



Arc @ UNSW limited
DRAFT SRC MEETING MINUTES
Monday, 3 June 2024
Hybrid (SRC Meeting Room/TEAMS)
6:30 pm

Present: Michael Rahme, Paige Sedgwick, Danielle Moutopoulos, Rebecca Blundell, Elaine Pope, Gina Elias, Imandi Mudugamuwa, Annikka Burge, Louis Pan, Kyan Aitken, Pepsi Sharma, Shawn Yang (in-part), Cherish Kuehlmann, Brydie Zorz, Timothy To, Nishita Kishore, Sam Lewis

In attendance: Josh Chen, Luke (no surname recorded), Wangyel (no surname recorded)

Apologies: Rachel Skinner, Brendan Tate, Diya Sengupta, Edward Zhang, Lachlan McGrath, Geoffrey Zhen

Absent: Alexander Pye

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting opened at 6.33PM.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Completed by the SRC President.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from R. Skinner, B. Tate, D. Sengupta, E. Zhang, L. McGrath and G. Zhen.

RESOLUTION

THAT the apologies received from R. Skinner, B. Tate, D. Sengupta, E. Zhang, L. McGrath and G. Zhen are accepted.

CARRIED

1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure

N/A

1.4. Previous minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation: 8 April 2024

RESOLUTION

THAT the minutes from the SRC meeting held on 8 April 2024 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

Weapons Conflict and Middle East.

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

Pepsi was appointed as meeting observer.

Order was suspended with leave of the Council. The minutes reflect the meeting order.

1.5.4. Items flagged for immediate discussion

Item 2.4 was flagged for immediate discussion.

2.4. Representation from Noise at SRC – Amendment to Charter

- To maintain independent student journalism, allow representatives of Noise to attend SRC meetings.
- Representatives from Noise will require approval from the President to cover SRC meetings.
- Only members have access to the agenda.

RESOLUTION

The SRC recognises the editors of Noise as observers for all 2024 SRC Meetings.

CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Youth against Murdoch

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- Murdoch media has a large monopoly over news and a more unbiased approach is required.
- Motion should not be limited to the Murdoch media, other non-Murdoch media outlets such as ABC and Sydney Morning Herald should also be required to be responsible for unbiased views, i.e. Middle East conflict, Climate Change, migrant and refugee issues.

RESOLUTION

THAT the SRC recognises NewsCorp and Murdoch's influence over Australian politics. The SRC will consider a possible future collaboration with Youth Against Murdoch (YAM).

CARRIED

2.2. UNSW to divest from companies involved in manufacturing weaponry.

The paper was taken as read.

Trigger Warning: Members of the Council may leave this section of the meeting due to mentions of distressing language such as war.

The discussion was based on UNSW's divestment of companies such as Lockhart Martin, Boeing and BA who manufacture weaponry, UNSW is benefitting from the rapid increase in stock prices from these companies. Student fees should not be invested in these companies.

For the motion:

- Student fees should not be funding these companies and their impact on war zones. There is a global student movement arguing universities should divest from weapons companies.
- All students, including engineering students, are concerned and do not support investments in weapons and weaponry.
- UNSW's investments are not aligned to its motto.

Against the motion:

- It is too broad a motion.
- UNSW supports ADFA functions in Canberra. Students take jobs in these industries upon graduation and should not feel alienated by the SRC.

A question was posed regarding how much UNSW is affiliated with these companies, in stocks and managed funds and the logistical impact of UNSW changing managed funds.

ACTION

THAT the General Secretary will circulate the GIPA submission and response to the SRC.

RESOLUTION

THAT the SRC demands that UNSW divest from all weapons companies. The SRC will support an Education Collective's campaign to kick arms dealers off campus.

CARRIED

2.3. Labour's Budget for 2024

The paper was taken as read.

Funds within the Labour budget were allocated to a budget surplus, defence and fossil fuel companies at the expense of the cost-of-living crisis and house rent increases.

For the motion:

- Rental prices have risen by 8% and cost of living by 6%. Since March last year wages have been raised by 4% and students and low paid workers are most affected. The budget does not address housing crises solutions and managing debt and could be diverted from the surplus, defence and handouts for fossil fuel companies.
- Lower social economic groups would not benefit from this budget. Scandinavian countries were referenced as those with sustainable education policies, including imposing higher taxes on energy companies.

Against:

- Free education would limit the number of students gaining entry to University.

RESOLUTION

THAT the SRC opposes Labour's Budget for 2024.

CARRIED

2.5. SRC Recognises Reconciliation Week.

The paper was taken as read.

This is a week of reflection for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and is a 'coming together' of people post The Voice Referendum. The conversation is no longer in the media.

For the motion:

- More funding is required for Indigenous communities, especially due to food and housing prices.
- Indigenous issues have been swept aside after defeat of The Voice when it was supported by Indigenous groups. Money was removed from the budget for steps in support of the treaty process.
- The President asked what more the SRC and President can do so that Indigenous voices are heard and are supported.

RESOLUTION

SRC acknowledges Reconciliation Week and commits to the community education campaign.

CARRIED

3. Matters for Discussion

N/A

4. Office Bearer Reports

4.1. President

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- Question for President: Another student newspaper suggested that UNSW SRC was disaffiliated from NUS. The President responded in the negative. This conversation will be taken offline.

4.2. General Secretary

Points:

- The General Secretary is consulting for an upcoming motion regarding what other universities pay their office bearers and councillors. The General Secretary will bring the motion to the next SRC meeting.
- The budget of SRC has been reduced over the previous few years. The budget for SRC should be reviewed as well.

4.3. Education Officer

Points:

- The Education Officer has visited the Gaza camp at USYD. There was great support from other students. Rallies, forums and UNSW staff provided teachings on topical subjects.
- There is a rally in week 3 with regards for the demand for divestments at UNSW.

4.4. Environment Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- The Environment Officer asked the council members to attend the forum on Thursday which fits into the global movement to divest of unethical companies.
- A question was raised with regards to the motion on labour budget as it did not include the plight of international students. The budget has an aggressive approach to international student numbers, including caps on student numbers and tax on universities for the number of enrolled international students. The response was that time restraints prevented inclusion in the current motion however an amended motion will be brought to the next SRC meeting.

4.5. Ethnocultural Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

4.6. Indigenous Office Bearer

Points:

- The Indigenous Collective is arranging several NAIDOC events and recently attended pro-Palestine events in the CBD. The Indigenous Officer will have more to report at the next meeting.

4.7. International Students Office Bearer

N/A

4.8. Queer Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- A physical mental health resource has been created for distribution. All Office Bearers were invited to stock within their spaces and distribute.
- The Council was invited to attend a Trivia night with Pride and Science which includes free food.

4.9. Welfare Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- The Welfare Collective will push the 'Change the Age' campaign.
- A survey around welfare issues will be distributed via email channels and will include cost of living, mental health and exams. The Welfare Officer asked for input from the SRC members for additional questions.
- A health and wellbeing event is underway and will be confirmed at the Roundhouse later in T2. 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

Points:

- There is a plan for Disability Pride month. The Disabilities Officer is collaborating with the Women's Officer.
- The President will attend the Disability Pride month in July.

4.12. Paddington Domestic Officer

N/A

4.13. Paddington International Officer

The report was taken as read.

4.14. Paddington Representation Officer

The report was taken as read.

5. Councillor Reports

5.1. Louis Pan

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- Councillor is supporting the Welfare Officer with the welfare survey and PsychSoc collaboration.
- Last semester's EthnoCultural Collective launch was successful alongside a redecoration of the Welfare Room.

5.2. Brendan Tate

N/A

5.3. Rachel Skinner

The report was taken as read.

5.4. Elaine Pope

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

Currently helping the Welfare Collective with emails, timelines and upcoming event(s) while on teaching placement.

5.5. Kyan Aitken

N/A

5.6. Shreya Rao

N/A

5.7. Sam Lewis

N/A

5.8. Shawn Yang

N/A

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

The meeting was well-run.

7.2. Next meeting date: July 2024

7.3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The President asked SRC members to reach out to their lecturers and tutors and let them know what SRC does for feedback to inform the work of the SRC to advocate for students.



SRC President Signature – Michael Rahme

Date: 08/07/2024