



src activism
advocacy
representation

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MINUTES:

for the 6th regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on Wednesday the 7th July 2021. Meeting held via Zoom.

*Quorum count at 6:13pm
meeting was quorate*

A. Meeting open at 6:14 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 and proxies were received from:

Sarah Halnan to Tom Cleary
Drew Beacom to Tiger Perkins
Oscar Chaffey to Ariana Haghighi
Kristina Sergi
Isabella D'Silva to Aziza Dobrik
Grace Hu

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

There were not changes to membership

Chair suspended standing orders and moved to agenda item F.

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 5th regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on 2nd June 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 2nd June 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

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

Riki Scanlan Electoral Officer for the 2021 annual elections spoke to the council about the upcoming elections' timeline.

Riki Scanlan addressed the Council about the proposed timeline for the SRC Annual Elections. Noting the nomination period will be 20 days, and that they hoped to run an information session on the nomination process.

Riki went through the timeline in detail.

The election timeline was noted from the Chair

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

There was no report

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 12th May to the 7th July 2021.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 12th May to the 7th July 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 5th May to the 7th July 2021.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

The past month has been a bit quieter than usual, owing to the fact of exams and the end of semester. Things are picking up again now, and I'm looking forward to getting ready for Sem 2 and laying the groundwork for successful activism and policy. A lot of big things will be happening over the next semester, and particularly early on in the semester. As always, my report will be structured around the kind of activities I've been doing over the past month.

Elections

One of the most important things that we've been preparing for in the past month has been this year's annual elections. Last month, we confirmed Riki Scanlan as the EO, Cameron Caccamo as the Deputy EO and Ed McMahon as the ELA. Since then, Riki has been working diligently on getting ready for the elections and I've been assisting them with the process. As has been previously mentioned, the University Senate voted to move all elections for student organisations online. Unfortunately, we are also bound by that.

The executive met and considered options for how to run the elections. The executive's recommendation is that the SRC hold the annual Elections online with significant in-person campaigning subject to the Electoral Regulations of the SRC, in line with the senate resolution. We hope that this maximises the democratic legitimacy of the election, and that online elections remain a temporary measure.

As part of my report, I'd like to move that we set the affiliation and nomination fees for this election to \$0. I believe that it is prohibitive and unnecessary for us to charge students to participate in our elections, and they should be as accessible as possible.

We will also be discussing regulation changes after my report in order to enable the continuation of online elections. We will be presented with two options - a continuation of the 2020 election regulations with minor changes (reverting the sunset clause and fixing internal inconsistencies), or a reversion to the 2019 regulations (which allows the Electoral Officer the ability to determine the form of the ballot). My preference, and the strong preference of the Standing Legal Committee, is to continue the 2020 regulations with relevant amendments. These regulations place sufficient limits on the use of the online platform and contemplates many more of the circumstances that would be dealt with in an online election.

Activism

As always, I've been involved in activism and advocacy on behalf of students and will continue to do so over the coming month.

Enterprise bargaining

I've been meeting with members of the NTEU and Casuals Network over the past month to discuss the upcoming bargaining period. Today, the NTEU voted up their log of claims close to unanimously and will soon begin the formal bargaining process. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with them and to put the support of the SRC behind them during the bargaining process.

Special Cons and ProctorU

I've also been working pretty hard on trying to get the uni to fix the inordinate delays in special considerations and the difficulties caused by failures in ProctorU. On the former, I've written to the University a number of times and raised the issue at a number of committee meetings, and the backlog of cases is set to be cleared soon. We've also begun a survey into Special Cons that is currently live at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRJ8CZC>. If you've used special cons in the past 2 semesters, please use the survey to let the SRC know about your experiences, so they can be brought to the University.

OISH

The Overseas International Student Hub has launched quite successfully and I'm hoping to get the SRC quite involved with their work. We're hoping to recruit volunteers and others to work at the hub and help international students - thanks to Khanh for putting us in touch with them. I'll be delegating a lot of this work to Anne (General Secretary), so please reach out to her for any questions and issues relating to international student affairs and the OISH generally.

Administration

Policy Register

I'm slowly building a register of all the SRC's internal and day-to-day policy, which I will bring to the council before the end of the year for ratification. This isn't any change to policy, it is simply cataloguing and codifying processes that already occur so that future councils and Executives are not simply left in the dark. These will include grievance processes, employment processes, templates for common forms and applications (i.e. SSAF), censure processes and many others.

Return to office

The SRC is currently contemplating a larger-scale process of returning to the office, once COVID is able to relax a little bit and the SRC offices are cleaned out. It's likely that this return will occur on a partial basis for the foreseeable future i.e. working in the office Tuesday-Thursday and working from home Monday-Friday.

Website

We're currently looking at quotes for redesigning the SRC website, which is in major need of an upgrade. At the moment, the information on the site is disorganised and the interface is clunky and out of date. We're hoping that some professional web designers are able to intervene and make our website more accessible and attractive to students who are looking to use our services or get involved with our activism.

SSAF

Our SSAF application for contestable spending was quite successful, with a number of projects being approved. To be specific, what was approved was:

1. An employee to run and manage the FoodHub (\$18,500)
2. Translation services for casework resources (\$3,500)
3. Funding for Radical Sex and Consent Week (\$5000)

We are still awaiting the outcome of the infrastructure spending (including cleaning of the SRC offices, the disabilities space and the conservatorium students space). It is likely that we'll hear the outcome of these in August.

Legal Service

We've completed the audit for the SRC Legal Service, wrapping up a quite successful year for the service. Our paralegals have been settling well, guided expertly by Jahan. Unfortunately, their return to the office will have to be delayed due to the latest COVID outbreak.

O Week

We're in the process of preparing for Semester 2 Welcome Fest (O-Day). This will occur on the 9th and 10th of August, and we'll likely have access to 4 collective stalls on both the days. In the next week or so, we'll be working out the exact distribution of when collectives will be on their stalls, so keep an eye out for that.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the chair to Priya Gupta

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to his report and highlighted its main points and the recommendations of the executive that are pertinent to motions coming up.

Owen Marsden-Readford asked about the senate resolution on not supporting in person elections as he has not been able to find proof that the senate has discussed making elections online this semester. And that even if there is the SRC should run in person elections and pay for it from last years surplus as it is more democratic and makes candidates make the argument for their vision for the student union to students.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded saying that it is difficult to find Senate's resolution but will email the secretary to the senate and get that information. Swapnik added that while he agrees that in person elections are best, however there are a number of factors that make this difficult this year, first being the Covid situation, the other being that if the uni doesn't allow have in person elections, we won't be able to have polling booths or counting rooms. Finances are also a factor, while we do have a surplus that will go into out reserves to ensure that if we even do shut down we will be able to pay out things like staff wages and benefits. Adding that he disagrees that the event of online elections last year de politicized the SRC

Lily Campbell spoke about issues around online elections and was deeply concerned about the shifting reasons in reasoning behind online elections. Moving from budget reasons, to the senate ban, to the covid situation. That the SRC should be more willing to break the rules and the SRC should run a political campaign on the rights to student democracy. Adding that she thought that the number of reasons demonstrated a lack of commitment to in person elections and that the concerns from last year were numerous and it should not be something we accept and the shutting down in person elections are going to be devastating to campus life and student democracy, and that the SRC should push the envelope harder to have in person elections.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded to Lily Campbell's questions and comments and said if there was concern about the ongoing effect of the de-politicization of the SRC by online elections what is the consequence of the SRC being defunded, and that could well be the consequence of this. Of course online elections are suboptimal, part of the issues were exceptional circumstances, they were unforeseen and Microsoft going down is just as disruptive as security shutting down the polling booth. Covid wasn't as big an issue the last time we discussed this so it wasn't a factor like it is now with the outbreak. We're not flip flopping between reasons there are all factors at play.

Procedural motion: to limit speaking time to 2 minutes except for the General Secretaries report

Moved: Roisin Murphy

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Matthew Carter spoke about online elections from an intercampus election where for intercampus student online elections allow for better engagement and last year as a historical turn out for Con students and online elections. The federal government has bungled the vaccine roll out so much there is no way student will be vaccinated and able to hold in person elections safely if there is another break out.

Madeleine Clark spoke about online elections expressing concerns especially considering that there was an agreement it was only a one off last year and we need to note that online election in the long run are bad for left wing politics on campus, and getting rid of that sunset clause allows online elections to become the norm.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded saying that the sunset clause is not being removed just moving it back a year to deal with the present circumstances.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded saying that there were still many issues that had still not been address and retuning to online elections. Owen spoke to the cost of running the SRC elections asked where the budget set aside for last year's elections and how was it all spent if not on in person elections and asked more about why the exec was not pushing back on the university for funding as much as there should be.

Annabel Pettit echoed concerns about the senate ruling against in person elections and ongoing online elections. Adding that last year there was fights against the restrictions on protests last year and there were major wins for democratic rights as a result. Adding that only 9% of students turned out to vote last year and that's hardly a huge turnout for online elections.

Tom Williams spoke about the broad consensus on the importance of in person elections and fight against the senate decisions placed on student organizations and that there should be huge fights from below as we know they can win as we saw this win with the defeat of 12-week semesters.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded saying that people can run that campaign but what is the tradeoff for investing in that campaign when there is the Education campaigns, the staff bargaining period and what are people willing to do for a campaign that is likely to get no where.

Alexander Poirier spoke about online elections impacts of inter-campus students and that students wouldn't want to come onto main campus to vote when they're on a satellite.

Simon Uptis spoke against online elections and letting the senate set precedence, saying that the campaign for in person elections would put more pressure on the Uni and that would only assist staff and is a sign of solidarity. This builds support for them, it's about a big fight against a common enemy. In terms of people willing to spend time, there were 13 rallies in 12 weeks last year, and we made it happen, we should set up polling booths in Victoria Park if need be. Maybe this is the last online election or maybe the senate is more confident and. Just cancelled in person elections again, and by then in person elections will just be a memory for most people.

Cole Scott-Curwood spoke about the online elections saying that in person elections this year it would disenfranchise all student not currently in Sydney. And that the Delta strain of COVID-19 is of concern and that this poses complications for students who will be unable to return to Sydney.

Lauren Lancaster echoed Cole's statement and asked who benefits from in person elections at the moment when there are so many student stuck overseas and at risk student who will be unable to come on campus, covid is more of a threat now than it ever has and to push to hold in person elections that will exclude more people is terrible optics and hardly more democratic.

Lily Campbell spoke about the risks of online elections saying that democracy is not simply about people access to vote but also the space to have open political debate. There is much greater risk for bribery in online elections and also student who are not able to be on campus for whatever reason are already able to be provided for with postal ballots, voting online for student overseas is not what's being discussed, it's having a completely online election.

Ashrika Paruthi spoke about the issues with in-person elections for international students stuck offshore who would be disenfranchised by moving to in person this year and are already under considerable strain. Adding how can the SRC be representative if international students stuck offshore are disenfranchised, and how could that be democratic.

Victor Liang continued speaking the impact of in person elections on international students, adding that this is a situation with Covid-19, there is a sunset clause

Owen Marsden-Readford felt the arguments for in person elections were being misconstrued saying that democracy is not just how many people are able to vote, but how ideas are tested and debated rigorously and there being accountability. Having in person elections on campus doesn't mean that we can't have postal voting or online components for international student stuck overseas in these exceptional circumstances. Adding with all the cuts to education being push by the university there need to be a vibrant campus where these things can be fought against and that elections should not be won on social media networks but political debate.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Matthew Carter

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resumed the Chair

The Chair moved to agenda item N1.

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 25th June 2021 were circulated.

Max Vishney gave a verbal overview of the meeting and issues raised at it.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Grace Fei

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The Chair moved to agenda item Q1.

Proposed Changes to the Electoral Regulations

PROPOSAL 1

1. That Part 8 of the Regulations revert to **the April 2019** version, but with the following changes:

Deletions

Clause	Delete these words...
8.5.a	“hard copy”
8.5.f	[the whole clause]

Additions

Clause	Original version	Amended version
8.15.a	“At the Annual Elections or By-Election, voting shall remain open for at least one polling day. Pre-poll votes for the Annual Election and any By-Election and any concurrent Referenda may be cast at times designated by the EO during the period commencing not before the publication of the election issue of Honi Soit to not later than the day before the first polling day, and shall be held outside the Jane Foss Russell Building.”	“At the Annual Elections or By-Election, voting shall remain open for at least one polling day. Pre-poll votes for the Annual Election and any By-Election and any concurrent Referenda may be cast at times designated by the EO during the period commencing not before the publication of the election issue of Honi Soit to not later than the day before the first polling day, and, when the elections are in person , shall be held outside the Jane Foss Russell Building.”
8.15.c	“For the Annual Elections, the following times will be adhered to:”	“For the Annual Elections, when the elections are in person , the following times will be adhered to:”

2. That any necessary changes to internal document references or the like be enacted by the Secretary to Council and notified to the next Council meeting

Explanatory Notes

There are two main purposes to this proposal. First, this proposal allows for online elections to be conducted, since the April 2019 Regulations do not dictate that ballot system must be a physical ballot. Second, this proposal returns the election regulations to a more comprehensible standard, which is important for ensuring democratic legitimacy.

The alternate proposal, listed as PROPOSAL 2 below, equally accomplishes the first purpose of having an online election, but at the cost of maintaining election regulations that are impenetrable to the average candidate, campaigner, or voter. There are grave concerns regarding the democratic legitimacy of a process that demands a level of interpretative expertise far beyond the capacities of the average person.

If you are unable to adequately interpret the regulations, you are unable to maintain accountability and integrity for the elections. The benefits, in that case, stack in favour of those few people who possess the relevant training and expertise to interpret and litigate the regulations. Democracy depends on wide and public participation, and that applies to procedural questions as much as it applies to the right to vote itself.

The changes made in 2020 to Part 8 can be broken down into three categories. First, there were many small changes that aimed to cover various contingency cases within the election process. By their nature, these changes cover events that are unlikely to happen. Second, there were changes that aimed to clarify various details of the election process. In general, these changes did not alter the substance of the process but made explicit what was logically necessary. Third, there were changes that aimed to give more guidance to the Electoral Officer for their role. These changes, by and large, are more appropriate for the Electoral Officer handbook and, try as we might, have no necessary effect on the competence of the EO.

Overall, these changes have the effect of inducing confusion by over-clarification and over-specification. By introducing detailed specifications where general rules could have been applied, the election regulations ballooned from 14 pages to 70 pages. It is important to note that this proposal does not simply oppose the changes made in 2020, but the approach and framework of those changes. Clarifications to the SRC election regulations are important and needed, but this must be balanced against the accessibility of the document for candidates, campaigners, and voters.

The intention, here, is to return to the regulatory base of the April 2019 regulations for the upcoming 2021 elections. At the same time, future amendments to these regulations should draw on the ideas of the 2020 amendments in order to improve how our election process operates

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke about the regs in relation to the discussions held in the standing legal committee meeting.

There being no mover or seconder the motion **LAPSED**

Q1.2. Foreshadowing Proposed Changes to the Electoral Regulations

PROPOSAL 2

1. That Part Eight Sections 82 to 92 be reinstated
2. That Part Eight Section 81 be reinstated, except replacing the number “2020” with “2021”

Explanatory Notes

This proposal is a fallback proposal to allow for online elections if Council decides not to revert to the April 2019 regulations. If that proposal passes, then this proposal will be withdrawn.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

The motion was out and **CARRIED.**

Q3. Motion to Hold Physical Ballot Count

1. That the count be conducted as a physical count
2. That identical electronic ballots be compiled, where possible, as an aggregate ballot in order to expedite counting

In an online election, there is a change in the ability to scrutinise the election count. An online ballot is usually conducted either through an Excel spreadsheet or a proprietary software. (In our case, if the BigPulse system is used, then the EO will also conduct a check using an Excel spreadsheet to confirm results.) But neither spreadsheets nor softwares are as readily subject to scrutiny as a physical ballot count, since they rely on technical expertise or are outright inaccessible.

It is possible, however, to convert the output of the BigPulse ballots into a physical, printed ballot which can then be counted using the normal method.

The advantage of this proposal is that scrutineers require no special knowledge or access, although the voting software remains relatively opaque. There are three drawbacks to this proposal: first, election results will be delayed; second, election costs will be substantially increased as a result of printing and staffing – and these costs may possibly draw from reserves; third, the conversion process from electronic to printed ballots is an added step and will also be opaque to the average scrutineer.

This proposal is a matter for Council to determine as to which approach will better meet its principles of democratic legitimacy.

The second point of the proposal aims to expedite such a physical count by combining ballots that have identical preference orders onto a single piece of paper. An example aggregate ballot will indicate, say, that 32 ballots voted for Tickets A, B, and C and stopped. That piece of paper will be treated as if it was a bundle of 32 ballots wrapped together in an elastic band. Another aggregate ballot might indicate, say, that 12 ballots voted for Tickets A, B, C, and D and stopped – that is, the additional preference for Ticket D means that this aggregate ballot gets its own unique piece of paper, and won't be confused with the first example.

This will expedite the count, and substantially reduce the risk of counter error by reducing the number of pieces of paper, but it comes at the cost of some small additional opaqueness to the conversion process outlined above.

Discussion:

Riki Scanlan spoke to the motion about how the count could be conducted and the different options available for scrutineering and counting

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the Chair to Priya Gupta

Lily Campbell spoke in favour of printing the ballots, but there is still issues that can occur.

Riki Scanlan responded outline what the online ballot count will look like, and that the code used for counting will be available for others to see.

Roisin Murphy asked about how votes when a ticket is exhausted will be transferred in this method

Riki Scanlan gave an example using a 3 candidates Presidential ballot.

Roisin Murphy clarified it the concern was with the council ballot where it seemed more complicated.

Riki Scanlan noted that if it was too complicated that it would impede the integrity of the ballot it would not be done.

Moved: Roisin Murphy

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Maria Ge and Roisin Murphy tabled a written report:

Complaints

We received some comments from the international students that SRC is kind of far away from them. Hence, my work focus on student service, making students feel that they can be helped when problems arise. The past month has been busy. During the exam period, we have received

various complaints from students. Apart from the internet issue, the most significant concern is that they have some conflicts with their teachers. They can not receive a reply from their teachers. They have questions regards to their participation marks. We firstly refer them to the caseworkers. But we still found there are some problems.

- Students do not know some process of the uni and do not know how to use the complaints process properly.
 - Students tend to ask external agencies for help when confronted with dishonest academic letters, giving rise to other problems.
 - The instability of the remote examination gives rise to lots of problems. Hence, the special consideration flood in and bring too much burden to the staff. However, the process can be more simplified if they are separated based on the same problems.
- Hence, I work on preparing materials with Melissa regarding this feedback.

Conflicts with landlord

Besides, since this semester ends, various conflicts arose between students and their landlord

- Their landlord refuse to give back their deposit.
- The students do not have a valid contract with their landlord.
- There are problems with their contracts.

We are also depressed to find that many of the landlords did not deposit the bond with NSW Fair Trading and sometimes they even ask for bond more than 4 weeks.

Hence, Rachel Jia, Melisa, and I work on preparing materials to increase students' awareness of this issue.

Police Seminar

Since the seminar is not allowed to be held by zoom, we are working on dealing with this issue with Melissa de Silva.

Volunteer Certificate

We have certificate for volunteers now. For the students who will graduate and need the certificate right now, contact us.

What I am doing

The standardization of volunteer programs, multiple leaflets for international students, solving problems from the O-week for international students, the VPN issue, the sexual harassment campaign, the advertising of multiple survey done by NSW and SRC. I conveyed international students' feedback that they need more information and the first year's students need information in their native language when it comes to some significant issue. I worked with Melissa for preparing leaflets and videos for international students. I replied to all the students who send me emails and messages, and helped them with their problems. I conveyed the feedback of the students regards to the student centre. Extra payment for lawyers. I also contact with other international student center for opportunities to advertise all of us, giving students more choices and increasing the fairness of election, etc. I did not count in some unsuccessful projects like the change on our website, etc. Besides, I did not count in the projects I was participating in like 12 weeks semester. If anyone need more details, contact me.

I have learned a lot this semester. Hope to work more effectively and efficiently this holiday and next semester.

Maria Ge

Discussion:

Maria GE spoke to her report outlining its main points

Roisin Murphy spoke to their report noting that most of the points they've been working on have been covered by Swapnik Sanagavarapu and Maria Ge in the reports.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

Gen-Secs joint

- We met with the Legal Service Board and an external auditor to go through the audit of the Legal Service which will be presented next council
- Update to OBs that Chitra has updated the budget update google sheet - you can use this to see how much of your budget you have remaining. If you have any issues with it (eg. think something is wrong) email us.
 - Find it here and flick through the bottom tabs to your department (can only see from SRC email) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e_iumn5EwoS2LM8zpQ2UIPEcz6-Mvcb/view?usp=sharing
 - We will also be getting in contact with the various departments soon, especially ones which haven't use any of the budget (of which there are a fair few)
- Update: Three of the SRC's application for contestable SSAF funding which we worked on last semester were approved by the uni - Funding for Rad Sex and Consent Week (\$5000), Translation services for casework resources (\$3500) and an employee to run and manage the FoodHub (\$18,500)
 - Very exciting! We will be assisting in realising these projects in the holidays and Sem 2.
- SRC Audit for 2020 has been completed (as we mentioned in a previous council) and we will present it today
- We will both be working on the SRC's presence at Welcome Fest for Semester 2 and USYD's Orientation Day, as we helped organise the Semester 1 Welcome Week presence
 - The SRC will likely be packing bags (significantly less thankfully) bags again, and will need help, so please let us know if you think you'll have some time and energy near the end of holidays!
- We will be assist exec with the SRC web design project

Priya

- Currently my main project is Radical Education Week. This is a week of student-led educational activities including talks, panels, and workshops, which will be held in Week 4 of Semester 2. We hope to have upwards of 15 different events, so this takes a lot of planning! We have a working group and are meeting often to discuss the various sessions and the logistics of the event. If you want to join this group and be involved, message/email me. If you want to run a session yourself, you can fill in this expression of interest form (due this Sunday - in four days!): <https://forms.gle/Lfo1pwxpie63i2p27>
- In Sem 2, I will continue to work on activist campaigns and projects which are happening through the collectives. I am currently involved in the organisation of Rad Sex and Consent week run by the Women's Collective, and I am particularly keen to be involved in the EBA campaign, especially in building staff and student solidarity to provide a solid foundation for any action that staff take during this time.

Anne

- The International Student hub project is currently on track. This is a project funded by the government but formed and managed by over 50 grassroots organizations. It aims to support international students for their life in Sydney and our support as a student organization will be super strong for them. It ranges from holding many sessions to inform students about their rights in Sydney, doing researches about their life in Sydney for the purpose of giving more efficient support to them, as well as promoting the corresponding organizations to assist students (such as referring the University of Sydney students to us for casework and legal support). It was delayed by the sudden lockdown but we are managing to have an online meeting and discussing the changed situation since offline events for international students are hardly possible. We hope to soon have more updates from the Hub and move to the next step. We welcome anyone who is interested in the project and willing to be a volunteer in the future. Please fill the form if you are interested: <https://forms.gle/dXPWR5mfMzCzjR79>
Feel free to share the form or contact me for further detail.
- I will continue to focus on international student activism. I am currently working on the international student tuition fee rebate together with the Interfaith and Educational Office Bearers, and some other international students. Anyone else who wishes to work on the project, feel free to contact me.

2020 Financial Report + Audit

In April, the SRC had an audit which was certified with the auditor. The council needs to approve this audit so that we are compliant with our obligations under the law and to the university. The full audit will be attached, and any detailed questions can be directed to c.narayanan@src.usyd.edu.au who prepared the audit.

Main points of the financial report

- Revenue in 2020 including university funding, miscellaneous income, and COVID-19 Cashflow boosts, was \$2.078 million

- Expenditure for all SRC activities in 2020 was \$1.808 million
- One major change was that we didn't receive any SSAF contestable funding, but the \$100,000 COVID windfall payment roughly offset this
- The surplus of \$234,000 was larger than the previous year's surplus of \$99,000 due to less money being spent throughout the year from decreased Office Bearer activities and the largely online functioning of the SRC's services
- Expenditure
 - Largely in 7 main areas: Representation, General Activities, Welfare Services, Publications, Infrastructure, Legal Service, and Other projects
 - Biggest expenditure difference (decrease) from 2019 to 2020 was in 'Representation', including office bearer activities and elections
 - Rise in wages due to the EBA in administration, casework and publications
 - Rise in some fixed costs due to the move to working from home - especially software and hardware costs, licensing fees, telephone and server costs
 - Textbook subsidy program ended so we didn't have that cost in 2020 in relation to 2019
- Student Representation expenditure
 - Most money (as per their allocated budgets) was spent by the Education and Women's departments, which reflects how active those departments were
 - Election costs fell due to not having to pay polling booth attendants and other aspects of in-person elections
 - VP stipends were previously in contestable funding, but was moved into base funding in 2020 (without a corresponding increase in funding)
 - NUS affiliation fee remained the same but travel and accommodation expenses were eliminated due to the online conference
 - Welcome Week spending increased
 - Decreased Honi Soit print run

Discussion:

Anne Zhao spoke to the report and covered its main points.

Priya Gupta spoke to the report covering its main points and adding that there are more details on the finances in the audit documents and to contact Administration Manager Chitra with any questions.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting returned to the standing orders

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Robert Wang to Evelyn (Lin) Peng

Kelsey Jin resigns as sexual harassment officer
Meiyi (Chelsea) Cao resigns as DSP

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.
Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu
Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing Lee
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

K. Elections

K1. Election of 1 Indigenous Students' Officer
N/A

K2. Election of 1 Mature Age Students' Officer
N/A

K3. Elections of 1 Director of Student Publications

Nomination from Kristie (Xiaojing) Tan
Nominator 1: Meiyi (Chelsea) Cao
Nominator 2: Evelyn (Lin) Peng

There being no other nominations Kristie (Xiaojing) Tan was declared elected unopposed as a Director of Student Publications of the 93rd SRC.

K4. Elections of 1 Sexual Harassment Officer

Joint Nomination from Alana Ramshaw and Kelsey Jin
Nominator 1: Swapnik Sanagavarapu
Nominator 2: Lia Perkins

There being no other nominations Alana Ramshaw and Kelsey Jin were declared elected unopposed as Sexual Harassment Officers of the 93rd SRC.

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Madeleine Clark and Thomas Williams tabled a written report:

The covid outbreak has once again shown us how the government prioritises the economy over health. The federal and NSW government had a year to build proper quarantine facilities and roll out the vaccines but they failed on both accounts.

Before the lockdown we attended a swathe of protests including Palestine and LGBTI rights. We also attended meetings with the Casuals Network and organised a response to their Q&A with our arch nemesis' Stephen Garton and Anna-Marie Jagose. Staff and students asked questions and chanted against them and their responses when asked about wage theft. We organised an end of semester EAG where we started a new Facebook group and painted a banner. We decided to have a couple of meetings during the holidays and hopefully have a reading group. We also attended a meeting with Mehreen Faruqi and the women's officers to discuss sexual assault in the college's and if there is a way to change the legal standing of the college's. Unfortunately, the covid outbreak means Ed Con won't be in person. It will be over zoom however and we're excited to attend to see if a nationwide education action will be organised for next semester. If it's not we will organise one regardless. We've also been involved in organising Rad Ed Week with other office bearers. This year we are trying to coordinate with other uni's as well. This should be an exciting week of learning about education in new ways.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to the report covering it's main points.

Tom Williams spoke to the report highlighting the NTEU's bargaining period and their upcoming vote to strike.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the report and pushing that pressure needed to be on NUS to launch a campaign/NDA on the national cuts to the universities sector and that the work they've been doing this year has mostly been a social media campaign and it's time to call for more protests and a national campaign. Adding that the NTEU had a meeting with the log of claims and there is a strategy to get these claims during the upcoming bargaining period.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written report

To be entirely cliché: another month has flown by but so much has stayed the same. A Sydney private school teaching boys to choose the most favourable qualities in a girl on a ranked point system that includes "virginity", "great kisser" and "good pedigree"? A Dean using queer and feminist theory in a weird statement to justify the implementation of austerity measures and attacks on casualised staff? We're not surprised, but we're angry.

Holiday Meetings and Book Club

With the early weeks of Semester 2 calendar already full for the Women's Collective, we're continuing to hold weekly meetings during this winter break. As part of our commitment to education and abolition, we've also been reading Angela Davis' *Women, Race and Class* for our weekly reading group, facilitated by a member of the collective each week.

Rad Sex and Consent Week

Planning for Rad Sex and Consent Week is well underway. University venues have authorised the event though I believe we are yet to hear back about whether we will be given Eastern Avenue. Contestable SSAF funding for the event has been confirmed (thank you to Gen Sec Priya for co-writing that application). We're in conversation with USU as to how the collective and USU can organise together as smoothly as possible.

A sneak-peek of topics on the program so far: queer health and relationships, transformative justice, sex worker rights, consent and a drag workshop. Alongside finalising our three day program, we also need to organise furniture and a marquee, make flexible Covid-safety plans, set up a volunteer roster, get promotion underway, and book a venue/performers for the closing party. Please get in touch with either of the Women's Officers if you would be interested in volunteering during the week or being involved with the event organising in any way.

Women's Honi

Submissions and pitches for Women's Honi Soit have closed over the weekend. The editorial team is well underway with discussing a plan of action for our forthcoming autonomous edition to be published for Week 2. (Yes, excellent cross-promotion with Rad Sex and Consent Week).

National Day of Action in September

The Women's Officers have been working alongside the NUS Women's Officer, NUS President, and representatives from other universities to organise an NDA for September 8 (Week 5) coinciding with the roll out of the national survey into sexual violence on university campuses. We're getting in touch and organising with Women's Officers and collectives from around Sydney to discuss demands and plans for the day.

Discussion:

Amelia Mertha spoke to the report coving its main points.

Lily Campbell asked about the NDA with NUS.

Amelia gave more details on the NDA planned for September 8th 2021.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Welfare Officers

Since the last SRC meeting, the Palestinian campaign has continued. Palestine Action group has organised a further rally and is organising an online forum with left-wing Palestinian speakers from the occupied territory about the struggle for liberation and against Israeli occupation. This continued activism is important considering the situation in Palestine. The new ultranationalist Prime Minister of Israel, Naftali Bennett, who is ideologically to the right of Netanyahu appallingly, has already launched military strikes into Gaza and has pledged to support and increase illegal settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. There are currently illegal land grabs happening in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan which residents there are resisting. The other major development is protests against the corrupt PA and its president Mahmoud Abbas. The Palestinian Authority is Israel's subcontractor in the West Bank and Fatah's strategy of looking to other Middle Eastern states, and not the Palestinian and Arab working class and poor is utterly bankrupt. The PA murdered a prominent critic of theirs, Nizar Banat, which has sparked huge protests against the hyper-wealthy elite Palestinian ruling class, the corruption of the PA, and its constant collaboration with Israel. Supporters of Palestinian liberation in the West should support this struggle of the Palestinian working class against the PA.

Community Action for Rainbow Rights is making a serious turn to build for the August 14th demonstration against the revived federal 'Religious Freedoms' bill. Michaelia Cash's bill is a blatant attack on the rights of the oppressed, particularly LGBTI+ people but also women, religious minorities, racially oppressed groups and workers. The bill is designed to override state based anti-discrimination legislation, like the recently passed banning of conversion therapy in Victoria. The bill has also been consciously pitched about giving more rights to employers to discriminate in hiring and firing on the basis of 'belief' which is a cover for right-wing bigotry. We need to vocally oppose this bill in the streets, and in CARR we have been working to build online during the lockdown period and also to gain organisational endorsements. The 78'ers have endorsed the rally and the SRC should as well (there will be a motion moved about this) but also the collectives, especially the women's and queer collective should endorse the rally.

Owen Marsden- Readford

Discussion:

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

Lia Perkins gave a verbal report:

- Street kitchen project is still underway
- Participated in the community picket at Willow Grove in Parramatta
- Working on Radical Education Week

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Residential Colleges Officers

Victor Liang gave a verbal report:

- Vaccine rollout is slow, monitoring situation
- Little can be done at the moment in terms of running a campaign
- Survey of college students to gauge wellbeing/happiness etc,

Roisin Murphy asked about what the campaign was about exactly?

Victor Liang said it was to get vaccines on campus for all students, not just the colleges.

Lia Perkins wanted to know that in the past it was a college specific, it should front line workers

Victor Liang made a clarification that it was not about that they should go first. But that when university students are eligible for vaccination, that we run campaign in the colleges promoting the vaccine. As colleges are somewhere it can easily spread due to close proximities.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Matthew Carter

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

Motion: To accept the recommendation of the executive for online elections be adopted

Recommendation:

“that the SRC hold the annual Elections online with significant in-person campaigning subject to the Electoral Regulations of the SRC.”

Moved from the Chair

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q. Motions of Notice

Q4. Seymour Centre music learning facilities upgrade

Preamble:

The Conservatorium of Music (the Con) has seen a gradual but consistent increase in incoming cohort size and degree types, the most recent addition being the Musical Theatre degree. This has

led to a shortage of offices for staff, with new lecturers being left without office space and a shortage of teaching spaces or seats for the necessary number of students in lecture halls. The Con has also come under scrutiny from Disability Services because it lacks a quiet space for students on the spectrum and also has no common staff space beyond the public cafe.

The Conservatorium Management has responded in two ways, the first is to propose that lectures and some classes remain online indefinitely to the various faculty committees and the second is to teach more and more components of the newly introduced degrees off-site at the Seymour Centre. Compared to the Con, the Seymour Centre's facilities are dated and the maintenance of the building and equipment such as pianos and practise rooms is sorely lacking. This leaves the students of these new degrees with a lower standard of education than those who study only at the Con, while the University continues to profit from the additional fees being paid.

Platform:

- The USYD SRC condemns the bloating of course sizes to a point where permanent online learning is necessary to facilitate the numbers of students as a degradation of academic standards.
- The USYD SRC continues to oppose any push for a permanent switch to online learning over in-person classes.
- The USYD SRC calls on the University to invest in teaching spaces and resources in line with the influx of new music degrees and students.

Actions:

- The USYD SRC will request that the University upgrade the music teaching and practising facilities at Seymour Centre to cater for the fast growing number of students that use this space as the primary learning centre for their degree.

Procedural motion to set the speaking times to 1.5 minutes

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Matthew Carter

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Discussion:

Matthew Carter spoke to his motion noting that there is a growing number of music student and the music classes at the Seymore Centre are not at the same level or resourced with the same level of the Con.

Moved: Matthew Carter

Seconded: Ben Jones

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q5. Support for students experiencing financial uncertainty

Preamble:

With a new outbreak of the COVID-19 Delta variant, Sydney and it's most vulnerable have been lurching back into financial uncertainty and hardship. Across the Sydney metro area, students have been stood down without pay. These students work in hospitality, tutoring, the performing and creative arts and retail just to name a few.

Neither the University or the Liberal Governments, State or Federal, have stepped in to support workers in these industries. No increase to Job Seeker, no reinstatement of Job Keeper and grants that can only be applied for by small businesses earning above \$75,000. These all leave students in the lurch.

The University does offer financial support in the form of interest-free loans and General Bursaries. These bursaries can only be applied for twice a year and even one slip up in paperwork, such as forgetting a document, will mean one of these two applications is unsuccessful. When students are stressed, tired, hungry, and struggling to pay rent, paperwork is the last thing they should be worried about not screwing up.

By allowing students additional applications in 2021, in light of the ongoing pandemic and it's financial implications, the University will alleviate some of this pressure and be able to offer extensive support to those who need it. This will enhance academic outcomes, build a stronger USYD community and set an example of decency for Governments and other Universities across the country.

Platform:

- The USYD SRC calls on the NSW Government to offer financial support to casuals and sole-traders earning below the \$75,000 minimum of the small business grants
- The USYD SRC calls on the Federal Government to retroactively reinstate Job Keeper and Seeker for the Greater Sydney Region
- The USYD SRC condemns the University for bureaucratizing the financial assistance process, making help less accessible to students

Actions:

- The USYD SRC will write a letter to the NSW Treasurer and the Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism, Finance, Youth, and Western Sydney, and all equivalent Shadow Ministers demanding that emergency financial support be made available to casual workers and sole-traders during the lockdown
- The USYD SRC will write to the Federal Treasurer and the Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business calling for the retroactive reinstatement of Job Keeper and Seeker for those impacted by lockdown.
- The USYD SRC will demand that USYD management remove the limitation to General Bursary applications for all current students, full-time and part-time.

- The USYD SRC will demand that USYD management continue to accept General Bursary applications from International Students in semester two and ensure that funds are available to them.
- The USYD SRC will request that USYD management increase the maximum amount that International Students can receive in assistance per semester from \$1000 to \$2000 and that the threshold for this payment will be raised from a bank balance of \$3000 to \$5000.

Discussion:

Matthew Carter spoke to the motion and read out the action points.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion saying that the way the government has treated casuals has been appalling and the least they could do it make it easier for people to apply for academic bursaries. The about or red tape to accessing assistance is borderline inhumane

Roisin Murphy suggested an amendment to add the Minister for Finance and Minister for Youth and the corresponding Shadow Ministers to those listed.

It was amenable to the movers.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu added that the university keeps trying to make accessing bursaries harder, and it's already really difficult

Matthew Carter yeah international students can only apply when they have less than \$3000 in their bank account.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke about the means testing and the inability for them to account for so many variables.

Moved: Matthew Carter

Seconded: Ben Jones

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q6. Sri Lanka is Not Safe for Tamils

Preamble

Since 1948, Tamils have been persecuted in the ethno-religious chauvinist state of Sri Lanka, under successive governments of a Sinhalese-Buddhist majority. They have suffered mass displacements and genocide, pogroms and a military occupation which now covers 40 percent of Tamil Eelam, in the north and east of the island. The Australian government has been unwavering in its support of Sri Lanka, and in its rejection of Tamil refugees seeking asylum. After a 26-year national liberation struggle was crushed in the Mullivaikkal massacre of 2009, in cooperation with

the UK, US and Russia, the government supplied Sri Lanka with intelligence and naval patrol boats to ensure that Tamils would not escape to Australia. As a part of Operation Sovereign Borders, the Australian Defence Force printed propaganda posters that hung at the site of a concentration camp in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, which read: “no way, you will never set foot in Australia”.

Last month, as the result of immense public pressure, the government conceded to moving the Murugappan family from Christmas Island into community detention in Perth. This is a family whose suffering they have ensured, at all levels, both in Sri Lanka, and upon arrival in Australia, when their family home in Biloela was raided one night in 2018 by Border Force officers who gave them ten minutes to pack before being deported to Melbourne.

The pact which the government have engaged in is a simple one, whereby Sri Lanka stops its Tamil refugees seeking asylum, and Australia refuses to acknowledge its neighbour’s decades-long abuses to human rights, standing in line with Bob Carr’s 2013 proclamation that there is no evidence that “Tamils live in fear and are fleeing their country”. However, this illusion is rapidly coming undone, not only in light of the Biloela family campaign, but with the the UK’s Upper Tribunal this May having overturned the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs’ report on torture in Sri Lanka. This is the document most commonly used to justify the refusal of Tamil applications for asylum in Australia - 92% of which are rejected. It falsely states that Tamils face a low risk of torture in Sri Lanka, and any rejected refugees returned to Tamil Eelam are unlikely to experience harassment. This is obviously untrue, with countless reports of torture emerging, most recently this month, that of a 22 year old Tamil man Chandran Vithusan who was beaten to death at the hands of the Sri Lankan security forces.

Platform

1. The SRC condemns the ongoing project of ethnic cleansing in Sri Lanka
2. The SRC affirms that Sri Lanka is unsafe for Tamils
3. The SRC affirms its support for the immediate return of the Murugappan family to Biloela
4. The SRC condemns the Australian DFAT’s report on torture in Sri Lanka as totally unsubstantiated and untrue

Action

1. The SRC will assist in future actions of Tamil solidarity, including the Tamil Refugee Council’s upcoming rally, on Saturday 31 July at 2pm, Town Hall, by promoting them online, encouraging office bearers and councillors to attend, and providing printed material on request
2. This motion and the Tamil Refugee Council rally event will be published from the SRC facebook page

Discussion:

Annabel Pettit spoke to her motion covering its main points and a brief history of the persecutions of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying that the declaration of the Australian government that Sri Lanka is now safe for Tamils to return to is just a way of Australia showing support for the regime in Sri Lanka and less to do with reality. Saying that reprieve offered to the Murugappan after public outcry at their situation should be offered to all refugees, they should all be free and not kept in community detention.

Moved Annabel Pettit

Seconded Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q7. No right to discriminate! Protest for LGBTI rights on August 14

Preamble

Conservative politicians and lobbyists are on the warpath against LGBTI rights.

The federal Liberal government will introduce legislation this year that gives bigots more powers to discriminate against employees, patients, students, clients and customers. Attorney General Michaelia Cash, who voted "No" to marriage equality, has been consulting with extreme right-wing groups like the Australian Christian Lobby on the contents of the bill.

Under previous drafts of the "Religious Discrimination" bill:

- a) any pharmacist, doctor and nurse in the country could deny contraceptive or morning-after pills, abortions, or hormone therapy to any patient
- b) any boss could tell their transgender employees that they are a crime against god and are going to hell
- c) all religious schools, aged care providers, and businesses could sack any LGBTI employee, including (ironically), staff with different religious beliefs
- d) religious charities could deny shelter, clothes or food to LGBTI people in need
- e) daycare providers could tell single mothers that raising a child without a father is child abuse
- f) all strong protections in state-based legislation for LGBTI people, such as in Tasmania, would be annulled

Powerful forces are pushing for this year's version to be even more heinous. The Catholic and Anglican hierarchies want to re-legalise conversion therapy, recently banned in Queensland & Victoria. Conversion therapy is a form of torture against LGBTI people.

A "religious discrimination" bill of this type is already being moved in NSW parliament with Liberal and Labor support, providing a model and momentum for a federal attack. This NSW bill has been moved by extreme right-winger Mark Latham of One Nation, who is also moving a bill that would sack any NSW teacher that supported transgender students.

The vast majority of Australian society opposes special rights for religious bigots to discriminate. A 2019 Essential poll found that 64% believe that people should not be allowed to use the excuse of

“religious freedom” to abuse others. And a 2018 YouGov Galaxy poll found that a whopping 80% of people oppose the right of religious schools to fire or expel gay teachers and students.

"Religious Freedom" is nothing more than a Trojan Horse for a right-wing minority of employers, politicians and megachurch hierarchs fighting to extend their power and privilege. The majority of people support LGBTI and women's rights. If we stand together against the bigots, we can defeat their attacks and protect our right to be free from discrimination.

Platform

1. The USyd SRC unequivocally opposes all so-called “religious freedom” bill, whether state or federal, that undermines LGBTI rights.
2. The SRC condemns moves by the Liberal government and bigoted right to entrench special rights to discriminate and control the lives of others.
3. The SRC condemns NSW Labor MPs for supporting arch-bigot Latham’s “religious discrimination” bill in a state parliamentary committee.
4. The SRC will support the ongoing protest campaign to kill the bigoted bills via the action points below.

Action

1. The USyd SRC will print posters, leaflets and other material to promote the next rally on August 14.
2. The SRC will share the motion text and the protest event link on Facebook (<https://fb.me/e/47H4uMIE5>)
3. The SRC will share the protest event on their Facebook story.

Ken Pak spoke to the motion outlining the aims of the religious freedoms bill and how it aims to wind back anti-discrimination laws that protect vulnerable people so that others can be bigots and discriminate.

Owen Marsden Readford waved his right to speak

Ella Haid spoke to the motion highlighting how much of an attack on the LBGTIQ+ communities this bill is, and that we should stand against bills like this.

Matthew Carter spoke to the motion noting that to strengthen the ability of religious schools to fire people, create job insecurity and the ability to pry into employees’ personal lives is abhorrent and unnecessary it’s important we fight against bills like this one

Cole Scott-Curwood it’s a good thing to protect people right to be free from discrimination for their religion, but this bill does not do that, freedoms of one group should not be at the cost of others freedom. This bill opens up to discrimination against women, the LBGTIQ+ community and other and should be opposed.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion saying that the parliamentary committee into this and a number of Labor MPs sat on that committee and said the motion was alright I want to know what that group thinks of it.

Roisin Murphy noted that there seems to be a miss understanding on how parliamentary committees work, they are not put together by whoever chairs them and also if you read at the end of the enquiry you would find where there has been dissent to the report. The committees are not solely responsible for the outcomes of the report their job is to research and assess the legislation and the submissions. It's bizarre to claim the Labor party are anti-trans when they have never supported this bill. Adding that leader of the upper house in NSW Penny Sharpe spoke at the last protest against this bill.

Ken Pak noted that only the more heinous bill, which attacked Trans youth was mentioned by Penny Sharpe at the rally, when other bills in this vein do have support from parliamentary members of the Labor party. It's important to get people out and show there is mass opposition to these bills.

Owen Marsden-Readford added that National Labor Student report to be left wing, which is why they are called to account, that we [SALT] hate the liberals is a given. But the others supposedly in the left don't take up these causes and don't get clearly involved in these campaigns we call it out. This is about the difference between rhetoric and reality.

Roisin Murphy responded saying that there was an NLS contingent to the last rally. And that they've not been super active in this meeting as they've got their period and have been in a lot of pain all day and don't appreciate being told they're not left wing because they're exhausted. And they don't see how defending an online election in the middle of a global pandemic means they don't support trans kids, is just ridiculous.

Moved: Ken Pak

Seconded: Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

There was a 15 minutes break in line with the regulations at 8:40pm

There was a call for a quorum count at 8:55pm

The meeting was found quorate

Meeting resumed at 8:59pm

Q8. Solidarity with Myanmar Students against Intimidation by the Burmese Embassy

Preamble

1. Since February this year, Myanmar has been wracked by a powerful wave of protests, known as the Spring Revolution. This was against the Tatmadaw's coup which aimed to recover total political power over the state, following the more "negotiated" transition to a more liberal-democratic style of governance in 2011. This movement saw demonstrations of hundreds of thousands, mass strikes of more than a million workers across myriad workplaces, from the deeply militant textile industry, to electricity, railways, and banking. Protests larger than anything in Myanmar since 2007 happened throughout the course of the Spring Revolution - its causes and effects ran very deep. It challenged many of the contradictions in Myanmar society beyond the question of defending the previous regime, which was run by the pro-capitalist party of the NLD, led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Importantly, the intense oppression of Rohingya Muslims, which intensified under the rule of the "progressive" NLD to paper over the economic contradictions in Myanmar which saw workers suffering under extreme exploitation, was challenged - the general strike council of February elected to include in its platform the demand to grant full political freedoms to all ethnic minorities. The Spring Revolution was impressive not just for its sheer quantitative scale, but also for its breadth and resolution against a system that was repressive beyond the eventuation of the coup.
2. In response to this incredible movement, the counterrevolution has been immense - not only have thousands been arrested, many hundreds reported dead, but hundreds of thousands have been displaced by indiscriminate air and ground strikes launched by the Tatmadaw. In the wake of the mass movement, the Junta wants to reconsolidate legitimacy and power - this means a campaign of violent terror by the state, as well as targeting radical sections of the movement to dissuade political involvement and organisation.
3. The Burmese Embassy in Canberra has sent out letters to Myanmar temporary students and scholars residing in Australia - these letters demand statements to be made assuring loyalty to the military Junta, and a denunciation of the Spring Revolution. They demand that recipients of the letters respond by the deadline, which is tonight, July 7th, affirming that they played no role in the protests, neither in attending or "inciting" others to attend. Failure to respond to this letter satisfactorily will leave these Myanmar students "subject to punishment under existing laws and rules".

Platform

4. The University of Sydney SRC stands in solidarity with the Spring Revolution, and unequivocally supports the political freedoms of ordinary people to organise, protest and strike. We condemn the actions of the Burmese Embassy in what is clearly an intimidation tactic, as a part of its general counterrevolutionary aims, to try and discipline and silence students who might have sympathised with or been a part of the pro-democracy revolution.

Action

5. The SRC Facebook page will make a post condemning this atrocious act of intimidation by the Burmese Embassy and expressing solidarity with the Myanma students studying in Australia.

Discussion:

Caspar Rose spoke to their motion noting that there has been great upheaval in Myanmar and violent reactions from the military since the coup. There has been pressure on students here to reaffirm their support for the military coup and that they played no role in the protests.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion noting that there have been a number of rallies against the military coup fighting for the gains to democracy gained over the past decade. Adding that the SRC must support the opposition to the military coup and support the Myanma people.

Moved: Caspar Rose

Seconded: Simon Upitis

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q9. Support for striking nurses and health workers

Preamble:

Nurses, paramedics and midwives have been demonstrating across NSW because the sector is under funded and under resourced. Gladys Berejiklian and the Liberal party cut \$250 million from public hospitals with the greatest hits in Western Sydney and regional areas.

NSW does not have safe staffing ratios, unlike Queensland and Victoria. In NSW nurses and midwives are fighting for 1:4 ratios on ward floors and 1:3 ratios in emergency. Safe ratios save lives because they improve the quality of care provided to each patient, and the safety of nurses and patients.

Nurses are also fighting against the Liberal party's public sector pay cuts intended to increase wages below the standard 2.5% inflation. The wage cut in real wages is shameful considering the crucial work of nurses, paramedics and midwives during the COVID pandemic and bushfires of recent years.

Restrictive industrial relations laws in Australia mean that all workers can only take industrial action for better working conditions and fair wages once every four years. This adds heat to the urgency of nurses to strike for safe staffing ratios and a much needed pay rise.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC supports the demands of:
 1. Safe staffing ratios
 2. A fair wage increase and no cuts to public service wages
 3. Increased funding for all public hospitals.

2. The USyd SRC supports nurses, midwives and paramedics that take industrial action for these demands.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will take a solidarity picture at the end of this motion, with signs saying “Pay our nurses and midwives”, “Care for our health carers” or similar.
2. The USyd SRC will post this on social media using the relevant hashtags and tagging the NSWNMA and APANSW
3. The USyd SRC will support future protests and industrial action taken by nurses, paramedics and midwives in NSW.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion outlining its main points.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion saying he’s spent a lot of time in hospitals and didn’t know where he would be without nurses. But it is ridiculous to cut the pay and conditions of healthcare workers during a global pandemic when they have been so critical and endorse the actions of the nurses and midwives association.

Ken Pak spoke to the motion and mentioned the stop work actions happening at RPA saying that you get a real sense of the anger building up from before event the pandemic which has only exacerbated these already poor conditions. And supported that the union has backed these strike actions even after they’ve been deemed illegal.

Matthew Carter spoke to the motion saying that his brother is a nurse and remember seeing him come home exhausted and angry about the conditions and he thinks this is the things the unions should be pushing and supporting, and he supports the motion.

Priya Gupta spoke to the motion that staff patient ratios are so important and as historically women’s’ work nursing has been overlooked and undervalued. And we should be pushing for safer working conditions for nurses and for student who the SRC represents and it is crucial that we support them.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion saying he had spoken to a midwife at a recent action and she talked about how a trainee on her ward was being asked to look after 10 mothers and babies and she was not yet fully qualified, and she knew that this trainee would not be a nurse for long as they were going to burn out. Also that management were seen handing out information saying that the strike was illegal and they will be fined and the union had to let people know that they won’t be fined it will go through the union.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion echoed that statements of the past speakers and she knows many nursing students who have been telling stories of the things they’ve been asked to do and it’s been appalling,

Jayfel Tulabing Lee spoke to the motion and wanted to add that there is a lot of support from nursing students and nursing society for getting out to this event.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Kimmy Dibben

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R. General Business

Motions from the floor:

R1. USYD SRC Support NTEU Log of Claims and Industrial Action

Today the NTEU voted with a 97% majority to accept an extensive log of claims to take to their bargaining period with the University. This log of claims is crucial in many ways in the fight against the neoliberal slide we all find ourselves on. It seeks to stop precarious employment, end forced redundancies, provide compensation for all work done especially by casuals, ensure reasonable workloads and 40/40/20 splits are upheld fairly as well as cementing rights for Indigenous and transgender staff.

This is an incredibly ambitious log of claims that is in the best interests of staff and also students. The university will fight using an outsourced team of lawyers from Clayton-Utz, we must fight using the techniques we have available to us – mass demonstration and direct action in solidarity with staff.

Platform:

- 1) The SRC recognises and supports the NTEU's log of claims as a step to improving conditions on campus and ending the exploitation of management via casualisation, wage theft and the intensification of work
- 2) The SRC fully supports the NTEU in any industrial action they may take
- 3) The SRC acknowledges the significant role students can have in supporting such actions

Actions:

- 1) Call for the SRC Facebook page to share the NTEU's post

Discussion:

Tom Williams spoke to his motion highlighting it's main points and outlined what's been happening at the NTEU meetings and talking about the log of claims. And also pushing for more ambitious log of claims.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion and wanted to note how much money the university has and USyd has such a massive surplus compared to even other universities in Australia.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion spoke about the log of claims and that the university has not yet released their log of claims and then spoke the process around them, including pushing for union membership and actions to win this ambitious log.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion and on getting ready for the work involved in pushing for these wins.

Matthew Carter spoke to the motion noting that the con is often underutilized in these campaigns but there is a lot of passion within the student body and staff with the actions that are being called on here and con students are passionate about fight the Uni and protecting staff.

Moved: Tom Williams

Seconded: Maddie Clarke

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R2. Motion for support of ACAR x Asian Australian Project stories campaign

Preamble:

Recently, we have pivoted our focus to the on-going anti-Asian sentiment and violence that has been perpetrated worldwide due to the emergence of a commonly held association between Asian people and the coronavirus pandemic. As a consequence, there has been an increase in incidences involving verbal or physical assault and other forms of racial discrimination, targeting people of Asian descent, throughout not only NSW but Australia at large. The campaign will acknowledge anti-Asian racism as intrinsically indivisible from struggles experienced by other communities including First Nations, Black, and Hispanic. While the increasing rate of incidents in Australia has been limited, the political and cultural climate that espouses “Asians are not welcome” is pervasive within the media and general public. This is evident in local councils’ rejection of funding for East Asian cultural events, the recent India travel ban in May, and university schemes excluding certain nationalities which indicate that a vestige of colonial exceptionalism remains in policy and political thought.

To this end, the Autonomous Collective Against Racism is organising a stories campaign in collaboration with the Asian Australian Project. The AAP is an initiative run by Asian-Australians to help them in their journey towards awareness and understanding of the nuances of these unique cross-cultural experiences. The social media campaign featuring the stories will commence in the first weeks of Semester 2, 2021 and culminate in a panel event towards mid-September with guest speakers. This will facilitate discussion around the current anti-Asian experience, how discrimination occurs, and bring light to support offered to fellow students, local and international, who are suffering in silence. A stories callout will be put forward by ACAR and the AAP via a confidential form system allowing for comprehensive storytelling and anonymity where desired. Our focus will be to bring awareness on how to dismantle stereotypes and oppressive structures and rhetoric, at university, across all levels of government and the family.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC calls on the university to clarify its Student Charter obligations to extend to rhetorical association between Asian-Australians and others of Asian descent with COVID-19, this includes condemning such rhetoric.
2. The USyd SRC calls on the Federal Government to implement a federal framework on anti-racism, including reversing cuts to international aid budgets announced in April 2021.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC supports and lends assistance to increasing general awareness of the Stories Campaign through SRC social media accounts.
2. The USyd SRC will call upon the University to explicitly designate association of Asian communities with COVID-19 as infringing on the Student Charter.

Ashrika Paruthi spoke to the motion reading out its key points

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion talking about its platforms and actions to highlighted that there have been incidences on campus of staff conflating students with Chinese backgrounds and COVID-19

Moved: Ashrika Paruthi

Seconded: Khanh Tran

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R3. Democracy over bureaucracy - a campaign for in person elections

Preamble:

The most important task of a student union is to re-elect itself, to keep itself democratically viable as a body. At their core, student unionism is not about service provision, electoral victories or KPI's but is about mobilising students to fight for their rights and for left-wing causes in society more broadly.

Student unions have played an important role in cohering and resourcing progressive student activism in Australia. Historically, student unions at the campus and national level have also played a crucial role in cohering and supporting progressive social campaigns, such as the campaigns against the Vietnam War and for Aboriginal rights and many others. In more recent history, the SRC has been involved in fights against the ban on the right to protest, against job and course cuts, the climate strike movement amongst others. Student unions should and must be a hub of dissent against the anti-student Labor and Liberal governments.

Core to this vision of student unionism is student democracy. Elections to the SRC are key to this, not only for maintaining the viability of the SRC, but because in person elections allow for competing visions for student unionism to be argued and debated in the student body. This is essential to involving students in the political life of the SRC, allowing ideas to be challenged and voting decisions to be truly informed. Elections help to politicise the union. Without vigorous political debate, the union becomes bureaucratic and sclerotic, suspended above students but not influenced by them. This is why online elections have been typically being pushed by the Young

Liberals as part of their drive to destroy student unionism. The right have significant resources behind them and have used online elections to wind up student democracy in the past, like at the University of Wollongong or during a student union run referendum at the University of Queensland in 2018.

Alongside the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism, online elections have been a key catalyst in the decline of student union organisation and participation. A key reason why the University of Sydney SRC has remained a bastion of the left and hub of political activity, relative to other campuses, is the lively political engagement that occurs during the election period. Online voting turns student elections into a cynical vote-mining exercise on the basis of social networks and the bureaucratic domination of collectives, societies and parties. It is vital that the Sydney University SRC, with its tradition of being involved in radical politics, cut against this nationwide trend of political decline.

Ensuring democratic integrity in online elections is impossible, as evidenced by the nightmare of elections last year. A combination of process errors, an unaccountable electoral officer, confusing and changing guidelines and students being sent wrong information and broken voting links being sent to students. Undoubtedly Geoffrey Fields was a terrible electoral officer, but more concerning was the council had no capacity to discipline him, or to determine the veracity of his claims, due to the monopoly power granted to him by the BigPulse system. Voting online threatens to shift a lot of unaccountable, executive power to the unelected Electoral Officer. The process is also highly susceptible to fraud and voter coercion as there are no voting booths with exclusion zones, allowing for standing over people while they vote.

Due to these severe threats to democratic integrity and basic concerns for privacy, only one purportedly democratic nation in the world holds elections online, Estonia. This process in Estonia has been widely criticised. In 2014, a research group led by Alex Halderman, an associate professor from the University of Michigan, published a scathing report on the Estonian system, which stated: “we find that the e-voting system has serious architectural limitations and procedural gaps that potentially jeopardize the integrity of elections.”

If in-person elections have been blocked by the University Senate or any wing of the administration, the SRC must run a political campaign against the university in defense of student democracy and student unionism. The lack of any campaign or even public dissent from the SRC executive against the university indicates a lack of commitment to student democracy. It has yet to be presented to the council any evidence that the university senate has even discussed the SRC elections, let alone ruled out in person elections.

Platform:

1. The SRC declares its support for in-person elections on the basis of their superior democratic integrity and legitimacy.
2. The SRC does not accept diktats, given by a university management neck-deep in staff and course cuts, on whether or not student elections are allowed to be held.

Action:

1. The SRC will hold in-person elections in 2022.

2. If the University refuses to fund or in any way denies the formal ability for the SRC to hold in person elections in 2022, the SRC will hold elections in person regardless.
3. The SRC will publicly condemn the university senate upon the rapid procurement of the alleged motion that rules out online elections.
4. If this motion does not exist or cannot be found, the SRC will run a campaign against University management demanding the democratic right to run student union elections

Owen Marsden Readford read out the motion to the council

Discussion:

Owen Marsden Readford spoke to the motion saying that if you support in person elections you need to vote this motion up and there needs to be transparency on what the senate has said and there needs to be defiance not capitulation to such decisions that disallow in person elections, as what is more important is ensuring a politically active student union to fight against managements cuts, and education cuts in general. Owen also spoke about the dangers of compliance with online elections and how this has been seen at other universities like QUT. And asked that Swapnik Sanagavarapu and the executive stand by their position that they are in favor of in person elections and support the motion.

Lauren Lancaster said that the issue with in person elections this year is just the covid situation, saying that is the executive that would say one thing here and do something different elsewhere is insulting and this is clearly coming form the university management but also saying that since this is for 2022 she doesn't see the issues.

Victor Liang suggested an amendment to include that "online voting for internationally based students and satellite campuses"

Seconded: Ashrika Perkins

It was not amendable to the movers.

The amendment will be moved as a foreshadowing motion.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded saying it was not amenable and was in direct contradiction with what in person elections aim to achieve with the mention of satellite campuses being given an online component would allow what is trying to be avoided such as the colleges being able to corral votes.

Lily Campbell responded to the suggested amendment saying that that the SRC has existed with postal voting for many years without issues and the SRC should aim to maintain paper ballots.

Matthew Carter spoke to the amendment adding the colleges are not satellite campuses, the Con is the largest with many of the smaller ones now moving onto main campus in the coming years. Adding that in allowing satellite campus to vote in either an online or postal vote would allow people to engage in all three days of the elections and not just the one day.

Owen Marsden-Readford this motion is in two parts. One about the elections next year and 2 about the reasoning behind online elections this year and getting clarity on that. Adding that there

was the lowest turnout in at least 5 years last year's so the idea that more people will vote is not a strong one and postal voting is and has been available.

Cole Scott-Curwood speaking against the motion saying disallowing any form of online voting disenfranchises all international student stuck overseas, postal voting is not a viable option for international student and you can't expect the post to get there in time and back again.

Victor Liang wanted to clarify he is the residential colleges officer, but he is not from the colleges and the amendment make no mentions of colleges at all. Adding that the extraordinary circumstances with covid, and travel bans means that acting like we have in normal times when it comes to elections is not possible, the amendment was about enfranchising those international students.

Ashrika Paruthi echoed the statements of Cole and Victor saying that we are still living in uncertainty and we don't know that student will be able to come back next year. Adding that this motion disregards what international student overseas are going through.

Lily Campbell spoke against the amendment and that postal voting has happened in the past, and it is more important that we maintain a vibrant democracy and now everyone seems to be pushing back, and that this is about a whole years time and that she doesn't accept the arguments about international student and that an issues we can deal with next year, and doesn't see what anyone would argue against this.

Tom Williams said that in person doesn't stop people who can't come on campus from voting and that other options have always been available, and online voting has the lowest turnout in years. This is for 2022 not this year and we should be looking forward about where we will be. This is about student unionism and activism.

Maria Ge that all students should be able to vote, postal votes are an obstacle and they should all have equal right and access

Ashrika Paruthi postal voting is not suitable for people in a pandemic and stuck inside. How are they supposed to send a postal vote back? And we cannot play a guessing game on this and assuming we will all be ok is not useful.

Madeleine Clark this motions is about making sure we are all on the same page about the importance of in person elections and making sure we don't move to online elections permanently which would be really damaging to student democracy.

Owne Marsden-Readford this motion is about pushing for student engagement and student democracy and having a contest of ideas, and no one is arguing for the exclusion of international students. And Covid is being taken seriously and this is about fighting against those who are pushing to reopen despite covid such as uni management.

Khanh Tran this motion comply disregards what this means for international students and the movers need to sit down with international student and plan how they would do this.

Victor Liang said that he agrees with in person elections and the amendment isn't about maintaining online elections its about making sure that we've got contingencies as he does not see this pandemic being over by next year. The cost of postal votes internationally is so much more expensive

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion saying that in person elections are crucial to student democracy and that in person elections all allows for people to learn about and engage with the SRC and there is no reason that we can't have an inperson elecvtions or have people vote online who are overseas and doesn't see why they need to be seen as separate thing when they don't need to be. And we need to better eneg4e withinternationala stuents, and we need to remember that right now we are in the midfdles of a gloab oandemic

Yasmine Johnson saying the SRC can afford a replied paid envelope which would cost student nothing. Adding that people who said they support in person elections but just not this year should support this motion.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu broadly agrees with the thrust of the motion, and hoping that international students will be ablet o return next year. There are many complex concerns that need to be taken into account and hopefully next year more people are vaccinated, and we will be able to run this. The decisions of this council don't bind the next council, so whatever we decide is in the grand scheme of things moot, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't' debate them.

Moved: Owen Marsden Readford

Seconded: Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **FAILED.**

The Foreshadowing motion was put the addition is in italics.

Foreshadowing motion

Democracy over bureaucracy - a campaign for in person elections

Preamble:

The most important task of a student union is to re-elect itself, to keep itself democratically viable as a body. At their core, student unionism is not about service provision, electoral victories or KPI's but is about mobilising students to fight for their rights and for left-wing causes in society more broadly.

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Platform:

1. The SRC declares its support for in-person elections on the basis of their superior democratic integrity and legitimacy
2. The SRC does not accept diktats, given by a university management neck-deep in staff and course cuts, on whether or not student elections are allowed to be held.

Action:

1. The SRC will hold in-person elections in 2022 with *online voting for internationally based students and satellite campuses*
2. If the University refuses to fund or in any way denies the formal ability for the SRC to hold in person elections in 2022, the SRC will hold elections in person regardless.
3. The SRC will publicly condemn the university senate upon the rapid procurement of the alleged motion that rules out online elections
4. If this motion does not exist or cannot be found, the SRC will run a campaign against University management demanding the democratic right to run student union elections

Speaking list

Victor Laing spoke to the foreshadowing motion adding that he does not want to remove the addition for online voting on satellite campuses as they do not have the full three days of voting that main campus has,

Ashrika Paruthi spoke to the foreshadowing motion echoing what victor said.

Lily Campbell spoke against the motion saying that Socialist alternative shut down several meetings when the liberals were in power and tried to close booths at the satellite campuses and the idea online voting doesn't make sure that campuses are more enfranchised and that student at the con are not in the same situation as international students overseas and conflating them is wrong, we should be talking about extending times the days on satellite campuses not moving online.

Owen Marsden-Readford this about avoiding turning elections into cynical vote churning systems, con students are not oppressed and people are just interested in vote mining not democracy.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the Chair to Priya Gupta

Matthew Carter spoke to the amendment saying that there was huge campaign fighting against cuts at the university and have been involved in campaigns that have saved entire degrees. If you want to come and campaign and get people to vote, as it stands there is only one polling day and turn out is not great, people don't come and campaign there. With online voting the con students were able to engage and now have 2 councillors which is proportional to the number of students the Con has.

Roisin Murphy spoke with concern about online voting in general saying that while online voting seems like it might be more enfranchising this is not the case if you look at the numbers in the long term, and there are more effective ways to engage satellite campuses than online voting. Keep in mind that it saves the uni management money to have online elections but it doesn't benefit students.

Moved: Victor Liang

Seconded: Ashrika Paruthi

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

The meeting closed at 10:29pm.