



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

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MINUTES:

of the 5th regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on Wednesday 1st June 2022. Meeting held in the Law Lecture Theatre 104, New Law Annex, and via Zoom.

*Quorum count conducted at 6:15pm
Meeting was found quorate at 6:17pm*

A. Meeting open at 6:17pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Alana Ramshaw 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

Olivia Mangholi to Miranda Chen
Madeleine Maronese to Isabella Chiper
Julia Tran to Grace Porter
Ricky Rangra to Grace Lagan
Charlotte Ainsworth to Luke Mesterovic
Max Prince to Nicholas Comino

Moved: Lauren Lancaster
Seconded: Alana Ramshaw
The apologies were accepted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Madeleine Maronese resigns to Isabella Chiper

Motion: That the Council provisionally accept the resignation, pending resignation emails from the remaining ticket members. (1 month to respond)

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 94th SRC Council held on 4th of May 2022 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4th of May 2022 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. E Election of 2 Mature Age Students' Officers

There were no nominations

K2. Election of 1 Social Justice Officer (must be non-cis male to qualify)

There were no nominations

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 29th of April 2022.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from 29th of April 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 4th to the 31st of May 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:

Much has happened since the last council!

1) NTEU Strikes

- a) The strikes were for the most part, a huge success in terms of showing staunch student solidarity for staff. The 48 hr strike got the attention of universities, media and activists around the country and I thank Nick Reimer, the NTEU, Casuals Network and other unionists who joined students on the picket lines over the two days. The singing of union songs accompanied by Ron Clarke's french horn, the MUA's sausage sizzle and zooming in to give updates to the digital picket were just a few of my favourite moments. The following 24hr strike did not lose momentum, and came the day after the NSW Auditor-General's Office reported USYD's operating surplus of over \$1 billion. Talk about poor timing for management.
- b) I have never been prouder to be involved in student organising. The mammoth efforts of the Sydney University Education Action Group over the past months building student solidarity for this event deserve recognition and celebration. I was heartened to see the EAG meetings swelling in numbers between the two strikes and am excited to welcome new members as a result of our building efforts.
- c) It was a great few days, but we know there will be far harder ones coming. The uni has already undertaken a campaign of misinformation and fearmongering to demonise strikers and alienate students from this EBA effort, which we must resist. It is likely there will be more strike actions next semester, which the SRC will continue to rally around again. I think a question that academic Toy Fitch asked in his Overland article about the strikes sums up what we are fighting for, and against: "Is the essential nature of the university a socially democratic educational community where academics, workers and students have an equal say in how it operates, or is it a corporate juggernaut governed by oligarchs?".
- d) I believe the former, and we will continue to stand respectfully with staff in pursuit of that vision of tertiary education. I also note the UTS and WSU protected actions that are coming up - the WSU is striking next Tuesday. There are details in the EAG and we will post from the SRC facebook as well. If you can attend please do so.

2) Federal Election

- a) Last week, the Federal Election (and Honi party) dominated my, and likely your, agenda! While there are significant and gaping holes in the policies of the incoming Labor government, a change was the principally right thing for Australia and I cannot say I am not relieved. Most if not all of us as undergraduates have lived much of our teens and early adult life under exclusively Coalition rule. It was not pretty. Young people are in the some of the most precarious economic and welfare positions we've ever seen, the climate crisis

is unfolding all around us and federal politics have been bogged down by extraordinary bigotry, incompetence, corruption and stasis.

- b) We do not rest our laurels with Labor, but continue to organise the student movement to fight for an end to student debt, a rejection of neoliberal austerity in all its forms, the humane and ethical treatment of refugees, better welfare and Centrelink for young people, and for a climate we can thrive in past 2030.
- c) What the election cycle showed me yet again was the extent to which the pilfering of our tertiary education institutions is predicated upon and made possible by continuing austerity and funding cuts at a legislative level. I hope that some of the structural attacks on universities in this country are reversed as a critical priority. Notwithstanding federal politics, the union and grassroots movements must continue to lead the way on community and radical organising. It is ultimately on the streets and through industrial action that true progressive gains are achieved.

3) USU Elections

- a) A little closer to home, elections similarly abounded with the USU Elections wrapping up. I congratulate all the new incoming Board Directors and hope to see the progressive platforms on which many of them ran translate into patent and effective policy and action over their terms.

4) Food Hub

- a) Emily and I had a productive meeting with Food Bank NSW representatives and the USU in which we took steps towards starting a subsidised food pantry for students in Semester 2. This will replace the Food Hub arrangement during COVID lockdowns, as those hampers have been discontinued by Food Bank. The new format will be more demand-driven and flexible to what individual students need to eat.

5) First Nations events

- a) Last Saturday I attended the FN Voices campus tour which was a brilliant deep dive into Indigenous art and history on campus and in the Law School. I recommend it to everyone here - it was good to learn more about the indigenous sites, artworks and resistance on campus and we had lunch at Chau Chak afterwards. One shocking piece of information I found out was that not only is the Quad built on an indigenous sacred site, but the limestone used to grout between the sandstone of that building is made using middens, discarded shells that are an important marking tool for Indigenous history and cultural sites. Freshwater shell middens provide valuable information about past Aboriginal economy and land use. They are one of the few sources of information about Aboriginal use of lakes, rivers and swamps.
- b) NAIDOC week: first week of July. I am speaking to Jaime and Ben from SULLS about what we want to do for NAIDOC and where we can help out in terms of Semester 2 Indigenous engagement.
- c) No police guns, End the racist NT intervention Rally is coming up on Saturday June 18th, 1pm at Town Hall.

6) EdCon

- a) We have begun organising the Ed Conference with the NUS executive - booking rooms, plenaries and workshops for the 3 days.
- b) We want this to be an accessible and meaningful event that brings in people beyond the factions and refocuses the student movement somewhat. We will have social events in the evenings too so people can meet comrades from across Australia and carry on debates from the day sessions! More details will be released soon!

7) Abuse in the President's inbox

- a) I don't like to bring this up publicly but I have recently been on the receiving end of what appears to be a cyberbullying campaign for the Palestinian solidarity work this Council does. I have received multiple abusive, threatening and frankly, unhinged emails, letters and social media tags from people I do not know. These usually tell me I should be ashamed of how racist we all are for standing in solidarity with Palestine (which is an entirely insubstantial political take).
- b) I also note with disappointment that UMSU recently rescinded their Palestinian solidarity motion. This is a real shame and flies in the face of student democracy. As the Chair of this Council, I strive to make sure we debate and decide the merits of motions and stances we want to take in a fair and transparent manner. The motions we pass in solidarity with Palestine are the joint position of Council, not of one single person. To rescind as UMSU have done undermines the function of student politics as a place for radical debate and disagreement founded on good process.

8) Administration

- a) Chitra is leaving very soon and Paula, her replacement for the next 14 months, has gotten off to a running start! We wish Chits all the best with her new baby and a much deserved break.
- b) Reallocation of SSAF: we have applied with the University to redirect some old unspent funds to Honi Soit stipend increase, Pubs, Legal and Casework projects. We should hear back soon.
- c) Capital infrastructure applications: I have submitted a number of these, one for a new office entirely, and one for a refurbishment. Apparently Wentworth is being slated for demolition so I am hoping we can relocate the SRC entirely within the next few months.
- d) As decided at last week's Executive, we will be opening the SRC up Monday-Wednesday to all walk-ins and student appointments from July 4th. This is during the holidays to allow everyone to adjust in preparation for semester 2. Thursday and Friday will be like they are currently - with some staff working in the office and some at home, and all swipe holders having access.
- e) Regulations: I have drafted and nearly finished a bunch of regs changes - they will be sent out by the Secretary to Council for general review. It's all pretty uncontroversial, and I am simply glad to have it off the execs collective plate.
- f) Leave: I'm going to take a little bit of time in late June off, and at the end of July. The rest of July will be busy with planning for EdCon and Semester 2 orientation so I'm excited for a bit of a rest.

Good luck to everyone for your exams and final assignments. Thank you for your work and attendance this semester - looking forward to the second half of the year and all it will bring!

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke briefly to her report covering its main points.

Eddie Stephenson asked about what the vision for Education Conference is going to be this year.

Lauren Lancaster said she wanted it to expand the reach of student unions and create more events to bring new people into the union movement, but nothing specific as of yet.

Khanh Tran asked about the Food bank initiative, asking if it will be grocery box style or individual items people can select from themselves

Lauren Lancaster said it would be purchasing individual items and then things would be picked up more depending on demand

Alex Poirier asked about the possibility of having EdCon events not just on Camperdown campus?

Lauren Lancaster said they were looking into that possibility, and that no rooms have been booked yet.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report:

Foodhub

This month we wrote a long and **detailed analysis report of Foodhub** for our counterparts at the USU which was very effective. We made a strong case by outlying economic pressures like the cost-of-living crisis which is disproportionately affecting students. We also spoke with ARC from UNSW about their Foodhub program - apparently their service is still up and running, and receiving 'more demand than ever before'.

We **met with USU and Foodhub** to discuss our findings and the potential to work together, and all parties were very perceptive and keen. Foodbank is offering us access to an ordering system where we can bulk buy our chosen items either for free or at a very cheap price. Other than food, we may also **expand foodhub** to provide sanitary items and toiletries for students too. We are happy to say that It's looking like foodbank will be returning to usyd in semester 2 :)

Edcon

Our application to host the **Educational Conference (Edcon) got approved!!** We are still in the beginning stages of planning, but can confirm it will be held in mid July, and will be open to all university students looking to engage in discussion and learning regarding the major issues facing

higher education.

Other projects and meetings:

- We have been attending the **student leadership training committee**, the purpose of which is to find ways to expand and improve engagement with the program.
- We attended the **undergraduate studies committee**, which inspects all course reviews and changes. One of the main things we check are the transitional provisions to anticipate any impact to existing cohorts (particularly where there's changes to core requirements of a degree). There was nothing particularly noteworthy to report on this meeting.
- We also represented the SRC at the **student mental wellbeing advisory group**, the role of which is to provide advice on matters that support the implementation of the Student Mental Wellbeing Strategy, and identify risks in the concepts & put forward ideas to mitigate them.

Discussion:

Emily spoke to the report covering its main points particularly on Foodhub.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the report covering mostly EdCon and what is being planned.

There was banter around past EdCon's workshops and their names.

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:

Education Conference Planning

We both attended last week's meeting with the NUS regarding USyd's hosting of EdCon during the winter break. With another planning meeting tomorrow, it is clear that consensus is emerging around holding a conference that aims to bring in people who don't usually engage with stupol with engaging workshops and vibrant social events.

We will also move towards planning our own Rad Ed program now that semester is over, and hope to bring you updates on that front next council.

Strike!

Both of us were present on the pickets for the full three days of staff strikes in Week 11 and 13. We helped shutdown classes, held strike-breakers intent on forcing their way through accountable, and turned around so many would-be scabs we lost count. Thank you to Lia and Deaglan for all of their work in building for these strikes: we will play an active role in the EAG into semester two as negotiations between the NTEU and management continue.

Constitutional Reform

We met with the SLC recently to review and improve regulations changes drafted by the President in response to the 2021 EO report. We hope to bring these to the July council, with time for all members of council to review these changes in accordance with the rules.

Discussion:

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the report covering its main points

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

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:

Week 11 & Week 13 Strikes

By far the sweetest moment of this semester will be the three days- two in Week 11 and another in Week 13- in which staff shut down the university and showed management who really runs the place. The decision to strike for 48 hours in Week 11 was clearly the right one- two back-to-back days were essential for gathering momentum and confidence. The subsequent strike in Week 13 was similarly important in solidifying the argument that sustained strike action is needed in order to force management to concede. It was also important because it was the first time university workers have gone on strike explicitly about First Nations demands. Congratulations to all in the union who fought for three successful days of strikes this semester.

It was electrifying to stand beside striking workers- some of whom it was their first time on strike or on a picket- and declare that the campus was closed to anyone trying to come in. Despite the torrential rain, the staff and student mobilisation on the days was strong- a testament to the immense amount of work NTEU and EAG members have put in over the entire semester. The presence of so many students emboldened staff and gave them confidence in their righteousness of their struggle. It was also essential for the establishment of so many picket lines across the campus- students linking arms helped to make harder pickets which could stop and turn back more scabs. It was an amazing effort from all students who attended on the days of the pickets. The more that we can revive the long tradition within the union movement of hard picket lines, the more we can revive in general militancy and combativeness on the part of workers- an essential antidote to the offensive from the bosses and government.

Following the news that USyd received a \$1.04 BILLION surplus, university management have announced a 2.1% pay rise and \$1000 one-off payment for all staff. With inflation at 5.1%, this still amounts effectively to a pay cut - and it is very clear they can afford it. If we take into account long standing wage theft from casuals at this university, this offer is an insult. Management continues to refuse to budge on the key demands of academic workloads, casual permanency and

Indigenous-staff targets (which the Week 13 strike highlighted). Strikes in semester 2 will therefore be essential in defeating management's attacks on the pay and conditions of USyd staff.

Federal Election

The federal election unsurprisingly swept into power an ALP government under Anthony Albanese. While we welcome the humiliating loss of the Liberals, we can't hope for any meaningful change from the Labor Party, who have already shown their main concerns to be budget balancing, hardline stance on refugees and shoring up Australia's imperialist position. The success of the Greens demonstrates that there still exists a sizable portion of Australian society- especially of young people- who want something to the left of Labor. As a student union, we have to continue fighting the government and bosses, and make it clear to students that only struggle can win any serious solutions to the many crises facing students and workers, such as the climate crisis and cost of living crisis.

No ADA Cuts at UNSW

UNSW students are facing restructures to the Arts, Design & Architecture Faculty, which will lead to 13 degrees into only 5. This comes off the back of UNSW cutting over 600 courses during the pandemic. The EAG's campaign last year and Student General Meeting demonstrate the way in which these sort of cuts can be resisted and it's important that activists in the UNSW Education Collective have initiated a campaign called No ADA Cuts. They are holding their first rally about the issue next Wednesday, June 8 and USyd activists should attend in solidarity. An attack against one section of students is an attack against all of us.

Western Sydney University Strike

Undoubtedly because of the NTEU's strike at USyd, staff at Western Sydney University are striking on Tuesday June 7. Along with other education collectives, we have set up a broader student contingent to the event. With a host of other campuses in Sydney possibly set to strike later this year, 2022 could really turn out to be the year of strikes in higher education. Those involved in the strikes at USyd should join us in going out to WSU next week and showing staff there that they are not alone in their struggle.

Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/3lpHu7a8D>

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the report covering the main points and highlighting the strike demands of the 23rd being based on Indigenous workers' rights and the University's surplus. Also noted the strike at Western Sydney University coming up.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report and highlighting the strike and the title of Mark Scott as the 'manager of the unmanageable' and that students participating in that strike hopefully contributed to that title. Adding that the of the fight for workers' rights at the University is not over and there will be more actions in the future, and that support at the strikes were evidence that students want to stand with their tutors and lecturers in fighting for a better education. Concluding that the successes at USyd can be used to encourage action at other institutions.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Dashie Prasad and Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

The main focus of the last fortnight has been showing solidarity with the NTEU and giving support to the SRC and Education officers in the build up to the 48-hour strike and picket by USyd workers. It was very encouraging to see WOCO members be involved in the building process, heading up contingents of their faculties, lecture bashing and stalling.

Women's Officers were also involved in seeking cross union support for the NTEU strike, securing endorsements and messages of solidarity from many unions. We were also involved in finding media coverage for the strike, which was covered by 7 News, 9 News, SMH, ABC's The Drum as well as our very own Honi Soit team who did an in-depth coverage of the industrial action.

Congratulations to the Union, the SRC and community members who maintained the pickets with strong militancy. The Women's Collective sends their undying solidarity with staff in their struggle against university management. The Women's Collective will continue to support building efforts ahead of a potential second strike on the 24th of May.

On Tuesday the 10th of May, the collective, along with the EAG and feminist activist on campus, organised a speak out against the potential supreme court overturning of abortion rights for people across The United States of America. With the conservative appointment of Judges in the Supreme court (which has a stronger precedence setting/law making capacity in the USA than it does in Australia) could see the overturning of Roe V Wade, which would take away privacy and autonomy of people's decision over their own bodies regarding their pregnancies.

Many students gathered out the front of Fisher Library to share anger, stories and solidarity with the many women and trans folk in the USA that will suffer if this goes ahead. The fight for a free and accessible abortion as health care in Australia is a long one yet, and jabs from right wing politicians against legal abortion are a continuous threat to women's right still. Wo.Co will continue its fight for abortion rights into the year, so get involved if this is an issue you care about!

Discussion:

Dashie Prasad spoke to the report covering its main points focusing on the collective's involvement in the strike actions and the leaked United States Supreme Court ruling on Roe v Wade.

Alex Poirier asked if there will be any events for Radical Sex and Consent week planned to happen at the Conservatorium (The Con)?

Dashie Prasad said that it would be fun to do some.

Brigette Holden asked if all satellite campuses could be included not just The Con.

Dashie Prasad asked that anyone from satellite campuses that would like events on those campuses to get in touch so events can be organised together.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Queer Officers

Social Media:

Control of the QuAC instagram and twitter accounts have been regained and we have started to post across all social media.

Strikes:

QuAC joined the strikes at Uni on the 11th, 12th and 24th in solidarity with staff. We got involved with multiple banner paints with PiP, the Gender Studies Faculty and the Queer Contingent. This was the first strike in Australia to have demands for trans rights, annual gender affirmation leave, and as such it was extremely for the queer collective to show it's support.

Name Change:

QuAC is collecting information about trans students' experiences with changing their name with the University. At the moment legally changing your name with the university does not update your name across all university services. This leads to students being deadnamed and opens them up to possible harassment from other staff and students. We would like to use these experiences to help push the university to make changes to how they handle name changes and showcase the issue in the upcoming queer issue.

Gender Affirmation Supplies:

Funding has been requested to provide trans students free binders and gaffs, and to supply tucking and binding tape in the queer space. Binders and gaffs are essential items of clothing to help trans people to feel more comfortable with their own body and selves. However they are expensive and many trans people cannot afford them. This is why it is important for us to provide trans students with the gender affirmation supplies they need. A request form will be put out when funding is approved. Which it may well be by the time this report comes out.

Queer Space:

QuAC has contacted the facilities manager at manning to fix the broken windows and air conditioning in the queer space. We also plan to repaint sections of the room, remove old materials, donate the shared clothes to charity, and do a general deep clean of the room. We have also contacted ACON for safe sex and general sex ed resources to be placed in the room. Next semester we also plan to replace the broken fridge and supply mugs for room.

Queer Honi:

A call for submission has been put out for the Queer Honi issue and we have contacted Honi Soit to lock in a date for the issue.

End of Semester Drinks:

QuAC went to Hermann's on Monday the 23rd for drinks to celebrate the end of semester. We baked a cake for the event that was pink and had the trans flag as layers in the cake. Overall, it was a good night.

Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the report covering the main points.

Bella Anderssen asked about the name change campaign and what it was now.

Yasmin Andrews said it was about streamlining the changing your name process which now involves multiple steps.

Bella Anderssen asked if you can't/or haven't changed your legal name but want your preferred name can you change it to that?

Ella Pash said that it was a similar process and will often have your legal name next to a preferred name

Yasmin Andrews said we want to streamline this so just the preferred name shows.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

We have posted the guide of fulfilling Australia Digital Passenger Declaration (DPD) in May. DPD is required for all passengers entering Australia. This could help international students who want to enter Australia in an easy way. Before marketing we should build foundation on our official accounts so that is the first step. Everything is on the way, the next step is to propagandize our official accounts. More details will be negotiated with the president and caseworkers.

Jasmine Al-Rawi gave an additional verbal report:

- Spoke about the strikes this semester and the work that was put into building them and get students getting involved

- Nakba Rally was successful and shows how many people support the people of Palestine and stand against apartheid despite the governments ongoing support of Israel's apartheid state

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Welfare Officers

This past month, the Welfare Officers and Welfare Action Group (WAG) have focused on supporting the NTEU's strike action, and backing the EAG's work in organising student contingents to the strike. We want to emphasise, as we did in our last report, that the welfare of staff is intimately linked to the welfare of students, and the work that WAG does must consider how staff are treated. The Welfare Officers will continue to support any further action the NTEU and EAG take however we can, and urge all other students, especially student representatives, to do the same. Without staff having secure employment, fair pay and fair working conditions which are crucial for their welfare, there can be no progress on fixing faltering student services such as Special Considerations that are consistently plagued by understaffing and casualisation.

The Welfare Officers also want to express our disappointment about the dispute over Disability Provisions in the University of Sydney Medical School. As covered by a recent article in Honi Soit, some students in the Medical School who had Disability Plans were informed they would be forced to retake an exam after a Unit of Study Coordinator deemed their initial papers, which they took with their approved adjustments, "incomplete". We commend the action taken by the Medical School faculty to quickly resolve the issue, however, we recognise this incident as part of a broader trend of barriers to disability accessibility at the University. Students with Disability Plans are frequently forced to repeatedly follow up with faculty to have their approved plans implemented, are denied fair adjustments, and in general subject to inordinately bureaucratic, complex and inaccessible systems throughout the University. We believe much more needs to be done by the faculty to proactively implement accessibility measures, including disability plans, particularly given the University's obligation to ensure disabled students' right to education under section 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Throughout this semester, the Welfare Action Group has been running fortnightly meetings. Over the break, we will be focusing on building momentum within the movement and organising initiatives in collaboration with other collectives to address many issues that have emerged over Semester 1. These include, among other issues, fighting against the ongoing centralisation and failure of student support services, taking action for refugee rights, ensuring accessibility on campus and supporting ongoing flood relief. We strongly encourage all students to come to WAG meetings and support our initiatives, and to fight for all students' welfare and the welfare of the broader community.

Discussion:

Eamonn Murphy spoke to the report and covered its main points saying the Welfare Action Group (WAG) stands with the NTEU. Adding that the University has continued to disregard the needs and rights of disabled students at the University and there are a number of particular incidents that have occurred, so the WAG will be putting disabled students first in our initiatives. And look forward to seeing people come to WAG meetings.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

06. Report of the Environment Officers

Since the last council meeting we had the May 6 climate strike! It was great to be out in the streets for one last climate strike under the Morrison government, who have done tremendous damage to the planet with their climate crimes over recent years. The Enviro Collective were proud to be featured significantly in the media coverage, with our message of "Strike Scomo Out!" receiving a lot of attention!

And strike Scomo out we did! Many would have been glad to see the end of the Morrison government on the 21st. There is much to celebrate, particularly the fact that the vote represented the desire for real climate action. Despite the very rightful celebrations, it is hard to be too happy. In the past week we've also seen the election of a new Labor government under Anthony Albanese. We want to reiterate that we'll be fighting just as hard under Albanese as we have under Morrison, on account of Labor's dismal policy platform on climate action. If Anthony Albanese wants to act like Scott Morrison then we'll treat him like Scott Morrison. While it is a step forward, the Labor government will no doubt disappoint anyone who voted for them expecting better action for the climate. The real change will come, as it always has, from the movements that we are able to build in the streets. We won't stop until we see a just transition to 100% publicly-owned renewable energy, and it's great that talks are already underway for the next large-scale mobilisation for the climate.

We've had a relatively quiet few weeks with the Enviro Collective on account of all the other great things we've been doing! In particular, we've been building for and participating in the staff strikes and pickets which happened in week 11 and again in week 13 to great success! It was great to see so many staunch new faces out on the pickets engaging in meaningful discussion with would-be scabs looking to cross the picket. The week 13 strike, which focused on demands surrounding Indigenous employment targets, was of particular note. The Enviro Collective was proud to stand with staff who have stood with us at all of our strikes, and who are building the sort of fighting movement that can actually win climate action!

Looking forward over the break, there are a few upcoming events that Enviro will be mobilising for, and that we'd encourage others to attend:

- Next week on the 7th there are staff strikes at Western Sydney Uni. These strikes are an important continuation in the fighting campaign across universities, with more strikes likely at Usyd and UTS as well.
- On the 10th of June (next Friday) there is an open forum at UTS at 6pm with Indigenous activists speaking in preparation for the June 18th National Day of Action called by Yuendumu elders in response to the murder of Kumanjayi Walker and the acquittal of Zachary Rolfe. We must continue to stand in solidarity with the fight for First Nations justice wherever it presents itself.

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the report covering its main points focussing on the strikes and actions for pushing the new government to take a better climate action policy as it's pretty dismal at the moment.

Nick Comino asked about the if there is any campaigns to push at the cross bench as well as Labor?

Ishbel Dunsmore said there wasn't.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

07. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers

Verbal report from the refugee right officers

- Spoke about the actions of the ALP in the first things they did with regards to refugees
 - o The ALP haven't offered 'The Biloea Family' permanent protection yet even though they could easily have done so
 - o Instead the first thing was to send back a boat of Tamil refugees to Sri Lanka where they will face persecution
 - o They then went to sky news to say that nothing about refugee policy has changed
 - o They have only put the Biloea family on a bridging visa, not a permanent protection visa and back into the same system that left took them from their home and to Christmas Island

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Lauren Lancaster reigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Q1. The Sydney University SRC stands in solidarity with Palestine.

Preamble:

The recent murder of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by an IDF sniper has again demonstrated the violence of the occupation. Palestinians were denied the ability to mourn when Israeli police assaulted casket-bearers at her funeral.

Palestinians are structurally discriminated against solely because they are Palestinian. Millions of Palestinians within Israel are second-class citizens, millions more are denied the most basic rights of citizenship. Palestinians born overseas are denied the basic right of return. Those in the West Bank are robbed of basic human rights. Organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have declared that Israel operates a system of apartheid.

New illegal settlements are continually built in the West Bank while Palestinian homes are demolished. The evictions of Palestinians in Massafer Yatta is but the latest instance of the ethnic cleansing that has been a constant feature of Palestinian life since 1948.

Many major institutions in Australia back or remain complicit in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and as such, defend apartheid. Both Liberal and Labor parties routinely proclaim their support for the Israeli state. Australia recognises occupied West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and boasts of a 'warm and close relationship'.

Student unions should stand against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemn the ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. To champion the cause of Palestine is a basic anti-imperialist and anti-racist act. Such solidarity is vital in a country like Australia which stridently supports Israel and is built on the oppression of First Nations communities and immigrant peoples.

The council stands in opposition to the right-wing intimidation, through a the threat of a lawsuit, of the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) for passing a motion in solidarity with Palestine. The council also notes that the rescinding of the UMSU motion under this right-wing pressure sets a bad precedent both for Palestine solidarity and basic student democracy.

Student unions have an important role to play in swimming against the tide of the Australian political establishment, being a space of open left-wing debate and in their support of Palestinian resistance. Student union also should play a role in mobilising Palestinian solidarity in Australia. Solidarity protests and campaigns such as Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions are central to this fight. The council calls on Sydney University to divest from Israeli institutions and uphold the academic boycott of Israeli universities. It is a basic duty of progressive student unionism to stand with the oppressed against the oppressor.

Platform:

1. The Sydney University SRC reaffirms its opposition to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and its system of militarised apartheid and ethnic cleansing.
2. The Sydney University SRC reaffirms its support for the Palestinian struggle for liberation, justice and self-determination. The SRC supports a free Palestine.
3. The Sydney University SRC reaffirms its condemnation of the Australian governments support for Israeli apartheid.
4. The Sydney University SRC endorses the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement targeting Israeli apartheid.
5. The Sydney University SRC rejects the idea opposition to Israel is anti-Semitic. Not all Jewish people support Israeli apartheid. The council opposes both anti-semitism and the actions of the Israeli state.
6. The Sydney University SRC opposes the attacks on the University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) after the union passed a motion in solidarity with Palestine.
7. The Sydney University SRC notes that the UMSU motion in solidarity Palestine being rescinded under pressure sets a bad precedent. The SRC supports ongoing efforts to reinstate the motion.

Action points:

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

Discussion:

Owen Marden-Readford spoke to the motion, and covered the background of where the motion came from, and the history of Palestine and the oppression Palestinians both in Palestine and Israel as well as those unable to return.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying that we do not cave to the pressure of extreme groups who attempt to suppress student organisation with university bureaucracy, and we will not back down to bullying tactics.

Alana Ramshaw resigned the chair to Lia Perkins

Alana Ramshaw spoke to the motion highlighting the importance of standing up to bullying tactics used to intimidate student unions.

Mikaela Pappou spoke about the shame of pushing UMSU to rescind a motion with the threat of legal action, saying that it presumes if you have enough money, you can silence anyone. Adding that the SRC stand with UMSU in dealing with the pressure noting that the SRC makes motions on Palestine multiple times a year and won't back down if threatened with legal action from far-right-wing groups.

Luke ??? Spoke about the privilege of being a part of a group standing up against apartheid, and we should be pushing the government to not embed themselves with governments that continue to subject people to an apartheid state. Adding that they hope we continue to campaign around this issue.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke about the motion about what happened with the murder of Palestinian journalist and then the attacks on her funeral by Israeli police. Spoke about how people need to commit to Palestinian solidarity and support and building rallies and event and to get involved in those organisations. And not to conflate the violence of the oppressed with the violence of the oppressor.

Henri ??? spoke to the motion saying that lawsuit is an attack on Palestinian people right to live and exist in their own country but also silence student unionism. This is nothing more than a slap suit aimed to silence people talking about the actions of Israel against Palestine, and we should stand up against such suits.

Deaglan Godwin echoed the sentiments of past speaker and spoke about highlighting the attacks on student unions in the past for taking principled positions. Spoke about the attacks Palestinians have faced in the last year and that as an organisation we need to stand up and reject the claim that supporting the people of Palestine is anti-Semitic, and to stand up to a loud minority, not the title they give themselves of the quiet majority.

Dashie Prasad spoke to the motion, echoing the statements of Deaglan Godwin and spoke about how people need to put their values ahead of electoral politics and not let tactics like lawsuits impact activists' work.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion and some of the comments made about the Israeli government's treatment of Palestine and how it is not a complicated issue and that the continued occupation was criminal.

Moved: Owen Marsden-Readford

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Nicholas Comino requested their vote be noted: against

Lauren Lancaster resumed the Chair

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes per speaker

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Q2. SRC endorses the National Day of Action Karrinjarla Muwajarri ceasefire

Preamble:

Elders from Yuendumu have called a National Day of Action on June 18, following the acquittal of NT Police Constable Rolfe for shooting and killing 19-year old Kumanjayi Walker.

The date of June 18 also marks 15 years since the NT intervention was launched by the Howard government which introduced racist, draconian controls over Aboriginal lives and lands. Shamefully, these controls remain in place in the NT today.

The rally on Gadigal land will show support for the demands from Yuendumu outlined in their statement "Karrinjarla Muwajarri - we are calling for an immediate police ceasefire" aimed at disarming and defunding the police to ensure that shootings and police brutality end and the right to self-determination for Aboriginal communities is respected. The call to action reads:

"June this year will mark fifteen years since the NT Intervention began, laying the destructive path that led to the tragic shooting on our lands. 'Stronger Futures' laws are set to expire soon but other Intervention powers will continue and we face a huge fight to regain our rights and rebuild what has been destroyed.

We are calling for a National Day of Action on June 18 to demand justice for Walker, justice for the many deaths of First Nations people in custody, an end to the discriminatory Intervention powers and reassertion of community control.

We want other First Nations families, communities and supporters to join us in protest again, amplify our voices and put forward your own demands for justice. Let's come out in big numbers and build collective power together to force change."

Statement:

https://karrinjarlamuwajarri.org/?fbclid=IwAR0IaINrAp2OTWdzxpF2XG_kDrUvWmmkktqi2DYjffS05hvelIFFZHH1WBg

Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/2uIIJSJAKS>

Platform:

- The USyd SRC is committed to First Nations Justice and fighting against racism, so we stand in full support of the demands from Yuendumu to demand justice for Walker and for all deaths of First Nations people in custody, an end to the discriminatory NT intervention and an assertion of community control.

Action:

- The USyd SRC supports the National Day of Action on June 18 and will share the Facebook event from social media
- All USyd SRC councillors will endeavour to attend the NDA on Gadigal land on June 18
- The USyd SRC will sign onto and endorse the Karrinjarla Muwajarri ceasefire demands

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Dashie Prasad

Q5. Motion in support of National Day of Action for a police ceasefire called by Yuendumu Elders on June 18

Preamble:

In November of 2019, Kumanjayi Walker was murdered by NT police constable Zachary Rolfe in the remote community of Yuendumu. Rolfe was charged with murder, but then, in March of this year, acquitted by an almost all white jury. In response, Warlpiri elders from Yuendumu have called a National Day of Action on June 18.

They are calling for an indefinite police ceasefire under the banner of Karrinjarla Muwajarri. Among their demands are: no guns in remote communities, the defunding of the NT police, Warlpiri governance and authority in their community, and end to the discriminatory laws and powers introduced with the NT Intervention, kids on country not in custody, a retrial for Zachary Rolfe, and more. These demands reflect the concerns of the Yuendumu community, whose elders state that “Everything that has happened to our community over the past fifteen years has been in the context of the racist NT Intervention.”

This June marks 15 years since the Howard government began the Intervention, mobilising the army and introducing a wide swathe of racist, draconian controls over Aboriginal people and their lands. Ten years ago, Labor introduced the “Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory” legislation, extending the Intervention’s blanket prohibition on alcohol and pornography on Aboriginal lands until 2022. These laws, which also give extraordinary powers to police to enter houses and vehicles without a warrant, are now set to expire in July. But any chance of changing the conditions in these communities will have to come from a grassroots movement. Shamefully, in April this year, the NT Labor government announced “the biggest annual spend on police in the Territory’s history”. We need to support this National Day of Action and the call from Yuendumu for “an end to all discriminatory powers and laws that were introduced with the NT Intervention and a restoration of our community control. Funding for punitive agencies empowered by the Intervention needs to be re-directed into our expert community services so that our solutions can be designed and implemented from the grassroots up.”

The National Day of Action has been called to coincide with 15 years of the NT Intervention. There will be a rally of the community in Alice Springs led by Yuendumu elders, with more rallies organised by supporters around Australia. In Sydney we will be rallying on Gadigal land at Town Hall, at 1pm on the 18th of June.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney SRC supports the demands of Yuendumu elders, particularly for an end to the racist NT Intervention and for the defunding of the NT Police.
2. The SRC continues to stand in solidarity with the family of Kumanjayi Walker in their fight for justice, and with Indigenous activists across the country fighting against Indigenous deaths in custody.
3. The SRC supports the June 18th National Day of Action called by Yuendumu elders.

Action:

1. The SRC and its collectives will publicise the demands of Yuendumu elders and the June 18th National Day of Action on social media, encouraging members to attend the rally at 1pm at Town Hall.
2. The SRC will take a solidarity photo and publish on social media.

Moved: Angus Dermody

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The Chair ruled that motions Q2 and Q5 would be moved on bloc.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to motion Q2 and covered its main points.

Angus Dermody spoke to Q5 and covered its main points and encouraged everyone to read the demands from the Elders of Yuendumu.

Dashie Prasad spoke to the motions and about the importance of defunding the police. Also spoke about police and ministerial accountability.

Ishbel Dunsmore waived their right to speak.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion and asked about how many times is this going to happenen - where officers get away with murder. Adding that it comes from deeply embedded racist systems, the institutions that are structurally racist and the way the intervention continues to exist.

The motions were put and **CARRIED**

Q3. Students Support Staff Strikes: USyd supports the Western Sydney Strikes!

Preamble:

On Tuesday 7 June staff at Western Sydney uni are going on strike. This strike follows the successful 3 days of striking at USyd this semester. Students and staff at all universities should support this strike because they are fighting for similar conditions to staff and students at all universities.

Following a vote with enormous participation from members (96%) staff have voted to go on strike over their EBA demands. Similarly to other universities their key issues are over workloads, a pay rise (management shamefully offered just 2%) and job security. Management are also refusing to implement important decasualisation demands, further eroding the quality of education of students.

Recent strikes at the University of Sydney and in public and independent schools show that education is in a crisis, and our future urgently needs to be prioritised. Staff working conditions are student learning conditions so students at Western Sydney university and other universities should support staff demand better conditions. Workers at the University of Western Sydney should feel empowered by the recent strikes, and the support they have received to continue fighting until they win their demands.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC expresses solidarity with staff on strike at Western Sydney Uni
2. The USyd SRC encourages students and staff from USyd to attend the strike in support of the NTEU's important demands

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will share a solidarity post with staff from its Facebook page
2. Councillors and office bearers of the USyd SRC will attend the strike, joining the student contingent organised by the USyd EAG in collaboration with other campuses

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion covered its main points.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and spoke about the set up at WSU and the conditions they face compared to here and the importance of solidarity for other universities and student groups.

Emma Terry spoke to the motion and the importance of strong student solidarity across the strikes here, WSU and UTS, and we need to get out and show support and there will be more strikes and actions and we need to be supporting the left of the union and not capitulating to the right.

Alex Poirier spoke to the motion and highlighted how important to get out to support because there isn't the solid student body like we have here and we need to bring our experience and support to assist.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q4. Condemnation of UTS Management's Attacks on UTS Vertigo

Preamble:

In recent negotiations with UTS Students' Association, senior management have demanded that funding for UTS's official student publication, *Vertigo*, be slashed by approximately half the agreed-upon amount set at the beginning of this year. *Vertigo* have indicated that the volumes planned for the remainder of 2022 will not be available to the general public in print, and that their next volume will be the final sent to print for the year.

This is a shameful and pointed attack on student voices and their ability to critique and to dissent. More broadly, these cuts reflect the outlook held by university management for some time now,

that being that student media and student democracy is somehow not of enough importance to be well-supported by adequate funding.

Founded 30 years ago, *Vertigo* is an integral part of student life on campus, a place where student creativity and expression can foster. Given that UTS has posted a budget surplus almost tripling 2020's figures - standing at \$122 million - the institution's austerity demonstrates a clear disregard of student life. Vice-Chancellor Andrew Parfitt must be condemned for overseeing this draconian measure against what is a proud tradition of colourful and insightful writing from a decades-old student publication.

Similar erosion of student publications are under foot across universities in Australia. Down south in South Australia, the Liberal-aligned Progress leadership have reduced *On Dit's* budget and passed rules to further constrain free speech on a proud student newspaper. The fact that *Vertigo* is now forced to cease print publication is a tremendously sad day for student life, print gives a physical and archival form to the students and editors who pass through its doors.

Student life, contra the insistence of Parfitt and his Vice-Chancellor counterparts, is not a sterile, anguished rush towards the revolving doors of corporate life but building knowledge useful for making sense of our lives and challenging established narratives in our collective striving towards the common good.

These decisions are no coincidence, seventeen years on from VSU, as student life falls under the behest of the bean counters rather than where it should be: the student community. Hence, it is of utmost importance that USyd SRC and *Honi Soit*, as institutions built by and for students, stand in solidarity with UTS *Vertigo*. To stand idly by is to stand on the side of management in their ruthless attacks on student life.

Platform:

- The SRC stand in solidarity with UTS *Vertigo* and condemn attacks initiated by upper management
- *Honi Soit* stands in solidarity with UTS *Vertigo* and demands that UTS restore funding to the publication to enable the publication to remain in print.

Action:

- The SRC share this motion on its social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram.
- The SRC share any relevant material from UTS *Vertigo* pertaining to the motion.

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion covering its main points.

Khanh Tran waived their speaking rights.

Dashie Prasad spoke to the motion and saying "fuck UTS management" and spoke about how it is not the socially progressive university it claims when it treats its staff and students terribly. Spoke about managements attacks on student media to avoid getting any criticisms and hates the solidarity between student media and the NTEU, and it's another example of why SAFF should be democratically controlled. Commended the motion.

Alana Ramshaw spoke about the importance of student media and the damage of cutting Vertigo's funding on student voices

Alex Poirier spoke about the importance of student media and that we are so fortunate to have Honi Soit and Pulp, as there is so little at other campuses and people love engaging with Honi but wish they could be more involved with something similar on their campus, removing another student publication is a shame.

Lauren Lancaster handed the chair to Lia Perkins

Lauren Lancaster spoke about the work of student media such as the successful fisher rooftop as well as investigative pieces on the rampant exploitation. Adding that media isn't just homogenous voice, but media isn't paid well and that locks different demographics out, so we need to make sure they are well funded.

Mikaela Pappou spoke in support of the motion and in support of Vertigo and highlighted the importance of student media and the work they do uncovering things on campus and student media pushes what media is and is much better than anything you get in the telegraph.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Khanh Tran

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R1. Student Unions shouldn't partner up with university management

Preamble:

At the most recent USyd SRC meeting, the council voted to take a very principled position in calling the SRC not to meet and do deals with university management.

To remind council of that motion, I'd like to highlight this quote from the motion:

"It should be clear that student activists cooperating, or even negotiating behind closed doors, with the bosses is a direct betrayal of staff and a betrayal of students too.

Management are the enemy. They are the executioners of the hundreds of course cuts, the decision makers who rejected >95% of casual conversion applications. They control wages, they control work hours, and they attack both whenever they can. They surveilled student activists and invited cops onto campus to smash protests."

None of this is unique to Usyd as a campus. UTS has cut over 500 jobs since the pandemic, without counting casual jobs lost. UTS has a casual rate just as bad as McDonalds, if not worse and are also overlooking their casual conversion clauses. They've cut classes, installed trimesters, made classes shorter and bigger and have attempted to cut lectures. UTS management is in disrepute with the UTS NTEU branch who are voting on taking industrial action. UTS management is in just as much disrepute with UTSSA in cutting classes and defunding the student union and student media. How

can a student union partner up with management unwilling to listen to their own students and staff?

Members on the UTSSA council are arguing in favour of an obscure Student Partnership Agreement, which without hearing nothing about doesn't even hope to be an agreement with teeth. Not only will management never be able to sign a faithful agreement that benefits students because of their own capitalist and corporate interests, this agreement didn't even attempt to be a facade of that. UTS and other student unions across Australia should know that management is never on the side of students, and especially not when students and staff are taking industrial action against them.

Platform:

1. Usyd SRC affirms that student unions should unequivocally side with NTEU branches on their campus and support any industrial action taken by the union
2. Usyd SRC affirms that meeting with, negotiating with, signing deals with and other form of cahooting with management while a student union or staff union is in disrepute with management should never be done
3. Usyd SRC condemns any Student Partnership Agreement from the 2022 UTSSA council with UTS management

Action:

1. Usyd SRC makes a public Facebook statement against student unions signing deals with management, especially during enterprise and student bargaining
2. Usyd SRC President emails UTSSA President about the passing of this motion and calls against
3. Usyd SRC emails the NUS and all student union presidents about the need for student unions to take a position against signing deals with managements in disrepute with their staff and students

Discussion:

Dashie Prasad spoke to the motion and covered its main points speaking about the staff cuts and highlighting that the UTS management is not a friend of staff and students, and that like we passed last council we should never work with management and yet at UTS student unity (Labor right) are pushing for student partnership agreement

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion and echoed Dashie Prasad's statements and that we should not make deals to the detriments of students.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion and highlighted that we know what management are about and its to drive profits and savings not to deliver quality education. Consultation and mediation are just a way of hiding their horrible destruction of the education, you need to fight against participating in such actions

Moved: Dashie Prasad

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R2. Liberal or Labor, Student Unions Must Still Fight

Building fighting student unions and the new federal government

Australia now has a new federal government. After nine years of despicable rule for the rich, the Liberals have been ousted in a humiliating electoral defeat which saw the second-lowest coalition primary vote in its history. The ALP has come to power on its own lowest primary vote since 1934. Less than one in three people gave Labor their first preference, a reflection of how little enthusiasm the party's 'small target' electoral strategy of effectively imitating the Liberals' right wing, pro-business politics has managed to garner amongst ordinary people. The collapse in support for the two major parties has flowed through to a fragmentation of the vote in both left and right wing directions. Considerable swings behind broadly progressive parties like the Greens indicate that an appetite exists for more left wing politics than Labor is prepared to offer, particularly when it comes to action on the climate crisis. At the same time, the far right parties, galvanised over the past few years by opposition to public health measures and anti-vax rallies, have managed to increase their vote, while the gains made by teal independents, wealthy pro-business candidates who have differentiated themselves from the Liberals by calling for climate action, are far from a progressive development in Australian politics.

Labor in government, as the committed B-team of the Australian capitalist class, offer little beyond symbolic gestures and platitudes when it comes to the crises and structural injustices making life unlivable for workers and the oppressed. As Treasurer Jim Chalmers has been at pains to affirm throughout the Labor campaign, this will be a "pro-business, pro-employer Labor Party" in power, one which responds to pressures on capitalists' profits posed by increased interest rates and rising inflation with the austerity demanded by the bosses. No increase to the punitive rate of welfare payments is forthcoming from Labor, and they have prevaricated even on naming a figure to increase minimum wage by in a submission to the notoriously pro-boss Fair Work Commission, let alone simply legislating a serious increase. They have made no gesture towards repealing Australia's appalling anti-union laws to enable workers to freely fight for their rights. Their climate policy is risible, designed around the expectation that Australia will continue to export destructive fossil fuels beyond 2050. Hundreds of refugees can expect to be turned back at sea while fleeing for their lives, or else to languish in torturous offshore detention camps for years. Meanwhile, major tax cuts for the very richest will be allowed to stand under Labor.

All in all, it is clear that this new government will do nothing to shift politics in Australia to the left, let alone deliver real action on any of the major crises facing ordinary people. The attacks of the ruling class and the right must be pushed back by ordinary people mobilising in protest and resistance, on the streets and their workplaces. That is a political perspective which desperately needs rebuilding, and which student unions have a serious role to play in re-establishing by building a culture of left wing activism on and off the campuses. The USyd SRC must throw its resources behind this project and take an unapologetically activist stance in its approach to winning left wing demands, rather than presenting itself as a mouthpiece for students as an electoral constituency in the halls of power, or a depoliticised service provider. Building that kind of fightback is a vital necessity regardless of who holds government in Australia, and indeed is all the more important when sections of the left want to fete the dismal new Labor government as a progressive development.

Platform

- The USyd SRC recognises that regardless of who is in power, gains for ordinary people and the oppressed will only be achieved through rebuilding an activist left in society.
- The SRC commits to using its resources and reach to support protest campaigns and industrial action

Action

- The SRC will advertise upcoming rallies, including
 - The Fight for LGBT Rights: Protest Against Discrimination
<https://facebook.com/events/s/fight-for-lgbti-rights/1028487094736720/>
 - Justice for Refugees rally <https://facebook.com/events/s/justice-for-refugees-rally-per/481751690372448>

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion and covered its main points, speaking about the Labor Party's pro-business pro-employer stances and the restrictions placed on workers and that this government will be no easier to win left wing demands than the last government, and that we need to continue to push a hard against their conservative policies.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion saying good riddance to Scott Morrison but that doesn't change what we need to do. The have proven themselves to be just as bad as the liberals in so many ways, seen in their weak climate change policies and cited some of the issues with said policies. Saying that students need to continue to fight and organise more actions.

Mikaela Pappou spoke against the motion saying that the insinuation that the Labor and Liberal parties are the same is ridiculous and if you don't believe that [responding to shouts from the room] then you need to read the motions you put up closer. [there was continued cross talk through the council] Mikaela Pappou then went on to list the different policies brought in by the Labor party that are critical for people. [There was shouting in the council room] Concluding she noted that she will be continuing to fight and push the labor party to the left.

Akee Elliott spoke to the motion, saying that this election has seen the lowest primary vote for Labor party since the 1930s, because people are dissatisfied with status quo politics. Adding that neither of the major parties offered anything to working people at this election, there was nothing for student or universities and the solutions are just more demoralising mediations. We need to fight back through strikes, and community actions, not through major parties.

Cooper Cross noted that the Labor government has a majority, and asked if the movers of the motion have ever spoke to an 'ordinary person'. [There was a lot of cross talk and shouting] Cooper continued talking, speaking about the childcare subsidies and how people can be up to 90% better off, asking how was that not benefit for ordinary people?

There was more shouting and cross talk

Alex Poirier spoke against the motion saying that now that Labor Party is in government we do need to keep pushing for change. But we do have the opportunity to focus on the government closer to home, the State governments, saying that Perrottet is worse than Dutton, and pushing for change at a state level should be a priority at the moment.

Grace Lagan spoke to the actions and platform of the motion, but that the preamble is clearly anti Labor and no Labor student in this council has pushed to change the direction or method of this student union and will continue to fight and attend actions. This isn't about humiliating the Libs in an electoral defeat, but pushing for change and getting the Labor government to put those changes into effect.

Nick Comino spoke about the motion and how job ready graduate got passed in the first place, and then spoke about how things get through because activists won't speak to the cross bench who have the power to change and block policies, but no one will consider talking to them despite the fact that many of them say the Labor party doesn't go far enough, saying that this tactic will never win.

Lydia Elias responded to Nick Comino on Allegra Spender saying she is just a wealthy lapsed Liberal who won't do anything for workers. Lydia also spoke to the motion and about the changes actually needed and how it's the Federal Government that needs to be held to account as they can make base changes to raise wages above inflation, and climate action targets and have done nothing for refugees, saying that right now Labor are the number 1 enemy as they are just making policies to assist the rich. So we need to keep attending and organising actions and strikes.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke about the actions of the Labor party recently with regards to pays and support of workers and the movement to the right of the party among other policies at the state government level noting that the NSW Opposition Leader Chris Minns does not support teachers calls for a pay rise above inflation and Dan Andrews in Victoria put a pay freeze on the public service. Saying that this is what the policies are and what is being promoted is the new cold war with China. Adding that it's telling that Unions only said bad things about Scott Morrison, and nothing good about Albanese.

Mikaela Pappou responded to Owen's comments and spoke about the Unions and the Labor party. [There was general shouting a cross talk in the council room] Mikaela Pappou spoke about the NDIS policies of the Labor party and developed by the Union, Mikaela Pappou then responded to cross talk saying if you don't want to listen to me you don't want to have a debate then going on a zoom and talk to yourselves because you never have to back up your claims, and then responded again to cross talk asking how many votes Victorian Socialists?

There was general cross talk through the council.

There was confusion around the vote.
It was clarified.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Jasmine Alrawi

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

R3. Support the ongoing NTEU campaign - management pay up!

Over the last year, the University of Sydney raked in a surplus of 1.05 billion dollars. This amount, which makes USYD the richest university in the state, has come from a relentless attack on staff. Voluntary and forced redundancies, millions of dollars of wage theft, and the continued refusal to pay casuals for the hours they work have all meant more money in the bank for the uni bosses. Clearly, there's enough money in the bank to pay for the demands unionised staff are making as part of their current campaign. The three days of strikes which took place in Semester 1 were hugely successful, with in-person classes and administrative work areas largely shut down. Such action will need to continue into next semester if significant concessions are to be won from management, who so far have refused to budge on the NTEU's key demands. Instead, management have recently offered a one-off pay rise of a measly 2.1%, and a \$1000 payment. This amount clearly doesn't come close to the 5% annual pay increase the NTEU are pursuing and will do nothing to cut against the cost of living crisis workers are currently facing. This is quite clearly an attempt to undermine the union's campaign, with the VC noting in an email to staff that this is intended to 'mitigate the impact of a prolonged negotiation'. This extended negotiation period, however, is entirely the fault of university management, who have continued to display a total unwillingness to accept staff demands. If improved pay and working conditions are to be won, they will be done so at the cost of university management, through further strike action.

Platform

1. The SRC supports the continuation of the NTEU campaign until staff demands are met.
2. The SRC condemns attempts by University management to undermine the NTEU's position in enterprise bargaining.

Action

1. The SRC commits to supporting and mobilising for any further strike action taken by staff.
2. This motion will be published on SRC social media platforms.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion covering its main points, spoke about the importance of students continuing to come out and support staff so they know there is solidarity and encouragement in their fight.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion and the importance of continuing to build the student movement, and that we need to look to those who supported the strike but didn't mobilise and tell them if they are going to be on the side of the workers they need to show up. Concluded by speaking about being on the front lines of the pickets.

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion and about the fights that we have ahead of us and the continuing to engage with student who have shown their support workers and workers conditions.

Annabel Petit spoke to the motion and how the strikes went and told some stories from the picket lines.

Emma Terry spoke to the motion and told stories from the pickets and the importance of building the student contingents to the pickets

Alex Poirier spoke about experiences on the pickets, and the importance of the USU actually going on strike, and also spoke about how these fights are for people's future, and the future of academia.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8:41pm.