



Arc @ UNSW limited
SRC MEETING MINUTES
Monday, 4 March 2024
Hybrid (SRC Meeting Room/TEAMS)
6:00 pm

Present: Michael Rahme, Paige Sedgwick, Danielle Moutopoulos, Rebecca Blundell, Lachlan McGrath, Brendan Tate, Elaine Pope, Gina Elias, Imandi Mudugamuwa, Geoffrey Zhen, Annikka Burge, Louis Pan, Kyan Aitken, Diya Sengupta, Shawn Yang

In attendance: Emma Terry, Josh Chen

Apologies: Rachel Skinner, Brydie Zorz, Sam Lewis, Cherish Kuehlmann, Pepsi Sharma, Timothy To, Shriya Shivakumar

Absent: Alexander Pye, Fraser Bytheway, Holly Walsh, Shreya Rao

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting opened at 6:14pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Completed by the SRC President.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from R. Skinner, B. Zorz, S. Lewis, C. Kuehlmann, P. Sharma, T. To, and S. Shivakumar.

RESOLUTION

THAT the apologies received from R. Skinner, B. Zorz, S. Lewis, C. Kuehlmann, P. Sharma, T. To, and S. Shivakumar are accepted.

CARRIED

1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure

N/A

1.4. Previous minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation: 2 October 2023

RESOLUTION

THAT the minutes from the SRC meeting held on 2 October 2023 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

1.4.2. Matters arising/ action list

The action list was noted.

1.5. Meeting administration

1.5.1. Trigger Warning Announcements

N/A

1.5.2. Safer Spaces Policy Reminder

The Safer Spaces Policy was read, and key expectations reiterated to attendees of the meeting.

1.5.3. Selection of meeting observer

G. Elias was appointed as meeting observer.

1.5.4. Items flagged for immediate discussion

N/A

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Appointment of Paddington Domestic Officer

The paper was taken as read.

RESOLUTION

THAT the appointment of Paddington Domestic Officer is carried.

CARRIED

2.2. The SRC Opposes the Age Limitations Recently Imposed on The SC485 Graduate Visa by The Australian Home Affairs and Immigration Minister

The paper was taken as read.

RESOLUTION

THAT the SRC Opposes the Age Limitations Recently Imposed on The SC485 Graduate Visa by The Australian Home Affairs and Immigration Minister.

CARRIED

2.3. UNSW SRC Condemns any actions of harassment and assault which occurred at the 2023 NUS National Conference

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- It is important that people are respectful during conferences at all times.
- The intention of the motion is not to weaponise the Safer Spaces Policy and Student Code of Conduct, but to ensure that everyone feels safe.

Against the motion:

- The Safer Spaces Policy is weaponised to silence left-wing people and quash healthy political disagreements.

RESOLUTION

THAT the SRC UNSW SRC Condemns any actions of harassment and assault which occurred at the 2023 NUS National Conference.

CARRIED

2.4. UNSW SRC Supports NUS END STUDENT POVERTY CAMPAIGN

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- It is well within the SRC's scope and ability to support the campaign.
- While there has been an increase in the amount of Centrelink payment students receive, it is insufficient. This campaign will help and empower students to fight for their rights.
- The campaign is suitable for those who are financially struggling and do not want to participate in activism.
- SRC members were advised to contact the Welfare Officer if interested in getting involved with the April Action Week for the campaign.

Against the motion:

- Student poverty campaigns are generally timid lobbying campaigns, which help the Government display a facade that they are supporting students. In reality, the Government is not helping students through the severe cost of living and rental crisis.

- The SRC should take an activist approach, and demanding outcomes from the Government. Raising an awareness of the issue is not enough, as the Government has been refusing to commit to real change.

It was noted that there is a petition included in the plan to support the campaign.

RESOLUTION

THAT UNSW SRC Supports NUS END STUDENT POVERTY CAMPAIGN.

CARRIED

2.5. UNSW SRC commits to continuing to fight for free menstrual products on campus

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- Period products are essential items, and it is difficult for students to otherwise purchase menstrual products on campus.
- The free menstrual products trial which started in 2023, has been extended to 2024. There has been much feedback received from the period products survey, and to extend the initiative, more student feedback will be sought.
- The initiative helps tackle the cost of living crisis on-campus.
- This campaign is an important, affordable and tangible way for the SRC to make a difference to student lives.
- There is no particular cost to the SRC in endorsing this campaign. It was noted that this issue is also not the sole issue that the Women's Collective is focusing on for 2024.
- SRC members who wish to become involved with the initiative were advised to contact the Women's Officer, General Secretary or SRC President.

Against the motion:

- Noting that the program is in its trial phase, the SRC should raise bigger demands than purely free menstrual products.
- History has shown that only the approach of fighting for demands will change women's rights.
- Key and real issues that are troubling women such as the gender pay gap and poverty are not being addressed in this motion.

RESOLUTION

THAT UNSW SRC commits to continuing to fight for free menstrual products on campus.

CARRIED

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1. Australian Universities Accord report recommends sweeping changes to tertiary education

The paper was taken as read.

Discussions:

- The Accord is setup to align universities with business and is only benefiting management. The Accord does not benefit students.
- No clear demands are mentioned within the Accord.
- The SRC was engaged with the process of building the Accord in 2023, where submissions were taken from individual members of the Council. It is important to note that the SRC's voice was heard within the process, and that the Accord has been built based on inputs from the SRC.
- The next step should not be to disregard the entire Accord, but rather to push for improvement. The SRC needs to stay engaged in the process and ensure that statistics and numbers are included in the Accord, which should accurately reflect student needs.

- The recommendations within the Accord do not align with student wants. There is no concrete way that the Accord is helping students. Hence, the SRC should instead oppose the Accord and fight the Government.
- The SRC President advised members to consider ideas for improvement of the Accord, noting that they may be taken to the next SRC meeting as a matter for decision.

4. Office Bearer Reports

4.1. President

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- The President has been supporting the Women's Officer and General Secretary in building the free menstrual products program.
- The President has been working with the Ethnocultural Officer in grievance reform.

4.2. General Secretary

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- O-Week has been a great success.
- The General Secretary is also working on a number of papers regarding changes she is advocating for, such as the structure of SRC expenditure forms and honoraria increase.

4.3. Education Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

The SRC should stand up for Palestine.

4.4. Environment Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- There is a pro-Palestine meeting every week, which the Environment Officer encouraged people to become involved in.
- The Environment Officer questioned the Ethnocultural Officer's unresponsiveness to messages. To which, the Ethnocultural Officer advised them to reach out to her via formal channels such as her SRC email if they are seeking any work-related collaboration.

4.5. Ethnocultural Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- The Ethnocultural Officer encouraged SRC members to contact her if there are any ideas or feedback in relation to grievance wellbeing.
- The Ethnocultural Officer was questioned for being absent for any Palestine related activist campaign. To which, the President raised that SRC meetings are not spaces for discussions of anyone's political beliefs and stances.
- The Ethnocultural Officer noted that there has been a large backlog email from students complaining about racism, and a high number of grievances, hence she seeks to focus and help student students alleviate racism and work on grievance reforms, as she sees the criticality of the issue on a day-to-day basis.

4.6. Indigenous Office Bearer

N/A

4.7. International Students Office Bearer

N/A

4.8. Queer Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

The Queer Officer advised SRC members, especially Councillors to reach out to them if they would like to become involved with the Queer Collective.

4.9. Welfare Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

The Welfare Officer is also seeking to grow the Welfare Collective as currently membership numbers are low.

4.10. Women's Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

4.11. Students with Disabilities Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- The Students with Disabilities Officers are seeking to establish a greater social media presence for the Collective.
- Contacts have been initiated with various disabilities organisations for collaboration.

4.12. Paddington Domestic Officer

N/A

4.13. Paddington International Officer

N/A

4.14. Paddington Representation Officer

The report was taken as read.

5. Councillor Reports

5.1. Louis Pan

The report was taken as read.

5.2. Brendan Tate

B. Tate encouraged SRC members to help build and attend Palestine activist events. There will be a Palestine rally on 15th March, which SRC members were encouraged to get involved in.

5.3. Rachel Skinner

The report was taken as read.

5.4. Elaine Pope

The report was taken as read.

E. Pope is also open assisting Collectives with work.

5.5. Kyan Aitken

N/A

5.6. Shreya Rao

N/A

5.7. Sam Lewis

N/A

5.8. Shawn Yang

S. Yang has been working to raise the awareness of SRC amongst medical students, and is seeking to build a joint advocacy program with MedSoc.

5.9. Lachlan Magrath

N/A

5.10. Fraser Bytheway

N/A

5.11. Holly Walsh

N/A

5.12. Shriya Shivakumar

N/A

6. Matters for Noting [discussed only on exception basis]

N/A

7. Meeting Finalisation

7.1. Meeting evaluation

It was great that the SRC was able to hold a discussion about the Accord, and people should also read the critiques of it. A downside of the meeting was that people used the excuse of “personal attacks” to avoid arguments and disagreements within the meeting, which sets a bad precedence. SRC members should be able to critique fellow members.

7.2. Next meeting date: 8 April 2024

7.3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 8:36pm.



SRC President Signature – Michael Rahme

Date: 15/05/2024