



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
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MINUTES:

of the 7th regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on **Wednesday 4th August 2021**. Meeting held via Zoom.

*Quorum count called at 6:05pm
The meeting was quorate*

A. Meeting open at 6:05pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Priya Gupta be elected Deputy Chairperson.
The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

B. Acknowledgement of Country

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

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies were received from:

At 6:40 Roisin Murphy proxied to Felix Faber

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

There were no resignations

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 93rd SRC Council held on 7th July 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 7th July 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to set the speaking time of Officers reports to 1.5 minutes total per department.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing Lee

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

H. Question Time

There were no questions

I. Visitor's Business

Swapnik Sanagavarapu moved to agenda item 9 while the council waited for the Electoral Officer to join the meeting.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

There was no report from the undergraduate fellow of senate.

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

There were not minutes from the Executive

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 7th July to the 4th August.

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:

Council Report - August

This month was a lot busier than the last, with my attention divided between various activist projects, advocacy projects and administrative tasks. Unfortunately the ongoing lockdown has shuttered some of the plans that were tabled this month including plans for meetings, rallies and general outreach. Lockdowns are difficult for all of us, and I hope everyone is able to access the support that they need in a pretty unprecedented time.

As always, I've structured my report according to the various kinds of activities that I've been undertaking this month.

Elections

As usual, I've been continuing with preparations for this year's annual elections, despite the significant and unfortunate disruptions caused by the resurgence of the virus and the lockdown. While in person campaigning is not prohibited, it seems increasingly unlikely that it will eventuate, unless there is a return to campus and ease of restrictions by the middle of September. A large number of electoral regulation changes have been tabled this month - they were painstakingly compiled by Riki, Cameron (Deputy EO) and Julia. I, along with Max (Chair of SLC) have spent an inordinate amount of time reading through them and discussing them. The majority of the changes are cosmetic changes and simplifications to existing rules, but there are some substantive changes that have been tabled that I'm sure will merit extensive discussion. I've also been liaising with Riki around some of the aspects of the nomination process, which will open on the 5th. By the time my report is discussed the candidate briefing would have occurred already, so I'm sure you'd be aware of some of the intricacies of the process. Best of luck to everyone who's planning on nominating (well, most of you).

Committees and Academic Issues

Much of my time this month has been spent on University committees, applying pressure to management and generally advocating for beneficial policy changes. This month has had some remarkable successes, as well as some more questionable moments.

Special Considerations

One of the biggest successes of this month has been the remarkable overhaul of the special considerations online platform that has been tabled on the back of the SRC's consistent and

ongoing pressure. Over the past month and beyond, I've been persistently making the case that special considerations are in need of a major overhaul. I've catalogued wait times through surveys, raised individual cases with management, provided stories to Honi and generally been putting pressure on the University for change. This has finally come to some fruition, with the Special Considerations team presenting us the first draft of a totally overhauled Special Cons portal last Friday. These changes are more than aesthetic - they have made the process extremely user friendly and student centric. It is expected to be launched by the end of Semester 2. Opportunities will be provided for more student feedback and user-testing, so please let me know if you're interested. My thanks to Melissa Roughley and her team for their work on this.

Specifically, the new Special Cons portal will:

- Be personal, and accessed through the SSO login
- Allow students to see a progress bar as they go through the process, to minimise uncertainty and stress
- Allow for a library of documents, so that commonly used documents (i.e. in relation to chronic illness) do not need to be uploaded multiple times
- Allow for simultaneous applications across multiple units of study
- Include a comments function for interactivity between the student and the staff member processing the application
- Estimated wait times to improve certainty

Use of Ed

It was brought to my attention that the University was proposing removal of the Ed learning platform (thanks to Cole for the heads up). A brief update on that front is that the status quo is largely going to be maintained this semester - Ed will continue to be used as it has been, but will and cannot be used for final or summative assessments. I believe that a broader review is being undertaken and will be presented to the next meeting of UE EC, and I will update further then.

Miscellaneous

There have been some miscellaneous committee issues that have arisen too, which I'm happy to discuss if anyone likes. For brevity, I will not include much detail and simply note them:

- JRG bill updates/updates to coursework policy

- Principles of teaching
- Thematic Review of assessments

Activism

I've also spent a lot of time trying to make progress on various activist projects and initiatives this month. Some of these began last month, but I'm hoping to continue them all as the semester progresses.

Enterprise Bargaining/Education

I've been in talks with the NTEU throughout the month, trying to figure out what the plans for enterprise bargaining and potential industrial action are. I've spoken to the Branch President, NSW Secretary and the NTEU Action Network. The consensus seems to be that industrial action will only be feasible next year due to legal and administrative requirements. This may provide a benefit for the SRC, as building and participating in any strike will be extremely difficult under the present circumstances. Nonetheless, we should be prepared for the possibility of industrial action. I'll note here that the NTEU has provided a very extensive and historical log of claims, with many important demands that should be agitated for. By contrast, the University's proposal is meagre and full of significant austerity measures. This bargaining period will undoubtedly be an interesting one. In any case, people should get involved with the August 16th Online Action and then also the NTEU's Week of Action in September.

International Student Issues

Thanks to Khanh, I and others have been recently linked with the Oz International Student Hub (organised through the Sydney Alliance). Specifically, I've gotten involved with the campaign for International Student Opal Cards, and will be integrating some of the SRC's networks and support services into the OISH network over the coming months.

Welfare

I was involved closely with the earlier Day of Action from the Welfare Action Group, and assisted in the writing of the open letter and reached out to many of the signatories. The political project involves a universal crisis payment of \$750 a week to affected workers and an increase in the rate

of JobSeeker to \$80 a day. This basic social democratic demand has been unsurprisingly rejected by the Government, despite its support from numerous civil society organisations and the immense benefits that it would yield.

Miscellaneous/uncategorised

- Assisting students in the Nursing Faculty with claims of endemic sexual harassment on clinical placements
- Rad Ed Week
 - Organising a panel with Nadia Wheatley and Meredith Burgmann on their book “Radicals”
 - Assisting with a panel on the origins and contemporary relevance of Political Economy
- Attended NUS Education Conference and participated in a number of workshops

Website

I’ve continued preparations for the website redesign including ongoing meetings with prospective developers, the creation of a wish list for functionality, early research with potential users and consultation with SRC staff members. Hopefully we will have some clarity and finality in the process this month.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the chair to Priya Gupta

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke his report and covered its main points.

Yasmine Johnson spoke about the NTEU’s actions with the University in relation to the EBA negotiations, noting that the University has announced their plan for pushing back on the current teaching research quotas and the challenges that places on staff.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke about the University’s response to the log of claims, saying that University management seems to be going on the offensive.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resumed the chair.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Maria Ge and Roisin Murphy tabled a written report:

In the past one month, I have been attending Standing Legal Council meetings related to some proposed changes. Apart from it, Roisin and I worked on promotion and advertising. To separate the task, Roisin is responsible for the local students, and I am responsible for the international students. Here is my work.

Promotion of special consideration survey

During the exam period, we have received many complaints related to the application of special consideration. Hence, we promoted the survey on multiple platforms and translated it to share with the international students. We hope this can help. Currently, I (Maria) am contacting with Melissa related to the new Special Consideration Application Portal and making guidelines for it.

Promotion of O-week seminar

We created working groups with Anne to promote SRC and the seminar with first year students. We have done the translation and designing work to promote it and will edit the recording to share with more students.

Advertising of all offices and organisations to the international students

In the purpose of the fairness of the election, we have recruited many volunteers and will work on the promotion of all offices and organisations to inform as many international students as possible. If any offices or organisations want to be involved, feel free to send me your content and contact with me (Maria) after the meeting.

Promotion of international student survey

I have done the translation work related to the international student survey created by and we will promote it this week.

Caseworker help

After meetings with Caseworker Manager Mel, I decided the direction and themes of the advertising this semester. I have already created 3 groups to work on the translation work and poster designing work and have 3 articles and 2 posters ready for this semester.

Special students' affairs

In the past one month, I have helped many students with their special unprecedented cases by tracking it and raised it in the fortnight meetings with the uni when needed.

Discussion:

Roisin Murphy spoke to their report noting that she's been working full time over the holidays which has slowed things down but is looking forward to getting back to things in semester 2.

Riki Scanlan noted that people should get in touch with any questions about translations of elections materials.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report:

We have both been attending Standing Legal Council meetings in which the proposed changes to the regulations that we will go through in today's meeting have been raised and discussed. We have also continued to attend other committee meetings and agitate for students rights there. In one meeting we were shown a prototype of a new Special Considerations Application Portal which looks to be a massive improvement on the current one, made in part as a result of our raising of issues with the current system. We expect this to benefit students a lot when it eventually is released at the end of this year, and as we have been doing, will continue to give recommendations on how it can be improved. We have also been involved in other campaigns and activities by collectives.

Priya has continued to work on Rad Ed Week. Unfortunately with lockdown we have had to make some major changes to the format. As it was meant to be in Week 4, and we don't know when lockdowns will end and Uni will go back to in-person, we have decided to take the event fully online and spread it out over the semester, with two online events each week, starting in week 2.

Anne has continued focusing on International student related affairs.

- Oz International Student Hub (OISH): Anne had several meetings with the corresponding staff regarding the delivery of useful information to international students. We decided to co-hold events for international students benefiting their settlements in Sydney, understanding their rights as international students in Australia, and also guiding the USYD international students to our SRC services through the OISH program. More events will come through and plan to attract more international students through their public resources. Anne will continue work on this program and welcome more students to engage in this project.
- Four SRC Orientation events: Anne helped in the src orientation events management. Anne asked student volunteers to translate SRC orientation events and help promote them in the Chinese society. Anne also co-work with the Vice President Maria in producing resources for the events.
- Possibility to cooperate with Supra regarding international student issues: Anne has contacted the co-presidents of Supra. We are discussing the possibility of helping students in different affairs, including but not limited to Special Consideration cases and International Student tuition fee cuts etc.

Discussion:

Priya Gupta and Anne Zhao spoke to their report covering its main points

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Swapnik Sanagavarapu suspended standing orders to move to agenda item O

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Madeleine Clark and Thomas Williams tabled a written report

These last few weeks of holidays have been busy getting ready for next semester. Although the first half of semester will be online we are still planning for online activism. Particularly as the NTEU EBA period is beginning and the NTEU has put forward their log of claims. We have had a couple of meetings where we organised to have a forum first week back of semester on Thursday at 1pm. This is organised in conjunction with Save Usyd Arts. It will be geared to reaching out to new students and explaining all the various attacks we are fighting. We have also helped spearhead the Counter Summit planned for the 16th of August. This will be an exciting opportunity to gather with students across Sydney to discuss how we can fight back together. This is being backed by the National Union of Students and universities across the country will host similar events give or take their local struggles over that week. This Counter Summit will be co chaired by one of the Ed Officers Tom. Apart from organizing these events we have been involved with organizing Rad Ed Week, now looking to be online. We are also organizing new merchandise. Looking at the semester we have also pencilled in a National Day of Action for sometime in September. We have also been putting our efforts into helping other campaigns and collectives where possible.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark and Tom Williams spoke to their report and covered its main points, highlighting the cuts to SLAM.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written report

Rad Sex and Consent Week

Due to pandemic restrictions, we have had to quickly and creatively transform our original plans for Rad Sex and Consent Week into an online program — videos (live and recorded), podcasts and written resources. As we'll need more time to make these changes, Rad Sex and Consent Week will now fall in Week 8 after the mid-semester break. What this means for our budget is that the costs for physical structures such as the marquee and seat hire, as well as the final party, will no longer apply so these funds can go towards technology requirements and speaking guests.

At the most recent WoCo meeting, we established a list of important goals that we have for Rad Sex and Consent Week to assist with re-imagining the program:

- 1) Rad Sex and Consent Week is accessible and grounds foundational ideas/"basic" knowledge
- 2) WoCo makes accessible and invaluable information and resources that we can share around
- 3) Participants gain an in-depth understanding of sex education beyond high school sex education
- 4) Participants are encouraged to de-stigmatise and spark conversations within spaces outside WoCo
- 5) Participants remember why/how Rad Sex and Consent week is "radical"
- 6) Participants know who WoCo is and what we do, and hopefully become more involved in the collective

Reading Group

Yesterday we had the final session of our *Women, Race and Class* reading group. Overall attendance was good — especially given the zoom fatigue — and we were really impressed with and grateful for those collective members who volunteered to facilitate each week. This reading group allowed us to draw similarities and comparisons between the experience of First Nations women and Black American women through an intersectional class lens whilst also reflecting on the politics and activism of WoCo. It also gave WoCo members, especially those newer to the space, the confidence to ask questions and openly discuss what they've learnt. We plan to have more reading groups and political education events like this again soon given its success.

Inter-collective organising and National Day of Action

Given the uncertainty of pandemic restrictions in NSW and other states, and the intensity of the Delta variant, the NUS-organised National Day of Action against sexual violence on campus has been pushed back to a month to October 6 (timed well to occur during Rad Sex and Consent Week). USyd WoCo is still discussing what exactly we will do in the event that an in-person rally is still off the table in early October. Last month, the Women's Officers also met with convenors from the UTS and Macquarie Uni women's collectives to discuss the NDA and share updates on the activities of each collective, and to generally try and encourage more cross-campus collaboration between Women's Collectives.

Discussion:

Amelia Mertha spoke to her report, covering its main points.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Environment Officers

The month of July has obviously been dominated by the NSW lockdown. So far, case numbers in Sydney are still not under control and show no sign of dropping. The Sydney lockdown has been a dismal failure on the part of the Berejiklian state government, whose early refusal to lockdown and then do it properly, has meant that unlike Victoria, the pandemic continues to pose a threat to workers in NSW. Even now, many businesses are allowed to operate in person, thus facilitating the spread of the virus, and health measures in actually essential workplaces are extremely insufficient. We should stand in solidarity as well with high school students being forced back to school early, just so the sanctity of the HSC is not interfered with. The vaccination roll-out demonstrates the subordination of health to the profits of pharmaceutical corporations and the anarchy of capitalist production; countries are forced to compete on a world market for vaccine supply instead of both coordinating the rollout internationally and massively ramping up vaccine production by investing more in the necessary facilities. Finally, the federal and state government have left workers high and dry by refusing to increase welfare for both the employed and unemployed, and by continuing to bailout small and big business alike. In this situation, the left should demand greater welfare for workers rather than the pro-business demand to open up and allow certain industries to operate in person.

It's important that we do not treat the lockdown however as rendering activism impossible. The technology capitalism has created allows us to organise and propagandise while in our homes and we should see actions like online protests and forums as a way to continue making arguments around various campaigns (such as the education campaign, or the trans rights campaigns). Last year proved that we can still engage students while online, especially as courses and jobs at USYD continue to be threatened and cut. And when we can do stuff in person, we can only shift into gear properly if we have laid the basis while in lockdown. In this vain, I encourage all councillors, OBs and activists to get involved with the education campaign, which is involving an impressive array of activists from various campuses, and other campaigns such as the trans rights one.

The situation in Sydney demonstrates the barbarity of capitalist society, willing at any time to sacrifice the health and lives of workers in its rapacious pursuit of profit. The overthrow of such a system is glaringly obvious.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to his report covering its main points.

Lauren Lancaster gave a verbal report adding:

- Climate change driven disasters in the northern hemisphere seen in major flooding events and wild fires in Europe
- Sussan Lay fighting to not put the Great Barrier Reef on the endangered list which was despicable
- Kurri Kurri shows there's going to be a huge loss for that plant so that's an ongoing campaign – Drew Beacom added that there was also a reading group for green jobs and Kurri Kurri tomorrow at 10:30am

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Welfare Officers

Palestine activism:

Since the last SRC meeting I've been involved in helping to organise and build for the Palestine Action Group's forum 'Witnesses to resistance in Palestine.' It was both a success and an incredible opportunity to hear from people who witnessed the resistance firsthand. Budour Hassan in particular was a highlight. In Students for Palestine here at USYD we have started up a reading group on Ali Abunimah's book 'The Battle for Justice in Palestine' which meets on Sundays.

LGBTI+ activism:

Community Action for Rainbow Right's protest on August 14th that I've been helping to organise and build will be going ahead online. Whilst the federal religious freedoms bill isn't in the news as much, it is still being drafted behind the scenes by the bigots in the Liberal party. If passed, it would constitute one of the most significant attacks on LGBTI and broader worker's rights in years. So we have to fight it. Hope to see people there so we can build momentum for a serious fightback against the bill, and further demonstrations on the street when possible.

Other activism:

Over the break, I attended the National Union of Students Education conference to help wage an argument that the NUS must actually be a fighting body, an active pole of attraction that seeks to mobilise students for its own rights. It must do so, both so a fightback against the huge campus-by-campus cuts can be fought, but also if NUS is to become relevant once again. Coming out of this, it has been positive to see some NUS backing for the Student Counter Summit on August 16th. The fight against the careerist hacks and the moderate politics that dominate NUS, however, is far from over.

Discussion:

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

Lia Perkins gave a verbal report:

- Welfare action group arguing for played pandemic leave for workers and running open petition on that issue and pushing for free childcare for all
- All been active in the no cuts and EBA campaigns.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

05. Report of the Social Justice Officers

Opposing the VCs: Gearing Up for Education Activism in Semester 2

Since the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia, vice-chancellors around the country have used the apparent crisis in the higher education to push through all of the cost-cutting measures they've dreamed of for years, from brutal cuts to staff jobs, pay and conditions, to the closure of courses and entire schools, and other savage restructures designed to further the transformation of universities into corporate degree factories. These attacks show no signs of slowing down in 2021, despite the university sector raking in an obscene \$451 million surplus last year. Here at USyd, SLAM remains under serious threat, with further cuts on the cards in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, while at the same time university management have recently released a plan for the EBA period which seeks to savage staff on every front, removing limits on the amount of teaching work staff can be forced to do, heightening the already dire state of precarity and overwork for casual staff, and other egregious attacks. I've spent much of my holiday period throwing myself into organising for what will hopefully be a defiant semester of education activism to oppose uni management's designs. As part of the NUS' national week of action to fight the cuts, I've been working on building for the cross-campus August 16 Student Counter-Summit against the AFR's Higher Education Summit, a gathering of VCs expressly for the purpose of discussing how they plan to further restructure universities to serve Australian capitalism. I'm also proud to be speaking on the neoliberalisation of higher education at the upcoming forum on staff and student resistance to the cuts at USyd organised by the EAG. While the failure of the Liberal state government to contain the latest COVID-19 outbreak has required a move online for education activism, it's crucial that we organise and build seriously now to lay the groundwork for an in-person campaign when it becomes possible.

Sri Lanka is Not Safe for Tamils!

I attended the the Tamil Refugee Council's latest protest against the Australian government's craven collaboration with the Sinhala chauvinist government in Sri Lanka, despite clear evidence of the ongoing state-sponsored persecution, torture and murder of Tamils in the country. In particular, the recalcitrance of the Australian government in supporting the DFAT's assessment that Tamils returning to Sri Lanka after being denied asylum face a low risk of torture, despite a range of organisations from the TRC to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch documenting numerous cases of severe and worsening repression by the Sri Lankan state against Tamils since the election of the notorious butcher of the 2008-9 genocide, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to the presidency. Tamil Eelam remains the most densely militarised zone in the world, with Tamils living in conditions of constant surveillance, harassment and political censorship. In the face of these conditions, the Australian government's refusal to acknowledge the persecution of Tamils is

entirely a product of its desire to defend and legitimise its horrific border regime while strengthening imperialist ties with the Rajapaksa government. The establishment of a branch of the TRC here in Sydney is an important development for refugee, anti-racist and anti-imperialist activism in the city, and their activism should be supported by the SRC.

Kill the Bill round Two: Defending LGBTI+ Rights

With the return of the Liberals' federal "Religious Freedoms" bill, this time fortified with even more powers to override progressive state laws preventing discrimination against oppressed groups - for example, Victoria's ban on conversion therapy - Community Action for Rainbow Rights has dived straight into organising to mobilise the majority of ordinary people who oppose the right's attempts to claw back the gains made by oppressed people through decades of struggle. I've been a part of building for the upcoming online protest against the bill on August 14th, which will be linked to protests around the country. CARR's campaign against Mark Latham's anti-trans bills has laid the basis for the fight against the Liberals' bill to draw in large numbers in Sydney, and going ahead with an online protest while we are in lockdown will continue the work of establishing the campaign in this city so as to best place us to fight off the worst attacks on LGBTI+ rights in decades.

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to their report and the challenges to activism during lockdown.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Residential Colleges Officers

Victor Liang gave a verbal report

- Unable to do survey of college students due to covid, hope to do an in person survey in the future when things improve
- Oppose UNSW colleges getting Pfizer when there is a shortage
- AstraZeneca has been recommended by the officers [college officer? Unclear from recording] to be the vaccine for college students and Vaccination hubs on campus

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Drew Beacom

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The Chair returned to agenda Item I.

I. Visitors Business

Electoral Officer Riki Scanlan updated the Council on opening of nominations for the elections and mentioned how the notice was being sent out by BigPulse and that the number of representative positions up for election this year would be 39.

Motion to accept the report from the Electoral Officer:

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

Motion was out and **CARRIED**.

The Chair moved to standing orders

N1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Standing Legal Committee held on the 22nd July 2021 were circulated.

Max Vishney spoke to the proposed changes and the Standing legal committee's findings, which are detailed in the Standing Legal Minutes.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu thanked the Standing legal committee for going through the extensive changes and checking for all the possible variables.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Drew Beacom

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the chair to Priya Gupta

Q1. CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS

Motion: That the following changes be made to Part 8 of the regulations:

Typos, redundancies, and technicalities

8.1 *Delete A. and C. from "Brand" definition. Renumber B. as A.*

Delete and substitute Lone Candidate definition

"Lone candidate means a candidate who is not a member of any group

ticket. All lone candidates are deemed to be a ticket of one person.”

8.3.(a)

Delete.

8.3(b-c)

Delete and substitute:

“(b) The Electoral Officer must prescribe the dates for the by-election, where those dates are:

(i) between one and three consecutive days;

(ii) a Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday;

(iii) not a University holiday or public holiday;

(iv) more than 20 days away from the date on which the Electoral Officer prescribes the time for the by-election; and”

8.4(a)

Add the words “must be conducted:”

8.4(b)

Delete.

8.5(a)

Delete and substitute:

“In all SRC elections, every voter, candidate, campaigner, or campaign manager must be an elector.”

8.6(c)

Delete.

8.7(c)

Delete.

8.7(d-e)

Delete and substitute:

“(d) Remuneration for by-elections works in the same manner as 8.6(d-e), with the exception that there is no minimum remuneration.”

8.8

Delete and substitute

“A person is ineligible to be appointed as Electoral Officer if they are:

(i) under eighteen years old,

(ii) currently

A. a member of Council,

B. Delegate to the NUS, or

C. Editor of Honi Soit;

(ii) within the previous 24 months, a candidate for any election of the

A. SRC,

B. USU, or

C. SUPRA.”

- 8.12(b) *Delete extra word “be”*
- 8.13(a) *Delete and substitute*
 "If asked by an elector affected by a decision of the Electoral Officer, the Electoral Officer must provide a written rationale for that decision within 24 hours."
- 8.14(b) *Delete.*
- 8.15(b) *Delete. (Hanging references.)*
- 8.17(c) *Delete and substitute.*
 "A subsequent change in the number of enrolled undergraduates does not invalidate a determination made under (a) and (b)."
- 8.17(d-f) *Delete.*
- 8.17B *Delete.*
- Mein Gott, I hope nobody doubted this section. Clause (a) repeats what has been set out elsewhere; all other clauses are obviously true.
- 8.18 *Delete and substitute the words “no later than” with “at least”*
- 8.19 *Delete table “outline of nominations”*
- 8.19(a)(i)(b) *Delete and substitute the words “not later” with “at least”*
- 8.19(a)(ii)(b) *Delete and substitute the words “not later” with “at least”*
- 8.19A *Delete.*
- 8.20(a) *Delete.*
- 8.20(b) *Delete and substitute with*
 “The Electoral Officer may allow a provisional candidates up to 2 days after the close of nominations to correct any minor errors in the information provided under section 19(c) provided the nomination was submitted on time.”
- 8.24(a) *Delete words “under section 32”*
- 8.24(b) *Delete*
- 8.24(d,e,f¹,g,f²) *Delete.*
- 8.24A(a) *Delete and substitute words*
 “subject to subsection (d),” with “where possible”

- 8.24A(b,c,d) *Delete*
- 8.24B(a) *Delete words*
 “in accordance with:
 (i) section 24(f); or
 (ii) section 24A(d).”
- 8.24B(b,c,d) *Delete*
- 8.26 *Delete*
- 8.28(a) *Delete the example.*
- 8.29(b) *Renumber (b) as (a)*
 In (ii) *delete and substitute “Representatives” with “delegates”*
Delete the example.
- 8.31(a)(i) *Delete.*
- 8.31(b,c) *Delete and substitute*
 (b) A candidate must not use the same slogan, logo or colour as:
 (i) any other candidate, except other candidates who are members
 of the candidate’s ticket or brand, as relevant;
 (ii) any ticket except the candidate’s ticket or those tickets that are
 part of the candidate’s brand, if relevant; or
 (iii) any brand, except the candidate’s brand if relevant.
- 8.31(d,e,f,g,h) *Delete and substitute*
 (d) A ticket or brand must not use the same name, slogan, logo, or colour as:
 (i) any candidate who is not a member of that ticket or brand;
 (ii) any other ticket, as relevant;
 (iii) any other brand, as relevant.
- 8.31 (j-k) *Delete and substitute*
 (j) If, at any time after the close of nominations, the Electoral Officer is
 satisfied that more than one candidate, ticket, or brand claim the same
 name, slogan, logo, or colour, (as relevant) as another candidate, ticket, or
 brand, the Electoral Officer must give all of those tickets or brands a
 reasonable opportunity to amend their name, slogan, logo, or colour (as
 relevant).

- 8.31(n) *Delete words “For the avoidance of doubt,”*
- 8.33(a) *Delete and substitute*
 As soon as the final draft of the ballot paper for a given ballot is drawn up, the Electoral Officer must:
- (i) email a digital copy of the ballot paper to every candidate and manager of a candidate contesting that ballot;
 - (ii) if, in the Electoral Officer’s opinion, it is safe to do so, invite all candidates contesting that ballot and their managers to inspect the ballot paper in person on the SRC premises.
- 8.34 *Delete and substitute*
 (a) During the course of drawing up the ballot paper, the Electoral Officer will determine whether to conduct elections.
- (i) For a given ballot, if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of vacancies, the EO must declare those candidates elected, declare any remaining vacancies as casual vacancies, and conduct a by-election for those casual vacancies.
 - (ii) For a given ballot, if the number of candidates is greater than than the number of vacancies, the EO must conduct an election.
- 8.41 *Delete and substitute*
 (a) Physical campaigning may occur in any place, except:
- (i) any University library, with the exception that t-shirts and other campaign markings may be openly worn;
 - (ii) the premises of the SRC.
- 8.42(a) *Delete*
- 8.42(c) *Delete the words “including the person’s breach of subsection (a).”*
- 8.43(a) *Delete.*
 For all cases of “authorisable material” substitute the words “election material.”
- 8.53(a) *Delete and substitute*
 (a) The Electoral Officer may, in a given SRC election, prescribe any procedure to be followed by voters in order to cast a valid vote, provided

that the procedure selected promotes the fair and efficient conduct of the election.

8.60(a) *Delete and substitute.*

A ballot paper is formal if it is authorised by an electoral official and has a clear indication of the voter's first preference.

8.60(c,d) *Delete.*

8.61(b) *Delete and substitute.*

Any scrutineers must be nominated in writing signed by a candidate or the manager of a ticket or brand and sent to the Electoral Officer.

8.61(c) *Delete and substitute.*

A scrutineer must not be a candidate in any ballot but need not be an elector.

8.61(g) *Delete and substitute the word "(e)" with "(f)"*

8.62A *Delete all subheadings.*

8.62A(c) *Delete the words "and the ballot for NUS Delegates"*

8.63(a) *Delete and substitute.*

As soon as possible after the conclusion of counting, the Electoral Officer must publish a Declaration of Provisional Results on the SRC and Honi Soit Websites and by communicating the results to candidates and managers.

8.64(h) *Delete.*

8.64(i) *Delete the words "For the avoidance of doubt"*

8.66(a,b) *Delete and substitute.*

(a) All brands and tickets not in brands, or their managers, must submit a statement of electoral expenses and genuine receipts proving the accuracy of their statement within three days after the close of polling.

8.67 *Delete and substitute.*

(a) At any time, the Electoral Officer may launch an investigation of a candidate, ticket, or brand's electoral expenditures using the process specified in section 8.71.

(b) Despite anything in section 73, the Electoral Officer must disqualify a candidate, ticket or brand if:

(i) the Electoral Officer is actually persuaded that the candidate, ticket or brand exceeded their expenditure limit by more than a trivial amount; or

(ii) a candidate, ticket or brand continues to breach section 66 despite being

A. given a reasonable opportunity to comply with section 66; and

B. warned of the effect of this subsection.

8.67A *Delete.*

8.69 *Add.*

(t) Attempting, abetting, or conspiring to breach these regulations are breaches of the regulations.

8.72(d) Add missing word “response”

8.72(e) *Delete.*

8.73(i) *Delete and delete associated subheading.*

8.75(a,b,c,d) *Delete and substitute.*

(a) A scrutineer or candidate may petition for a recount at any time before the Declaration of Final Results.

(b) The Electoral Officer may, at their discretion, conduct a recount in any ballot upon receipt of a written petition from a scrutineer or candidate complaining either:

(i) that an identified error, including a failure to observe the Regulations, affected the original count in any ballot; or

(ii) that, in any ballot, the difference between the number of votes received by a successful candidate and the number of votes received by the last candidate excluded from the count was less than 1 per cent of the total number of votes cast in that ballot;

(c) After receiving such a petition, the Electoral Officer must conduct a recount if:

(i) in any ballot – if the error identified by a valid petition is so serious or so extensive that a reasonable elector would, if they knew

about the error, lose confidence in the outcome of that ballot; or
(ii) in the ballot for President or Honi Soit Editors – if the difference between the number of votes received by the successful candidate and the number of votes received by the last candidate excluded from the count was less than 1 per cent of the total number of votes cast in that ballot.

(d) Within two (2) days of receiving a petition for a recount, the EO shall, in writing on the website, either set out any reasons why a recount should not occur or announce the time of starting the recount.

8.76 *Delete and substitute.*

(a) Any elector may make an appeal to the Electoral Officer regarding any decision by a Deputy Electoral Officer or Polling Booth Attendant, using a process relevantly similar as the investigation process in 8.71.

(b) The outcome of this process is that the Electoral Officer will determine whether the decision was correct, and will either confirm or vary the decision as necessary.

8.77A *Delete and substitute*

(a) The Electoral Officer, President, Vice-President, or General Secretary must make the Electoral Legal Arbiter’s contact details available on request.

8.80A(c-e) *Delete.*

8.83(b,c) *Delete the words*

“special” in both clauses, and in any other references to “special motions”

8.87(a) *Delete the words*

expect as the Electoral Officer provides under section 95(c)(ii).

8.87(b,c) *Delete and substitute*

(c) The Electoral Officer must select an Online Voting System that will:

- (i) ensure a fair and efficient conduct of the election;
- (ii) maintain the secrecy of the ballot;
- (iii) not allow any person to determine how a given voter has voted;
- (iv) record the identities of all persons who have voted, but not in a way that makes it possible to determine the contents of any one

voter's vote;

(v) prevent voters from voting more than once in any ballot;

(vi) prevent a person from voting if that person is not an elector;

(vii) provide electors with instructions on how to cast a valid vote;

(viii) allow voters to indicate their preferences in accordance with the requirements of preferential voting under the Constitution and Regulations; and

(ix) comply with the Constitution and Regulations.

8.92 *Delete the subheadings*

8.92(a) *Delete.*

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that these were mostly cosmetic changes, and the explanatory notes are in the SLC minutes.

Grace Hu asked if you can only be on one ticket.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that you can only be a candidate once so you cannot appear as a candidate on multiple tickets.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Max Vishney

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. Motion to adopt the implement the following changes to Part 8 of the regulations:

8.12(a)(xxii) *Delete*

8.14(f) *Delete.*

8.15(e) *Delete.*

8.18(d) *Delete subclauses (vi, vii, ix, x, xi, xiii).*

8.19(c) *Delete and substitute leading clause:*

To become nominated a prospective candidate must, before the close of nominations, submit the following information:

8.19(e)(iii) *Delete.*

8.26A

Delete.

8.32

Delete and substitute

(a) The Electoral Officer must prescribe the form of the ballot papers, subject to this section and provided that there is a separate ballot paper for each ballot.

(b) The Electoral Officer must prescribe the form of the ballot papers as soon as possible after:

(i) in the case of the Annual Elections – the day that is four days after the close of nominations; or

(ii) in the case of a by-election – the day that is two days after the close of nominations.

(c) The ballot paper must display instructions on how to cast a valid vote.

(d) The ballot paper must be such that voters vote by ranking, in order of preference, as many candidates as they choose to rank; and

(d) The order of the tickets for the Honi Soit, Council, and NUS elections must be randomised and the order of names for the Presidential election must be randomised.

(e) For the Council and NUS elections, there must be provision for both Above The Line and Below The Line voting.

8.32A

Delete and substitute

(a) At any time before the Electoral Officer draws up the ballot paper in any ballot, a candidate for that ballot may request their alternative name to appear alongside or replace their official name on the ballot paper, in a form decided in consultation with that candidate, by either:

(i) submitting an alternative name along with their nomination form; or,

(ii) contacting the Electoral Officer after the close of nominations.

(b) Together, a candidate's official name(s) and any alternative name(s) must be no longer than 30 characters including spaces.

8.59(a)

Delete.

8.61(h,i) *Delete and substitute.*

(h) The Electoral Officer shall communicate clearly with all present scrutineers regarding the process of counting the ballots.

8.62 *Delete.*

8.62A(a,b) *Delete and substitute.*

(a) For a single vacancy election, the method of counting the votes shall be the method set out in Schedule Two to the Constitution as if it referred to a single vacancy election.

8.63(d) *Delete and substitute.*

After publishing the Declaration of Final Results, the Electoral Officer must table at the next meeting of Council a copy of the Declaration of Final Results.

Delete Schedule One to the Regulations.

As per the amendment to 8.62A(a,b).

Delete and substitute. Preliminary Schedule to the Regulations: Section Four.

“When counting days between one event and another event, count the number of days inclusive of the first day but not the last day.”

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Max Vishney

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. To amend Part 8.24B (f,g,h,i) and 8.74 of the regulations to the following:

8.24B(f,g,h,i) *Delete and substitute*

(f) If a ticket or candidate(s) is ineligible, the ballot count will be run as if the ticket or candidate(s) did not nominate, with any votes for the ticket or candidate(s) distributed according to preferences made by the voter.

8.74 *Delete and substitute.*

(a) In any ballot, if a candidate or ticket is disqualified before the Declaration of Final Results, the ballot count will be run as if the ticket or candidate(s) did not nominate, with any votes for the ticket or candidate(s)

distributed according to preferences made by the voter.

(b) If the Electoral Officer orders a new election, they must:

- (i) specify a date that the election is to be conducted;
- (ii) direct any reasonable departures from these Regulations, including ordinary notice requirements;
- (iii) if fresh elections cannot be concluded before 1 December of that year, order that the candidates declared elected in the Declaration of Provisional Results hold office a caretaker role; and
- (iv) make any other reasonable orders and directions.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Max Vishney

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. To amend Part 8.27 and 8.27A of the regulations to the following:

8.27

Delete and substitute

(a) A person may not promote, campaign, or distribute any election material for an Honi Soit candidate or ticket **at the same time as** promoting, campaigning, or distributing any election material for a candidate, ticket, or brand in the President, Representatives, or Delegates elections.

(b) A candidate for the position of President may not promote, campaign, or distribute election material for any Honi Soit ticket;

(c) A candidate or ticket for the position of Honi Soit Editor may not promote, campaign, or distribute any election material for any Presidential, Representative or Delegate candidate, ticket, or brand;

(d) Tickets and brands in the Representative and Delegate elections may not promote, campaign, or distribute any election material for any Honi Soit ticket;

(e) Candidates, managers, tickets, and brands in the Presidential, Council, or NUS elections must not direct any campaigners to promote, campaign, or

distribute election material for any Honi Soit ticket, and vice versa.

8.27A *Delete.*

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Max Vishney

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q5. To amend Part 8.91 of the regulations to the following:

8.91 *Delete.*

Discussion:

Victor Liang asked if the Electoral Officer can ban people for breaking the electoral regulations?

Riki Scanlan answered saying that yes that section is not changed in any way this is just in relation to preventing campaigning on campus in relations to health orders.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Max Vishney

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to limit the speaking time to 1.5 min

Lily Campbell spoke against nominated 1.5 minutes and suggested 2 minutes

Deaglan Godwin seconded Lily Campbell's call for 2 minutes

It was moved as a foreshadowing motion

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Felix Faber

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Foreshadowing: That the speaking time be set to 2 minutes

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion **LAPSED.**

Q6. Fuck the VCs: Motion to Support the August 16 Counter-Summit

The Australian Financial Revue's Higher Education Summit will be a meeting of our biggest enemies. Vice Chancellors, CEOs and politicians are getting together on August 16 to talk about

“Game Changing Transformations “to the university sector, and to tackle questions like “Is the higher education ecosystem producing the skills Australia needs?” Clearly, this summit is an opportunity for them to discuss their continuing project of neoliberalising universities.

The past year has seen an historic attack on higher education. On the national level, serious cuts to the higher education budget were pushed through in 2020. The federal budget, released in May, indicates that university funding will be cut by 10% in the next three years.

However, the Liberals aren’t the only ones to blame for the current crisis. Rather than demanding adequate government provisions for tertiary education, university managers across the country have used the so-called ‘crisis’ in the sector to justify further attacks on staff and students. 17,000 jobs were slashed last year, and campuses around the country continue to cut courses, merge faculties, and restructure degrees - all in the name of profit. We have to fight back.

The Vice Chancellors should be our target. Despite crying poor, universities are as rich as ever. Australian universities made an aggregate surplus of \$451 million over 2020-21, and The University of Sydney recorded an annual surplus of \$106.6 million in 2020. These VCs are not allies in our fight for a better education, and as such we must oppose them every step of the way.

An online counter-summit is being organized by various Education Action Groups in Sydney for August 16. It will be endorsed by the National Union of Students, and take place as a part of a national week of action. The protest on August 16 will lay the groundwork for an in-person campaign later in the semester.

We should use this opportunity to demonstrate that students and staff will not let management go ahead with their project of restructuring universities in the interests of their profit margins, and Australian capitalism more broadly, without a fight. The bosses want to use this as an opportunity to discuss their plans for the future - we have a fight on our hands to stop their attacks.

Platform

- Universities across Australia are facing historic attacks at the hands of both the federal government and vice chancellors
- We need to organize an ongoing campaign against the cuts, which are occurring on the university level as well as the federal one

Demands

- The SRC endorses the August 16 Counter-Summit
- The SRC will share the event for the August 16 Counter-Summit through all social media channels

Discussion:

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion highlighting that this event is an opportunity to counter protest and event made up of everyone trying to destroy the higher education sector. We’ve already seen

that different VC are taking different approaches to attacking staff, seen both through cuts to staff at Macquarie and getting rid of the 'teaching:research' ratios at USyd.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying that this was an important motion and it was important to antagonise the VCs so they knew there was opposition to their attacks and that this event was an opportunity to highlight the way they work together to attack higher education, and the damage of corporatizing universities into degree factories.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion as was very keen for the counter summit and highlighted that the university bosses are still trying to push a business model that is failing onto staff and students.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and also highlighted the cost of the event and that this speaks to the exclusion and that we should be attempting to shut down this attempt to work to attack our universities across the state.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion and highlighted the conservative sponsors of the event and push against the elitism that aims to prevent staff and student from speaking out, and that focusing on profitability when they are making huge profits is applauding. Encouraged everyone to join in the event.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion and echoes others statements of previous speakers highlighting the way COVID19 has change the way government and Vice Chancellors treat higher education and the move towards and even more corporatized system. This will be a great even with people and speakers from across all campuses.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion this is the start of a long and ongoing campaign, and cannot let this period of lockdown be a lull in education activism as the Vice Chancellors are not taking a break from the attacks and we need to get students engaged in these issues now as we need to fight these attacks on all levels and we are strongest when we are united.

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion echoed the sentiment of the past speaker and said it was crucial to get momentum behind this event and that the idea of pushing for micro-specialisations and less time in higher education is deeply damaging to campus cultures student life and education quality/experience.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion saying this would be a good start to semester 2 with a bang and really push the education campaign, and how important it is to push for teaching and research ratios and to noted that University are scrapping department unless there is external corporate demand for them.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu mentioned La Trobe's philosophy department cuts and that this was one of the largest continental philosophy departments in Australia and now it barely exists.

Moved: Simon Upitis

Seconded: Tom Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q7. Oppose the New Cold War:

Preamble:

We are beginning to see the emergence of a new 'cold war' between the reactionary imperialist states of the US and China. In the bourgeois press, the ruling classes of America and China beat the drums of war and national competition. Trade tariffs, diplomatic spats, military flyovers and clash of civilisations rhetoric increasingly dominate the news as the Chinese and American ruling classes attempt to whip up nationalist fervour in support of their nation state projects. Whilst a hot war is not on the immediate agenda, both states are surging up alliances and boosting military funding in anticipation of future conflicts and to crush any internal dissent. The Australian government, whilst having deep economic connections with China is gearing up for imperial conflict. Peter Dutton, the defence minister and arch bigot, recently claimed that Australia 'will never surrender to Beijing' whilst former member of the Greens, Clive Hamilton, proclaimed that China is engaged in a 'silent invasion' of Australia. Some in the Murdoch press even clamor for the development of an Australian nuclear arsenal. The ruling class of Australia is lining up to back the US.

There is no good side in this conflict.

The Australian state is nothing to support. Despite the importance of exports to China to the Australian economy, Australia is lining up with the United States. The Federal government recently tore up the Victorian government's deal with China as part of the One Belt One Road policy, as it is not in 'the national interest'. Australia is home to two US military bases and is a loyal ally of the United States, backing its criminal wars of occupation in the Middle East. The Australian state, whether it is run by Labor or Liberal, is committed to the US alliance because it is an imperialist power in its own right. Australia sees the South Pacific as 'its backyard' and dominates the region in its economic and geo-strategic interests. The US alliance is important as a guarantor of this power. Under both major parties, Australia has bolstered its military and security state whilst expanding its influence in the South Pacific and South East Asian region. It leverages the poverty of Pacific nations to its benefit, like forcing the destitute Narau to host torturous refugee camps, or exploiting the oil wealth of East Timor for the profits of Australian business. The Australian state is willing to deploy force to ensure imperial stability in its 'backyard' like when Australian soldiers and police were sent to Tonga to put down pro-democracy protests in 2006. As Australia increasingly comes into conflict with China, it will strengthen its hold over the South Pacific to ward off Chinese soft power in the region, as is happening with the competition to supply Pacific nations with coronavirus vaccines. Australian capitalism will defend the Pacific empire it has built for more than a century in the face of threats. The money used to build up the necessary military capacity is utterly wasteful - \$44.62 billion this year, and a further \$270 billion over the next decade. Even in the most belligerent versions of China's future there is no prospect of it invading the Australian mainland. An Australian war with China would be entirely about defending the status quo of US and Australian hegemony in Asia. Australia is not a victim of Chinese aggression. In fact all the hype about the supposed "Chinese threat" is not about any threat to Australia, but about the threat that China poses to US domination of Asia. The Australian state is nothing to support. It oppresses and exploits the working class and oppressed here. The 'national interest' of Australia is the interests of the bosses, not ordinary people.

The United States is clearly no better. The recent rhetoric of the Biden administration, with its crocodile tears over human rights violations in China is nothing but imperial phrase mongering. The US is an imperialist bully. It is the most brutal power known to history. And it is gearing up for war. Rush Boshi, Biden's 'China Advisor' on his National Security Council recently wrote that America must focus on blunting Chinese power and order and building the foundations for US power and order". The Innovation and Competition Act, which passed the Senate in early June, is designed to pour billions of dollars into high-tech manufacturing and military research. The US will spend more than 750 billion dollars next year on the military. The war machine is being re-armed. Biden's 'coalition of democracies' against China is driven by the United States' need to remain as the most powerful imperialism, not by any care for democratic liberties. When the US claims to support the Uighur people, we must see this as not genuine international solidarity but cynical positioning from a state that was the architect of the War on Terror. The US has a long and sordid history of crimes against humanity in the pursuit of its imperial interests, from the dropping of the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the invasion and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. It is an empire soaked in blood. Democrats and Republicans both are committed to US empire. Neither party is a lesser evil, with many of the greatest crimes in US history happening under Democratic administrations. Joe Biden is no different. His rhetoric, whilst differing from Trump's with appeals to the 'rules based order' and democratic alliances, is about refurbishing US imperialism so as to combat China. He is an establishment politician committed to the domestic and foreign brutality of US capitalism. The US is armed to the teeth. It's imperial arsenal of hundreds of overseas military bases, over 6000 nuclear warheads, fleets of drones and hundreds of thousands of active soldiers is an existential threat to humanity. US imperialism can never play a positive role. We just need to remember Vietnam to see that the US brings terror not peace. The 'democracy' of the United States, rocked last year by an uprising against its systemic racism and inequality, is nothing to celebrate nor support.

It does not follow however, that China is a victim. China, whilst a smaller power than the US is no less imperialist and capitalist. This is most easily seen in the Chinese Communist Party's crushing of movements for democracy in the country's semi-autonomous regions so as to secure their ability to expand outwards. After imposing an extradition bill on the territory of Hong Kong in 2019, which would allow for the trial and extradition of political dissidents in Hong Kong to mainland China, a mass rebellion for democracy erupted. The Chinese government backed the Hong Kong ruling class as it crushed the protests with brutal violence and repression, arresting over 10,000 people since 2019 and further curtailing democratic rights of Hong Kongers. The Chinese government is ramping up its suppression of the ethnic and cultural identity of the Uyghur population - justified with 'war on terror' rhetoric. Since 2014, more than one and a half million people have been interned in 're-education camps'. The CCP is seeking to crush the potential of a nationalist movement in an important economic area through racist repression. Similar rebellions were crushed in Tibet in 2008 and Inner Mongolia in 2011. China's meteoric economic rise has propelled it towards the top of the global imperialist hierarchy, and the Chinese Communist party wants to consolidate and expand its increased economic, political and military power. It does so because it is a form of state capitalism, not any type of socialism. According to in *Foreign Affairs*, "Xi sees a narrow window of ten to 15 years during which Beijing can take advantage of a set of important technological and geopolitical transformations". The Chinese ruling class, behind the leadership of Xi Jinping, is asserting itself as a key global player. This means increased tensions with the US and its allies. Based on its economic power, China has modernized its military so it can expand outwards. Key to this is Taiwan - it has become a potential trigger for

conflict between the US and China.

The potential of war between major powers is a frightening threat to humanity. The Australian working class and students have nothing to gain by picking a side in the coming imperial rivalry. Our main enemy is the Australian ruling class, but its enemies are not automatically our friends. We should oppose the hypocrisy of the Australian ruling class selectively calling out Chinese 'aggression' as it commits war crimes in the Middle East, whilst standing with the Chinese working class in its struggle against the Chinese Communist Party. The causes of the oppressed cannot be advanced by war with China or by supporting the ruling classes of the west.

The working class has no country. In all capitalist states, whether China or America or Australia, it is exploited by the capitalist class. There are no currently existing socialisms. In every nation, the class struggle rages, even more intensely over the past few years. Since 2019, capitalism has seen uprising after uprising, from Sudan to Lebanon to Myanmar. Anti-imperialism must mean opposing all capitalist states, especially our own, and not falling into the mistakes of campism and reformism that much of the left succumbed to during the Cold War. We need to assert a genuine internationalism.

Student unions, as they have in the past, must play a role in standing in opposition to military buildup and heightening tensions. Students have no interest in war, but as a social layer have a history of leading anti-war struggles. From the anti-Vietnam war movement to the protests against Iraq, student unions can and have acted as mobilising points that took a defiant anti-war position then worked to mobilise students around these progressive stances. We must oppose the current military buildup and war mongering rhetoric of our leaders. The SRC must decisively say no to war and be ready to campaign for this position.

Platform:

1. The SRC opposes the build-up of imperial tensions between the United States and China.
2. The SRC condemns the bellicose anti-China rhetoric of the Australian political class designed to lay the basis for the current imperial rivalry and future conflict.
3. The USYD SRC rejects the politics of either siding with our own government, or with its imperialist rivals. We stand proudly with the international working class, which has no state.
4. The SRC opposes Australian imperialism unconditionally, as well as the government's cynical criticism of China as the Australian state oppresses and exploits people domestically and overseas.
5. The SRC opposes the build up of Australian military capacity and any war, hot or cold between the US, Australia and China.
6. The SRC supports and stands in solidarity with the working class of all nations in the fight against their own ruling classes.

Action points:

1. The SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts.

Discussion:

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying that there is no 'good' side to this conflict and there is a long history of imperialism in Australia and it's not just the USA's lack. Saying that all these groups are involved in an imperialist agenda. War is a terrifying threat to humanity, and student activists need to speak up against rising tensions.

Jasmine Alrawi spoke to the motion agreeing with motion and there's no good side between hegemonic powers and need to reject any propaganda by the US and seeing each is just playing a part in an imperialist militaristic war, and there need to be staunch opposition.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion again saying that these motion was to have a consensus that the SRC is against war and against the heightening of tensions, this isn't just about Socialist Alternative's position this is about all groups being willing to fight around this issues

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion said it would be nice o hear from other people.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying hat these motions are important and USyd has a history of speaking au panga against imperialism and war, and it's quite a radical statement that the Australian ruling class are as bad as other nations ruling classes

Felix Faber spoke to the motion agree it was a good motion and that the idea of war between two nuclear superpowers is of great concern and that we need to erode the structures of power on a global level that serves these superpowers of China and the USA.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion agreeing with the motions and noting that war is pretty bad and we should stand up against it, saying he would like to hear from someone who opposes it here rather than on twitter later.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion again saying that she appreciated Felix taking on their approach, and to note that to take the status quo means negatively impacting millions of people's lives, and it was really important to note that the horrific treatment of the Uyghur people has been used to beat up the war drums and who are using it to prepare people for potential intervention on another nation while those same people don't care about other people's rights unless it suits them and have committed many atrocities themselves, and a clear double standard.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion noting how integrated the university is with the military and it's important to be aware of that.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion, but there is no functional benefit to Australia having a conflict with China, either socially or economically.

Lily Campbell responded to Swapnik Sanagavarapu's comments disagreeing that there is no overall utility for the ruling class to have conflict with china, while there are issues with economic integration China's rising power it a threat to American Hegemony and that challenges Australia's power particularly in the south pacific, and so the overall desires of the ruling class are threatened hence the escalating tensions.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded wanting to clarify his first comment saying he agreed mostly with Lily Campbell response but wanted to say that segmenting some elements of Australian capital that is anti-war and there is a particular hegemonic block that could be anit-war while still

be connected to the US alliance, though they are not the priority nor would they be overwhelmingly useful.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded saying this was just an argument for popular front style politics, and that the history of such international organizations show they do no work and that they will fall into line the powers of the state, as we saw with all areas of capital falling into line in WWI and WWII. There needs to be an anti-war movement based into the working class as relying on the bourgeoisies is a failing tactic and looking at the tactics in the anti-Vietnam war protests.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu responded agreed with the pit falls of popular front-ism but the distinction needs to be made, and that in the past there were the possibility of a working class movement through socialist and social democratic parties and that's just no longer the case at the moment in Australia. If we get to a point of needing to oppose a war between the US Alliance and China, there may be some support to be garnered in that area, but we are getting a little carried away, but it's an interesting debate

Deaglan Godwin responded and spoke to the motion agreeing with Swapnik Sanagavarapu's comment's of it being an interesting debate, and that the lack of a working class movement at the moment is it an anti-imperial and anti-war movement that can help rebuild that, and while there is some lacking there is still evidence that the popular front areas in the past have failed events, with those conditions accounted for but it was the anti-imperial stances that win over the working classes and bring the movement forward.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Jasmine Alrawi

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q8. Endorsement of campaign against the Robert Menzies Institute

Preamble:

The conservative Liberal party think tank, the Menzies Research Centre (MRC) plans to open the Robert Menzies Institute (RMI) at the University of Melbourne in September 2021. Despite its non-partisan posturing, the RMI will function as a beacon for conservative, pro-Liberal party propaganda on the University of Melbourne's campus.

The MRC is a partisan think tank supported by the hard-right of the Liberal party, they receive hundreds of thousands of dollars of both [government](#) and [corporate](#) funding to broadcast conservative propaganda, which ranges from director Nick Carter [denying climate change](#) to the publication of a [book](#) called '*Cancel Culture and the Left's Long March*' that criticizes the Safe Schools program and the teaching of Indigenous history, highlighting the MRC's conservative, right-wing agenda.

Given the nature of the MRC and its connection to the Institute, supporters claiming that RMI is non-partisan are simply obfuscating it's true nature. The RMI will function as a hub of Liberal propaganda on the University of Melbourne campus operating under a veneer of politically neutral academic legitimacy.

The legacy of Robert Menzies is not something to be celebrated. Menzies was a racist, anti-worker warhawk who was a proponent of the [White Australia policy](#), [South African Apartheid](#), and [the Vietnam war](#). Menzies [attempted to outlaw the Communist Party](#), [collaborated with Nazi war criminals](#) and [expanded Australia's military-intelligence apparatus](#) in an assault on the working and oppressed people of Australia. Menzies openly admired fascism, stating that “[h]istory will label Hitler as one of the really great men of the century.” Such an abhorrent and reactionary figure does not deserve to be honoured with a multi-million dollar institute.

Furthermore RMI stands as a blatant example of the increasing corporate influence being levelled on Australian universities, wealthy donors and the Federal government are [paying](#) a combined \$7 million to the University of Melbourne to create the Institute. While pouring funds into the conservative RMI the Federal Government has also been responsible for attacks on students through significant cuts in the funding for higher education and the raising of university course fees.

The SRC should stand in opposition to the RMI, it is a transparent attempt of the leading right-wing forces of Australian society to buy themselves space within the University of Melbourne campus that can be used to forcibly [propagate](#) a conservative and reactionary agenda.

The SRC should support the campaign being raised against the RMI like it has previously done against the similarly reactionary Ramsay Centre for Western Civilization. It is only through mass student and staff action can such conservative interventions in universities be defeated.

Platform:

The University of Sydney SRC;

1. Opposes the creation of the Robert Menzies Institute, a partisan project of conservative forces to exert public and scholarly influence.
2. Calls on the University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor, Duncan Maskell, to revoke the contract with the Menzies Research Centre.
3. Endorses the ‘Stop the Robert Menzies Institute’ campaign organised by the University of Melbourne’s Graduate Student Association.
4. Opposes the attempts of conservative think tanks and business to buy political space on university campuses.

Action:

The University of Sydney SRC will;

1. Promote campaign events through the SRC’s networks and communicate its formal opposition to the Robert Menzies Institute.
2. Release a public statement on the campaign to its Facebook page endorsing the campaign’s [open letter](#).

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the chair to Priya Gupta

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion outlining the work of the Menzies centre and also the legacy of Robert Menzies who thought Hitler would be remembered as a great man.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion saying that there is a great article in Jacobin saying that it is just a job guarantee for terrible people to get jobs when they leave politics and that Menzies was a abhorrent person who was sad about going to war against the Nazis and that it cam down to the workers on the dock refusing to load pig iron onto ships for imperials japan during the war was the only thatching that stopped weapons tread with Japan. Concluding that he was proud to support this motion.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion this is a part of the cultures war and this is part of the push back from the right as they see campuses and universities as hub of activism and progressive ideas and they are trying to pull back and create ideological courses and we have one the fight with the Ramsey Center and we can push back against this one.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion spoke in favour of the motions saying that universities establishing these institutions and we've seen this with the fee hikes in arts classes and the cutting of challenging courses.

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion this ha nothing to do with free speech or neutral academic legitimacy its just an outpost of the hard right of the liberal party, and it's important to oppose this institute, as they just want to use the platform of the university to give legitimacy to their view and power consolidation. And listed the board directors and their history with racism and fear mongering.

Michael Dunning spoke to the motion agreed with what has been said and highlighted again the board directors and simply people who will use cash to buy out political influence.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion this is a part of the chilling trend to naturalise right wing and fascist rhetoric on campuses, and that people who are deeply incompetent in their professional lives still try to push for greater influence and tangible impact voice at Australian universities.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion spoke saying this is how the rich can just buy influence on universities and that the trend is just towards the needs of the economy and not education and people should be getting involved in the counter protest to the universities conference.

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion and agreed with the statements to far and noted how partisan this institution this centre is and also deeply anti-lockdown, which is now responsible for the inconsistency and over policing of the western Sydney community that NSW is currently deal with and we should all oppose this centre.

Moved: Akee Elliott

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q9. Solidarity with Car Convoy

Preamble

NSW police launched a heavy-handed crackdown on a car and bike convoy of unionists and supporters in Sydney on August 1st, as it made its way to the Liberal party headquarters in the city's CBD.

The "Safe from Covid, Safe from poverty" protest convoy was initiated by stood-down pool workers at Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre. It called for increased income support for stood down workers and the unemployed. It also demanded safer pandemic working conditions through paid vaccination leave and paid test and isolation leave for all workers.

Police stopped cars and issued at least 9 fines totalling at least \$9000 for breaching the stay-at-home orders, despite all participants wearing masks and only staying within their cars. The crackdown was not about preventing a further spread of the virus, but about the suppression of our right to safe protest.

The Liberals have failed to provide an adequate health response to this outbreak and have instead resorted to scapegoating immigrant communities in Western Sydney, who are being targeted with heightened police operations. Alongside this, the Liberals refusal to raise welfare to a liveable rate has left many workers without sufficient income.

It is for this reason that safe protests must continue during this lockdown to demand an adequate health response, with COVID-19 safe workplaces, social security at \$600 a week, disaster payments raised to a liveable level, a vaccine roll out for all front-facing workers, and with better leave for testing and isolation.

Platform

1. The SRC stands in solidarity with the 'Safe From Covid, Safe From Poverty' car convoy.
2. The SRC supports the car convoy's demands for; increased income support for stood down workers and the unemployed, safer pandemic working conditions, and paid vaccination leave as well as paid test and isolation leave for all workers.
3. The SRC condemns the inadequate health response of our government.

Actions

1. The SRC will publish a statement condemning the police crackdown.
2. The SRC will contribute \$500 to the fund for the fines that were issued.
3. The SRC will promote the fund via social media.

Discussion:

Rory Larkins spoke to the motion outlining the motion and speaking about the police actions. Rory also spoke about the financial burden of not having work with minimal to no access to disaster payments. Called for solidarity with those who got fined

Anja Burrill spoke to the motion echoed the statements saying that its been a really struggle where there no finically support and there need to be support for workers, and this portest was a covid safe as can be the most covid unsafe moment were the cops interacting with the convoy without wearing masks while everyone else was.

Cooper Forsyth spoke to the motion talking about the event and the issues and struggle people are facing with the lack of support for workers in this time and not demonise them and falsely claim that they are acting out or doing the wrong thing as individuals when they have no support and need to pay their bills, and that the public health orders are not being applied fairly and there needs to be more protections for workers and their rights under covid.

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion we should be pushing on the government to provide more welfare for workers so they can safely stay home, it wasn't long ago that businesses themselves could decide if they were essential or not and this is not reasonable, there is not need to use police to exploit public health order to supposes protests.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion last year the public health orders were used cynically to shut down protests and we are seeing this again, it's criminal that at every step profit has been prioritise over the lives and wellbeing of working class people, and there is billions of dollars of job keepers to the bosses but they have done nothing to protect workers now as they struggle and this is just about protecting business interests not the health or wellbeing or working class people

Sofie Nicholson spoke to the motion agreeing with what has been said and it is essential that people are still going to fight for workers' rights. People are desperate and don't know where to turn, and the desperation are turning them to neo-nazi run anti-lockdown protest and the left need to take up the concerns of people being forced into absolute poverty and the left should be pushing the unions and everyone

Drew Beacom spoke to the motion this is just class warfare in action if you look at the start of this lockdown the government has done nothing about the flaunting of restrictions in the eastern suburbs and failure to start the lockdown before the infections spread, and there is no assistance for those who do not have the luxury to be able to work from home, and the union movement has been too slow to response to getting proper welfare to people now.

Moved: Rory Larkins

Second: Anja Burrill

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q10. Defend Democracy at Monash!

Preamble:

On July 19, Monash Student Association councillors on the incumbent Together ticket used their control of the council to introduce regulations designed to permanently curtail campaigning in the MSA's annual elections on the university's main campus, Clayton. These new regulations represent an outrageous attack on student democracy and freedom of speech at Monash, to the point where speaking to students on campus about the MSA elections, producing leaflets or posters for a ticket or candidate, wearing a T-shirt with a ticket name, using chalk art to promote a ticket, or even showing students a QR code which directs them to a website with information about a ticket or candidate would result in disqualification from the election.

In effect, this would make it impossible for any candidate or ticket to criticise the incumbents or put forward an alternative political platform to students at the university. While the ongoing

COVID-19 pandemic has been cynically raised as a justification for the banning of on-campus campaigning, the fact that campus social events organised by clubs and societies are permitted to go ahead at the same time as political activity is prohibited reveals that these changes have nothing to do with the safety of staff and students and everything to do with entrenching Together's control of the MSA.

The most basic activity any student union must undertake is to democratically re-elect itself, ensuring that representatives are held accountable to the student body. Democracy does not consist in simply emailing the student body a link to an online election; political debate and discussion, the opportunity for students to hear the arguments of candidates and tickets beyond the incumbents and their social media networks, are essential features of a genuinely democratic election process. Political contestation during elections is also the chief way students are involved in the life and activity of their student unions - historically, the introduction of online voting and introduction of limits on campaigning have precipitated the decline of student unions into defanged, irrelevant institutions, rather than fighting activist bodies with a real presence on the campus.

The attacks on student democracy at Monash are part of a trend around the country. To name two recent examples, in Sydney alone we have seen the president of the UTS Students' Association collaborate with university management in an attempt to shut down the activism organised by the Education Action Group, while at Macquarie University members of the right-wing Alliance faction have used their majority in the Student Representative Association, already tightly limited in its activity by university management, to deny students access to meetings of the student union even as they invited Vice-Chancellor Bruce Downton to speak at the meeting to justify further savage job cuts at the university. Moreover, such attacks on student democracy and activism come at a time when fighting, left-wing student unions are sorely needed to face up to the onslaught of attacks being carried out against staff and students at universities around the country.

Students at Monash University have launched the Defend Democracy at Monash campaign to push back on the antidemocratic regulations. As a result, the meeting of the MSA in which the regulations were initially passed was the biggest seen in years, mobilising students outraged at the assault on their democratic rights to speak on the changes. Defend Democracy at Monash is currently organising to demand the MSA call a Student General Meeting which could overturn the regulations and restore democratic election procedures at Monash. It is essential that we support the fight for student democracy at Monash, and more broadly take up the question of defending and building democratic, active student unions capable of fighting around the political questions mobilising students today.

Platform:

The USyd SRC:

1. Condemns the antidemocratic changes to MSA regulations put forward by Together
2. Supports the Defend Democracy at Monash campaign and its call for a SGM to overturn the new regulations

3. Commits to fighting for genuinely democratic, politically contestable election processes as part of the project of building a current of activist student unionism around the country

Action:

1. The SRC will share the petition for an SGM organised by the Defend Democracy campaign on its social media

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion outlining what has been happening at Monash University banning in person campaigning, this prevent oppositions or contestation to those currently in power at the union there, this is a part of the trend to shut down activism on campus. We need to acknowledge that in person elections are important to the democratic process and we should fight against the anti-democratic movements int

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion agreeing with Eddie's comment and noting that this is highly alarming and anti-democratic and stifles debate, and also prevents engagement with as many students, and doesn't encourage voting of the power of ideas. And there needs to not be so much ambiguity to weather we will be returning to n person elections next year.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying this is a significant attack on student democracy and needs to be pushed back against as this is being used to de-politicise the campus and the elections and move them to the right.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying in person elections are critical to the student movement and they should be a priority when we're not in the throws of a global pandemic, and that student unity should be appalled at these action though it is unsurprising as they are just liberal light and they do not care about making things actually better for students.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion agreed with all the sentiments expressed and was applauded at what was happening at Monash and it is concerning to see these trends arise nationally, as unions are filled with careerist and not activist and we should continue to fight and be the odd ones out with a sting activist presence.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Annabel Pettit

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R. General Business

R.1 Motion to Council: No more cuts! Support the August 12th Staff/Student Forum

This year we have seen the attacks on education at USyd continue, from underpayment and sackings to the elimination of entire departments. It is clear that the destruction wrought by Spence in his race to the bottom will continue in his absence. Stephen Garton coldly slashed casual jobs and ignored their very clear evidence of systemic wage theft. The incoming VC Mark Scott is no better, lacking an academic background but credentialed by the many public institutions he has gutted.

The last attack on education we saw came to the school of literature, arts and media (SLAM). Even this week, staff are still being consulted in regular meetings about how they would like to lose their jobs. Students and staff fought back at the end of last semester, and we must continue to fight these cuts into the second half of the year. Universities must be for education and available to all, not for the profits and accreditation of the elite.

This week we have also seen the University's first attempt at "bargaining". The outsourced bargaining team, being paid on student money, completely ignored the ambitious log of claims the NTEU had put up in favour of a total restructuring of university to pull the foundations of strong education away from every single faculty at once. Their proposal would separate learning from research, almost totally casualise teaching staff and keep research jobs well away from the majority of staff and students. Their proposal would, in one very quick sweep, turn this university into the accreditation factory the Vice Chancellors so desperately want.

All the while, the university continues to degrade learning online and seeks to exploit international students. They are spending large amounts not on education or saving jobs but on localised marketing to diversify their portfolio, treating international students as a risk management strategy despite the millions in surplus.

We must fight back on a campus and intercampus level. The EAG is holding a forum next Thursday (12/8/21) at 1pm to hear from staff and students who are directly affected about what's going on and how we can fight back. This forum will also be a good way to build for the August 16th forum, that protests a summit the VC's are having on how to corporatize higher education.

Platform:

- The Vice Chancellor, management and the Dean of Arts are preparing to launch an enormous attack on education at USyd, attacking not only SLAM and arts but how education is structured at Sydney University
- We must reject both the specific cuts and the structural attacks on education, and reject them by continuing to organize the fight for quality education on campus for all.

Demands:

- The SRC endorses the EAG's Staff and Student Forum held on Thursday the 12/7
- The SRC will share the event for the staff-student forum through all social media channels and email
- SRC members will attend the forum.

Discussion:

Tom Williams spoke to the motion outlining its main points, and the concerns with the attacks on SLAM and other areas of the arts, highlighting the need for secure jobs for academics to ensure great education. Encouraged everyone to get involved.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying it was important to take advantage of the online ways in which we can take action and it's important to have one at USyd, and its challenges, encouraged everyone to come along.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion spoke about the university using staff and students like tools and how many staff member have been forced to reapply for their jobs at a lower pay grade and there's be no regard for staff and students.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion said that this sis going to be an excited event and hoped everyone got involved as there are going to be a lot of attacks on the staff including wages, and increase the precarity of casuals. Hopefully this gets new people involved.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion just wanted to add this this leads into the forum on Aug 16th and hope everyone get involved in both.

Moved: Tom Williams

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R2. Extend the lockdown and pay workers more to stay at home

It is undeniable that strict lockdowns are an effective tool in limiting transmission of Covid 19. Even Scott Morrison has been forced to accept this fact, the same man who declared in September last year that he wanted Australians to "live alongside the virus" rather than have it "dictate how we should live". Despite this, the Berejiklian Liberal government has implemented a weak lockdown that has allowed the virus to circulate further and risk the lives of many thousands of people. Once again, profitability has prevailed over public health.

The NSW government has consistently sent the wrong message since the start of the Delta outbreak. They delayed implementation of the lockdown, instead slowly increasing restrictions and issuing confused pleas rather than clear orders. Police and the army have been sent in to enforce public health orders that should have been managed by health workers. And still the government still persists in trying to shift the blame off themselves and onto individuals 'doing the wrong thing'. Yet at the end of July, many weeks into the lockdown and with daily case numbers continuing to rise, several lockdown provisions were relaxed.

The lockdown should be strengthened by paying all non essential workers to stay at home. Without adequate financial support, workers whose workplaces have been shut down are driven by poverty to try to find work, no matter the risk of catching and spreading COVID. Financial insecurity also makes workers reluctant to get tested for the virus, as people fear loss of income incurred while waiting on test results. Tragically, this hesitancy makes it far more likely that workers with Covid don't find out until they have passed on the virus to their household contacts.

Genuinely essential workers who must remain at work should get paid time off to be tested and to isolate while awaiting test results. All those infected should receive full government support while off work.

The Morrison government has been pushed to provide further financial assistance to workers. But this is far from enough. \$750 a week is not a living wage; it's less than the minimum wage of \$773 and less than half the average weekly earnings of \$1,562. Already 10,000 are on the waiting list for Foodbank Australia. Outrageously, in the initial phase of lockdown anyone who was receiving Centrelink payments prior to the outbreak was ineligible for assistance. Even now, those on welfare who haven't lost eight hours of work are being denied any extra support.

Many others are still excluded from receiving financial assistance. Payments should be extended to all, including casual workers and those who are not permanent residents or citizens but hold temporary visas, including international students and refugees. And childcare for the children of essential workers should again be free.

The lockdown should also be strengthened by closing more businesses. For far too long, all retail was exempted from lockdown orders. When cases kept going up, the government moved to close more stores. Even with these extra restrictions, the number of businesses that have remained open for trade is scandalous. They include Officeworks, JBHiFi, The Reject Shop, Bunnings, plant nurseries and newsagents, as well as cosmetic surgery practices, which are allowed to offer dermal fillers and Botox during lockdown.

Construction was suspended for two weeks in July, but the government succumbed to pressure from a bosses campaign to reopen the industry. This was supported by the construction union, the CFMMEU, despite the risk that reopening poses to the lives of their members. Even after lockdown restrictions on construction were dropped, the CFMMEU continued to lobby for broader opening up.

The transport workers' and maritime unions have also fought alongside the bosses to exempt "their" industries from lockdown. In each case, the union leaders argue that members' financial needs can be safeguarded only by allowing the bosses to operate. Bosses want business to open because they are willing to sacrifice the health of their employees, not because they care for workers' wellbeing. The NSW treasurer Dominic Perrottet was very clear about why the government considers construction so essential - it adds \$500 million to the New South Wales economy every week. Unions should instead be demanding comprehensive financial support from the government and supporting the lockdown.

Similarly, the planned opening up of schools for Year 12 students must be fought, as it will expose thousands of students, teachers and families to increased risks of infection. Most will not have received the vaccine when classes resume, and teachers have not been prioritised as essential workers in the vaccine queue. Schools should remain closed to all but the children of essential workers until case numbers come down significantly.

The vaccine rollout has been woefully inadequate thus far. But as the speed of vaccination accelerates, we should be ready to oppose the government using higher rates of vaccination to open up too early. This has already played out in the UK, where all restrictions have now been

lifted despite many thousands of new cases still being recorded every day. Ending all lockdown restrictions at 70% vaccination, as Morrison's latest plan suggests, contradicts mainstream scientific opinion and could threaten mass deaths.

Platform

1. The SRC supports greater increases in welfare that would ensure workers do not suffer financial hardship when lockdowns are introduced or when they need to take time off for testing or isolating.
2. The SRC supports the JobSeeker payment for the single unemployed being set at the minimum wage, and rates for those with children increased further.
3. The SRC supports welfare being extended to all, regardless of visa status or other restriction.
4. The SRC calls for the closure of all retail and non-essential business and a massive expansion of delivery and click and collect services.
5. The SRC opposes the return of school students to in-person learning until community transmission is substantially reduced.

Action:

1. The SRC will share this petition started by Year 12 students against the return to school on both Facebook and Instagram

Discussion:

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion outlining its pain points and highlight that all left wing institutions should be pushing for proper welfare protections and more businesses should be closed to keep people safe, and the workers should not suffer as a consequence.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying that the process so far has been about protecting bosses and profits and not people and there needs to be a switch, as there needs to be support for workers to stay home and not be financially disadvantage which forces them back into work.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion echoed the statements and said that the government's response to this has been inadequate and that the priorities need to be protecting working and students not the profits and the economy, encouraged everyone to support the motion.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion speaking about the government plan to get HSC student back to school this month noting that these student would not be able to be fully vaccinated and safely there and back won't be safe for students and it's an appalling plan which is inadequate.

Oscar Chaffey spoke to the motion saying that the NSW government action have basically been criminal during this second wave with Delta as well as the federal governments failed vaccine roll out. And spoke about the scientific modelling and the vaccination rate that should be expected.

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting closed at 8:48pm.