



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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## MINUTES:

of the 1st regular meeting of the 94<sup>th</sup> SRC held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. Meeting held via Zoom.

*Quorum count was called at 6:13pm*

*The Meeting was found quorate.*

### A. Meeting open at 6:15pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Alana Ramshaw be elected Deputy Chairperson.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing-Lee

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

Eamonn Murphy to Amelie Roediger

Charlotte Ainsworth to Isabella Chiper

Felix Lockhart Wood to Livy Smith

The apologies were noted.

### D. Changes to Membership

### E. Electoral Report

#### E1. Report of the Electoral Officer (attached in separate pdf)

Motion to accept the report of the Electoral Officer

Moved: Lauren Lancaster  
Seconded: Jayfel Tulabing-Lee  
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **E2. Consideration of any resignations**

Julia Tran resigns as Global Solidarity Officer  
Misbah Ansari resigns as Ethno Cultural Officer  
Riley Vaughan resigns to Victor Zhang

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster  
Seconded: Bella Anderssen  
The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.**

Minutes of the meeting of **10<sup>th</sup>** regular meeting of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and the Minutes of the Representatives Elect meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the **10<sup>th</sup>** regular meeting of the 93<sup>rd</sup> SRC held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and the Minutes of the Representatives Elect meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster  
Seconded: Bella Anderssen  
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**

### **K1. Election of 2 Indigenous Students' Officers**

N/A

### **K2. Election of 2 Mature Age Officers**

N/A

### **K3. Election of 1 Social Justice Officer**

N/A

### **K4. Election of 1 Ethno Cultural Officer**

N/A

## **L. Report of the President and Executive**

### **L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **L2. Report of the Executive**

Report of the executive from the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

The report was circulated and noted.

*The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.*

### **L3. President's Report**

Lauren Lancaster tabled a written report:

#### ***Starting my term***

This is a long report - it's been very busy! We got off to a great start in December, with a major highlight of the first few weeks being my organisation of an in-person NSW Hub for the National Union of Students National Conference at Manning Bar, on campus.

There was great attendance from student representatives from UNSW, UTS, WSU and Macquarie - masked and safely distanced - which gave the 3 day conference a real sense of gravitas. As with any NUS event, there was healthy debate and lively back-and-forth between factions and it felt promising to have elements of student politics return to a somewhat in-person format. I want to extend my appreciation to my General Secretaries in particular for their help.

I also spent December setting up meetings with Melissa Roughley from Special Considerations, a department that has notoriously stonewalled student representatives in the past. These factor in well with a series of informal meetings we, reps from SRC, USU and SUPRA, have with a number of university management, and I have aired student grievances regarding massive wait times for special cons resolutions, anxiety about in-person learning and the return to campus, and the non-renewal of Sebastian Sequioah-Grayson's contract. In particular, this last point was supplemented by an excellent snap campaign earlier this month - we also shared and plugged the petition to save the beloved Philosophy tutor/lecturer's job across our socials, which grew massively in signatories over the days we ran it. We are yet to get a final update on this campaign in terms of the status of his role, but must remember that SSG's treatment is merely a symptom of the cruel and unjustified job insecurity for academics at the university. As the staff fight picks up at the start of semester, it is critical that we as the Council continue to stand in solidarity and organise for better working conditions for staff, because they are our learning conditions and no workers should fight alone.

I am currently in Naarm with the General Secretaries to attend the NUS President's Summit tomorrow and Friday. I am looking forward to building stronger relationships with the Presidents' from campuses around the country and representing the left to shape a lively, national activist agenda for the year.

### **Activist work**

With COVID-19 cases at all time highs, and a lot of uncertainty within the left, I have endeavoured to be a facilitator and helper to activists in the beginning of my term - regardless of the format in which they wish to run campaigns.

I have done my utmost to support and facilitate the work of all our Collectives, who are gearing up for a big year. In particular, we have had promising first/second meetings with most OBs and have started an 'all-in' series of Zooms (hopefully will be in-person going forward) to coordinate activity throughout the year. I have offered hands on help to Collectives / Departments as they've planned for Welcome Week (e.g. by sorting stalls, reminding OBs about deadlines, helping with printing, generating ideas for stunts / protests and giveaways, etc.), and encouraged OBs to undertake radical and hybrid initiatives, so that regardless of whether you are on or off-campus, you can be involved in what the SRC has to offer. I and the executive have made sure Collectives have lots of material to distribute, and we will be packing totes and helping distribute merch with aplomb.

Beyond this, I have also personally participated in Collective work by:

- Attending the first EAG meeting and updating members on return to campus, NUS relations and strike campaigns.
- Attending the first few WoCo meetings
- Maintaining my membership of the Sydney Mardi Gras organisation to help Pride in Protest maintain a radical queer campaign through that channel.

### **Protests**

Alongside many USYD activists, I attended the Invasion Day action and Yabun festival at Victoria Park. This year's was one of the most impressive actions I have ever witnessed. I was particularly struck by the nuance and intersectionality of the speakers' rhetoric, which emphasised the innately oppressive nature of Australian institutions, built on a base of settler-colonial violence. I commend Kaya, the first speaker, a young Indigenous activist, for her impassioned and deeply articulate speech. USYD is very much still an institution that embodies and perpetuates violence against First Nations people, and I will be working to fill our Indigenous Officer vacancy and ensure the work of all Collectives is done with a mind to being actively anti-colonial.

There are a number of protest actions coming up, which I implore you all to attend:

- Tamil Oppression Rally - Online this Saturday
- Resisting AUKUS - a meeting with Noam Chomsky (!! ) on Saturday 12th February
- WoCo's Stop Sexism on campus protest during Welcome Week - Wednesday 16th February
- USYD No Cuts! Ed rally - 24th February
- Mardi Gras Rally on 5th March
- SS4C's Global Climate Strike on 25th March

### **Welcome Week**

The University has announced Welcome Week will be delivered in an in-person format, with online/hybrid elements.

I have had direct involvement in our Welcome Week preparations. Amongst other things I:

- Liaised with the USU to ensure we got all the stalls we wanted and in the ideal location (can confirm we have 11 continuous stalls out the front of Chemistry Building in Welcome Week and 6 stalls in Week 1 - Eastern Ave location on tiles is far more accessible than the grass location last year)
- Designed the cover for Countercourse / Orientation Handbook, and wrote articles, assisted with lay-up and editing / sub-editing, etc.
- Reminded OBs about deadlines and have been meeting with them to support WW organising - both IRL and online
- Helped OBs and Honi apply for the Uni's Welcome Week Grants - which we received successfully to supplement our existing funding!
- Attended joint student organisation meetings w USU, SUPRA, SUSF and advised on a very very exciting Welcome Week program!

**IMPORTANT: ALL OBS AND CONVENORS PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR PRINTING REQUESTS IN - WE NEED LOTS OF PAMPHLETS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS AND RECRUIT! Contact us ASAP for all approvals.**

I've also been involved with the University's Orientation Project Group, which is under the Student Life Committee, and have been involved in organising the SRC's presence in the University's Orientation activities. I've organised sessions with the legal service - our SRC Informs webinars - and the casework service during that week, and have started on a short video explaining what the SRC is that will be included in every student's Orientation Canvas page.

I appeared on the 2022 USYD TV livestream in January to answer questions about student leadership alongside the USU President. I will also be appearing at the E12/Broadway Scholarships expo next week, as a panel member for the New to Sydney Student Welcome, speaking at the whole university Welcome and facilitating a number of appearances on the USU Main Stage during Welcome Fest. We have also met with Faculty Society executives over the last month to workshop how we, as the SRC, can have better visibility and reach with all undergraduates across all faculties - particularly at the start of Semester when students are feeling isolated or uncertain.

### ***Student Survey***

We have put out a quick survey on the return to campus and in-person learning with lots of responses! People seem to be very desperate to get back in person as much as possible, with the option of online / remote learning if they want to as well. We are particularly concerned about the movement of larger lectures permanently online and have been representing student interests to management on this topic! We are getting it out on WeChat and Facebook, got the USU to plug etc - please share around to your circles if you have not already. The survey is open until 5th Feb.

### ***Managing the SRC***

#### ***1 SSAF / Funding allocation***

The SSAF application with last year's executive was relatively painless. I helped write the spiel for potential Honi stipend reform, and edited large swathes of the application. We had an incredible outcome. Our base amount was AU\$1,963,200.71 while our contestable amount was AU\$78,174.61. This takes us to a combined total of \$2,041,375.32. We had all our contestable

funding approved with some incredibly exciting projects lined up for the year including:

- Funding for an IN-PERSON SRC ELECTION!
- \$15k for Radical Education and Rad Sex and Consent/Welfare Weeks
- SRC Website redevelopment
- A Caseworker Student Welfare survey, akin to the poverty survey run by Liam Donohoe in 2020

We have received thousands in Welcome Week Grants (notably for a cross-collective Welcome to the SRC event, Enviro Collective mixer and an Honi Soit Welcome Week event) and a \$10k contribution from the USU for Welcome Week activities - this will free up budget to be used in activism throughout the year.

### *2 Constitutional Reform*

This is an ongoing discussion with the old and new Chair of Standing Legal. We have been consulting former SULLS representatives and external legal advisors - more to come here.

### *3 Departmental budgets*

The Departmental budgets are being finalised by me and the GenSecs, but will likely be very similar to last year. We will be notifying OBs shortly of their budgets and will release the figures next Council.

### *4 Caseworkers*

The Casework team continues to work tirelessly in the face of increasing student disputes, long waiting times and general bureaucratic nonsense by the Uni. I have facilitated meetings between Casework and the Special Cons team at USYD - these will be a regular channel going forward. I've heard some pretty shocking stories of students waiting up to 78 working days for resolutions on spec/con applications and appeals - which is clearly unacceptable. We remain cautiously optimistic that with us on their backs, the department will improve their service and clear the backlog of applications. This is fundamentally a student welfare issue and we want Uni workers to be better supported to make sure everything works smoothly.

### *5 Legal Service*

The SRC Legal Service is booming! Last year, I along with Swapnik and our Principal Solicitor Jahan Kalantar welcomed Ehsan Jahanandis as our second solicitor - he has a wealth of migration experience and has already been invaluable to the team. We have brought on two student paralegals to further grow the service - really exciting stuff so welcome to Marcello and Ellie in that capacity!

### *6 Food Hub*

The Food Hub was suspended last year, however the VPs and I are looking into how we can restart the service to offer free food and necessities to struggling students. More to come here.

### *7 Committee attendance*

I sit on 35 committees and have attended basically all of them (except when I've been out of the city, in which case I've delegated it to someone else). These committees include, but aren't limited to:

- Academic Board Standards and Policy Committee
- AB Undergraduate Studies Committee
- AB Quality Committee
- AB Board of Interdisciplinary Studies Committee
- University Executive Education Committee - had lively discussions here on Monday
- UE Student Life Committee

Meetings I have met with a number of key University figures over the past few months, including:

- Adam Bridgeman, Interim DVC (Education)
- Susanna Scarparo, PVC (Student Life)
- Peter McCallum, Registrar
- Jane Hanrahan, Chair of Academic Board
- Melissa Roughley, Director Student Administration Services

### ***Opportunities***

Finally, I wish to give notice to Councillors about the Student Leadership training program to be offered by the University. This will feature variously free first aid, responding with compassion, mental health, sexual assault response and responsible service of alcohol training for student leaders across the university. We should all take up this opportunity if it is available, contact me or the GenSecs to register interest. Please see the attached Appendix for more information. Opt-outs for triggering or distressing workshops are fully available.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/142HRMyMXrCLan-fKIF2IfTq4SWWm1qzP/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109327022160433781779&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her report covering the main points.

Holly Zhang asked how does our SSAF / Funding allocation for 2022 compare to previous years? in future it would be good to consider the SRC's financial decisions with some reference points given the short-term nature of student representative roles?

Lauren Lancaster said that we got the same about of base indexed for inflation, and a little less was applied for in contestable but it very similar. Adding that the departmental budgets were being finalised at the moment, but will be similar to last year.

Holly Zhang said it would be good to get the collated and clear published them.

Lauren Lancaster noted they are in the minutes on the website but they are not separately collated.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Grace Lagan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **M. Report of the Vice-Presidents**

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report:

This year we aim to bring more clarity and definition to the VP role, which will now involve reviving our relationship & having regular meetings with faculty society presidents, as well as faculty & academic board reps. Over the holidays we've been meeting with these groups to discuss our plans for the year and identify areas of student concern that we can help with. Other large responsibilities of the VP role this year will include managing & facilitating Food Hub services and providing oversight to the SRC social media pages.

Over the holidays we have helped plan welcome week events and began initial planning for our federal election campaign & student life campaign. We also represented the SRC at the student life grant panels and secured grants for SRC welcome week events, Honi Soit, and the enviro collective. Following this panel, we have been in contact with initiatives such as the first nations project and school of education, and plan to use our platform at the SRC to help increase visibility for their welcome week events (including a traditional welcome to country and smoking ceremony).

Discussion:

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story spoke to their report covering its main points.

Owen Marsden-Readford asked about what the VPs mean with the federal election campaign and what that will look like.

Emily responded saying it was in the early days so it was unclear what that campaign would look like at this time, but foresee it as being very collaborative with all collectives.

Lauren Lancaster spoke about what this would look like and that there will be discussion with collectives, adding that it's something in the early stage of the development

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **N. Report of the General Secretaries**

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan tabled a written report

The first two months of our term have seen us hit the ground running in the preparation for Welcome Week (16-18 Feb).

#### ***Handbooks***

Each year, the General Secretaries and the Education Officers put together an welcome week handbook for students, featuring an orientation handbook written by us and an introduction to education activism (titled *Countercourse*) written by the Ed officers. We have just completed this, and are really pleased with it. Many thanks to Lia and Deaglan for their collaboration, Lauren for

the cover, all of our writers (including caseworkers and principal solicitor Jahan), the SRC publications managers Mickie and Amanda, and the *Honi* editors for letting us use their office.

### ***Cross-Collective Party***

We have also successfully applied for and received funding from the Welcome Week Grants Committee to hold the SRC's very own Welcome to Uni party, where we aim to host new students with all of our OBs/collective convenors at Hermann's to improve visibility and access to the SRC. This will be on the 4th of March at Hermann's, and we'd be delighted to see you there.

### ***Welcome Week Bag Packing and Stall Rosters***

In the coming days we will also send out rosters for packing our (very cool) SRC '22 totes and manning our big tent at Welcome Week (we have secured a prime position on Eastern Ave). We'd be extremely grateful if you could find the time to make it and promise pizza on us if you can.

### ***Other Activities***

Beyond Welcome Week preparations, we have been working closely with a number of OBs across a variety of initiatives and campaigns. In December, we held meetings with the president and all major collective convenors to discuss their goals for the year ahead and how we could best support them. We thank them for their time and look forward to working with them. We have had a considerably *less* fun time attending student rep meetings with the key management figures across Student Life, though it has been a good way to raise concerns across a variety of student issues.

We also participated in the newly assembled Special Cons working group — consisting of the President, us, VPs, DisCo convenors, WAG convenors, Ed Officers, and *Honi* — and relevant management contacts to reform special cons. We took concerns and suggestions raised in meetings with OBs (namely the need for reasonable adjustment guidelines and multilingual resources) to the Director of Student Administration Services (Melissa Roughley), who seemed relatively receptive.

Discussion:

Grace Lagan spoke to the report covering its main points.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O. Report of Committees and Officers**

### **O1. Report of the Education Officers**

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report

#### **Political situation**

The end of 2021/beginning of 2022 has seen the worst wave of the pandemic yet to hit Australia. The state and federal government have pursued a “let it rip” strategy, which resulted with cases peaking at over 60,000 a day and over 1,000 dead. As people scrambled for rapid antigen tests, they were told that the market would solve critical supply problems, and refused to make them free. Meanwhile, the surge in cases has unsurprisingly led to large numbers of workers having to self-isolate, leading to goods shortages. We have been shown, clear as day, that it’s workers who make the world run.

Halfway across the world, imperialist tensions threaten to spark war, as the US and Russia face off over the future of Ukraine. Both sides are only concerned with preserving or extending their imperialist sphere of influence. We must oppose this drive to war and the system which produces it.

### **Invasion Day**

The Invasion day march was an amazing show of First Nations resistance, and we stand in complete solidarity with the struggle for land rights and justice. We organised a student contingent and saw dozens of students attend the march in solidarity. The fact that over 70% of young people think that there is nothing to celebrate about “Australia Day” illustrates the significant and positive impact of such marches.

### **NUS Natcon**

Both of us attended the National Conference of the National Union of Students. The conference exemplified the right wing drift into irrelevancy of NUS over the last couple of years. We should learn the lessons of this negative development, and preserve the activist orientation of the SRC.

### **Countercourse**

Over January we, along with a group of dedicated EAG members wrote and edited countercourse. We have articles about strikes, the anti-war movement and much more. Thank you so much to everyone who chipped in!

### **#SaveSSG campaign**

A group of philosophy students brought it to our attention that at the start of January there was a week until beloved philosophy lecturer Sebastian Sequoiah-Grayson’s contract would be terminated. We ran a social media campaign from the EAG social media to try and get some attention and outcry directed towards the university. We reached almost 1000 signatures on the open letter. Unfortunately we do not currently have an update with the current status of Seb’s position, but we hope for the best. As the prospect of industrial action begins to heat up, we will be there to fight for every job loss.

### **EAG plans for February**

The EAG has an exciting return to semester planned! We have called a rally for Week 1 against uni cuts and to build solidarity with staff amongst students. This semester will be an important one for student activists; it is very likely that staff will strike, and they will need our support. Strikes electrify and polarise the campus, giving us a real opportunity to build left-wing, active support for staff and their struggle against university management. We strongly encourage all office bearers and councillors to get involved with education activism now- help build the Week 1 rally, come along to it, and join EAG organising meetings.

## **Welcome week**

We will be stalling every day during welcome week to get the message out about our rally in week 1 and about the EAG. We have tshirts, pins, stickers and more. Hope to see you there!

Deaglan & Lia

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report covering its main points.

Lia Perkins spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes per person

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The procedural motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **O2. Report of the Wom\*n's Officers**

Madeleine Clark and Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

### **Holiday meetings**

The Women's Collective has had meetings since early January. It's been very encouraging to see so many people turn up even during the holiday period. In our first meeting we discussed our perspective going into this year. We particularly focused on the COVID situation and wrote a statement condemning the government's handling of the pandemic. It is an outrage that the government has let COVID cases get away from us and spread in the community. Lives have been lost and permanently impacted because of the choices of our politicians.

We also discussed the campaigns we want to focus on going into this year. We want to organise around the Burn the Colleges demands and the release of the NSSS results but we also want to organise in other areas too. The Nurses and Midwives Union community protest and the GMAR rally are two campaigns that we want to give solidarity and support to.

We are also organising a reading group for early in the semester on the book "Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement". This will be a good weekly event for new members to come along to and get a sense of WoCo's politics.

### **Invasion Day**

We helped organise a student leafleting event for Invasion Day as well as a student contingent for the actual day. It was a brilliant turnout of thousands of protestors at the Sydney march. Particularly as it was the 50th anniversary of the Tent Embassy, it was important that so many

people did show up.

### **Growing Strong**

A huge effort has been to organise Growing Strong, WoCo's magazine. Early on in the holidays we pulled together an editor team and pitch form for articles. So many people contributed to the articles, editing, art and laying up and we are very excited to see how it turns out in print. We wanted this year's edition to really appeal to new students, who are coming into this left space for the first time. We hope that the magazine will recommend people to join Wo.Co and get involved in left wing activism.

### **Welcome Week**

Welcome Week is the most important week for getting new students involved in activism. This year we really want to grow the Women's Collective. For the stalls we have organised a roster and are printing merchandise. On the stalls we will also be handing out leaflets that explain the Colleges, a zine that was organised last year, tote bags and stickers (as well as Growing Strong copies).

### **Stand Up to Sexism! Protest**

Importantly, our protest will be on the first day of stalls. This is an important event to show that Wo.Co is an activist group and that the way we win our demands is through the streets. It will also be important as Welcome Week's are known to have the highest rates of sexual assault and violence. Women should be safe on campus and our protest will shed light on these issues.

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to her report covering its main points.

Monica McNaught-Lee spoke to her report covering its main points.

Lauren Lancaster spoke about how good Growing Strong was looking.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **O3. Report of the Welfare Officers**

### **Attacks on workers during the pandemic**

Attacks on workers' rights during the pandemic have accelerated in recent months, with those in key industries now being forced to come to work even while sick with COVID. The reclassification of contacts means that thousands of people who would previously have been considered close or casual contacts no longer have the ability to keep themselves and others safe by staying home. As a result, it has become even more difficult for workers to access any form of welfare or compensation if they do contract COVID.

## Protests

I've spent the last month postering and leafleting for the Invasion Day rally, which saw an excellent turnout again this year despite the challenges of mobilising during the pandemic. I've also been building rallies to oppose the religious discrimination bill on Saturday February 12th, and for Tamil Oppression Day on Saturday February 5th. The former relates to a bill which would entrench the rights of religious schools and institutions to discriminate against women, LGBT+ people, and those from other marginalised groups. Despite numerous protests and a lack of any mass public support, the bill isn't dead, with parliamentary inquiries set to report back on their findings on Feb 4. Tamil Oppression Day, organised by the Tamil Refugee Council across the country, is held to protest the celebration of the Sri Lankan government of Independence Day. For the Tamil population of Sri Lanka, the day is one to stand in opposition to, because it is a celebration of the nation which committed genocide against them and continues to oppress them. This protest is an important opportunity to stand in solidarity with those facing oppression across the world.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## O4. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers

- A lot has happened since our last SRC meeting at the end of the year.
- After months of covid zero; of avoiding the mass deaths and infection ravaging the rest of the world, the Australian ruling-class decided it was time for us to join the rest of the world, and turn to “living with covid” aka letting covid rip. All health restrictions including mask mandates and QR codes were dropped in mid-December, in the name of “freedom” despite rising cases and being warned against this by Health Experts.
- This has created a totally preventable catastrophe. I think we have to understand that this shift was a totally calculated, political decision by the Australian Government to serve the interests of the business class to get back to profit-making as usual, regardless of the consequences for public health. Morrison says it’s now up to our “personal responsibility”. This marks a massive defeat for the working-class. It is workers who are bearing the brunt of this criminal decision.
- It is vital that we build the political forces to campaign for public health over “business as usual”. That is why I’ve been part of the Health Before Profits campaign, which aims to organise activists and unionists to challenge the Government’s profits-driven mass infection strategy. In December when Perrottet scrapped restrictions as cases were rising, we petitioned for the Government to reinstate health restrictions like mask mandates and QR codes, as well as further measures to reduce the spread.
- I was involved in building for the Invasion day rally, and helped out with leafleting and postering in the inner west.
- Lastly, I have also been part of building and promoting the national Tamil Oppression Day rally that is coming up this Saturday. I’ll be passing a motion that goes into more detail about the importance of this day and the need for solidarity, especially here in Australia

with the Government's appalling treatment of Tamil refugees as well as its deep complicity in the Sri Lankan Government's genocidal regime.

Discussion:

Lydia Elias spoke to the report covering its main points.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the report covering its main points.

Motion: that the report of the Refugee Rights Officers be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **O5. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

The Invasion Day rally on Jan 26 saw thousands of anti-racist activists march through the CBD demanding an end to racist police, real land rights and the abolition of Australia Day. Racism towards indigenous people in Australia is a disgrace and ruling class platitudes about reconciliation, inclusivity and closing the gap have done nothing for the vast majority of Aboriginal people. To paraphrase one of the speakers from the day, more children are being taken from their families today than during the stolen generation. Meanwhile, covid is spreading through vulnerable Aboriginal communities in Queensland because of the federal and state governments' decision to abandon any pretence to public health during the omicron outbreak.

The Religious Freedoms Bill is coming back to parliament in early February. The proposed laws would enshrine the right of employers to fire LGBT teachers and expel students for not upholding the 'values' of their school. This week, Citipointe Christian College in Brisbane sent an email to parents claiming that any form of "sexual immorality", including being gay or bisexual, was "sinful and harmful to society". Community Action for Rainbow Rights has called a protest against the bill and the bigotted religious right to which it panders on February 12. Any left wing person committed to fighting gender and sexual oppression should attend.

Discussion:

Simon Upitis spoke to the report covering its main points.

Martin O'Flynn spoke to the report speaking about the Conservatorium Students Association and at it's going through the process of electing it's officers.

Lauren Lancaster spoke about Invasion Day activism and similar fights in Queer activism

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **O6. Report of the Environment Officers**

I think I can speak on behalf of everyone in the collective to say that Enviro are prepared to build on the Student General Meeting, organising and momentum of 2021 for a massive year of protests, strikes and climate action. The tension created by increasingly alarming climate reports, being stuck at home for extended periods when we felt we should've been on the streets and the infuriating lack of action from the government is palpable and growing exponentially.

We are prepared to capitalise on this energy beginning with our plans for welcome week. Alongside the usual totes, tees and stickers, we've secured a sizeable USU grant for a WW event and we'll be hosting an Enviro welcome drinks on Friday the 18th Feb, 4pm at the Royal Abercrombie. Through WW propaganda and stalls we hope to generate a big crowd to come hear the convenors speak about the collective as well as listen to firefighter, trade-unionist, environmentalist and prospective Greens candidate Jim Casey who's accepted our invitation to speak.

In terms of further collective propaganda, we've just sent the Enviro's annual WW zine 'Combust' to print, featuring excellent articles, photography and art from roughly 15-20 collective members, a publication that we are very proud of.

Beyond that we're looking to protest gas-fired dispossession and stand with the Gomeroi people against Santos and their fossil fuel explorations. That's on Feb 7th at 12:30pm outside the Federal Court on Gadigal land in Sydney. School Strike 4 Climate have also launched their campaign for the first SS4C strike of the year on March 25th and building for a USYD contingent to that will begin with Welcome Week.

I'd also like to take this chance to condemn Anthony Albanese and Federal Labor for their capitulation in supporting the tax-payer funded construction of a new gas-fired power station in the hunter but I'll speak to that later in my motion. Mr. Albanese, if you're reading this, how about funding some renewables instead?

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins spoke to the report covering its main points also noting that former General Secretary from 2020 never delivered on her promise of a \$50,000 dollar donation. Angus Dermody spoke to the report covering its main points adding that this will be an important year for climate activism as this government has pushed for gas mining despite its inefficiency and environmental devastation.

Motion: That the report of the Environment Officers be accepted

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **07. Report of Ethnocultural Officers**

At the moment, ACAR has been collectively planning for Welcome week. We have been organising ideas for the Welcome Week stall, socialising events, and training workshop to welcome

newcomers to ACAR. Put discussions have included volunteering logistics, social media coverage and snippets of previous Honi editions for reference.

ACAR has also recently co-hosted the USYD contingent to Invasion Day and is still contributing to the intra-collective actions against course cuts and against sexual-assault.

Motion: That the report of the Ethnocultural Officers be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 1 minute

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke against the procedural motion saying that it was dangerous to limit debate.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the procedural motion saying we don't need continuous repetition in motion debates

Deaglan Godwin responded to Mikaela Pappou's comments saying that it took more time to argue against a longer speaking time and that as a paid OB she should not be pushing so much for shorter meeting times when these debates are important. Adding that one minute is petty and undemocratic, and that speaking to a procedural shouldn't be a time for factional slandering but we should be making time for important political debate.

Bella Anderssen spoke to the procedural saying that people should be able to make their point in one minute.

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

## **P. Special Business**

There were no items of special business.

## **Q. Motions of Notice**

### **Q1. Solidarity with striking transport workers**

#### **PREAMBLE**

Since April 2021, transport workers in NSW have been fighting the Liberal state government for a fair wage rise and safe working conditions. In December, a strike of Rail, Tram and Bus Union members saw thousands of train drivers, guards, signallers, track workers and station staff stop work for eight hours, bringing the NSW transport system to a grinding halt. It sent a powerful message to the government, saying: we are the ones who make the trains run, not you.

Since 2011, public sector wage increases have been capped at 2.5% per year. This amounts to a pay freeze once inflation is factored in. Then, in 2020, Gladys Berejiklian implemented a direct pay

freeze for public sector employees. Nurses, paramedics, firefighters, and transport workers were all told to tighten their belts for the sake of the economy, while the top Liberal ministers, like Police commissioner Mick Fuller, received five figure pay rises. Transport workers are fed up with watching the number of highly paid managers increase, while the transport minister says he can't afford to give them a pay rise.

Strikes have been key to the victories the RTBU and ASU has won so far. The last time the union was in its enterprise bargaining phase, the union's leadership shamefully called off a 24 hour stop work after Fairwork ruled it illegal. This time round, workers are determined to strike until they win. The government is still holding out on its claim that workers should be happy with a pay rise below inflation.

As an institution committed to social justice and solidarity, the SRC should support striking transport workers. The Liberal government refusing to give them a decent pay rise is the same government that sends cops onto campus to repress our protests, the same government that has presided over the collapse of the health system, and the same government that wants to make higher education accessible for the rich only.

**Platform:**

1. The University of Sydney SRC endorses the recent strike activity in the RTBU and ASU for better pay and working conditions.

**Action:**

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council stands in solidarity with the Rail, Tram and Bus Union in their fight against the Liberal government.
2. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council will organise contingents of students to attend any future industrial actions of the RTBU and ASU, and promote the Facebook events for these contingents by sharing them from the SRC's Facebook page.
3. The SRC will take a solidarity photo and post it to its social media accounts.

Simon Uptis spoke to their motion covering its main points highlighting the importance and support for industrial action.

Ella Haid spoke to their motion echoing Simons statement and talking about the importance of industrial action for workers conditions.

Mikaela Pappou spoke in support of the motion in general and proposed an amendment: to include the "ASU" where ever the "RTBU" is mentioned. It was amenable to the movers, and the changes were made.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion echoing the statements of Ella and Simon speaking about the flow on effects when people see other workers successfully strike and the sense of power it gives workers.

Moved: Simon Uptis

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q2. Motion in support of boycott of Sydney Festival**

### **Preamble:**

The Sydney's festivals decision to accept a \$20,000 donation from the Israel embassy is art-washing of apartheid, plain and simple. Israel is an apartheid state founded on the dispossession and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. The Israeli state continues this system of violence today. Palestinians are subjected to stolen homes, bombings, border walls, checkpoints and arbitrary violence.

Palestinians have never accepted this oppression and always resisted. In 2005, Palestinian activists called for a campaign of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). The BDS campaign promotes boycotts of businesses and institutions that either directly or indirectly contribute to human rights abuses against Palestinians, violate international law or participate in "rebranding" campaigns that white wash Israel's human rights and war crimes record.

Palestinian advocates in Sydney approached the festival before it began about why they should not accept the sponsorship. The festival did not budge on their position and BDS activists organised a campaign encouraging artists to withdraw in protest. More than 100 artists withdrew from the festival, and many staff at Sydney Festival venues stopped taking shifts during the festival or wore badges in solidarity with Palestine. Over 40% of festival events were disrupted with artists such as Barkaa, Nazeem Hussain and Behrouz Boochani withdrawing.

In the Institute for Palestine Studies Amal Naser calls this boycott the 'Largest and Most Successful' boycott in the BDS movement. We stand in solidarity with all artists, workers, and Palestinians involved in the campaign to boycott the Sydney Festival. Any corporation that sides with Israel is no friend of students.

This statement has been signed by the Sydney Uni Education Action Group, USyd Students for Palestine, and USyd Women's Collective.

### **Platform:**

- The USyd SRC supports the boycott of the Sydney Festival by Palestinian activists and supporters
- The USyd SRC condemns the actions of the board of directors in taking the donation from Israel
- The USyd SRC supports all artists and creatives who boycotted the festival

### **Actions:**

- The USyd SRC will share this motion on social media
- The USyd SRC will attend future events in support of Palestinian sovereignty

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion covering its main points and speaking about the campaign and how it's been going.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion echoing Lia and highlighting the importance of this campaign and pointing out the hypocrisy of the Sydney Festival which claims to be for decolonisation.

*Onor Nottle had to leave and proxies to Danielle Tweedale*

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the motion thanking the movers, adding that this was an important representation of collective power and action against the colonialism.

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion saying how much the debate around Israel/Palestine has shifted a lot and people are more aware of the persecution of Palestinians by Israel's government.

Laruen Lancaster called for dissent to the motion, there was dissent, Lauren Lancaster asked Michael Grenier to speak to his dissent.

Michael Grenier spoke against the motion saying that the motion mischaracterises the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion saying that situation was not complicated. That Palestinians were living through an apartheid system by an expansionist colonial state, and we need to show solidarity with Palestinians in their struggle against apartheid.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying that it was upsetting that when we acknowledged the settler colonial genocides that have occurred on the land we are on today that we would not acknowledge when that is occurring elsewhere and how wrong it is anywhere in the world.

Mikaela Pappou also responded to comments saying if we want to be for decolonisation, we need to be proactive in supporting decolonisation everywhere in the world.

Micheal Grenier noted that he had said what he wanted to and that he was sure there would be time to talk about it more through the year.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Maddie Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

### **Q3. Stand in solidarity with Tamils: Support Tamil Oppression Day 2022**

**Preamble:**

On February 5th, the Tamil Refugee Council is holding a National online rally for Tamil Oppression Day. February 4th is a significant day for Tamils. For the Sri Lankan Government, it will be celebrated as 74 years since its independence from British colonial rule. However, for Sri Lankan Tamils this day marks the reigns being passed from one oppressor to another. The Government's first few Acts included disenfranchising over 1 million Tamils and enacting the infamous "Sinhala Only Act". This denied Tamils the right to speak their language, making Sinhala the only official language of the country and consequently stripping many Tamils of their livelihoods. State violence, legalised inequality, pogroms, and mass displacement would become the norm for Tamils. The Sinhala-Buddhist dominated Government became increasingly chauvinist, making a concerted effort to ethnically cleansing the Tamil majority lands in the North and East.

While the military defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) brought the 26 year-long civil war to a close, the oppression of Tamils did not cease. As Anuradha Mittal writes in *The Long Shadow of War*; "a silent war continues under a different guise". To this day, almost 40% of Tamil lands in the North and the East remain under brutal military occupation. Tamils are murdered everyday, tortured, detained, and internally displaced. Former Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who oversaw the 2009 genocidal massacres, was elected president last year. Following Rajapaksa's win, there has been an increase of violence towards Tamil Hindus, Christians, and Muslims. Recently, a memorial commemorating those murdered in the 2009 Mallavaikkal massacre was destroyed.

Activists in Australia must take a stand against the enduring oppression of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government but also against our own Government here in Australia. The Australian Government supports the genocidal process of the Sri Lankan Government. The Australian military aids the Sri Lankan security forces in preventing Tamils from fleeing the island. The Government demonises and locks up Tamil refugees in detention centres, while denying permanent safety to many Tamil refugees in the community. Both Labor and Liberal Governments are complicit in aiding the genocidal policies of the Sri Lankan Government. In November 2009, Former ALP Prime Minister Kevin Rudd bragged about funding and assisting in "some 15 disruptions (of people fleeing Sri Lanka) already, involving some 260 individuals." Just recently last year, Scott Morrison sent drones to the Rajapaksa Government to assist in surveillance of Tamils in their homeland.

**Platform:**

1. As a body committed to social justice and solidarity with the oppressed, the University of Sydney Students' Representative Council is opposed to the ongoing oppression of Tamils.
2. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council supports the Tamils' struggle for self-determination.

**Action:**

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council endorses the Tamil Refugee Council rally on Saturday February 2nd, to commemorate Tamil Oppression Day.
2. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council will promote the Tamil Oppression Day rally by sharing the Facebook event on its page and printing posters and leaflets. Councillors are encouraged to attend the event.

Lydia Elias spoke to their motion highlighting its main points and emphasising the importance of supporting the rally and acknowledging the persecution of the Tamil people.

Annabel Petit spoke to their motion saying that the persecution of Tamil people should be important to anyone who claims to be anti-racist, and much like the Palestinians have been subjected to much persecution in their home. She encouraged everyone to come to the rally.

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion, echoed the statements of Lydia and Annabel, adding that not only was the Australian government unwilling to take a stand against the persecution of Tamil people but has also sold weapons to the Sri Lankan government which are then used in the persecution of Tamil people.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion speaking about the conditions Tamil people are subjected to both in Sri Lanka and then here in indefinite detention when they flee persecution.

Moved: Lydia Elias

Seconded: Annabel Petit

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R. General Business**

### **R1. Fight for Education: No USyd Cuts- Rally February 24**

#### **Preamble**

The return to university this year will see more austerity and course cuts from management. It was recently announced that despite overwhelming opposition from all students and staff, management in the faculty of arts and social sciences will continue with a restructure. Course cuts and restructures are happening across the university, and the SRC must fight for a free, fully funded higher education.

This semester will likely see staff shutting the university down through strikes; our fight for quality education is tied up to the struggle of staff for better working conditions. We need to begin mobilising students to fight the corporate university and show solidarity with staff. The success of last semester's Student General Meeting shows that this is more than possible. What is needed is for the student union and its collective to give a political and organisational lead, put in the hard work of reaching students and demonstrating an uncompromising attitude towards management and their profit-first agenda.

Management's approach to COVID safety on campus also reflects a profit-first attitude. While the overall plans are currently unclear, we must campaign for masks, free testing and ventilation, in support of the NTEU's demands. Decisions for our education must be made by students and staff, not management. Meanwhile, they use COVID to cry poor when cutting courses, directly impacting our education.

The USyd EAG is holding a rally on Thursday Week 1 (February 24) to fight for education and to say no to each and every cut. This will only be the first of many protests this semester, as we gear up to show management that students and staff are not to be messed with.

### **Platform**

1. The USyd SRC endorses the rally demands of no course, wage and job cuts; solidarity with all staff; fully funded higher education
2. The USyd SRC supports the fight for a COVID safe return, which puts public health before profits and is determined by staff and students, not management.
3. The USyd SRC endorses the EAG's rally and commits to opposing the university's attacks all semester.

### **Action**

1. The USyd SRC will fund promotional material for the week 1 rally, including posters, leaflets and paid social media advertising.
2. The USyd SRC will share the rally from the Facebook page.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

Lia Perkins spoke to their motion covering its main points and highlighting the importance of fighting for free education and quality teaching conditions. Highlighting the plans for the year.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to their motion speaking a bout the cuts that have been proposed, and how these cuts not only hurt staff they hurt student and their learning conditions and it is happening across the university not just in the Arts Faculty. Emphasising that we need to show solidarity with staff and students.

*Lauren Lancaster passed the chair to Alana Ramshaw.*

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion emphasising that it is though mass movements of staff and students that will ensure we can fight for our education and save it as its when we take direct action that management and the government take note and listen.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion spoke to the motion echoing the statements of the previous speakers on the importance of industrial and direct action. Adding that management are more interested in creating profit rather than quality education.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion spoke to the importance and support for fighting for our education and the importance of these campaigns in ensuring we and future students are offered great educational opportunities and they we can fight for our education that it's not all controlled but closed dorr deals.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion highlighting its importance and keeps the momentum built in the education campaigns run last year, and the value of a combative campaign and that management doesn't listen without action.

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion echoing the statements made by the previous speakers emphasising the drive by staff for these actions too and that we should be showing solidarity with them.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Alana Ramshaw returned the Chair to Lauren Lancaster.*

## **R2. Stop Telling Us to Cope: Solidarity with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Federation**

### **Preamble**

On February 15th, NSW nurses and midwives will go on strike across the state. Perrottet's and the ruling class' 'let it rip' approach has unleashed havoc on our public healthcare system. Their unleashing of death and disease has led to unprecedented hospitalisation numbers. Nurses are regularly forced to work huge amounts of overtime, attend to unsafe numbers of patients alone (sometimes up to nine patients at once), and work outside their specialty to fill gaps. Thousands of nurses have caught Covid themselves. The cumulative strain of 2 years of pandemic and underpayment has led to many nurses leaving the profession.

NSW Nurses and Midwives Federation Acting General Secretary Shaye Candish said in an interview: "[nurses are] pretty fed up and what's being asked of them is unreasonable; they're working 16-hour days multiple times a week, being peppered with text messages on their days off."

Despite the horrific conditions, the NSW government has refused to enact even basic measures to deal with the crisis. The Perrottet government first responded by lying through their teeth - ludicrously claiming that the hospital system 'was in a strong position', before being forced to backtrack. It has sent Covid-positive staff into wards and cancelled leave in an attempt to plug the gaps. Perrottet is content to keep pushing the burden of the crisis onto nurses to avoid the mass investment and improvements to pay and conditions necessary.

It's a disgrace that nothing was done to prepare the hospital system beforehand, but the system was already in crisis. Even before Covid-19, nurses were overworked and underpaid. The public healthcare system has been underfunded for decades, run down by years of privatisation and neoliberalism. Since 2011, public sector wage increases have been capped at 2.5% per year. This amounts to a pay freeze once inflation is factored in. Nurses are long overdue a pay rise.

Midway through last year, nurses and midwives walked off the job to fight against the public sector pay freeze and to demand safe nurse-to-patient ratios at dozens of hospitals across the state. The planned strike is a continuation of this campaign. A victory for the nurses could also help to smash the Liberals public sector-wide wage freeze. Nurses and midwives have had enough and are ready to fight back. Let's hope they give Perrottet and his murderous government a hiding.

**Platform:**

1. The Sydney University SRC stands in solidarity with the NSW Nurses and Midwives Federation in their struggle for safe conditions and good pay.
2. The Sydney University SRC condemns the NSW state government for its unleashing of Covid on the health system and their refusal to meet the NSW Nurses and Midwives Federation's demands.

**Action points:**

1. The Sydney University SRC will publish this motion of solidarity off its social media accounts.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Tom Williams

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to their motion highlighting its main points and emphasising the burden the state government has place on nurses. Adding that is was great to see the nurses going out and fighting for better working conditions from a system that has been overloaded and underfunded for too long.

Tom Williams spoke to their motion highlighting that it was great that the nurses are going on strike as when they fight for their working conditions they are fighting for patient conditions, and we need to acknowledge there is support for nurses and they've been the heroes of this pandemic and they need to supported

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion echoed the statements of the previous speakers and spoke about how horrific the government has managed covid through summer and the lack of support nurses have received.

Julius Wittfoth spoke to the motion echoing the past statements and acknowledging that nurses are not getting any support and the government has instead been making things even harder for nurses and midwives in these difficult times and that it was important to show solidarity.

*Lauren Lancaster passed the Chair to Lia Perkins as Alana's computer dropped out temporarily.*

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion spoke to the motion highlighting the lack of pay increase in the past 10 years and the cost of living today and the importance of these roles to society and they shouldn't be undervalued.

Monica McNaught-Lee spoke to the motion adding that this wasn't just about nurses already working in full time roles but also for nursing and medical students so they know what conditions they are getting into and making sure they have good working conditions and support.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Tom Williams

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*Lauren Lancaster resumed the Chair.*

### **R3. Support Wo.Co's protest Stand Up to Sexism!**

#### **Preamble:**

Sexism is alive and well at Sydney University.

Sexual assault is a common occurrence. Approximately 200 sexual assaults occur in a university setting weekly. Furthermore, 1 in 8 sexual assaults occur during Welcome Week. This is unacceptable and the university should be doing more to prevent these cases and to support survivors. Notoriously, the colleges are rife with institutional sexual assault. Hazing rituals during Welcome Week encourage this behaviour. While the "Red Zone" report and other reports have documented these crimes, the only way to change the so-called "culture" of the colleges is through abolishing them.

While this is one of the most egregious aspects of sexism, it is not the only one. The university sector is made up of 58% women. As it is a highly feminist sector, the issues that affect staff affect women. As students, showing our solidarity with staff is of great importance. It gives staff the confidence to go on strike, knowing that as they do, they are fighting to better our education. This is of importance this year as we are in an EBA period. It is also important as the log of claims has specific feminist demands including domestic violence leave and transition leave.

The Women's Collective has a strong history of fighting these issues through activism. This protest will be important to turn the lens on these issues and to empower new students to speak out.

The demands of the protest are as follows:

- an end to sexual violence and harassment on campus, on placement and in student housing
- burn the colleges! turn the colleges into affordable housing
- cops off campus - cops do not keep us safe
- support the NTEU! support the feminist demands in the NTEU's log of claims
- provide more funding and resources to survivor support on campus including increased academic support and degree flexibility
- release the USyd results of the NSSS survey

#### **Platform**

1. The SRC endorses the call to abolish the colleges and turn them into affordable housing.
2. The SRC supports the call for more resources to survivors.
3. The SRC supports the feminist claims in the NTEU log of claims.
4. The SRC supports the NTEU taking strike action for these claims.
5. The SRC supports WoCo's protest.

#### **Action**

1. The SRC will share WoCo's protest event on its socials
2. The SRC will print protest leaflets

Discussion:

Madeleine Clark spoke to her motion highlighting its main points and the importance of running this meeting during Welcome Week.

Monica McNaught-Lee spoke to her motion spoke about the importance of the motion and also about broadening the campaign and making sure that it was clear that this was also noting the potential sexual harassment that can occur during student placements and internships, not just on the campus itself, and the importance of better victim services on campus.

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the motion emphasising the need to fight against the misogynistic culture cultivated within the colleges and that this protest will be all the more important with the upcoming release of the National Student Safety Survey. Concluded by encouraging everyone to participate in the protest.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion echoing the statements of the past speakers and that the colleges were elitist and needed to be torn down as they are just a part of the system that created people like Christian Porter and other member of the ruling class who see themselves as above consequence.

Moved: Madeleine Clark

Seconded: Monica McNaught-Lee

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **R4. The COVID crisis is a crime of capitalism**

Across almost the whole of Australia, a fresh wave of COVID-19 is running rampant. National daily case numbers remain in the tens of thousands, down from a peak of 89,000. In NSW, where the Perrottet government has led the charge in letting COVID rip, tens of people are killed by this preventable disease daily, an outrageous death rate which the premier has claimed is likely to remain 'steady'. From December to January, three quarters of a million were infected - likely an underestimate of the true figures - and 300 killed by COVID across the country. This wave is battering a healthcare system already in crisis after decades of government underfunding, run by a chronically overstretched workforce, producing dangerous record wait times for ambulances and treatment in the country's emergency departments. Between the still under-researched phenomenon of long COVID and the emergency cancellation of formally elective but often crucial elective surgeries and diagnostic procedures, it is likely we will not know the full impact of this crisis on the health of the population for years to come.

None of this was inevitable. While the Australian ruling class might attempt to portray the current disaster as the inevitable product of an uncontrollable disease, declaring fatalistically as NSW Chief Health Officer Brad Hazzard did that "everyone in Australia will get Omicron", it is their unswerving prioritisation the profits of the Australian capitalist class that has unleashed this crisis.

From the moment the Omicron variant came to the attention of epidemiologists worldwide, the federal and state governments had an opportunity to prevent its spread by implementing purpose-built travel quarantine, putting social distancing measures in place in the community, and halting non-essential economic activity - measures which have been shown capable of suppressing and even eliminating the virus in previous outbreaks. Instead, at the very moment that Omicron arrived in the Australian community, the NSW government revoked the most basic public health measures at play, removing mask mandates and TTIQ measures in an attempt to bolster consumer confidence over the December retail period.

Confronted with their woeful failure to ensure adequate testing capacity for the ensuing outbreak, the National Cabinet responded by jettisoning almost all contact tracing measures, redefining a close contact such that only household contacts above a certain threshold could qualify - a move transparently motivated by the need to force workers back to their jobs and to making profit for a boss, even when this endangered their own, their coworkers' and the community's health. Pressed on his refusal to take the basic step of making rapid antigen tests freely available, Morrison argued that the decision ensures that "the private market, whether it's in the big warehouse pharmacies or the other pharmacies or the supermarkets, they can now go and stock their shelves with confidence that they won't be undercut by the government" - in other words, letting the market rip takes precedence over protecting ordinary people from a potentially life-destroying virus.

Now, with the return to school for tens of thousands of teachers and students to schools without adequate ventilation, social distancing or other safety measures, they are knuckling down on the project of normalising the mass spread of COVID-19 and the deaths and ill health that inevitably follow. While it has been the LNP which have led the charge in enforcing this profits-first logic on the mass of ordinary people in the country, Labor premiers around the country, the particularly Palazcuk and Andrews governments have largely fallen in behind the project of restarting the economy at any human cost, presiding over similar attempts to force workers back on the job and students and teachers back into schools.

The USyd SRC opposes wholesale the attempts of governments around Australia to normalise the outbreak of disastrous waves of COVID-19 as the cost of doing business and keeping the flow of profits open for Australian business. We reject the logic of personal responsibility as the solution to a social crisis, and demand a health before profits approach to the pandemic.

The USyd SRC:

- Opposes the ruling class campaign to open up the Australian economy and "live with the virus" at the expense of the lives and health of ordinary people
- Recognises that COVID circulation in the community is a key threat to the health, wellbeing and lives of marginalised and oppressed communities
- Demands the reinstatement and funding of TTIQ measures capable of addressing the current crisis, including the reinstatement of former casual and close contact definitions, and the immediate implementation of public health measures to bring the spread of COVID-19 under control
- 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

- Demands the immediate implementation of measures to make workplaces safe and strict NSW Health auditing of business to ensure this occurs

**Action:**

- The USyd SRC will publish a statement condemning governments around Australia for their let-it-rip approach to the COVID crisis
- The USyd SRC will support campaigns by union activists demanding COVID safety measures on the job, including any organised by NTEU activists

**Discussion:**

Eddie Stephenson spoke to their motion covering its main point and highlighting that our current situation is the result of the ruling class caring more about profits than public health. Which we see again and again with the policies of not providing Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for free, forcing kids back into school to get parents back to making profits, and lowering jobseeker and cutting jobkeeper too early.

Akee Elliott spoke to their motion echoed the sentiments of Eddie Stephenson and spoke about the ways in which the government could support and help workers through the pandemic and highlighting that they are instead doing the opposite. Concluding this was a calculated attack on workers.

Simon Upitis spoke to the motion saying that the ruling class has been calculated and made clear they don't care about human life, only their profits, and echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers talking about the danger of the 'living with the virus' approach that has been adopted by so many at the expense of the vulnerable lives.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion echoed the sentiments of the previous speakers saying that some have related it to eugenics and she agreed, that this government has continued to place profit over lives.

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion and condemned capitalism in how its responded to the pandemic globally and asked for a clarification if the lockdown to zero campaign was still going and which in person lectures, tutorials, and elections Socialist Alternative support as there was some confusion at the end of last year and going into this year

Deaglan Godwin responded to Tiger Perkins questions noting that the lockdown to zero campaign was no longer running at that they disagreed with what USyd and universities across Australia are doing but they are not campaigning for locking down classes or anything, and the situation is disastrous and that the lockdown to zero would have been effective as the modelling that reopening was planning included mask mandates, which were scrapped almost immediately and gutted contact tracing, making the QR code system useless, and the government undermined that process to normalise deaths from covid for the sake of capitalism and profit.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Akee Elliott

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R5. Motion to condemn Labor's fossil fuel expansion**

Preamble:

Recently, the Guardian published an article on Anthony Albanese and the Labor Party's decision to support the tax-payer funded construction of a new gas-fired power station in the hunter region. Objections from Labor members that such projects "safeguard jobs and lower power prices" must be condemned in no uncertain terms. The artificial wedge that the major parties drive between jobs and climate action needs to be opposed and exposed for the lie that it is. An immediate just transition that prioritises workers is what is necessary, not more gas.

Platform:

- The USYD SRC condemns the actions of federal Labor in expanding the fossil fuel industry during the climate crisis
- The USYD SRC condemns the use of taxpayer money as a subsidy for the fossil fuel industry
- The USYD SRC endorses the Stop gas-fired dispossession! Stand with Gomeroi against Santos and Morrison protest on February 7th
- The USYD SRC endorses the School Strike for Climate protest on March 25th

Actions:

- The USYD SRC will advertise these protests on social media
- The SRC will fund promotional material for these two protests

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins spoke to their motion reading the motion out to the council, and asked if any Labor member would like to respond to the comments by Anthony Albanese.

Mikaela Pappou responded and spoke to the motion, saying that it was against the Left of the Labor party's platform to reject any new fossil fuel projects and that this move by the Labor party was disappointing and this isn't what an opposition should be doing they should be offering an alternative, especially since these mining projects are on stolen land.

Angus Dermody spoke to their motion and said that the actions by Anthony Albanese felt like the final nail in the coffin around the idea that climate action can't be achieved through the ballot box and elections, but need collective actions

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion agreeing that this is "shit" but it makes clear how the Labor party is just about maintaining existing capitalism and profits, and instead there need to be an independent from the ground action that calls for climate justice, and hold political parties accountable and pushes for no worker to be left behind in the transition.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and noted that this speaks to the SRC not supporting Labor in the upcoming federal elections, when they will not be pushing climate action they will be dragging their feet just like the liberal party.

Moved: Moved: Tiger Perkins

Seconded: Angus Dermody

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R6. Motion of solidarity with Gomeroi people against Santos and the Liberal government**

### **Preamble:**

Santos, with the support of the Morrison government, have lodged a “Future Acts Determination Application” in the Native Title Tribunal, seeking to enforce their climate-wrecking Narrabri gas field despite consistent Gomeroi opposition to the project.

The Native Title system offers very little protection for First Nations people seeking to control developments on their lands. Santos are seeking to exploit this weakness, destroy existing rights and desecrate sacred lands that people have cared for since time immemorial. The Gomeroi people are one of many groups currently facing the destruction of their lands due to the Morrison government’s “gas-fired recovery” policy. This criminal policy is giving huge public subsidies to gas companies to dispossess and destroy in the middle of a climate emergency, when we urgently need to strengthen First Nations rights and transition to renewables and sustainable development.

Scott Morrison has made no effort to act on climate change, taking years to adopt even the vague aim of zero emissions by 2050 while encouraging and funding the ongoing expansion of gas and fossil fuels; even on Indigenous land. There is no climate justice without First Nations justice. Gomeroi resistance has defended these precious lands and the Great Artesian Basin for generations.

On February 7 at 12:30pm outside the Federal Court, Gomeroi people and supporters will rally outside the Federal Court on Gadigal land in Sydney to protest attempts by Santos and the Commonwealth to depossess Gomeroi and make way for the Narrabri coal-seam gas project. As representatives of an organisation that takes Indigenous sovereignty seriously, we should make every effort to stand in solidarity with Gomeroi people against fossil fuel companies intent on denying them their land rights.

### **Platform:**

1. As supporters of Indigenous sovereignty, the University of Sydney SRC stands in solidarity with Gomeroi people’s resistance to dispossession, and with all Indigenous peoples fighting for land rights.
2. The University of Sydney SRC condemns the Morrison government's ongoing push to expand the fossil fuel industry, and calls for a just transition to 100% publicly owned renewable energy.

**Action:**

1. The Usyd SRC shares the event on social media.
2. The Usyd SRC encourages all students to attend the rally on February 7 at 12:30pm outside the Federal Court.

Discussion:

Angus Dermody spoke to their motion highlighting its main points and highlighting and anyone who supports Indigenous sovereignty should support this motion.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to their motion echoing Angus Dermody and adding that we have the number to have a tangible Impact so make sure you can come along and show support for the Gomeroi people.

Moved: Angus Dermody

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Before the proposed motion from the floor was put to the council Lauren Lancaster called to take the photo in solidarity with transport workers from Q1.*

Gabi Stricker-Phelps entered the meeting and asked where the meeting was up to.

Lauren Lancaster said meeting was taking a solidarity photo of Gabi would like to participate.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps said she was interested in an earlier motion and requested the meeting return to agenda item Q2.

Lauren Lancaster informed her that discussion on the motion had closed about an hour ago.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps said she felt this was atrocious, undemocratic and that the motion was anti-Semitic and un-Australian.

The meeting devolved into cross talk and general disagreement with Gabi Stricker-Phelps' comments and some statements of "fuck Australia".

Lauren Lancaster called the meeting to order, requested that Gabi Stricker-Phelps refrain from speaking as the motion has already passed and the meeting had moved on, adding if she wanted to speak to motions in the future to come to the meeting on time and discuss them as they arise on the agenda, but if she continued now she would be muted and made to leave for disrupting.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps appeared to leave the meeting.

## **MOTION FROM THE FLOOR:**

### **R7. Motion to change the terminology of 'Lunar New Year'**

#### **Preamble:**

Recently in the spirit of celebrating Chinese New Year, the University posted contents on its social media with the word 'Happy Lunar New Year', however backfired as more than 50 students calling out the inaccuracy of the terminology.

The term 'Lunar New Year' is incorrect and different from the well-known 'Chinese New Year' as the holiday isn't actually based on the lunar calendar, but rather the lunisolar calendar. Thus, using the term 'Lunar New Year' can be rather exclusionary to the Chinese community, as the Chinese community is deprived from the celebration of their own festival and the meaning behind the celebration is deducted. Moreover, by replacing Chinese New Year by Lunar New Year, it is inappropriate because it treats all Asian cultures, such as Chinese, Vietnamese, Koreans as replaceable.

Although there are other Asian community and countries holds celebration for this Chinese Tradition, the use of correct terminology is highly crucial in showing the respect and culture appropriation. While Chinese New Year celebrates the traditional value and culture, its affiliation with homeland consoles the Chinese international students while study overseas without any family and relatives around.

In relation to the UK Council international student Affairs Yinbo Yu: 'It is important though that they are also supported at this time when it is only natural to feel the absence from home and family more sharply than usual.'

#### **Platform:**

1. The USYD SRC supports the movement of clarifying and reclaiming of the holiday.
2. The USYD SRC condemns the action of excluding the Chinese community from the Lunar New Year terminology.

#### **Action:**

1. The university of Sydney Students' Representative Council will share information regarding the terminology and refer to it as 'CNY' or 'Chinese New Year'.
2. The SRC will attend future events in support of reclaiming CNY.

**Moved:** Nicole Yang

**Seconded:** Bella Anderssen

Nicole Yang spoke to their motion talking about the difference between a true Lunar New Year and Chinese New Year and how removing China from the celebration dismissed the importance of Chinese New Year and leave student feeling excluded from their celebration.

Bella Anderssen waived her right to speak.

**Moved:** Nicole Yang

**Seconded:** Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

*The meeting closed at 8:41pm.*