



src activism
advocacy
representation

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**Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney**

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MINUTES:

of the 10th regular meeting of the 93rd SRC held on Wednesday the 10th November 2021. Meeting held via Zoom.

There was a quorum count at 6:18

The meeting was found quorate

A. Meeting open at 6:19 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Lauren Lancaster 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

Lia Perkins to Andy Park

Kristina Sergi to Alexander (Alex) Poirier

Bella D'Silva to Ishbel Dunsmore

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 93rd SRC Council held on **13th October** 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 13th October 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 12th October to the 9th November.

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Swapnik Sanagavarapu tabled a written report:

Final Report of the Year

Wow, here we are. My last ever report as SRC President. After 49 weeks or so, you'll forgive me if this isn't as detailed an account of my monthly activities as it usually is.

I'll start with the boring stuff. Here's just an itemised list of things I've been working on over the past month, most of which don't require any explanation:

1. Trying to restore normal opening hours at the library
2. Attended NUS President's Roundtable
3. Began SSAF negotiations for 2022
4. Assisted Safer Communities with some promo
5. Raised concerns about a potential return to CADMUS, the controversial learning and exam management software
6. Met with OISH to discuss reviving the international student opal card campaign
7. Continued discussions for planning of the reopening of the office

8. Continued improvements to the Legal Service, including the recruitment of summer paralegals
9. Began handover to Lauren

Now for a little bit of sentimentality (not too much, you've already got my grand leaving statement with all our accomplishments for the year in my Honi report). It has been a joy and an honour to be SRC President this year. It's certainly been the most fulfilling year of my life so far, and it's challenged me and changed me in ways that I never expected. I'd like to thank the staff, all the office bearers, the Exec and the Council - without all of you, this year would have been far more difficult. I'd also like to thank all those students that reached out to me over the year, raising issues and helping me with advocacy. I think we had some tremendous successes and victories, all of which I attribute to the SRC's uncompromisingly staunch attitude at every turn.

In the end, I hope that I'll be remembered as a successful SRC President - I apologise if any promises were unfulfilled or any work was left undone. I'm so excited to see Lauren take over the reigns and to see what the 94th Council accomplishes.

I'll finish by leaving you with a quote from Paulo Freire, which exemplifies an attitude that I think we ought all have: *"The more students work at storing the deposits entrusted to them, the less they develop the critical consciousness which would result from their intervention in the world as transformers of that world. The more completely they accept the passive role imposed on them, the more they tend simply to adapt to the world as it is and to the fragmented view of reality deposited in them."* I hope that the SRC continues to be a transformer of the world even after this Council leaves it.

Yours truly,

Swapnik Sanagavarapu

93rd President of the University of Sydney Students' Representative Council.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to their report.

Lauren Lancaster thanked Swapnik Sanagavarapu for his time and assistance throughout the year which has been a very challenging one, and for the set up next year, and that there are fights that never cease as part of the movement but also as we're coming up to a federal election and we'll continue to keep fighting next year.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Oscar Chaffey

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Maria Ge and Roisin Murphy tabled a written and gave a verbal report:

Regular work in the past one month

- work with caseworkers regards promotion and translation of Mental health events
- attended Mental Health Campaign groups meetings and finished some handover of the work
- kept answering and collecting students questions and was happy to hear their feedbacks
- attended regular committees and kept focusing on VPN issue
- advised newly elected office bearers who turned to me with over 5000 words
- hand over of work with International Student Officer and Global Solidarity officer towards preparation of orientation week
- handover of work with the Student Housing officers for next year towards the rental problems confronted by the international students

This years has been very busy but extremely fulfilling for me. I am excited to find that some changes have really happened. The Information barriers for not only international students but also all the students have been reduced. But there is still a long way to go.

In the end, I'd like to say I'm eternally grateful for the year I've enjoyed here. I am impressed by the people I met here, by your passion at work, your faith in what you believe, your execution, and your kindness. Vice Presidents have many invisible work, and I have been confronted with various challenges. When my belief was shocked, one reason that I want to stay is because I really loves the atmosphere here. I really enjoy working with you guys and I really learned a lot from you guys. I think I will even miss the intensely debates in our meetings, miss the way you stand up for what you believe. Thanks Julia for never getting tired of my endless questions, you really help me a lot. Thanks everyone for trusting me and supporting my work when I was in need. Hope SRC always the place to help, to support, to represent and to advocate all the students.

Best wishes to the newly elected office bearers. Hope you enjoy your journey here.

Yours sincerely

Maria

Roisin Murphy gave a verbal report:

- Focus on GCS cuts campaign
- Thanks Swapnik Sanagavarapu for all the help this year
- Been a difficult year with lockdowns
- Important to have left wing people in administrative roles
- Roisin Murphy read out a letter from a friend about the SRC and student politics

Maria Ge spoke to her report

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Anne Zhao and Priya Gupta tabled a written report

ANNE

Attending meetings regularly to discuss student welfare and student rights. Internal Gen Exe meeting, SLC and other meetings. In particular, I am focusing on international students arrival pilots and supporting students with transition to life in Sydney.

Assisting the future SRC budget application and other staff.

Continue supporting individual cases of students, consulting and referring them to the correct services.

Other than this month's work, we worked on SSAF fee application, Oweek preparation and stall welcome, CWAM campaign,, translation work with our caseworkers and make promotions for SRC events in general such as the four welcome lectures in the Semester 2 would be some work I have done. Working with Swapnik, my co-worker Priya, SRC staff and other OBs to liaise with different SRC departments and make many events possible. Besides, I decided to put more effort on international students' related work.

Moreover, co-work with OISH for 4 events and leading the Chinese table talk to engage many usyd international students to speak out about their story really impressed me.

Assisting a lot of international student OB in familiarising with SRC work and individual consultations with them make me see the future of international students in fighting for their own rights. And I will continue to work on programs that would benefit the study life of international students and fight for their rights. Though several opal card campaign meetings does not make the campaign come true for this year (covid of course a big barrier), the meeting in the next few days will be the sign for next year fighting continuously.

I will continue to work on the international student pilot program to make sure the international students have been well served since the pre-arrival period.

Furthermore, I would say there is still a huge gap between local students and international students. I was not super welcomed by some of the departmental projects (thanks tho for knowing I am busy and don't want to disturb but very happy to participate. And thanks to those who invited me!!!) nor were I aware of some submissions to the university until the last minute. But I do see some changes after we work together for the whole year, communication is super important. And if we do speak out, there are always some people who listen. Thanks for Swapnik's consultation, Priya as my working buddy always covers my disadvantages in english literacy, Maria and Roi for the co-work together, as well as Maddy and Tom in orientation handbook collaboration and later communication, Khan when we worked within the International student

tuition fee rebate campaign together, Amelia and Kimmy for your support in many things and many more other OBs. It makes me see that SRC, as a whole, represents the whole undergraduate study body, works as student activism, and advocates for student benefits.

I understand all of us are very busy this year and I believe next year can be a greater year for SRC as many people are working super hard to convince more communications between local and international student staff. Many of future SRC office bearers, and include Lauren, the next year president and we have happily agreed to make the SRC a more international- student welcomed council and we as a united force work even closer next year.

Lastly, this is not a stop but just a new beginning for all of us, whoever gonna leave, keep staying or just showing up.

A generous goodbye to the SRC, thanks for all the working collaboration, and best wishes for next year's council :)

PRIYA

For my last council report of the year, I have outlined below what I am currently working on and have recapped some of the work I have been proud of this year.

Currently/recently:

- Activism: supporting and helping organise the EAG's Student General Meeting, and Women's Collective's Rally Against Sexual Assault on Campus
- SSAF: We have begun the application for base funding for next year (yes it also seems to have come around incredibly quickly to me) with the next exec.
- Rad Ed week: coming to a close this week with the last session being a workshop on Disability Justice tomorrow (Thursday) at 6pm
- Preparing handover for the next Gensecs/Exec/OBs

Some highlights of the year:

- Supporting activism, particularly through the Education Action Group, Welfare Action Group, and Women's Collective. These collectives have run very staunch and impressive campaigns and have mobilised students for a range of issues despite the new lockdown heightening everyone's online organising fatigue. This includes the major win of opposing the 12 Week Semester proposal and fighting back part of the uni's current slate of course cuts.
- Success of the Radical Education series! We have received wonderful feedback from students who found the sessions to be interesting, varied, relevant, and practical to attend!
- SSAF
 - Because of the challenges and multiple rounds of applications for Base SSAF at the start of the year, when our application was finally accepted it was a very sweet accomplishment

- Contestable SSAF applications - these passed without fuss and secured the SRC funding to carry out a number of important projects! Some, like the funding to pay a manager of the Foodhub project, didn't get realised this year because of the lockdown, but I am excited to see those funds being used next year to improve the scope and effectiveness of the FoodHub and continue providing essential food services to students. Others like funding for the Women's Collective Radical Sex and Consent Education Week, were used to great effect!
- COVID WAM petition - This wasn't quite a highlight because the university refused to implement the COVID WAM for 2021 S2, or the other demands we made for a compassionate response to the lockdown. However, we did force some concessions from the university and our agitating led to the university communicating to teaching staff that they should be lenient with accepting simple extensor and special cons request, and waiving attendance requirements where appropriate. I hope that these changes benefit students and allow for some leeway during this semester, but of course I urge students who have been struggling academically or otherwise during the current lockdown to get in contact with the SRC Caseworkers if in need of any support.
- Promoting the SRC and it's collectives - I am proud of our work at the very start of this year, from our effective Welcome Week presence, the comprehensive Orientation Handbook, and the faculty orientations that I/other SRC members attended and spoke at. The SRC still has a long way to go until all students are aware of our associated collectives and services but I think we helped inch it further out from our Wentworth basement and into the minds of students.

Good luck to all incoming OBs and feel free to reach out to us if you need any help!

Both Priya Gupta and Anne Zhao spoke to their report

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

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

October Summary:

Over the past month we have had an action roughly every week.

The month started with the gender and cultural studies (GCS) action. Despite the rain there was good attendance as one of the first in person demonstrations back. Staff and students spoke out against the austerity and restructuring of the draft change proposal, and Tom spoke about the need to oppose management and unite with other students instead.

This was followed by the “Haunting of USyd” video stunt. This was a highly creative and dramatic affair that portrayed the crimes and figures of USyd upper management as Halloween monsters, that were overcome by an organised student fightback. (Spoilers)

The week after was by far the highlight though, with the success of the SGM. More than 270 students and staff turned out to oppose the cuts across the entire university. We passed a motion explicitly opposing management’s attempts to slash education, from the specific arts cuts to the spill and fills and committing to supporting the union next year. The motion passed with an overwhelming 205 in favour. Staff and student speakers clearly outlined the severity of the situation at university - it is clear that crisis is real, and it is now, and we must keep fighting.

We followed this up a week later with a lively in person protest under the new “No Usyd Cuts” to keep up the momentum in person. There were more than 70 students in attendance, and we heard some rousing and inspiring speeches about the importance of students coming out of classrooms and fighting for their education. We gave the outgoing Dean a pair of oversized scissors as an early Christmas present. Hopefully their questionable construction sabotages her efforts to cut more, however it is more likely the determined protest that accompanied the stationery handover will halt further attempts at austerity.

Year Summary:

Overall, the education campaign year has been steadily growing to fight back against mounting attacks on higher education. This opposition has swelled in response to mounting attacks, and the campaign has demonstrated a broad hatred to austerity, to the attacks on education uni-wide, and also a hatred of the bosses who orchestrate them.

In both semesters, we had clear highlights when students and staff turned out in numbers to fight back. In first semester this was the “save the arts” rally, where several hundred of us took the fight away from the grim consultations and back onto campus grounds. In second semester, the SGM mobilised over 270 who committed to oppose all cuts and fight into next year. These demonstrations really show what kind of fight we need to win a university free of the pests at the top.

A clearly oppositional approach towards management has been essential this year. Rowdy and confrontational demonstrations have been energising and have shown how students can fight to win. These protests have shown how it’s students vs bosses. We can see that management are profiting off the destruction of education, and the consequence of rejecting their ambiguity is a broad and determined opposition. We have reached many previously unengaged students on a solid political foundation, which helps to set up for the future. The consultations in 1st semester were demotivating and ineffective. Protests and possibly strikes are clearly the complete opposite. There is a very clear enemy perpetrating these attacks on higher education. This enemy is the vice chancellors, the deans and the university bosses who leech off students and staff for their own sake. The EAG has been involved in state-wide forums and from those we can see that these positions are inherently wrapped up in selfish greed, climate destruction, war profiteering and profits for the private sector bosses.

Going into next year it will be crucial to keep up the fight and boost the campaign with a solid, oppositional foundation. We have seen that the University has money and it will take any chance

to cry poor. Huge surpluses in the arts and across the whole university that were unveiled this year are an explicit admission of this fact. Just this week, in a squid-game-esque display, the university has rewarded the staff, those who were not the several hundred made redundant, with \$2000, a feeble admission that the university is not going broke.

We cannot allow the greedy parasites at the top to continue their campaign to steal away education for their own security and pockets, and we know that protests and strikes are the way to put it to a halt. Staff and also students are the crucial components of the university.

Finally, the growth of the campaign this year was by no means guaranteed. It has depended upon the deliberate actions of many people, and the conclusions of many debates about how we fight for our education. The growth of the campaign has come down to the passion, anger and actions of students and staff, and especially the leadership of many dedicated EAG activists especially the incoming education officers and revolutionary socialists. From clearly articulating arguments about how we should progress, who is to blame and why these attacks are happening, to doing the work necessary to build broad actions in a reliable and often highly creative way, it has been deliberate involvement that led to successes such as the SGM.

I really encourage everyone who has been involved this year to stick around, and to keep on fighting. We've had many protests, forums and actions before during and after lockdown. On campus, online, from state-wide forums to NUS Education Conference (EdCon), as well as the regular meetings and working groups, but there will be even more next year. The crisis is real, and it is now, but so too is the opposition to this orchestrated crisis. We personally wish Deaglan and Lia the best in their role next year and are excited to be involved in the Education Action Group in 2022.

Both Tom Williams and Madeleine Clark spoke to their report

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

02. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Kimberly Dibben and Amelia Mertha tabled a written report

Thank you all who came along to today's rally to stand together in the fight against sexual violence on campus, on placement and in the workforce. We demand:

- 1. An end to sexual violence on campus, on placement, and in student housing**
- 2. Release the USyd results of the NSS Survey**
- 3. More funding & resources to survivor support on campus**
- 4. Increase academic support & flexibility for survivors**
- 5. Support students on placement** (compassion training for all supervisors, no consequences for disclosing, accessible and specific protocols for reporting)
- 6. Abolish the colleges - provide safe & affordable student housing**

7. Earlier, ongoing, holistic sex education
8. Cops off campus - police perpetuate violence. We keep us safe

We will spend the final weeks of this month finalising finances and working closely alongside the incoming women's officers Monica McNaught-Lee and Maddie Clark to impart whatever wisdom and guidance we can. We are both so proud of the members of this brilliant and staunch collective. The radical, radiant spirit of campus feminist organising will absolutely continue in WoCo in 2022.

Take care of each other.

Signing off,

Amelia and Kimmy

Amelia Mertha spoke to their report.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Welfare Officers

Welfare action group

- This year has been an important year to fight for the rights of students, the unemployed and everyone else discriminated against in the welfare system.
- With the revival of the USyd Welfare Action Group I'd like to congratulate Grace and Eamonn on their election as convenors and Welfare OBs!
- We are holding an end of year reading group and picnic after exams
- Our stickers have arrived - for public housing and to pay people to stay at home

Education activism

- The Education Action Group held a student general meeting on Wednesday 27th Oct. I have been involved in building the SGM and co-chaired the meeting. Over 270 people zoomed in and passed the motion. Students made it clear we are entirely opposed to any cuts, mergers or restructures in FASS, business and dentistry. Get involved with the EAG and 'No USyd Cuts' campaign.
- The EAG and No USyd Cuts campaign also held a rally last week and we handed over a 'gift' to Annemarie Jagose and the others in F23.

Actions and statements

- I attended the Justice for JC rally a couple of weeks ago which was an important day of action across the country called by JC's family, in response to the acquittal of her murderer. There are more stop black deaths in custody rallies coming up over the next few weeks and it is important that they are supported by students.

- The COP26 rally on Saturday was an important revival of the environmental movement and in opposition to the climate crimes being committed in Glasgow.

Housing

- Hands off Glebe held their first event in a few months, an online rally, which we will continue to support.
- Welfare action group members went to the community picket last Friday
- I spoke at the Rad Ed series panel on housing, alongside housing activists, and you can watch the recording on the SRC youtube page. There are other great rad ed events up there

Lia Perkins

Welfare report:

Sudan:

The revolution for democracy in Sudan has reignited. A military coup on the morning of October 25 was met with strikes, street barricades and massive protests. This is a continuation of the heroic rebellion which forced the resignation of two dictators in 2019. The working class and popular organs of the revolution called Resistance committees have played central roles. The bravery of the Sudanese revolution demands our solidarity. In Sydney, there was a solidarity protest on October 30th which coincided with a mammoth day of protests in Sudan called the 'Millions March'. It was great to attend and there will hopefully be more solidarity demonstrations planned soon as the revolution continues.

Victory to the revolution!

LGBTI+ activism:

On Sunday the 31st of October, Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) held a protest against the bigot premier Perrottet. It was invigorating to get out on the streets again against the liberals and their homophobia. By now, it has become clear that the Liberals are planning to table the federal 'religious freedom' bill in Parliament before the end of the year. This bill is not about protecting religious minorities, it's about giving a minority of bigots the right to discriminate. CARR will be having a protest in the beginning of December to mobilise opposition to the bill. People should try and make it as big as possible.

Other activism:

The student general meeting hosted by the EAG was a triumph. It was great to attend and congratulations to those who put in the hard yards behind the scenes. Similarly, the COP26 rally over the weekend was a good start to the return of in-person climate protests. As Greta says, we cannot afford anymore 'blah, blah, blah'. We need to fight for the total shutdown of the fossil fuel industry and a just transition. I also attended the Justice for JC rally a couple of weeks ago. The acquittal of the cop that murdered her is yet another reminder of the deep racism of the Australian state.

2021 has been another year of capitalist horror but also inspiring mass resistance. From the uprising in Palestine, to the revolution in Myanmar to our own struggles here, the working class

and oppressed of the world have fought back heroically. Let's hope 2022 sees more resistance and more struggle as we continue to fight against the brutal capitalist system.

Owen Marsden-Readford

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to his report

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

2021 has been a busy year for the Global Solidarity office. Earlier in the year, we saw protests in Palestine against the Israeli state's brutal repression and occupation in some of the most inspiring and mass demonstrations in years. The forced dispossession of Sheikh Jarrah and the political repression at the Damascus Gate provoked weeks of heroic pitched battles.

However, for us here, the protests in Palestine generated an outpouring of solidarity and has shifted people's thoughts about the occupation of Palestine. I was proud to organise and be a part of weeks of rolling demonstrations on and off campus with thousands of overs to show support for the Palestinian cause. I petitioned about it on campus and it was great to see so many students appalled by what was happening, but also fired up and ready to protest. This goes to show that students can be mobilised into protest on political grounds and take up social justice causes. The many protests we held got bigger and better, showing how important it is to be involved with Palestine activism and amass layers of Palestine activists so that when Palestine revolts against oppression again, we have the forces to join them and build a large solidarity movement.

I was also a part of the education campaign against arts cuts this year, when university management announced some of the most brutal cuts for years where up to one-third of arts courses could be on the chopping block. I went to EAG organising meetings and events and built the Student General Meeting. The attacks are far from over and going into 2022, we'll need to keep up the momentum. The management isn't going to negotiate. We can only win and stop these cuts by uncompromising, radical activism that forces management back.

Recently, I have also been involved with Campaign Against Racism and Fascism to combat the growing far-right in Sydney. The far-right have flourished through the legitimacy granted by the government's anti-lockdown, 'let it rip' strategy and reckless re-opening that puts the economy ahead of public health and human life. The far-right can only be pushed back through mass opposition and rallies. I have been helping to build a protest against the far-right, who are mobilising on November 20. It is important to build a confrontational movement to challenge the far-right wherever they rear their heads so they feel under-confident to mobilise publicly.

Next year, I plan to keep fighting about whatever issues arise, both on campus, off campus and internationally. With the recent protests against the military junta in Sudan and the pandemic raging across the world, there will still be a lot coming up to fight for.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Drew Beacom

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Social Justice Officers

No USyd Cuts!

After a big month of dogged work lecture-bashing, ringing through countless petitions, mass-emailing and texting and using every avenue available to us in an online semester to build it, the Student General Meeting against the cuts at USyd, which I was lucky enough to co-chair, was a major success. More than 280 attendees came along to hear from staff and students fighting against the corporate uni, and to vote up a motion opposing all of management's attacks on our university. At the SGM the No USyd Cuts campaign was launched to continue the fight against the numerous profit-mongering change proposals on the table across the university - something to keep building as the term winds up and we enter the holidays to make sure we come back next year on a war footing. In a difficult semester for education activism the EAG has really ended the year on a high note, and it's been really excellent to be part of that activism this year.

Protesting Perrottet

With Berejiklian resigning in disgrace from the premiership of NSW we've been faced with a new Liberal ruling class warrior at the head of our state government: Dominic Perrottet, a right wing ideologue who has recklessly fast-tracked the easing of health restrictions in a bid to restart profits, bemoans the supposed destruction of the nuclear family by Australia's "delinquency"-encouraging welfare system, and notoriously asserted his allegiance to "freedom, faith, flag, family and free markets" in a speech on the future of conservatism. The appointment of such a vile bigot has rightly repulsed left-wing people across the state. Community Action Against Rainbow Rights, which I've been proud to be involved in throughout my term, called a rally to oppose Perrottet for his anti-LGBT+ bigotry and broader defence of the oppressive and exploitative status quo of Australian society. We don't need to wait for renewed attacks to know that Perrottet is the enemy of everything good in the world, and his appointment will no doubt deliver a fillip of confidence to attempts on the state and federal level to claw back the gains made by LGBT+ activists in the past five years. On the 31st of October we fired a shot across the bow on behalf of the left, and we'll be back out on the streets again to oppose the federal religious discrimination bill in December.

Real zero not net zero: protesting COP26

I've also been a part of building the international day of protest against the greenwashing-fest known as COP26 - the first major climate protest since lockdown, and part of a welcome shift in the environmental movement towards opposing the hot air and smoke-and-mirrors pledges that

characterise the climate conferences of world leaders. Though Australia, as one of the world's fossil fuel capitals, stands out as particularly egregious in the lengths to which our government will go to avoid impinging on the ability of massive fossil fuels and agricultural companies to turn a buck, the cynicism of supposed 'climate heroes' such as Biden, who sign green pledges with one hand while handing out oil permits with the other, cannot be overstated, and it was important to get out on the streets to demand an immediate halt to the rampant climate destruction built into capitalism.

Eddie

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to their report

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Environment Officers

Drew Beacom

- Challenges with policies and climate actions are still really hard and things feel like they are getting worse
- Leaving knowing that the environmental and student movements are strong
- Built a strong collective
- We ran the first SGM of the year
- Promise to continue this fight
- Would like to thank the other officer bearer's activism and collective members
- Excited to see how next year's officers go!

Lauren Lancaster

- Difficult to conceive activism in lockdown
- Been amazing work with other organisations and groups in building the campaigns and keep the movement growing
- Been great to take the anger at the lack of action by governments and channel that into something productive
- Thanked the co environment officers.

Deaglan Godwin

- Protest on the weekend on Cop26 was good, nothing like Glasgow but was still great to see such a great mix of people
- COP26 has proven what a farce it is and Scott Morrison has come back believing more than even in corporate capitalism
- The climate crisis is just one of many that we are facing as millions of working-class people are sacrificed on the altar of profits

- Need to maintain an uncompromising attitude to the ruling classes be it government or university management and that hope it with real people fighting for change from the ground up
- Continue to hold onto uncompromising political revolutionary belief of coming together and fighting those in power.

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

Motion: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Riley Vaughan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Procedural motion to move Q1 to the end section of Q.

Moved: Roisin Murphy

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The procedural was put and CARRIED.

Q2. Australia must stop deporting refugees to danger

Preamble

The following is a statement published by the Tamil Refugee Council:

Prior to the pandemic, almost 50,000 people who had arrived in Australia by plane and whose asylum claims had been rejected were awaiting deportation. Currently, almost 12,000 additional refugees who arrived by boat and hold bridging visas are at risk of deportation. There are several tens of thousands more on other temporary protection visas who cannot settle because the threat of future deportation hangs over them.

Many have fled countries and situations that are unsafe, such as Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Iran. The dangers are particularly acute for ethnic minorities and political dissidents and activists. In many places, the situation has been made more perilous by the pandemic. Vaccines are in dangerously short supply and civil strife in some countries has increased.

Australia is a signatory to the refugee convention, the foundation of which is the principle that people should not be returned to countries in which their "life or freedom would be threatened". Yet, over the last two decades, Australian governments repeatedly have breached this principle, taking all kinds of measures to deny people's claims and deporting refugees to death, torture, arrest and/or harassment in a host of countries.

Of the 46 refugees locked in Melbourne's Park Hotel, nearly half have now contracted COVID. These men have survived persecution in all corners of the world - they have fled imperialist war in Afghanistan, theocracy in Iran and genocide in Sri Lanka. But now, after up to 8 years of detention, and with many suffering from underlying health conditions, they are being subjected to the virus' delta strain from within small unventilated hotel rooms. Vaccination rates for refugees are far below the rest of the population, with only 17% being fully vaccinated by this September. This indefinite torture is playing out against the backdrop of a city which recently celebrated its own "Freedom Day". The same political elite who cried crocodile tears over deteriorating mental health in order to justify the reopening of the economy, are the same people who depend upon these imprisoned refugees as political pawns. The horror at Park Hotel is replicated across the country, in Brisbane's Kangaroo Point, among the 107 refugees still on Nauru, and the 200 a Broadmeadows detention centre also in Melbourne, where refugees - some of whom are living among cancer patients - have tested positive to COVID.

This practice must stop. Australia should no longer deport people who have well-founded fears for their safety and well-being.

<https://dontdeporttodanger.org/>

Platform

To ease the uncertainty and suffering of refugees in Australia, we call on the federal government to:

1. Urgently cease deportations of asylum seekers, both scheduled and underway.
2. Abolish temporary protection visas and grant permanent protection to all TPV holders to remove the threat of future deportation.
3. Release asylum seekers from detention and transit accommodation centres.
4. Enact an amnesty for asylum seekers currently deemed "unlawful non-citizens".

Action

1. The University of Sydney SRC will sign on to the above statement
2. The University of Sydney SRC urges all elected office bearers and councillors to sign on to the statement
3. The University of Sydney SRC will share the statement through its social media platforms
4. The University of Sydney SRC will provide material support to the "Don't Deport Refugees to Danger" campaign, initiated by the Tamil Refugee Council

Moved: Annabel Pettit

Second: Andy Park

Discussion:

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion

Andy Park spoke to the motion

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion

Moved: Annabel Pettit

Seconded: Andy Park

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q3. No USyd Cuts!

Preamble

The Student General Meeting on October 27 was a roaring success, with over 280 participants zooming in and the motion passing with almost unanimous support. The success of the meeting was made possible by both the generalised anger amongst students against specific cuts to their courses as well as the tireless effort put in by many activists in the Education Action Group. Students that organised in their clubs and societies and Gender and Cultural studies students played an important role in building for the SGM. The SGM allowed us to not only explain the severity of the cuts, but to build student and staff solidarity, and to articulate the strategy needed to take on university management.

The Revised Change Proposal dropped last week and it indicates that management are refusing to budge and are committed to slashing courses in order to ensure the profitability of their faculties. To put a stop to management's austerity plans we need to continue the fight. The work of so many students made the SGM a success and we need to continue to explain to students why it's important that they get involved.

The EAG and the SRC need a unified and specific campaign to continue waging the fight against university management. By bringing the campaign under one umbrella, in the form of the No USyd Cuts campaign, students will feel part of the ongoing battle and hopefully become active participants in the campaign. In many ways, this is just a formalisation of the work EAG activists have already been doing all semester, which has involved trying a whole host of strange and wonderful methods to reach out to as many students as possible. But at the same time, it also signifies an intention to continue with the campaign, to extend it to include all faculties, and to coordinate our efforts so that we can strike more powerfully against management.

Platform

1. The USYD SRC endorses the No USyd Cuts campaign run by the Education Action Group.
2. The USYD SRC will assist EAG activists and the Education Officers in the running of this campaign in every way possible.
3. The USYD SRC endorses a rally to be held in Week 1 of Semester 1, 2022.

Action

1. The USYD SRC approves for the campaign funding for the following: \$3,000 worth of tshirts, \$300 worth of badges, \$500 worth of stickers, \$100 worth of Facebook advertising.
2. The USYD SRC will share the No USyd Cuts Facebook page and graphic.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion

Priya Gupta spoke to the motion

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion

Tom Williams spoke to the motion

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion

Amelia Mertha spoke to the motion

Drew Beacom spoke to the motion

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q1. Solidarity with Bloom — two-year *Honi* terms now!

Preamble

As Australia's oldest and only weekly student newspaper, *Honi Soit* plays a vital role in University life, holding management to account and supporting staff, students and the community at large. It is essential that its editors are supported in this mission and are able to discharge the duties of their office to the best of their abilities.

Currently, editors serve one-year terms. The intense learning-on-the-job nature of the editorial position means that the first half of an *Honi Soit* term is typically replete with missteps and missed opportunities. It is traditionally only in the second half of the year that editorial teams find their feet and settle into the role, yet one-year terms mean that editors are forced to retire just as they reach their prime, robbing the student body of experienced editors until the following editorial team feels similarly comfortable one year later. This has been the experience of numerous tickets in recent years.

The editors elected under the Bloom for Honi ticket are very sad at having to leave because they love *Honi Soit* very much. For these reasons, they have begun a campaign to implement two-year *Honi Soit* terms. *Honi Soit* has had a strong year this year, with the highest ever number of annual website views, and if two-year terms are implemented, will surely have an even stronger 2022.

SRC President Swapnik Sanagavarapu has already implied support for the campaign, having previously said: "I support [...] two [...] year [...] *Honi* [...] terms." As an organisation dedicated to fighting for the interests of students, the SRC must stand with current and future editorial teams and grant them two-year terms that allow editors to fully harness the role and their own abilities.

Platform

1. The SRC supports the *Honi Soit* editorial team in their fight for two-year terms.
2. The SRC thanks the editors of *Honi Soit* for doing a good job.
3. The SRC resolves to increase editorial stipends next year.

Action:

1. The SRC will take solidarity photos supporting the *Honi Soit* editors.
2. The SRC will consider constitutional amendments to implement two-year *Honi Soit* terms.
3. The SRC will allow Bloom editors to remain in the *Honi Soit* office beyond 1 December 2021 while these considerations take place.
4. The SRC will pay for solidarity pizza to be sent to the *Honi Soit* office.

Discussion:

Note: this motion is currently unconstitutional

Oscar Chaffey spoke about Honi's extra edition this week and was disappointed that they were involved in allowing this extra edition was anti-student
(Against the motion)

Roisin Murphy spoke about the motion and the extra edition of Honi – read out from the editorial
Spoke about what student elections mean to the student paper

Annabel Pettit submitting a satirical motion when there are other things to discuss, but if we're going to talk about Honi let's talk about their puff piece on Mark Scott, or pro-military pieces.

Yasmine Johnson spoke about the AUKUS article Honi wrote and spoke about the responses of other conservative medias responses to past SRC motions. Spoke about the future of Honi

Lauren Lancaster spoke against the motion and spoke about the AUKUS article and said they looked forward to never hearing from them again.

Moved: Deandre Espejo

Seconded: Shania O'Brien

The motion was put and **FAILED**

R. General Business

R1. USYD must ensure health and safety for staff and students

Preamble:

Face-to-face learning is set to resume on campus next year; as such, USYD should take steps now to ensure that adequate health protections are in place. It is a basic right for workers and customers of any workplace to have adequate health and safety measures in place. WHS measures must be implemented, no matter the cost or how onerous they might be for the university. It is a crime for construction workers to enter a site without a hardhat, and unthinkable for healthcare workers to enter hospitals without full PPE. It should also be unthinkable for universities to expect staff and students to attend a campus that has not taken sufficient measures to protect their health.

It is important for the SRC to take up campaigning around these issues to demand a safe workplace for staff. There has already been a case confirmed in October in the Carslaw learning hub.

A 'vaccine-plus' approach should be taken. Vaccinations are a key part of any strategy of limiting the transmission and deadliness of COVID-19. A double dose of a TGA approved vaccine has been demonstrated to dramatically decrease a person's chance of either hospitalisation or death from the virus. The NSW government should require that students and staff be fully vaccinated in order to attend campus. Barring this, USYD should find ways of enforcing the current vaccine mandate that exists.

But vaccines alone are not enough. Research has indicated that there needs to be many more measures implemented to lower the risk of transmission. Organisations such as OzSage have made clear that extra preventative measures need to be taken to limit infection, such as addressing the poor ventilation systems that have facilitated the spread of COVID-19.

Serious social distancing should be in place across the university, with changes made to allow for this. Class sizes should be decreased to allow for safe social distancing, with more staff hired to make this practical. Staff need to be allowed working from-home rights on request.

In the current Covid-19 Safety Plan, the University states that "gatherings at the University for normal business purposes (research and educational activities) are exempt from the 2/4 meter square rule under the current and previous Public Health Orders... the 2/4 square meter rule has not been applied to room/facility capacities".

The following demands aim to ensure that when students and staff return to campus, they can do so with minimal risk to their health and safety. Such demands should be the foundations of any campus policy that prioritises public health over profits. These demands are not counterposed to

student learning conditions - the right to a safe learning environment is a fundamental part of the fight for a quality education.

Platform:

- The SRC recognises that health measures and student learning conditions are not counterposed and rejects the pro-boss idea that workers should be made to work in an unsafe workplace or that students be made to learn in an unsafe environment.
- The SRC recognises that USYD is one of the largest workplaces in the city and that the fight of the NTEU for workplace health and safety is central to the question of Covid on campus.
- The SRC will support any NTEU staff action taken in the fight for health and safety on campus. The SRC will support the NTEU in their fight for work-from-home rights for all staff.
- The SRC demands USYD implement an independent audit of air quality for every building, with the results made available immediately to the NTEU and the SRC, in addition to an independent audit of air quality for all student accommodation, with the results made available immediately to the SRC.
- The SRC demands that USYD ensures that all teaching spaces and other facilities are equipped with proper air filtration (HEPA filters), if buildings or rooms are found to be lacking.
- The SRC demands that constant air quality monitoring be introduced to buildings at USYD, and that buildings be vacated if CO₂ levels get above 800 ppm.
- The SRC demands that the university make N95, or, failing that, KN94 respirators free and readily available to staff and students on campus.
- The SRC demands USYD hire additional staff to cope with reductions in class sizes resulting from social distancing requirements, as smaller class sizes for lectures and tutorials will improve safety for students and staff.
- The SRC demands USYD hire additional cleaning staff to improve the sanitary condition of the campus, including the sanitising of classrooms and high touch surfaces, as well as COVID assistance officers to ensure students and staff on campus have adequate access to PPE and that social distancing can be enforced.
- The SRC demands that the university institute and fund Rapid Antigen Testing on campus and paid isolation and sick leave for casual, fixed term and permanent staff.

Action Points:

- The SRC will communicate these health and safety demands to the University administration and publicise that it has done so
- The SRC will publish these demands on social media.
- The SRC will send a press release to NSW media outlets communicating that the student union is preparing to fight for COVID safety on campus in 2022.

Discussion:

Owen Marsden Readford spoke to the motion

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion

Kate Pinnock spoke to the motion

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion

Moved: Owen Marsden Readford

Seconded: Yasmine Johnson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R2. Motion Condemning Australia's lack of climate action

Preamble:

Throughout the course of this week, world leaders and mainstream media outlets have briefly turned their attention to what will arguably be the defining issue of our generation, climate change. COP26 marks the 26th time nations leaders, experts and the media will come together to network, talk, run a PR campaign and commit to meeting around the same time next year to do it all over again. While in theory these conferences should amount to drastic changes and progressive policymaking, in line with the recommendations of the IPCC, this phenomenon is yet to take effect. The most recent, prominent Climate Conference, the COP21 Conference held in Paris, saw countries agreeing to commit to reducing emissions to keep warming to under 1.5°C. Yet six years on, many of the nations that were signatories to the Paris agreement are yet to actually create and implement policies that will allow them to meet their requirements under the agreement.

Shamefully, Australia is becoming an international symbol of climate denialism, cronyism, and incompetence. Global leaders who are doing the bare minimum to combat climate change are well placed to condemn the Australian government that is actively fuelling the climate crisis through its pursuit of a future dictated by Australia's heavy reliance on fossil fuel exports, and the hope of a technological breakthrough that will pull us from the brink of extinction. The Australian Liberal government and the bourgeoisie that elect and legitimise it, want to make hay while the sun shines, or more appropriately, extract and sell all of our mineral wealth while they still can, knowingly contributing to the decimation of low-lying Pacific Island Nations, climate change fuelled severe weather events, such as famine and floods, rising sea levels and general environmental degradation. The Australian delegation to COP26 has had no interest in committing to saving us from a climate crisis, so much so that they have refused to outline any substantial transition away from fossil fuels, refused to outline a 2030 emissions reduction target, had their pavilion sponsored by Santos, and have made a bigger deal out of diplomatic disagreements with the French than actually solving the problem at hand. In fact, the Climate Change Performance Index, released today has Australia ranked last on climate policy, behind Brazil, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

It is abundantly clear that the Australian government, funded by the fossil fuel industry, aided by the incompetency and complicity of career politicians that fill our legislative bodies, does not care about the futures of its citizens, nor does it care about the livelihoods of communities that rely upon the natural environment for income. The Great Barrier Reef by itself supports more jobs than coal mining in Australia. The mantra of 'technology, not taxes' that this government uses to justify its lazy and ideologically-driven policy making is nothing more than that; a mantra, a slogan, 3 words in a phrase from Marketer in Chief Scott Morrison. This false dichotomy does nothing but distort the demands of the climate movement and the science itself. It is impossible to have an economic system built upon infinite growth on a planet of finite resources and ecological limits. Even if we wanted to, we cannot tax or innovate our way out of this crisis, we must overthrow the constraints of neoliberal capitalism and build a sustainable system predicated upon renewable energy, secure, unionised work and egalitarianism. The day we stop looking for a solution to the climate crisis that simply aims to please shareholders and CEOs, is the day that genuine climate action commences.

Thus, it is imperative that we as students, concerned with the future of our planet, demand more from our government and take to the streets to drive change on climate policy. While we know that voting and lengthy facebook posts have their place, actual democratic and substantive change will only be achieved through mass civil disobedience and demonstrations. As we run out of time to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change, it is important that we continue to properly demand a just transition, and fight for a sustainable future free from fossil fuels.

Platform:

- The SRC will support the demands of the recent COP26 Sydney Protest:
 - 100% publicly owned renewable energy by 2030 - No new fossil fuels, no false solutions, no to Scomo's gas-led recovery
 - Just transition plan now! Funding for Climate Jobs, retraining, public services, and liveable welfare.
 - Global solidarity with First Nations - Indigenous-led land management, jobs on country, Santos off Gamilaraay land
 - Climate jobs not nuclear subs - no to the AUKUS deal - no shift to nuclear power.
- The SRC condemns the inaction of the Australian Federal Government in regard to climate change and providing a just transition for Australian workers
- The SRC condemns the influence of the fossil fuel industry on the Australian Government
- The SRC condemns major financial institutions and mining companies, specifically NAB and Santos, who have recently sought to greenwash their way out of this crisis.

Action:

- The SRC will commit to fight the Australian government and its lack on climate change through its continued support of the USYD Environment Collective.

Discussion:

Drew Beacom spoke to the motion

Jayfel Tulabing-Lee spoke to the motion

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion

Moved: Drew Beacom

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing-Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.