the week. The convenors will be meeting with USU President Irene Ma to discuss our collaboration with the USU further. At WoCo's bake sale fundraiser last month we raised just over \$120 dollars and we're now organising a fundraising event/party for Week 13.

### **'Sorry Day' rally**

Wednesday the 26th of May is National Sorry Day. With the help of WoCo, Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR) will be holding a rally at 1pm, meeting Town Hall, to demand an end to the Stolen Generation. First Nations children are being forcibly removed from their families and communities at higher rates than before Kevin Rudd's hollow apology. So-called 'australia' does not care about First Nations children, but is trying to complete the colonial project of generational genocide by criminalising First Nations children and ripping families apart.

### **Dismantle the colleges**

With the news that St. Paul's is considering admitting undergraduate women, we'd like to remind the council that reform is not enough when it comes to the deeply embedded culture of rape and

sexism in the colleges. Admitting women does not solve the problem of sexual violence and dangerous hazing rituals. Women do not exist for the benefit of teaching young men respect and consent. This is not a culture that can be changed from the inside, in what will always be an elitist and exclusionary institution. We fight for nothing less than the abolition of the colleges.

Discussion:

Kimberly Dibben spoke to her report and covered it's main points

Lily Campbell said she was at the rally during the week which she thought was good, and it was good to challenge the narrative during life week. Lily noted concern that there has been a trend to approach these issues in the past by pressuring the USU or the university to shut these clubs like Catholic Society or Life Choices down, and this is an ongoing debate, but all the ways you can ask them to shut them down would be able to shut down any group on campus, and showing them that they do not have support, rather than using institutional power to shut them down when institutional power favours the right, not the left.

Kimberly Dibben replied noted that there has been no push for deregistration by the Women's Officers or Collective during life week, and it was a direct action approach, but appreciate the concerns,

Lauren Lancaster agreed that direct action is a better approach, and during student life committee, the USU CEO was talking about it was unfortunate that the Catholic Society decided it call off an event with life Choices as a result of the protests which was interesting – here the connection drops out and come content it lost – Lauren concludes saying that the current action are working even if they seem to not stop these groups from holding such events.

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

Motion: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Swapnik Sanagavarapu resumed the chair*

### **O3. Report of the Welfare Officers**

*Lia Perkins:*

The main things I have been working on are public housing, May Day, student housing and education activism. I handed out flyers and helped build for the May Day rally in Parramatta, supporting the CFMEU's green ban on the development of Willow Grove Parramatta. The welfare action group cooked for and attended the Community Union Defence League street kitchen. We

have also been involved in the public housing campaign and will be bringing a student contingent to the rally on May 12. Our contingent demands are: don't sell off any public housing in NSW, return JobSeeker and other welfare payments to the original rate, and affordable housing for all students. We had a working bee on May 5 to make a banner and placards for this rally. At our last Welfare Action Group meeting we worked on our demands for the student housing campaign. In terms of education activism, I have been campaigning against 12 week semesters and the cuts to the school of SLAM.

*Owen Marsden-Readford:*

**Palestinian activism:**

Since the last SRC meeting I have been involved in organising and building for the Palestine Action Group Nakba Day rally on May 15th. Since covid stopped the rally last year, it is important that everyone attends. Covid-19 is wreaking havoc through the occupied territories as Israel systematically denies the vaccine and basic healthcare to Gaza and the West Bank. Recent far-right protests in East Jerusalem chanting 'death to arabs' have also highlighted the violence of the apartheid state of Israel and our duty to stand in solidarity with Palestinians. Along with this, I have been involved in organising with Students for Palestine a forum, which happened on May 4th to build for this rally. I chaired and we had speakers from Students for Palestine, the Palestinian diaspora in Australia, Sydney Staff for BDS and Jews Against the Occupation. Look out for more Palestinian activism in the year coming.

**Education activism:**

I spoke at one of the recent EAG rallies against 12 week semesters where we found out that the university is planning on gutting the School of Literature, Arts and Media and cutting totally Theatre and Performance studies and Studies of Religion. This is a massive assault from management.

**LGBTI activism:**

Over the past few weeks, activists from Community Action for Rainbow Rights have been building for the next rally against Mark Latham and his bigoted bills on June 5th. This has involved leafleting on campus and reaching out to unions and other LGBTI+ groups and arguing about the dangers of both the 'Parental Freedoms' and the 'Religious Freedoms' bills and the necessity of mobilising against them. I also attended and spoke at the QUAC speakout against One Nation's transphobic bill in the senate.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to her report covering its main points

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to his report covering its main points

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers**

The biggest project for the Global Solidarity office has been promoting the Nakba rally, held by the Palestine Action Group on May 15. The Nakba represents the day that the dispossession of Palestine began, where families had their houses and land stolen and were made refugees. It is said that some Palestinians still have the keys to their old homes.

I have been working with Students for Palestine on campus to build Palestine solidarity activism and promote the Nakba rally. We had a very successful organising meeting earlier in the semester where we decided to host a forum. We had a lot of new activists come along - it's excellent to see that young people are politicised over Palestine and want to get involved in activism for the first time. Last week, I was on a Students for Palestine stall on Eastern Avenue where we had a very positive response to both the forum and rally. A lot of students were interested in coming along to both the forum and the protest.

The Students for Palestine forum was yesterday and it was very successful! It was great to see a layer of students on campus who want to show solidarity with the fight for Palestinian liberation. We were able to meet students who are keen to get involved in activism and to re-build Palestine solidarity on campus.

I will continue promoting the Nakba, I have already done poster runs and leafletted for it on campus. I have also submitted a motion urging the SRC to support Palestine and help spread the word about the Nakba. As a student union, we should fight for justice for all the oppressed and show our solidarity internationally. The Western imperialist nations all support Israel, including here in Australia, which makes our job of supporting Palestinian struggle all the more important.

The final thing I will also be doing is promoting the upcoming protest in recognition of the anniversary of Tamil genocide, which was committed by the Sri Lankan government over a decade ago. This will be a great development for the refugee rights campaign to have a demonstration in solidarity with the Tamils in Sydney. I will be attending the protest and I already have been poster and leafletting for it. The protest will be on May 16. I encourage as many people as possible to come to both the Nakba rally on May 15 and the Tamil protest on May 16 next weekend.

Discussion:

Sophie Haslam spoke to her report encouraged everyone to come to the Nakba day protest

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O5. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

### **Opposing the genocide of the Tamil people**

In May 2009, the beach of Mullivaikal was turned into a war zone as the Sri Lankan military trapped and slaughtered tens of thousands of Tamils in a genocidal offensive against the struggle for a Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country. Twelve years later, the war criminals responsible for this horrific crime continue to hold positions of power within the Sri Lankan state, while Tamil Eelam remains one of the most densely militarised regions in the world. The Australian Government has always offered their full support to the genocidal Sri Lankan Government, and refused refuge to Tamils fleeing for their lives - and as a result, it's incumbent on left wing activists in Australia to stand in solidarity with the struggle for the national liberation of the Tamils. On Sunday May 16 at 2pm the Tamil Refugee Council is organising a rally at Town Hall to commemorate the genocide, which I've been helping to promote and build alongside Tamil refugee activists. Mourn the dead, fight like hell for the living!

### **Solidarity with Palestine**

May 15th marks the annual day of resistance to the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people by the apartheid state of Israel, commemorating al Nakba- literally 'the catastrophe' - the horrific beginning of this campaign of ethnic cleansing in 1948. I've been campaigning with Students for Palestine to build this year's al Nakba rally in Sydney, happening at 2pm at Town Hall. We must stand in solidarity with the unswerving struggle of the Palestinian people against 73 years of horrific oppression under an apartheid regime backed by capitalist powers the world over, including the Australian state. Join the rally to stand up and fight for a free Palestine, from the river to the sea.

### **Demand climate justice now!**

The climate crisis remains a key question for tens of thousands of people politicised by the scale and urgency of the disaster already beginning to play out and inspired by the power of mass protests such as the 2019 climate strikes and the mass protests against the Liberals' disgraceful response to the Black Summer bushfires. With the May 21 climate strike fast approaching, I'll be building the USyd contingent to the demonstration. In Australia, the coal and fossil fuels capital of the world, it's crucial for activists to stand up against the appalling state of mainstream climate politics, where politicians across Labor, the LNP and even the Greens fall over themselves to assure the coal bosses that they will have the backing of the Australian state for decades into the climate disaster. We can only do that by building a mass, radical environmental movement bitterly opposed to conciliation with the climate criminals of the ruling class.

### **Fighting the right's transphobic attacks**

As professional bigot Mark Latham's amendment to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act continues to crawl closer to law, the fightback against the queerphobic right-wing backlash he represents continues. Off the back of a vibrant rally on April 17th against Latham's atrocious bills, I've been working with Community Action for Rainbow Rights to build the next rally against attacks on LGBT+ rights in Australia on June 5, 1pm at Town Hall. Despite 82% of people opposing the existing rights of religious institutions in Australia to discriminate, Latham's amendment - which would roll back the rights of LGBT+ people, women, religious minorities and other oppressed groups by enshrining the right of many essential services to discriminate - state MPs from Labor

and Liberal parties alike have indicated their support for their bill, with the Liberals' federal discriminatory religious freedoms bill no doubt waiting in the wings. The fight against these serious attacks on the rights of the oppressed will be on the streets, so join us on June 5 to beat back the bigots.

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to their report covering its main points.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O6. Report of the Environment Officers**

Deaglan Godwin gave a verbal report

- The SGM was a massive success
- There was an intercampus environment meeting on Monday on building a contingent to the Climate Strike on the 21st
- Myanmar protests continue in the fight against the military coup

Lauren Lancaster gave a verbal report

- SGM was a success thanks to the collective members and their work in building that event, thanks to them we have a mandate to support
- Went to the willow grove protests for May Day
- We need to seize this as a historic event and we should all be working towards a strong event on May 21<sup>st</sup> for the climate strike

Motion: that the report of the Environment 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.

## **Q. Motions of Notice**

### **Q1. Save SLAM at USyd**

On April 29, over 90 staff in the School of Literature, Art and Media met to discuss rumours of a restructure that had been circulating since July last year. In the meeting, the worst fears were confirmed; the school is set to be abolished, in a restructure ominously named 'Operation Bluestar'.

This proposed restructure involves a reduction in the number of schools in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences from six to five. Some of the nine departments within SLAM would be pushed into other schools, all of which have already faced significant cuts, with staff expected to take on the workload of the many casuals sacked by the university. Other departments are suspected to be axed entirely, namely Theatre and Performance Studies and Studies in Religion.

At least nine permanent staff and several casuals may face redundancies from the two departments, and if SLAM is axed its administration staff may also lose their jobs.

Both of these departments are amongst the last few of their kind in Australia, as universities across the country have progressively gutted arts faculties over several years. Vice Chancellors have operated in tandem with a government that is determined to push the cost of education onto students and 'streamline' the output of universities in the interests of big business. As of 2021, arts degrees are as expensive as Law degrees, and the following cuts and mergers are scheduled:

- Monash University has cut theatre studies and musicology programs.
- Newcastle and La Trobe Universities will abolish their drama departments.
- Griffith University's Queensland College of the Arts will cut courses in fine arts, photography and design.
- Flinders University in South Australia will have a "temporary pause" in enrolling students in its acting degree.
- The Australian National University in Canberra proposed to downgrade its arts schools with the possible cancellation of Furniture, Jewellery and Object workshops and a restructuring of Glass and Ceramics Workshops.
- The University of NSW's Faculty of Art & Design in Sydney has become part of a school within a larger faculty that will see the merging of Arts & Social Sciences with Art & Design and Built Environment.

Arts faculties are considered less valuable in today's education system because they do not produce easily marketable skills for the current needs of the Australian capitalism. As student unionists, we should reject this commodification and rationalisation of education. Universities should be places where knowledge and learning can be freely explored without the constraints of the profit motive.

These latest cuts are severe, but hardly shocking to those who have followed the education campaign over the past year. Last year, the University attempted to use the cover of the pandemic as an excuse to cut huge numbers of casual staff, despite student revenue having actually increased by \$65 million from 2019-2020. Many hundreds of subjects were cut within FASS. There is certainly enough money in the university to keep SLAM in operation - despite the claims of the

administration. We should accept no compromises, especially considering how much has already been lost.

Staff have vowed to fight 'Operation Bluestar' and save the departments and the livelihoods of those employed in the School. As the student union, we offer our full solidarity to those staff members affected and commit to organising students to fight the cuts.

Platform:

1. The SRC opposes cutting the number of schools within FASS and opposes any cuts to departments within the School of Literature, Art and Media.
2. The SRC opposes all job cuts and recognises that any restructure will result in redundancies.
3. The SRC opposes the commodification of higher education and reaffirms its commitment to a free, publicly funded tertiary education sector.

Action:

1. The SRC will actively support future events organised by staff and students in SLAM.
2. The SRC will publish this motion from its Facebook and Instagram platforms, with links to the open letter started by SLAM students and the Facebook page started by SLAM staff.

Discussion:

Lily Campbell spoke to her motion speaking about how the cuts have been proposed but the University are being very unclear about what these changes will be exactly, but we know it's a plan to merge what is now 6 schools in SSAS into 5 schools, and we suspect these mergers will see the destruction of some departments at the moment we they will be studies of religion and theatre and performance studies, which will limit student education as well as cuts to staff and casuals. As well as being a part of the ongoing attack on the arts we have been seeing for years now. There will be a rally on this soon, details to come, and we should be showing our support for staff and sign the open letter.

*Procedural to limit speaking time to 1 in 30 sec*

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing

The Procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

Eddie Stephenson echoed Lily Campbell's statement and that there has been ongoing war by Australian capitalism against arts education, with it being the first to be cut despite lower ongoing costs to run than other degrees. Trying to further cut down costs of lecturers and tutors and risking their livelihoods and student education quality and access.

Jayfel tulabing suggested an amendment to rename the campaign and motion title to 'save the arts'.

Lily Campbell said that it was not amenable as this is connected to and carries on from the staff created page, not something set up by the EAG and it was intentionally at this time more specific.

The amendment **WITHDRAWN**

Tom Williams added that this was an insane attack on the art broadly and its similar to what was done to med science last year and it's one on the most job insecure areas of the university, and this is something that needs a huge push back. Ended by encouraging everyone to come along to the EAG meeting

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Owen Marsden-Readford

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **Q2. Stand in Solidarity with Palestine: Support Nakba Day Rally 2021**

### **PREAMBLE**

May 15 marks the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba. Meaning “catastrophe” in Arabic, it’s the day apartheid was established in Israel in 1948. 85% of the Palestinian population, around 750 000 people, were expelled from their land by the Israeli military, and 15 000 were murdered. Many Palestinians were only given a few minutes warning, and to this day, families still have the keys to their stolen houses. Ever since, repression, imprisonment and discrimination are daily realities for Palestinians.

The impact of the Nakba is still ongoing, as there as 7 million Palestinian refugees stranded across the Middle East., while those still in Palestine have been denied access to vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. We must show our solidarity in light of the recent attacks against Palestinian civilians in Israel. Far-right groups of Israelis have been marching through Jerusalem, attacking Palestinians and chanting “death to Arabs”. This was in response to a Palestinian protest against the barricading of the Damascus gate, which is a popular community location, especially during Ramadan. Dozens of Palestinians have been injured and Arab houses with families inside have been targeted.

Activists in Australia must show solidarity with the Palestinian struggle;the Australian government is a strident supporter of Israeli apartheid, .routinely voting against UN investigations into Israeli crimes against the Palestinians. This is unsurprising for a state similarly built on dispossession.

The Palestine Action Group has called a protest to commemorate the Nakba on Saturday 15 May, 2pm at Town Hall, which should be attended by all those in Sydney committed to the fight for social justice and human rights.

### **Platform:**

1. As a body committed to social justice and solidarity, the University of Sydney Students’ Representative Council opposes the ongoing oppression of the Palestinians.
2. The University of Sydney Students’ Representative Council supports the struggle for Palestinian liberation.

**Action:**

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council endorses the Palestine Action Group protest on Saturday 15 May to commemorate the Nakba.
2. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council will promote the Nakba rally by sharing the Facebook event on its page and printing posters and leaflets. Councillors and office-bearers are encouraged to attend the protest.

Discussion:

Sophie Haslam spoke to her motion speaking about how 2020 had limited Palestinian activism and that the rally had to be cancelled last year. Sophie talked about the history of the Nakba as well as the ongoing situation of evictions of Palestinians living in Israel and the illegal settlements, and the continuing displacement of Palestinians. Sophie added that she hoped to see everyone at the rally as it was really important.

Owen Marsden Readford spoke to the motion echoing Sophie's comments adding that everyone needs to come out to the protest noting that in the past Palestinian rights activism has struggled in Sydney to have board left active support like is seen in other issues. Owen called for everyone to be printing leaflets and postering as well as getting involved with Student's for Palestine and hoped to see everyone at the protest.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion saying that anyone who considers themselves an anti-colonial activist the occupation is the most conspicuous test to see if you truly care about that issue. There are people about to be evicted from the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in east Jerusalem even though many have lived there since the 50s and some are older than the state of Israel.

**Mover:** Sophie Haslam

**Secunder:** Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **Q3. USYD SRC Supports the Climate Strike**

**Preamble:**

1. The climate crisis is as real as ever. "Once in a hundred year" events are happening every few years, with ordinary people in NSW experiencing both fires and floods which render them homeless and endanger them. In Texas, a "freak" cold weather event plunged the state into freezing cold temperatures, exacerbated by blackouts. Whilst this was happening, energy companies hiked their costs, meaning working class people who could not afford to heat their homes froze to death. The climate crisis is not some event in the future, it is unfolding as we speak.
2. The climate crisis is a class issue. The world's workers and poor will suffer the most. The profits from the continued burning of fossil fuels do not flow to workers, but remain concentrated in the pockets of bosses, businessmen and the sell-out politicians who facilitate their every whim. Workers, students and the oppressed have an interest in a

liveable planet and so have an interest in what needs to be done to get there. This is the end of the fossil fuel industry and an immediate just transition to 100% publicly-owned renewables.

3. Why is this transition so necessary? Because the capitalist class who run the fossil fuel industry have no interest in saving the planet. Appeals to their morality or even to their self-interest will fail. Green capitalism is a myth. Although leaders like Biden might talk more about climate action, it is a facade. They can set net-zero targets for 2050 with the full knowledge that it does not compel them to do anything in the short-term. The Australian capitalist class, who enjoy the benefits of the billions of export dollars generated by coal, will never give up mining fossil fuels because it means sacrificing profits
4. Students have an important role to play in all of this. It was high school student Greta Thunberg who kickstarted a global movement by striking from high school every Friday in order to demand action on climate change. The school strikes of 2018-2019 were momentous events that propelled a whole new generation into activism, enraging politicians. The successful university student contingents in 2019 showed the anger amongst university students. We must relight this fire.
5. After a year of a global pandemic, the capitalists dug their heels in to preserve their rotten system with a 'gas-led recovery', destruction of First Nations sites in Queensland, NT and Victoria and farcical climate targets. We need to restart climate activism on university campuses around the country.

The Enviro Collective last week held our Student General Meeting, which attracted over 250 students, was a roaring success and showed the real appetite amongst students for radical environmental activism. We unanimously passed a motion in support of the 'widest possible shut down of campus' for May 21 and called on Stephen Garton to commit to 'no penalty for students or staff'. It is the SRC's mandate to listen to and put the utmost energy towards this, compelled by the formal expression of student will that the SGM represents. We need to build on this by now doing the essential work to make May 21 as big as possible.

### **Platform**

1. The USYD SRC endorses the May 21 Climate Strike and encourages all students to attend the USYD contingent - 10:15AM at Fisher Library, and the main event.
2. The USYD SRC endorses the call for no penalisation for any staff or students attending the strike.
3. The USYD SRC demands the University release a public statement committing to this no penalties stance.

### **Action**

1. The USYD SRC will provide an additional \$2000 to the Environment Collective budget for their use in promoting the event.
2. The USYD SRC will share the USYD contingent Facebook event from the official social media pages and via Honi Soit. All collectives are encouraged to do so likewise.

3. All Collectives will materially contribute to building it, via using their budgets to support the costs.
4. All Office Bearers should do their most to build the strike, including leafleting, lecture bashes, postering, chalking and more. All Office Bearers will attend the strike.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to his motion this motion outlines some of the background of the climate crisis, and noting that it is already here and affecting the lives of workers around the world. The only people who have a vested interest in the continued burning of fossil fuels are the fossil fuel Barons who profit off the destruction of the planet with no regards of the consequences, and we need to force their hand. Encouraged everyone to attend the climate strike.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion said that it was really important to focus on a just transition away from coal and other fossil fuels by fighting for no new gas or coal projects. We have a responsibility to support workers when the fossil fuel industry comes to an end. What this means for the May 21<sup>st</sup> is we need a massive student contingent, and we would love to see all the collectives getting involved. We would also be after a further \$2000 for the Environment collective to support this

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying that the Education department has some extra funding for things like this if needed.

Drew Beacom spoke to the motion saying it was important that everyone should dedicate themselves to building this strike and rebuild the strong movement that was shut down with covid.

**Moved:** Deaglan Godwin

**Seconded:** Lauren Lancaster

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **Q4. Motion for support for offshore students in India**

**Preamble:**

The COVID situation in India at the moment is dire, with an exhausted healthcare system, no beds and oxygen. India's COVID-19 crisis imposes highly adverse stressors on offshore international students from India and indeed, represents a traumatic experience for onshore students with connections to India. Students and relatives are unable to directly assist those at home by virtue of the existing travel bans, and

There are many international students in India and they are not receiving support from the university in any way except for a standardised email. Offshore students are required to provide proof of their sickness along with a standard special consideration request. There are no doctors for consultation, not even for tele-consultations, testing facilities have stopped their operations all

over the country. How are students supposed to show proof of their sickness if they cannot get tested or get an appointment? Those who aren't sick are disregarded by the university without considering their surrounding situation.

We are also opposed to the racist travel ban imposed by the Liberal-National Government, the proposed fines of up to \$66,000 and incarceration imposes unjust burdens and discrimination upon Australians currently stuck in India through no fault of their own - especially given the current COVID-19 crisis in India imposes a uniquely stressful situation upon this group and therefore, exacerbate inequalities. Not only is this measure grossly disproportionate seeing that no equivalent prohibitions were imposed during the peak of the United States' COVID-19 crisis in January, 2021, the ban might be unconstitutional based on an implied freedom to return home.

**Platform:**

1. The USyd SRC calls on the university to relax their special considerations for offshore and onshore international students.
2. The USyd SRC calls on the government to end their travel ban, and allow returning Australians to return from India without the onus of a \$66,000 fine nor incarceration.

**Action:**

1. The USyd SRC publishes this motion on their Facebook page.
2. The USyd SRC contacts university management about the special considerations issue to alleviate the burden of the process on offshore students in India, and shares an open letter among students.
3. The SRC supports exempting offshore students in India from normal special considerations procedure towards a COVID-19 declaration form in response to the crisis.

**Discussion:**

Ashrika Paruthi spoke to her motion and the extra challenges faced by students in India at the moment, explaining the conditions of no beds in hospitals and doctors available to prescribe medications for any issues as covid has taken over the whole system. Saying that the student are struggling as this prevents student from getting medical certificates when they are sick or documents and deaths certificates with the deaths of a family member or friend, there is at this time no way to get these, there isn't even space in crematoriums at the moment. She asked everyone to support the motion asking the university to relax special consideration application proves for students in India at the moment and we would also like to call out the university for their lack of support and also the Government's racist travel ban which was not imposed on the USA when they had surging cases.

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion picking up where Ashika ended saying that this motion is to support office international students. The Travel bad is racist and want to council to acknowledge it as such no one should be banned from reentering their own country, and asked that the SRC calls on the University to relax special consideration documents for student in India and call on the government to end this racist travel ban.

Priya Gupta spoke to the motion the COVID-19 situation is the worst in the world right now and very scary and the university should be compassionate to students there at the moment.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion hearing the scale of the devastation in India is devastating and horrifying, it is unbelievable that students are being made to jump through hoops to get 2 weeks on an assignment while they live through this, and also noting that this could have been prevented. Lily Campbell continued saying the Australian government should have set up good and proper quarantine facilities a long time ago, so they were able to repatriate people safely.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion saying as someone who has family members in India with COVID and adding that many countries in the global south have been asking for permission to waive IP on the vaccine so they can get them out to people but so far the US are the only country to oppose these. India has one of the largest vaccine productions in the world and domestic producers have been selling it domestically at a premium at like \$8GBP to \$1.20GBP for export.

Moved: Ashrika Paruthi

Second: Khanh Tran

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **Q5. Stand with the Tamil people's struggle, support Tamil Genocide Day**

### **Preamble**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, the Australian Tamil community will commemorate twelve years since the Sri Lankan state's systematic genocide of Tamil people reached its height.

Throughout the Civil War, Sri Lankan armed forces murdered hundreds of thousands of Tamils, many of those civilians, and forced nearly one million to seek refuge overseas. Despite widely documented instances of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Sri Lankan state, including forced disappearances, the use of arbitrary detention, and systematic torture, the Sri Lankan government has never faced any form of international justice.

The Australian government's defence of the Sri Lankan state's actions, and ongoing military aid makes it complicit in this genocide. The Australian state's border regime and offshore detention camps routinely stop Tamil refugees from escaping persecution in Sri Lanka. The SRC should demand an end to the Australian government's role in the perpetuation of Tamil persecution.

Each year on Mullivaikkal Remembrance Day, the Tamil community internationally demands justice for past and ongoing crimes, and an end to the military occupation of Tamil Eelam. The SRC should stand in solidarity with the Tamil people's struggle for self-determination against ongoing persecution and oppression by the Sri Lankan state.

### **Platform**

The SRC stands in solidarity with people around the world fighting for self-determination.

The SRC stands in solidarity with the Tamil people in their fight for liberation against military occupation.

The SRC supports the Tamil diaspora in their struggle for justice and recognition.

The SRC condemns the Australian government for providing military aid to the Sri Lankan state, and for their brutal treatment of Tamil refugees.

**Action**

The Sydney University SRC will publish this motion on its Facebook page.

The Sydney University SRC will support and promote the Tamil Genocide Day Rally at 2PM on Sunday the 16th of May at Sydney Town Hall. The Facebook event for this rally (<https://fb.me/e/6qjWQy9c>) will be shared on the SRC's Facebook page.

The Sydney University SRC will print materials including posters and leaflets in order to promote the rally.

**Discussion:**

Alex Panzarino spoke to his motion the 16<sup>th</sup> of May this year will be a day to commemorate one of the worst genocides in recent history. This is the first time there is going to be a protest in Sydney on this issue, and it will be on the past and the future and a calling to account on the horrific treatments of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Continuing Alex noted there has been little to no international investigations into the crisis though they may struggle to find much, as well as little internal outcry over what happened. The SRC needs to mobilise to make this Rally a success and would be great that to show there is support in Sydney especially considering the government's ongoing failures to assist the Tamil people from this crisis.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion saying this is an important motion and important to recognize and know many people who are persona non grata in Sri Lanka because of how Tamil people were and are treated.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying it's the first time it's being held in Sydney but has been held for a long time in Melbourne, and the SRC should be involved in establishing this in Sydney and it's an important rally for refugee rights. Just recently the government provided more drones to the Sri Lankan government one of the most militarised in the world with 1 military personnel for every 6 civilian citizens. Hope to see everyone there.

**Moved:** Alex Panzarino

**Seconded:** Yasmine Johnson

The motion was out and **CARRIED.**

**N. General Business**

*Motions from the Floor*

**R1. Motion condemning the Government's Kurri Kurri Gas-Fired Power Station**

**Preamble:**

As the capitalist economies of the world failed, once again, during the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, governments scrambled globally in order to find cure-alls, solutions and stimulus packages that they could use to keep neoliberal capital and its beneficiaries on life-support. The Morrison government, applying its same lack of calculation and foresight that we've become accustomed to, proposed the idea of a 'gas-led' recovery. Quick to forget the deadly bushfires of the Summer of 2019/2020, Scott Morrison has decided he really wanted to test our ecological limits and completely neglect any idea of climate justice, in favour of lining the pockets of rich LNP donors.

The LNP decided that the free market economy, of which it is its supposed protector, did not have the interests of Australia in mind. While most of this SRC could have told them that a long time ago, the LNP has intervened and forced the market to create a gas-fired power plant at Kurri Kurri, on the land of liberal party donor Jeff McCloy. This power plant will not only continue to promote the fracking of Australian land for coal seam gas, leading to irreversible localised ecological damage, it will also further exacerbate the current climate crisis. This power plant represents a wider ideological crisis within the current government, whereby capital will always be put before people, especially within the context of environmentalism.

As we continue to lock in more warming and significant increases in the severity and extremity of extreme weather events, its is critical that the USYD SRC and students more broadly commit to fighting these disastrous policies at every turn, and seek to bring about a green revolution, aiding First Nations Peoples, workers and students.

**Platform:**

1. The USYD SRC condemns the Federal Government and its plan of a 'gas-fired recovery'
2. The USYD SRC calls upon the Federal Government to abandon plans of new fossil fuel projects

**Action:**

1. The SRC commits itself to the demands of the May 21 Climate Strike
2. USYD SRC will commit to further pressuring USYD management to divest from fossil fuels

**Discussion:**

Drew Beacom spoke to his motion reading out the main points and highlight that the Scott Morrison Government has proved it's self anti worker and anti-environment. Despite being advocates of the free market they decided it wasn't helping Australian liberal party donors and so subsidises a new gas mine to keep the fossil fuel industry alive. It's shameful.

**Moved:** Drew Beacom

**Seconded:** Lauren Lancaster

Motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **R2. Motion to condemn management's secret surveillance of student activism**

### **Preamble**

In emails recently acquired by the SRC through pursuit of a GIPA request, it has been revealed that Sydney University management were aware of and were complicit in the use of absurd levels of surveillance on students and staff demonstrating against the cuts.

AI-based email monitoring technology, developed with CIA funding, was used to collect information on a student protest that occurred on September 23 2020. Email correspondence between NTEU members was recorded by the software, which has been used previously for domestic surveillance operations in the US. In the same emails, it has been revealed that USyd management was aware of, and agreed to, the presence of *plain-clothes police officers* on campus in pursuit of information.

It was already known that management and NSW Police collaborated to shut down the education rallies, but this is even more insidious than what we knew about previously.

This is an attack on student activism and an attack on our freedom of speech. That management has resorted to spying on staff is an indictment on them and exposes their contemptuous disregard for our democratic right to protest.

### **Platform:**

- Protest is a fundamental, democratic right. Management only cares about their bottom line, even when this means violating our rights.
- The SRC denounces the authoritarianism of the NSW Police.
- The SRC denounces the complicity of USyd management with the NSW Police.

### **Action:**

- The SRC will leak these emails to the media.
- The SRC demands cops off campus.
- The SRC will publish a condemnation of management's behaviour to its social media accounts.

### **Discussion:**

Simon Upitis read out the motion in full.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion most of the points are clear in the motion, but condemn the University for the attacks on student activism

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion say it's important to get this information out as soon as possible and it's important to create a fuss on this and we should be pushing to point out the management spy on their own staff and students to protect their bottom line.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and the concerns she has with what this means for student activism and seems to run deep and poses a threat particularly to international student who want to get involved in activism because of the already huge amount of exploitation they already face.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion agreeing with what has been said and adding that this continues to be a 'what the fuck' thing, and it goes to what we say that the police are there to stifle dissent. You can usually spot an undercover cop but it's concerning that they are doing this much surveillance and also a badge of honour.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion adding that when he was a legal observer saying that the undercover cops were obvious but we said it as a bit of a joke but it was in fact true. We will have a media release out by tomorrow.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion and wanted to highlight that this has been a problem for many years and its great to have it highlighted but it's not new it's just proof of what many have suspected for a long time.

**Moved:** Simon Upitis

**Seconded:** Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The meeting closed at 8:24pm.*