



**src** activism  
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## MINUTES:

of the 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting of the 96<sup>th</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024**. Meeting held in the ABS Lecture Theatre 1050, Abercrombie Business School building.

*There was a quorum count at 6:24pm*

*The meeting was found quorate.*

### A. Meeting open at 6:25pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Annabelle Jones 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

James Dwyer to Olivia Lee  
Sofija Filipovic to Sidra Ghanawi  
Angus Fisher to Jacklyn Scanlan  
Jack Lockhart  
Cara Eccleston to Laura Cook  
Ned Graham to Annabelle Jones  
Lucas Pierce to Taleen Jameel  
Angus Dermody

The apologies and proxies were noted.

Procedural motion: to move to M1. The Chair of Standing Legal Report

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Grace Street

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

## M1. Report of the Standing Legal Committee

For clarity, in the following I have broken s3(f) into three parts, and will refer to them as such:  
Option 1: *The council shall fit the vacancy by appointing to the position an unelected person on that representative's group at the time of the election, as nominated by the vacating member, subject to such nominee's consent.*

Option 2: *Where council is unable to obtain such a nomination, it shall appoint a member of the student body who was on the ballot paper in the most recent election, as nominated by the vacating member, subject to such nominee's consent.*

Option 3: *Where the council is not able to obtain such a nomination, it shall appoint a member of the student body who has paid affiliation fees to the council to fill the vacancy, subject to such appointee's consent."*

**Question:** *How should section 3(f) of the Constitution be construed? Does it permit those who did not appear on the ballot draw to fill the vacancy?*

**Answer:**

1. Consent of the nominator and the nominee

If we are to give s3(f) of the constitution its plain and ordinary meaning, the three clauses within this section are to be construed as three separate means of nominating a councillor and are to be followed in order (indicated specifically by the use of the phrase "where council is unable to obtain such a nomination"). Similarly, the section plainly stipulates that options 1 and 2 require both the nominators and the nominee's consent. Absent such consent from either party, the vacating member is entitled to move to the next option. Thus, where neither option 1 or 2 can be satisfied, the vacating member may look to option 3, "any member of the student body who has paid affiliation fees to the council." Option 3 also expressly stipulates that the council must appoint a member of the student body with that student's consent.

2. Affiliation fees

On the point of affiliation fees, the constitution provides:

*s13(b) Where the Council sets an affiliation fee equal to \$0, every member of the student body shall be considered to have paid the affiliation fee to the Council.*

As has been noted, the affiliation fee is currently set to \$0. Thus, as of 2024, every undergraduate member of the student body is taken to have paid and is therefore eligible to nominate for a councillor position.

I would further note that this reading is in line with how the phrase "affiliation fees" has been applied throughout the constitution. For example, the constitution requires that every councillor (s3(e)), President (s4(c)), Honi Soit editor (s10) and office bearer (s3A(b)) pay an affiliation fee. To exclude an otherwise eligible candidate on the basis of a non-payment of affiliation fees would then mean that every single person that currently holds a position within the SRC is technically ineligible.

If we consider the intention of the writers of the constitution, we can construe that the third option was added in order to widen the pool of potential candidates for a councillor position, requiring only a basic affiliation with the union, thus making it possible for factions to fill vacant spots in the likely event that the spot could not be filled by options 1 or 2. By excluding students from nominating on the basis that they did not initially run would be to create an unfair limitation that students in previous years would not have to overcome. As noted, only allowing those who were on the ballot to nominate excludes a wide range of students, for example Honi Soit editors from the previous year, students who ran on a failed Honi ticket, first year students from the calendar year following the election, or students who otherwise were prevented from running for personal or other reasons.

Furthermore, a precedent already exists for allowing members of the student body who were not on the ballot paper to nominate for a vacant council seat, indicating an existing willingness to accept a wider interpretation of s3(f).

**Conclusion/Summary:**

s3(f) of the SRC constitution is to be construed as providing three options for nominating a councillor in the event of a councillor vacating their seat, to be read in order. All three options require the consent of both the nominator and the nominee. If the first two options cannot be filled (namely, neither a faction member at the time of the election nor someone who was on the ballot paper consents to a nomination, or the vacating member does not consent to the nomination of these eligible students), the nominator is entitled to move to the third option, selecting any member of the student body who has paid the \$0 affiliation fee.

Motion: that the report of the Chair of the Standing Legal Committee meeting be accepted.

Motion: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Eliza Crossley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**D. Changes to Membership**

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Mary (Fengxuan) Liu to Lucinda (Ziying) Zheng

Rose Donnelly to Jasmine Donnelly

Yasmine Johnson to Lauren Finlayson

Lia Perkins to Martha Barlow

Iggy Boyd to Ethan Floyd

Harrison Brennan to Alex McEvoy

Tiger Perkins to Ellie Robertson

Kiera Garland to Annabel Pettit

Hamani Tanginoa and Mae Milne resign as Editors of Honi Soit

Rose Donnelly resigns from the Executive Committee  
Kiera Garland also resigns as the Refugee Rights Officer

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to move to Q1 and then Q10 now before returning to standing orders.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Jacklyn Scanlan

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

### **Q1. Appoint Angus McGregor and Victoria Gillespie as Editors of Honi Soit**

#### Preamble:

In the Student Representative Council's Constitution and Regulations, under Section 4 of Part 6, there is a provision that permits the appointment of an Editor of Honi Soit.

*(v) Council may appoint Honi Soit editors to fill casual vacancies in the Honi Soit editorial team through the following procedure:*

- (1) A majority of remaining Honi Soit editors must sign a motion calling for the appointment of a specified new Honi Soit editor to fill a casual vacancy.*
- (2) Council may choose to ratify or reject the motion through a simple majority vote;*
- (3) This motion may be moved at a Council meeting without prior notice. The Editors request that the Council appoint Angus McGregor and Victoria Gillespie as two new Editor of Honi Soit (replacing Hamani Tanginoa and Mae Milne, who have made their resignations known to the Secretary to Council). Please find the signatures and consent of seven Honi Soit Editors below.*

#### Action:

1. The SRC appoints Angus McGregor as an editor of *Honi Soit*.
2. The SRC appoints Victoria Gillespie as an editor of *Honi Soit*

*(Attached separately is a copy of the motion with the signatures of the Honi Soit editors)*

Discussion:

Simone Maddison spoke to the motion, saying that the two new editors had been working as unofficial editors already and the whole team wanted to bring them on officially since the two resignations.

Sandra Kallarakkal waived her right to speak.

Moved: Simone Maddison

Seconded: Sandra Kallarakkal

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **Q10. The USYD SRC Endorses the Feb 29 National Student Strike for Palestine!**

#### Preamble

For four months, Israel has carrying out a genocide in Gaza. Gaza's population of 2.3 million people are under siege from relentless bombardment of schools, hospitals, mosques, churches and residential towers. At time of writing, the death toll in Gaza has reached 27,019 people, with 66,139 wounded, meaning the conflict has seen the highest daily death toll of any other major conflict of recent years, at a rate of on average 250 people a day.

Gaza is also spiralling toward full-scale famine. Water, food, fuel and medical supplies have continued to be denied to the population, and starvation is being used as a tactic of war. This is only the latest atrocity against the Palestinians, who have suffered at the hands of Israel for 75 years.

The Australian government is complicit in these crimes. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Affairs Minister Penny have repeatedly reaffirmed Australia's support for Israel. The government has also withdrawn funding from the UNRWA, the main distributor of aid in Gaza. Without funding from most Western governments, UNRWA will be forced to stop operating by the end of February, leading to an even more catastrophic situation for the Palestinians.

In Australia, we have seen an explosion of solidarity with Palestine. Every week, tens of thousands of people have taken to the street to call for an end to the war. Young people have played a particularly important role. High school students made national news when they struck in November and December, triggering backlash from Labor state governments but inspiring teachers, parents and many others. The Melbourne school strike was in fact the largest proportionally in the world.

Students for Palestine groups on campuses across the country have issued a call for a national "Student Strike for Palestine" on February 29. This is an important opportunity for university students and their student unions such as the USYD SRC, to take their stand. At USYD, we plan to stage a walk off of students who will then march to a central demonstration of university and high school students in the city. We need this to be as big as possible. The start of semester presents a perfect opportunity with more students than ever on campus. The SRC needs to go out there and convince these students that they should take a stand with Palestine and that they can be a part of building a movement on the campuses around this issue. This will be the key to the success of the February 29 student strike.

Platform:

- The USYD SRC endorses the national “Student Strike for Palestine” protest on February 29, organised through various Students for Palestine collectives across the country. All councillors and office-bearers are expected to help promote the event through their official and personal channels, as well as attend the protest.
- The USYD SRC endorses the “Albanese: stop supporting genocide” protest outside Albanese’s office on February 16 called by Students for Palestine groups across Sydney.
- The USYD SRC condemns Israel’s war on Gaza and calls for an immediate end to the war.
- The USYD SRC opposes the Australian government’s support for Israel’s war and its decision to cut funding to UNRWA.

Action:

- The USYD SRC will take a solidarity photo and post it to its social media.
- The USYD SRC will share posts from Students for Palestine about its upcoming events including the February 29 student strike.

Discussion:

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the motion. Speaking about the situation in Gaza, the actions of the Australian government, and the protests around the world in support of the people in Gaza. Adding that this motion was being put up to not only show we will turn out to the protest, but we will dedicate every resource to ensure people turn out on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. Concluding that our response can’t just be this motion, but also devoting all our energies to getting people out there and channel their abilities, and their anger at the situation, into action.

Grace Street spoke to the motion and spoke about the conditions of people in Gaza, and the deaths and trauma of the children in Gaza and the how the defunding of the UNRWA was a terrible and unjustified action by Australia.

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke to the motion and said the everyone in the SRC should be throwing everything into this and giving people a space to fight against what is happening in Palestine and to fight against the genocide people are seeing. Adding that this is the main action that is getting people out to protest and this gives a space for students to go out and find the place that allows them to fight on the issues that matter to them which is the opportunity

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion reaffirming NLS’s support for this campaign, though there is some difference in strategy, that just showing up each week isn’t enough and we need to be more organised to deal with issues such as disengagement and disadvantage impact how people are able to be engaged. Adding that we need to be going after those perpetrating the genocide.

Chloe Pamaka spoke to the motion and saying this needs more resources and pushing for a mass

protests and a youth movement does make change, and this university has a long history of creating and building these movements.

Sidra Ghanawi spoke to the motion talking about the bombing in Gaza and the violations of International Law committed against Gaza while the West continues to fund Israel and defund aid and relief for Gaza and Palestinians, Sidra Ghanawi called for everyone to attend the student strike for Palestine.

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion and said this is a genocide with a high amount of pink washing with people saying if you believe in queer rights you need to support the bombing of children in Gaza. And mentioned that the Block the Dock campaign and Zim 23 campaigns also need support.

Taleen Jameel spoke to the motion and responded to Rose's comments, noting that the idea that we need to look to power for change doesn't work. Adding that for weeks we've been protesting and calling on all major powers and they are not listening; we should be a space for young people to get involved in. That we need to be a space for those who are going to protest for the first time and looking for a space to be supported to fight against power. Concluding that we should be the place that funds and supports this movement, this should be the biggest National Day of Action.

Procedural motion to reopen the speaking list for the duration of the next speaker to be closed again at the end of the next speaker.

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Madeleine Clark spoke to the motion and called on NLS to speak to the debate and noted that it has been Labor at state and federal government levels who have sent total support to Israel to commit genocide. These politicians in Australia are not only complicit but they are now facing a mass movement of opposition to this, there are so many young people who have seen this and have started taking action as they see this taking place.

Yasmine Johnson responded to Rose's comments saying that the point of the anti-war demonstrations are not about changing the leadership of the ALP immediately but showing people that there is lots of people who feel this way and show people and governments that people do not support Israel. Joining the party will not push for the change being out on the streets will.

Nour Al Hammouri spoke to the motion saying that we very much know where most people stand on this. Adding that what Rose Donnelly was saying is not to stop protests, but do other things as well, there are many things happening. We saw the shit show that was NatCon. There were a lot of conversations that were had and what got up was because we had the conversations with

Unity. Adding that there is more we need to do, and I think it's important to note we now have a NUS that is very pro-Palestine, we should be pressuring all groups to stand up and act on this issue, we're not doing enough, but change is going on.

Deaglan Godwin responded and said he didn't care what any of the work young Labor does at conferences only to be thrown in the trash in an MP's office. What makes change is mass movements, its action like we saw in opposition to the Vietnam war. Pushing for change in the party can't happen, and the core of their beliefs are tied to imperialism. We might not achieve the change we want immediately but we do need to put in the hard work and build the movement and the protests, giving a space for students to come out and protest.

Gerard Buttigieg responded to the debate, saying to Deaglan Godwin it interesting to be talking about doing the hard work when you've done nothing as Vice President. Continuing said they (NLS) have been at all the protests and have been building the movement by talking to people and going to branch meetings where they can talk to more people, and the actions of the Unionists who have also been pushing for change and for action for Palestine. We are getting massive contingents of unionists, and you're not making an effort to talk to people. Speak to the rank-and-file members of the unions but you can't do that because of your ideology is so cracked you turn people off. It was the Labor party that lead the moratorium movement.

Simon Upitis responded to Gerard Buttigieg saying that was a disgraceful response, and that what the Labor party was like at NatCon, with the removal of motions from policy documents and particular when Unity blocked a motion condemning those members who went on an Israeli junket, from which they posted photos of themselves with gun and bombs. Adding that NLS also assisted in blocking these, we've been having protests every week and we should be out there talking to people and engaging them.

Daniel Holland responded, saying we need to adapt and change the way in which we are working, the right is winning because the left will not adopt new tactics and to suggested that posting on Instagram and handing out leaflets will change the world doesn't make sense, electoral politics has its place too.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion saying we should be speaking to power. But we should also be speaking to workers like dock workers and those who are working on engineering programs, talking them into withdrawing their labour to prevent more harm. I agree with Deaglan Godwin that motions passed at branches and conferences mean nothing, but talking to the rank and file will get more people into the movement.

Jordan Anderson spoke to the motion saying students have an important role to play, and this Uni is complicit in its role in the war, especially with its ties to Thales. Adding that we are more



concerned with protecting trade routes seen with the bombing of Yemen and don't care about a genocide in Palestine is disgusting.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the council about the motion and the debate that has occurred, saying this motion was meant to show that we will mobilise, and support the students of this campus. What have we heard in response, is that we should diversify our priorities in this task, that we should also be lobbying, and other campaigns should be looked at. Our arguments is that as activists every fibre of our being should be on this issue and the others should be put aside. The people who are just showing up to rallies are doing more work than OBs here. We should be putting all our resources to this movement, we shouldn't be wondering if we can run other campaigns, we need to focus and push for this strike on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the 95<sup>th</sup> SRC held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October and 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023 and the minutes of the Representatives-Elect Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 25<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2023 be accepted.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Tim Duff

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.**

Procedural motion to suspend standing orders to have 2 questions after each report rather than a question time with a speaking limit of 1 min per person.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Grace Street

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

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

**J. Elections**

**J1. Election of 1 General member of the Executive Committee**

Nominee: Jasmine Donnelly  
Nominator 1: Jacklyn Scanlan  
Nominator 2: Annabelle Jones

There being no other nominations Jasmine Donnelly was elected unopposed as a general member of the Executive of the 96<sup>th</sup> SRC.

**J2. Election of 2 mature Age Students' Officers**

There were no nominations.

**K. Report of the President and Executive**

**K1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> Executive meetings from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September to 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.  
Minutes of the 96<sup>th</sup> Executive meetings from the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024.

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September to 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, and the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Ethan Floyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**K2. Report of the Executive**

Report of the 95<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> executive from the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

The report was circulated and noted.

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

**K3. President's Report**

Harrison Brennan tabled a written report:

It's been a busy past two months as President. Here's what I've been up to:

In December I attended the NUS National Conference where student unionists from across the country came together to debate and decide the policy platform of the NUS going into 2024. Throughout the conference, there was significant opposition to discussions about Palestine hindered by student unity and the removal of the word "genocide" from almost every motion about Palestine. That said, we passed a slew of motions in support of Palestine and endorsing BDS. We were also successful in passing motions in support of Grassroots organizing, and put up a

fierce opposition to the imperialist military projects like AUKUS and condemned Labor's neoliberal housing and cost-of-living agenda.

I've been communicating with other office-bearers and presidents across the state to promote the NSW Fair Fares campaign run in collaboration with SUPRA. We are now over 7200 signatures, and hopefully we can get a lot more in the coming weeks.

Over December and January, I've been focused on Palestine organizing, as I'm sure is a big priority for so many of us. I've attended and flyered at the weekly Palestine protests in Hyde Park, have been working on some campaigns in BDS Youth and am focused on building for the February 29th National Day Action for Palestine - and am excited to use our new microphone equipment for some high quality reels in the coming weeks. We are also launching a TikTok account!

Invasion Day was a big focus for me in January. I worked with a bunch of other activists in and outside the SRC flyering and postering many times throughout the weeks leading up to the rally. A massive thank you to Rand and everyone who organized and assisted the stall at Belmore Park that provided food, water, juice and sunscreen to elders and attendee's. It was a massive success and a material way to help out the Invasion Day rally on a sweltering day. This should become a norm for the SRC to operate.

Committees started up again two weeks ago. Studies of Religion will become a minor in the pursuit of management's favourite term "curriculum sustainability". There are extreme cuts planned for the year ahead that have yet to be brought to committee's and academic boards and I believe that we should be getting ahead of these changes - as we know there is a plan to cut 50% of philosophy units by 2025. There is also a whisper of potential discussions around simple extensions (again) and reducing it to 3-days, even though the economic situation facing students today has not changed one bit. I will update you all when I know more.

Last week I attended the NUS's President Summit at RMIT in Naarm. The NUS is changing their strategy to focus more on supporting campuses across the country rather than dictating campaigns to student unions facing different issues. I have the contact details of all the NUS Office-Bearers, if you would like to get in contact please let me know. I will also be having a meeting with the NUS paid organizer for Change the Age / End Student Poverty very soon.

Welcome Week is NEXT WEEK! I've been organizing sessions to promote the SRC, speaking and flyering to incoming students and have written some stuff for the Counter course/Orientation Handbook. I'd like to give significant thanks to Dan and Jacklyn for their hard work and dedication over these past few weeks to organizing our deliveries and collective stall items all in advance for welcome week.

**Discussion:**

Harrison gave a brief overview of the report, and reminded the council again to never Vape in the council room but to go outside to a designated smoking area.

Simon Upitis asked a question saying that it's good to hear that Palestine is a priority for you, I would like to know what you are going to do to ensure and push for that to be the priority for the whole SRC?

Harrison Brennan responded saying we will be doing reels and TikTok's about the event throughout Welcome Week, and we've reached out to unions to bring contingents.

Shovan Bhattarai asked do you think that campaigns like the Legalise it one should be scrapped?

Harrison Brennan responded saying I think the actions of most OBs is focused on Palestine, and will be. But that doesn't mean we can't do multiple things at once, and Palestine has been at the priority of everyone. Adding that he will be pushing for that to be the case, it's not the SRC's only job to do Bureaucratic things though they need to be done to function, but activism the a priority.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Eliza Crossley

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The President resumed the Chair.*

**L. Report of the Vice-Presidents**

Annabelle Jones and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report:

During the first two month's of our term, we have been hard at work building the Palestine solidarity campaign. 18 weeks in, and the genocide rages on in Gaza. The ALP government continues to offer unconditional political support to Israel, including outrageously defunding UNRWA. UNRWA is the means by which nearly all aid in Gaza is distributed, and the withdrawal of funding by Western governments will lead to the complete cessation of its aid unless restored.

As we return to campus, the Palestine solidarity campaign must be the central activist initiative of the SRC. In Semester 2 of last year, we saw lots of students flock to the Students for Palestine club because they wanted to be a part of pro-Palestine activism. This is an issue which is evidently galvanising for left wing students. This means there is a real chance for the SRC to play a constructive role in rebuilding student activism through this issue.

We are looking forward to and building upcoming actions for Palestine, including the weekly PAG rallies and the National Day of Action. The sustained response to the genocide in Gaza through these weekly rallies has proven that the Labor government's utterly shameful response to Israel's crimes will not go unnoticed, and that we will continue to fight and bring attention to these injustices.

The SRC needs to throw its resources behind building Students for Palestine and events such as the February 29 National Student Strike. This should be the main activity of paid office bearers, unpaid office bearers, councillors and members of all collectives. The urgency and significance of the issue is clear. If this is really an activist student union, it will focus its efforts in building a fighting student movement for Palestine.

The beginning of the academic year is bringing a number of opportunities to speak with students about the SRC and the work we do. The International Students' Welcome and Conservatorium Students' Association welcome event will be held on Friday and Monday, respectively, and we are attending these and speaking with students about the SRC and how we support and fight for students.

We are also looking to create social media content alongside Harrison, with these including short reels to promote the SRC, our services and our campaigns for the year. Our hope is that these will capture students' attention and allow us to spread our campaigns further and wider, with an overall intention of increasing the participation of students in the SRC. If you have any content you would particularly like to see promoted in this format please let us know.

Early in December Annabel, Lia and Daniel Bowron met with Naz to discuss FoodHub and the SRC's involvement in this going forward. We resolved that the SRC's primary role would be to assist with finding volunteers, as rising demand for FoodHub is needing to be supported by an increased volunteer presence. We were also advised that an additional paid staff member is being sourced by the USU to support FoodHub's operations, with this being necessitated by increasing uptake of the service. Volunteers we source for FoodHub will be finalised post Welcome Week. If you are interested in volunteering for FoodHub please email us!

#### Discussion:

Deaglan Godwin spoke briefly about the discussion in the previous motion, and that the argument Rose Donnelly made needed to be addressed because it ignored that the ALP is the enemy of the working class. Adding that we've still not heard a word from NLS about what they will do, and wanted Annabelle Jones to speak about what the faction is doing.

Annabelle Jones thanked Deaglan Godwin and spoke to the written report saying she will be at the protests and also that she will be at the smaller Welcome Week events and while Palestine remains a priority there is still other work.

Gerard Buttigieg asked what Deaglan Godwin has done to build and mobilise since being Vice President?

Deaglan Godwin responded saying his years in the SRC and work, involved in campaign after campaign, and the strikes. Adding that he acts as Vice President in all aspects of his life and was at UNSW talking about the strike to students.

Simon Upitis asked how do you intend to actually promote the Palestine strike?

Annabelle Jones responded saying that every person sitting with Labor has attended multiple Palestine Action Group protests. Adding that we can go to protests and also lobby. In terms of running multiple campaigns, we are well resourced and can do both Palestine and drug reform with Palestine being the primary focus.

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

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

Daniel O'Shea and Jacklyn Scanlan tabled a written report:

### **NatCon (11th-14th Of Dec)**

Both of the Gen Secs went to the National Conference (NatCon) for the National Union of Students (NUS) on the 11th-14th of December 2023 at federation university in Ballarat Victoria.

NatCon was an interesting time but it served as a good experience and it was amazing to see the national union and the policies and campaigns the NUS will push forward.

The Gen Secs will do anything in our power to support the NUS with the support of council and exec.

With that we have an exciting announcement. The SRC has received contestable funding to pay our full affiliation fee to the NUS. It is important that even with the university trying to cut our SAFF funding that we continue to pay our full affiliation fee to support national and state campaigns via the NUS. When VSU was first implemented the first cost many student unions cut was NUS affiliation, this weakened the student union movement by dividing and conquering the movement by cutting cross campus campaigns and a united front against tory and conservative governments and policies.

The Gen Secs would also like to thank the work of our delegates and other students that attended NatCon. We would also like to congratulate Daniel O'Shea for being elected to National Executive and Ella Diah & Eddie Stephenson for being elected the National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer for 2024. We hope all USyd people elected to national positions and Harrison as our president all work to represent, advocate, and be amazing activists for the fights in higher education and wider society this year.

### **Invasion Day (26th of Jan)**

The Invasion Day rally on Jan 26th was an amazing success. Would love to thank the OBs a lot for all the printing, poster, flyering and organising that was involved. Us as the GenSecs mostly just flyers and postered in our own time.

### **Palestine Activism**

The postering, campaigning and maintaining momentum has also continued with our Palestinian activism. We will keep fighting and support any OBs with activism around Palestine and we hope we can be any assistance if we are needed.

### **Welcome Week**

The Welcome week ordering rush has been huge but we are so thankful for all the OBs who communicated with us about how the GenSecs can support them and help with any issues they may experience in the leadup for Welcome week. Listed below are all the expenses outcomes of expenses sent in circulars and exec and approved by exec for welcome week:

### **Budget Updates**

Because of our focus being mostly on Welcome Week and the Handbook we are presenting budgets to OBs and their departments in the first half of February to be presented to the OBs before week 1 (19/02/2024).

A full SRC budget, projections of future finances, and a full financial analyst and report will be presented at the next council meeting after proper consultation with the OBs, the president, the executive, and SRC staff.

### **Audit Underway**

A 3rd party financial auditors are in the SRC to analyse finances to make sure our books are clean and the SRC is all up to par with all of our financial responsibilities. The Gen Secs will be working with the SRC finance team and the auditors to make sure everything is accounted for.

The auditors full report and anything that has to be noted will be presented to council and exec when the report is complete.

*In Solidarity, Daniel O'Shea & Jacklyn Scanlan*

Discussion:

Jacklyn Scanlan spoke about the work she's been doing both as General Secretary and outside of that work, noting the extra stall for Student for Palestine, and also all the work coming up for Welcome Week.

Daniel O'Shea spoke to the report and added that the budget is being worked on, and we have a lot of show bags to pack please come and help.

Tamsyn Smith asked what do you mean when you say we can do both? We are arguing that we need to mobilise students in getting them to the rallies and get them involved in activism, so how do you plan to mobilise?

Jacklyn Scanlan responded saying I'm giving you a stall and I'll be at Welcome Week all week. The reason the Legalise it campaign is happening is there is a Drug reform conference happening this year and we want to take advantage of that.

Annabelle Jones asked how can we help out with the bag packing?

Daniel O'Shea said that as soon as bags arrive hopefully this weekend. Adding it will be really fun and Harrison Brennan has promised to bring tunes.

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

Moved: Laura Cook

Seconded: Annabelle Jones

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

### **N1. Report of the Education Officers**

Grace Street and Shovan Bhattarai tabled a written report

For us, most of December and January was spent preparing Counter Course and organising Students for Palestine rallies at Albo's office, the ABC, and the upcoming National Day of Action on Feb 29. Counter Course has now been finished and sent off to print with a good range of articles on research funding, course cuts, Thales on campus, placement poverty, Palestine, and student movements more broadly! Palestine rallies continue to draw out thousands to protest each weekend at the central rallies organised by Palestine Action Group at Hyde Park, as the horrors of the genocide in Gaza and the Labor government's abundant complicity in backing it continue. Mobilising students to take up the activist fight against the genocide in Gaza must become a key priority of the entire SRC.

In preparation for Welcome Week, we have placed our orders for Students for Palestine t-shirts and stickers, in addition to some more fun anti-course cut stickers for students. We are planning for a banner relating to the National Day of Action that students can come and chat to us about and sign to show their support for Palestine and for ending USyd's complicity in the genocide. In some promotional material for the NDA, we have been highlighting USyd's partnership with the weapons manufacturer, Thales, and Belinda Hutchinson being on their board. Thales also has partnerships with UNSW, the University of Wollongong, University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, Western Sydney University, and RMIT, which highlights the atrocious degree to which militarism has become a normal part of higher education.

Even before the uni year has begun, we have already been told about more course cuts to the Arts, with Writing Studies and Studies of Religion being relegated to courses only offered as a minor. Coming off the back of last year's massive announcements of reforms and cuts to Arts Honours courses and cuts to Philosophy, this is another big blow and is one part of a now very regular schedule of announced cuts.

The Productivity Commission's report on government services, released on Monday night, revealed that rates for university enrolments and school attendance are continuing to fall. Down from 31.1% last year, only 29.5% of 20 to 24 year olds are enrolled in a bachelor's degree or above, despite Labor's promises to increase university places and education minister Jason Clare's questionably-possible plan for 55% of young people to have a university degree in the next decade. Alongside the disincentives of raising uni fees, HECS debt indexation, and continuous



course cuts, there are multiple other disparities hindering enrolment and retention in higher education. For students from rural areas and from poor families, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, there are ever-increasing gaps in attendance and in finishing school.

These class- and race-based disparities are unacceptable and only worsen as universities become increasingly corporatised. Even Labor removing the Coalition's 50% pass rule to be eligible for commonwealth assistance and committing to more funding for Indigenous students will not suffice, making the fight for free education and making higher education accessible, decolonial, and egalitarian more apparent than ever.

Our plan is to have a big welcome meeting in Week 1 where we can prepare for the Student Strike National Day of Action in Week 2 and start introducing new students to Ed organising. Hope to see you there!

Discussion:

Grace Street spoke to the report and wrapping up the Counter Course handbook and some great articles, one on First Nations Palestinian solidarity and also one on Thales. We're also dealing with a number of course cuts by the union including studies of religion. Also noting that with the government saying they want 55% of young people to get a degree they aren't making education accessible.

Shovan Bhattarai wanted to respond to some things that have been happening this meeting, noting it was good to get a stall but who will commit here to staffing the stall, and who will be committing to handing out leaflets, and noting that those who said they would was very disappointing from Labor. Adding that we need to be pushing for this every day of semester. Concluding by talking about the importance of doing the work to mobilise.

Shahmeer Hossain asked Grace about the report on enrolments, asking if she thought this means we need to fight for free education because he didn't understand the connection.

Grace Street responded saying there are many socioeconomic reasons and variations of disadvantage and hurdles to accessing education, and the harder it is for people to access education the less like they will try. Free education opens up opportunities for people to actually access education.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Rand Khatib

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **N2. Report of the Wom\*n's Officers**

Eliza Crossley and Rand Khatib tabled a written report.

Over the summer WoCo worked on the Abolish the Colleges campaign which will be formally

launched for the year with a rally against sexual violence on the Thursday the 15th at 1pm at the Quad. The Abolish the Colleges campaign has a lot of momentum at the moment so it's really important everyone attends the rally. If you want to be involved in final planning come to the WoCo meeting tomorrow at 1pm.

During Welcome Week we are also bringing a petition that requires 500 signatures for State MPs to discuss the colleges legislation, this is a physical petition, so if people would like copies of it for their stalls contact me, but also make sure that this list is kept very securely for privacy reasons.

In Welcome Week we are also launching a website to be operated by a couple feminist groups and the Greens. We have been designing a survey to be put out to get student input into what the Colleges legislation should look like, this is also going live in Welcome Week. Please fill out the survey.

WoCo also got the Greens to commission some stickers for us and a little flyer, for a sticker campaign, WoCo will be handing them out as well as tote bags and tshirts at welcome week. Come and get some and go ham with stickers.

There will also be an open forum for the Abolish the Colleges campaign on the 20th of February attended by WoCo. It's booked for Hermann's so come along.

WoCo also collaborated with ACAR and First Nations and had a presence at the Invasion Day stall handing out water, snacks. Thanks to everyone who helped out. This was really important, and I hope WoCo can do it again in the following years because our feminism must be decolonial.

With the editorial team we also made Growing Strong! The themes for the edition are decolonial feminism and abolishing the colleges. It's 32 pages, with 15 articles, an editorial team of 11 and 7 artists. Thanks for everyone who helped out, and a special shout out to the SASH obs for your hard work. We are launching Growing Strong with a welcome picnic on Monday the 19th at 4pm at Manning Lawns, please come along. The SASH obs are also doing a film screening in Week 3.

WoCo is really excited for this year, we've commissioned a new logo to be launched at Welcome Week and we also can't wait for new members. If you haven't come to a WoCo meeting yet this year but would like to, please come! We're reclaiming the Manning Women's room so find us there!

Come along:

- *Rally End Rape on Campus and Abolish the Colleges* - Thursday the 15th of February 1pm the Quad (not autonomous)
- *Growing Strong Launch & Welcome Picnic* - Monday the 19th of February 4pm Manning (autonomous)
- *Colleges Forum* - Afternoon of Tuesday the 20th of February Hermann's (not autonomous)
- *SASH OB film screening, The Silences of the Palace* - March 7th at 6pm Old Geology lecture theatre (not autonomous)

Sign our petition, fill out the survey, turn up at the welcome week rally!  
In love and rage,

Eliza & Rand

Discussion:

Eliza Crossley spoke to the report and covered its main points.

Rand Khatib spoke to the report and spoke about the importance of all liberations, feminist, queer, disabilities, etc and that Palestinian liberation is part of all of them.

Nour [??] asked about the convoy to Canberra.

Rand Khatib said that it was a protest, and we first went to the Tent Embassy to pay our respects, and then went to Parliament. We made it clear we were loud and proud to be Palestinian, and we made some mayhem for a little while.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Martha Barlow

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **N3. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers**

Almost 30,000 Palestinians have been murdered over the last 18 weeks. Every single person in Gaza is facing serious hunger and the spread of disease. Almost 70,000 people in Gaza have been wounded and thousands are still buried under rubble, dead and alive, unable to be rescued. The Israeli state has targeted hospitals, refugee camps and residential buildings - more than half of all buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. Northern Gaza has been decimated by IDF bombing campaigns and ground invasions, and now Israeli forces are pushing forwards into the south - recently, yet another hospital, the al-Amal Hospital in Khan Younis has been attacked. There are now plans for a ground attack further south on Rafah, the last refuge for displaced Palestinians in the Gaza strip. Raids and killings have also massively escalated in the West Bank, and there have been 6,420 detentions in the West Bank over the last 18 weeks.

In the face of this, the Australian government has firmly thrown its support behind the Israeli state and its actions. From the start, comments from Penny Wong have reaffirmed this support, whether it was refusing to condemn the blockading of food and water from Gaza over three months ago, or meeting with Israeli state officials to stress Australia's close ties to the country more recently. Australia was also one of the countries that recently revoked its UNRWA funding, effectively cutting off the last bit of aid that was making it into Gaza.

Thousands and thousands of pro-Palestine protesters have taken a stand against the Australian government week after week, joining the millions around the world that have protested for Palestine over the last three months. We have thrown ourselves into this movement - attending the Palestine Action Group protests on the weekends and building the Students for Palestine protests on Fridays. Last week, I attended the Students for Palestine protest outside of the ABC,

standing against the ABC's horrendous coverage and its treatment of pro-Palestine journalists such as Antoinette Lattouf. Protests like these are so important in challenging the mainstream defence of this genocide - we need lots of people, but also left-wing institutions like the SRC, to throw themselves into building these protests. I was also able to speak at a protest outside of Anthony Albanese's office two weeks prior, demanding our government cut ties with Israel. There will be another protest outside of Albanese's office on Feb 16th at 4pm that we will be building and encourage everyone else to build for and attend as well.

Over the next month, we'll be throwing ourselves into building the National Day of Action for Palestine that has been called by Students for Palestine all around the country. As well as building the main event at Town Hall at 2pm, we want to build the USyd contingent on Eastern Ave at 1pm. Having students all around the country come out to protest for Palestine will be an important statement of opposition to our government and will help bring pro-Palestine activism onto the campuses as semester begins. As Global Solidarity Officers, we think standing in solidarity with Palestine through protests like this one is crucial, but it should also be a project taken up by every left-wing person in the SRC.

Tamsyn and Gabe.

Discussion:

Tamsyn Smith spoke about the argument that Labor has been making about running multiple campaigns, when one doesn't engage or build the left. We are arguing that you should scrap everything other than this campaign, every cent and second should be spent on the Palestine campaign and to not do so is a betrayal of your values.

Jacklyn Scanlan asked are you saying that drug reform and its consequences are not worth focusing on at all, and will you ask Grassroots to do the same with the colleges campaign.

Tamsyn Smith said that all those things are important but should be scrapped till we have built a left, and the way to do that is through the Palestine movement.

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

Moved: Shovan B

Seconded: Madeline Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **N4. Report of the First Nations' Officers**

*Bujari gamaruwwa.* Welcome, or welcome back, to the University of Sydney on the unceded lands of the Gadigal people— our names are Ethan, Taylah, and Cianna, and we're *wangarra* (excited) to be your SRC First Nations Students' Officers for this year. Here's what we've been working on during the break:

#### **Invasion Day**

We spent much of December and January building for this year's Invasion Day protest – leafleting all over Sydney and the western suburbs, promoting the protest on our socials, and playing an active role as organisers of the protest, along with the Blak Caucus. We also worked with several other collectives, particularly the Women's Collective (WoCo), to organise a cool-off station at Belmore Park; where we provided cold water and juice, hydration supplements, sunscreen, and hand sanitiser to protestors, as well as shaded seating for Elders. More than 50,000 people marched through Sydney's streets last month, joining thousands more at demonstrations across the country, calling for Indigenous justice and liberation. We look forward to next year's protest and will work to support the 97th Council in their organising efforts.

### **Yabun Festival**

We also maintained a presence at the Yabun Festival, participating in a panel discussion with Metropolitan Land Council CEO Nathan Moran and Councillor for Waverley Council Dominic Wy Kanak. The panel focused on ideas of Indigenous justice post-referendum, and how to move forward with a representation and rights-based agenda after the Voice to Parliament was defeated.

### **Welcome Week**

We've been planning for Welcome Week, we've received our stall allocation, our printing is done, and our merch is on the way. We've ordered stickers with our Collective logo, and tote bags with a beautiful design using Dharug language. We're also sharing our space with the Blak Caucus, who'll be recruiting and promoting their upcoming campaigns. And we'll be exchanging merch and materials with the Gadigal Centre and the Indigenous Strategy and Services portfolio to boost the Collective's visibility and reach. We won't be organising a banner paint for the stall, as we already have two amazing banners to use, so the only thing left to do is to come by our stall during Welcome Week and support the Collective!

### **Indigenous Honi**

We've already started working on our annual publication Indigenous Honi, and we're hoping to build it back after years of either not being published at all or being severely neglected by the office-bearer. We want this year's Indigenous Honi to be evocative of those old radical movements that were born here in Redfern and in Chippendale – we've just celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy protests, and we're about to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1965 Freedom Rides. There's never been a better time to pay tribute to those really staunch activists that led both the land rights movement and also these grassroots programs like the Aboriginal Medical and Legal Services. We'll be accepting pitches from First Nations students and staff, and our allies from all communities, so there's absolutely no excuse not to get involved. Please come and talk to us if you've got questions.

Get in touch with us on Instagram (@usydfirstnations), on Facebook (ask to join the group), or via email ([indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:indigenous.officers@src.usyd.edu.au)). We're looking forward to a great year of activism!

Discussion:

Ethan spoke to the report and covered its main points and spoke about the lack of solidarity from

some people seen as Indigenous leaders, and the role of the collective is to stand in opposition of that. Adding that we are also at the Uni's identity policies changes again.

Motion: that the report of the First Nations' Officers be accepted.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The meeting took a break for 15 at 8:27pm*

*There as a quorum count at 8:49pm*

*The meeting was found quorate.*

*The meeting resumed at 8:50pm*

*Ethan Floyd proxied to Harrison Brennan at 8:30pm.*

## **N5. Report of the Environment Officers**

Over the summer, we've primarily thrown ourselves into the Palestine solidarity campaign. Since November we've helped build every single weekend rally, gotten the word out about numerous protests outside Albanese's office in Marrickville, and protested the ABC for their coverage and treatment of pro-Palestine journalists. We've done this because the genocide in Palestine is the single most pressing issue right now. More than 30,000 people have been killed, half of which were children. Gaza city has been levelled. There is barely an acre in Gaza free from destruction. The Palestinian people are being starved of aid, with widespread hunger and disease running rampant.

And Australia is complicit in the genocide. For months the government's support has not wavered, most recently cutting funding to the UNRWA. The media has been various shades of terrible, labelling a genocide as self-defence and shutting down or even firing journalists who are pro-Palestine. Australian factories and ports manufacture and ship weapons to carry out the modern-day Nakba.

Israel's genocide of Palestine will only continue to escalate, with all major imperialist powers pulling funding from the UNRWA. The people of Palestine have been relying on the UNRWA as it has been providing shelter, food and healthcare. Cuts to the UNRWA mean that this humanitarian aid could run out by the end of February, further worsening the situation for those on the ground in Gaza. Furthermore, next week, the US House will vote on whether to send \$17.6 billion worth of aid to Israel. This also comes after the International Court of Justice's decision that Israel had a plausible case of genocide to answer to in Gaza. Yet, our government (and indeed, other imperialist powers around the globe) have continued to back Israel.

It is also worth noting our University's complicity in the assault on Gaza, including their ties to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which is situated on stolen, occupied Palestinian land. Another example is USyd's investment in Thales, a weapons manufacturing company, which is completely egregious in of itself. But also, Thales has collaborated with Elbit Systems - an Israeli weapons manufacturing company - to produce drones that are used by Israel's military. Our Vice

Chancellor, Belinda Hutchinson, sits on the board of Thales, demonstrating the extent to which our university is complicit in the genocide of Palestinians. All corners of society have thrown their weight behind Israel, capturing the importance of continuing to show up for Palestine and maintaining the momentum.

Over the summer, we were also building for Invasion Day, which included flyering, posterizing and publishing a joint statement with the EAG in support of the rally. We live on First Nations land that was stolen, never ceded. We affirmed that there is nothing to celebrate about the origins of the Australian state and there is nothing to celebrate about it today. The rally came at an important time, when just the week prior, Tiwi Island Elders lost a legal battle to Santos, meaning that an underwater gas pipe will shamefully be constructed on First Nations land. We are committed, as left-wing activists, to continue to show up for First Nations justice and extend our full solidarity.

We will continue to throw our weight into supporting Palestine: we will be building for the national strike for Palestine (29 February) and upcoming students for Palestine actions from our o-week stall. The stall will have bucket hats, stickers, and our zine Combust, and leaflets for the rallies. We're planning a banner paint in week one as well.

Discussion:

Jordan Anderson spoke to the report and covered its main points.

Tom Williams spoke to the report and added that the rise of neoliberalism came up as a result of the ALP, so to look to the ALP to change things, is never going to change things for the better because of their mentality. We need to look to Argentina for what to do, here people fought against the cuts through mass action and a strike, and they will win against those cuts because of those strikes - this shows that the strategy works, when we fight, we will win.

Maddie Clark spoke to the report adding that today we've been presented with two strategies: one where we look at actions like pushing for surveys, talking to conferences, and funding the FoodHub - these all involve looking to power to change things. Things haven't changed because power doesn't know what is going on, they do know, but they benefit from these issues persisting. Adding that we've seen this before, and mass movements are the ones that make change, and everyone should be throwing their power their time and energy into the Palestine campaign.

Gerard Buttigieg asked Maddie Clark about a red flag article that talked about the Vietnam war protests, saying that it began not with the student movement but with the Unionists, and asked if there was room for only the sectarian approach, or for a more nuanced and diverse approach?

Maddie Clark said that it was a minority of students that changed the minds of the majority of student on the Vietnam war, and that changed the tide. Adding that this is the role we should be taking now.

Jordan Anderson responded saying the ALP is supporting Apartheid Israel, so looking to them for action will not happen, we need to fight for change from here.

Tom Williams added that we need to be pushing to engage and grow the movement and the left.

Daniel Holland asked to Tom Williams if they believed that the government of Hugo Chavez didn't achieve anything because electoral politics are pointless?

Tom Williams did not respond.

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

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Tamsyn Smith

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **N6. Report of the Queer Officers**

Since October:

- We flyer'd for, wheat-pasted for, and co-hosted the Trans Day of Resistance 2023 Rally, chaired and MC'd by Jamie.
- We are continuing to build the 2024 Mardi Gras Street Rally, which we are co-hosting (Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm).
- Was interviewed by 3CR Tuesday Breakfast on Zionism and Mardi Gras
- We held numerous queer contingents to the weekly Free Palestine rallies to condemn Israeli pink washing of genocide.
  - This included an associated banner paint.
  - Included speakers such as Barbi Ghanoush and Ethan Lyons
  - endorsed by ACAR, ASEN, The Blak Caucus, NUS Queer and Pride in Protest
- We took part in a campaign by Pride in Protest which resulted in Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras becoming the largest pride organisation on Earth to call for a ceasefire and commit to not conducting business with organisations aiding the genocide in Gaza.
  - This campaign also included disinviting MPs who oppose the Equality Bill
- We (the members of QuAC) voted unanimously to update QuAC's regulations to allow some non-queer people to join QuAC.
  - All applications by allies to join QuAC must be seconded by two existing QuAC members and voted on by the queer-identifying members of QuAC.
  - Allies are not eligible to vote on Queer Officer elections or changes to the QuAC constitution.
  - Cops, military personnel and some other groups are no longer eligible to join QuAC.
- We held a student contingent to the Scarlet Alliance rally to support sex workers.
- We held a contingent to the Invasion Day 2024 rally.



- We painted a 'Healthcare Workers for Palestine' banner for their rank-and-file union contingent to the Free Palestine rallies.
- We organised, promoted and attended a student contingent to the October 22nd CARR rally.
- We helped organise sessions for Radical Pride and Consent Week, including a session on sex work and a session on decolonising and de-corporatizing Mardi Gras.
- We rewrote QuAC's constitution.
- We attended an event by The Blak Caucus on First Nations solidarity and activism with Palestine.

Discussion:

Jamie Bridge spoke to the report and covered some of its main points.

Esther Whitehead spoke to the report and covered more of its points.

Tim Duff spoke to the report and covered the remaining points, and about the rally on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Feb.

Pepsi asked for more detail about the Mardi Gras street rally?

Jamie Bridge responded saying that it was on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm which is also Fair Day, and there are a number of demands as a part of that event: Pass the Equality Bill; Self ID and sex worker rights, and gender affirmation leave now; no pink washing genocide; and cops out of pride and scrap the anti-protest laws.

Jesper Duffy asked about what happened at the Trans Day of Resistance?

Jamie Bridge we had a number of demands and key speakers and we spoke a lot about the pink washing of the genocide happening in Gaza.

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

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Rand Khatib

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **N7. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers**

### **Palestine**

Today marks 122 days of genocide in Gaza. The number of civilians killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza is estimated at a minimum of 27,478 people. The Palestinian Ministry of Education has confirmed that 4,895 students have been killed and 8,514 injured in Gaza since October 7.

Displaced Palestinians and their families are currently living in cemeteries. Gazans are facing genocide, the destruction of their homes, and the loss of their family and livelihoods. Palestinians watch as the only land most of them have ever known is unjustly targeted, bombed and destroyed.

While the people of Gaza face an immense humanitarian crisis, western governments, including our own Labor government have in recent weeks shamefully defunded the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA is the only agency able to provide substantial aid in Gaza and these allegations clearly show Israel's intent to maximise suffering and commit genocide. Furthermore, the actions of the Australian government show its unwavering complicity in the genocide of innocent Palestinians.

Sidra attended the National March for Palestine in London where the solidarity, and passion for the people of Palestine was tangible. The turnout for the march was in the millions, and whilst a number like this is idealistic for Sydney's marches, it echoed the importance of building for the rallies here in Sydney. This year, ACAR will be flyer, poster and organising contingents to the weekly Palestine rallies.

In the Middle East more broadly we have seen the escalation of tensions between the US and Iran. Culminating in a US campaign of airstrikes throughout Iraq and Syria, killing innocent civilians - ACAR condemns this escalation as it brings us closer to WW3 and global nuclear annihilation. Furthermore, we agitate for a Middle East free from US and Iranian imperialism.

### **Invasion Day**

Closer to home, ACAR fully endorsed the Invasion Day rally which had a great turnout of around 50k, as well as the student contingent. We stand in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of this land who have been protesting and mourning on the 26th of January far longer than white Australia's celebration of so-called 'Australia Day'. Unfortunately, we were limited in our capacity to organise for Invasion Day as both of us were away for most of January. However, Rav was able to flyer and poster the week of and spent the day handing out water to ensure the protest was unaffected by the blistering heat. ACAR will hold our first collective meeting in Week 1 where we will discuss Israeli Apartheid Week as well as events and protests to be held for the rest of the semester. We intend to use welcome week as an opportunity to flyer and build for the National Day of Action for Palestine called on the 29th of February.

### **ACAR/Israeli Apartheid Week**

We have been busy in preparation for Welcome Week by designing merchandise, preparing a zine and organising events for new members, with our first one being an ACAR banner paint this Thursday.

Beyond Welcome Week, ACAR plans to hold stalls on Eastern Avenue over the year to build the collective and promote actions and invites the other collectives to join us in mobilising students!

Israeli Apartheid Week will be the week beginning with the 4th of March. We will collaborate and work alongside BDS Youth in organising a film screening, protest, and forum magnifying grassroots Palestinian voices and organisations.

Discussion:

Rav Grewal and Sidra Ghanawi spoke to their report and covered its main points, highlighting that the Palestine protest movement should be everyone's priority.

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

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Tim Duff

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **N8. Report of the Welfare Officers**

The genocide in Gaza has entered its fourth month, with almost 30,000 Palestinians killed and thousands still missing under the rubble. Every hospital in Gaza has been bombed, aid trucks attacked by Israeli forces, no food or water is reaching Palestinians as those who have survived so far starve in the winter. Our government has pledged their full support to Israel, recently joining the chorus of nations cutting funding to UNRWA, further reducing aid getting into Gaza. Foreign minister Penny Wong visited Israel to shake hands with Israeli politicians and to guarantee Australia's support for Israel.

In light of such horrific scenes playing out in front of our eyes, in the past few months, welfare officers Jasmine and Julius have been helping build the solidarity movement with Palestine in Sydney. We have attended and built the weekly demonstrations in Hyde Park, reaching out to left wing people about getting involved with Palestine activism. We have been calling regular rallies for Palestine on Friday through Students for Palestine, as a way of building up opposition to the Labor Party's support for Israel's genocide and also getting students involved with Palestine activism through Students for Palestine. Students for Palestine will be a key priority of ours going into semester as the organising space for new uni students eager to get involved in Palestine solidarity activism during their time at uni.

The key Students for Palestine event going into semester one will be the National Day of Action student strike for Palestine on the 29th of Feb at Town Hall 2pm. We will be building the USYD contingent as well that is meeting at 1pm at Eastern Avenue that day. This will be a crucial event not just in maintaining the historically sustained protests for Palestine in Sydney, but also as a means of getting more students involved in Palestine activism and fighting to re-establish a culture of student protest on campus and in the city. It is important that other councillors and OBs prioritise building up the movement for Palestine due to the urgency of the issue, we must do everything we can to stand with the Palestinian people, who's only hope lies with the thousands of ordinary people showing solidarity across the world. But as well, the role of the SRC is to respond to key political issues that are mobilising people and draw in students who want to fight against such atrocities and get involved with activism. That is why we will be prioritising Palestine solidarity work throughout the semester.

Jasmine and Julius

The Welfare Officers and Welfare Action Group (WAG) have been discussing and planning various campaigns and events that we will be pushing this year. Our focus will continue to be placed on fighting against the genocide that is going on and has been going on for 75 years now. This will continue to be at the forefront of our focus in the foreseeable future. We will keep protesting, keep marching and keep holding our government to account until Palestine is free and we have cut ties with Israel.

In addition to this, we're going to be ensuring that we focus on a couple of campaigns; both the housing and cost of living crisis, and the legalise it campaign. The rental crisis hasn't stopped. The rent continues to increase, and affordable housing is still out of reach for many people. Public housing is still being demolished and student accommodation continues to provide inhumane services and is still exploitative. We're excited to start planning a forum around this issue that will be held in the early weeks of semester 1. We will be starting planning for events and rallies for the legalise it campaign very soon. The long history of drug laws being used to discriminate and punish marginalised communities is horrific. There needs to be drug and legal system reform to stop the punitive laws for possession, the targeted marginalised communities, the loss of human life due to the lack of pill testing, severe sentencing processes, and so much more.

Ellie Robertson

Discussion:

Julius Wittfoth spoke to the report and about the importance of the keeping Palestine the priority, and that other campaigns are just not oriented to mass movement, but just lobbying the ALP. Adding that NLS wants to spend the money on lighters and bottle openers, and have a few dollars left over for leaflets. Julius asked Ellie Robertson if the debates tonight have changed her priorities since she referred to the Legalise It campaign in her report.

Ellie Robertson responded saying that Palestine should be at the forefront, but that we shouldn't drop other campaigns. Adding that we see the cost of living continue to rise, and decriminalisation is important to prevent to over policing of marginalised communities.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke about the Legalise It campaign and spoke about the value of having multiple campaigns to bring more people in from a range of issues, and the argument against Labor here has been disingenuous. Adding that they've been at the Palestine rallies and the Labor member contingents are larger than Socialist Alternative's, and the unions and other groups make up a huge number of the attendees.

Jasmine Al Rawi responded saying it was disgraceful to say Socialist Alternative weren't relevant when it was the Labor party that are laughed out of meetings by activists and Socialist Alternative who have chaired and run meetings and rallies almost every week. Right now, we are getting 10s of thousands of young people getting out and wanting to mobilise, to do things, and this continues

to grow the left. To do this involves throwing everything into the Palestine movement, but the Labor party want to waste time on a lobbying campaign and distracting from the fight, not fight the fight.

Tamsyn Smith asked Ellie Robertson how can Palestine be priority, but we could run other campaigns, when to run other campaigns is a waste of resources, so which is it?

Ellie Robertson responded saying the Welfare Officers represent a massive collective, and yes Palestine is their top priority, but we have people who joined to work on the housing crisis campaigns, and it's important to keep that campaign going.

Jacklyn Scanlan asked where they got the budget line of \$1000 for welfare since the budget has not been set?

Gerard Buttigieg said that this was just a budget for Welcome Week, not the total budget, and that the number came from an argument within the Welfare department. Adding that as noted printing is free, what the money we allocated for this was for building a larger welfare action group to get people involved and that would also build the Palestine movement.

Jasmine Al Rawi responded saying it was elitist to think student don't care about a genocide and would be more interested in a Legalise It campaign. Adding that we need to build the Palestine campaign not just dupe students with cheap lighters.

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

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Martha Barlow

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to limit the speaking time to 2 minutes total

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was out and **CARRIED.**

*Gerard Buttigieg to Rose Donnelly proxy at 9:36pm*

## **N9. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers**

2023 has sent portentous signs for the nature of the refugee crisis, and the marginalisation and oppression of refugees, in 2024, both globally and in Australia. In less than 30 years, it is predicted that over a billion people will be displaced globally as a result of climate -change induced disasters and crises.

In the face of this ever-growing need for the oppressed and displaced to flee the appalling conditions brought about by environmental collapse and political turmoil, 2023 saw both the right and centre in the western world either scapegoat refugees and migrants for domestic political problems, or systematically deny their settlement, effectively leaving them for dead. In the case of Greece, over 78 refugees died off the coast of Messenia due to border authorities intentionally forbidding the safe evacuation of the fishing boat on which they packed onto land. In the UK, both the Tories and Labour are committed to a program of deportation for those arriving by boat, which has been denounced by countless human rights organisations, and rejected by the British supreme court on that basis. In Germany, the right-wing Afd party were exposed for organising a secret meeting, attended by high-profile politicians in Germany, reportedly discussing how to deport and ostracise Germany's migrant population, and the details of a draconian refugee policy.

The Australian political class has levelled similarly egregious attacks on refugees and migrants. From the decision to keep the offshore detention centre on Nauru open, despite its small occupancy, to the revealingly alarmist reaction to the High Court's adjudication deeming indefinite detention in contravention of human rights law if deportation is impossible, by imposing new discriminatory laws on migrants settled in Australia on temporary, highly contingent visas, the government has affirmed its commitment to Operation Sovereign borders - a racist policy of exclusion which must be fought against.

This year, the refugee rights office will focus on campaigning for the freedoms and rights of refugees in Australia and across the globe, as well as protesting against infringements of their rights perpetrated by the Australian government and right-wing forces. For the foreseeable future, the priority will be to continue protesting and organising for a free Palestine - the Israeli state is currently exacting a genocide on the Palestinian people, creating a catastrophic refugee crisis, with at least ¾ of the Gazan population displaced - and seeking to contribute to campaigns put together by organisations like the Tamil Refugee Council, who have been ardently fighting for the just settlement of Tamil Refugees in Australia fleeing persecution in Sri Lanka.

Discussion:

Daniel Holland spoke to the report and covered its main points.

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

Moved: Annabelle Jones

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **N10. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

Over the holiday break the social justice officers have continued to build for and rally in support of Palestine, coming up to the 18th week of consistent protest.

We recognise this atrocity to be a horrific case of organised mass destruction, which our own government is not merely passively condoning, but actively supporting. Penny Wong and Anthony Albanese have the blood of tens of thousands of civilians on their hands.

This point was made clear when they decided to freeze all funding to the UNRWA, just days after the ICJ found there was a plausible risk of Gazans being subjected to genocide by Israel. Their rhetoric of supposed support for human rights and protecting civilians is nothing but an insulting, sickening joke.

Not that Labour is any stranger to hypocrisy. They have presided over close to two years of declining living standards for workers, calling for ordinary people to tighten their belts, while doing nothing about the obscene profits being made by the banks, energy companies and supermarkets.

We will be supporting the school strike for Palestine on the 29th of February and we call on all the left wing forces in this room to throw themselves into the fight for a free Palestine and opposing our rulers.

Simon Uptis and Lauren Finlayson

Discussion:

Simon Uptis spoke to the report and spoke about the history of anti-war movements and the role of students in those movements. Adding that the Palestine movement isn't just about the moral opposition to genocide but that is it also about growing the left.

*Simon Uptis was named.*

Lauren Finlayson spoke to the report and the importance of the Palestine movement and that we need to not move away from the issues that distract from what is getting attention, and that other campaigns that aren't getting the same level of attention.

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

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**O. Special Business**

*There were no items of special business.*

**P. Motions of Notice**

**P1. Free Boris Kagarlitsky! WITHDRAWN**

**P2. WITHDRAWN**

**P3. Disrupt Maritime Forces! Drum out the Drums of War! - WITHDRAWN**

#### **P4. Fight the housing crisis! – WITHDRAWN**

Procedural motion That section P5 – P9 be moved en bloc with one speaker for and one against.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Madeleine Clark

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **Transport Concessions for All Tertiary Students Now**

##### *Preamble*

In New South Wales, concession Opal cards are only available to full-time tertiary students who are Australian citizens or permanent residents currently residing in NSW. Concession Opal cards are entitled to international students on a highly limited basis such as through certain scholarships or research programs. NSW remains the only state that does not offer transport concessions for international students. While public transport should be free for all, this inequity against international and part-time domestic tertiary students must be addressed now.

A previous discussion paper by the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations estimates that making transport concessions available for all international students would cost a maximum of \$189 million a year. Comparatively, the economic benefits generated per year by international students are in the billions: where currently it is at \$3.3 billion and will only rise as more international students return to Australia.

In 2006, the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) brought forth a case against the Ministry of Transport to the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal that not providing transport concessions to international students is racial discrimination. While the Tribunal ruled that the failure to provide concessions was indeed racial discrimination and that international students should be provided concessions, the then state government chose to sidestep this issue by amending the *Transport Administration Act* exempting transport concessions from the *Anti-Discrimination Act*.

Furthermore, part-time students are not entitled to transport concessions on the grounds that they are assumed to be in the workforce and able to pay for the full transport fare. However part-time students are overwhelmingly from disadvantaged groups who are no less deserving of transport concessions.

The cost-of-living crisis and rising rental pressures, affecting both international and domestic students, force increasing numbers of students to live further away from campus. No student should be forced to choose between travelling to university or paying rent.

The first report of the current *Bus Industry Task Force* outlines what we know to be true, that limited access to public transport disproportionately affects disadvantaged groups such as “people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, people who are unemployed, single parent households, and a growing number of people in the private rental market.”



Our campaign has launched a petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly requiring 20 000 signatures to be scheduled for debate. At the time of writing, we are currently one-tenth of the way there with 2 222 signatures. The campaign for transport concessions has existed since 1989 when the decision was made to revoke and cease issuing transport concessions for international students. Sustained action from our SRC and other universities is needed to overturn this abhorrent and inequitable decision. Now more than ever, amidst our cost-of-living crisis it is imperative that we have accessible public transport. We must pressure the NSW state government and legislature from all fronts to ensure that all tertiary students have access to transport concessions!

### *Platform*

1. The SRC condemns the lack of transport concessions for part-time and international students and the decision of the NSW state government to not provide said concessions despite sustained calls for it since 1989.
2. The SRC recognises that limited access to public transport disproportionately affects disadvantaged groups.
3. The SRC acknowledges that public transport should be free for all, particularly amidst this cost-of-living crisis, but nonetheless understands that this is an important stepping stone.
4. The SRC recognises that the existing transport concession policy is discriminatory and demands that all students have access to affordable transport, regardless of their student status (i.e. part-time and international).

### *Actions*

1. Councillors and OBs will sign the petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly; <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/Pages/ePetition-details.aspx?q=tabuKTP7hWgVFy0qTdhC7w>
2. Councillors and OBs will share the petition on social media.
3. The SRC continues to build the transport concession campaign, collaborating with representatives from other universities and tertiary institutions in NSW.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

## **P6. Disability Rights Act NOW!**

### **Preamble**

Disabled Australians do not have protected rights. Creating a Disability Rights Act in Australia is crucial to ensure that individuals with disabilities have legal protections and support to fully participate in society, including in the realm of education. The Disability Royal Commission has recommended a Disability Rights Act be established. There are several reasons promoted by activists and experts on why having a Disability Rights Act would benefit disabled university students:

- **Legal Protections and Rights:** A Disability Rights Act would establish legal protections for individuals with disabilities, outlining their rights and responsibilities. This would ensure that disabled university students are not discriminated against based on their disabilities, and it would provide a mechanism for addressing grievances.

- **Equal Access to Education:** The act could mandate universities to provide reasonable accommodations and accessibility features to ensure that disabled students have equal access to education. This might include accessible facilities, materials in alternative formats, and support services.
- **Inclusive Learning Environment:** Implementing a Disability Rights Act would encourage universities to create an inclusive and accessible learning environment. This could involve promoting inclusive teaching practices, adaptive technologies, and inclusive curriculum design to meet the diverse needs of disabled students.
- **Reasonable Accommodations:** The act would require universities to make reasonable accommodations to support disabled students in their academic endeavours. This could range from providing additional time for exams to modifying assignments or providing assistive technologies, ensuring a level playing field for disabled students.
- **Empowerment and Advocacy:** A Disability Rights Act would empower disabled students to advocate for their rights and accommodations. It would provide a legal framework for them to request the necessary support and accommodations that will enable them to succeed in their academic pursuits.
- **Promote Diversity and Inclusion:** Establishing a Disability Rights Act would send a strong message about valuing diversity and fostering inclusion within Australian universities. This would benefit not only disabled students but also contribute to a more accepting and understanding society at large.

**Compliance and Accountability:** By having a legal framework in place, universities would be held accountable for ensuring compliance with the act. This would encourage universities to actively work towards providing accessible and inclusive education for all students.

**Improved Student Success Rates:** Ensuring that disabled students have equal access and support through a Disability Rights Act can ultimately lead to improved success rates among this demographic, as they would have the necessary tools and accommodations to thrive in their academic pursuits.

The royal commission and the level of rampant abuse shows why a proactive disability rights act is needed.

A Disability Rights Act in Australia is essential to guarantee legal protections, equal access, and a supportive environment for disabled university students. It helps foster inclusivity, empowers students, and promotes a society that values and accommodates the diverse needs of all individuals, contributing to a more equitable and just education system.

### **Platform**

- The SRC believes the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission should be implemented.
- The SRC believes in a proactive disability rights act that will give protects and make society proactive on disability rights and not reactive.

### **Action**

- The SRC will campaign for a disability rights act that make disability rights proactive and not reactive as they currently are.

Moved: Jack Scanlan

Seconded: Victor Zhang

## **P7. Religious Discrimination in Special Cons**

Currently, while simple extensions as a form of special considerations are a (hard fought for and won) fact of life, Jewish students are covered for long-release assignments. However, short release assignments do not qualify for a simple extension and must be "earned". The requirements listed in the special cons religious exemptions are:

A letter from rabbi, imam or community leader

Full name, dated, signed, impact on ability to complete assessment, phone number.

Jewish students have submitted these forms, meeting these requirements, just as we have every year for the high holidays. Several other Jewish students and I have experienced denial this semester, however. We hope that this is some glitch or flaw on the part of the university, however if this policy has somehow changed, in a way that only impacts Jewish students, then we have a right to know.

Additionally, with many exams now being put on a Saturday, during Shabbat, it's absolutely stupid that the university would then choose to put the replacement exam on the NEXT Saturday. This exam incident has occurred multiple times across multiple faculties.

Platform:

The USYD SRC condemns institutional racism and antisemitism.

The USYD SRC calls for a university where students aren't forced to choose between receiving an education and practicing their faith.

Action points:

That the SRC will post this motion to its Instagram and Facebook page, tagging the university's respective account, to allow for a real lobbying effort.

The SRC affirms its position holding the university accountable for the poor response time for special considerations, the dismal number of staff in this department as a cost cutting revenue and affirms that the impact on students is a direct indictment on university administration.

There being no present mover or seconder the motion **LAPSED**.

## **P8. NO PRIDE IN GENOCIDE: QUEER SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE**

For over 75 years, the Israeli regime has committed a violent and ongoing dispossession and genocide of the Indigenous Palestinian people. Since Al Nakba in 1948, Israel has continued to bomb residential areas and civilian infrastructure and bulldoze Palestinian homes. Now, Israel has cut Gaza off from all access to food, water, electricity, and communications.

Israel denies millions of dispossessed Palestinians their Right of Return and has forcefully expanded a system of Apartheid on the West Bank to violently protect Zionist settlements.

Since October, the Israeli regime has launched an all-out assault on Gaza. They have murdered over 26,000 Palestinians, flattened whole regions and displaced nearly all Gazans in the north, decimated the ecosystem and sites of culture, and shut down every single hospital in Gaza. They do this while tightening their siege, blocking basic aid supplies, and bombing Lebanon and Yemen for their solidarity with Palestine. This is not a war; this is a genocide.

#### WHY QUEER SOLIDARITY MATTERS:

Queerphobia is a tool of the coloniser. Just as we fight together in solidarity with the Indigenous peoples in so-called 'Australia', we must support the fight for the liberation of the Indigenous people of Palestine.

The global system of imperialist capitalism which conducts settler-colonial violence in Palestine is the same system that forces queer people into poverty, out of housing and even to death. All oppressed peoples should stand together, as none of us are free until everyone is. The best way to mobilise our collective struggles is by standing together.

Standing against Zionism is not anti-Semitic. Zionism is a racist and colonialist ideology that forms the foundations of the Israeli state and is distinct from Judaism. It is deeply anti-Semitic to suggest that to be Jewish is to support the bombing of children by the IDF. We stand alongside all anti-Zionist Jews against the Israeli regime. Queer people know, as Jewish people do, that in the case of genocide, silence equals death.

#### PINKWASHING IN ISRAEL:

Western media focuses only on conservative or Islamist governances of Arab nations, including Palestine, and compares it to Israel's so-called progressive stance on some queer issues. They do this to suggest that queer people should support Israel rather than Palestine. This practice, which is fundamentally false, is known as pink washing.

The American and Israeli governments propagandise and invent the image of a conservative Palestinian people based on orientalism, to incite fear in the racist West and justify the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

It is an absolute joke to expect that queer Palestinians and their allies can fight for queer rights in Gaza without access even to food, water and shelter. Critique of queerphobic violence in Palestine is separate from support for the Palestinian resistance against settler-colonialism. The Israeli regime is killing, dispossessing, and starving hundreds of queer Palestinians. Anyone dedicated to the plight of queer liberation around the globe must support any measures necessary to end these ongoing human rights violations by Israel. There *are* queer Palestinians, you *can* show solidarity without expecting it in return, and Palestinians are *not* a monolith.

Platform  
The SRC:

1. Condemns the ongoing dispossession and genocide of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israeli military and government.
2. Recognises that the Israeli occupation of Palestine is, among other things, an act of queerphobia, and that resistance to this occupation is crucial for the liberation of queer people.
3. Recognises that critique of queerphobic violence in Palestine is separate from support for the Palestinian resistance against settler-colonialism.
4. Condemns the pink washing of the Israeli settler-colonial regime.

Action:

1. The SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.
2. The SRC will share promotional social media materials for future queer contingents to the Free Palestine rallies from its social media account.

Moved: Jamie Bridge

Seconded: Tim Duff

## **P9. USYD SRC Stands in Solidarity with Palestine**

### *Preamble*

Israel is carrying out a genocide in Gaza. The population of 2.3 million people are under siege from relentless bombardment. Water, food, fuel and medical supplies have been cut off. Israel is purposefully bombing schools, hospitals, mosques, churches and residential towers. Despite being told that the south was a safe space to move, Israel has continued its bombing campaign there. Over 8,000 people have been killed in Gaza, including more than 3,000 children at the time of writing. In recent weeks, more than 100 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank. This is only the latest atrocity against the Palestinians, who have suffered at the hands of Israel for 75 years.

The Australian government is complicit in these crimes. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has reaffirmed Australia's support for Israel, and Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong, when asked to comment on the blockade of Gaza, said "I think it's always very difficult from over here to make judgements". In New South Wales, Premier Chris Minns has tried to ban Palestine solidarity rallies. At the United Nations, the Australian representative abstained from voting on a motion calling for a humanitarian truce to allow aid into Gaza.

### *Platform*

- The SRC condemns Israel's war on Gaza and calls for an immediate ceasefire, echoing Palestinian demands.
- The SRC opposes the Australian government's support of these crimes.
- The SRC stands for freedom and justice in Palestine.
- The SRC recognises the importance of mass mobilisations in support of Palestine and opposing the war in Gaza, on and off campus.
- The SRC condemns the university's decision to shut down a pro-Palestine student meeting.

*Action*

- The SRC endorses the Palestine Action Group rally on Saturday 4 November.
- The SRC will support upcoming protests and student initiatives promoting justice in Palestine.
- The SRC will write a letter to the Vice Chancellor on behalf of students calling for the University to cut ties with the weapons manufacturer Thales.

Moved: Yasmine Johnson

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motions were moved en bloc put and **CARRIED.**

**P10. End Gendered Violence. The USyd SRC Condemns the Killing of Lilie James - WITHDRAWN**

**P11. Make SRC accessible!**

Preamble: The SRC is supposed to be a place where students from all backgrounds come together to represent the interests of the students. Therefore, the SRC must be a place where everyone is accommodated for and feel welcomed to have themselves heard.

Following the atrocious events of NatCon last year, it is clear more than ever that the USYD SRC is absolutely not the place it is meant to be.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC opposes all forms of discrimination towards its attendees.
2. The USYD SRC champions inclusive and welcoming spaces for everyone.

Action:

1. The USYD SRC will book another room which will act as a quiet room during SRC meetings.
2. Speakers who wish to wear masks remove them while speaking in order to accommodate for those who are hard of hearing.
3. The USYD SRC will encourage one speaker at a time.
4. When attending rallies, the USYD SRC will provide an accessible activism guide that organisers should bear in mind.

Moved: Olivia Lee

Seconded: Jacklyn Scanlan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**Q. General Business**

## **Q2. MOTION TO ENDORSE MARDI GRAS STREET RALLY 2024**

Pride was a riot, and it should continue to be so! The major state parties have repeatedly delayed bills for our rights - most recently until March - and passed Christian lobby-backed bills such as the Religious Vilification Bill that continue to let religious groups discriminate with impunity. While the Israeli regime continues to wage genocide in Palestine, the Mardi Gras Board sees it fit to allow Zionists and the Labor Party to march while they continue to pink wash genocide. NSW Police continue to violate queer people at pride events with strip searches, attack sex workers on the street and in court, and brutalise protesters who rightfully demand that the government ends its violence.

It's time for Mardi Gras to return to its radical community roots, where they called to "stop police attacks on gays, women, and blacks". This is why USyd Queer Action Collective and Pride in Protest are leading a community-led pride march on Mardi Gras Fair Day (18th Feb, 2pm) from Pride Square, Newtown to Victoria Park where Fair Day is being held.

We demand:

**Pass the Equality Bill: self-ID, sex worker rights & gender affirmation leave now!** The Equality Bill is about allowing trans people to change their birth certificates, extending anti-discrimination protections to sex workers, & job security and gender affirmation leave in the public sector. We need to force every MP in the government to get behind this.

**No right to discriminate, no religious exemptions!** The government has been playing a political football with the right for religious organisations to vilify and discriminate against us at work, school, or in social services. Now the Religious Discrimination Bill is coming back. It's time to abolish the right to discriminate on both a state and federal level.

**No pink washing of genocide, free Palestine!** Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been massacred by the Israeli government while soldiers hold pride flags above mass graves. Zionist lobby groups are now trying to introduce vilification reform to restrict pro-Palestinian sentiment, meanwhile, our own anti-discrimination reform is delayed.

**Fund community not cops, cops out of pride & scrap the anti-protest laws!** Cops crack down on protests, over-police pride marches & harass attendees with sniffer dogs, advocate for the right to forcefully test us for HIV, turn a blind eye to gay hate crimes, and are responsible for Blak trans deaths in custody like Veronica Baxter. It's time to kick cops out of pride, scrap anti-protest laws, and fund real solutions to life's problems.

Platform:

The SRC:

1. endorses the 2024 Mardi Gras Street Rally.
2. endorses all demands of the 2024 Mardi Gras Street Rally as listed above.

Action:

1. The SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.

2. The SRC will share the promotional social media materials for the 2024 Mardi Gras Street Rally from its social media account, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.
3. The SRC President shall be empowered to send correspondence to student unions across NSW and the NUS to urge them to endorse the 2024 Mardi Gras Street Rally and its demands.

Discussion:

Tim Duff spoke to the motion and the demands of the rally and the motion.

Esther Whitehead spoke about the attacks by the cops on peaceful protesters, and demand to keep cops out of Mardi Gras.

Moved: Tim Duff

Seconded: Ester Whitehead

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Q3. TJ HICKEY: 20 YEARS NO JUSTICE**

This month marks the 20th anniversary of TJ Hickey's murder by NSW Police. TJ Hickey was a Gamilaraay teenager who lived on Gadigal Land. He was 17 at the time of his murder.

TJ was riding his bicycle on the morning of February 14th, 2004, when two police cars began pursuing the teenager. He was chased through Redfern when he was thrown from his bike, and sustained injuries that led to his untimely death.

Despite evidence to the contrary, NSW Police have denied that they pursued TJ. To this day, no officer has been charged for committing this violent act against another Indigenous youth.

The New South Wales State Coroner continues to insist that TJ Hickey's murder was not caused by the police. The NSW Police have insisted that they did not pursue TJ Hickey and that his death simply occurred during police operations but wasn't caused by the actions of the police. This has remained the narrative of the NSW Police's conduct and to this day there has been no justice for TJ Hickey.

The outrage within the Redfern community resulted in the 2004 Redfern Riots. The police deny all responsibly, to the extent that in 2014 when the family wanted to lay a plaque in of TJ Hickey, the police refused unless the family changed the inscription from "police pursuit" to "tragic accident".

Since the murder of TJ Hickey, his family have organised many rallies. This continues this year with a rally on February 14th marking the 20th anniversary of the day of his murder.

Platform:



The SRC:

1. endorses the demands for the family of TJ Hickey to receive a Parliament apology to the family.
2. condemns the internal police investigations into TJ Hickey's death, and the State Coroner's insistence that NSW Police did not cause TJ's death.
3. calls for the implementation of all 339 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
4. re-affirms that the death of TJ Hickey was not a tragic accident but was the result of a pursuit by NSW Police.

Action:

1. The SRC will endorse the 'TJ Hickey: 20 Years No Justice' rally on February 14th at 10am.
2. The SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.
3. The SRC will share the promotional social media materials for the 'TJ Hickey: 20 Years No Justice' rally from its social media account, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.

Discussion:

Esther Whitehead spoke to the motion and the history of the police pursuit that killed TJ Hickey and the continued denial of culpability by the police. Encouraged everyone to attend the event.

Tim Duff spoke to the motion and the lack of accountability of the police for their actions and the need for justice.

Rand Khatib spoke to the motion and noted that in the current climate it's important to have this motion. And noted that you can, and you should mobilise for multiple campaigns, and as a Palestinian said we should not stop fighting not stop campaigning for people like TJ Hickey.

Moved: Esther Whitehead

Seconded: Tim Duff

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

#### **Q4. NO TOLERANCE FOR UNION TRANSPHOBIA: STRIVE FOR A PRO-QUEER NUS**

In a perfect world, union conferences such as the National Union of Students (NUS)'s National Conference to be a platform for left-wing grassroots demands. A truly radical student union should be unwaveringly pro-queer.

**As such, it is deeply concerning that at the NUS National Conference 2023, only ONE of the motions in the Queer chapter was debated. The remaining motions were tabled last, quietly passed en bloc, in the dying light of the conference.**

The only motion heard in full (mentioned above) was Motion 7.14: Trans Remembrance and Resistance, moved by 2023 NUS Queer Officer Damien Nguyen and ANU delegate Skye Predavec. The motion acknowledges the violence that trans people face in so-called Australia, especially young trans people and trans sex workers. This is indicative of the reality that trans people are only ever discussed when we are killed.

It's not enough to just mourn the most egregious of violence against trans people. The important struggles of trans sex workers, queer youth homelessness, gender affirmation leave, pink washing of genocide, and cops and corporations out of Pride, deserve to be heard in full at the National Conference.

Furthermore, Student Unity moved and passed a procedural motion to bar cisgender men from speaking to the Women's chapter. We understand that gender segregation politics reinforces transphobia. The ruling class, the government, and the bosses enforce a society in which people are oppressed through economic gender divides and segregation. That struggle manifests in the everyday - in the "I will be homeless and unemployed if I transition" to the "I can't return back to my home country if I grow out my hair." We understand that trans people risk their lives to be out, to be recognised, to simply exist, and transition is a decision that everyone should have the right to make.

It is truly disgusting that at the NUS National Conference, trans delegates are forced to decide whether they are qualified to speak to a motion, questioning if they are trans enough, man enough, women enough - a real ongoing battle that we all are struggling with.

*Honi Soit* reports that delegates harassed transgender people at the lectern, yelling "get this man off the stage" to a trans woman and joking that "anyone can be a woman these days". It was reported that Socialist Alternative members pressured a man in NLS to identify as trans, non-binary, or genderfluid for the purpose of speaking to the Women's chapter. This behaviour is inexcusable, and continued collaboration with transphobic members is an endorsement of a fringe position that is harmful to the struggle for queer rights.

What is clear is that the issue with transphobia at the NUS National Conference isn't just a happenstance. It is entrenched throughout the proceedings of the conference, through the inaction on transphobia that makes it nigh impossible for debate on trans rights and queer liberation to move forward.

It is crucial that we as a union take an immediate position against those conducts. We must condemn and commit to working against the action of Student Unity at the floor and further question the commitment of the NUS and all its elected office bearers to trans rights.

We should draw a firm line at transphobia.

Those who continue to stay silent while standing alongside transphobic organisations are bolstering the push towards an anti-queer student union.

Platform

#### The SRC:

1. Takes a proactive stance against the transphobia at NUS National Conference 2023, which was a reflection of regressive queer politics at the NUS.
2. Confirms that student unions such as the USYD SRC and NUS are organisations that need strong queer campaigns to be truly radical.
3. Re-affirms that any inaction on combating transphobic policy, procedure, and/or conduct in any student union is, in itself, transphobic.
4. Understands that both systemic changes and a culture of transformative justice on instances of transphobia is critical to queer liberation.

#### Action

1. All members of the Students' Representative Council *actually* commit to integrating the platform above into the operation of the SRC.
2. The SRC empowers the President to work with the Queer Officers and the Queer Action Collective to publish a statement on addressing transphobia in student unions.
3. The SRC commits to not deferring its queer politics entirely onto the Queer Officers
4. The NUS delegates of the SRC shall provide report backs about the NUS National Conference to the SRC, beginning at NUS National Conference 2024

#### Discussion:

Tim Duff spoke to the motion and about the action that occurred at NatCon with motions being pushed back and that some of the structure was made to prevent queer people from being able to participate and this needs to be fixed.

Jamie Bridge said that what was seen at NatCon was putting all the labour and work of queer activism onto the collectives without support from the main union. And asked why was Unity voting with a faction that told a transwoman "get this man of the stage", how is that ok?

Jacklyn Scanlan spoke to the motion and about the what happened, and condemned the procedural motion that was moved at NatCon but had spoken to the people who moved it and why it came about, this was that many Unity women were being heckled and attacked when talking about their experiences by cis-men and the movers were trying to avoid that.

Jordan Anderson spoke to the motion and said that people should not need to out themselves to speak on issues in the women's chapter of the NUS motions, and it is important that we should ask Socialist Alternative, who should be here to answer to their actions, just as they've asked everyone to answer for their priorities

Jamie Bridge spoke to the debate and not that Unity had the floor, they had the majority and they were the ones moving the procedurals.

Sabrine Yassine NUS Welfare Officer, responded to the debate saying what Jacklyn Scanlan said was accurate, and we made the wrong call. It was a reaction to Socialist Alternative men picking on junior Unity women, it wasn't the right call to do that, and if you want to speak to those

policies vote to put them forward.

Jamie Bridge said only one motion was spoken on, but we only get spoken about when we're being killed, and all the other motions were not put up for debate.

Sabrina Yassine responded to Jamie Bridge.

Ella Akyol NUS Women's Officer responded to the debate and said that Unity's motion saying only women could speak to the motion was very problematic, and to make change we need everyone on board, and having a conversation. People need to understand what is happening, and not just leave all the work to the women, when they need to take responsibility too.

Tim Duff spoke to the debate saying we can acknowledge that Socialist Alternate is misogynistic, but so is Unity and you need to reflect on that. Adding to factions to stop giving your NUS tickets to Socialist Alternative.

Moved: Tim Duff

Seconded: Jamie Bridge

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The President resigned the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson*

## **Q5. No Title**

### **Preamble:**

For far too many tertiary education students, living below the poverty line has become the norm, with reports of students regularly skipping meals, avoiding doctor's appointments and forgoing other bare necessities all too common. What's more, between the rising cost of living, the rental affordability crisis and the increasing cost of getting an education, students are being forced to choose between their studies, putting food on the table and paying the rent - this should never be the standard we set.

Government policy must keep up with the reality of young people's lives. There is a dire need for increased government support for student welfare - both on and off campus - to ensure that tertiary students are given every opportunity to make the most of their studies and to graduate without a huge financial burden.

This year, the NUS is launching its new End Student Poverty campaign, a broad umbrella campaign with one clear, concise goal - to lift all students who study in Australia out of poverty.

As part of this campaign, the NUS, along with its member organisations, will fight for:

- Centrelink's age of independence to be lowered from 22 to 18.
- An increase to the rate of Federal Government student income support payments above the poverty line, including Youth Allowance and Rent Assistance
- Paid placements for all students who must complete one as part of their degree.

- More food pantries and food banks on campuses
- Free period products on all campuses
- Safe, secure and affordable housing options for students, including through the introduction of rent caps, a rent freeze and the indexation of allowable rent increases against median annual wage increases

This campaign will require the support, input and expertise of each and every student and member organisation who affiliates to the NUS - because when we fight as a collective, we're stronger.

**Platform:**

- The USYD SRC endorses the NUS' End Student Poverty campaign.

**Action:**

- That USYD SRC commits to working in collaboration with the National Union of Students by providing material and organisational support for this campaign.
- The USYD SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts and circulate it through any relevant means.
- That relevant USYD SRC office bearers and collectives commit time and resources to the promotion of this campaign to students.

Discussion:

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion saying last year we parked outside parliament house to point out how they screwed students, and we need to continue working with NUS and highlight the issues facing students.

Ngairé Bogemann NUS President, spoke to the council saying that NUS was a flawed institution and they were working on fixing that, and hoping that this campaign will be a step towards that.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion saying that this campaign has been run for years and has been a failure but the grassroots approach they are taking here is a great idea and giving universities autonomy in how they run it with NUS, I'm still sceptical but hopeful.

Sabrina Yassine NUS Welfare Officer, spoke to the council saying please look at the strategy, NUS have made a lot of changes and have more changes coming.

Moved: Rose Donnelly

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**Q6. Legalise it.**

NSW and Australia have treated illicit drugs as a criminal problem. It has fallen in step with the popular war on drugs rhetoric, and in turn, treated the use of illicit substances as a problem that should be punished and eradicated. This hard line approach has not worked— exacerbated

by the use of the judicial system and its executive (the police) to prohibit or regulate the consumption of drugs.

Most drug offences come under the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW).

The criminalisation of cannabis was legislated to target marginalised communities. Those targeted by criminalisation legislation are overwhelmingly Indigenous people and people living in lower socioeconomic areas. The criminalisation of this drug harms communities more than its usage. It also has led to uninformed mobile drug testing laws (MDT's). Cannabis is also known to show up in drug tests long after the user is considered inhibited by the drug, yet a lack of research and evaluation has seen drivers suffer within the court system and often lose their license unjustly.

Students have an important role to play in the conversation about drug reform. This campaign is relevant to a host of issues; on all types of drugs including alcohol, prescription and illicit drugs; pill-testing; regulatory and policing practices; divergent legal frameworks including legalisation and decriminalisation; drink and drug driving laws; social and public health services; the music and festival industry; expansion of medically supervised injecting centres; review of strip searching and sniffer dogs and supply of safe injecting options in prisons.

Even events on campus have been pervaded by police due to unfounded suspicions of illicit usage— e.g.) Someday Soon festival police presence.

NSW Labor have committed to a Drug Summit in 2024. This is an opportunity to recast the problematic use of drugs as a matter of public health policy with whole of government implications. It is also an opportunity to examine the structural reasons driving drug misuse and dependency. It creates the space to talk about recreational drug use and involve communities in policy making processes.

#### Platform

1. The USyd SRC recognises that real action on drug law reform and harm minimisation is urgently needed in New South Wales.
2. The USyd SRC calls on Minns Labor Government to ensure all Alcohol and Drug (AOD) issues and responses are on the table. A Drug Summit should incorporate discussions on all types of drugs including alcohol, prescription and illicit drugs; pill-testing; regulatory and policing practices; divergent legal frameworks including legalisation and decriminalisation; drink and drug driving laws; social and public health services; the music and festival industry; expansion of medically supervised injecting centres; review of strip searching and sniffer dogs and supply of safe injecting options in prisons.
3. The USyd SRC calls on the Minns Labor Government to implement the recommendations with general application from the Special Commission of Inquiry into the drug 'Ice' in a timely and meaningful manner.

#### Action:

1. The SRC will publish this motion on its social media (Instagram).

The SRC will work with the motion's mover/seconded to reach out to relevant NGOs in establishing this campaign.

Discussion:

Jasmine Donnelly spoke to the motion and covered its main points.

Red Tilly spoke to the motion, saying that these discussions need to be had with people not in the a politician's office late at night, there needs to be a community conversation around drug reform.

Jordan Anderson responded saying they and Grassroots would be abstaining from the motion because of the focus on the drug summit. Adding that this summit will not change the actions of Chris Minns, he knows what the issues are, and has the power to take action.

Rose Donnelly responded saying they knew there was a lot of literature, but it's been a while since Labor has been in power and therefor they need to look at the community and also build the policy consultatively.

*The President resigned the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson*

Harrison Brennan responded and echoed the statement of Jordan Anderson saying that we know things are already being done and worked on.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Red Tilly

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

*The President resumed the Chair.*

## **Q7. Stop blaming international students**

### **Preamble.**

The federal government has put in place limits on international student numbers.

The excuse for limiting international students was because of international students being tricked into vocational degrees at ghost schools so that these schools could make international do slave vocational labour instead of their degrees on their visas.

The government did make an effort to close these loopholes, but they also shifted the blame from these ghost schools to international students and also placed part of the blame for the cost of living crisis on international students.

This type of rhetoric has been heard in countries like Canada where fear of foreigners and leaning into far-right conspiracy theories of foreign influence and foreigners taking jobs and resources from Australians. Education is one of greatest exports and drivers for economic growth, but it is also a human right. It is an equaliser of privilege and thus limiting or charging expensive unequal fees for international students is immoral.

Other countries like Germany have fee-free education for all including international students and this has lower rates of exploration for international students in housing, health, education, and employment.

Education and housing are human rights that have no borders. Limiting such and not expanding education to be free, fair, and accessible to all is a moral, economic, and equality shortfall.

#### **Platform**

1. The SRC affirms its commitment to free, fair, and accessible education to all students including international students.
2. The SRC rejects the government's limits on international student visas.
3. The SRC rejects the rhetoric that international students are worsening the cost-of-living crisis that has been caused by government inaction.

#### **Action**

1. The SRC will commit to action by all exec, OBs, and councillors to work with international students to break down barriers and have solidarity for their struggle.
2. Continual fights for equality for international students for example in the fight for concession opal cards; free, fair, and accessible education and opportunities.

#### **Discussion:**

Jacklyn Scanlan spoke to the motion and the response seen here, and in places like Canada, where they are used as scape goats for hardships and other issues.

Grace Street spoke the motion and spoke about the xenophobia from the policies and the new international student visa conditions. International students are not the cause or reason for Australia's cost of living crisis.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion and highlighted the changes to Temporary Graduate Visa which caps age at 35, impacting our postgraduate comrades who wish to pursue research degrees and shared solidarity with comrades in SUPRA.

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.



## **Q8. Don't Ban Drag**

### **Preamble**

On February 6th a council motion presented by Liberal councillor for the Hills Shire Jemorne Cox explicitly bans drag in council spaces and drops protections for drag performers in the community.

This motion was made in response to motions by the city of Sydney and inner west council that was to be brought to the local government NSW annual conference that would help councils protect LGBTQIA+ events and protect performers and people attending these events.

Councils have large public and community spaces that are used for all sorts of things and the explicit banning of an art form and community organisation is one of the many attacks on LGBTQIA+ people we are seeing.

Drag is an art form and a council planning to outright ban any form of art in council building is an act of censorship and suppresses freedom of speech. Drag is also about community; it is a place for LGBTQIA+ people to socialise and express themselves.

Any attack on drag is an attack on LGBTQIA+ spaces and communities. And the comparison between drag and sexualising children is repugnant and a part of the continued attack on LGBTQIA+ people and especially trans and gender-non-conforming people.

Considering Castle Hill and Baulkham Hills are the 3rd and 9th suburbs that USyd students come from it is imperative that we protect USyd students and fight for their rights on and off campus.

LGBTQIA+ people and drag performers have no borders and aren't just in the city of Sydney or inner west. We must protect these performances in every council.

### **Platform**

1. The SRC supports the continual campaigns by the Queer Action Collective (QuAC) and other community groups fighting against the attacks on drag.
2. The SRC believes that comparing drag to sexualising children or grooming is transphobic, queerphobic, and only promotes attacking a marginalised community.
3. The SRC condemns political parties using marginalised people as culture war issues and the right wing adopting more far right rhetoric and tactics.

### **Action**

1. The SRC will post a social media post in support of trans and queer students especially the ones who live in the hills region.
2. The SRC will organise and support action on and off campus to support drag performances and LGBTQIA+ students.

Discussion:

Jacklyn Scanlan spoke to the motion and covered its main points.

Esther Whitehead spoke to the motion, noting that the mover of the local council motion – Jeremy Cox – spoke about drag as though all queer activities are inherently sexual which is just wrong.

Pepsi spoke to the motion and that we've already voted to condemn transphobia today, and that banning drag and is just another attack on queer identities and we should stand against it.

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion saying that local council motion was put up in reaction to a successful motion in Local Government NSW protecting drag and drag performers, this is about queer rights and the attack on them.

Moved: Jacklyn Scanlan

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **Q9. Solidarity to Student Protests in Greece! No to the privatization of university**

#### **Preamble:**

Students in Greece have taken to the streets to protest against plans to allow the privatization of university. Tens of thousands of students in demonstrations in Athens chanted “not a step back!” and “hands off our degrees” against the government’s proposed changes.

After a landslide election win in 2023, the conservative government in Greece headed by Kyriakos Mitsotakis, announced plans to allow privately run universities. The government has argued this would “modernize” the Greek higher education system.

But protestors say this would break Article 16 of the Greek constitution that stipulates universities should be public and funded by the government. Privatizing universities would exacerbate the inequality that already exists in Greece and place barriers on working class and poor students from accessing higher education.

Defending the existence of public education is not new to the student left in Greece. In 2006 a protest movement and university occupations that sparked a university teachers strike forced the government to shelve their plans.

As student activists facing similar issues of inequality and profit driven interests in our education system we stand in solidarity with this protest movement. The Greek students show the way in how to resist the erosion of students’ rights and conditions. It cannot and won’t come from lobbying the government or sitting down to negotiate with them. Only sustained student mobilisations can possibly win.

#### **Platform:**

1. The SRC supports Greek students protesting against the privatisation of university.

2. The SRC stands for free, publicly funded education.

**Action:**

1. The SRC will take a solidarity photo at the end of this motion.

There being no mover or seconder present the motion **LAPSED**.

**Q11. Abolish the Colleges- students need safe and accessible housing.**

**Preamble:**

Sydney University's residential colleges are sexist, elitist institutions that perpetuate violence on campus and beyond. Despite claims that this culture has miraculously improved, nothing has changed. In 2023, St Andrew's students were disinvited from inter-College Welcome Week events due to a pattern of misogynistic, homophobic, and intimidating behaviour towards other College students. At the end of 2023, a student from St Paul's had their ear bitten off at a St Andrew's event.

These patterns of hazing and abuse are created by elitism and enabled by the self-governance these institutions enjoy. The six most prominent colleges (St Andrew's, St Paul's, St John's, Wesley, Women's and Sancta Sophia) are structurally independent of the University. This means that there is little consistency or regulation of these institutions' responses to sexual violence and assault. Too often, sexual violence is treated as a PR reputational issue, and colleges concerned with administrative numbers instead of student safety have an active incentive to cover up sexual assault allegations, silence discussions, and only engage in dialogue when given the opportunity to claim that they have ostensibly fixed this deeply misogynistic culture.

Almost 2000 Sydney University students pay approximately \$30,000 a year for the privilege of living in residential colleges. In the midst of a Sydney-wide housing and rental crisis, this profiteering is simply unacceptable. The NSW Government has the power to abolish the colleges and their self-governance and replace them with safe and accessible student housing. Nothing short of this will bring an end to generations of violent college culture.

**Platform:**

- The USyd SRC stands in support of survivors of sexual and gendered violence.
- The USyd SRC demands action by the NSW Government to abolish the colleges and replace them with safe and accessible housing.

**Action:**

- The SRC will share WoCo's protest event on its socials.
- The SRC Representatives will sign WoCo's petition.
- The SRC will post the colleges survey on its socials.

**Discussion:**

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion and noted that the idea from Socialist Alternative that working on other campaigns diminishes the Palestine movement is wrong, having other campaigns brings more people into a radical space and grows all movements. They have paid no attention to this at all, but we will be working on this campaign, and we want to fight to abolish the colleges.

Martha Barlow spoke to the motion saying that the colleges have a deeply misogynistic culture, and their systems are set up to privilege those who keep quiet and ostracise those who speak out.

Jamie Bridge this is this is not just an issue about sexual assault but also public housing, we are in a cost-of-living crisis, I'm a beneficiary of affordable student housing – if it weren't for stucco I would not be able to afford rent.

*The President resigned the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson*

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion and noted that there were some concerns with calling it public housing, it should be limited to student accommodation because the space is not suitable for people who need public housing.

Procedural motion to reopen the speaking list

Moved: Esther Whitehead

Seconded: Jacklyn Scanlan

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

Esther Whitehead spoke to the motion and noted that when people are sexually assaulted, they drop out of University, which just compounds how bad things can be; you been assaulted, drop out, and lose your housing.

Eliza responded saying that she wanted to encourage everyone to come to the forum on the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> (date to be determined) of Feb after Welcome Week and discuss what you think.

Moved: Eliza Crossley

Seconded: Martha Barlow

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The President resumed the Chair.*

*There was a quorum count call for at 10:51pm.*

*The meeting was found inquorate.*

*The meeting LAPSED at 10:52pm.*