



MINUTES:

of the 7th regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on **Wednesday the 3rd August 2022**. Meeting held in the New Law Lecture Theatre 024, New Law Annex Building
and via Zoom: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/89315025842>

*A quorum count was called at 6:08pm
The meeting was found quorate 6:12*

A. Meeting open at 6:12pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Lia Perkins 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

Aileen Tan to Satvik Sharma
Olivia Mangholi
Rose Donnelly to Jasmine Donnelly
Max Prince to Thomas Thorpe
Ricky Rangra to Luke Mesterovic

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 6th regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on 6th of July 2022 were circulated

Motion: that the minutes of the 6th of July _ 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

K. Elections

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 16th June and 7th July 2022.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 16th June and 7th July 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the 6th July to the 2nd August 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:

Welcome back to Semester 2! I hope you are all excited and rejuvenated for the second half of your term on Council and/or as Office Bearers.

Welcome Week

We stalled for 2 days this week and it was fantastic to see new and old faces, both helping out and interacting with us. A particular highlight was the Islamic pop that soundtracked our Tuesday

morning from across Eastern Avenue, and making a big dent in our pens and business cards. We had great convos with students, domestic, international and exchange about what the SRC can do for them with a specific focus on the work of the Education Action Group who were next door to us.

Education Conference

We held the NUS Education Conference here during the holidays in early July. For 3 days, the Merewether Building was the setting of a sometimes exhilarating collection of approximately 300 student unionists debating topics of interest to us, ranging from climate activism to Palestinian solidarity, fee hikes and the Labor Party's proposed Education Accords, an end to sexual violence on campus and dead-naming on campuses across the country. I thank Luc Velez, Georgie Beatty, and Emily Sagolj from the NUS for their work and collaboration in bringing the conference together, Grace Hill from ANU, our own executive and Julia, the Secretary to Council, for their organisational contributions. We are in the process of finalising payment arrangements between ourselves and the NUS.

A key take-away from the event was the agreement of student representatives across Australia to call a National Day of Action this Friday for climate action. The recently elected Labor government is yet to table anything that vaguely resembles good climate policy, instead promising to open **new** coal and gas projects in a slate of enviro policies that don't look much different to their Liberal colleagues. It is precisely this that we protest, in addition to calls for a just and worker-led transition. As I noted in my report to Honi, meet us at the University of Technology Sydney at noon on Friday August 5th. We will then march to the Federal Labor Offices to make sure Albanese gets the message. <https://fb.me/e/2Ggeai99A>

Simple Extension and Special Consideration Reforms

Throughout the holidays I represented students in the Special Considerations Working Group, aiming to deliver a very quick and big amendment to the simple extension procedures of the University. I placed a lot of pressure on University staff to deliver a policy change that would have actual impact on student wellbeing and at Academic Board yesterday, we argued for and won automatic, centralised 5-day simple extensions (in addition to ordinary special cons) for ordinary assessment types. This will also place a lower onus of proof on students to provide documentation of illness/misadventure, such that Student Declarations will be sufficient and the extension will be immediately applied. For longer extensions, normal spec con applications should be completed.

If we hadn't pushed it through this Academic Board it would not have been enacted for months. The University's bureaucracy rarely inspires any emotional response but dull despondency, but this change gives me hope that students will in some cases receive more certainty and more time to complete their assessments in the event of personal crises, health problems or misadventure. There will be formal comms going out about the change soon from the University.

Foodhub

Foodhub is back! This is such a key service the SRC provides, started under Grassroots President Liam Donohoe in a different form and continued by Swapnik last year. We bring it back in a changed format once again: the Foodhub will run as a student pantry out of the International Student Lounge on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-2pm. This means it is more flexible in terms of products available, is demand-driven and available for student pick-ups at certain times throughout the week.

Thank you so much to Emily Storey, our VP, who has taken the lead on this project. We also thank the USU President Cole Scott-Curwood, for his assistance, and USU staff for the space provided.

NTEU Action upcoming

Yesterday in a huge hybrid meeting in the Chemistry Building, with 93% member attendance, the NTEU voted to take 24hr strike action in Week 3 on the 17th of August, with an additional action on the 27th of August (USYD Open Day). The additional action will take place in the likely event that management does not budge on the Log of Claims. The SRC stands in full solidarity with this endorsed action and as we did in Semester 1, will continue to build student support across campus for the Union's EBA campaign.

Radical Education

The Radical Education program for the semester is shaping up nicely, thanks to the working group and our General Secretaries. I am looking forward to many diverse sessions from students, academics and external speakers alike on the future of tertiary education, social justice and student issues. We kick off next week, make sure to check out the Facebook page for more info.

Elections

Nominations are now open for the Elections of the 95th SRC. They will close on the 19th of August. There will be 41 councillor positions available, as confirmed by the Electoral Officer in writing to me earlier this week. Best wishes to all nominating, I look forward to an exciting in-person election.

Discussion:

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

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Lauren Lancaster resumed the Chair

Procedural Motion to move to R. General Business

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

R. General Business

R1. Motion Condemning the University Selling Off and Failing to Develop Quality Student Housing

As was reported in a recent article for Honi Soit, the University sold over 70 Million dollars worth of property. A large portion of this property was Student Housing, primarily located in Forest Lodge. The University justified this by saying they were taking advantage of the strong real estate market in Sydney, and that the accommodation required significant renovations to be suitable for

students to live in. Even though no redevelopment occurred after the University sold the buildings, the accommodation continues to be rented out at an increased rate. All of this is occurring while students are facing massive housing shortages.

Quality housing in Sydney's rental market is extremely expensive and inaccessible for the vast majority of students at the University. In this context, the University's position as an institution with the capital and responsibility to ensure its students have access to safe housing is crucial. However, Residential Colleges continue to be expensive, exclusive and unsafe for women. Other University Accommodation options have been reported by students to be inaccessible to them financially and residents have highlighted poor conditions in their buildings. It is clear that the University's current student housing options are insufficient both from the perspective of cost of living and quality of life. A lack of affordable student housing disproportionately affects students of a lower Socioeconomic status, international students, and students facing other forms of marginalisation. As a result, these groups of students are at a disproportionate risk of housing insecurity, and are excluded from opportunities to participate in the University's student life - ultimately, to the detriment of University life as a whole.

The University has a duty to ensure all students have a safe place to live, and they have abdicated this responsibility by selling off student housing for profit when more than ever, they should be ensuring more accommodation can be affordably supplied. Even if students could not have lived in the buildings as they were, the University should have remodelled the buildings and offered them at an affordable cost. However, the University's actions have only led to rent hikes and decreased rental supply. The University's failure is all the more evident given it reported a surplus of \$1.04 billion in 2021 - suggesting it has sufficient money to use to invest in students and staff, in stark contrast to the extreme and ostensibly unnecessary austerity measures it has undertaken in student housing.

The University's decision to sell its Forest Lodge properties reflects the larger, concerning trend of the University's increasing corporatisation. This is yet another example of how Universities fail to prioritise the safety and well-being of students when they act as for-profit institutions.

We strongly condemn the decision of the University to sell off student housing in Forest Lodge for profit. Furthermore, we call on the University to immediately develop affordable, quality student housing, reflective of its duty as an educational institution to ensure students' safety and to provide a high-quality University experience to students, rather than continuing to act for its own financial gain.

Discussion:

Grace Wallman spoke to the motion, covering its main points. Noting that the university sold off student housing in 2021, these properties continue to be leased out to the general public at a higher rate without any redevelopment.

Lia Perkins to the motion adding that the sale of the student housing, when housing is in such need, is wrong and we need to be thinking about the cost of living crisis as important and a very present issue.

Moved: Grace Wallman

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

R2. The SRC Opposes Anti-Semitism:

Preamble:

1. Far-right politics is entrenched in the political life of many parliamentary democracies. Far right and fascist organising harbours antisemitism despite the opposition to and unpopularity of Nazism among the mass of the population.
2. Over the past years in Australia, a number of far right and fascist organisations have emerged. They have used Islamophobia and opposition to immigration as launching pads, but have also drawn on older fascist and Nazi traditions of virulent antisemitism, for instance the Antipodean Resistance and the Lads Society.
3. Antisemitic politics can also reach the mainstream through far-right politicians like Fraser Anning, who in 2018 made a speech to parliament that called for a “final solution” on immigration. Despite Anning losing his seat, and other Australian far-right organisations being broken through a combination of counter-protest and state repression, the far-right remains a permanent presence on the margins of the political landscape. Additionally, far right organisations have sometimes seized on other issues, like the 2021 anti-vax movement, to grow. Student unions and left-wing people must always be vigilant and prepared to combat the anti-semitism of the far right.
4. In recent years, fascistic politics have found recruiting ground in right-wing university political organisations on campuses. A [2019 Honi Soit article](#) revealed the links between fascist Discord servers and right-wing organising at Sydney University. In 2018, [neo-Nazis infiltrated the NSW Young Nationals](#). This makes reaffirming an SRC tradition of combating antisemitism important.
5. Student unions, including the USYD SRC, have a tradition of combatting far-right politics on university campuses. Both the Wollongong Undergraduates Association and the Adelaide University SRC have run campaigns this year designed to combat far-right propaganda on campus, and the latter was financially and politically supported by the USYD SRC when the right-dominated Adelaide University Union board denied funding to this important activist project.

Platform:

1. The SRC reaffirms its opposition to antisemitism and recognises the ongoing need for vigilance against its organisational proponents in the far right.
2. The SRC reaffirms its commitment to combating the influence of the far right, both on and off campus.
3. The SRC supports, where appropriate, collaboration with other anti-racist, anti-fascist and left-wing organisations to combat the far right and its antisemitism.

Action:

1. SRC will publish this motion via its Facebook page.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to her motion. Lia spoke about the importance of standing against the far right and antisemitism, speaking about how on campus groups being used to spread these right-wing ideologies, and that we must ensure we are opposed to it, fighting against it, and oppose the organisations that are allowing them to continue.

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion, talking about far-right's actions in Wollongong and the fight back against it through the production of anti-fascist stickers to cover the far-right wing and antisemitic stickers spread on campus and that this had also happened in South Australia and the SRC supported them in the development of the anti-fascist stickers campaign.

Michael Grenier spoke against the motion, saying it was embarrassing, and this was the first time the SRC brought up antisemitism unprompted. Adding that the motion says nothing about antisemitism from the left.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Michael Grenier requested his vote against be noted.

Return to standing orders.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report:

We are very excited to announce that **Foodhub is open** as of this week ☺ We have been advertising through social media and welcome week to soft launch the program and iron out all the kinks before our **launch event** (which is being planned for week 3). Students can access Foodhub from 10-2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the office space opposite the ISL on level 4 of Wentworth. The USU has kindly refurbished the space for us with new shelves and display boxes. We will have **staple pantry items from Foodbank and Milklab** coming in each week being paid for by the SRC.

We currently have a small volunteer team which we are hoping to expand, so if you haven't already, **plz sign up to volunteer!** Emily will be managing the Foodhub – you can contact her through Facebook or the VP email: vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au.

Over the holidays we continued work with the **Student Mental Wellbeing committee** and **Undergraduate Studies committee**. Mik also helped organise and attended **Ed Con** on behalf of the VPs, and is currently working to sort out the final outstanding costs.

During welcome fest Em stalled at the International Student Welcome and Science faculty welcome, and Mik has been stalling on Eastern avenue. Our other ongoing projects for sem 2 include the **faculty society committee** which Mik is taking over. We will continue to sit on our other committees and will report anything relevant next council.

Discussion:

Emily spoke to the report focussing on FoodHub.

Mikaela Pappou spoke about the NUS Education Conference saying other than strikes it's the most political event on campus this year. Apologised to everyone she was mean to during the conference, saying it comes with the territory, and she was sorry couldn't name everyone, but it would take too long. She concluded speaking about the costing of Ed. Con, noting it went slightly over budget.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alex Poirier

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The Chair retuned to E2. Report of the Electoral Officer

E1. Report of the Electoral Officer

Riki Scanlan spoke to the elections process and the upcoming election nominations and briefing materials. Confirming that this will be in person election and there will be an online component for absentee votes through BigPulse. Riki noted they did not receive any feedback on the nomination form drafts so presumed they were ok. Noting that there will be candidate information packs available on the website and

Eddie Stephenson asked about nominations saying there seemed to be more lead time between close of nominations and the actual elections and if there was a reason for this or if it was just how it fell this year.

Riki Scanlan explained that it was for workflow reasons - last year it was a rush to process nominations to have them ready for the Honi elections edition as is was the immediately following week, in the interests of trying to avoid that hectic workload the dates were set to allow for a smoother process. Adding that the mid semester break falls a little earlier this year pushing the timeline forward.

Motion: To accept the report of the Electoral Officer

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan tabled a written report

Rad Ed

We've been finalising the plans for the first few weeks of the Radical Education series and are inviting all of you to our launch at Fodge next Monday (event on FB!). From there, we have a really great series planned, including talks, walking tours, and even a panel run by yours truly x

Special thanks to our organising committee and all the work they've done and advice they've given. We hope to see you all at as many events as possible.

This follows on from the NUS Ed Con we wrapped up last month, bringing together unionists (hacks?) from across the country to discuss (yell?) all things politics, education, and activism. Thanks to key members of the NUS exec, our Education Officers, and others from USyd for bringing this together.

Welcome Week

Welcome Week was also a huge success, after successfully sending off the last of our SRC wall planners (and many of our pens) to commencing students. Our socials have also felt the love!

Strike!

The NTEU has just called a strike for Wednesday week 3! Please come to the EAG meeting on Thursday to help us build the student contingent to the pickets (and don't go to class in two weeks time lol).

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: Mikaela Pappou

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

Hey! Here's what we've been up to in the last month

Semester 2 strikes: AUGUST 17!

Yesterday, we attended the NTEU meeting of over 350 staff who voted to go on strike for 24 hours on August 17. Staff noted the need to escalate their campaign because management are not budging on important issues around pay and preserving the 40/40/20 model of teaching and research. Importantly, there was some progress to bargaining after the last strikes in Semester 1, but the progress is nowhere near significant enough given the dire situation of higher education. Only by continuing to strike can university staff force management to give in. We have already put up the student contingent to this protest and begun building other student contingents.

If management don't budge after the August 17 strike, staff voted to also go on strike at the USyd Open Day on Saturday August 27th.

EAG open meeting to plan the strikes

We have organised an open meeting on Thursday to plan the student support for the strikes in week 3. Now that we have a date and strike officially called, it's important that student activists throw themselves into actually building the student wing. We need even more students than last semester, and the way we can reach them is through as much leafleting as possible, posterizing every part of campus and passing motions in classes. On our Oweek stalls, we met plenty of students who had either seen the strikes last semester, or were keen to get involved, and we want as many of them as possible to be involved. We have an open planning meeting tomorrow, so please come along and invite others along to it too! EAG meetings during the strikes last semester were some of the biggest we've had, and trying to recreate that will be important in building student support more broadly.

Climate strike on Friday

The National Union of Students and uni enviro collectives have called a climate strike on Friday 5th August. The rally will begin at UTS and march to the ALP head office in the city. The rally is demanding 100% public renewables by 2030, funding an immediate just transition for workers, land rights, not mining rights, First Nations sovereignty now, and to scrap the draconian NSW anti-protest laws. With a new Labor government which wants to claim the mantle of climate action while doing nothing substantial to reduce emissions and transition away from fossil fuels, it's important university students give the lead that the climate movement won't be placated now that the Liberals are out. We helped build this strike at the EAG stall at welcome week and students were very receptive!

AFR Summit

Along with the NUS Education officer and NSW Education activists we're planning a protest of the Australian Financial Review summit of higher education leaders because of the disconnect between uni management and other attendees, and the demands of students and staff. The conference represents an opportunity for corporate Australia, university management and the government to come together to plan how to further neoliberalise our education and trample over staff rights. These people don't deserve to meet without being opposed and disrupted. It's on August 30, so we will be building it through our strike solidarity work and in the weeks after the August 17 strike.

Rad ed week

Lia is involved in organising rad ed week this year - there is a launch drinks on Monday 8th August and there will be some excellent sessions about higher education, climate justice and more throughout the semester.

Upcoming actions:

- EAG open meeting planning the week 3 strikes: Thursday August 4th
<https://fb.me/e/3mpBK2od3>
- Uni Students Demand Climate Justice: Friday August 5th <https://fb.me/e/1AXoG4n5p>
- Students Support the USyd strikes: <https://fb.me/e/2RFN8lasV>
- No Cuts, No Fees - protest the AFR summit: August 30th <https://fb.me/e/3CxQyLQJQ>

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the report covering its main points.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report encouraging everyone to help build the semester 2 strikes.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Dashie Prasad and Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

Over the Winter break, we have been busy building the foundations for not just campaigns and events we will be running in Semester 2, but for ongoing work that must, and will, be done by the Women's Collective in the years to come.

We have been meeting with the new USU Board members and SUPRA Officers in order to build connections that reach further across campus and plan potential collaborations. One of our major goals for the latter half of this year is to ensure that we are bringing the radical potential of WoCo further than just Eastern Ave, and Student politics circles. It is vital that we collaborate with faculties like Nursing and Education, C&S and the Post Graduate community. This will be an essential part of the collectives vision for semester 2.

As we continue the years long campaign to Abolish the Colleges, we are introducing a new long term focus and goal. This focus is on the transition from elite college to affordable housing through the abolition of the legislations under which most colleges exist. USyd is a public university and the colleges sit on Crown Land. These spaces should be available to all regardless of their Socio-economic background, they should not be government owned elite clubs. We are working with Jenny Leong's office to look into the incredible potential that this route of action can have. Though legislation may work to abolish the colleges for good, only collective feminist action can stomp out the epidemic of sexual violence on the streets.

Over the holidays, we have seen public sector workers continue to demand better working conditions and better pay. WoCo members attended and supported the June 28th Nurses strike and the June 30th Teachers strike (which was a historic joint action between the NSW Teacher's Federation and the Independent Education Union of Australia) and the western Sydney nurses walk out in July. The battle is ongoing and we will continue to fight alongside public sector workers for as long as it takes. WoCo convener, Dashie Prasad, has worked with the Anticolonial Asian Alliance to produce some resources on the demands of Nurses and Midwives demands which can be seen on the WoCo instagram page! Have a read, give it a share.

UPCOMING EVENTS ✦ * (●_●✿) * ° ✦

Come and Get Grill'd by WoCo and QuAc on Wednesday Aug 10th on Gadigal Green! We will be handing out free sausage rolls and conducting an informal survey into what students know about the NSSS and SASH on campus. You can also take this opportunity to meet the Student Liaison

Officers who will be hanging out with us on the day. Come along to see what the next steps are for the End Rape on Campus campaign.

Teachers Forum during Rad Ed events! We've begun conversation with EDSOC and EAG about a Rad Ed forum on the cross educational sector strikes- from early childhood, primary, secondary & tertiary.

Radical Pride and Consent Week is coming in Week 7 (12-16 Sept)! USU and SRC are co-hosting Radical Pride and Consent week with a chance for clubs and collectives to get grants to run events on topics surrounding celebrating pride for LGBTQAI+ communities, discussing radical consent, radical pleasure, meaningful connections, care, compassion, love and affection, community building and solidarity.

Week 2 meeting will be on Tuesday at 12pm- we have much to plan so we can't wait to see you all there!

Discussion:

Hannah Rose spoke on behalf of the Women's Officers and read out the report.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O3. Report of the Welfare Officers

Upcoming Initiatives for Welfare Action Group

In the upcoming semester, we are in the process of planning several initiatives we will be running and organising throughout our fortnightly WAG meetings. Included within each initiative, we will engage students through mechanisms such as:

- Writing pieces for Honi
- Writing statements and posting them to our Facebook page and other social media
- Organising our own rallies for campus-specific issues or creating contingents to local
- Bringing motions forward at council
- Potentially engagement with broader media
- Open letters

Specific issues we are planning initiatives on at present are the following, but we may change/add:

1. Increasing the limit on CAPS sessions
2. Increasing affordable student housing/rejecting the sell-off of student housing recently (eg. in Forest Lodge)
3. Public housing
4. Potentially special considerations reform, especially if COVID absences remain a salient issue

Support for External Initiatives

The Welfare Action group convenors are planning to send contingents to rallies and meetings held by groups taking action for Public Housing (eg. Hands off Glebe) as part of our initiative to support public housing.

We are also planning to support the re-establishment of FoodHub in Semester 2. At least one Welfare OBs has signed up to volunteer, and we will be encouraging members of WAG to attend, potentially through a volunteering contingent. We will also support the initiative through posters, flyering, etc.

We are in contact with the NUS Welfare Officer and will engage with/support their campaigns if any arise, especially with regards to organising the NUS is undertaking on the Age of Independence.

One of the Welfare OBs (Grace W) will be holding a workshop at Rad Ed focused on accessibility for disabled students in the interests of supporting this aspect of student welfare.

We will work with DisCo to support their initiatives as this is very related to Welfare and they have had many recent developments in the space that we want to support (eg. the ongoing project to create/design a disability room)

Welfare Action Group Momentum Building

The Welfare OBs want to take action to grow and build momentum within the Welfare Action Group throughout semester 2. We are planning to do the following:

- Continue to hold regular fortnightly meetings, potentially with more of a social aspect to increase members' engagement
- Print posters and stickers to put around campus
- Improve the WAG Facebook page and group (they are both outdated) and post regularly
- Flyering on campus during the early weeks of semester and in the lead up to any major initiatives
- Form an active WAG group chat

Discussion:

Grace Wallman spoke to the report and encouraged everyone to come along to the collective meetings and upcoming events.

Yasmine Johnson spoke about the nurses strikes happening and the developments in the attempts of management to drop the pay rise. Also noted that the train strikes have shown how these actions can grow and spread across industries causing chaos for the government.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O4. Report of the Environment Officers

This past month hasn't been a quiet one for enviro! While our last report was a little woeful of the current state of the climate movement, this one will hopefully be a little more optimistic. We're back to semi regular meetings, with our third holiday meeting having happened last week.

Although it is still abundantly clear that the climate movement has been rather quiet, especially with official word that School Strike 4 Climate will disappointingly NOT be holding another strike or rally until at least next year, we've had some positive movement over the holidays.

The conclusion of the best and most fun conference ever, EdCon, saw the decision to call a national day of action regarding climate. USyd Enviro and other groups on campus have been heading the building efforts for the Sydney Rally. The rally will be held outside UTS Tower at 12pm this Friday (05/08) before we descend on the national Labor office on Sussex street. The demands will be listed in a motion later tonight. During EdCon, Angus and I also ran a workshop session on the BLF Green Bans which had great attendance! Thanks all who came along.

Following EdCon's conclusion on the Wednesday, we had our rally outside Santos on Friday. We had great community support, with endorsements flowing in from SS4C, Knitting Nannas, Blockade Australia activists and more. The protest called for no gas-fired dispossession, an end to the planned Narrabri Gas Project and funding for renewables not gas. We had a great slate of speakers from many of these groups who spoke to the demands we set. All around a great rally! Although there was quite a police presence, it was great to have a protest right outside Santos offices and make it clear who we are fighting against.

The week after that, we held a fun forum with UTS and UNSW enviro collectives around why we strike and strategies going forward in the climate movement. We heard from some great speakers, including education officer Lia Perkins, NTEU member Dani Cotton, Gomeroi activist Raymond "Bubbly" Weatherall and UNSW enviro member Mikhael Burnard. Bubbly and the other speakers spoke to the continual need for effective relationships between student unionists and Indigenous activists, trade unions and beyond in helping bolster the climate movement and its demands.

At present, we have just finished a couple of days of stalling during welcome week, in which we cleared out a good portion of our stickers and all one-thousand of our strike flyers for Friday!! In future, we have a forum coming up next week, and we are looking at calling our own September rally in lieu of an SS4C strike.

Things are looking up, which means that there is never a better time to get more involved in Enviro!

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the report covering its main points.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Bella Anderssen

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Queer Officers

Gender Affirmation Supplies:

We started handing out the gender affirmation supplies at our O'Week stall and most people have collected them. Due to the success of this initiative we plan to organize another opportunity for trans students to get gender affirmation supplies.

Queer Space:

On Thursday the 4th and Friday the 5th we will be hosting a Queer Space Spring Spruce event. We will be repainting the walls and cleaning out the space. We have also organized with the facilities manager of Manning to clean the carpets in the afternoon of the 4th.

After the spruce we plan to buy a new fridge to replace the old broken one and continue to stock the space with safe sex supplies.

WoCo x QuAC Collab:

We will be hosting a BBQ about surveying students on sex and consent, called Get Grill'd, with Wo.Co on Wednesday the 10th next week.

O Week Stall:

Our O'Week stall was quite successful. We managed to hand out many flyers and get a bunch of new people to join our Facebook group. A number of people also expressed interest in writing for the upcoming Queer Honi issue.

Discussion:

Yasmin Andrews spoke to the report and covered its main points.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Procedural motion: limit speaking time to 1 minute per speaker

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Grace Wallman

The procedural was put and **CARRIED**.

Q. Motions of Notice

Condemning police and state repression of climate protestors

Preamble:

March 2022 saw the establishment of a new police unit in NSW called the “Strike Force Guard”, designed to “prevent, investigate and disrupt” so-called “unauthorised protests” across the state. On the first of April, the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced - passed by the LNP and ALP - bringing with it new offences to criminalise “behaviour that causes damage or disruption to major roads or major facilities.” As has been detailed in past motions, punishment for breaking such laws may include a \$22,000 fine or a maximum prison sentence of two years, or both, for disruption of a facility or road.

Just over two weeks ago, four plain-clothed police entered a property owned by members of the climate protest group Blockade Australia. One hundred police then proceeded to forcefully raid the camp when these plain-clothed police officers, who failed to identify themselves to the property owners, apparently “feared for their lives” – though they had guns and the people in the camp, including children, had none. Seven were arrested following this violent and unnecessary raid for the purported crime of “plotting and preparing for protest action”. A few days later, another ten protesters were arrested for an “unauthorised” climate protest in the CBD. Another 12 were arrested for a similar action a few days following. These arrests - and others like it - saw the imposition of harsh penalties, including huge fines, custodial sentences and bail conditions which fundamentally violate basic human rights. This string of arrests is all part of an alarming crackdown on climate protests and the right to protest more generally.

As much as we might jump to criticisms of Blockade Australia’s tactic and strategy for change - and there are many - it is critical that we stand in solidarity with them because it is the same anti-labour, anti-strike laws which will be used against us in our own actions. We must remember that it is not BA themselves which provide pretext for more draconian laws to be passed, but the Australian state looking for methods of suppression of a growingly popular resistance to climate inaction which is primarily upheld through the state’s protection of profits and capital.

How can we get anything done without disruption of business as usual? We might differ on strategy, but the one thing we can agree on is that the treatment of these protestors and activists is nothing short of unjust. All solidarity to the many protestors and activists impacted by these new laws and the disproportionate police response to climate activism.

As part of our fightback against these unjust laws, and against repression of climate protest in general, the National Union of Students (NUS) has called a national day of action for this Friday. The Sydney rally will start outside UTS Tower at 12pm before descending on the federal Labor offices on Sussex street. The demands are as follows:

1. 100% public renewables by 2030
2. Fund an immediate just transition for workers

3. Land rights, not mining rights. First Nations sovereignty now!
4. Scrap the draconian NSW anti-protest laws.

It is more than clear that we are experiencing a woefully insufficient and lacklustre response to the climate crisis. Students demand more from the Albanese Government. We demand real climate action.

Platform:

1. The SRC endorse the August 5th NUS Rally and its demands.
2. The SRC stand in solidarity with members of Blockade Australia and other climate activists who have been disproportionately impacted by the new RCLA Bill and "Strike Force Guard".
3. The SRC defends the rights of protestors, students, workers and unionists to take disruptive action and supports them in their stand against these repressive new laws.

Action:

1. The SRC recognises the importance of strike action and commits to defending activists, unionists, students and workers who may be charged under this act in the future, this looks like:
 - a) The SRC will publish material in defense of impacted protestors
 - b) The SRC publish this motion to social media
 - c) The SRC publish material for the upcoming strike

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion reading out sections. Ishbel also read out the amendment made since the motion was first presented to council last month – this amendment is in the above text as it was made before the meeting opened.

Ella [unknown last name] mspoke to the motion highlighting that the police's job is to preserve the material property of the elite and so they crack down on climate protesters who create disruption. Adding that this could not have happened in 2019, but they can now in the absence of a broader social climate action movement.

Yasmine Johnson spoke about upcoming actions happening, and that it's a positive step that there are multiple groups calling climate protests to rebuild the movement, and encouraged people to coming to upcoming ones and help build the movement.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Felix Wood

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Q2. Abortion is Healthcare

Preamble:

The US Supreme Court ruling to overturn Roe V Wade means that millions of people have been stripped of their right to access abortion. The conservative Supreme Court and state legislatures have enacted this wholly undemocratic and damaging attack on reproductive rights, which puts reproductive rights back 50 years. Amidst this, the Democratic Party has been absolutely useless, advocating for calm and trying to gain votes in the midterms.

Abortion is healthcare, and every single person should have access to a free, safe and accessible abortion. With no exception. This ruling shows that we can't take our rights for granted, and that we have to continue fighting. We stand with the thousands of people who have taken the fight against this sexist decision to the streets.

In so-called Australia, we continue to fight for abortion to be free, safe and legal and we should show our solidarity with those who are standing up and resisting the offensive of the far right. On Saturday a protest was called in Sydney which had 5000 people in attendance, a massive showing for the need to stand in solidarity with people in the United States, and defiance that we will stand up for our rights when they are under attack.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC stands with the millions of people in the United States who bear the brunt of this sexist attack.
2. The USyd SRC recognises that abortion currently isn't free, safe and accessible for many people in so-called Australia, and believes reproductive justice should be afforded to every single person, with no exceptions.
3. The USyd SRC believes that abortion should be free, safe, accessible and legal, and with thus support activism in support of this principle.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will support all future protests and actions for abortion, and for reproductive justice more generally, that take place in Sydney
2. The USyd SRC will post a statement from its social media pages about abortion and reproductive justice.
3. The USyd SRC sees it as the interest of the SRC to engage with pro-life groups on campus and ensure that students are properly educated and aware of their platform.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion noting that this was for last month's council much closer to the SCOTUS decision to overrule Roe V. Wade. Going on to talk about the importance of continuing to fight for free safe and legal abortion in Australia as well, where the far right conservative will continue to try attack and black peoples access to that right.

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion saying that the decision made affecting millions of people by 5 unelected judges is appalling. Adding that decisions like this are proof of the importance of protests and that not standing up and fighting leads to a weaker protections on rights and maintaining protests and political fights are what ensure protections and create change.

Sophie Haslam Spoke to the motion and the dangers of rolling back reproductive rights and abortion rights, and these attacks are a part of the tactics of control by the far right as seen in place like Poland. The only way we win anything is by fighting back.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the Chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and spoke about the fight for the right to abortion and reproductive health control in Australia, saying that the process even today it very difficult, isolating and drawn out. Adding that hyper conservative governments like the NSW Perrotet government are interested in controlling women's reproductive rights.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Dashie Prasad

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Q3. Higher education under the Labor government: new face, same fight

The election of a new Albanese Labor government has disposed of a much loathed and unpopular Liberal government. But for students - like most ordinary Australians - there will be little tangible benefit from this new Labor government who intends to continue the historical trends of for-profit education set in motion by previous Liberal and Labor governments. Albanese represents a new face to the same fight.

The crowning jewel of Labor's higher education policy is the 'Australian Universities Accord', a proposed negotiating roundtable bringing together staff & student unions, university management, industry groups and the government. The fact alone that Vice Chancellors across Australia have eagerly welcomed this accord as an opportunity to build 'consensus' should be concerning. Such a consensus could only mark the continuation of the corporatization of universities in which the user - students - pay for an increasingly expensive and poor quality product. Like all other corporations, the universities have been collectively making billions in profits while staff members suffer from overwork and underpay. The Accord is pitched to continue the trend of Australian universities being structured near exclusively around the needs of Australian industry, efficiently 'producing' student graduates at the expense of choice, quality and education.

This Accord has nothing to do with radically shaking up higher education in favour of staff or students. Rather it will prevent this by incorporating staff and student unions into collaboration with university management and government concerning any restructures made to higher education for the benefit of Australian capitalism.

In this context, student unions should once again take up the demand for fully funded free education. We should also demand the cancellation of student debt, which is only going up in the

context of HECS being pegged to inflation, while wages aren't. The only way these demands can be won is through staff and students taking up the fight against university management, whose interests lie in maintaining a for-profit, for-industry education industry.

Platform

- The USyd SRC recognises that the Labor Party's education policy stands to perpetuate the for-profit corporate university, and does nothing to alleviate the demands of staff and students.
- The SRC reaffirms its support for free and fully funded education, and to cancel all existing student debt.

Action

- The SRC will share this motion on its social media.
- The SRC will campaign during Semester 2 for fully funded free education and to cancel student debt.

Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke to their motion, covering its main points, saying these are the same goals as a liberal government, just a different strategy. Saying these accords are about making sure higher education is meeting the needs of Australian capitalism not students or research and it's about maximising profits.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion saying that the enemies of staff and students are the university management who do not want to support their staff and they are the ones the government wants to put into an agreement that put the interests of businesses against the interests of students, staff and education. We need to stand up to the university management and fight for student and staff rights not make deals with industry.

Jack Scanlan proposed amendment:

Amendment to strike paragraphs 2 and 3 and replace with these 3 paragraphs:

"Labor has promised fee-free TAFE, but why not fee-free Uni. The Labor government is willing to have fee-free TAFE, fund cheaper childcare and improve primary and secondary education. Other countries that have free tertiary education experience better health outcomes, better incomes, and higher levels of happiness and productivity. Any country that out educates us will out work us, out research us, and Australia will be left in the dust. So morally, economically, and personally fee-free public higher education improves life.

We also wish that Labor looks past just the sticker price of uni and higher education; but also too look at other costs that bars people from regional and low socio-economic from being able to move, or attend university over taking up full-time employment. The cost of housing, food, water, textbooks, laptops and phones, all the essentials of university life are unaffordable to most. The debate around the sticker price is important but often overrides the real debate; which is around the true cost of university, as university is an investment and we should lower the barrier to invest in ones self and their education.

Labor is willing to fund fee-free public TAFE, we need that for universities. Students and staff should demand this and fight for it to improve the present, and pave the way for the future. Labor should not continue supporting for-profit universities, should stop supporting the corporatisation of universities, they should start supporting free university, start supporting the abolishing of HECS debt, and properly fund universities and university services to give equal opportunities and improve the lives of every day Australians.”

And replace platform point 2 with this:

“The SRC reaffirms its support for free and fully funded education including the sticker cost and the additional costs (such as accommodation, transport, food, water, internet, stationery /study supplies, textbooks, laptops, etc.) to university often overlooked, and to cancel all existing student debt.”

Jack Scanlan spoke to the changes saying that these changes should be made as the accords the motion currently refers to do not exist. We should not be shooting in the dark and condemning something that does not exist and could be something beneficial for students.

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the amendment saying she would quote Honi Soit on why NLS will not condemn the accords was that they do not exist. Adding that when such accords do exist they will be examined and a stance taken but the accords are currently in the abstract, there is nothing to say about something that does not exist. And encouraged the council to vote up the amendment.

As it was not amenable to the movers, the chair ruled it changes the intent of motion and so was put as a foreshadowing motion.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

Ella ??? spoke against the amendment, saying that it's not about what the accords will say but the strategy. That strategy is stakeholders coming to the table and agreeing about what they need, the issues is the interests and needs of staff and students are inherently opposed to the interests of management and business. And that every student union should be opposed to this as there is no way they can represent the interests of students at the table and make sure that our voices are

heard and addressed the only thing we can do is show opposition and the power of numbers by mobilising.

Lia Perkins spoke in favour of the motion, noting that this is not an equal playing field for staff and students compared to management in a boardroom or at parliament house. They can always say that students were consulted, but that doesn't mean they listen or take any of our concerns into account. While everyone is talking about higher education, we need to push for free higher education for everyone.

Moved: Akee Elliott

Seconded: Deaglan Goodwin

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Foreshadowing motion

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the foreshadowing motion saying that this is pushing for a real difference in student's lives, adding that the foreshadowing motion has more substantive points than the previous motion and we should be pushing for these policy actions. Saw no reason for people not to support this motion.

Jack Scanlan spoke to the motion saying this motion is a manifesto for things we can do and should be pushing for action for students for real outcomes and we should not be tying our hands behind our back by not wanting to talk to management but pushing for real action not just on the cost of university fees but the many other expensive students incur and fighting for students in every way possible. This motion is about action rather than a fight over a non-existent piece of paper.

Lia Perkins spoke against the foreshadowing motion saying that it is not a direction on how to get things, it's just a list of things that the ALP may or may not read on the SRC website.

Hersha Kadkol saying that its utopian to think that the Labor party will give us free education if we ask for it. Adding that these proposals are for management, and not for students – Labor isn't going to make any changes if you ask them politely, it is asking the SRC to sign up to some situation that doesn't exist. Talking about the accords is important because Labor is presenting a process that gives the bosses of the university the right to make their claims for their profits and get the appearance of the rubber stamps from the unions and from students.

Mikaela Pappou said that was a redundant argument as if and when the accords happen and they don't have the demand we have already put into our platform we have a mandate that is more

than just an oppositions to an accord that does not yet exist. This motion is about what we want to see in the tertiary sector, and it's a shame you can't see that.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw.

Lauren Lancaster spoke about Mark Scott about the accords and the university's stance on them he gave a substantive answer because you can have a substantive actions on concepts before it exists such as an accord. Adding that the university are considering them already and we should be considering a strong political opinion on them as well.

Martin [???] spoke about how students don't care, and they look at SRC and think they can't get there things together and the Labor party isn't going to save us. Adding if we want change we need to make students care, we need to talk to people and get them on board and engaged with their education and future, and campaigning to student and getting them excited is important.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to Mikaela Pappou's comments, saying that if you wanted to take a stance on the higher education you could move your own motion on what that could look like but foreshadowing motions has gutted any mention of the accords because you just don't want the SRC to take a stance against them. This is about nullifying any attempt by student unions, local or national from taking a stance against the accords.

Jack Scanlan spoke to the amendment, saying it shouldn't just be attacking the one thing, we need to be fighting on all policies, and fighting for what we want to see in education.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Q4. BDS bad? More inside

Earlier last month Boston BDS published a map that they claimed mapped colonial influences in Boston. However on this map they've listed and located the addresses of some Jewish organisations and companies and homes claiming them as "Zionist". To some extent SOME of these businesses may indeed be Zionist. However the mapping organisation goes as far as to map the locations of Jewish preschools, where one can find their closing and opening times. Nothing says anti Zionism is not antisemitism like showing trigger happy antisemites in America who already blame Jews for all their problems where the next generation of Jews can be found. This puts a target on the backs of Jews all throughout the city and is just about as blatant antisemitism as you can get. While it may be said that these actions were not taken directly in partnership with neo-nazis and fascists in America, you can believe that these resources are indeed used by them. A little reported fact is that the Highland Park shooter committed his atrocious murders in a

particularly Jewish neighbourhood, after stalking and failing to enter a Chabad synagogue this past Passover holiday.

This motion condemns the racist actions of the BDS who, in trying to put pressure on the Jewish homeland often overstep the bounds into inciting violence against Jewish people. This motion is important because the USYD SRC has taken a worrying stance that seems consistent with agreeing with BDS and any message with anti-Israel sentiment no matter how destructive violent it may be to Jewish people. This provides a much-needed opportunity for the SRC to show some nuance to their position and indicate that it does indeed see Jewish people as being worthy of life.

Platform:

The University of Sydney SRC openly condemns antisemitism regardless of intention and recognises that a peaceful resolution is possible without the genocide of Jews worldwide or even “from the river to the sea”.

Actions:

The University of Sydney SRC will from all social media accounts make posts detailing and condemning this specific antisemitic action of BDS and extend support to the Jewish community.

Discussion:

Michael Grenier spoke to the motion speaking to Socialist Alternative about how they don't care about antisemitic groups on the left, and asked if they care when Jewish people die? Or only when it suits a political agenda. Noting that attacks in the like the highland park shooter looked for Jewish areas first and many of the victims were Jewish and giving out the location of Jewish businesses is a death sentence. Gun violence isn't just an issue for Jewish communities but the Far left giving fascists the location of Jewish people is.

Yasmine Johnson spoke about how the BDS campaign is a anti racist campaign and the occupation of Palestine is an ongoing human right issue. The BDS campaign champions their right to live free from oppression to have full rights and return to their homes. Student unions have an obligation to stand up for the oppressed which is why the SRC has passed motions in support of the BDS campaign in the past as it is for standing up for oppressed peoples around the world.

Moved: Michael Lionel Grenier

Seconded: Nathan Rogut

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Q4. USYD SRC report into action against antisemitism

The USYD SRC has spent a significant portion of time discussing what is and what is not antisemitism to the concern of the Jewish community across the world. Fortunately, we have received assurances from the SRC president that she is well in tune with antisemitic attacks against Jewish students and has a binder full of such incidents. This indicates that this is a serious

issue for the SRC to consider. A lack of action in this matter amounts to a grievous breach of responsibility to students.

We hope that the SRC's efforts to stem antisemitic attacks and raise awareness is less metaphorical and elusive than the aforementioned "binder". After longer than 6 months in this council and controversy each and every month, the Jewish community deserves an update on an SRC that has already admitted to a university-wide problem with antisemitic attacks. This motion became necessary in light of concerns that the USYD SRC has engaged in antisemitism (totally not true.) For the benefit of the Jewish community who were unable to hear in person the SRC President's moving promises that they have personally done "a lot" to combat antisemitism on campus, this motion allows the community a greater insight into the tireless efforts of the council.

Platform:

The SRC will collaborate with members of the Jewish community to recall the many actions taken against antisemitic attacks this semester, and with Jewish councillors who can personally attest to the benefits of a council focused on ensuring that Jewish students feel safe. This collaboration should provide ample inspiration to provide a report.

Action:

The SRC will publish a full report outlining what this SRC has done against antisemitism on campus to be published before the next SRC meeting. The proposed format is:

- List of antisemitic attacks on campus that the SRC has been aware of.
- Accounts of students that have been reached out to for support after their traumatic experiences
- Actions taken this calendar year specifically against antisemitism by the USYD SRC.

If this report is not fully complete and published before the next SRC meeting, Jewish councillors may submit smaller versions of said report as an update in intermission in place of the report, to be published from SRC social media accounts before the September SRC meeting.

Discussion:

Michael Grenier spoke to the motion saying that there has been acknowledgement that shows anti-Semitic actions happen on campus, but nothing has been done to help Jewish students. It would be good to see some action taken as there is no evidence that any action has been taken, and I suspect that it will show you've done nothing for Jewish students.

Lia Perkins said that the SRC earlier tonight voted on a motion about antisemitism on campus and a number of things that have been done in the past to fight the biggest antisemitic group – the organised far right.

Moved: Michael Lionel Grenier

Seconded: Nathan Rogut

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

The chair moved the meeting to return to item K. Elections.

K. Elections

K1. 2 Mature Age Students' Officer

N/A

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

Nomination: Yang Tu

Yang Tu waved her speaking time

There being no other nominations Yang Tu was declared Elected unopposed to the positions of Social Justice Officer for the 94th SRC.

The meeting closed at 7:49pm.