



src activism
advocacy
representation

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

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MINUTES:

of the 2nd regular meeting of the 96th SRC held on **Wednesday the 6th of March 2024**. Meeting held in the Meeting held in the New Law LT 026, and via Zoom.

*There was a quorum count at 6:20pm.
The meeting was found quorate.*

A. Meeting open at 6:21pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Jasmine Donnelly 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

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Ellie Robertson to Tim Duff
Shahmeer Hossain
Annabelle Pettit to Taleen Jameel
Ned Graham to Red Tilly
Ivan Samsonov
Aryan Ilkhani

Moved: Ethan Floyd
Seconded: Victor Zhang
The apologies were accepted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Report of the Electoral Officer

Report attached separately.

Deaglan Godwin asked if by accepting the report, the council would be accepting all the recommendations.

Julia Robins noted that the report can be accepted without automatically approving the recommendations if you wish. Adding that regardless of if any recommendations require changes to the Constitution or Regulations must go through the proper process before they are adopted.

Simon Upitis commented on the report saying that the report looks at turn out and called for a smaller election so save money, but the elections are an important part of the democratic process and should not be a place for funding cuts.

Harrison Brennan agreed and said we must afford the elections as they are important and will aim for SSAF funding to assist with the cost of elections.

Motion: That the report of the Electoral Officer be accepted and the recommendations noted.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Tim Duff

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

E2. Consideration of any resignations

Jacklyn Scanlan and Daniel O'Shea resign as General Secretary

Daniel Holland resigns as Refugee Rights Officer

Annabelle Jones and Deaglan Godwin resign as Vice President

Jack Lockhart resigns as Environment Officer

Jasmine Donnelly resigns from the General Executive.

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Ethan Floyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of 96th SRC Council held on 7th of February 2024 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 7th of February 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Victor Zhang

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.

There was no question time.

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

Procedural motion: to move to P4. Q1. P1-3 then P5 – P6 and Q4 - Q5 to be heard in that order after agenda item J.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion: to appoint the Secretary to Council as the returning officer for the elections.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

J. Elections

J1. Election of 2 mature Age Students' Officers**

There were no nominations.

J2. Election of a Refugee Rights Officer

Joint nomination: Daniel Holland and Annabelle Pettit

Nominator: Deaglan Godwin

Nominator: Shovan Bhattarai

There being no other nominations Daniel Holland and Annabelle Pettit were declared elected unopposed as the Refugee Rights Officers of the 96th SRC.

Elected unopposed.

J3. Election of the General Secretary

Joint nomination: Daniel O'Shea and Rose Donnelly

Nominator: Angus Fisher

Nominator: Jordan Anderson

There being no other nominations Daniel O'Shea and Rose Donnelly were declared elected unopposed as the General Secretaries of the 96th SRC.

J4. Election of the Vice President

Joint nomination: Jasmine Donnelly and Deaglan Godwin

Nominator: Jordan Anderson

Nominator: Angus Fisher

There being no other nominations Jasmine Donnelly and Deaglan Godwin were declared elected unopposed as the Vice Presidents of the 96th SRC.

J5. Election of the 1 Member general executive

Nomination: Ned Graham

Nominator: Angus Fisher

Nominator: Jordan Anderson

There being no other nominations Ned Graham was declared elected unopposed as a general member of the Executive Committee of the 96th SRC.

** Must be enrolled in their current degree as a mature age student. Subject to AA provisions.

P. Motions of Notice

P4. Q1. P1-3 then P5 – P6 and Q4 - Q5

In line with the Procedural motion the meeting moved to P4. and followed the procedurals agenda order.

P4. Next steps for the Palestine campaign: Protest the Labor Party on March 15

Preamble

Students for Palestine is organising a rally in front of the Labor party offices next Friday, 4pm March 15 to protest the Labor Party's complicity in the genocide on Gaza. We have seen nothing but empty words from our government, with their continued active support of Israel's genocide of Palestinians. From withdrawing funding from UNRWA, one of the only lifelines of aid going into Gaza, to awarding Israeli weapons company Elbit systems a \$917 million contract to improve their technology used to massacre Palestinians. The Labor party's hands are red.

It is clear what side the Labor party is on when they refuse to cut any ties with Israel despite the genocide entering its sixth month, with over 30,000 Palestinians killed, and thousands still left under the rubble. It is not just the relentless bombing that is killing Palestinians, but they are also facing extreme starvation, outbreaks of disease and a total lack of functioning hospitals. Last Friday, Palestinians were massacred by Israeli snipers when approaching aid trucks in Gaza city. Israel is deliberately starving Palestinians and killing those who search for food. This is textbook genocide.

In the face of all this, we refuse to remain silent. The February 29 national student strike was a massive success. This comes in the wake of one of the world's largest school walk-outs for Palestine last December, and further student-led protests and occupations of train stations. Thousands turned up across the country from Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Wollongong, Hobart, Perth and other cities. A high school student named Ariel argued on the day "Who else will care about the thousands of Palestinians who've been killed, if not us?"

This protest demonstrates two points. It demonstrates that Palestine continues to be the key mobilising issue for left wing people across the country. Young people see the atrocities committed in Gaza and feel morally compelled to do something about it. It is the responsibility of the SRC to respond to major issues in society and mobilise left wing students to fight against it. Whether it was during the Vietnam war, or apartheid in South Africa, student unions and student activists played an important role in organising resistance to these atrocities. Connectedly, it also demonstrates that an activist approach is the only thing that will rebuild a fighting left on campus that can be capable of campaigning around any issue. This reinforces the argument that Socialist Alternative made at last month's council that Palestine has to be the key focus for left-wing activism at Sydney University. The student strike was a successful and vital first step, but we have to continue protesting and involving more students. That is why it is crucial we build and attend the March 15 protest, as well as build up Students for Palestine in general.

Platform:

1. The SRC endorses the students for Palestine protest "Stop the Genocide: Protest Labor" on Friday March 15, 4pm and the USyd protest for Palestine on March 20th
2. The SRC condemns the Labor party for their complicity in the genocide in Gaza.
3. The SRC will commit to prioritising the Palestine campaign as the key issue mobilising left wing students.

Action:

1. The SRC will share the March 15 protest graphics on its social media.
2. The SRC will use its resources to build the protest, such as printing, media releases and paid promotion.
3. The SRC will take a solidarity photo at the end of the motion.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion covering its main points and spoke about the flour massacre in Gaza, about the conditions faced by Palestinians in Gaza, the ongoing bombing and occupation of Gaza, and the importance of getting involved in the free Palestine campaign and mobilising students to get involved. Jasmine Al Rawi also spoke about Australia's government's role in the ongoing crisis and their support for Israel, concluded by calling on all factions to say what they are going to do to build the movement, and opposition to the government's policies.

Lucas Pierce spoke to the motion wanting to reiterate what Jasmine said and spoke about the horrors we are witnessing. Lucas Pierce also spoke about Aaron Bushnell who died by self-

immolation, calling for an end to the occupation of Palestine, saying he asked people what would you have done, and that what Aaron Bushnell was really asking was what are we all doing right now. Concluding Lucas Pierce said that people need to ask themselves where was everyone during the rally, that you all need to be there, and you need to put aside your career prospects and get active in fighting against genocide.

Shovan Bhattarai was named.

Madeline Clark was named.

Ethan Floyd spoke to motion and spoke about students who walked out of lectures and tutorials to attend the rally and thought it was a worthwhile action to take. Adding that there are no more schools in Gaza anymore, most are being used as shelter for refugees who have lost their homes, and that we are lucky to have our access to education, we can't take that for granted. Ethan Floyd continued noting that they had the privilege to speak at the town hall rally on Friday, that it's disappointing to see that students are not allowed to talk about these issues on campus, and that we don't have freedom of speech but a shutting down of debate. Ethan noted that they will be running a number of events on this and that these are also great educational opportunities, as well as supporting the NTEU staff action. Concluded saying that we are facing multiple issues at the moment and we should be showing solidarity and bringing these communities together

Taleen Jameel spoke to the motion echoing Lucas Pierce's comments about Aaron Bushnell and that the Labor students have said what they would do is lobby. Adding that Socialist Alternative have been organising that largest NDA ever for Palestine, and that the turnout at these events show that these actions and striking for Palestine is worth putting all out efforts into, creating more engagement with people. They will be leafletting for hours every day, not just a 30-minute stint, and that it is important to keep this work up as it is the most morally compelling issues of the moment, noting that at least 30 000 people have died. Continuing Taleen noted that we need to fight for this, and lobbying won't change anything, only a radical movement will. Concluding remarking that in 10 years' time people will ask you what you did for Palestine, they will be able to say they stood in the sun for hours, went to protests and fought, and that everyone here should be able to say, not that they said action was unproductive.

Daniel Holland spoke to the motion saying they were at the rally and have been at almost every single one, if we were really going to nit-pick people's activist credentials here. Adding that the Labor party's position on this has been disgraceful but the 'shit-flinging' attitude here is unproductive. Concluding saying that when they went to do leafletting they were accused by a member of Socialist Alternative of basically being a war criminal, which makes engaging in the space uncomfortable.

Ewan McMurtrie spoke to the motion and responded to the debate around strategy that had been raised. Noting that Labor put up their Palestinian flag during Welcome Week, but the leader of the ALP, is complicate in what is happening in Palestine. Adding that you don't need to be in the Labor party, you can leave, and that when people keep bring up other campaigns it is distracting from the one issue that is getting people engaged and bringing people out and will be able to grow the left creating a strong SRC. Concluded by remarking do you really want to be saying in the future that 'yeah there was a genocide going on – but also opal cards were an issue'? and that working on other campaigns won't strengthen the left.

Keira Fairley spoke to the motion saying that it was reprehensible that Labor's response to the questions of what they have done to build and organise the movement, has been that they attended. Adding that this is the most horrific event with 30 000 dead with children buried under rubble, but it's also the most mobilising issue. Concluding that we need to be doing more, especially when there are random students who are doing more than paid Office Bearers of the SRC, Socialist Alternative have built these actions from the ground up and all you are doing is showing up.

Tim Duff spoke to the motion and wanted to note that the Israeli police also occupy and oppress Palestinians on Palestinian land much like police in Australia do with First Nations Peoples and that they are all a part of a colonial practice and system. Adding they would like to acknowledge that people protested rainbow Labor at Mardi Gras, and that maybe we should look into dismantling Labor.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion and noted the amount of money and military aid and assistance to Israel to kill and oppress Palestinians by the Australian government. Adding that we have been going to the protests and talking about these events at every student event we go to, and participating in the picket of Albo's office which is in now its 4th week.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion and the debate and spoke about the disgraceful behaviour of NLS for boycotting the rally. Adding that what has been argued at the last council meeting and what has happened since are disconnected. That at the last council Socialist Alternative said that Palestine needed to be the sole focus of the SRC, and if everyone had done what Harrison Brennan spoke about in their report, the event would have been a flop. Simon Uptis noted that they did stalls every day and other ordinary students did more on this as well, but the SRC needs to do a lot more, these events are more important than the Israeli Apartheid Week forums we need to prioritise protests.

*Deaglan Godwin was named
Jordan Anderson was named.*

Rose Donnelly spoke to the motion and saying Labor Left has been at every rally, and the problem with the Council that is the idea you will get people engaged with passive aggression rather than inspiration. Noting that people are not going to want to get involved when they are attacked for participating and that if you brought any ordinary student to this council meeting, they would be horrified.

Maddie Clark responded to Rose saying that you've not built anything and your arguments are just a smoke screen for the Labor party, and that Labor are the ones who are sectarian not Socialist Alternative. Adding that the Palestine campaign isn't being built at the expense of other movements, it is about building and mobilising students. This event was built by Socialist Alternative across the country, and we should be taking inspiration from the students around the country who are taking a stand. Noting that other have talked about bringing your collectives to events but the collectives do not exist and that the hours you've been leafletting were brought up because we saw what you did with the Exec at Welcome Week, and it was a joke.

Rav Grewal spoke to the motion, and the debate that's been happening. Noting that it has been said that we should only be working on the Palestine movement, and while they agree it is the most important, they think we can build it from other events as well. Adding they believe Socialist Alternative believes this too based off the program for the Marxism conference where only one forum is on Palestine.

There was cross shouting across the council room.

Shovan Bhattarai was named.

Rav Grewal continued saying that the forum was also to be held in the last slot on the Sunday of the conference and that other events with the same amount of time as Palestine included Gastro socialism, and The history of Drugs. Noting there are around 70 events over the conference but only one on Palestine, showing that left wing movements can build on each other.

Deaglan Godwin responded saying that he was proud to organise the Marxism conference, which, unlike the 5 people in a collective meeting, will bring in 1000s of attendees and bring in people about the anti-Zionist movement in Israel. Adding that building movements can be built out of other movements, but look at reality right now and the movements Grassroots are talking about 5 people who've never leaflet or promoted the events. Continuing noted that the student movement is in a dire state because of groups like Grassroots, because of their approach, its why you spend more time in the SRC bunker than out talking to students, more time in a social clique than building for events. Adding that most protests don't get hundreds of students out, Palestine is unique - it brings out people, and that's what makes it the most important. Concluding saying that it also shows we need durable long lasting student movement and that it is thanks to Socialist Alternative that the Palestine movement still exists - we have been organising on this for longer than you've be aware of it, that's why he's proud of Socialist Alternative, and the Marxism conference, because in 5 years we won't be in cushy law jobs but still organising on these issues.

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Lucas Pierce

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes.

Moved: Red Tilly

Seconded: Angus Fisher

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Shovan Bhattarai spoke against the procedural motion. Saying that this council meeting started with a debate on the strategy going forward for this council. Socialist Alternative has put forward that strategy of focusing on Israel/Palestine activism to build engagement and fight for change and have been met with sectarian snipes about our actions and project and talking about recruitment strategy. This is supposed to be a strategic debate, that is what we are trying to talk about not a point scoring exercise. This is why we are against the speaking time limit. We have been the only one who have been handing out and building actions and organising while others have just skulked past, and act like they are allergic to having out flyers. We need to have a proper

political debate on these issues and we've heard nothing in response to our argument about what alternatives you are proposing or planning to do.

Q1. Motion: The Higher Education Accords Have Always Been Shit

Preamble:

The Universities Accord report was released last month and it is not a win for students. It's a detailed plan for regearing universities to better benefit the Australian capitalist class. This is not surprising. By its very nature, the Accords were never going to benefit students and the participation in its process by members of this SRC was a mistake.

The findings and conclusions of the report spell out two key problems for the Australian bosses. First, there are sizable skill shortages in key industries and second, Australian companies are not implementing university research to their potential. These are purely the economic concerns of the Australian government and business class and do not align with the concerns of students or left wing students in this SRC.

The recommendations of the report are directed to address these problems. A commission to ensure collaboration between industry and universities. Monetary rewards given to universities for pushing out graduates with industry-specific skills. New markets of international students to ensure their enormous revenue stream is secure. A new funding model, changed from the crude Job Ready Graduates policy, that's more dynamic and "needs-based" to align with the skills, research and teaching that the bosses need. Among others.

Some of these recommendations appear to be more progressive. For example, the mention of equity and inclusion and placement poverty. However, these recommendations are still mentioned with the purpose of benefiting industry needs. Like increasing participation and preventing skills shortages. They were not included because of submissions by left wing students. They are not "wins".

Education should be a right and pursuing higher education should not come with a price tag or with the disclaimer that that education should be put to use for Australian capitalism. Left wing students should be fighting against this and for education for education's sake. They should be fighting for free and fully funded government education, better student welfare and students' rights.

But these demands won't be won in boardrooms with politicians, industry heads and university chancellors because they contradict the priorities of Australian capitalism. Instead of spending time on submissions to the Accords process, left wing students should have spent time on building up students' power on the streets through activism. This is what all left wing members of the SRC should focus their efforts on in the future.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC rejects the premise of the Higher Education Accords report.

2. The USyd SRC rejects that higher education should be profitable and directed to fulfil Australian industry needs.
3. The USyd SRC stands for free, fully funded education.
4. The USyd SRC confirms its commitment to fighting for free education through activism.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC will post a statement from their social media accounts criticising the Accords report.
2. The USyd SRC will support future campaigns defending education and students' rights.

Discussion:

Maddie Clark spoke to the motion and spoke about how last year it was discussed that being involved at all in the accord process was not going to result in anything for students. Adding that the Accords were just about getting higher education to help industry – military, IT, and business. They have nothing to do with what education should be for students - which is about learning. Adding that we need free and accessible education. Noting that you agreed with not being involved during the council meeting then went and got involved - saying we needed to be at the table, but it didn't do anything for students.

Lauran Finlayson spoke to the motion and about what the accords are going to do and how they are not going to be beneficial to students, but beneficial to industry. Adding that this was not a win for students, it was not a win for student welfare or needs, it was just a win for the Chancellors and industry who are invested in the capitalist system.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion and responded to the comments regarding the SRC's submission, noting what the submission contained and that it was only one, not multiple, adding that what was in the submission, including paid placements, compulsory student unions, and free education. Adding that being an opposition sometimes requires engaging a process and not ignoring it. There have been no actions or campaigns around the Accords or education from Socialist Alternative. Every student on this campus is mobilised around education issues because they see the impacts everyday. Noting that it is sectarian Socialist Alternative keeps attacking Grassroots for not doing enough for their events, but never get involved with anyone else's campaigns. You want us to adopt a generalised strategy but you would never come out to support a campaign you are not running. Concluding with saying that the submission pointed out to students that the government will not do anything about their needs for education and that they will be releasing a response about the failure of the accords soon.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke against the motion, and said he agreed with a lot of what Harrison Brennan said, noted that the report has many important recommendations around a number of issues, but they are all very weak. Adding that if you're not at the table though, you're on the menu, we are not going to achieve free education, but we did get a student ombudsman. There is still more to be done but it would be ignorant to ignore the gains.

Madeline Clark was named.

Gabriel Crowe spoke to the motion and responded to the debate on engagement with the accords noting that you can't have student and business interests – which are inherently opposed – working in collaboration. Adding that nothing will be achieved through this process and any process that says negotiation will achieve any positive outcomes for students is impossible, and the only way to gain wins for students is by fighting for students on the street.

Eliza Crossley was named.

Daniel Holland spoke against the motion and thanked Honi Soit for their analysis of the accords in the last edition and said that being involved in the accords is a good thing. Adding that while he's glad Socialist Alternative are building the revolution and is going to look forward to that, there are students struggling with unpaid placements, and while he would love these recommendations to be stronger, there is some value in them.

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion saying when the unions sat down to the accords the left opposed it, so why did we as student union we join in. For what? An ombudsman?

Ewan McMurtrie spoke to the motion, noting that even those against the motion have said that this process doesn't do much, so why bother to turn out at all. Adding that everyone running this doesn't care about students, but by participating they can say that they consulted students, giving themselves legitimacy.

Simon Upitis noted that the only thing the accords have managed to achieve is agreeing on student enrolments needing to increase by 2050 and a haphazard statement around paid placements and an ombudsman. Student participation such as the SRC's submission means they can now claim they consulted everyone and that they gave students a voice, by getting involved you appear to be rubber stamping the screwing over of students for the benefit of the capitalist system.

Grace Street noted that we had this debate last year and agreed with Socialist Alternative, the submission the SRC made was never going to make a difference, and yes we did submit something but it pushed for the things we wanted. This is just an excuse to attack Grassroots when you should be attacking Labor who are running this.

Tamsyn Smith responded to the debate saying that Socialist Alternative asked a question and Grassroots couldn't answer it. We were asking if the submissions were this year, would you still participate? And you responded with it only took 2-3 hours, that was not the question and this deflection is the constant approach of Grassroots who just write reports to management rather than organising against them.

Shovan Bhattarai was named.

Keira Garland spoke to the motion saying this matter is about how we cannot win anything for students on the boardrooms of those who want to squeeze every cent out of students. What we need is a strategy for fighting in the streets and a commitment to activism.

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke to the motion and the debate, saying that we don't hear what the content of the reports to the accords were in the press, only that they were participating, giving the whole process the veneer of consultation to cover for the profit driven ideologies behind those changes. If you didn't think participating would achieve anything then why participate? There are not enough people who want to low paid jobs and we think we could win free education.

Moved: Maddie Clark

Seconded: Lauran Finlayson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The Chair called for a 10-minute recess.

Deaglan Godwin moved a motion to decent from the Chair. Deaglan Godwin spoke to his decent saying that there is a break due in about 30 minutes anyway, so there is no reason to call one now.

Procedural motion to decent from the Chair

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The Procedural was put and **FAILED.**

The council took a 10-minute break at 8:25pm.

There was a quorum count at 8:37pm.

The meeting was found quorate.

The meeting resumed at 8:38pm.

Harrison Brennan resumed the Chair.

P1. Oppose changes to the Confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identity Policy

Preamble:

In October 2022, the University invited students and staff to a "yarning forum" to discuss proposed changes to its Confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Identity Policy 2015.

Under the current policy, students and staff can confirm their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status by either a common seal letter (otherwise known as a 'Confirmation of Aboriginality') or by completing a statutory declaration. These provisions allowed students and staff without a common seal letter to access identified roles, scholarships, and entry pathways. The changes would remove this safeguard, and make it more difficult for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to enrol.

This is not only a flagrant example of institutional discrimination, but it completely contradicts the University's *One Sydney, Many People Strategy 2021-2024*, which sets enrolments targets to be in line with population parity by the end of this year.

After the University's "yarning forum" — chaired by Deputy Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) Lisa Jackson-Pulver and Associate Professor Dea Delaney-Thiele — during which students reported being verbally abused and racialised by staff, the Gadigal Centre had erroneously reported to students that the policy changes had been abandoned. However, an *Honi Soit* article in November 2023 confirmed that the University would be proceeding with the proposed changes, going so far as to recruit a new "Director of Community and Culture" to develop a revised policy.

These policy changes are a blatant attack on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff, and a contradiction on the University's *One Sydney, Many People Strategy*. As a left-wing student union which supports First Nations students and staff, the SRC must oppose these changes and condemn them as another example of institutional discrimination by University management.

Platform:

- The USyd SRC condemns institutional discrimination and racism in all its forms.
- The USyd SRC supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' right to accessible tertiary education, scholarships, student housing, and fee relief.
- The USyd SRC supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff's rights to employment.

Action:

- That the USyd SRC posts this motion to its Instagram and Facebook pages.
- That the USyd SRC affirms its position in holding the University accountable for its poor treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students.
- ~~That the SRC President commits to a meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) to place pressure on the portfolio against changes to the policy.~~
(Removed)

Discussion:

Ethan Floyd amended their motion to remove action point 3 and spoke to the motion saying that it was critically important to First Nations Students on this campus, that the current policy the University is pushing will make it harder for students to get a place at the University, and prevent them from getting their degree. Adding that the University says they want to have parity with enrolments, but they are making it harder and more arduous for First Nations Students to participate.

Shovan Bhattarai asked why the motion was amended.

Ethan Floyd noted that at the last council that Socialist Alternative had a motion to call for a letter to be written to the Vice Chancellor, so you're a hypocrite if you think that is fine but other participate is not.

Deaglan Godwin was named.

Grace Street spoke to the motion and said that it says a lot about Socialist Alternative that they want to talk about an action point and not the substantive motion that impacts First Nation Students at this University. Adding that the stress put onto students and their communities that these changes will do is cruel.

Madeline Clark noted that they also wanted to remove action point three and that going into the room with the Vice Chancellor will not help students, and that being in closed boardrooms where nothing is heard will achieve nothing.

Deaglan Godwin responded to the debate saying that Socialist Alternative believes that writing things on paper doesn't achieve anything. Adding that Ethan Floyd said that we don't need to meet with management, so if you don't think that why did you put it in the motion in the first place. Saying that this highlighted the stupidity of the strategy – it is based on meetings with management. Adding that he had been invited to a breakfast with the Vice Chancellor as Vice-President and the implication of this is that Grassroots presidents have always gone to these events.

Grace Street responded to Deaglan asking if Socialist Alternative knew this amendment was happening.

Deaglan Godwin said yes but it was about why it was there in the first place.

Grace Street responded saying that Deaglan Godwin turned a motion about First Nations students into a motion about strategy.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion saying it was uncontroversial, but the question of strategy is important because this is about how we win things. Adding that removing the part about strategy from the motion was because you don't want to have a debate about strategy. The motion last time was about calling on the university to cut ties with Israel, this motion is about saying someone smart should talk to the VC, not building a campaign, the other motion was about building a student campaign.

Moved: Ethan Floyd

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

P2. The SRC supports the Tiwi Traditional Owners who took on Santos in the Federal Court

Preamble:

Last month, the Federal Court ordered that Santos Ltd would be permitted to begin construction on a 263 km gas pipeline, to be laid through the traditional Sea Country belonging to the custodians of parts of the Timor Sea, including Tiwi Elders.

The \$5.7 billion project will proceed against the wishes of Tiwi Elders who sought an injunction from the court, represented by the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO). Despite initially ordering that the Tiwi to pay Santos' legal costs, the company has since announced that it will not seek to recuperate costs

Prior to the federal court decision, the major parties passed the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Amendment (Using New Technologies to Fight Climate Change) Bill 2023*, which then enabled Santos to extract gas from the Timor Sea. During the Bill's debate, Foreign Minister Penny Wong notoriously chastised the Coalition for their ostensible opposition to fossil fuel companies, saying "You said 'no' to Santos. You then said 'no' to Woodside. You've said 'no' to Inpex".

These are telling remarks, which demonstrate that, despite their greenwashing and insufficient emission targets, the Labor party is committed to the expansion of the fossil fuel industry at the expense of First Nations land. This is because Labor preserves and, indeed expands, the same neoliberal, capitalistic and colonial structures that the Coalition has worked to preserve and expand. Furthermore, with Labor declaring more than \$110 million in donations from Santos, it is clear where the party's loyalties lie - with those who profit from the destruction of the environment.

Ultimately, this reaffirms that the struggle for First Nations justice is bound up with the struggle for environmental justice; and reaffirms Labor's lack of commitment to both.

Platform:

- The USyd SRC extends their solidarity to First Nations communities, especially when it comes
- The USyd SRC condemns fossil fuel companies in of themselves, but also condemn their destruction of First Nations land / water.
- The USyd SRC appreciates that First Nations justice is bound up with environmental justice.

Action:

- The USyd SRC will post a statement in support of Tiwi Elders to its social media.
- The USyd SRC will promote the mutual aid fund established by the First Nations' Collective – <https://chuffed.org/project/105602-assist-with-the-tiwi-islands-elders-legal-costs>
- The USyd SRC will continue to fight against fossil fuel projects on First Nations lands.

Discussion:

Jordan Anderson spoke to the motion and covered its main points. And spoke about how we should be pushing for justice, environmental justice, and First Nations justice.

Ethan Floyd spoke to the motion and spoke about how this is going to be one of the largest greenhouse gas projects in the world and will be effectively a carbon bomb. Noting that Traditional practices are about stewardship and protection of the land, this does the opposite and

there was no consultation from anyone with the people of the Tiwi Islands. Adding that when this decision was made and the Elders were shafted by the courts and Santos have said they were going to seek costs, this project will destroy the country of the Tiwi Islands.

Grace Street spoke to the motion saying our legal and government decisions are rigged against First Nations Peoples, and that Labor have proven they are no different to the coalition when it comes to assisting the fossil fuel industry. We're not surprised but they still need to be held accountable.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion saying that the Labor Party leaders who have continued the degradation of our environment and First Nations People should hold their heads in shame. Adding that those in the ALP who move to oppose the destruction of the environment and push against those who continue to push for the fossil fuel industry. Concluding remarking that the fossil fuel industry should be shut down today.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Ethan Floyd

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

P3. Make student unionism accessible!

Preamble: As a representative body, the SRC must be a place where disability accessibility is ensured and disability justice is prioritised. Beyond the SRC, the major parties have sidelined, marginalised and discriminated against the disabled community.

The government's decision to halve the amount of mental health sessions covered by Medicare has introduced new strain and financial hardship for those with disabilities related to mental health. The disabled community is also grossly overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Another example is that Australia's immigration system is exempt from the Disability Discrimination Act. People are routinely and unjustly barred from migrating to Australia on the basis of their disability status, and ableism is weaponised to justify the deportation of disabled immigrants. While the government has committed to establishing a taskforce to coordinate their response to the findings of the Disability Royal Commission, these findings must be swiftly and comprehensively implemented.

Thus, disability justice is fundamentally bound up with all forms of justice. It is important that disability justice and disability accessibility are not forgotten or sidelined, rather, it should be constantly pushed for, both in our SRC and the broader community.

Following the atrocious events of NatCon last year, a conference organised in a way which was deeply inaccessible for many disabled attendees, and where disgusting ableist rhetoric was peddled on the conference floor, it is crucial that the USYD SRC learn from the mistakes made at every stage of NatCon and prioritise accessibility in all that we do.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC opposes all forms of discrimination towards its attendees including, in the context of this motion, ableism.
2. The USyd SRC recognises that NatCon and EdCon are not organised with disability accessibility sufficiently in mind.
3. The USYD SRC champions inclusive and accessible spaces.
4. The USyd SRC commits to working toward disability justice, both within council meetings and more broadly.
5. The USyd SRC opposes the major parties when they sideline, marginalise and discriminate against the disabled community,
6. The USyd SRC affirms the importance of Dis.Co as an autonomous collective that has and will continue to push for disability justice.

Action:

1. The USYD SRC will book another room which will act as a quiet room during SRC meetings.
2. The USYD SRC will encourage one speaker at a time.
3. When attending rallies, the USYD SRC will provide an accessible activism guide that organisers should implement to the fullest extent that is practicable.
4. The USyd SRC will advocate for accessibility when it comes to how NUS conferences are organised.

Discussion:

Olivia Lee spoke to the motion saying it was not controversial, we should be making these meetings accessible and we should be working towards an accessibility guide for rallies and other activist events. Adding that it doesn't seem to be really considered in the planning of these events and everyone should be represented in these spaces.

Victor Zhang said that this motion had been approved by the Disabilities Collective and spoke about some of the work being done by NUS on these issues and thanked Unity for their work on this.

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke against the motion saying it was about policing the argument that Socialist Alternative had made at NUS where NLS and Unity blocked discussion on Palestine at the National Conference. While a massacre had occurred in Gaza NLS and Unity came back to the conference drunk and voted against an anti-fascist campaign on the grounds of not wanting to endorse a campaign involving Socialist Alternative. This is cynical and refuses to talk about the issues being faced by those in Gaza, a place where the largest number of people are being disabled right now.

Jaimie bridge spoke about the motion saying there are some vague platitudes they agree with here but didn't really know what it sought to achieve. Adding that with this motion we need to see what it looks like in practice, with the guide it needs to be clear what it is going to say, about what we are fighting for, and how we are going to get it. Not just something like rallies are too loud or something of that sort.

Olivia Lee responded saying the SRC is a very exclusive space, students come in here and are afraid to be here. Adding that unless we make this space more accessible, we are not going to be having effective discussion because not everyone can be involved.

Gerard Buttigieg responded to Jasmine Al Rawi and said the comments was very misrepresentative. Noting that it was Unity that had 51% of conference floor because Socialist Alternative made deals with Unity in Victoria because they refused to work with NLS. Socialist Alternative are the ones who allowed those motions to be shut down, and they were the ones who screamed over speakers during the disabilities chapter, this is a pathetic excuse to cloud the fact that Socialist Alternative are ableist.

Simon Uptis responded to Gerard Buttigieg, saying that NLS voted with Unity to gag debate on Palestine and the reason why debate was truncated on the last day was because NLS spit the dummy at Unity on a totally different issue that had nothing to do with Palestine. Adding that they disagreed that political argument is isolating, and that rigours/loud political debate is detrimental, and taking the position that it is, is disgusting.

Victor Zhang took a right of reply saying that he understands that when working with NUS there can be a risk of neoliberal approaches, and we will fight against that, and look at what is actually being done.

Jamie Bridge responded saying if you continue to prop up the NDIS, you continue to hinder disability organising.

Moved: Olivia Lee

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

P5. Motion to Endorse Trans Day of Visibility 2024

Preamble:

Queer people continue to experience disproportionate barriers to safely exist in NSW.

Trans people are met with the requirement of expensive surgeries, uncovered by Medicare, in order to change their sex markers on legal documentation. This opens many trans people up to financial, legal, social, housing and job discrimination. Fee-free self-ID and accessible gender-affirming care would go a long way towards reducing the systematic discrimination experienced by trans people in NSW.

Queer sex workers continue to have their very livelihoods wilfully attacked by financial institutions and landlords on the basis of their job. It is a workers right to not be discriminated against on the basis of one's job. Sex worker rights are workers rights. Sex work has always existed and will continue to exist regardless of the cultural context, denying sex worker rights does not protect women from sexualisation and exploitation. Denying sex worker rights does the opposite of this and puts women who engage in this work to survive, at far greater risk of harm. By choosing to

not support sex worker rights, you are choosing to support the status quo in which sex workers continue to face extreme discrimination in their everyday lives.

The religious right continues to hide behind selective interpretations of religion in order to justify what can only be described as bigotry. The discrimination of queer teachers and students continues to be normalised in private religious schools. There should be no legal ability for schools to terminate teacher employment or student enrolment based on gender or sexuality. The current state of affairs are the beginning of the religious rights attempt to vilify, exclude and erase queer people from the wider community as seen by the slew of local council drag Storytime ban motions. The greater goals of the religious right to vilify, exclude and erase queer people is materially carried out at the hands of the police. It is critical that the police be defunded, disarmed, and dismantled to end the violence and persecution against queer and Blak people. Trans and queer people deserve safety, justice, and community led solutions to interpersonal violence, and activists deserve to be able to make those demands without risk of attack or arrest.

Trans Day of Visibility Rally 2024 calls for:

1. **Full Rights for Self ID.** Abolish policies requiring surgery to change sex markers, and legal/economic barriers to gender affirmation, with the passing of the Equality Bill — legislating self-ID, and demanding it's fee-free. Additionally, we call for the universalisation of fund-free and accessible gender-affirming care and annualised, 6-week minimum gender affirmation leave.
2. **Sex Work on the Anti-Discrimination Act (ADA).** From having their bank account frozen to being evicted from housing because of sex worker status, we demand that ADA protections for sex workers be passed immediately. This means that the Equality Bill must be passed in full. We cannot let workers' rights be delayed any longer!
#NoHesitationNoDelay.
3. **Job Security, Not Religious Bigotry.** Right now, teachers and students can legally get kicked out of private schools for being queer. The Christian right and the Zionist lobby are fighting for greater rights to vilify minorities too. We need to force the politicians to pass the Equality Bill as the first step to stopping this, and stand up to the bigots at every Drag Storytime.
4. **End Pink washing; No Safety With Police — Defund, Disarm and Dismantle.** Police harass us with sniffer dogs, forcefully test us for HIV, and perpetrate of the deaths of Blak and queer people in custody, like Veronica Baxter. We demand: Justice for Veronica and all other deaths in custody, implementing recommendations of the RCIADIC; scrapping the anti-protest laws, dropping all charges against protestors; no cops at Pride events; defunding police, and reallocating funds for community programs.

Platform

The SRC:

1. endorses the 2024 Trans Day of Visibility rally.
2. endorses all demands of the Trans Day of Visibility 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 Trans Day of Visibility 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 Trans Day of Visibility rally and its demands.

Discussion:

Esther Whitehead spoke to the motion covering its main points and saying it was a fight against the pink washing. Esther Whitehead said the Penny Wong's lack of action 'kills Lesbians in Gaza' adding 'fuck the police' and they are a military arm of the government. Esther Whitehead also spoke about the death of an Indigenous trans woman and the ongoing murders by police of people in the Queer community.

Jamie Bridge read out a statement from a QuAC member Marcy:

"Self-ID is one of the key queer rights issues of today. The current laws in NSW lag behind every other state. Currently, if I wish to change my gender marker on government documents, I must undergo sex reassignment surgery which is prohibitively expensive, sterilises me, and is honestly not a part of my transition goals for the foreseeable future. All this for a simple marker that, to be quite frank, has little practical use, and many downsides, such as forcing trans women into men's prisons where they are often subjected to serial sexual abuse.

The only reason you could argue knowing birth sex is valuable is in health, however even in this area, my various specialists and GPs all use a female marker on my medical documents (even one saying assigned female at birth), despite me being male legally and on Medicare! It is stark how much more respect for my gender identity I get when medical professionals see "female" rather than "male", and it helps greatly in navigating these interactions.

The current law is such a needless bureaucracy that forces our identities into boxes, and us into expensive surgeries just to receive the respect we deserve. Self-ID will give trans people far greater autonomy over our own lives and identities, and so I urge the SRC to support this motion!"

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion and said it was important everyone came out for Trans Day of Visibility, and spoke about the mobilising of the Christian Right being scary. Highlighting the importance of coming out and showing there is strength and community on the left and to push for the ALP to support the equality bill.

Moved: Esther Whitehead

Seconded: Jamie Bridge

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

P6. No Copt at Pride: Disarm, Defund, Dismantle the Police

Preamble:

As an institution that perpetuates widespread violence against the queer community, the police and the private security contractors who serve them) are the last people we should be allowing at any Pride event or on USYD campus under the guise of safety and security, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

In spite of community grief and outrage sparked by the brutal murder of a gay couple by a NSW police officer, NSW Police proudly marched in the Mardi Gras Parade 2024 without their uniforms. Initially, the Mardi Gras board decided to disinvite NSW Police from the parade, but they shamelessly backflipped on this decision only two days after it was announced. This decision to welcome NSW Police back to the parade has shown blatant disregard for the voices and needs of the community by both cops and the Mardi Gras board.

NSW Police Officer Beau Lamarre-Condon was charged with the murder of Jesse Baird and Luke Davies after their disappearance on February 19th, 2024. Lamarre-Condon was structurally enabled by NSW Police at many stages to allegedly commit this double murder, and thus it is rightly justified that there are widespread calls from community to condemn and disband the police.

It is believed that Lamarre used his police-issued gun to murder the couple. He had access to this murder weapon because he was patrolling a Palestine Action Group rally reportedly before the killings took place. The NSW government's draconian anti-protest laws, brutal treatment of activists, and arming of police enabled Beau to have his gun to allegedly murder Jesse and Luke. It is critical that a major part of dismantling the police institution is removing their power to freely intimidate, arrest, and charge peaceful protestors, as well as removing their weapons as an occupying army of marginalised and exploited communities.

Beau Lamarre was not wearing uniform when he allegedly murdered Jesse Baird and Luke Davies. Cops wear plain clothes to search, question, and lie to marginalised communities. It is heinous that both the Mardi Gras board and NSW Police believe that using a well-established police tactic in a Mardi Gras parade is an acceptable compromise. Police hiding their badges is not an acceptable cover-up for decades of police violence against Blak and queer people, because plainclothes cops still kill.

In 2020, Lamarre tased an Blak man in the face for an arrest warrant that didn't exist - yet, at the next Mardi Gras, he was photographed proudly marching in the NSW Police float. He was found guilty of no wrongdoing during an internal police investigation, because NSW Police do everything possible to defend and protect their own from accountability and justice. Lamarre is not just "one bad egg"; like many other officers, he is symptomatic of a decades-long history of police brutality and human rights violations, as well as the ongoing persecution and dispossession of Indigenous peoples in this settler colony. The police function as an occupation force that violently enforces the laws of the ruling class and displaces Indigenous peoples from their own land.

After decades of unrelenting violence against vulnerable communities, it is abundantly clear that police officers should not be allowed to carry guns or tasers. Until the police are entirely disarmed, marginalised communities like our own will continue to be subject to horrific violence by the bloodstained hands of the police. Furthermore, the Mardi Gras board has completely lost the trust of the queer community for their spineless and inept conduct around police.

Platform

The SRC:

1. demands that the police should be disarmed, defunded, and dismantled.
2. understands that the police plays a critical role in perpetrating domestic and sexual violence and will not be a part of the solution to such systemic problems.
3. Believes that the police and private security should not be a part of any Pride event, on or off USYD campus.
4. 4. demands that the University of Sydney and the University of Sydney Union take every possible step to disinvite private security, NSW Police or Australian Federal Police from USYD campus and events.

Action

1. The SRC President, on behalf of the SRC Council, shall send the full text of this motion to the USYD Chancellor, USYD Vice-Chancellor, the USU Board, and the USU CEO, and communicate that a response is expected no later than the beginning of April 2024.
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 calls for the immediate dissolution of the 2024 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras board.
4. All members of the Students' Representative Council are encouraged to attend and vote in any upcoming Mardi Gras board Extraordinary General Meeting and sign on to any petition calling for an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held.

Discussion:

Shovan Bhattarai presented an amendment to the motion to remove action points 1, 3 and 4.
The amendment was not amendable to the movers.

Tim Duff spoke to the motion saying that the Queer community is only called to action with the murder by the police of a white queer couple. Adding that Mardi Gras was founded on stopping the attacks on the queer community, women, and black people. We should be standing against the attacks and violence of the Police.

The amendment was put as a foreshadowing motion.

Foreshadowing motion: to remove action points 1, 3 and 4, but keep the rest of the substantive motion P6.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Tamsyn Smith

Jamie Bridge spoke about the proposed foreshadowing motion and why they disagreed with the proposed amendments. Adding that they are engaging with the Mardi Gras organisation because it is a liberal democracy, and that is why the motion is also being sent to the USU board, because it is a board that claims to be progressive and care about the queer community, but will side with the police every time, this is to ask how they can call themselves inclusive which also doing that.

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to the foreshadowing motion saying there has been years of pushing for a more progressive Mardi Gras Board and they finally kicked out the police for one day, but the crux of this change was the murder of a gay couple by a police officer, but it didn't last and the cops were allowed to march again as long as they were not in uniform. After seeing that these actions don't work you are simply arguing to do more of the same.

Tamsyn Smith spoke to the foreshadowing motion saying that the Mardi Gras board has no interest in holding up the rights of queer people, it is a corporate organisation who is interested in making money. Instead of walking away from this organisation and pushing for more community engagement this is asking the SRC to commit more resources to a failed strategy. Concluding saying that is about time that people who want to call themselves radical, do something radical about it.

Debate on the substantive motion resumed.

Jamie Bridge responded to the debate so far saying that Socialists should not get involved in a liberal democracy, this is about standing against the accords, about pushing for changes. You completely dropped queer rights activism when you wanted too and you've only managed rallies for about 30 people.

Jordan Anderson spoke about the importance of defunding and dismantling the police. Adding that the way the media spoke about the murder involved no discussion around the institutional discrimination against queers' people and other minorities by the police, but that it because just another 'bad apple' story. We should not have the cops involved in Mardi Gras at all.

Yasmine Johnson responded to the debate saying that it continued to dodge the question, the idea that a change in Mardi Gras board would create a radical organisation doesn't change that it is just a corporate board and a money-making exercise. Adding that you could have more wins, not by trying to reclaim Mardi Gras but by having a real challenge to the discrimination and issues facing the queer community. Actions and mobilising people in general aren't radical if it's just for a corporate organisation, you could take everything back and it would still be a farce.

Juno spoke to the motion and spoke about how there is a struggle on two fronts, organising rallies like the one last Friday where we were violently opposed by the police, and continuing to push against the pink washing of the government as they continue to support the police. We need to push back and ban the cops. We must come together to oppose the police and the pink washing ALP.

Esther Whitehead spoke to the motion and about what is being missed here is how much attention Mari Gras gets. With millions of people attending and watching each year. Adding that they didn't think giving up on the radical history of Mardi Gras or suggesting that pushing back against the strip searches of people at Mardi Gras wasn't worth doing. Fighting against the comments of the police commissioner on the murder of two people by an officer deserves to happen.

Taleen Jameel responded to the debate saying that we are not arguing that the cops should be in Mardi Gras, no one is saying that police brutality is ok. The argument is about what we are going to do about it. This is about strategy, and you will never vote the corporate out of a corporate board. Adding that everyone knows who pink washes genocide – Mardi Gras, while the original Mardi Gras was a rally in response to the stonewall riots. These days it's a corporate event where people just get so drunk they can't stand. This is not a radical event. People are killed by cops, people lose their jobs in schools for being queer, they get kick out of home by the parents for being gay or trans. You're not taking any action to build a protest movement against the right, you have done nothing on this, you've not been at the rallies fighting against the right.

Tim Duff gave a right of reply, saying more than 200 people came out with less than 24 hours' notice, and no one from Socialist Alternative was there. We haven't said we want the board to exist, but how is being involved in parliament any different. Asking why would you run for parliament, but oppose this when it has the same thing, if you think that parliament just feeds the rich ruling class.

Jamie Bridge responded to the debate and said what has been said by people here tonight was rich as the people building the movement are pride in protest not those criticising.

Maddie Clark was named.

Shovan Bhattarai was named

Tim Duff was named.

Moved: Tim Duff

Seconded: Jamie Bridge

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

As the substantive motion was passed the foreshadowing motion **LAPSED.**

(Foreshadowing motion: to remove action points 1, 3 and 4, but keep the rest of the substantive motion P6.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Tamsyn Smith)

There was a quorum count at 10pm

The meeting was not quorate.

*The meeting **LAPSED** at 10:00pm.*