



src activism
advocacy
representation

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MINUTES:

of the 8th regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on Wednesday the 1st September 2021. Meeting held via Zoom.

There was a call for a quorum count at 6:13pm

The meeting was found quorate.

A. Meeting open at 6:15pm

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:

Victor Liang
Sarah Halnan
Emily storey to Emily Mackay
Maria Ge

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 7th meeting of 93rd SRC Council held on 4th August 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4th August 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from 4th Aug – 1st September 2021.

The report was circulated and noted.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time for all reports to 2 minutes per department.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L2. President's Report

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

This month has been relatively difficult, with a combination of illness and general lockdown desperation hampering my productivity. Nonetheless, I've continued working my usual hours and taking up as many projects as I can fit into my busy schedule. As always, online learning has presented a number of novel challenges that pop up with relative unpredictability, taking up chunks of time. Coming up towards the end of my term, I'm hoping to finish up as many of the projects that I've started this year. If anyone has ideas for things they'd like me to pick up in the next three months, please let me know. As always, I've organised the report according to the kinds of work I've been doing.

Committees and Academic Issues

Spec Cons

I've continued the work that was started last month in the Spec Cons space, focusing on concrete and positive improvements to the interface and ultimately a total reform of the spec cons system itself. The new director of SAS, Melissa Roughley has been very kindly meeting with me and discussing ways to authentically integrate student feedback and concerns into the overall reform process. The new system will move away from a simple triage approach to a case-management system, which will hopefully drastically improve student outcomes. At the initial stages, a small number of students will be meeting relatively frequently with the SAS team to work through concrete details of the proposed changes. At regular intervals, we will convene larger groups of students in a trial/focus group type setting, including hopefully members of this council! My thanks again to Mel Roughley for her work in this area.

ASPC

As usual, I've spent an immense amount of time at ASPC, raising the critical and difficult academic issues that are constantly arising. I'll limit it to the main issue that's come up, which is amendments to the progression policy in relation to the changes that have been forced onto the university by the Job Ready Graduates Bill. The Registrar has been developing a number of policies by which to better identify early intervention for students with impacted progressions. These include:

- Simplifying the triggers that place someone onto a progression list
- Automating DC results
- Including more early and active intervention
- Simplifying and making easier show cause requirements

I also argued that there ought to be more processes available that identify structural disadvantages that can warrant better early intervention processes, and that the Uni should provide better support services for these students outside of the progression policy. These suggestions were taken back for further

UE Education

At UE Education, I have been involved with two things. The first is to raise objections about increasing and ongoing shifts to deliver classes online in the future. Recent proposals have suggested a greater offering of completely online courses at the PG level, and I raised the worry that this would slowly creep into the UG level. Secondly, I've been involved with ongoing attempts to improve the quality and simplicity of honours across the university, including the provision of proactive course advice and the reduction of unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

Miscellaneous

- Thematic Review of Assessment
- Student Life Committee
- Student Consultative Committee

Activism/Advocacy

Afghan Students

I've been assisting Afghan students who have been impacted by the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, asking for greater support from the University and ongoing support for the University's academic partners and any students still in Afghanistan. Solidarity with those who have been caught between the brutal war prosecuted against them by the West and the brutal advance of the Taliban in recent weeks. The SRC calls on the government to issue as many humanitarian visas as possible to Afghans, end offshore detention of refugees (particularly for Afghan refugees) and the issuance of permanent residency for all Afghans who are currently on temporary visas.

Nursing

I would like to thank Emilie Heath, who last week wrote a great article in Honi Soit detailing the endemic issue of sexual harassment on clinical placements. I've been working with Emilie to raise this issue further with the University, particularly within the Student Life Portfolio and the Safer Communities Office. Every student deserves a safe working and learning environment, particularly in such difficult and high-stress situations as clinical placements.

ACNC

I've been made aware once again of the government's continuing attempts to restrict the freedom of charities through changes to the ACNC Governance Standard 3. To quote from an Honi article about the issue, "the ACNC would be able to investigate – and potentially deregister or revoke tax concessions from – entities who have been involved in certain lower-level summary offences. According to the Explanatory Statement to the Draft, this would include "unlawfully gathering or remaining on land or in a building", which would affect organisations which undertake direct action or physical acts of civil disobedience." In March, the SRC made a submission to the Treasury about the kind of detrimental impacts this would have on our activities. To quote from our submission, "The Regulations capture an indeterminately wide scope of activity. They require organisations to monitor all use of their resources by any entities, even when they are not employees, volunteers or affiliates. This may include activities and entities which the organisation has no control over and no capacity to predict. Indeed, it also captures activities which bear no relationship to the organisation's own activities or purpose. The SRC's resources, especially its websites, social media accounts and publications, are intended for use by all University of Sydney students, who number upwards of 70,000. Many of these students travel overseas or interstate on a regular basis. Students engage with the SRC through a wide variety of social media forums, including Facebook groups where students have the capacity to make their own posts and comments. As a diverse and changing group, students are involved in a variety of political and social activities which the SRC does not have a mandate, or resources, to monitor."

Legal Service

The Legal Service has commenced its process for hiring a replacement for Cade Badawy, the previous solicitor who departed in March of this year. Interviews occurred on Wednesday afternoon, and the outcome and details of this interview will be further reported at next month's

meeting of the council. Jahan Kalantar, our current principal solicitor, has been working tirelessly to keep the service running smoothly and I strongly commend his efforts.

Website

I've been working closely with the Publications Managers and the Executive on the website redesign. We've sourced further quotes from other agencies, and will be making a final decision on plans at the end of this week.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to his report covering its main points.

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

Chair moved to Agenda item N.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

Priya

Rad Ed Week [The Series] has begun! We have had three fantastic events so far, on radical pedagogy, climate activism in the face of the IPCC report, and USyd's Political Economy department. The recordings of these sessions are up on the SRC's revived Youtube channel, so catch up there if you missed them!

I have been working on Rad Ed for quite some time, so I will briefly outline what I am doing in regards to it right now and why it takes so long to organise and execute! Now that semester and events have started, my work has shifted a bit from figuring out (with a group) what sessions to include to making sure that those twenty events happen smoothly and with an audience!

I do the majority of promotion from the page, including making facebook posts and graphics to go alongside them, and ensuring that all events go up on time. Since we are putting the recorded sessions on Youtube, I also do video editing to make sure they are okay to post and don't include breakout room discussions for example. Then I edit captions to make them accessible, and upload the videos to Youtube. I set-up the book voucher prize system, and deal with getting the winners their vouchers, as well as following up with all events and figuring out new events with small preparation times when a few events have not happened.

Anne

I also keep collaborating with the International Student Hub staff, the OISH and will hold more events later (we arranged another meeting to further promote SRC to international students in the morning before the Council meeting).

Help promote SRC events and brand it to the public. I am helping the caseworker manager Mel to organise an event for International students regarding their rights with Police in September. The NSW police will be invited to the event. Also, I started doing YouTube channel promotion. We would do videos and welcome all the OBs and other SRC, maybe volunteers as well to join us. Feel free to message us if you have related skills or interests.

Lastly, continue attending meetings regularly as usual to deliver student requests and update with the university.

Discussion:

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

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that he is doing a talk for Radical Education Week tomorrow (2nd September 2021) in the afternoon talking about the SRC and activism in the 60s with Meredith Burgmann and Nadia Wheatley who will be talking about their book Radicals. Asked everyone to go to the Radical Education Week Facebook page for more info on events.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Maria Ge and Roisin Murphy tabled a written report:

Sudden issue- VPN

Though the VPN has improved due to previous work, it broke down again on the night of Friday on 20 August. I (Maria) collected the problems and raised them to Matthew, Philippa, Antoinette, and Susana. I got their replies the next afternoon and was happy to find that once they have already worked through the morning after receiving the emails, and fixed the problems. Then, after one day, most of the students were able to get connected to the VPN. Since some students still do not have stable access to VPN, we will keep tracking this issue.

Election-update

To increase the election's fairness by informing as many students as possible, Maria has worked with Rikki and Publication Manager to do the translation work of the election notice, and we posted it on multiple platforms.

It's pleasing to see that our organisation has generally come a long way since our last online election, and we're glad that our work on the selection committee + the whole council's work has paid off.

Promotion

I created a working group and led them to promote different offices of SRC to the international students. In our first project of promoting Wom*n Collective, we got 1324 views, 137 likes, 69 sharing, and twelve volunteers who want to contribute to the women's affairs. I am currently contacting with officers in WoCo. If any other offices want to introduce your office to more international students, feel free to contact us.

Uni admin

We've continued attending Academic Board and its various subcommittees - there aren't any majorly pressing updates from those this month. As we (hopefully) move towards less cases, we'll always keep prioritising in-person engagement at the forefront of our agenda and support it through these committees wherever possible.

ACNC changes

We made a submission regarding these changes earlier in the year. It is crucial that the SRC act on our rights in this space urgently and we have already begun working on this.

Other than that, we've been continuing our involvement with the collectives and are excited to see our organisation's activism in see 2, as well as to continue supporting rad ed week in the immediate term.

Discussion:

Roisin Murphy spoke to their joint reports as Maria is away covering it's mainporint with a focus on the ACNC change. They also promoted the event with Meredith Burgmann and Nadia Wheatley eport

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Madeleine Clark and Thomas Williams tabled a written report

Despite the continued outbreak of COVID and online study, the EAG has continued to keep busy. On the 12th of August we hosted a forum discussing the many cuts to Sydney Uni. We heard from students who have been involved in the fight to save the Arts, activists involved in the fight to save Med Science last year and staff members from the NTEU who spoke about the Enterprise Bargaining negotiations and the appalling conditions university management are arguing for. We also helped run the August 16th Counter Summit with Tom co - chairing. This was an excellent demonstration of students across Sydney's universities all coming together to oppose the Higher Education Summit on the same day. There were over 100 participants and this formed the basis of another organising meeting. Out of that organising meeting another forum has been called. This

forum is called “Exposing the Modern Australian University” and will be discussing the links our university has with fossil fuel and weapons companies. The forum will be focusing on what is wrong with the corporate university model, but also what we can do to improve it.

Another forum has also been organised by the EAG for the 13th of September. This forum will be with NTEU members discussing the EBA and the Arts Faculty cuts. This is building from an open letter against the cuts and a meeting of FASS students last week. There is still momentum from the campaign last semester and staff are in talks with the FASS Dean currently about potential further cuts. We want to be on the front foot when those announcements are finalised. We have also been engaged with organizing the Rad Ed Series and Maddie helped run the opening session on Radical Education which was a great event and a fantastic start to the series. Two events weekly are planned and there has been strong engagement. It’s clear that with online study students are willing to tune into political left wing, online events.

We are currently having regular meetings every fortnight and encourage anyone interested in education activism to get involved.

Discussion:

Tom Williams and Madeleine Clark spoke to their report covering it’s main points and upcoming events, and encouraged everyone to come to EAG meetings and get involved in the campaigns.

Lily Campbell heard there was another meeting happening tonight with the university and if anyone had the details?

Madeleine Clark noted that that was a false alarm and the person who had passed that information on had got the wrong date.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n’s Officers

Amelia Mertha gave a verbal report

- National Safety Survey on the 6th Sept being released
 - o Follow up from the 2016 survey
 - o This is going to around an 8th of all Usyd students about 10 000 students
 - o Please do it and encourage others to do it if they get it as it’s important importation to gather
- Having an NDA in around a month for Rad Sex Week restrictions permitting

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Welfare Officers

Over the last month we have been organising around increased pandemic support payments. We ran a photo campaign for \$750 for everyone with the focus of the demands being around changes that would support people after this immediate crisis, such as free early childhood education and \$80 a day.

Members of the group wrote a statement of demands about the need for safe and affordable student housing. These demands are: 1) increase to the University's general bursary to support struggling students, 2) a rent reduction for students living in university accommodation, 3) advertising the University's moratorium on evictions, 4) the University must offer crisis accommodation to those in need.

I, along with others, participated in the Australian Unemployed Workers Union's day of Action on Saturday 28th August. The campaign is centred on addressing waged and unwaged workers who are forced to choose between health and their income. The haphazard lockdown will continue to push people into difficult situations as long as there is no JobKeeper, no Covid supplement for people receiving social security payments and minimal protection for renters and safety at work.

The Welfare Action Group is organising a discussion with Living Incomes for Everyone (LIFE) on Sept 7. This will be an opportunity for students to understand the impact of insecure livelihoods on students and how we can collectivise and fight back for a social security system that supports us.

I have been involved in organising Rad Ed week sessions – particularly the discussions and panels on the IPCC report, unionism and strikes and the political economy department. Check out the page @radedweek on Facebook.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to their report and covered its main points, with emphasis on tenancy issues.

Owen Marsden-Readford gave a short verbal report

- Organising community cation for rainbow rights at the University of Sydney
 - o Had the first meeting the other week with guest speakers Simon Rice and April Holcomb to talk about the religious freedom's bills
- Also working on the lockdown to 0 campaign, focusing on public health issues.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers

Hello everyone!

ACAR stands in solidarity with the students, families and communities in Afghanistan who have been affected by the current humanitarian crisis. We support and will promote the open letter and campaign that urges the Australian government to increase their humanitarian intake, expedite family reunion visas, and grant permanent residency to all Afghans in Australia on temporary visas.

Despite dealing with lockdown and restrictions in Sydney, ACAR has been busy organising projects and initiatives. We had a games night in week 1, a meeting in week 2, and we also have a reading group coming this Friday at 3pm in collaboration with the Women's Collective. We will be reading *The White Possessive* by Aileen Moreton-Robinson, and we invite anyone who is eligible to join either collective to come along!

Additionally, we have been working hard in collaboration with the Asian Australian Project, to bring together our campaign regarding anti-Asian hate and rhetoric in Australia due to COVID-19. Our campaign is called 'Asians on the Margins: the Stories Campaign' - we will be collecting stories from people of Asian descent, and encourage anyone who would like to share a story to submit it via this Google form <https://forms.gle/eF91PcshLCj6zWa88>. You have the option to remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of the topics. These stories will lead up to a panel event next month, where we will discuss the themes in depth and allow the audience to submit questions to the panel.

We will continue to build and support the community throughout the semester, as well as hold regular meetings to organise.

Discussion:

Kritika Rathore spoke to the report reading out most of its content.
Aziza Mumin spoke to the report read out the remaining passages.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

05. Report of the Social Justice Officers

Education Activism

The education campaign continues to be a major part of my activism in the lockdown. The August 16 High Education Counter-Summit, the first online protest in the campaign since 2020, was a major success, drawing a crowd of more than 150 people to hear from education activists and be

part of the fightback against the corporate university. Off the back of this success, the NSW Education Organising space has called a forum for the 29th of September themed around “Exposing the Modern Australian University”, digging into the profit-driven operations of universities and their vile ties to weapons manufacturers, right-wing think tanks, fossil fuels corporations and other private interests, which I’ll be building over the next month. Closer to home, the USyd EAG is gearing up for a busy September, with plans to protest a meeting held by Dean of FASS and now Deputy Vice-Chancellor Annamarie Jagose and a forum discussing staff-student solidarity and opposition to the cuts in FASS during the NTEU’s week of action in September. Hope to see everyone in tomorrow’s EAG to discuss these plans so we can build for a rowdy and defiant semester of education activism.

COVID-19

I’ve also thrown myself into the Lockdown to Zero campaign which has been established to oppose the NSW and federal Liberals’ murderous plan for re-opening in the midst of an outbreak which continues to break daily caseload records and which has now caused 100 preventable deaths. Their refusal to place hard restrictions on businesses has allowed the virus to spread into some of the most vulnerable communities and spaces in the state, from oncology wards in Sydney to the majority-Indigenous town of Wilcannia now battling a COVID outbreak without a single ventilator. Lifting restrictions with only 70% of the adult population vaccinated would unleash still more deaths and cases of debilitating long COVID on the scale that we’re now seeing in the US and UK. It’s essential that the left fight hard for every possible protection for ordinary people to be put and held in place, rather than accepting the Liberals’ macabre motto that we must “learn to live with the virus”

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Environment Officers

Despite the prevalence of COVID, the Enviro Collective has hit the ground running in the second semester of 2021. Within the past few weeks the Collective has collaborated constructively with university collectives from UNSW, UTS and Macquarie, and other environmental groups in order to co-host a student forum on COVID, Students and the Environment, and actively participate in the Kurri Kurri Week of action. In addition, this weekend the Collective is also organising a workshop for newer members to the space to ensure the political education aspect of environmentalism is not forgotten.

The collective and its members have worked hard to get this far and while many deserve many praise for what they have done and continue to contribute, this has not done to fulfil some altruistic need. Much rather, the Collective is very aware that Climate Change is a pressing existential issue. Climate Change will not wait for humanity to get its act together, fighting viruses such as COVID and neoliberalism, but much rather it will take full advantage of the inaction and complacency that they bring.

Earlier this month, the IPCC released the first instalment of their sixth assessment report, detailing extensively the trajectory our planet is on. The grouping of independent climate scientists reported that numerous unprecedented changes to the climate and weather patterns had been observed, some of which may be irreversible. The report continued to state that this trend would continue as warming increased, having already achieved 1.1°C of warming.

While this may sound like doom and gloom the report did leave room for hope, claiming that only significant emissions reductions would prevent catastrophe and keep us under the ever elusive 1.5°C of warming. This will only be achieved through the decarbonisation of our economies, through a just transition away from fossil fuels, and through rebuilding our economies around workers and public wealth. This is only possible through mass protests, strikes and resistance, and I strongly encourage anyone with plans to live beyond 35 to join us in this cause.

Discussion:

Drew Beacom spoke to the report and covered its main points.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes

Moved: Lily Campbell

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

Q. Motions of Notice

Swapnik Sanagavarapu resigned the chair to Priya Gupta

Q1. Motion to condemn the Coalition's proposed changes of charity governance standards

Preamble:

The Coalition has launched another attack on progressive collective action. A series of regulatory changes have been proposed which, if passed, will restrict the important and often resistance-based work charities and not-for-profits can undertake. The SRC, as an organisation that falls within the scope of the regulations up for debate, will suffer from this stifling of dissent and political advocacy.

The regulatory changes to governance standard 3 in the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Regulation 2013* would dramatically expand the reasons for which an Australian

charity can be deregistered. This would include very minor breaches of the law, lowering the current bar for deregistration from indictable offences to include summary offences like trespassing, unlawful entry, vandalism or malicious property damage. As an organisation, this could place the SRC at actual risk of deregistration if its members - a notoriously undefined group - do things like print out posters at the office and go wheatpasting locally or promote peaceful occupations or blockades through organisational social media.

The Treasury's website claims that 'the amendments are intended to ensure that standard 3 is more consistent with the disqualifying purposes set out in the Charities Act....' and that this standard is to ensure that registered charities and not-for-profits 'are governed in a way that is sustainable and consistent with its purposes and that it protects its assets, reputation and the people it works with'.

But recent reviews of the ACNC legislation in 2018 didn't identify any issues with unlawful behaviours by charities, instead actually recommending the **removal** of this Governance standard. Further, there is no widespread or particularly concerning problem of unlawful activity by activist charities anyway - only 2 charities have lost their status in the last 3 years due to unlawful acts. It is also key to note that the changes place an unjustified administrative burden on - imposing indeterminate and onerous standards of auditing with which smaller organisations will not be able to comply. This will stretch activist budgets and resources more thinly than ever.

This is clearly a government crackdown on activist organisations that run as charities and not-for-profits. It will see organisations that speak up get shut down and send a chilling message to those in the future - with 75% of charity respondents to a survey on the changes saying they will cease to make their political views known publicly for fear of heavy-handed reprisal. We also know that police will no doubt revel in the implications these changes have for them to crackdown student protestors, demonstrators and increase already deeply concerning surveillance of student organisations.

As Australia's most radical and active student union, we have a major stake in protecting our ability to dissent publicly and hold governments, university management and corporations to account. This move from the Federal government would compromise the ability to the SRC to fulfil its charitable purpose - to advocate on behalf of all undergrad students at USYD and students as a social group in the community. It is incredibly transparent for the government to impose such stringent conditions solely on charities - why do they not apply to businesses or political parties? We must oppose this existential threat to ensure the activist work and civil disobedience that forms part of the lifeblood of uni can continue. Our education and futures depend on it.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns the actions of the Federal Government in relation to proposed changes to the ACNC standards
2. The USyd SRC supports the activist collectives at USYD and at other student unions around Australia to undertake political actions in pursuit of just outcomes for students and young people.
3. The USyd SRC supports collectives in their ability to make decisions autonomously and supports the continuation of a legacy of radical activism on and off campus.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will post information about the proposed changes through it's official social media channels
2. The USyd SRC will call on the National Union of Students (NUS) to condemn the actions of the Federal Government concerning their attack on charities and not-for-profit organisations
3. The USyd SRC President will make known our opposition to the governance standard changes by communicating with relevant MPs and Treasury

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion explaining what the proposed changes to the ACNC would mean for organisations like the SRC. Noting the recent reviews of the changes recommended removing these proposed changes, and noting in a survey asking about the changes 75% said it would stop them expressing their political views known for fear of deregistering. This is of great concern to us as an active political student union as it will curtail our ability to do our job. Why these changes don't apply to political organisations of businesses who knows but this is clearly an attack on activists and their work.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion saying that Lauren had covered the points on the issues with these proposed changes but wanted to speak to anyone on the fence thinking this is just the concerns of 'crazy lefties that want to do property damage and fake charities, it's not. This is a positions shared with Amnesty International, Human Rights Law Center, Redfern Legal Center, Community Legal Centers Australia and many more. This is a mainstream position, the government it trying purposely and actively suppress dissent through arbitrary governance rulings so that charities cannot stand up for their members. Under the charities act, advocacy is a recognized charitable purpose and these changes work to prevent charities from being ablet o do their purpose. I think it's hard to build a campaign on this but it is important and hoping to work with a number of orgnaisiations on this issue.

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion saying this is a conscious attempt by the government to repress the left, and it's an example as to why we should always support freedom of speech and fight against those who attempt to suppress it. And we have done this before fighting against the attempt to bad protests last year, and that this needs to be a radical campaign and not accept anything like this.

Priya Gupta spoke to the motion saying that as the SRC doesn't have a formal membership process as all undergrads are considered members any action that vaguely associated with things we do could put the SRC at risk with these proposed legislation changes.

Drew Beacom spoke to the motion saying the changes were despicable and that this was the party in power actively suppressing dissent. Adding that those in council who are members of the liberal party who he believed will dissent to this motion that they are despicable and doesn't know how they sleep at night. Adding that when he thinks about the SRC and all the work the collectives have done for student's and how all of that comes under threat with the changes when these action have change things for the better for students, and that we fight this tooth and nail and force the NUS to do the same.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying she only found out about these changes from the motion but that it is greatly concerning and a push to restrict activism and campaigns and would be really keen to organise something with the EAG on this issue, it can be legalistic, but this is also about freedom of speech and attacks on political activism.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion saying the ALP has slammed the Morrison government on this and that it's not just the SRC which will be affected. Domestic violence organisations, others which receive organisations who help vulnerable population such as refugees, if these organisation speak out against the governments attacks on these vulnerable groups they are putting themselves at risk losing their funding and that's important to be aware of too.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion saying to was deeply concerning and that there are already many laws in place that restrict activism, and many are just not enforced and it's important to continue to fight against these. I think that it's hard to build a campaign where no one really know much about that is going on but could build one around the importance of freedom of speech and the importance of radical student organisations. It seems like the main target of these changes seems to be climate activists.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the motion asked if anyone knew what the status of these changes were at in the senate at the moment and added that with regards to a campaigning an SRC only campaign might not be very effective but there are a number of organisation working together and we can join in on their campaigns where needed because there are a coalition of groups that are working on this, which might be better than starting something from the bottom up.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion agreeing with past speakers that this is just another new area of on ongoing attacks on social services and left-wing groups. Adding she was concerned about he turn around needed with relation to where the bill was at in the senate.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion talking about where the bill was at in the senate, that it seems to be tabled for one more reading in the senate.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu found a campaign on this issue with many different organisations already members which he thinks it would be good to work with them. Adding that cold calling senators and pressing them on their stance may be the best way to fight this and make sure there's attention on it as that's what the government doesn't want

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying the SRC could at least make some posts and talk about the importance of student unios having a political voice, and that much of the risk that the SRC faces come from capacity to offer our services and funding.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q2. Motion to condemn the actions of the La Trobe Student Union (now Association)

Preamble:

The recent revelations in *Honi* regarding the actions of La Trobe Student Unity and La Trobe university management are a disgrace to student advocacy. As reported here: <http://honisoit.com/2021/08/la-trobe-defunds-student-union-in-favour-of-apolitical-corporate-body/>, funding to the La Trobe Students' Union (LTSU) has been cut by 88%, with management conspiring with regional campuses to establish a new 'apolitical organisation' — the La Trobe Students' Association (LTSA). This conscious dismantlement of a student organisation that poses one of few oppositional forces to managerial austerity, comes as La Trobe cuts over 200 full time jobs. The President of the La Trobe NTEU branch was among those made redundant in the most recent round of cuts.

Apoliticality is a luxury few can afford, and is an affront to the notion of being an engaged and representative student organisation. It is consistently those to the right in state and federal politics, and conservative counterparts in management who hike our fees, cut staff without warning, invest in fossil fuels and make no effort to protect or revitalise diverse, artistic and politicised campus culture.

Last year, Presidents from the five campus student associations, including the LTSU, advocated for a merger between the LTSU, the Bendigo Students' Association and the Wodonga Students' Association to form the LTSA. Then-LTSU President Annabelle Romano, of Labor Unity, allegedly lied to students and her own union that she had been told by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) that the University would only fund a single student association in 2021 due to financial constraints.

The DVC(E) directly contradicted Romano, saying that La Trobe would fund "as many student associations that existed." The LTSA voted not to consider a motion to dissolve itself and transfer assets to the newly-formed LTSA. Despite the objections of the LTSU, the new LTSA was created.

The LTSA board members are unelected, and have recently refused motions from the Bundoora campus council to endorse protests against University cuts, climate inaction, and the Menzies Institute, claiming they impinge on the LTSA's "apolitical" stance. The LTSA refused to endorse a motion condemning job cuts at La Trobe because "to condemn the restructure and stand against the VC's attacks on staff conditions makes this a personal attack on an individual."

When refuting a motion to support students attending the NUS National Conference, the LTSA said "the LTSA is not a union and we cannot be drawn into politics." And while the LTSU sacked all their staff, the new LTSA spent big, \$56,000 on "marketing and advertising," including \$25,000 on a very questionable logo.

This is, for want of a better phrase, a sick joke.

It is crucial that student unions across the country are united in their struggle for free education and against austerity measures weaponised to harm staff. At their core, the union's duty is to fight for a quality education for every student. It is abhorrent, yet unsurprising, that Student Unity bureaucrats would dare to shut down this burgeoning fight-back, and doubly so that they would side with La Trobe management to silence democratic dissent.

Considering the extensive role that federal Labor has played in demolishing higher education, notably those in the right factions of the party, it comes as no surprise that Labor student bureaucrats are siding with the bosses. It would be an admirable, yet somewhat fantastical change to expect the youth wing of Labor's right- Student Unity - to do anything to defend quality student unionism or enable some worthwhile change on campus.

Progressive and well-resourced student unions are essential to making sure we, students and workers, are not rorted and exploited by management and the government. The resistance they facilitate is essential to fighting for what little we have left, and creating better uni working and learning conditions.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns the actions of the previous Student Unity President and executive of the LTSU in their dissolution of the LTSU and formation of the apolitical LTSA.
2. The USyd SRC supports the Education Action Group in their decision to continue postering on campus, and act according to the decisions made by the collective.
3. The USyd SRC supports collectives in their ability to make decisions autonomously, and supports changing the new regulations.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC will send this motion to the previous President of the LTSU, Annabelle Romano, and the current LTSA President
2. The USyd SRC calls on Student Unity at La Trobe to apologise and tangibly join the nation-wide fight against tertiary education cuts and austerity.
3. The USyd SRC calls on the National Union of Students (NUS) to condemn the actions of the LTSU and now-formed LTSA around their dismantling of student unionism.
4. The USyd SRC council resolves to support student activists at La Trobe in the fight against education austerity.
5. The USyd SRC stands in solidarity with the campaign by Change La Trobe to shut down the LTSA

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion condemning the La Trobe Student Association (LTSA) where last year's President affiliated with Labor Right lied to the council saying that the DVC would only find a single student association rather than multiple groups, a claim the DVC's office contradiction that statement. A motion was rejected by the student union to merge the groups, despite that the merger went ahead without permission of the union and formed the LTSA. These students remain unelected and pride themselves on being 'apolitical'. It's important that student

unions remain political and run by progressive students so they have the resources, staff and ability to fight against the austerity and cuts policies of the universities to protect student rights and education. Unlike what we are seeing done by those running the LTSA.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion agreed with Lauren Lancaster's comments and looks forward to seeing Labour Right's comments here tonight. We've seen that every time Labor Right gets their hands on a student union as they are opportunistic careerist who somehow keep getting jobs despite destroying student organisations around the country, if you are so focused student services you need a progressive student unions who actually pay and hire staff. Roisin ended plugging the Change La Trobe Campaign which is being spear headed by National Labor Student (NLS), to shut down the LTSA.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu comment that he was not sure how destroying a student union looked good on a resume.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying that this was appalling and it's inspiring that there is a campaign against the move to apoliticism, apoliticism just means accepting the cuts to staff and education. There has been ongoing shutting down of support of political motions in the name of apoliticism, there is a campaign to dissolve the LTSA and then hopefully that will succeed and the funding will return to the LTSU, and that this is not just about a stepping stone to being a corrupt politician.

Grace Hu spoke about the La Trobe University situation noting that the members of Student Unity (SU - Labor right) at La Trobe were purged from SU. If there are still member of SU there is was unknown as they are in Victoria. Those who were affiliated an impower who enacted these changes were purged due to their actions. SU supports the dissolution LTSA and supports the return of the LTSU.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion and how it was a SU organisation for many years and that purging them now means very little, and that La Trobe was a SU organisation for many years and that how this situation arose. The destruction of the student union benefits the university as it prevents any opposition to their actions and cuts. There was a similar situation that occurred at Macquarie University, whose student organisation was also destroyed by SU and now controlled by university management.

Lauren Lancaster responded to Grace Hu's comments and also add that it only takes looking at logo of the LTSA that they don't care about students when they spend huge amount of money on a basic logo while making cuts in all other areas. And it's ridiculous that anyone would attempt to defect the conduct of those involved at La Trobe.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Roisin Murphy Young

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The Chair suspended standing orders to move to Q6.

Q6. No bombs, no coal, no theft! Endorse the NSW forum exposing the universities.

Preamble:

As businesses remain open in NSW, atrocities of climate destruction and military expansion continue at the command of our government. Fossil fuel consumption has drastically increased, and the tools of war continue to be brandished against the enemies of the capitalist class. One familiar arm of the state, Australian universities, are driving these horrors forward, coordinated by the VC's we heard about a fortnight ago.

Universities are not only hubs of exploitation, but vital elements of the state. Heavily overworked researchers must produce research for the military, for coal bosses, for massive pharmaceutical companies and for politicians to wield in the interests of capital. Teachers are limited to liberal content, courses are constantly reformulated to produce workers with skills employers find favourable and cohorts tailored to better permit international competition. We only need to look at the cuts last year as a clear example of universities being fundamentally altered to maximise the profits of the capitalist class. Overall, they are hardly the democratic, progressive institutions the Deans and marketing teams brand them as.

Covid has provided a unique cover for horrific changes to be forced through, but also, a chance to challenge the substance of universities and it is crucial that we fight back across the state.

The forum, organised for September 29th at 1pm by the NSW education organising group, will unite campuses across the state in unmasking the true nature of universities. From billionaires hogging lab time, coal barons bankrolling entire courses and free labour being employed to design fighter jets, there is clearly much to the universities we must understand and dare to fight against. With EBAs expiring across the state, a fresh wave of attacks will be unleashed, and hence, we must fight back now.

Students must unite across campuses against the capitalist function of our universities. This forum offers a chance to deep dive into precisely what is going on, and a chance to coordinate how we might free our universities from corporate influence.

Platform:

- USyd SRC recognises universities as sites of intense exploitation and crucial elements of the capitalist state, and opposes both qualities.
- USyd SRC endorses the September 29th "Exposing the Modern Australian University - Online Forum"
- This SRC supports the state-wide education campaign.

Actions:

- USyd SRC formally endorses the state-wide “Exposing the Modern Australian University - Online Forum”
- USyd SRC will share the Facebook event through
- Council members commit to attending the forum, as well as upcoming NSW education organising events including building

Discussion:

Tom Williams spoke to the motion covering the motions main points, noting that universities are sites of exploitation and not there to free ourselves but to uphold capitalism are a part of the way in which the working class of Australia are exploited. There is not democratic say over how it is run and profits are found in war and profitable drug development. Students are recruited to work for free sometimes comprising part of their degrees to create weapons of war, to make medicine for profit, this is not secret these are promoted and record. We need to fight these things state-wide.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion followed on from Tom’s comments noting it was the second forum and it’s a collaborative event with many universities and it s about how universities are becoming increasingly corporate and right wing, their investment sin in fossil fuels and shutting down left win student organisations, there’s a number of speakers, both student and other including Raewyn Connell who wrote *The Good University* so this talk will be not just what universities are but what they should be it will be a great event.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion promoting the forum saying that it’s going to be a great event and there’s going to be a range of articles an information released in the lead up to it and there will be a blitz of advertising for it. Concluding with that big business can buy up so much space on campus is appalling and we need to be aware of the military connections to the universities.

Michael Dunning spoke to the motion that this awareness is important to building opposition to the coal industry and the military and that the last protest on this has 100+ people and it would be great for more people to get behind it.

Moved: Tom Williams

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q7. Motion for Afghanistan

Preamble:

Within the past two weeks following August 16 following the United States’ military withdrawal from the country, the return of the Taliban and ensuing collapse of the Ghani government, has triggered a major humanitarian crisis in Kabul, its surrounding cities and left a vacuum of stable leadership in Afghanistan. Within this context, it is worth condemning the past, grossly expensive and unfortunately, miserly Western military interventions in Afghanistan and the broader region.

The lack of a genuine impetus to cooperate and build capacity in the Afghan government and community during the past two and more decades. The absence of genuine efforts to nation building in lieu of a sceptical military occupation denied many opportunities to construct political culture and reforms from grassroots Afghan local communities and society. Indeed, in 2009, in its Prism publication, the Centre for Complex Operations based at the U.S' National Defense Military rejected nation building as "doomed to fail" and advocate for a strategy based on expecting "conventional interstate war". Equally, we must condemn the heinous terrorism and gross violation of Afghan society by the Taliban and by extension, ISIS-K, who has wrought immeasurable suffering on the people of Afghanistan over the past five decades.

As the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan escalate and remain deeply uncertain, as the SRC and as a USyd community of 70,000+, we can and must rally together to advocate across all levels of government and immediately within the USyd community. First, the incumbent Prime Minister, Scott Morrison have announced intentions to take in a mere 3,000 Afghan refugees in addition to those in evacuation, this low figure is grossly inadequate and incommensurate to the contribution of the Afghan and Afghan-Australian community to Australia, and that, is before citing the moral responsibility Australia, as a member of the Allied Coalition, must shoulder in this crisis' aftermath. For generations of Afghan-Australians and the incoming generation of Afghan refugees, this crisis will bear an intergenerational scar on the community. Therefore, we must pressure the federal government in lifting the provisional refugee intake cap to 20,000 and beyond, provide an immediate pathway to permanent residency and eliminate burdensome restrictions on permanent residency on those who arrived to Australia by boat during this crisis.

At the University-level, we can and must extend whatever assistance possible to those fleeing, on transit or who remain in Afghanistan. USyd staff and students have benefited immensely from our collaborations with Afghan institutions, researchers, and students on the critical challenges facing society: from the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute alongside Sydney Medical School, the Kabul Museum within our Archeology department, or poetry and the arts, the researchers and people of Afghanistan have contributed outstandingly to our university. In this context, the University can and must offer whatever necessary institutional assistance to help ease the visa processing procedure for Afghan students and research partners who has enriched our academia, community, and knowledge for generations to come.

Platform:

1. The SRC condemns the West's brutal interventions throughout the past decades and the terrorism inflicted upon the people of Afghanistan by the Taliban and ISIS-K.
2. The SRC demands a permanent return of the Humanitarian High Achiever Scholarship as a year-round opportunity and made available by default in any incoming Afghan students' admission offer.
3. The SRC will campaign for a commitment from the university to waive all fees for all asylum seeker and refugee students within University-owned accommodation.
4. The SRC demands that the University conduct a proactive outreach effort to identify all possible research partners and students currently undergoing further visa processing or still residing in Afghanistan to offer unconditional institutional backing and support from the University. This will entail providing documents such as statements of support, recommendations, and necessary visa support to ease Afghan student and researcher refugees' visa processing time

5. The SRC

Action:

1. The SRC will share the Open Letter and Petition for Afghanistan across all of its channels. This include mobilising SRC collectives to support and share the Letter.
2. Publish a version of this motion on SRC social media account in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, including the Afghan/Afghan-Australian community at USyd.

Discussion:

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion highlighting its main points and highlighting how for so many their lives have been turned upside down and listing the platform of the motion and the importance of supporting those who have contributed so much to our university community.

Kritika Rathore waived her speaking rights

Pravind Easwaran spoke to the motion saying that he was a part of a Monash University team that got 13 activists out of Kabul last week, so I know how much students and activists can help people and get things moving quickly. Universities have this power, also we know that students need support once they get here, support for their education and if Monash can do it then Sydney University can do it. There will be more arriving, and Sydney can also help. This motion lays the groundwork for fighting for extend visas to help Afghans in Australia and have a path to permanent residency. Hopes to see that SRC as a part of this campaign.

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion but disagreed with the preamble, saying it talks about why this is a failed nation building project, but the US and Aus were never there to bring democracy, the reason they poured money into Afghanistan was to have a proxy state in a geopolitically important area as part of their ongoing imperialism, and that's why they were there in the first place not to bring democracy. Agree with the platform and actions but be clear with why things happen.

Michael Dunning agreed with Sophie's comments and raised concerns with the way the discussion is going with regards to interventionist approaches, and that while he doesn't believe that is the intention of this motion, that it's something to be aware of as it's an excuse people give to continue and expand interventionist policies. Adding that America leaving was a good thing, but Australia needs to bring in more refugees as they are responsible for making the Afghani people's lives worse as a result of intervention.

Naz Sharifi spoke to the motion and spoke about highlighting Afghan voices on this issue. Adding that this has been an exhausting two weeks for both Afghans on the ground and throughout the diaspora. It's important to listen to afghan voices on this issues as it is complex and their voices need to be highlighted. Ans while she respects the differences of opinions on the intervention on Afghanistan, we still need to listen to afghan voices and realise that saying that the US has a duty of care is not the same as endorsing American imperialism, as pulling out can have the same negative impact as the initial intervention when there is a lack of support for the people of Afghanistan and what it has left behind is a power vacuum which has made their lives no better

than before. We need to ask for things that are practical in what the university and government can provide, while idealism is great, it's not going to help and being pragmatic as possible it needed, please contact your local MPs about increasing the number of refugees we take and also supporting Afghans here in getting support for their visas/ permanent residence. Naz concluded by thanking Khanh for their support and work on this motion.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and echoed Nas' comments, adding that Australia has been very involved in destroying the country and are now trying to shirk responsibility which is simply inhumane, and this motion and the scope of it is something the SRC can assist with and look forward to standing in solidarity with the Afghan community.

Ashrika Paruthi spoke to the motion thanks Naz for her comments and wanted to echo the steams of past speakers and that the voice and experiences of Afghan people as it's not ok for the US to claim to lead a war against terror then just leave a country without thinking about the ramification, and this is important to make sure we listen to the afghan people because in leaving the US has basically gifted the Taliban 80 billion in weapons which is terrible where the Taliban will use this to harm the Afghan people. We need to not make things harder for people right now especially for student when so many are suffering.

Simon Uptis spoke about the refugee crisis that will occur is shocking, but this is motion need to recognise that it's not just he the US is being miserly, it's that there was an intervention at all. The US spent trillions of dollar there outsourcing the war effort paying off war lords, and with little care for democracy and nation building, what Michael said in that there are the enemies, the Taliban, Al Qaeda and the US. Again saying he agreed with the platform and actions but not the preamble.

Drew Beacom spoke about the US' actions in Afghanistan, and as awful as it is it not surprising, it was a huge boon to private military government. And also spoke about the angle the Australian government has taken is disgraceful and there is so much more we should be doing for people with more visas, support in housing and education.

Moved: Khanh Tran

Seconded: Kritika Rathore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The Chair returned to the standing orders – Q3.

Q3. Afghan Refugees Need Permanent Protection

Preamble

The recent withdrawal from Afghanistan has left the country in ruins. More than 50 percent of the population live in poverty, the economy is subordinated to the opium trade and the rights of women and minorities are under extreme threat. The United States' proxy government has collapsed overnight, President Ashraf Ghani has fled to Uzbekistan and abandoned the country. We are witnessing the end to a 20-year brutal war, but there is little relief for the people of Afghanistan.

The situation in Afghanistan follows the cycle of imperialist war conducted by the US and their allies. The invasion was never about liberating women nor bringing democracy, it was about ensuring US prestige and global hegemony no matter the cost.

The entire war was built on lies; so called “terrorists” were fought by funding and collaborating with warlords. Countless war crimes were committed against Afghan civilians, as the Breton report has exposed. Many feminists argued that women would benefit from the war, yet Afghan women’s lives and bodies continued to be brutalised and their dreams crushed under occupation. According to a 2018 report, women are responsible for up to 80 percent of all suicide attempts in Afghanistan. For the majority of Afghan women who live outside Kabul, occupation meant the destruction of infrastructure and bombing weddings.

The subsequent withdrawal of the US and their allies unleashes the terrifying prospect of a Taliban government. It is likely that many millions of people in Afghanistan will refuse to surrender themselves to the reactionary whims of the Taliban and the ongoing suffering of widespread poverty, drug addiction and destroyed infrastructure. It appears likely that millions will attempt to flee the country.

Western politicians are quickly trying to shut their doors to refugees coming from Afghanistan. The French president Macron has already expressed the need to establish a European mechanism to stop asylum seekers entering the bloc in large numbers. It is shameful how quickly countries can shut their borders when it comes to refugees fleeing violence but refuse to shut borders to stop the spread of a deadly virus. Borders always operate in coordination with profits, not human lives.

It is therefore crucial that we demand that refugee intake is increased significantly. It is the absolute minimum responsibility of the Australian government after committing various war crimes in Afghanistan and ravaging their country. The offer of 3,000 visas to Afghan refugees was completely inadequate in comparison to the 2.7 million refugees created by the war. It is certainly not the “generous humanitarian and resettlement program” that immigration Minister Alex Hawke claims it to be. As well, already possessing an American or Australian visa shouldn’t be the precondition to safety. Afghan refugees should be resettled safely and provided full citizenship rights.

Australia continues to have one of the most brutal refugee policies in the world, where refugees arriving by boat are subject to mandatory offshore detention. Detention centres with some of the most inhumane conditions possible. No refugee should be subject to such conditions, and the resettling of Afghan refugees should not come at the cost of decreasing other refugee caps.

There are more than 4,200 Afghan refugees who are currently living in Australia on temporary visas, and there are 53 Afghan men still imprisoned in Australia's detention centres. In the past, applications for permanent protection for these refugees have been denied because the government deemed Afghanistan a safe place to live. All of these men should be immediately freed from detention and all Afghan refugees should be granted permanent protection in Australia.

Luckily there is already widespread support for Afghan refugees, as over 100,000 people have signed an open letter calling for an increase in the number of Afghan refugees accepted into

Australia, and for them to be granted permanent visas. It is important to build on that support and demand even more protected rights for refugees fleeing violence.

Platform:

The University of Sydney SRC:

- 1) Condemns the actions of the US and allied forces in Afghanistan - the war has done nothing but destroy the country, killing thousands of civilians along the way.
- 2) Opposes the imperialist propaganda used to justify the invasion; it was always about securing US hegemony over the region and never about bringing about democracy and women's rights.
- 3) Opposes the rise of Islamophobia that resulted from the propaganda to justify the war on terror. This rise in Islamophobia has become the mainstream ideology to justify anti migration laws.
- 4) Demands an increased intake of Afghan refugees, the offer of 3,000 visas to Afghan refugees is totally inadequate.
- 5) Opposes Australia's inhumane treatment of refugees. Australia has one of the harshest refugee policies in the world. All refugees should be freed and granted permanent protection.

Actions:

- 1) The SRC will take a solidarity photo at the end of the meeting, holding up signs demanding permanent protection for Afghan refugees.
- 2) These photos will be shared on the SRC Facebook page and Instagram account.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion covering its main points calling on Australia to accept more refugees, and the right of minorities are under threaten and the country has been left in ruins after this imperialist war. It common to see the western world claim to care about women and other minorities when they go for interventions, but then close the doors when people seek help, and refugees are left to live in limbo. Australia as one of the most brutal refugee policies in the world and we want call on more people to be brought to Australia as 3000 is an appallingly low number.

Annabel Petit spoke to the motion, saying that we see through the ruling classes humanitarian excuse when they invade other countries and we know what these interventions really are and what they mean for people, and we need to instead of crying crocodile tears for afghani women, but open the boards of Australia to Afghan refugees, and we need to fight for this, and sharing the petition.

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Annabel Petit

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. Kill the cuts, fight the bosses, support the Union!

Preamble

Despite the fact that the University of Sydney recorded an annual surplus of \$106.6 million in 2020, university managers have been on the offensive against staff and students. Last year, they accepted more than 250 voluntary redundancies, and forcibly made more than 20 staff redundant - not to mention the casual hours slashed. They're clearly not satisfied yet, with continuing attacks on the School of Literature, Art and Media (SLAM). It's also clear that they have entered the NTEU EBA bargaining period determined to destroy working conditions, most centrally by eliminating the 40:40:20 teaching:research:engagement ratio. In response to these vicious attacks, the SRC should take up a fighting strategy. This means standing up against all attempts to reduce staff pay and conditions.

In this vein, the Education Action Group is engaged in a serious campaign against the cuts at Sydney University, both in SLAM and elsewhere. The campaign will take on a confrontational attitude to the bosses, organising to fight any proposed attacks. Plans are in the works to confront Annamarie Jagose, for example, who has just been named provost and deputy vice-chancellor, and has spent the last year justifying attacks on arts departments. An open education organising meeting has been planned for this Thursday at 12pm to discuss the next steps for the campaign.

Additionally, the EAG is organising the Stop the Cuts! NTEU and Student Forum, for 6pm on Wednesday 16th of September. This forum will involve staff who are currently involved in the NTEU, and are fighting to improve the university during the bargaining period, as well as student activists. Education activists have also been organising through the NSW Education Action Group, part of the NUS, to initiate a state-wide anti-cuts campaign.

Students must stand up against management's attempts to restructure the university in the interests of their bottom line. In the face of historic attacks, the Education Action Group has taken a fighting attitude, and will continue to oppose cuts on a local and national level.

Platform

- The SRC supports the Education Action Group's campaign to oppose all cuts to staff positions, pay, and conditions at Sydney University

Actions

- USYD SRC formally endorses the EAG's Stop the Cuts! NTEU and Student Forum
- The SRC will support the EAG's ongoing campaign against cuts in SLAM and other faculties
- The SRC will share the Stop the Cuts! NTEU and Student Forum through all social media channels
- Council members commit to attending the forum, as well as other EAG campaign events

Discussion:

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion and covered its main points and highlighting the importance of fighting against the University's attacks on staff across the University, partially SLAM. Noting that the EGA is the most active activist space on campus and encouraged everyone to come along to the meetings.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion saying that SLAM is getting cut and research is being gutted all being push through under covid so they don't have to face the backlash and it's important we keep taking a stand, the NTEU has been fighting and it's importantly to show solidarity with them,

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying that it is an excellent EAG campaign and it's important to take note of the attacks on the arts by corporate management and we need to be concerns with the way the Arts and creative industries are treated not just here but around the world. Encouraged everyone to get involved and noted the importance of the art in connecting people and the human experience.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion encouraged everyone to attend and bring friends as it will be working on strategies of the campaign on dealing with the Dean of Arts who is skilled at cutting courses and staff conditions while trying to play the victim, and make it clear there is a defiant campaign against such cuts.

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion and wanted to note that tin the same week they announced they will cut theatre and performance studies, Anne-Louise Sarks was announced as the head of the Melbourne Theatre Company, a USyd theatre and performance studies alumni, which the university was happy to capitalise on while cutting the program from which she graduated, ignoring the importance of the department and theatre at USyd has had.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion noting that none of the plans for cutting courses it's all seemingly a mess and it just like a axe hanging over the heads of departments and the Dean making jokes about that, when this is peoples livelihoods. Adding it would be good to bring in Alumni.

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Tom Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q5. For an activist SRC at Macquarie University

Preamble:

The student union at Macquarie University (MQ SRC) is a sad, uninspiring institution run by snivelling Liberals who love bureaucracy and hate loud voices. The Alliance (Liberals) dominate the council and refuse to allow anyone who isn't a councillor to attend meetings (let alone speak in them). They prefer to invite the Vice Chancellor to come and explain staff and course cuts, whose perspective they have, apparently, not heard. Unsurprisingly, the union is largely irrelevant to normal students.

It doesn't have to be this way. Student unions can and should fight management and take up political issues. In the past, student unions in Australia have:

- Stood on picket lines with university staff

- Organised illegal protests in support of civil liberties
- Thrown rotten tomatoes at Liberal politicians
- Harbored illegal draft dodgers and sent money to the National Liberation Front during the Vietnam war
- Occupied innumerable buildings, blocked traffic, fought the cops

To contrast, the MQ SRC claims to be an apolitical body. The faction which controls it, Alliance, is a mixture of Liberal and National party members who see themselves as an extension of management. Students who want to attend SRC meetings have to send a written application to the chairperson, who has total discretion to allow or not allow them to attend. More than a dozen students were barred from attending the council meeting on July 8. Students should have a right to attend and speak at their own student council meetings. At the heart of student unionism is democracy. Students attending the meetings of their own representative council should be allowed to move and debate motions.

At the same meeting, the chairperson refused to take discussion on motions to support Palestinian resistance, condemn attacks on LGBTI rights and demand justice for refugees. This is because they claim these issues are not relevant to students, and the SRC is an apolitical body that simply represents “student interests”.

At one meeting, the MQ SRC booted Left Action counsellor Amy Lamont yet invited the Vice Chancellor Bruce Dowton to speak. Bruce Dowton has overseen the sackings of more than 400 staff members in just the last two years, including over 160 academic staff. Left wing, elected representatives were kicked out, but millionaire bosses were allowed to speak without opposition.

Apoliticism in a time of massive staff and course cuts means that in practice the student union is right wing.

To be clear, the MQ SRC does not have to be apolitical. It is only apolitical because it is controlled by the right. In fact, a motion passed on July 8 to condemn staff cuts is explicitly political, arguing “Students should not have to see their quality of education plummet further for the sake of Macquarie Uni’s business model”, and “the SRC opposes any cuts to academic staff”.

The reason the SRC is irrelevant to students is because it’s controlled by the right, who don’t represent their interests.

Platform

1. Student unions should unequivocally oppose university management. Representing “student interests” means protesting attacks on education, not inviting the VC to meetings.
2. Student unions should be political. They should take positions on events that occur outside the university. For example, they should pass motions in support of Palestinian resistance, condemn the bigoted attacks of the right on LGBTI people and demand refugee justice.
3. SRC meetings should be open to all students. It shouldn’t be up to a chairperson elected by the biggest faction on council to decide which students get to speak or pass motions.

Actions

1. The USYD SRC condemns the Alliance faction of MQ SRC for preventing students from attending meetings, for inviting millionaire VC Bruce Downton to an SRC meeting, and for arbitrarily disallowing discussion on motions relating to Palestinian resistance, LGBTI activism and refugee rights.
2. The USYD SRC will post this motion from its Facebook page.

Discussion:

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion and outlined its main points noting that the SRC at Macquarie is a depressing institution at the moment but there is a movement from re politicising the organisation, they have been preventing engagement by barring students from attending meetings, you have to apply and the chair can just block you from joining and they've blocked motions of political from even being discussed at meeting and had them struck off the agenda and they invited the Vice Chancellor to talk about his perspective on the cuts while still blocking students from speaking, at a university with one of the worst teacher to student ratios.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying that maybe the LTSA got their ideas from the Macquarie University, as their student organisation, also run by the right was dissolved a few years ago after being found to be laundering funds through it. Now for the first time in years there is a left-wing councillor and has been trying to take up the fight against management and the cuts but still the general student population cannot attend meetings or speak. These actions have not only been defended by the liberals and nationals on campus but also Labor Right on campus, but there is a growing opposition to their actions.

Moved: Simon Upitis

Seconded: Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting returned to the standing orders Q8

Q8. Support for campaign to #PayPeopleToStayAtHome

Preamble:

The NSW and Federal governments have entirely failed working people during the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19. Both waged and unwaged workers are put into the situation of having to choose health or their income.

The haphazard lockdown is exacerbated by a situation of no JobKeeper, no Coronavirus Supplement for recipients of social security payments, minimal protection for renters, and unsafe working conditions that encourage the spread. JobSeeker needs to be raised to \$550 a week (\$80 a day) or thousands more lives will be put at risk.

Essential workplaces continue to be a site of heavy COVID-19 transmission. We demand that the welfare and safety of essential workers be prioritised through mechanisms such as improved ventilation and increased PPE

The government is relying on vaccines to get us out of the crisis but has not offered paid vaccination leave for workers. It will be critical for as many people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as possible, especially given the transmissibility of the Delta variant. Free early childhood education is essential and should be maintained beyond the crisis. To get case numbers down people need to be safe from poverty.

AUWU and Living Incomes for Everyone held a press conference on this issue yesterday: <https://honisoit.com/2021/08/workers-and-union-representative-raise-concerns-around-workplace-safety-in-the-pandemic/>

Platform

1. The USyd SRC demands that the NSW and Federal governments increase their support for workers, making people safe from poverty.
2. The USyd SRC supports the demand for paid vaccination leave for all workers.

Actions

1. The USyd SRC supports the campaign to #PayPeopleToStayAtHome
2. The USyd SRC will use its social media pages to publicise any future actions

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion and covered its main points highlighted that it's important that we stand with employed and unemployed workers who are being unnecessarily placed in dangerous working conditions to make sure they can survive, and also campaigning for paid vaccination leave, there is more information in the article linked above.

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion but said it missed the point of fighting the government's plan to open up before the transmission hits zero. The NSW plan is just to let the virus take over and put workers at risk and this motion doesn't take this into account. Hospitals are overwhelmed and this is a more important fight to have as no one is really against welfare and vaccinations.

Lia Perkins responded to Lydia Elias' comments saying that she was not opposed to protecting workers, there are references to increased ventilations and better PPE in the motion, but the point of the motion is focused on a harder lockdown doesn't mean they won't be at work because they are essential workers, they're just going to be more policed and put under more stress. This isn't against your campaign it's a motion dealing with another issue.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion saying that there need to be better welfare and income protections for everyone, but noting that there should be no end to lockdown till zero community transmission. Adding that the campaign to reopen up and put workers lives at risk it just about protecting bosses and profits, and this is dangerous and will led to increased deaths and strains on the hospitals and polls have shown that people are in support of tighter restrictions until covid is

brought down to zero. This should be about supporting workers safety and not protecting bosses profits, the police analogy makes no sense, we don't think that child labour is ok because it would make the child labours life harder if the cops came in to enforce anti-child labour laws. This is about cutting into the bosses ability to exploit workers.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion welfare is very important, but at the moment we are stilling with a virus that is 40 more transmissible than the last year, we're going to be in lockdown for a while and we need to go hard on businesses at the moment, we need to keep schools closed and resist opening up with the idea of living with it because you don't like with it you die. And this needs to be more in line with the lockdown to zero campaign.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the comments section saying this motion is not about the lockdown and the motion seems agnostic on that issue, and that's an issue that can be debated in the next motion on lockdown. It's about increasing welfare regardless of the decisions to open up and aim to incentives people to stay home, and seeing as many of the places that it has spread has been essential places and make sure that people are incentivized to stay home where possible because some places just can't be shut down.

Lily Campbell wanted to address the idea of 'agnosticism' and spoke about the importance of taking a stance on lockdowns. Adding hat she supports all the demands of the campaign but that 1000s of people lives are on the line and welfare alone is not going to be the push back needed to porrect workers and just say we're going to live with it, even though we've reached 0 covid transmission in the past and that's what we should always be aiming for. It's not enough to be agnostic, you've got to take a side when it comes to people lives.

Priya Gupta spoke to the motion saying his is a call for the SRC support for an existing campaign, it doesn't need to be an all encompassing motion, it can be more narrow, even if we go for a hard lockdown angle and if there is a hard lockdown there will still be people who will need to work and we should also be asking for things like this even when supporting a harder lockdown.

Owen Marsden-Readford responded to the comment on agnosticism saying that all these issues are also included in the lockdown to zero campaign, and it also encompasses more and gives a stronger base to make welfare demands from. Echoing comments made by past speakers about support of lockdowns and the importance of fighting for getting to zero because it is possible and it saves lives, a greater lockdown doesn't mean more policing it means tougher restrictions on businesses and bosses.

Tiger Perkins asked about the other consequences of ongoing lockdown with regards to enforcement, and who is being suggested will be enforcing greater lockdowns if not the police and wondered how that could work.

Tom Williams spoke to the debate saying that lockdown is not challenged or enforced only by police but by businesses remaining open. Saying that It's not about making sure people aren't going out of their house but that businesses that do not need to be, do not open. The police aren't the reason people are or aren't going to work it's because places are still open and there is no supports to let them stay home so they have to go to work. This focus on policy enforcement is a

false argument because it takes the idea that we shouldn't have proper public health policy because it may be enforced by the police.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Oscar Chaffey

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q9. Lock Down to Zero - Health Before Profits!

Preamble:

The NSW COVID-19 outbreak which began in June has developed into a public health disaster. The refusal of the NSW Liberals to implement a lockdown in the early stages of the outbreak, alongside the federal government's failure to create adequate quarantine facilities, vaccinate the population and massively expand the public health system, has allowed the virus to spread rapidly throughout NSW. Now, rather than take measures to stop the spread, the Liberals want to abandon the goal of zero transmissions, and are arguing that we must "learn to live with COVID". For tens of thousands of people around the country, this will instead mean suffering and dying with COVID.

To justify this shift, the Liberals cite vaccination rates of 70-80% of the adult population - around 56% of the total population - as the threshold for lifting public health restrictions. While mass vaccination is an important measure to protect the population, we should be clear that the government intends to use vaccination rates not as one part of a broader strategy to reduce transmissions to zero, protecting the lives and health of the majority, but rather as cover for recklessly lifting restrictions in the name of reopening the economy and restarting the flow of profits. We have seen this internationally in countries such as the UK and the US, where opening up at these vaccination rates has resulted in tens of thousands of daily cases, hundreds of daily deaths, and overwhelmed healthcare systems. In particular, the vaccine thresholds cited by the Liberals do not include children under 16, despite mounting evidence that children can catch, spread and die from this virus. New modelling warns that lifting restrictions in Australia with 80% of the adult population vaccinated could result in 25,000 deaths and 270,000 cases of debilitating long covid. We must refuse to accept this dystopian vision of "freedom" for business while the majority of the population pay with their lives.

It is the working class, and in particular the most oppressed and marginalised sections of the working class, who will suffer most if the virus continues to be allowed to circulate in communities. Official figures from the UK indicate that Black people are four times more likely to die of COVID than their white counterparts. In Sydney, it is workers in the south west, many from migrant backgrounds, who are disproportionately affected. In regional NSW, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding as the majority-Indigenous town of Wilcannia battles a COVID outbreak without access to a single ventilator. From the start of the pandemic, Indigenous people have been identified as vulnerable to the virus, the result of systematic racism which sees health services under-resourced and chronic disease more prevalent in Indigenous communities. Despite the increased risk, the government's efforts to ensure profits remain undisrupted has seen them

knowingly endanger these communities, refusing to enforce travel restrictions until well into the outbreak. As Barkindji woman and Wilcannia resident Monica Kerwin-Whyman told the media, “our little vulnerable Aboriginal community has been crying out for a very long time to lock us down, to keep us safe. At the end of the day, they don’t have the facilities here... but nobody, nobody cared until now”. The most pro-working class and anti-racist position is to stand against the Liberals’ pandemic response, which has put the most marginalised sections of society in the firing line.

The key driver of the current outbreak is workplace transmission. As Deputy Chief Health Officer Marianne Gale recently admitted, “transmission is happening between workplaces and households. So for the vast majority of people, it’s not anyone doing the wrong thing.” This reality gives the lie to the Liberals’ attempts to blame the spread of the virus on a lack of compliance with the current health orders - a lie buttressed by the redeployment of police to issue fines in covid-affected areas. These measures have no impact on the key arenas of virus transmission: you cannot police your way out of a pandemic.

Instead, we need strong restrictions on the ability of businesses to subject workers to COVID risks, alongside social measures to reduce the impact of lockdowns on ordinary people, with the aim of driving transmission back down to zero. Many workplaces currently classified as “essential”, such as construction, could be shut down, or at the very least forced to drastically scale back in-person activity. No moves should be made to re-open schools and other workplaces until transmission is reduced to zero; free laptops and internet access can be provided to students studying from home. All workers should be paid their full wage whilst stood down to make it economically possible to stay at home, alongside massive increases to the amount and accessibility of welfare payments.

In those workplaces which are genuinely essential and cannot be shut down, bosses can no longer be permitted to devise their own lax COVID-safety measures at workers’ expense. A swathe of demands can be placed on businesses to protect essential workers, from mandating safe ventilation levels, staggering rosters to reduce contact between groups of workers, providing full fit-tested PPE at bosses’ expense, a move to click-and-collect instead of in-store shopping and priority vaccination with paid leave. These measures, and more like them, should be enforced through strict auditing carried out by NSW Health.

There are many more measures that should be taken. We need huge increases to funding and staffing levels for the public health system, a ramping up of the vaccine roll-out extending to children, and the development of purpose-built quarantine facilities to prevent constant outbreaks and allow for the safe entry of citizens, refugees and migrants to the country. All of these measures should be paid for by taxing the rich.

The government refuses to impose these measures because they would cut into the profit-making capacity of the capitalist class; the left should have no hesitation in taking the side of the working class against them. The Lockdown to Zero: Health Before Profits campaign has been launched to do exactly that, by fighting for these public health measures and an overall strategy of striving for zero transmissions.

The evidence from countries around the world shows that fighting to eliminate COVID is the only way to adequately protect the population before truly overwhelming levels of vaccination are achieved. The assertions of the Liberals that zero COVID is impossible should not be taken as good epidemiological coin. It is political cover for their refusal to properly lock down. The effective reproduction rate of the virus in NSW currently sits at 1.36 - not so high that a proper lockdown couldn't bring it back down under one, a position backed by many epidemiologists and doctors such as the founders of the Zero COVID group. Rather than accepting the calculated fatalism of the Liberals, the left needs to campaign for every possible measure to reduce infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

Nor is an elimination strategy somehow a concession to nationalism: halting the spread of the virus here puts us in the best position to fight the virus internationally, by freeing up health resources to be sent overseas, reducing the potential for new variants to emerge, and setting an important precedent that health comes above the economy.

As well, there is no contradiction between opposition to policing of working class areas and demands for public health restrictions to protect workers' lives. The measures called for are class demands for curtailing the supposed 'right' of bosses to make profits in a deadly pandemic, not a call for increased policing of individual workers' behaviour. The working class movement has a long history of campaigning for state intervention to defend the health, working conditions and rights of the exploited and oppressed by restricting the rights of the capitalists - just take the banning of child labour or the banning of asbestos, or the actions of waterside workers during the last global pandemic, the Spanish flu of the early 1900s, who struck to enforce stronger quarantine restrictions on arriving boats. Moreover, during Victoria's first lockdown, which succeeded in reducing transmissions to zero, defending restrictions on business against the right's attacks, such as the "Unlock Hospitality" campaign organised by the notorious right-wing think tank the IPA, did not preclude the left from criticising the use of police to effectively besiege two public housing towers in Flemington and North Melbourne. We should not accept the arguments pushed by the right that lockdowns are inherently authoritarian; they are a key part of a public health response which places the lives of workers above the freedoms of the bosses.

Majority public opinion is on the side of strong public health measures to drive down the spread of the virus, with recent polling by the Guardian finding that 88% of people surveyed reject a re-opening strategy which would lead to an increase in hospitalisations and deaths, while 58% stated that lockdowns should be maintained until most children are vaccinated. The Liberals, and the ruling class figures they serve, know that they will not be able to win the majority over to their strategy of mass deaths to resuscitate the profits of the rich. Instead, as we've seen elsewhere in the world, they hope to establish this program of mass murder as a *fait accompli*, pushing forward with the reckless lifting of restrictions and forcing ordinary people to resign themselves to the resulting mass infection. Faced with a choice between the bosses' plan to unleash mass infection and death on the population, and the demands of the majority for social solidarity and prioritisation of public health, this SRC must stand firmly on the side of the latter, and support the Lockdown to Zero campaign in continuing to wage the argument for a proper lockdown aiming for elimination of the virus.

Platform:

The USyd SRC:

- Endorses the Lockdown to Zero - Health Before Profits campaign and supports an elimination strategy that aims for zero COVID transmission in the community
- Opposes the Morrison and Berejiklian campaign to open up the economy according to the four-phase plan and "live with the virus"
- Recognises that COVID circulation in the community is the key threat to the health, wellbeing and lives of marginalised and oppressed communities
- Demands a proper lockdown in NSW which closes non-essential businesses including construction and non-essential retail, and keeps schools closed until it's safe
- Demands the immediate implementation of measures to make essential workplaces safe and strict NSW Health auditing of business to ensure this occurs
- Demands an increase in the amount and accessibility of support payments, regardless of visa status. We need to pay people to stay at home
- Demands a massive increase in health funding, hospital and ICU capacity and staffing levels
- Demands immediate measures to raise vaccination levels across Aboriginal and migrant communities, and for children, which is necessary to bring the pandemic under control
- Recognises that striving to eliminate COVID transmission in Australia puts us in the best position to fight the virus internationally, freeing up health resources for deployment in other countries and establishing a precedent of putting health over profits
- Demands purpose-built, Delta-proof quarantine facilities, which can prevent the constant outbreaks caused by leakages, while allowing as many citizens, refugees and migrants as possible to be safely returned

Action:

- The SRC will sign on to the Lockdown to Zero campaign statement
- This motion will be published on the SRC's social media accounts
- The SRC will use its social media to promote Lockdown to Zero campaign events

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion and covered its main points outlining the getting to zero campaign and what it stands for, what it calls for with regards to increasing restrictions and workplace protection and taxing the risk to pay for welfare to protect peoples wellbeing to stay home. People can be stood down from work and finically protected without police enforcement.

Lily Campbell spoke to the motion and responded to the previous debate on enforcement. Saying that the lockdown should not use the police as a part of the pandemic responses it should be public health workers in a public health response, adding that she felt the police are being used more with a lighter lockdown than with a harder one and the government tries to shift blame from themselves and companies onto individuals for the situation and do so by targeting communities with the police rather than targeting businesses breaking public health orders forcing non-essential workers to come into work putting themselves and other at risk. Its

indicative of privilege to oppose a zero transmission policy as who has dies from this? Working class vulnerable people, such as the Indigenous man in regional NSW, not the middle class.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion agreeing with Lily and Eddie's statements and adding that the heavy-handed policing is an excuse by the government to be seen to be doing something rather than locking down big business and risking their profits rather than responding to a public health response. Adding that he works in a public high school and it was the lowest paid workers in the school who were forced to come into the schools while teachers were able to work from home, and were only sent them home when it was mandated by the government, no police were required. The 4 square metre rule is not enforced and therefore many workers at the major super markets are still dealing with stores where social distancing is not enforced.

Roisin Murphy responded to Lily's comment saying that raising the example of the Indigenous man who passed away showed a lack of understanding of the community needs there in relation to the virus. Roisin continued saying that locking down would not have prevented his death, as Indigenous communities work differently to white communities, with overcrowded housing being an issue as well as people moving between addresses, and self-isolating is incredibly difficult and Indigenous health organisations have asked for clear and specific vaccine roll out campaign to combat the virus as there is a lot of hesitance in many communities. Saying that they agreed with locking down to zero but noted that the motion misses some key challenges, such as it's not going to work or be helpful to simply tell Indigenous communities to lockdown. The viewpoint is precocial and the global context is no one else is doing that, and we don't have the quarantine facilities. I want to lock down to zero for their family's safety like many others do but there are many other considerations. Adding that Tom mentioned not letting schools go back but schools are one of Australia's great equalisers and not everyone can be home-schooled as easily not everyone has a computer at home and kids will fall behind. Concluding that they didn't know the right way out but that vaccines play a strong part.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion saying she supported the campaign and that the governments response has been half-hearted from the beginning and there are many things they could have been doing to prevent where we are at, and the government isn't saying where people are getting covid but its from businesses and then to households, and its the businesses the government is looking after. Elimination is possible but the government isn't trying they're just thinking about a business first approach. Hospitals are already over run, people are going to die and there's also going to be sufferers of long covid. There's going to be a two tier system for the rich and vaccinated and the poor and policed.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion citing statistics from the UK in relation to covid with reference to them opening up and the higher likelihood of someone contacting and or dying increasing if the were a person of colour or poor. Adding that this is the style of opening up that the NSW government is advocating for. There should have been a harder lockdown sooner, and this meant that it spread, and not there are so many more at risk people because of the failures to lockdown Sydney, push for an elimination strategy or a proper vaccine roll out. Noting that in the US as school reopened, they're running out of paediatric ICU beds, and that it is good the teachers federation here, have stood in opposition into reopening too soon. Elimination is being treated like a political decision not a health policy.

Oscar Chaffey spoke against the motion saying they didn't believe in them while we get vaccination rates up but that a lockdown to zero campaign was not a class based one, it's just something that support Socialist Alternatives view. Adding that it's deeply offensive to call this a lockdown, it's been handled badly yes but the consequences for people have been lost jobs and the inability to see family members for months. If we are going to lobby a liberal government for something we need to be strategic, and they will be more make a harder lockdown with just more policing and it's not going to curtail the virus and many epidemiologists believe that with the suspected numbers we have of the Delta variant it may not even be possible to get to 0. Covid is spreading because essential workers and workplaces are being exposed and taking it home. These places are not touched by lockdown they are affected by welfare strategies, by increased daftly for worker not police on the street. You can count on one hand the number of diseases we have eradicated on one hand and none are a lung based infection passed by water droplets.

Lydia Elias responded to Oscar Chaffey's comments saying that it is clear they have not read the statement on the issues at all and that it has been eradicated in places, in Victoria, Queensland and China so it can be done, the NSW government just doesn't want to because they want to put profits before workers lives. Asking why is KFC considered essential, where a 15 year who has dies from covid was. Saying that the choices are opening and let people die from the virus or eliminate it and save lives. The NSW vaccination target is 70% adult populations which is only 56% of the actual population, which means children will go to school and not be protected.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion and responded to the general debate. Saying that this is clearly a class question, this is not a question of asking for police enforcement its about the government shutting down nonessential business, which the government keeps refusing to do. By not defining clearly what essential is. Adding that there is no way KFC should be considered essential when workers are dying. Adding that no one has tried to give an aerosol disease because it's not conducive to profits under cmpitlaim.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to th emotion adding again that a 15 year old working at KFC has died, they dies for the sake of KFC and that should not be considered by anyone as ok and that people are trying to cover for the liberal government don't care but the over 100 workers who have died now, many of these thigs are not nutritionally necessary they don't need to be open, not one is going to starve to death because KFC is closed. Regional NSW and metropolitan Sydney should have been shut down sooner so that it didn't get to regional areas at all. Adding that they don't see a reason to believe from and health perspective that it can't be eradicated except the government doesn't want to. Concluding that all evidence from overseas shows we should be wanting to wait longer and not put lives at risk.

Jayfel Tulabing Lee said they don't have a stance on the motion at hand yet but wanted to clear up some information on what the public health orders presently are. Saying that it's not only essential businesses that are open, any business can with a covid safely plan, and on overhanded policing adding that the police don't know the rule well themselves due to internal communication issues and will refer people asking on to services NSW, the overhanded policing is terrible but it's also a part of the governments failures to communicate the public health orders and the complications with them.

Cole Scott-Curwood agreed with Jayfel in that he has not yet come to a conclusion on where he stood on the motion/campaign but that locking down to zero will continue to put a huge strain on people mental health and health care workers too. And that this seems incongruent with the fight only 2 months ago during lockdown about in person elections being so fought for and a getting to zero campaign work together.

Oscar Chaffey responded to previous comments adding that the responses were clearly in bad faith, the argument is not that the motion is calling for more policy presence but that it is mostly how it would be interpreted. Adding that it seems indicative that [other speakers] spoken over a first nations person on this issue, and also that you've called [Oscar] a Stalinist which he is not and a liberal or something else on any given day, and that it's disingenuous to speak as claim you speak on behalf of the working class while ignoring what the working class have been asking for, and supporting something with a scientific argument that is likely impossible. Concluding with If 192 countries don't fully eliminated the Covid19 virus does Australia remain a hermit kingdom forever?

Owen Marsden-Readford responded to Oscar saying that he should read the campaign statement, and that the position has been for over a year there needs to a serious investment in proper quarantine facilities, so that people can be brought in safely. Adding that the reason the virus hasn't been eliminated in many counties is a political reason not a scientific one, and the proposed reopening model there will be many more deaths and that's form the most conservative of the modelling. Adding that there are not more civil liberties in the US or the UK than here there are more deaths, concluding that the working class supports lockdowns.

Lily Campbell responded to the comment that this motion will not be taken as it is intended but as the government would want it to be taken, so it should be strategic not political, saying that logic politician will wilfully dismiss what you mean then you should never demand anything, and you need to demand what you want which is welfare for everyone no deaths and the best hospital system possible. Then ask if the current lockdown was sufficient in their minds even as we see case numbers and deaths rising. Also that most of the changes are responses to industry pressure to open up, and that's what this is fighting against.

Deaglan Godwin saying that lots of other countries should have been fighting for an elimination policy but that capitalism pressures them. Out of it which is why things are worse. This hermit kingdom argument its just whinging about not being able to travel rather than working to eliminate the disease and keep working Australians safe. The Premier keeps talking about freedoms because that's what the capitalist class want.

Khanh Tran saying that they support lockdown and lockdown to 0 but it's important to talk clearly about what vaccination is and how it works because the media has been talking about it like it was a word salad and that the vaccine, even at 1000% will not eliminate the virus, it's about constantly building momentum about what the vaccine does, how it works and what it means because we need to build trust because the consequences are dire otherwise.

Drew Beacom said that he works in hotel quarantine and while it helped keep us safe to suggest they are adequate is a joke while people are unable to see their dying loved ones. Adding that he had not seen his family in months and due to the type of work and added that he was not

advocating for one side or the other, as the situation continues things are always changing. But that we should be listening to epidemiologists not Socialist Alternative on public health policy, that you can just increase restrictions limitlessly and that that won't involve the police seems insane and that much of what is being advocated for here is against what working class communities and refused to recognise that these things are impacting the working class much more than your privileged lives, stop lecturing everyone else.

Eddie Stephenson responded saying that the Doherty report isn't the only modelling that has been done on this and that there are a number of criticisms of the Doherty report as it relies on optimal traces and contact practices and optimal upkeep so social health measure, and still then best-case scenario which is minim 900 deaths too many and worst case 10000s of avoidable deaths, and that is what we are fighting against and that is the science. Poll show that ordinary people do want to maintain the lockdown and keep themselves and their families safe. I don't understand how asking for the government to put pressure on bosses and restrictions on them is somehow an attack on working people.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Lily Campbell

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

There was a break in line with the regulations at 9:15 pm

There was a quorum count at 9:35pm

The meeting was found quorate at 9:40pm

The recording was not saved on return from the break so only a minim of the discussion was recorded.

Q10. Safe and affordable housing now

Preamble:

To keep students living in student accommodation safe from COVID, and support those struggling the most the University must cease using its accommodation for profit. The rent prices of University accommodation has been increasing as student accommodation is sold to private accommodation providers.

The University has a policy of no evictions during the current lockdown, but they have not publicised this to those living in University accommodation. To alleviate the stress and pressure on students, the University should publicise this information.

Furthermore, in 2015, in a submission to the NSW State Government, the University stated that rental rates are "set at an 'affordable' rental price point that is 25% below the PBSA market calculated using a methodology approved by the Australian Tax Office". Recently, the University put QMB, Regiment and the Abercrombie Building into UniLodge's administration with no changes in rents, in fact, in the case of Sydney University Village, rents increased from \$338 to \$358/week. Within a context whereby private PBSA providers are now offering significant rent discounts, for

instance, the cheapest room at UniLodge Broadway now stands at \$199/week for an ensuite single room. Therefore, existing rates at QMB, Regiment, Abercrombie, SUV and even arguably the Terraces are grossly contrary to the University's expressly stated commitments to affordable accommodation.

As hundreds of beds sit empty in University accommodation, a COVID safe plan should be made to use the accommodation as safe and affordable emergency accommodation for those in need. Furthermore, the University should use these flats to house survivors of domestic violence, this is not strange within the higher education sector as Cambridge University reserved some of its rooms for survivors during the peak of England's COVID-19 crisis. Sydney should do the same as rooms go unused.

As many students would know, access to financial support can be difficult to obtain, especially when unfair means testing is used. Like the lockdown in 2020, the University is offering a general bursary for students, but it is only at half the rate. The University should immediately increase this to the 2020 rate, and offer financial support for International Students who are unable to pay their fees.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC demands that the University of Sydney reduce rents for all students living in student accommodation, and maintain rents at well below PBSA market value.
2. The USyd SRC demands that the University of Sydney publicise its policy of no evictions during the current lockdown for students living in University accommodation.
3. The USyd SRC demands that the University of Sydney open up its empty accommodation to students in need, providing safe and affordable emergency accommodation.
4. The USyd SRC demands that the University of Sydney increase its general bursary to \$2000.

Actions:

1. The USyd SRC supports this motion and will campaign to put pressure on the University for these issues
2. The USyd SRC publicise any actions and communicate these issues to students and the community.

Discussion:

Khanh Tran spoke to the motion covering its main points.

Lia Perkins spoke in favour of the motion.

Lauren Lancaster spoke in favour of the motion.

Moved: Khanh Tran

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

Motions from the Floor

R1. Motion to condemn the Coalition Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Bill 2021

Preamble:

Last month, the Coalition government passed an amendment to the Surveillance Legislation Bill, referred to as the Identify and Disrupt Amendment 2021, which gave the AFP and ACIC wide discretionary powers to issue digital accounts (for example, facebook, instagram, gmail) takeover warrants. These warrants would give police investigators and intelligence officers the power to “disrupt data by modifying, adding, copying or deleting data” in online accounts or personal electronic devices of Australian citizens. The Bill does not identify, explain or specify why it is necessary for the AFP or ACIC to wield these powers, and no similar Bill exists in the U.K., U.S.A., Canada or New Zealand. In this way, the Bill is both unwarranted and unprecedented.

This should be of significant concern to the USyd SRC. This Bill enables the policing authorities which fall under the Home Affairs umbrella to defame or disempower journalists, whistle-blowers, activists and ordinary Australians by fabricating and planting data, which otherwise did not exist. It can be used to plant data to implicate someone in criminal activity and even conceivably allows Federal authorities to pose as someone online and propagate views which they themselves otherwise do not hold

It is not unreasonable to suspect that these legal powers will be abused or misused by the government and policing authorities. To contextualise such a claim, let us consider the Minister who wrote the Bill and the party which proposed it.

1. It was written by a minister whose response to Behrouz Boochani’s book (documenting the human rights abuses in offshore detention facilities) was not to facilitate an inquiry into the malpractice on Manus Island, but to legislate an amendment to the Migration Bill. This amendment granted the minister personal authority to confiscate any and all personal belongings of asylum seekers. This would ensure no asylum seeker could ever again record, either by photo media or written word, the laws which the government were breaking in offshore detention.
2. Secondly, this Bill was proposed by the Nationals whose senior state minister John Barilaro recently ordered the violent and sensationalised arrest of journalist Kristo Langker. Langker had recently produced a number of online videos documenting Barilaro’s political corruption and self-perjure on national television during question time. Barilaro personally directed the Fixated Persons Unit, which had initially been formed in response to the Man Monis siege, to detain a journalist whose only crime had been doing his job.

The Coalition has a long history of perverting the law so that it can be used against Australian citizenry. As such, it is not difficult to conceive how this law could be used in the same manner.

The SRC has a clear interest in condemning this bill which will ultimately undermine the freedoms and securities of people in our community, and the students, journalists and activists that the USyd SRC represents. Malevolent and opaque surveillance laws should be of particular concern to us, following the GIPA revelations spearheaded by the Standing Legal Committee and SRC regarding the police surveillance of student activist groups during last year's education organising.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC condemns the actions of the Federal Government in relation to the amendment to the Surveillance Legislation Bill
2. The USyd SRC supports the protection of student privacy and digital autonomy in every way
3. The USyd SRC stands in solidarity with activist collectives at USyd and at other student unions around Australia against disturbing reports of police surveillance and oppression on our campuses.
4. The USyd SRC supports a diverse media and activist landscape free from repressive policing and surveillance by governments and their agencies.

Actions:

1. That the USyd SRC lobby university administration to formally condemn the Bill,
2. That the USyd SRC share relevant information about the Bill and its implications to its official social media platforms
3. That the USyd SRC President open lines of communication with sitting politicians, such as Labor MP Rose Jackson, to urge them to explicitly and officially advocate for students' concerns on our behalf in the House of Representatives

Discussion:

Thomas McMullan spoke to the motion reading out its main points

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion

Roisin Murphy spoke to the motion

Moved: Thomas McMullan

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

There being no further motions the Chair declared the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.