



src activism
advocacy
representation

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MINUTES:

Of the 4th regular meeting of the 94th SRC held on Wednesday the 4th May 2022. Meeting held in the New Law Lecture Theatre 024 and via Zoom.

Quorum count was called at 6:15pm.

The meeting was found quorate.

A. Meeting open at 6:15 pm

A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Alana Ramshaw be elected Deputy Chairperson.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

B. Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land (Sydney), the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We stand on this land today as beneficiaries of an uncompensated and unreconciled dispossession that occurred over 200 years ago. Many of the descendants of those dispossessed live just down the road in abject poverty, and as young people it is important to recognise how this history of dislocation and disenfranchisement has contributed to the inequality we observe in modern society. We acknowledge both our privilege and our obligation to redress the situation as best we can: to remember the mistakes of the past, act on the problems of today, and build a future for everyone who now calls this place home, striving always for genuinely practical and meaningful reconciliation.

C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

Apologies and proxies were received from:

Alexander Poirier to Isabella Chiper

Isabella Anderssen to Emily Mackay

Ricky Rangra to Grace Porter

Eamonn Murphy

Julian Alley

Charlotte Ainsworth to Grace Lagan

Hanwen Xing

Maria Ge

Nicole Yang to Jason Zhang

Max prince to Ben Jorgenson

The apologies were noted.

D. Changes to Membership

E. Electoral Report

E1. Consideration of any resignations

Madeleine Clark and Monica McNaught-Lee resign as Women's Officers
William Stano and Ira Patole resign as Queer Officers

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

F. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of 94th SRC Council held on 6th April 2022 were circulated.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

G. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business for this item.

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

I. Visitor's Business

There was no business for this item.

J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate

Gabi Stricker Phelps extended her apologies for not being able to attend and provided the following:

I wanted to mention the importance of hearing from students in the process of the developing our USYD strategic plan for the years ahead. Any student who wishes to share their views and ideas and contribute to this process please contact me to discuss.

Lauren Lancaster noted that the university has set up an intranet site to do this, and there was no need to have it vetted through a third party.

K. Elections

K1. Election of 2 Indigenous Students' Officers

Nomination: Jaime Stanley

Jamie Stanley spoke to her nomination.

There being no other nominations Jamie Stanley was declared elected unopposed to the position of Indigenous Officer of the 94th SRC.

K2. Election of 2 Mature Age Students' Officers

There were not nominations

K3. Election of 1 Social Justice Officer

There were not nominations

K4. Election of the Women's Officer

Joint nomination from Dashie Prasad and Monica McNaught Lee

Dashie Prasad spoke to their nomination

There being no other nominations Dashie Prasad and Monica McNaught Lee were declared elected unopposed to the position of Women's Officers of the 94th SRC.

K5. Election of 1 Queer Officer (must identify as a member of the LGBTQI+ Community)

Nomination from Ella Pash

Ella Pash spoke to their nomination

There being no other nominations Ella Pash was declared elected unopposed to the position of Queer Officer for the 94th SRC.

L. Report of the President and Executive

L1. Executive Minutes

Minutes of the Executive meeting of the 23rd March 2022

Motion: that the minutes of the executive meetings from the 23rd March 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

L2. Report of the Executive

Report of the executive from the **2nd March to the 3rd May 2022.**

The report was circulated and noted.

The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.

L3. President's Report

Lauren Lancaster tabled a written report:

Strike

Last Friday, I and the Executive voted unanimously to shut down the SRC over the NTEU strike period next Wednesday and Thursday. The USU will also be closing down over the strike period, which is good. As we know, this is a rare and exciting time. It is imperative that students join us on the picket line, and it will be a fun, politically charged, inclusive and radical few days. We all benefit from the NTEU EBA demands because we are the people who benefit from the labour of our academic staff. In this act we recognise the importance of a withdrawal of their labour at the university for better conditions, pay, job security (casual academics literally can't get a mortgage), 40/40/20 model academic positions and paid transition leave. Every time we walk onto campus we are entering a workplace, a site of struggle, which means that our learning experience is inextricably tied up in the conditions in which our tutors, coordinators, mentors, researchers, professors and perhaps colleagues operate! Students, do not try to go to class or force your tutors to show up. Join the picket line in person to block off classrooms, Zoom-bomb lectures that attempt to go ahead, have conversations with mates and call out those who try to go in. The SRC will continue building across the university to spread the word and help people understand why we stand with staff against management and defend the picket line (physically and digitally). Particularly off the back of the egregiously misleading email from Annamarie Jagose sent to all staff last week, it's clear management will undermine and undercut staff strike efforts wherever possible. This isn't political theatre, it's manifest industrial power being flexed on the bosses. Come be a part of history in Week 11.

Thank you to all involved in lecture announcements, protests and events over the past months. We did a banner drop at 3 locations across campus this arvo. Thanks to the EAG for prepping and coordinating those drops, I had a lot of fun scaling the quad to try and anchor our one. The GenSecs also have details on a few specific events leading up to next week. Pickets from 7am on Wednesday.

New Office-bearers

a. Women's Officer

I was delighted to take part in the preselection of Dashie Prasad as the co-Women's Officer replacing Maddie Clarke last week. They bring a wealth of knowledge to the role as former NUS Queer Officer and long time activist at USYD and UTS, and I know they will hit the ground running with these strengths and connections. I look forward to seeing how they work with Monica to build feminist organising on campus in an inclusive, radical and creative way.

b. Indigenous Students Officer

A warm welcome to Jaime Stanley! I am delighted to have this position filled and I am so excited to support the new Indigenous OB in their projects and goals for the remainder of the year. I hope everyone will share in that, and that we can continue as an organisation to pursue a vision of higher ed and student organising that is actively decolonial and that platforms first nations activists and voices.

Committees

The Undergraduate Studies committee unfortunately confirmed changes to discontinue not fail as a result of the Job Ready Graduates package being implemented at the university. This is a poorly conceived and unnecessarily harsh measure designed to punish students into continuing units from which they may have good reason to want or warrant a drop out. It is further proof that the corporatisation of our education, in terms of limiting time frames and demanding students churn through content on the university's timeline, is done at the detriment of student welfare. If you have issues related to this, please get in contact with the Caseworkers.

On special con and disability policy, there were a couple of fairly productive meetings that I appeared at throughout the last month. Disability policy reform at the university is proceeding and I have been strongly advocating for the introduction of explicit UDL guidelines to bring USYD up to par with other universities in NSW.

At the Academic Board, I reiterated student support for all striking staff, which I am happy to report earned the disdain of management in attendance! Special considerations are sort of becoming the de facto catch cry of the SRC on these committees, and I've been amping up criticism of continued delays. Students are still experiencing significant delays in responses from the special consideration team. They are saying that on average it's 8 days, which is bad enough, but we know anecdotally there are students waiting 2-3 weeks. This jeopardises the students' ability to sit a replacement mid semester exam, which may mean that their final assessment may be worth a significantly increased % if their case outcome warrants a reweighting of assessments. Even if the student is given a replacement exam, this would occur in the middle of an already assessment laden period, placing that student at further disadvantage compared to the cohort. We anecdotally know that some students will choose DC instead of taking this risk, thus forcing them an opportunity loss of at least one semester.

Internals

a. Admin Manager replacement

We have hired a fixed term replacement for Chitra, our Admin Manager, when she goes on parental leave in June: Paula Klass. Paula has worked at the UTS Student Association, as well as in international recruitment at WSU and at the University of Sydney itself. She has a great grasp on the importance of political student unions, and the Selection Committee commend all applicants - the process was difficult and all applicants were of a very high standard. We look forward to welcoming Paula to the team and hope the Council will extend such a welcome when she commences.

b. Acquittal and Audit

The 2021 Audit of SRC Finances is complete and has been circulated with the agenda for this meeting. I'd remind all OBs to continue to update the spreadsheets compiled by the General Secretaries in relation to attendance and engagement at their events throughout the year so that we can include even more detail next year. This afternoon, the board of the SRC Legal Service also met to review the Legal Service Audit.

c. SRC Election prep

We will be putting up a suite of Regulations next council so please come so we are quorate and can pass them - they are from the EO's recommendations largely and relate to important changes to bulk nominations, student ID requirements and restricted campaigning practises.

Elections at large!

You've no doubt seen the USU election campaigns across campus. There's not much to say here other than I hope the USU will be far more transparent and capitulate less to profit interests, or simply inexplicable inaction on investment portfolios and SASH in the years to come, but if you see that being a worthwhile project you can enrol to vote by this Friday.

Nationally, this is the last council before the Election on May 21. As I said to Honi, the SRC won't capitulate to any political position or party that doesn't take immediate and radical action on climate catastrophe, the abysmal state of welfare in Australia for young people, or the ongoing erosion of political and protest freedoms. Neither should students. I hope you are all enrolled to vote, but remember that ultimately we don't win progressive movements in Parliament, we win them on the streets and through collective political education. I commend the specific education policy announced by the Greens last month and debated extensively in our April council meeting, advocating for the wiping of student debt and free tertiary education (not that expensive! Don't buy the deficit fear mongering! Australia splurges on defence all the time and no one bats an eye!). The SRC is not a partisan organisation so we don't back a party, but come along to collective meetings to grow your politics and watch Honi for coverage. Something needs to change if our future is going to look even a scrap more hopeful.

Ed Con

We have submitted a tender for the NUS Education Conference to be hosted here. Thanks to Mikaela in particular for compiling the tender - I'll announce the outcome at some point in the Facebook group

In summary: ATTEND THE STRIKE, DON'T SCAB, LET'S REVITALISE REAL PROTEST AND INDUSTRIAL ACTION ON CAMPUS - WE ARE A COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY, SO LET'S ACT LIKE ONE AND SHOW UP FOR STAFF!

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster spoke to her report telling everyone to attend the strikes next week on the 11th and 12th of May. Highlighting the importance of standing in solidarity with staff. Adding congratulations to all the newly Elected Office Bearers.

Lauren Lancaster summarised the main points of her report.

Deaglan Godwin asked about what actions have been done to the lead up to the strikes and if the SRC would be supporting the NUS campaign which is a vote Labor campaign.

Lauren Lancaster responded to the questions saying that she has been a part of the banner drop that day and has been trying to get along to meetings and appreciate that she has not been able to get as many EAG meeting as she would have liked but there has been a lot happening. She thanked everyone for building the strikes and noted Socialist Alternative's work in particular. She

rejected the premise of the second half of the questions saying she does not believe it is a vote Labor campaign but one that's demands are student focused and for student unions in a wilder political landscape. Adding if there were concerned about elements of the campaign they could be left out of the SRC's work.

Owen Marsden responded and disagreed saying you are pick and chose elements of the NUS campaign but look as its intent as a whole. Which is that they are running a vote Labor campaign with a slight 'its not really' spin, but running demands that are amenable to the paltry offers given by the Labor party for students and higher education. So they can say all over 'vote the liberals out' but so many are inculcated in Labor party politics, and you can't separate that from their campaign of vote the liberals out.

Lauren Lancaster responded saying that it was a good point about the structure of the campaign but noted that NUS or their campaign was not mentioned in this report and so did not feel it was particularly relevant. Speaking about breaking it down in to different parts – we are capable of being critical of the campaign while also running our own messages that align with parts, noting that the SRC is it's own organisation and not bound to the NUS's campaign in anyway.

There was some continues discussion around this, Laruen moved the discussion along saying the discussion was not relevant to the report any concerns could be raised outside the meeting.

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Alana Ramshaw

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

M. Report of the Vice-Presidents

Mikaela Pappou and Emily Story tabled a written report.

Edcon

Last council Lauren announced our interest in hosting the Union of Students (NUS) Education Conference (Edcon) at USYD. We have been very busy working on the application for tender in our bid to host the event which is now complete and just awaiting final touches.

Foodbank

As per usual we have been corresponding back and forth with the USU to organize Foodhub, primarily regarding venues and the financial side of things. Evidently in the long term it would be ideal to have a sufficient SRC office space that we could run Foodhub from, but given the pressing urge for the service to get back up and running we have been evaluating potential short term spaces.

Unfortunately the space we previously ran Foodhub from is now occupied, so we have been looking into new venues like the International Student Lounge. This location would be very convenient given that international students have historically been one of the biggest users of the service, and therefore it's currently our first preference. In order to hold a space like this we are working on an application for the infrastructure SSAF round which closes at the end of may.

Currently we are collecting testimonials and data from previous years to prove the demand for a food bank which will hopefully get our application approved.

We have also decided to deter from the hamper system previously used, and instead run a pantry style system instead. This will allow students to choose only exactly what they need, which will minimize the overall waste and cost of running the service. The USU is organizing a face to face meeting for us and Foodhub to discuss the potential of giving us free products, otherwise we will have to rework residual funds to purchase from them.

Discussion:

Mikaela Pappou spoke to her report and covered its main points saying if people wanted more details on the Education Conference application to get in touch and she will send them the application, outlining what the SRC offered in organising spaces and catering etc. Also spoke about working with the USU on the food hub.

Ella Haid asked why Mikaela Pappou didn't attend an EAG since the last council meeting.

Mikaela Pappou said she was planning to come but there a family issues arose and was unable to, adding she was happy to share her study and work schedule if people would like to see when she is available.

Lia Perkins asked what the work with the faculty presidents was and if there was information regarding the EAG and the strike campaign highlighted.

Mikaela Pappou responded saying that the faculty meetings are for the VPs to updates the presidents on the works of the SRC, such as the strikes and also to get feedback on any issues the faculty presidents raise/would like support on.

Dashi Prasad asked about NUS and alleged corruption that they are facing.

Mikaela Pappou responded saying that we still think that the Education Conference is worth running despite their current situation, but we are not giving them any more directly we are going to be working with them to put the conference on, but any money we spend will not be going directly to NUS, but towards room booking and catering.

Owen Marsden asked if the Vice Presidents thought that the application to host the Education Conference would be successful.

Mikaela Pappou responded saying she believed it would be.

Deaglan Godwin asked how the money put aside would be handled, and how much had been put forward as part of the tender.

Mikaela Pappou said that 10-15 000 which was usual offer on a tender and the SRC had put forward 10 000, but added that we would not be giving them the \$10 000 for them to arrange it themselves but would be making the purchases for the conference directly.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

N. Report of the General Secretaries

Alana Ramshaw and Grace Lagan tabled a written /gave a verbal report

Activism

Education Activism

Alana attended the April 13th NDA alongside other education activists, organised by the NUS Education Officer Luc Velez in support of free education. In addition to this, we have been helping the EAG to build for the strikes: this has included attendance at EAG meetings, actions, and forums, poster and leaflet design, helping out at the EAG stall, and lecture bashing.

We cannot make it clearer than this: **going to class on these days is a betrayal of staff and students alike. We will both be on the picket on May 11 and 12th and encourage every councillor, office bearer, and student to join us.**

Ahead of the strike next week, students can attend:

- 'Why you should attend the May 11 and 12 pickets' event tomorrow (May 5)
- 'Pre-Strike and Picket Briefing' on May 10 (Tuesday Week 11)
- EAG stalling and leafleting efforts on campus

Other Activism

In addition to the strikes, we commend unionists and activists who attended the following events:

- May Day (May 1)
- Student contingents to the Teacher's Strike (today, May 4)

We would also encourage you to attend the following events:

- Pre-election climate strike (May 6)
- Week 13 staff strike (May 24)

Administrative Matters

Staff Selection Committee

Grace sat on the committee to appoint a fixed term admin manager with the President before the mid sem break, with this decision discussed at exec last week.

Audits

The 2021 audit is complete and has been circulated with the agenda for this meeting. Thank you to admin manager Chitra for walking us as the President through it. This afternoon, the board of the SRC Legal Service also met to review the legal service audit.

Other Activities

Constitutional Working Group

We have been working with the SLC, the President, and other interested students to update the constitution. Also of importance is regulation changes prior to the opening of nominations for the 2022 SRC Elections. We spoke with the 2022 EO at the most recent meeting of the Executive to discuss their 2021 EO Report and the regulation changes most important to implement ahead of the next election.

OB Meetings

We organised and Alana chaired an OB meeting in Week 8. We will be working to increase attendance in coming weeks and ensure OBs (including our new Indigenous OB) feel supported in their roles.

Discussion:

Grace Lagan spoke to the report focussing on the upcoming strikes.

Alana Ramshaw also spoke to the report also focussing on the strike and on constitution and regulatory reforms.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O. Report of Committees and Officers

O1. Report of the Education Officers

Lia Perkins and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report

Building support for the strikes

The strikes next Wednesday and Thursday are by far the most important event on the calendar for student activists and representatives. As Education Officers, we continue to build support for the strikes along with dozens of other committed members of the EAG. The EAG has held a stall on campus every day, made many announcements in classes and put up posters on campus. Thanks to everyone for your hard work and we are excited to continue over the next week until the May 11 and 12 strikes. Those who haven't yet helped out with the campaign, should do as much as they can in the coming week- put your name down for a stall, do a poster run and importantly, actually turn out to the pickets next Wednesday and Thursday. Everyone should be at the pickets, right from 7am on the first day. These strikes are not only the best way student unions can fight for a better university, but actually are the best way we can rebuild student activism and radicalism, and reverse the decline in power of student unions.

Contingents to the pickets

Faculty specific contingents are a great way to get students out to the pickets and we strongly encourage everyone to join a contingent to the pickets! There are contingents for most departments and faculty in FASS, but if there isn't one for your major, feel free to create one and invite your classmates to it.

Upcoming EAG events

Tomorrow (Thurs 5th) we have an open discussion and meeting in the New Law Annex at 2pm. The main topic of discussion will be about why you should join the pickets and what a picket is. It will be a good way to get introduced into the strikes before week 11.

Next Tuesday (10th) at 3pm we have organised another open meeting to brief people about what to expect on the picket lines. This will also be one of the final ways we can build for the strikes. It would be good for as many people in the SRC to also attend this, so that we can properly plan the student side of the pickets.

Teachers strike

The fact that public school teachers have organised another strike for Wednesday May 4 is fantastic. Only continued strikes by public sector workers can smash the public sector pay freeze and the resolve of the state government. We will be attending in support of teachers.

Climate strike

Many EAG members have been building for the climate strike alongside building student support for staff strikes. We commend these members and look forward to striking this Friday and highlighting the connection between the greenwashing University management includes in its branding, and the need to strike against them.

Nurses forum

The USyd Women's Collective and the Sydney University Nursing Society organised a forum with members of the Nurses and Midwives Association to speak to students last week about how student nurses can get involved in the union and the demands around ratios and pay of the NSWNMA. At the end of the forum we took a picture in solidarity with the strikes on USyd campus next week.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the report and covered its main points, highlighted that all the strikes, public sector, university and climate, are all connected and we should keep working towards building them.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the report and also spoke about the strikes and how people have been making a decision on supporting the strikes and most have chosen to support strikes. Also that the USU election needs to take a back seat to the strikes. Commended the efforts of the EAG and everyone involved.

Tiger Perkins ask what happens to casual staff who can't afford to miss work and if the strike fund will be available so that people can pay their rent without breaking the picket line.

Lia Perkins responded outlining that the NTEU is coordinating the strike fund plans and that there would be funds available with striking casuals getting priority, but she was not aware at this point how much was available.

Deaglan Godwin responded saying that if people are interested in donating that can do so via the NTEU store online, and there will be buckets for raising money at the pickets.

Lauren Lancaster encouraged everyone to donate if they can and to ask around to people, they know who would be in a position to donate.

Mikaela Pappou Echoed Lauren Lancaster's comments and called on people who can, to donate to the strike fund, especially if they can't contribute time to the picket lines.

Dashie Prasad also pushed that student's not attending would also help in people not having to break the picket line and that not attending class was just as important.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O2. Report of the Wom*n's Officers

Monica McNaught-Lee tabled a written report

Our main focus the past few weeks has been on planning and building for the Nursing Power forum we co-hosted with the Sydney Uni Nursing Society on Wednesday the 27th of April. Health sector and other students heard from a current Western Sydney mental health nurse, a former Nurse Educator who is now a research RN and the Public Health Organising manager of the NSWNMA. The panel covered issues such as the importance of union activism, the dire work conditions faced by nurses and midwives, and how we can fight for a better healthcare system (for both patients and staff). In the context of upcoming strikes at our own university and in the public school system, the forum was a great way for students to learn from current healthcare workers and understand the power of industrial action.

In the final third of the semester, we will continue to hold weekly meetings, host reading groups, and several other one-off events. We are currently in the process of organising a Responding With Compassion workshop held by Full Stop Australia for members of the collective to attend. The training will also be open to all other students. We must remember that the action of disclosing an incidence of assault or harassment (whether this is in the context of a family/social group, the workplace, or an academic setting) has the potential to incur additional trauma depending on the response. We hope that by organising this workshop, students will be able to take this training into their personal lives so they can better support anyone who decides to disclose trauma to them.

With the success of our Nursing Power forum, we hope to put on similar panels about union power for students in other areas of study. First up we will be planning a forum for education students!

Last, but not least, love and thank you to Maddie for all she's done as WoCo convener and Women's Officer this year and a big, ginormous welcome to Dashie who will be taking over!

Discussion:

Monica McNaught Lee, noted that some of the report is a little bit outdated so while we were doing that responding with compassion training for the collective and a non-autonomous one the USU are not running that which is great. Continued to cover the main points of the report and thanked Maddie for her work and excited to work with Dashie Prasad.

Lauren Lancaster there is more training available to all SRC OB and members, go to the SRC Facebook page for more details, there are also a number of other training available.

Dashie Prasad noted that T-shirts have been make for the strike as well.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

03. Report of the Welfare Officers

First, the Welfare OBs want to voice our support of the staff strikes on March 11th and 12th. All of the work that the SRC, the Welfare Officers and Welfare Action Group do to advocate for improving student welfare is contingent on the improvement of staff conditions. Understaffing, insecurity of casual workers and other poor conditions for staff are detrimental to both staff and student welfare, particularly because poor staff conditions so often affect the University's student services. The Welfare OBs and Welfare Action Group stand in solidarity with staff and will be supporting the strikes as much as possible. We call on all students to comply with the strikes and support striking staff however they can.

We also want to express solidarity towards DisCo and disability advocates on campus more broadly, in their fight for a Disability Room on campus. Pursuant to the recent article in Honi, it is unacceptable that this fight has gone on for so long, and the USU and University have not prioritised disabled students' calls for their need for a disability room. We note that there are many barriers to disabled accessibility both on the physical campus and in the operation of the University more generally. Disabled students who face these barriers daily deserve an autonomous space to gather, organise and simply exist in a more accessible campus space.

We also oppose the new ruling requiring international students to seek ministerial approval to change their University courses — yet another attack on the welfare of International Students. International students already face masses of unnecessary government measures and bureaucracy, particularly in the wake of the pandemic. This government measure, along with many others, demonstrates the level of racism and xenophobia directed towards international students. We stand with international students in any action they take against these measures. It is crucial that the Government and the University prioritise international students' welfare, and oppose measures such as these which subject them to convoluted bureaucratic processes, and impose on them unfair barriers to flexibility and autonomy in their academic lives.

Meetings for the Welfare Action Group (WAG) are running fortnightly, and we urge all students who are interested in improving student welfare to get involved and contribute to momentum building in the space. Current issues we have been working on addressing include COVID attendance and the new DC system (which came up in our motions at the last council). Furthermore, we have been working on advocating for victims of the NSW floods, particularly in light of government inaction. WAG is also working towards creating more momentum on campus for action in support of refugee rights, particularly in the leadup to the Federal Election in which many parties are promoting policies attacking the welfare of refugees. In the absence of a dedicated Refugee Rights action group (the creation of which we would very much support), WAG wants to prioritise action for refugee rights, in collaboration with the other collectives.

In conclusion: Come to WAG meetings!

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The cost of living for people in Australia and around the world continues to rise. Wage increases are nowhere close to matching inflation. In these conditions, the claims for better pay of public sector workers, who are currently in enterprise bargaining periods, are particularly important. The NTEU recently increased their pay claim across the country from 12 to 15% over the next bargaining period - though even this won't keep wages in line with inflation at the current rate. Aside from the helping to build the NTEU and EAG campaign and showing solidarity with recent strikes by teachers and nurses, I've been involved in the campaign against the transphobia of Liberal Party politician Katherine Deves. Her bigoted comments, and the defence of these by the most conservative sections of the party, have been met with protest by Community Action for Rainbow Rights.

- Yasmine

Discussion:

Grace Wellman spoke to her report reading out its main points and called for everyone to come along to the welfare action group

Yasmine spoke to her report covering the main points and spoke about the importance going out to strike and that the demands won impact beyond the university to other unis and also other industries. Emphasising that everyone should be getting involved in building the strike.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

04. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers

Last month, we have finished the creation of SRC official account on multi-cultural social platforms and we also finished the marketing plan of SRC including words and photos for this month. Everything is on the way, and we will keep moving to the next step. The details about this plan will be further negotiated with the help under the president and caseworkers. For example, marketing materials, translation and compliance.

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This month the protests in Sri Lanka continued with a general strike called by hundreds of trade unions demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his government. Schools and businesses were closed, public and private transportation interrupted and banks partially shut in support of the one-day strike. This is occurring as a response to the economic and political crisis which led to the whole cabinet resigning except the president and prime minister in early April. Sri Lanka is currently racing its worst economic crisis since independence from the British rule in 1948. The shortages of dollars to purchase fuel, gas and medicines have resulted in high inflation and long queues outside stores and fuel stations. As a student union we should stand in solidarity with the protests and keep up with the events happening in Sri Lanka.

I have been building for two important rallies are coming up in the next few weeks, the Tamil genocide rally on May 8th and Al Nakba on the 15th. Students should commit to joining these protests to stand against the oppressive regimes in Sri Lanka and Israel, who are actively engaging in the dispossession and genocide of the Tamil and Palestinian people. We should also stand with the active resistance of the Tamils and Palestinians in their fight against the regimes and for their land back.

Jasmine Al-Rawi

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to her report and spoke about the importance of strikes in Sri Lanka and supporting them, as well as the strikes at USyd and also asked everyone to attend the upcoming rallies.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Felix Wood

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O5. Report of the Environment Officers

The last month for the Environment Collective has been as busy as ever. Following the March 25 Global Climate Strike that saw students march from USYD to UTS to central and then board the train on our way to Kirribilli House, the Enviro Collective has organised and run a number of contingents as well as collaboration events. We held a successful reading group with the Autonomous Collective Against Racism (ACAR), reading from Chapter 15 of Anna Tsing's brilliant book *The Mushroom at the End of the World* with plans to read a second chapter postponed for

the coming weeks. Alongside the USU we ran a number of forums for the USU's Enviro Week on the topics of what the law can do about climate change and how environmental activism can effect change. We also sent a contingent in solidarity with Gomeroi people fighting for Native Title rights of which Santos are trying to extinguish in order to build gas wells on Gomeroi land in the Pilliga. More to come on the outcome of this case.

As we come out of the mid-sem break and ease back into uni again, the enviro collective has hit the ground running with the upcoming month of mayhem (haha get it). With May Day this past Sunday, primary and secondary teacher's strike this morning, the upcoming climate strike (woo!) this Friday and the NTEU staff strikes on May 11-12, we've certainly had our work cut out for us! May Day – International Worker's Day – was, as always, a great celebration of the power of trade unions and the labour movement. We sent a student contingent consisting of USyd, UTS and UNSW enviro collectives, USyd WoCo, UNSW Ed and Uni Students for Climate Justice to stand in solidarity with workers and their ongoing plight to kick Scott Morrison from office.

On May 6 we have the Election Climate Strike to look forward to. Like the last strike, USyd Enviro will be meeting outside Fisher Library at 10:15, from which we will have some speeches from Enviro and NTEU members until around 10:45. From there, we will march to UTS Tower to join the broader uni student contingent and then on to Town Hall for mid-day! This strike will see students and workers striking primarily to demand the liberals be kicked out, in addition to a few other important demands, including restoring the right to protest in light of the egregiously misplaced RCLA Bill (2022). Following that we will be busy building student support and solidarity with the NTEU Staff Strikes and Pickets on May 11-12.

In sum: don't be a scab! Join the picket!

Discussion:

Angus Dermody spoke to the upcoming climate strikes and the staff strikes and encouraged everyone to attend both.

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

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Alana Ramshaw

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

O6. Report of the Social Justice Officers

A verbal report was given by the Social Justice Officer Simon Upitis

- Outlined where the picket lines would be next week,
 - o Eastern Avenue,
 - o Ross Street
 - o Carillon Avenue
 - o Law School entrance
 - o And some roving

- Noted that it would be great to get an idea of where people would be so we can have a strong force out
- Would pass around a spread sheet to get an idea of where people would be if they could fill it out.

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins asked if people are able to block main entrances to building or just general areas?

Simon Upitis said that it would mostly just be at the main pickets but there may be some roving like in 2013.

There was general discussion about where the pickets would be and their distribution.

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

Motion: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

P. Special Business

There were no items of special business.

Q. Motions of Notice

Q1. Q1. Due Diligence Motion

Preamble:

It is believed by several councillors that there is not an adequate process by which motions passed here are checked by student demographics which they are likely to impact. One example below is from the first SRC meeting and highlights issues that would have been raised if there was a more stringent process for constructing motions.

In February 2022, a motion was passed to change the terminology of Lunar New Year to Chinese New Year, done by a group of students who believe that the change from 'Chinese' to 'Lunar' alienates the Chinese student community and the Chinese community at large.

However, this is factually incorrect.

The Chinese Government and the Chinese Embassy has used the phrase Lunar New Year within the 2022 Lunar New Year Message. (See: http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/zqyw/202201/t20220129_10636771.htm)

The Hong Kong Government and Chief Executive Carrie Lam has also used the phrase Lunar New Year in its 2022 Lunar New Year message too. (See: <https://www.info.gov.hk/qia/general/202201/31/P2022013100281.htm>)

Many influential bilateral organisations in Australia, such as the Australia China Business Council, also uses Lunar New Year for its events. (See: <https://acbc.com.au/event/acbc-vic-lunar-new-year-celebration-2022/>)

Additionally, whilst Lunar New Year has originated in China, the festival has grown far bigger and more influential in the past centuries, with it already celebrated in many South-East Asian nations under many different names and with many different cultural traditions.

Given the terminology of Lunar New Year is one that is more inclusive of the different cultures, whilst also respecting the origins of the festival in the lunar calendar, the University of Sydney SRC should look to the previous motion conflating Lunar New Year (which is inclusive of all Southeast Asian festivals and their different cultural traditions on the same date) with Chinese New Year (which represents solely the festival celebrated by the Chinese-speaking population without consideration of other cultures) as a suboptimal motion likely lacking due diligence. While Chinese students were likely consulted, they are not the only group that needed to be consulted.

Going forward, if this type of motion were to be constructed, examples of groups that could be consulted include ACAR, VSA and other ethnocultural collectives or societies. As student representatives who seek to act in the best interest of the student body, the least we can do is consult with them before we start writing our motions.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC seeks to construct motions whose wording does not alienate student demographics.
2. The USYD SRC encourages a process of including autonomous collectives and societies in the construction of motions to best adhere to platform point 1.

Action

1. Proposers of motions (either on notice, or to the floor), are encouraged when speaking to their motion proof or assurance of a good faith effort to consult with specific collectives or student leaders from the demographics they believe to be impacted by a motion if it were to pass. Importantly, this contact need not result in any meaningful change from the original motion. This simply keeps with the SRC's policy of a careful construction of motions and allows other SRC councillors who are not as well versed on the issue to better decide if sufficient research has been done by those proposing the motion. Additionally, it better represents students and further encourages greater participation from the student body.

Discussion:

Michael Grenier spoke to his motion on why there needs to be more consultation before motions were put and voted on to ensure everyone was aware of the different view of those affected by a

motion. Adding that most motions already did this and that this was not to say that anyone was compelled to make changes based on that consultation, but it was so they were better informed.

Yasmine Johnson spoke against the motion and about the motion's action points and platform saying that the first platform point prevents people putting forward politically controversial motions, and motions like this shut down these motions by saying they've not been properly consulted. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't talk to different groups on campus but political motions will inherently alienate some about that doesn't mean we don't have these discussions or put forward these motions.

Alana Ramshaw spoke against the motion saying that the platform didn't say anything and the motion was meaningless.

Moved: Michael Grenier

Seconded: Victor Ruifeng Liang

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

Q2. Motion in support of the establishment of an Autonomous Disabilities Space on Campus

The University of Sydney is the only university in the Group of Eight that lacks a dedicated space for disabled students. The University's failure to prioritise the creation of an autonomous disabilities space is strongly emblematic of its greater trend of failing to meaningfully care about and consult with disabled students, resorting repeatedly to tokenistic displays of support. The University's complacency in relation to the creation of a space, as well as the many other accessibility issues it has not addressed constitute an abrogation of its obligation to ensure disabled' students human right to education under Article 24 of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The background to activists' attempts to secure a dedicated disability space was recently addressed in an Honi Soit article by Khanh Tran. The fight for a disability space has been ongoing since 2017, with many generations of SRC Disabilities Officers expending time and effort into advocating for the establishment of a room. Despite superficial statements of support for a disability space, proposals for establishing one have been passed around the USU and University for years with ultimately little progress. For example, it is revealing of the USU's consistent complacency towards the disability issues repeatedly raised by disabled students on campus that a proposal to put a disabilities room in the old Queerspace was denied to accommodate storage space for chairs. A joint SSAF application between SRC, SUPRA and USU for the creation of a space has been in limbo since it was made in June 2021.

An autonomous disabilities space is a crucial step towards creating a culture of disability on campus. For disabled students, navigating the University can be extremely challenging in the context of the many aspects of campus which are not accessible. This can look like the inaccessibility of the campus physically. However, the lack of accessibility on campus is much further reaching. For example in the University's lack of sensory-friendly spaces, the near-

universal experience of casual ableism, and the difficulties disabled students disproportionately experience when navigating bureaucratic university support systems.

The inaccessible nature of the broader university makes it crucial that a dedicated disability space exists. These rooms serve as a respite of accessible space for students who have to navigate an inaccessible University on a day-to-day basis. Navigating University as a disabled student can be frustrating, alienating and exhausting, and disabled students need a place to rest if they want or need to. A disability room would also serve as a social meeting space for disabled students, and an accessible organising space for DisCo and disability activism on campus more broadly. The existence of the other autonomous spaces on campus as well as disability rooms at Universities around Australia serve as strong precedent for the creation of an autonomous space centred around disability. Given the large, and often underestimated number of disabled students in the University community, it is crucial that such a space exists to address how inhospitable the rest of campus can be to so many students.

The SRC must stand in solidarity with disabled students and act to support the creation of a disabilities room. We demand that the University accept the joint application for funding of a disabilities space, and place the creation of the space as a top priority for implementation as soon as possible. We urge the University to prioritise consultation with disabled students throughout the process of creating the space, and more broadly listen to and prioritise disabled students' needs to a much greater extent.

Discussion:

Lauren Lancaster resigned the Chair to Alana Ramshaw

Grace Wallman spoke to her motion covering its main points and the failure of the university of Sydney, and the importance of having a disabilities space at the university for students. Mentioning the drain and exhaustion faced by students who have to fight for recognition in an ableist world, and making this space should be a top priority of the university right now.

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion and read out a statement from Disabilities Officer Sarah Korte on the motion:

"The fight for a disability space on campus has been an over 5 year long campaign. What we are asking for is a basic access need that is afforded to thousands of other disabled students across Australia. We need somewhere to meet basic access needs such as rest, taking medication in private or storing heavy books or equipment. These are basic access needs that are currently not afforded to us and make coming to campus a much more difficult and stressful experience than it needs to be. Just as importantly we need to have a space to meet other disabled students. Community is an incredibly important thing when navigating disability. Isolation is a huge problem for disabled students and this space would go a long way to help combat it. The disability officers and others that have been fighting for this space for years are tired. We should not have to be fighting this hard to meet a basic access need. I urge the SRC to support our fight and demand that the university do the bare minimum to support disabled students on campus."

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and about bringing it up in meetings with the University and the USU. Adding that the Uni is letting down students, and disabled students in a number of ways and the lack of this space is just the tip of the iceberg.

Moved: Grace Wallman

Seconded: Lia Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lauren Lancaster resumed the Chair

Q3. Motion on Remote Learning for 2022 Semester 2

Preamble

It is concerning that the university has provided no concrete information and no effort to communicate on whether remote learning will be an option for students in Semester 2 2022. While we are seeing a return to normalcy and push to return to in-person learning here in Australia, this fortune may not be extended to a sizeable cohort of USYD students still overseas who might not be able to return to Australia for Semester 2 2022.

Furthermore, current remote students have expressed that they felt that the university has not communicated adequately whether continued remote learning is an option and their disappointment that the university has not already made this decision. Inaction on the part of the university sets students who are currently overseas at a disadvantage by not providing them adequate time to make preparations to return to / enter Australia if possible.

Platform

1. The USYD SRC urges the university to arrive at a decision regarding the possibility of remote learning for 2022 Semester 2 promptly
2. The USYD SRC urges the university to support continued remote learning for 2022 Semester 2 so as to not disadvantage students who may not be able to return to Australia

Action

1. The USYD SRC will disseminate a survey to the student body to gauge the opinion of current and prospective students on whether it is possible for them to attend in-person classes in 2022 Semester 2 or are willing to attend in-person classes in 2022 Semester 2
2. The USYD SRC will communicate these demands and the results of the survey to the University administration
3. The USYD SRC will publish these demands on social media

Discussion:

Michael Grenier spoke to the motion covering its main points and saying it is a straightforward and self-explanatory motion and there is support for it with from international students and sees no reason not to support it.

Lauren Lancaster passed the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lauren Lancaster spoke about the University's plans, and said the uni would be making an announcement very soon about their decision on remote learning, I've requested they don't burry it in one of their overly long emails but make clear what it is about and promote it on their social media so people get the message. Adding that this motion is not very necessary, and does not

Simon Uptis spoke against the motion saying that the university doesn't care about students or online learning conditions as demonstrated in the past. Adding that they disagree with the premise that the role of the SRC is to be a part of university management's data collection. The SRC shouldn't meet with management, should have lunch with them, or email them. The SRC should block them out at all opportunities.

Victor Zhang spoke to the motion saying that the University has been making important decisions at the last minute and this is a concern for students who do not know yet if online learning will be offered, making it difficult for them to plan their year. The covid situation across the world is different and those changes need planning. Gauging the opinions of current and prospective students about their desires around online learning would be beneficial.

Peter Gu spoke against the motion not saying it was not because they don't care about international students but because they do care and that many international students are against remote learning because they are poor learning conditions. Adding that YouTube can offer better information than what the university has been offering with online learning. Concluding with that the University's management is right win and compromised trying to push through job cute and deliver worse learning outcome for students, and that we should not be giving the University's management any more any data, we should be striking and fighting back.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Michael Grenier

The motion was put and **FAILED**

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 2 minutes

Moved: Lauren Lancaster

Seconded: Mikaela Pappou

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

Q4. Motion in support of the May 6th Climate Strike

Preamble:

School Strike 4 Climate have called a second climate strike for this Friday, the 6th of May. The USyd Enviro Collective will be participating in this strike, meeting at 10:15 outside Fisher Library for speeches and chants, before descending on UTS Tower with the broader student contingent at 11, and then on to Town Hall to join the actual strike for 12. This strike, dubbed by SS4C as the 'Election Strike' will largely revolve around kicking Scott Morrison and the Liberal Party from office, but it is equally as important to recognise and consider the implications of a government under the ALP, who have recklessly shown time and time again not to care all too much about

fighting for true environmental justice. With the Morrison government's repeated attacks on Indigenous Native Title Rights and decimation of Indigenous land through its continued expansion of the so-called 'Gas-Fired Recovery', it can be difficult to perceive of an ALP government being anywhere near as bad as the last nine years under the LNP. However, with the ALP throwing support behind the opening of new coal ventures and committing to an increasingly weak 2030 emissions target, all in the name of securing blue-collar votes, it becomes more and more critical that we fight just as hard under an Albanese government as we have under Morrison.

The way to do this is through militant collective action and strikes such as that happening on Friday. The USyd Enviro Collective and the broader uni student contingent (including UTS Enviro, UNSW Enviro, and the NUS) have set the following demands:

1. First Nations justice. No mining or fracking on Indigenous lands.
2. Shut down the fossil fuel industry. No to Morrison's gas-fired recovery.
3. 100% publicly owned renewable energy now!
4. Support communities: a just transition to green jobs and funding for fires and essential workers.
5. Restore the Right to Protest (as aforementioned)

In the wake of the passing of the Roads and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill (2022) by the LNP and ALP, the ALP (and LNP, but that's not much of a surprise) have shown that they will not hesitate to pass anti-labour, anti-strike laws which directly impact our right to strike, to collectively enact change beyond traditional and oftentimes restrictive parliamentary channels. For climate strikers, the RCLA Bill means that school strikers may no longer legally be able to take climate action and if so, only with prior approval by the state, along a state-sanctioned route, at an agreed-upon time, for an agreed-upon length of time. This is why we are demanding the restoration of our right to protest.

The success of May Day this past Sunday is yet another reminder of the importance of worker and union solidarity in the plight for environmental justice, and provides all the more reason for demanding a just transition to green jobs, and publicly owned renewables. The Electrical Trades Union's decision not to work on Santos' shameful Narrabri Gas Project is a prime example of the intersection between workers and unions and the climate movement. It is only through solidarity with workers and their struggles that the climate movement can really achieve the mass mobilisation it so desperately needs to achieve its ends, which include the demands set for this 'Election' strike. Jobs and protecting the climate are not, as both major parties seem to believe, inextricably opposed. Ironically, the opening of new coal and gas projects, soon to become completely obsolete, offers absolutely nothing but short-term precarious work which will eventually leave workers jobless and unskilled. The only way to truly support workers and the jobs both parties seem so hellbent on creating is to listen to workers and their unions, stand in solidarity with them, and demand a just transition to renewable energy.

This coming Friday will be another step towards rebuilding the climate movement to the epic proportions it had pre-pandemic. The way to win the demands of workers, students, the downtrodden and the oppressed is through mass mobilisation and striking until we win. With this past May Day, the teacher's strike this morning and the many others which have happened this year, we have seen the historic utility of withdrawing labour. This climate strike will prove just as

useful as all before it in a collective expression of indignation at the state's ongoing inaction on climate change.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC supports the May 6th Climate Strike and endorse its demands, particularly those set by the USyd Enviro Collective.
2. The USyd SRC endorses the official climate strike called by SS4C.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC promote and share any material provided by the Enviro Collective or other relevant activist groups in relation to the upcoming strike.

Discussion:

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion covering its main points and speaking about the mayday march and the importance of protest in fighting for change and solidarity between workers and the climate movement.

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion and noted that large climate strike actions build support for strike and protest actions in other areas and push back against anti-protest laws.

Ben Jorgensen spoke against the motion saying that climate change is a pressing issue that the Morrison government is taking seriously and is making changes which will see net 0 by 2050 and meeting the Paris agreement targets with a 30% reduction. Continues on the policies of the Morrison government and predictions of technological changes.

Ishbel Dunsmore responded directly to Ben Jorgensen's comment saying "that was bull shit and you know it"

Aaron Douglass spoke to the motion saying the none of the major parties or the greens will take action on this, so it need to be direct action that creates the changes we need. Adding that independents running supposedly on climate change action are also going to do nothing, there is no way to fight for action on climate change electorally, it needs to be done by direct action.

Ella Haid spoke about the motion and pushing to return to the climate movement in 2019, and the issue with electoral-ism in the environment movement.

Henri Collyer spoke about the motion but also that electoral-ism has its place and it's important to note that we need to have people who will listen in government and while Labor may only care a little bit, they will listen to us a little more, and that every tool needs to be used to fight climate change.

Owen Marsden-Readford disagreed with the past statement and adding that Labor in Queensland has support the fossil fuel industry and created anti-protest laws to prevent direct action. Saying that the comment on blue collar workers seemed to be an attack on workers to alleviate blame from the Labor party's poor performance in the 2019 elections, or was it to point out the hypocrisy?

There was some confusion around the question.

Tiger responded saying that workers shouldn't have to choose between work and the climate there should be greens job transition.

Oscar Chaffey about electoral-ism and its importance quoting an article from Red Flag about supporting Victorian Socialists, and then spoke about the greens policies around climate change. Adding that surely as no one is offering a perfect policy you still support and push for the best one.

Rose Donnelley spoke to the motion and spoke about the importance of striking and lobbying, and that we need to move to a just transition to greener jobs.

Yasmine Johnson spoke about the motion and how this relies of the greens effectively pushing change, but they've not done that in the past and can't be relied on to do that in the future. Talking about how the Greens are pushing making change from parliament but do not always support movement on the streets and pushing against social community action in favour of parliamentary change.

Grace Lagan spoke to the motion saying that while she liked the comments of socialist alternative, and that no major party has good or even adequate change policies, but there is only 17 days left till the election and there is only a small amount of time to push this urgent issue electorally.

Oscar Chaffey spoke again about Victorian Socialists, read from red flag and about the greens.

Deaglan Godwin spoke about Oscar Chaffey's comments, in a factitious manner. Deaglan asked people to actually listen to what Yasmine Johnson actually said about how parliamentary changes compared to community action.

Moved: Ishbel Dunsmore

Seconded: Tiger Perkins

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q5. Motion on fossil fuel investments in the USU and USYD portfolios

A recent Government Information Public Access (GIPA) request by Honi Soit into USYD's investment portfolio led to an article titled 'A masterclass in greenwashing by the University of Sydney.' As outlined in the article, USYD has an investment portfolio exceeding \$3.4b and the USU invests just over \$4m, money from both of which goes to fossil fuels.

With regards to the broader USYD investments, money goes to Santos, Caltex, Whitehaven Coal, BHP, Woodside Petroleum, Rio Tinto and a whole array of other fossil fuel investments. Honi were able to access only just over half of the investments, of which most are in externally managed private funds that obscure their holdings. Although allegedly no longer directly investing in fossil fuels, the fact remains that USYD's money ends up financing the fossil fuel companies that are destroying our planet.

The USU has made attempts to reduce waste and increase sustainability, with CEO Andrew Mills banning clubs and societies from using stickers, trialling edible plates and recently holding Enviro Week. However the USU also invests in fossil fuels through the Australian Foundation Investment Company (AFIC), to which 60% of their money goes. 11.7% of AFIC's money is invested in just three companies - BHP, Rio Tinto, Woodside. We question why stickers matter in light of this.

The time for USYD and the USU to divest was a long time ago, with activist groups like Fossil Free USYD and others putting it on the map over previous decades. We are sick and tired of fossil fuel investments funding the destruction of our planet. We are tired of investment committees, working groups and stalling. While it may not be inherently revolutionary to divest from fossil fuels, USYD must practice what it preaches with regards to sustainability and add momentum to the trend of university divestment.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC demands that the University of Sydney and the University of Sydney Union divest from all portfolios invested in fossil fuel companies such that not a single dollar goes to fossil fuels.
2. The USYD SRC demands that all USYD and USU investments are made publicly available and accessible to all students so that they may know where the money is going and what they are funding.
3. The USYD SRC demands that USYD and the USU do not invest in portfolios that do not make their holdings publicly available.

Action:

1. The USYD SRC will post and share this motion on social media
2. The USYD SRC President will email the USU President on behalf of the council informing them of the outcome of the motion and request that they divest
3. The USYD SRC will take a solidarity photo to be shared alongside the motion both on social media and as part of the email

Discussion:

Tiger Perkins spoke to the motion covering its main points and talking about Honi's investigation into the Uni's investments.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion speaking about the University's greenwashing and the action of the USU investing student funds into destroying the planet.

Lauren Lancaster passed the chair to Alana

Tom Williams spoke about the phrasing of the motion and how it doesn't get to the heart of the issue, which is there is no ethical investment, and this is about working with management and getting on the USU board rather than pushing for actual change.

Brandon Tate proposed an amendment.

To remove action point two in it entirety.

Brandon Tate also spoke to the amendment and that the campaign needed to be building and focused on fighting the university.

It was amenable to the movers

Mikaela Pappou spoke to the motion and spoke about the USU not being transparent or divesting from fossil fuels and that in the past groups, including her own faction, have failed to take action and that needs to be acknowledged. The supposed left wing board has continued to move in camera an not take action on these issues. Student organisations should be doing better.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and highlighted the lack of knowledge of the USU board and their lack of action. Pointed out that the SRC is the only transparent student organisation on campus and that student money should be in student hands.

Grace Lagan amendment re insert action point two and only include the USU President
“The USYD SRC President will email the USU President on behalf of the council informing them of the outcome of the motion and request that they divest”

It was amenable to the movers

Angus Dermody spoke to the motion and encouraged everyone to get involved in the climate movement, broadly as pushing for Usyd to divest from fossil fuels just give the Uni a chance to reshuffle their investment and give them green cover rather than take greater action on climate change.

Tiger Perkins wanted to clarify that they do not believe that divestment is the be all and end all, but it is a tool that can be used in conjunction of others. Adding that this wasn't about obscuring the issue, but about adding a little more. If you believe it doesn't make a difference, then it shouldn't be controversial.

Oscar Chaffey responded to Tom Williams comments saying they were glib. Oscar Chaffey also spoke about the USU elections quoting an Honi article about left wing candidates running for the USU and how it is important.

Eddie Stephenson responded to other comments and spoke about the issue with challenging corporate structures saying that there is little to nothing that can be done by left wing board directors in combatting such structures. Meetings with the USU and University management are not hostile they are focussed on turning profits and nothing more.

Moved: Tiger Perkins

Seconded: Ishbel Dunsmore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Lauren Lancaster resumed the chair

Q6. Hands off the Solomon Islands; no to build-up of imperialist tensions and military forces.

Preamble:

The announcement of a security deal between the Solomon Islands and China has pushed the Australia ruling class into a state of frenzy. Prime Minister Scott Morrison recently declared, “We won't be having Chinese military naval bases in our region on our doorstep” - calling it a “red line. Despite the deal not permitting the establishment of a military base, Morrison’s message is clear. This “red line” is a warning to China to back off from what is considered Australia’s exclusive sphere of influence. The Australian ruling class wishes to dominate its ‘backyard’ without rivalry.

This security agreement has opened up a new phase in the great power rivalry over the Pacific, one that heightens the existing imperial tensions and brings us closer to the prospect of war, misery and death in the Pacific for thousands of working class people. It’s a dangerous and concerning development. The agreement has and will be used as an argument for further bolstering Australian militarism and reinforcing its dominance in the region. Student unions must oppose the drive to war in the Indo-Pacific, especially the imperialism of our own ruling class.

The deal essentially reduces the Solomon Islands government’s reliance on Australia for domestic security and strengthens its relationship with China—a clear challenge to Australian and US dominance in the Pacific. It plays further into the build up of imperialist tensions between the US alliance and China.

The rhetoric used to justify Australia’s claim to the Solomon islands is entirely hypocritical. Australia repeatedly denounces China’s presence in the Pacific as threatening the sovereignty of smaller nations, yet the only sovereignty any country in the Pacific region can exercise is dictated by the rules of Australian imperialist interests. The Australian ruling class is the bully of the Pacific, not its benign protector. Under the Howard Government, Australia invaded the Solomon Islands in 2003 and through the RAMSI mission occupied it until 2017. Australia is also already building a new naval base on Manus Island, which lies off Papua New Guinea’s north coast.

When Australia and the US talk about being defenders of the “international rules-based order,” they are talking about the perpetuation of their own imperialist rule and economic domination over the world market. Calls for an ‘independent’ Australian foreign policy misses the point. Australia is not simply a lapdog for the United States, but instead the Australian ruling class benefits immensely from US power in Asia. Student unions need to oppose Australian imperialism full stop. The rhetoric that a Chinese presence on the Solomon Islands would physically threaten Australia is nonsense that only aims to justify further warmongering.

Both major parties are complicit in Australia’s bloody imperialism. Labor and Liberal are competing over who can be the strongest against China and a more competent manager of Australian imperialism. Defence minister Peter Dutton says “Australia must prepare for war” and Labor agrees. Labor’s shadow minister for foreign affairs, Penny Wong, labelled the China-Solomons treaty as Australia’s “worst foreign policy blunder in the Pacific since the end of World War Two”. Labor has pledged to train more security forces from Pacific nations and increase Australian maritime surveillance activities in the region. Neither party serves as an alternative to the ironfisted Australian foreign policy that has dominated the Pacific region for decades.

Every player in this deal including the Solomon island’s government is only servicing their own capitalist interests. The Solomon islands, Chinese and Australian working classes are those who

will suffer the most from the outbreak of war. There are no virtuous sides. The build-up of imperialist tensions and military forces must be strongly opposed.

Platform:

- The SRC condemns the stationing of all military forces in the Solomon islands.
- The SRC affirms its opposition to Australian imperialism and calls for the end of Australia's interference in the affairs of countries in the Asia Pacific.
- The SRC condemns the military escalation and the drive to war between the US- Australia alliance and China.
- The SRC reaffirms its opposition to imperialist wars and Australian nationalism.
- The SRC rejects the stance taken by both the Liberal and Labor party regarding the security agreement and the drive to war with China. Both major parties aim to serve Australian imperialism.
- The SRC calls for the disbanding of the AUKUS alliance and all Australian military agreements with other powers. All US military bases in Australia must be closed down.

Actions:

- The SRC will share this motion on its page.
- The SRC will not support any party that does not oppose the drive to war with China.

Discussion:

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion covering its main point and noting that no military should be based on the Solomon island as it just increases imperial tensions on all sides. Adding that Australia is no better than China or the US and is not the protector of the Pacific region. The arguments used to justify such behaviour are no different the arguments made by Putin to justify his ruthless invasion of Ukraine.

Owen Marden- Readford spoke to the motion and noted there should be a shift in tone from the last motion to this one. Highlighting the tension rise between the US alliance and China and an increased risk of war in the Pacific is a serious matter, and Australia intends to continue to push their own imperial interests on the Pacific.

Peter Gu spoke to the motion saying that increasing military budgets in any country only escalates tension, not lessens. Saying that this government is using fear of China to increase their own militarism, and this was not a defence of China and their human rights abuses. But the increase intentions are unnecessary the CCP army will not be in Sydney harbour tomorrow but that fear is being used to increate Australian militarism and what we should be pushing for instead is greater global solidarity.

Ben Jorgenson spoke against the motion saying that this motion is deceptive about what has been happening in the Solomon Islands recently, and that Australia works with pacific nation in a open and friendly dialogue with respect for each nation. To suggest that the Austlria ruling class are just looking out for themselves when Australia is the only one standing up for the sovereign rights and respecting the democracy in these nations. Adding that the Solomon Islands have confirmed that

Australia is the preferred security partner of the Solomon Islands and that the Solomon Islands will never be used for foreign military based.

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconder: Owen Marsden-Readford

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting took a break in line with the regulations for 15 minutes at 8:45pm.

Quorum count was called at 9:00pm

Meeting was quorate at 9:01

Meeting resumed at 9:01

Q7. Don't sellout staff- give managers the cold shoulder.

Strikes are battlegrounds in the class war. When they come around, you must pick a side – are you on the side of the workers, or the bosses?

Not crossing a picket is the most basic left-wing action you can take. The picket stays intact, the workplace remains shut down, and the strength of workers remains uneroded. It's a simple act of solidarity, and something that can be expected of anyone who vaguely cares for the advance of the working class against the bosses. For anyone *seriously* left wing, who sees the need to fight to win, it's far better to stand on the pickets, to join staff, to strengthen their efforts and encourage other students to do the same.

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

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

They don't do this simply because of ideology. They do this because they are the custodians of the corporate university, overseeing the university's profits and investments, and looking to see how to rationalise all aspects of the university in order to compete against rivals. The profit motive and competition mean that they can't simply be talked out of cuts.

In fact, when they're meeting directly with any students during this period, it's only to gain another weapon for their arsenal. Sitting down peacefully, even just to engage with them in a regular fashion, means throwing away any notion of solidarity.

Management will use all kinds of slimy tactics to undermine staff and these often include using students in their plans. Consultations, "open" meetings, feedback sessions and even direct promises will all be twisted into further attacks.

We must give a cold shoulder to their boardrooms and bring the heat on the ground. Meeting with management while strikes are on is far worse than crossing a picket.

Platform:

- The SRC commits to directly supporting the NTEU strikes this semester and next
- The SRC encourages students to attend the picket lines that will be formed
- The SRC stands wholeheartedly against university management's attacks on staff
- The SRC entirely refuses to undermine staff strikes by meeting with management during this period.

Actions

- No member of this SRC, any office bearer or the executive will meet with Belinda Hutchinson, Mark Scott, Annamarie Jagose, or any other senior executive for the remainder of this semester.
- No member of this SRC, any office bearer or the executive will attend any regular meeting that includes any of these figures, including but not limited to academic board meetings and student life consultations, this semester.

Discussion:

Tom Williams spoke to the motion and why management would like to meet with groups to charm you and to block action from actually taking place and that we need to instead stand with workers.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion and how management try to manipulate the conversation by saying that they want feedback when they don't. Adding that instead we need to be standing in solidarity and not let them white wash their actions by listening to management.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion and noted that those members of management never show up to meetings with us or about students and spoke to how she has platformed student solidarity with the strikes and is happy to follow through with the motion.

Moved: Tom Williams

Seconded: Deaglan Godwin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Q8. Commemorate Al-Nakba, Solidarity With Palestine

On May 15, 1948, apartheid in Israel was brutally established through the expulsion of 85% of the Palestinian population and the murder of 15 000 people. Palestinians were only given a few minutes warning, and to this day, families still have the keys to their stolen houses. This day is called Nakba day, meaning "catastrophe" in Arabic. Daily life for Palestinians since is one of repression, inequality and dispossession. 80% of the population of Gaza are dependent on humanitarian assistance to survive while Palestinians in the West Bank face evictions and arrests constantly.

The Israeli state's repression of the Palestinians has been increasing in the weeks up to Nakba. Last year, the Israeli police raided Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, which prompted fierce resistance

as Palestinians fought back, along with the movements against the Shiekh Jarrah evictions. This year is no different. In April, 158 Palestinians were injured when far-right settlers, backed up by police, raided Al Asqa mosque after Friday prayers. Palestinians fought back with sticks and stone and hastily-built barricades. This has been part of weeks of increasing attacks on the illegally occupied West Bank by Israeli forces, which has killed 25 Palestians, including a 14-year-old and a 17-year-old.

The Australian government is one of the biggest supporters of Israel, which is unsurprising considering the state's barbaric torture of refugees in mandatory detention. It is important to build a fighting, radical Palestine solidarity movement in Australia, as our government is complicit in Israel's genocide against Palestine. Last year, tens of thousands of protesters gathered in weeks of rolling demonstrations across Australia to support Palestine and commemorate the Nakba, joined by thousands around the world.

Palestine Action Group have called a Nakba solidarity demonstration for Sunday, May 15, at 1 P.M in Town Hall. Student activists should come, as Palestinians defiantly resist against their oppression every day, so we must show solidarity with their struggle.

Platform:

1. The USYD SRC condemns the Israeli police's attacks on Al-Aqsa mosque and against Palestinians in the West Bank.
2. The USYD SRC stands in solidarity with Palestinians, fighting back against daily repression and violence.
3. The USYD SRC endorses Palestine Action Group's Nakba solidarity demonstration on May 15.

Action:

1. The USYD SRC will help build for the Nakba protest by sharing the Facebook event on its page, printing posters and leaflets and encouraging councillors and office-bearers to attend.
2. The USYD SRC will publish the text of this motion on Facebook and will take a solidarity photo.

Discussion:

Sophie Haslam spoke to the motion and covered its main points mentioning the history of the Nakba and the importance of supporting Palestinians and their resistance to Israel's aggression.

Lydia Elias spoke to the motion saying that the dispossession of Palestinians is ongoing and has been seen again and again including this year.

Ben Jorgenson proposed an amendment to the action points to add:

'4. The USYD SRC stands against all acts of terrorism and violence against civilians.'

It was not amenable to the movers

The amendment was put as a foreshadowing motion

Moved: Ben Jorgenson

Seconded: Aileen Tan

The foreshadowing motion **LAPSED** as the original motion passed

Owen Marden-Readford spoke to the foreshadowing motion saying that these changes were not about condemning terrorism and violence but condemning people for resisting by suggesting that both sides are equally to blame. Adding that they stand fully with the Palestinians in their struggle against an apartheid state, in the face of great military oppression.

Michael Grenier spoke against the motion saying that while the SRC is withing its right to protest any government and their actions, specific parts of this motion were problematic and are antisemitic. The biggest concern is the support of the actions by Palestinians that triggered such an response from the Israeli police and specifically the actions at Al-Asqa. The and Jewish community are aware and will see these as an act of antisemitism. Explaining the mosque location and the act that lead up to the incident and how it has been misreported.

Ben Jorgenson spoke against the motion saying it was disappointed to see support of violence against civilians by Socialist Alternative, noting that the preamble misrepresents the reality of the Nakba and the story of the land of Israel and misconstrues the lead up to Al-Nakba. Saying that supporting this motion would lead to Jewish students being made to feel uncomfortable on campus.

Yasmine Johnson spoke to the motion opposing the idea that criticism of Israel is the same as antisemitism, and that support of the Palestinians in their fight for their rights is antisemitic and that needs to made clear. Concluding that we need to continue to stand by their side in resistance.

Gabi Stricker-Phelps spoke against the motion saying that this motion's rhetoric is extremely divisive, hateful and one sided and all the misinformation cannot be covered in the two minute speaking time available. Adding that she would be happy to talk more about how later if anyone was interested but that anyone making their mind up about the motion know this is a complicated issue and the binary terms used do not encapsulate the challenges of the issue, and this motion is antisemitic.

Lauren Lancaster resigned the chair to Alana Ramshaw

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion saying that as a Jewish student she never feels represented by AUJS because of their blatant Zionism and their affiliation to Zionist organisation and a lot of Jewish students feel the same. Concluding that she supports the Palestinians in their struggles.

Jacob Joshua Lerner spoke against the motion saying that having others explain what antisemitism is to him is racist, and that Lia's views were considered fringe views and that it was absurd to suggest you can speak on behalf of everyone as though the majority of Jewish people around the world wouldn't consider this antisemitic. Stated that he thought that idea that Israel was an apartheid state was ridiculous. Concluding that he doesn't care about this motion as it will simply be a part of the continue decline in relevance of the SRC.

Lauren Lancaster spoke to the motion saying that the SRC unequivocally stand with oppressed people around the world and refutes that this is antisemitic, and that there is no correlation between the positions people have taken on this issue in this council and the treatment of Jewish students on campus. The SRC is made up of representatives directly elected by the undergraduate student body, and over the years had fought against antisemitism through protests and fighting against the proliferation of fascist and Nazi materials on campus. Concluding that if you looked into the history of the SRCs you would see it has been a part of anti-racist organising of all sorts and will continue to do so by opposing the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people by the Israeli military

Owen Marsden-Readford spoke to the motion echoing Lauren Lancaster's statement and spoke about the long history of working with anti-Zionist Jewish people and organisations to stand in solidarity with Palestinians. Concluding that they oppose the apartheid states Palestinians are subjected to and stand against the oppression of all people and encouraged everyone to come out to the protest.

Michael Grenier proposed an amendment: to delete all mentions of Al-Asqa mosque incident of 2022.

It was not amenable to the movers.

moved as a foreshadowing motion

Moved: Michael Grenier

Seconded: Nathan Rogut

The foreshadowing motion LAPSED as the original motion passed

Moved: Sophie Haslam

Seconded: Lydia Elias

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Ben Jorgenson requested his vote be recorded as against.

Claudia Hopkins requested her vote be recorded as against.

Aileen Tan requested her vote be recorded as against.

Q9. The SRC endorses the NTEU strike and encourages all students who can to attend the pickets.

Preamble:

It should be impossible to miss the information about the important moment on campus next week: the strikes of USyd academic and professional staff who are members of the NTEU.

The NTEU is engaged in an enterprise bargaining round with management who have blatantly refused to discuss some of the union's important demands around pay and conditions. Staff are committed to maintain 40/40/20 teaching, research and administration models, ending forced redundancies, a pay rise and creating secure jobs for casual workers. When staff at the university have poor pay and conditions, it has a significant flow on effect to the quality of our education.

This SRC council has endorsed the strikes at previous council meetings, but it is important that we reaffirm our commitment to do whatever possible to build student support on campus. The corporate university does not serve students or staff.

The most important action that students can take on May 11 and 12 is to attend a picket instead of class. Attending class on the strike days reduces the effectiveness of the strike and is directly against the interests of staff and students.

Platform:

1. The USyd SRC supports the strikes and pickets in weeks 11 and 13.
2. As a student union, the USyd SRC represents the interests of students, and we believe that the corporate university as it currently operates is fundamentally harming our education, and that a strike is of the utmost importance to students.

Action:

1. The USyd SRC council commits to attending the pickets, and encourages all students to do the same (either digital or virtual).
2. The USyd SRC will shut down on all strike dates in week 11 and 13, and issue a press release about student support for the strikes.

Discussion:

Lia Perkins spoke to the motion covering its main points saying this has passed in exec already in part and wanted to bring it to the council to make it formal and make sure the council are in agreement.

Lauren Lancaster this has passed in the executive already and happy to do the same for the week 13 strike, adding that the executive will all be on the picket lines.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion commending the motion and saying that everyone should come to the picket lines and they need to be hard and militant and students need to push for that as staff often aren't as comfortable or face harder penalties if they do. These pickets are even more important considering the recent anti-protest laws passed in NSW parliament recently.

Moved: Lia Perkins

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

R. General Business

R1. #FuckSCOTUS: Defend Abortion Rights in the US

Preamble:

As revealed in a leaked draft, the American supreme court has provisionally voted to overturn Roe vs Wade, the landmark ruling that legalised abortion across America. If Roe vs Wade was

overturned more than half of US states will outlaw abortion. Almost 40 million women will likely lose the right to access abortion in their states.

The defeat of Roe would send shockwaves globally. It would be a defeat for women and workers not just in the US, but everywhere.

This bigoted attack does not represent majority opinion in the United States. A majority of Americans support upholding Roe v. Wade. The criminalisation of abortion is the project of the growing American far-right and the conservative movement.

Roe has long been in the firing lines of the far-right in America. Their growth in both numbers and the institutions of American capitalism is the context to this attack. Trumpian Christian conservatives hold a majority on the Supreme Court, hold the levers of the Republican party and run 28 states. They are leveraging this power not just to attack reproductive freedom but all of the oppressed - from the "Don't say gay bill" in Florida to attacks on voting rights across Republican states.

The bigotry of the Republicans cannot be defeated by looking to the other half of the US establishment. At any time, Biden could expand the Supreme Court or pass new laws. But he's refusing. Many Democrats, like Henry Cuellar have voted against abortion rights in the past. The Democratic Party cannot be depended upon to uphold abortion rights.

The Supreme Court itself is a undemocratic institution that exists to protect the interests of those in power in society. It is inherently conservative and is a flimsy safeguard for the rights of workers and the oppressed.

Roe vs Wade itself was won off the back of a massive women's rights movement that put reproductive rights front and center. A mass, militant campaign is needed. Student unions in Australia should stand in solidarity with the struggle for reproductive freedom and against the Trumpian right.

Platform:

- The SRC opposes the reactionary attempts to overturn Roe vs Wade in the United States.
- The SRC stands in solidarity with protests in America for abortion rights and against the Trumpian right.
- The SRC reaffirms its support for fully free, safe and on demand abortion.

Action Points:

- The SRC will publish this motion off its social media accounts.
- The SRC will support solidarity actions in Australia.

Discussion:

Eddie Stephenson spoke to the motion covering its main points and covering the situation in the United States, and the anti-democratic institution that the Supreme-Court is. Eddie spoke about the minority extreme right push to remove the right to abortion is not a popular position, but no one seems to want to speak out against the far right minority.

Ella Haid spoke to the motion highlighting the way Democrats have used this not to stand up for women's bodily autonomy but to try and get more votes at the mid-terms without offering anything concrete.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion about the history behind Roe v Wade and how it was connected to the radicalism born out of the anti-Vietnam-war movement, and other broad social movements.

Grace Iagan spoke to the motion and mentioned Emily Storey's comment in the online chat about trigger warnings being put on motions like this which can bring up traumatic experiences for people. Also talking about how those at the front of fighting for reproductive rights are often a part of the most marginalised groups and the most harmed by decisions like the Supreme Court one are made and highlighted the great work and the activism of people on these and associated issues on campus.

Annabel Petit spoke in support of the motion speaking about that this is not just about removing women's rights but also to all people and it becomes easier to see the removal of these things. Adding that this is a crisis and people need to fight back lest more happens and learn from how it was won in the first place.

Moved: Eddie Stephenson

Seconded: Ella Haid

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting closed at 10:08pm