



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 5th regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on Wednesday the 2nd June 2021. Meeting held via Zoom.

*Quorum count was called at 6:30pm
The meeting was found quorate.*

A. Meeting open at 6:32 pm

The President being on leave General Secretary Anne Zhao assumed the Chair

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Roisin Murphy 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

Grace Hu to Grace Lagan
Lei Yao to Victor Liang
Robert Wang to
Margaret Thanos to Roisin Murphy
Isabella D'Silva to Amelia Mertha
Cole Scott-Curwood
Priya Gupta to Max Vishney
Ibrahim Taha
Lily Campbell to Deaglan Godwin
Hektor Vineburg
Qingchun (Theo) Meng

Mary Khoury to Tom Cleary
Kris Sergi to Tiger Mathieson

Moved: Anne Zhao
Seconded: Lauren Lancaster
The apologies were accepted.

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Lei Yao to Victor Liang
Margaret Thanos to Roisin Murphy

Josie (Shiqi) Jiang resigns as DSP
Xi (Joe) Guo resigns as DSP

Robert Wang expressed a desire to resign but with no valid nominee

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations excluding Robert Wang's.

Moved: Roisin Murphy
Seconded: Lauren Lancaster
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1 minute
Moved: Lia Perkins
Seconded: Lauren Lancaster
(WITHDRAWN)

There was discussion of the procedural. I was decided to increase the speaking time to 2 minutes.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1 minute
Moved: Lia Perkins
Seconded: Lauren Lancaster
The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 4th meeting of 93rd SRC Council held on 5th May 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 5th May 2021 be accepted.
Moved: Anne Zhao

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes
There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business
There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate
There was no business for this item.

K. Elections

K1. Election of 1 Indigenous Students' Officer

K2. Election of 1 Mature Age Students' Officer

K3. Election of 1 General Member of the Executive (must be an elected rep)

Victor Liang
Nominator 1: Jason Zeng
Nominator 2: Rita Wang

There being no other nominations Victor Liang was declared elected unopposed to the Executive Committee of the 93rd SRC.

K4. Election of 2 Directors of Student Publications

Evelyn (Lin) Peng
Nominator 1: Victor Liang
Nominator 2: Jason Zeng

Tina (Kwunying) Lee
Nominator 1: Victor Liang
Nominator 2: Jason Zeng

There being no other nominations Evelyn (Lin) Peng and Tina (Kwunying) Lee were declared elected unopposed as Directors of Student Publications of the 93rd SRC.

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 13th April 2021.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 13th April 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

L2. President's Report

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

This past month has thankfully been less busy than the last, so I don't have as much to report as usual. It's nice to have had relatively less stress to focus on the running of the core SRC operations. I've also been a bit sick at various points throughout the month, which has been unfortunate, but to be expected at this time of year. I want to apologise for not being at the Council Meeting this month (assuming you're reading this on the day), but it is my 21st birthday and I will be celebrating with my family! I leave you in Anne's capable hands for the night. As always, the report is structured according to types of activities. If you have any questions for me, feel free to email or ask after.

Things to Note

1. Office Bearers, **please** report your events and meetings etc. for the SSAF KPIs using the Google Sheet provided by the General Secretaries. It's very important for future funding that we do this successfully, so please continue doing so.
2. It's worth considering whether or not we just want to cancel the July meeting of council, because it's rarely ever quorate. I'm happy for us to do so - it also lets Julia and others have some time off. Happy for this to be discussed and voted on in my absence, but can also go to a poll in the Facebook group.

Electoral Officer

Given that the July meeting of the council is often inquorate, the Selection Committee (composed of myself, Roisin, Chitra and Mickie) interviewed 2 candidates for the position of Electoral Officer for the 2021 SRC Elections. After the interview and a deliberation period, we have chosen **Riki Scanlan** as the candidate that we are proposing. This nomination must be ratified by Council. Riki has a wealth of experience, having been a returning officer for the Greens Ticket and Casual Vacancy Preselections in 2018. They have also been involved in previous SRC and SUPRA elections, and were also a Polling Booth attendant in previous SRC Elections. They were very forthcoming with the fact that they are a member of the Greens (previous EOs have been members of the Labor Party or otherwise political), and assured the selection committee they would remain absolutely impartial. I recommend that the council, in approving this report, approve Riki's nomination as Electoral Officer.

We are also nominating **Ed McMahon** as Electoral Legal Arbiter for this election. Ed was the ELA last year and is highly qualified, having been extensively involved with SRC elections. He is also an admitted lawyer and has recently become a Barrister. It is also recommended that we confirm Ed's appointment as ELA at this meeting.

Activism

Surveillance

At last month's meeting of the council, I revealed that the Chair of Standing Legal had unearthed a number of documents through GIPA. The revealed documents detail an outrageous pattern of surveillance and repression by the University of Sydney and NSW Police.

Since then, I put out a quite widely picked up media release and did some campaigning around the issue. As I stated in the SRC's Media Release on the subject last week, the documents "reveal the University's knowledge of NSW Police's particularly invasive surveillance of student activists (alluding to plain-clothed operations and 'extensive intelligence networks'). It also details the University's needlessly intrusive monitoring of media appearances by Professor Simon Rice following his violent arrest at a protest on October 14 and social media posts regarding on-campus actions posted by NTEU representative and Senior Lecturer David Brophy. The University also surveilled students' social media activity, as evidenced by an internal email showing itemised numbers of attendees responding 'going' or 'interested' to Facebook events organising individual contingents to the September 16 protest." Worryingly, the documents reveal the University's use of Dataminr, a CIA-funded social media monitoring tool that was used to crack down on Black Lives Matter protests in the United States.

Two notable outcomes came from the media release. The first was an article published in the last edition of Green Left Weekly, a small but generally well read leftist newspaper, about the surveillance and the issues arising from it. The second and more remarkable was that Rose Jackson MLC, a former SRC and NUS President, gave a speech about the surveillance in NSW parliament. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with Rose on the issue.

INGS

I've also been working with INGS students this past month, trying to help them with a number of issues related to their degree. A few issues in particular were salient:

- A total lack of transparency and communication between management and students
- The promise of a number of internships and further study opportunities that were then denied, not planned or scrapped without notice
- The denial of exchange opportunities (even before covid)
- The denial of honours and advanced coursework to students, despite it being heavily advertised
- Condescension and a lack of recognition of the problems

The affected students independently put together a report detailing all of their concerns, and proposed remedies. I provided support in the following ways:

- Providing counsel for the report
- Putting the report onto SRC letterhead
- Uploading to website and publicising the report
- Sending the report to senior management
- Raising the issue at committees

The Faculty has said that they will respond to me with a proper answer on the 4th of June, but they've already started making a number of improvements. For one, they've increased communication with students. Second, they've held a talk for incoming Honours students. Third, they've mentioned they will make special arrangements for students in the incoming Honours

cohort with respect to credit points. Look forward to working with them on this for as long as necessary.

Other projects

- SLAM cuts campaign (congratulations on today's successful rally)
- Supports for offshore Indian international students
- Continuing work on committees including proposing positive amendments to Honours in liberal studies degrees at UE Education Committee
- Continuing discussions with NTEU and Casuals Network about plans going forward

SSAF

The projects for SSAF Contestable and Infrastructure that were approved by Executive were submitted to the University successfully. Thanks to Priya for her work on this. Those projects were:

- Rad Sex and Consent Week
- Mould removal and cleaning in the SRC
- OB Room Upgrades
- Disabilities space on campus
- Conservatorium study space
- FoodHub permanent staff member

Legal Service

We've successfully recruited some volunteer paralegals for the service. They'll begin working with us next week.

Discussion:

Roisin Murphy spoke to Swapnik Sanagavarapu report noting that it was important the council realise that by accepting the report of the president they are accepting the appointment of the Electoral Officer position to Riki Scanlan and the Electoral Legal Arbiter position to Ed McMahon.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Victor Liang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Roisin Murphy and Maria Ge gave a verbal report:

- This week has been selection committee things for Roisin
- Maria is preparing police seminar for international students
- Fed senator come to the food hub and talked about the
- Police surveillance document we spoke about last meeting were raised in the NSW legislative council and getting parliamentary support for student privacy on that issue

- There was an article that came out in Honi Soit yesterday saying the Vice Presidents haven't been working. We've actually been involved in a lot of different activities, including O-Week, 12 week sems campaign, and a number parliamentary inquiries, all which have all been ignored in the article. We got asked to comment on Saturday and sent a 600 word document response. Everything [Roisin Murphy] was doing was in that document but it doesn't mention any of it in the article, and I'm disappointed that a capitalist KPI mentality is being used to judge student output.

Alice (Honi): said that she was not able to address much of the article can be addressed here but we [Honi Soit] take on the feedback and thanked Roisin for their work this year.

Max Shanahan said they did ask on Saturday and other Office Bearers for their reports back to the editor, and statement by Marica Ge makes up the majority of the article as the document sent by Roisin arrived after the article had been written.

Anne Zhao noted that she was not contacted about these articles and only found out about them from co-general secretary Priya Gupta. Adding there is clearly communication issues and it's important that where there are multiple OBs effort is being made to contact all of them.

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

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

Though it is such a tough time for us all, we still work on many things:

- SSAF contestable applications: the Contestable funding projects for the SRC is still in progress and will continue next semester. Funding for the radical sex and Consent Week in semester 2, a casual staff member to organise the Food Hub project, the provision of a Disabilities space and a Conservatorium Study space are also requested.
- Take actions to support Indian international students
- Co-work with collectives about the isolation of certain international student groups for applying international Student award and the tuition fee rebate issue mentioned previously.

Hope everyone can survive finals, enjoy your work and holiday.

Anne Zhao asked if anyone had any questions about the report.

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

Moved: Jayfel Tulabing Lee
Seconded: Lauren Lancaster
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

This month saw the EAG focus on two main actions, the first opposing management's surveillance and repression of our protests, and the second fighting yet another round of cuts to arts.

The full extent of collaboration between management and police was revealed to be far worse than we anticipated. The University of Sydney employed DataMinr, an AI surveillance technology employed by the CIA and Minneapolis police department during the protests against police violence last year. Management monitored the social media accounts of academics and logged content that resembled support for our demonstrations. They also openly collaborated with Newtown police and lied about inviting them onto campus.

Our demonstration, while criticised by Honi for its size, heard from a mix of students and staff and showed the kind of real fighting solidarity that is needed at the heart of any movement. It was inspiring to see new, and now regular, faces at the front of the rally. The administration building was locked once again. There was a strong emphasis that the capitalists running campus showed their true colours, and so had the core of campus - the staff and the students united. It brought about much hope for future struggles, and helped build for our second action.

Our two meetings this month focussed on building for the "Save the Arts" rally. We heard from staff in the school of Theatre and Performance Studies about how drastic the cuts would be, and produced an open letter, posters and leaflets and organised the logistics of the rally. We have spent the past week leafleting, postering and building online. The rally has nearly 400 responses, and we're hoping for a good protest to end off the semester.

Tom also appeared on FBI radio for "backchat" to talk about the cuts. It went well! The recording is available online.

Thank you to the dedicated activists who keep turning out to EAG meetings, to building and to rallies. Thank you to FBI for raising the profile of these attacks, and to all the staff who are sharing and supporting the rally. No thank you to the Dean of Arts for yet another round of cuts.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to her report outlining it's main points, highlighting the rally turn out and building a Zine.

Tom Williams spoke to the report noting the new collective logo and the importance of what was said at the rally and how the attacks on the art are just a small part of the right wing push, and encouraged everyone to attend the rallies on both Saturday and Sunday.

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

Moved: Jafel Tulabing Lee

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written report

Kids need community not intervention

Last week (Wednesday May 26) the Women's Collective and Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR) held a Sorry Day rally outside Sydney Town Hall and then led a march to the Department of Social Services in Surry Hills. Thank you to everyone who came out in support of First Nations communities to what was, overall, a successful rally and march.

Kimmy chaired the rally alongside Aunty Gwenda Stanley and speakers included Erin O'Leary, Yvonne Weldon, and Aunty Rita Shillingsworth. This was an important protest in a year that has already seen high rates of forced child removals, shocking numbers of Bla(c)k deaths in custody and the policing, surveillance and criminalisation of young Indigenous children. Whilst the date is supposed to be a national day *commemorating* the injustice of the Stolen Generations and the anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report, we know this to be a classic delusion of our violence settler-colonial government. In the words of Helen Eason:

“On the ground we are seeing more and more children being stolen every day thanks to our corrupt government. Yet, according to them, the Stolen Generation is a thing of the past. Well let me tell you, it's not! It's happening more than ever before.”

Departments such as the Department of Social Services and the Department of Community and Justice are especially complicit in the continuation of the forced child removals from First Nations communities and families. Social services and child protection services do not operate in a vacuum. These services are part of the colonial project and are forms of policing. Child removals do irrevocable damage, inflicting generational trauma, and exacerbating struggles that already exist within First Nations communities. As settlers we must confront the truth of so-called Australia's “stolen land, stolen lives, stolen wealth” (to quote Aunty Gwenda) and fight in solidarity with First Nations communities. There is no feminist liberation and no reproductive justice whilst families are being ripped apart.

Our message to the government was, and is, clear: “sorry” means you don't do it again. We demand and end to the Stolen Generation, and kids back in community!

Members of WoCo will be attending another rally in support of First Nations children and families on June 2 on Awabakal land / Newcastle which has been co-organised by FISTT.

From Gadigal to Gaza — Free Palestine

On behalf of the Women's Collective, an anti-colonial and anti-imperialist feminist collective, the Women's Officers strongly voice our support for the liberation of Palestine from Israel's violent settler occupation. Our members have been attending the Palestine rallies over the past few weekends and will continue to do so proudly. We recognise the people of Palestine and their fight for self-determination. Just as we stand with the struggle of First Nations people, here, on stolen land, we stand with Palestinians.

We will join others again at the next rally this Sunday which brings together the anti-imperialist struggle 'from Gadigal to Gaza', of First Nations peoples and Palestinian peoples. Free Palestine, abolish 'australia'!

xp

Rad Sex and Consent Week

We are happy to hear that the USU has finally agreed to keeping the name "Radical Sex and Consent Week" however are still concerned with the lack of communication between the USU and the Women's Officers. Due to time constraints, our fundraising party is being pushed back and will be held during the winter break and post-exams. In the meantime, we will be selling 30 newly-purchased "special edition" Wo.Co 2021 t-shirts to raise funds.

Amelia Mertha and Kimberly Dibben spoke to their report and outlines its main points.

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

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Welfare Officers

Palestine activism:

Since the last SRC meeting, the escalation of Israeli violence and Palestinian resistance has launched a global solidarity movement. Here in Sydney that has involved the Palestine Action Group calling multiple rallies in solidarity with Palestine, numbering in the thousands. The rallies of over 10,000 people on May 15th and May 22nd were the biggest Palestine demonstrations since the rallies against the War on Gaza. The mass shows of solidarity in a country whose state is complicit in the crimes of Israel is incredibly inspiring. I have been involved in helping to organise these demonstrations as well as building for them on and off campus.

In Students for Palestine, we have organised two speak-out on campus to stand with Palestine and to help build for the mass rallies in the city. The first, was the biggest Palestine action on campus since 2018 which was amazing to see. The University of Sydney often collaborates with Israeli universities despite the calls for academic boycotts, as well as Belinda Hutchinson being both chairman of the weapons company Thales and Chancellor of the university. This stresses the necessity of Palestine activism here.

LGBTI activism:

This weekend, on June 5th is the next Community Action for Rainbow Rights rally against Mark Latham's transphobic and reactionary bills. I have been involved with poster and flyer on and off campus for the rally. Latham's proposed amendments to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, which would grant amendments from the act to schools, charities and even some businesses looks like it is garnering support from the Liberal party, as well as some in Labor. In light of this, attending and building for the rally is vital.

Other activism:

The first Tamil Genocide Day rally in Sydney to stand in solidarity with the struggle for a free Tamil Eelam happened on the 16th of May. It was an important rally to have attended and I encourage people to support future actions by the Tamil Refugee Council. By the time of council, I will have spoken at the Save the Arts rally to stand with staff against the gutting of the arts department and the slashing of casual jobs.

Owen Marsden-Readford

Early in May we attended the defend public housing rally and march at Martin Place. It was great to have so much support from members of the welfare action group. I am continuing to support the group working on the campaign and we will be part of future actions. We are making connections between the action group and other organisations working on similar things, such as student housing (STUCCO and Shelter are getting involved in our campaign) and in unemployment (supporting LIFE and the AUWU). We are hoping to cement some of these connections over the break. Many members of the action group also participate in the Education Action Group and we were very happy to build for and attend the energetic and powerful rally today. I urge people to attend the Gadigal to Gaza rally this Sunday!

Lia Perkins

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to her report outlining it's main points and adding there are ongoing works happening with AUWU and working with STUCCO on housing and the Street Kitchen in the city.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to his report and covered it main points and also let the council know how the rally for Sri Lankan Tamils went noting it's importance in the recognition of what happen in Sri Lanka how important it was to see that expand from Melbourne to Sydney.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Social Justice Officers

Defending LGBT+ rights in NSW

The One Nation party's attacks on LGBT+ rights in NSW are continuing to gain ground, with Mark Latham's amendment to the state Discrimination Act looking increasingly likely to pass into law. These attacks would be some of the worst in decades, arriving at a time when the right is already confidently using the legal protections against the Discrimination Act provided to religious institutions in order to sack queer staff and push back on the gains made by the LGBT+ movement since marriage equality in 2017. Significantly, indications of support for Latham's amendment from Labor and Liberals alike have the potential to open up a space for the federal government to reintroduce its own bigoted so-called "religious freedoms" bill. This makes it all the more crucial that activists on the left mount a sustained campaign of protests against the bill, using the mass disruption and anger of ordinary people on the streets to defeat these major attacks. To that end I've been busy leafleting, posterizing and joining a speakout at Liberal HQ to build the next protest against the bills organised by Community Action for Rainbow Rights, and hope to see everyone there this Saturday 1PM at Town Hall.

Free Palestine!

Regardless of the ceasefire the struggle in Palestine continues, after almost a month of defiant protests and mass resistance by Palestinians against the evictions, police and military violence and ethnic cleansing wrought against them by the Israeli state. This heroic resistance has seen an outpouring of solidarity from activists around the world, with some of the biggest rallies for Palestine in recent history mobilising from London to New York to Sydney. In Australia, it's particularly essential to recognise the murderous role of our own government in funding and supporting the dispossession and genocide of the Palestinian people, motivated by their interest in defending and upholding the Israeli state as a crucial ally to Australian imperialism in the Middle East region. As such, it's been an important part of my activity this month to work with Students for Palestine and the Palestine Action Group to build rolling rallies of thousands of protestors in solidarity with Palestine, as well as sizable on-campus speak outs, and I urge everyone to join the next solidarity protest this Sunday at 1PM in Town Hall.

Discussion:

Eddie Stevenson spoke to their report covering it's main point and went into more details on the rallies to defend the rights of LGBTIQ+ community against bills such as the parental right bill and others looking to protect religious institutions when they discriminate against people for being gay, or other reasons.

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

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Victor Liang

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Environment Officers

Lauren Lancaster and Deaglan Godwin gave verbal reports

Lauren Lancaster

- Climate strike had a great turn out especially considering the rain, this was due to a great amount of work but the collectives in building and promoting
 - NSW legal observers network are working on some statements police brutality issues that occurred outside UTS
- EMBERS Enviro collective publication was printed in Honi
- Film Screening on Jack Mundie and the green bans in the 1970s happening next week
- Kill the bill action on Saturday and Palestine support rally on Sunday
- Fighting against the governments commercially unviable and environmentally irresponsible 'gas lead recovery'

Deaglan Godwin

- Echo what Lauren Lancaster said – Climate strike huge success
 - Not just from the universities contingent but also at Town Hall
- Palestine solidarity work against Israeli apartheid
 - People are taking it really seriously which is great, there's as has been mentioned another rally this Sunday
- There also the rally Saturday for youth trans rights
 - It's really important that everyone comes out to these to fight against the liberal government

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

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Drew Beacom

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Stand in solidarity with the uprising in Palestine

Preamble:

Over the past month, Israel has unleashed a campaign of violent attacks on Palestinians. The attempted eviction of Palestinian residents from the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah is but the latest instance of the ethnic cleansing that has been a constant feature of Palestinian life since the Nakba in 1948. Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem was stormed multiple times during Ramadan, and again following the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Police have terrorized Palestinian protesters in cities across the occupied territory. The IDF's bombing of Gaza has left 254 dead and thousands injured. The Israeli military consciously targeted infrastructure and key buildings in Gaza, like the office of Al Jazeera and the Associated Press, Gaza's only Covid-clinic, roads, and large apartment buildings.

Despite what is reported in the media, there is nothing two-sided about this violence. World leaders have insisted on Israel's 'right to defend itself', while refusing to say the same for Palestinians. Israel is the oppressor, Palestinians are the oppressed and have the right to resist.

The media and governments across the world support Israel because it is a bulwark of Western imperialism in the Middle East. Famously, Joe Biden has said that if Israel didn't exist, America would have to invent it. The negotiations and 'peace' deals of politicians like Biden, who supports Israel to the tune of \$3.8 billion US per year, offers no peace to Palestinians. The two state solution is what we are seeing right now, and it means terror and settler violence for Palestinians. No 'return to normalcy' will give Palestinians the right to live freely without discrimination.

The Australian government is un-ambiguously pro-Israel. During the 2006 Lebanon war, during which 1,137 civilians were killed, John Howard described Israel's actions as 'understandable'. The most recent violence has provoked similar reactions from Labour and Liberal parties alike. Australia and its ruling parties support Israel because it is in the imperial interests of the Australian state.

In response to the violence, Palestinians across historic Palestine and the diaspora have put up inspiring resistance to colonisation. A general strike across historic Palestine ground key sectors of the economy to a halt, and demonstrations occurred in cities, both within the 1948 borders, and in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank.

Mass solidarity protests have occurred in cities around the world, with millions marching to oppose Israel's violence. Rallies in Sydney have been held by the Palestine Action Group, with tens of thousands attending.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns the attacks on Palestinians being waged by Israel.
2. The SRC affirms that Israel is an apartheid state.
3. The SRC defends the right of Palestinians to return to their homelands, to self defence and to citizenship.
4. The SRC affirms that anti-zionism is not anti-semitism.
5. The SRC affirms its support for a singular, secular Palestinian state across all of historic Palestine.

Action

1. The SRC will assist and initiate further actions of solidarity (e.g. further protests) with the Sydney Palestinian community, Palestine Action Group and Students for Palestine – Sydney Uni.
2. The SRC will post this motion from its social media accounts.

Discussion:

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion saying that in Israel is about to get a new Prime minister one that is even more conservative and believes that the west bank should be/is Israeli land. Over the last few weeks we've seen an increase of air strike on Gaza which has seen hundred die. There has

also been a general strike of Palestinians who made up around 20% of the construction workforce in Israel. Adding that there has been ongoing occupation of Palestine by Israel since the Nakba and there had been ongoing ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. Palestinians have the right to defend themselves and there needs to be a one secular state where all Arabs and Jews have equal rights.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying that what is happening is an uprising not seen since the 1930s. Israel has had a policy of segmenting and fragmenting Palestinians, whether that be by calling Palestinians in Israel, Israeli Arabs rather than Palestinians, or locking Palestinians in the blockade on Gaza and occupied territories, the occupied territories, or Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan and the general Palestinian diaspora. This fragmenting accentuates the importance strength and bravery of those now fighting back in a united way, with protests throughout the middle east and the western world and people demanding their right to return home. Challenging the idea that Israel is a democratic state despite its oppressions and that it's a peaceful state despite its ongoing attacks on the Palestinian people.

Moved: Simon Uptis

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. Duque Chao: Solidarity with the Rebellion in Colombia

Preamble:

Since the 28th of April, Colombia has been rocked by sustained mass demonstrations and strikes against the right-wing President Ivan Duque and his deeply regressive tax reform bill. On 28 April, hundreds of thousands of students and workers defied a court order banning street demonstrations on the pretext of COVID-19 risks and heeded the call for a nationwide general strike by the country's major trade unions, organised through the National Strike Committee (CNP).

The tax bill in question, the suspiciously named 'The Sustainable Solidarity Law' is a deeply anti-working-class response to the economic and social crisis in Colombia. The Value-Add Tax on all basic necessities of life for the working class and poor would have been raised by 19% in the middle of a pandemic: food, water, internet prices, funeral services and electricity all would have skyrocketed. According to official statistics, an average Colombian family needs about half a minimum monthly salary to cover food expenses and a little more than one legal minimum salary to cover other basic needs like transportation - this bill would have condemned millions into further poverty. The law seeks to place the burden of the economic crisis in Colombia onto the working class and the poor.

The protests, which began over the tax program, have quickly radicalised to become a movement against all of the inequalities of Colombian capitalism, the entrenched and growing poverty, the mass Covid-deaths, the high rate of unemployment and the continued destruction of Indigenous lands. This rebellion is taking place during the worst economic crisis in Colombian history, as well

as a deadly wave of Covid-19. In 2020, 3.5 million Colombians fell under the poverty line, now 42.5 percent of people in Colombia live on less than \$87 US per month. Meanwhile, the country has recorded more than 75,000 COVID-19 deaths, with the death toll often reaching 500 per day. The horrors of capitalism in Colombia, the mass impoverishment and prioritisation of profit over life has created the conditions for this mass revolt.

Hundreds of thousands of Colombians have joined the protests. . There have been multiple general strikes called, dozens of police stations burnt, armed clashes between the youth street-fighters in the movement and police and military. The mass movement from below forced the right-wing, ideological neo-liberal Duque to withdraw the tax bill on May 2 in an attempt to wind up the movement, and Minister of Finance Alberto Carrasquilla resigned the day after - a big defeat for the government. Instead of winding up the movement, the confidence gained spurred it forward. Mass protests continue every day, especially in the major cities of Bogotá, Cali and Medellín.

The state has unleashed brutal repression on the protestors - thousands of arrests, dozens of confirmed deaths, hundreds of missing people and those are just the reported figures. Cali, a city dubbed the capital of the revolt due to the scale of the protests, is under in essence, a military occupation. "We feel threatened, we feel more in danger," said Lina Gallegas, a 31-year-old social leader. "If something happens we cannot call the police because they are the ones who are killing." Protestors are facing up against live bullets, summary arrests and kidnappings, water cannons to fight against injustices of Colombian capitalism - it is a situation that demands our solidarity.

Platform:

1. The SRC stands in complete solidarity with the mass revolt in Colombia and their struggle against President Duque.
2. The SRC condemns the Colombian government's use of authoritarian repression of protests, including the murder of over 60 protestors.
3. The SRC echoes the call of the Colombian demonstrators for the fall of the Duque government.

Action:

1. The SRC will take a photo in solidarity with the revolt in Colombia and publish it from its social media accounts.

Discussion:

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion noting Colombia is also in a state upheaval with several months of protests against right-wing neoliberal President Ivan Duque. President Duque had attempted to push for greater taxes against the poorest of the populations and has seen hundreds of thousands of deaths due to its refusal to lockdown during the COVID19 pandemic. Most of these policies negatively impact the population below the poverty line to pay international debts. Adding that Colombia has a long history of oppression and attacking leftist political action. At this time there is a de-facto military occupation in the city of Cali, dubbed the capitol of the resistance. Adding that this is something the SRC should be standing in solidarity with.

Akee Elliott wanted to echo Owen’s statements about highlighting the importance of standing in solidarity with the Colombian resistance, which is connected with a wave of resistance in south America such as the protests against the government in Chile and the abortion rights activism in Argentina, and now also in Brazil against Bolsonaro’s response to the COVID19 pandemic. These actions tell us about people joining together to fight against oppressive governments and winning concessions.

Mover: Owen Marsden-Readford

Secunder: Grace Bennett

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. Stand against attacks on LGBT+ rights in NSW

Preamble:

Sweeping attacks against LGBT+ rights continue to threaten in NSW, as One Nation MP Mark Latham’s “religious freedom” amendment to the state Discrimination Act moves closer to passing. The amendment would open the field for schools, charities and even some private business to refuse essential services, sack staff and espouse bigoted rhetoric while receiving strong legal protection under the category of “religious belief” - effectively a license to discriminate against oppressed groups with impunity. As the recent sacking of openly gay teacher Karen Pack by Morling College on the basis of her sexuality indicates, NSW already has the worst discrimination laws in Australia. Nevertheless, Latham’s amendment to the Act received majority support from a 14-person parliamentary committee, with members of the Liberals and the ALP alike shamefully endorsing the bill.

In what has become a clear strategy of the right around the world, Latham has attempted to use transphobia as a wedge to raise legislation designed to roll back the gains made by the left around questions of oppression. His second piece of legislation, the so-called “Parental Rights Bill”, would ban any reference to “gender fluidity” in NSW schools, a term the bill defines as “a belief there is a difference between biological sex and human gender and that human gender is socially constructed”, putting students at risk of expulsion and staff at risk of sacking simply for being out as trans or non-binary, supporting their gender diverse peers and students, discussing LGBT+ history or issues, or even teaching a novel with an LGBT+ character. This outrageous transphobic attack is closely interlinked with right’s broader project of ramping up the oppression of women, the LGBT+ community more broadly, and minority faiths in Australia; likewise, the growth of support in the NSW parliament for Latham’s amendment to the Discrimination Act creates a space for his more severe attacks on trans rights in schools to gain traction, with religious schools, church groups and Liberal politicians voicing their support for the bill.

The majority of people in Australia stand against attacks on LGBT+ rights, with a 2019 poll finding that 64% oppose the use of “religious freedom” protections to defend abuse of oppressed groups. However, the history of the LGBT+ liberation movement, from ‘78 to marriage equality,

demonstrates that majority opinion is not enough to push back on the right's offensive unless translated into sustained protest campaigns. Community Action for Rainbow Rights has been building the campaign against Latham's attacks over the past year, with the next rally taking place on June 5th. The SRC must support LGBT+ activists in mobilising the fightback against the right's bigotry.

Platform

The USyd SRC:

1. Stands in opposition to the attempts of the right to attack the rights of LGBT+ people, women, minority faiths and other oppressed groups.
2. Condemns the legislation raised by One Nation to attack LGBT+ rights in NSW.
3. Endorses the CARR campaign against both the 'religious freedoms bill' and the 'parental rights bill'.

Action Points

1. The USyd SRC will post from its Facebook page to promote the June 5 rally.

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion saying that the attacks from one nation are imminent and they have gotten general support from both major parties with Labor not even having anyone attend the Green protest vote. This is about protecting not only Trans kids rights but also teachers and works from the LGBTQI+ community, from these attacks and discrimination. This is an attempt but the conservative rights to tack back some of the gains fought for over the last several decades. To understand how they could do that we need to look at how those gains were won in the first place through protest and direct actions against policies that allow for discrimination.

Roisin Murphy responded to Eddie's comments on NSW Labor supporting Latham and the bill saying that Labor does not and has never supported the bill in question and hasn't support Latham since 2004. Labor is not sitting in NSW parliament supporting this bill of traying to make the sate unsafe for those Latham is trying to attack. Adding that Labor is not perfect, but on these bills there is no active support of Latham.

Deaglan Godwin responded to Roisin Murphy saying it's good that Labor is not supporting these bill as it would be atrocious, but Labor members on the committee did support the amendments to the anti-discrimination act which was proposed by Mark Latham and also at the national level religious freedoms bill which was put forward by the coalition noting that they were concerned they were losing votes in Western Sydney because of their support of the LGBTIQ+ community. Adding that Roisin needed a lecture as [they] are still a member of the party which has done nothing for LGBTQI+ community that took no action and didn't support gay marriage while they had the change when in government which even Penny Wong did not support at the time, showing who atrocious the Labor party is on LBGTIQ+ politics. Adding that there needs to be an activist movement that is not subordinate to the Labor party and its electability and student unions need to be the same, and need to keep pushing for people to come out and support these rallies.

Roisin Murphy replied to Deaglan Godwin saying that it was naive so say that Labor has done nothing for queer people and that the only legislative change needed for the queer community was marriage equality. Adding it was Labor that legislated for same sex super in 1997 which changed economic equality for queer people in this country and it was Labor who ran a world leading campaign on HIV, and a Labor government who legislated for same sex couples to be able to adopt and for same sex couples have their names on their child's birth certificate, so it wasn't the priority to have the random religious institution of marriage available there were so many other issues that were implemented and needed equality which Labor did, not one else.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded saying that Roisin Murphy had an appalling attitude to the whole fighting for LGBTQI+ right in Australia by dismissing the marriage equality campaign, noting it was a fight for civil rights and its was against a policy that legally discriminated against LGBTQI+ people, introduced by the Howard government but back by Labor because they wanted whip up a right wing campaign against LGBTQI+ to win an election. It dismissed Julia Gillard's comments on why she wouldn't support marriage equality and Labor was on the wrong side of this issue and it wasn't there was a mass campaign on the streets and Socialist Alternative has always supported and been a part of these campaigns and have been crucial for them.

Speaking list was closed.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Caspar Rose

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. Motion in support of the Gadigal to Gaza rally

Preamble:

On Sunday 6th June 2021, a "Gadigal to Gaza" solidarity rally is being held at Town Hall, joining the struggle of the First Nations community and the Palestinian community in so-called Australia to show solidarity in the continued fight against settler-colonialism, genocide and imperialism.

Saturday will mark one year since the first mass Black Lives Matter protest on Gadigal land in 2020. This was a protest for Indigenous justice as much as it was in response to the BLM movement in the United States. In a single year in this violent settler-colony we have seen more Black deaths in custody, the continued forced removal of children, and police brutality.

Palestinians have been resisting colonisation of their land for over 73 years. Nakba began 73 years ago but is an ongoing process of genocide, carried out by the apartheid state of Israel. We demand that the genocide and illegal settlements on Palestinian land are ended. There should be an end to the blockade on Gaza and ethnic cleansing in Israel.

There is no pride in genocide. No justice on stolen land.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC supports the action planned for this coming Sunday:
<https://fb.me/e/13dZ3whUm>
2. The USyd SRC condemns and demands an end to the genocide and racist apartheid which is being imposed against both communities.
3. The USyd SRC supports the right to autonomy and sovereignty over land for all First Nations people globally.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will provide printing and resources for the rally as needed.
2. The USyd SRC will share the event from its Facebook page, and councillors, office bearers and collective members are encouraged to attend.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to her motion which is in the support of the rally planned for Sunday. Noting that it's been almost a year since the Black Lives Matter protests on Gadigal land in support of First Nations and black lives against police brutality and forced removals of children. Saying that this protest brings together the fight against settler colonial genocides here and in Palestine which has been under occupation for 73 years. Lia then covered the Platform and action points of the motion.

Amelia Mertha spoke to the motion saying there wasn't much more to add that wasn't said by Lia Perkins or in the previous motion on this topic, but that it is important to stand in solidarity with indigenous Sovereignty and Indigenous movements globally. Adding that she's noticed that a lot of Zionists and pro-Israel people say that if Israel isn't a real state what about Canada, the USA and Australia, and that she doesn't believe they are real nations they are just arbitrary. Adding that in Canada recently the grave of 250 Indigenous children were found which was disgusting and "fuck genocide".

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying it was important because we are seeing racism, exploitation and oppression is not just the actions of Israel but also the Australian government that continues to oppress Indigenous peoples with entrenched racism in this country. And that we need to support Palestinian people and activism going forward and the change in the Israeli government could see a rise in a brutality of the oppression and violence against Palestinians. Concluding that continuing and growing this campaign is going to be important and encouraged everyone to come to the rally.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Amelia Mertha

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R1. Statement from Swapnik Sanagavarapu

On behalf of the SRC, I would like to apologise to Mr Raymond (Hao) Yan. At the meeting of the SRC Council on the 3rd of March, a motion of censure was brought before the council by a Vice President and a General Secretary of the SRC, making numerous allegations against Mr. Yan. An investigation has been undertaken by the SRC Legal Service, and it has found that the motion was brought to the council prematurely and without proper investigation. No adverse finding was made against Mr. Yan in the course of preliminary investigations conducted by the SRC Legal Service. Further, Mr. Yan was denied due process and was not given the opportunity respond to the allegations raised in the motion. This has caused Mr. Yan great distress and has caused significant harm to his reputation. The SRC sincerely apologises to Mr. Yan for these events causing him significant hurt and distress. The SRC also recuses itself from any further involvement in this matter. Swapnik Sanagavarapu, 93rd President of the SRC.

The statement was noted.

The meeting closed at 8:26pm.