



Arc @ UNSW limited
SRC MEETING AGENDA
Monday, 3 October 2022
TEAMS
6:00 pm



Present: Nayonika Bhattacharya, Aadesh Kanda, Nick Palmer, Nadia Pandoulis, Tristan Johnson in-part, Pratham Gupta in-part, Mahin Zaman, Aya Adel, Si Thu Zin, Paige Sedgewick, Liora Hoenig, Gina Elias, Reid Hou, Pranav Sharma, Caleb Watts, Zachary Morris, Daniel Mulia, Michael Rahme

In attendance: Alex Neale (Tharunka), Harrisen-John Leckenby (Tharunka)

Apologies: Zane Comarmond

Absent: Jiayang Wang, Jennifer Lin, Austin McDonald, Cynthia Leung, Vihan Roy, John Nalus, Luca Charlier, Rosina Baumann

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting opened 6:06pm

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Completed by the SRC President.

1.2. Apologies

Apology was received from Z. Comarmond.

RESOLVED

THAT the apology received from Z. Comarmond is accepted.

CARRIED

1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure

S. T. Zin works for the UNSW Health Promotions unit on the Good Food Charter.

1.4. Previous minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation: 29 August 2022

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes from the SRC meeting held on 29 August 2022 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

1.4.2. Matters arising/ action list

P. Gupta joined the meeting at 6:10pm.

1.5. Meeting administration

1.5.1. Items flagged for immediate discussion

There were no items flagged for immediate discussion.

1.5.2. Selection of meeting observer

N. Pandoulis was appointed as meeting observer.

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. The UNSW SRC endorses the following SRC Charter changes as part of the 2022 review

The motion was withdrawn as the matter remains ongoing within the action list.

2.2. The UNSW SRC calls on UNSW to increase accessible and affordable accommodation for students on campus

The paper was taken as read.

Further clarifications:

- The partnership program with UNSW Accommodation in the previous year aimed to provide affordable accommodation for students with financial difficulties. It was also a joint venture between the SRC and PGC.
- The means of testing low socioeconomic classes happens directly with UNSW within the application, considering the income, accessibility, and family structure of the student.

It was noted also that the cost affordability of housing near and on campus has caused regional students to be disadvantaged and be forced to move back to their regional homes and is forcing international students to be exposed to more financially and socially vulnerable circumstances due to lack of social support and growing cost of living expenses. Increasing the accessibility and affordability of accommodation would increase the overall experience and engagement with others during university.

RESOLVED

THAT the UNSW SRC calls on UNSW to increase accessible and affordable accommodation for students on campus.

CARRIED

2.3. The UNSW SRC calls on the National Union of Students to endorse the motion and to lobby to the Federal Government to permanently lift the working restriction and hours cap for international students

The paper was taken as read.

Discussions:

- Many international students depend on more than the 20 hours working cap. Removing the restriction not only provides financial benefits, but also the work experience that many international students require.
- The past years have demonstrated that the restriction is unnecessary. Reintroducing it will negatively impact international students, as well as the companies they work for. If the paper passes, a motion will be raised at the NUS National Executive meeting to reflect the need to support this motion across the country.

RESOLVED

THAT the UNSW SRC calls on the National Union of Students to endorse the motion and to lobby to the Federal Government to permanently lift the working restriction and hours cap for international students.

CARRIED

2.4. The SRC commits to developing an 'SRC Hub' to strengthen the community of our collectives

The paper was taken as read.

Discussions:

- A number of people within Collectives have indicated that they are seeking new spaces to be able to hold meetings and events, as well as increase visibility.
- It is important that there is a space for students to hold relaxed events, meet each other, feel safe and be able to store items. All collectives should have access to such a space.
- It serves as a good start to increase the presence and visibility of SRC at UNSW, while the outreach of social media should also be increased.

RESOLVED

THAT the SRC commits to developing an 'SRC Hub' to strengthen the community of our collectives.

CARRIED

2.5. The UNSW SRC endorses and supports the 'Yes Campaign' to spread awareness on the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Discussion against the motion:

- The motion does not address structural problems of the Indigenous community, as it serves as a symbolic campaigning for the Labor party. Real actions should be demanded.

Discussion for the motion:

- Direction on the matter and the paper was sought from direct consultation with the UNSW SRC Indigenous Officer and the NUS First Nations Officer.
- The matter should not be attacked with partisanship.

RESOLVED

THAT the UNSW SRC endorses and supports the 'Yes Campaign' to spread awareness on the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

CARRIED

3. Office Bearer Reports

3.1. President

The report was taken as read.

Further points:

- The SRC will be supporting the Iranian Students Association at a solidarity vigil at the Quadrangle, to recognise the impact of demonstrations. Further information will be circulated. There will be first responders, mental health first aiders, the SRC President and an Arc staff contact at the event. UNSW Wellbeing and Mental Health Connect have also been briefed on the event. SRC members are welcome to attend, however it was noted that people should stay mindful and respectful at the event.
- A paper will be taken to the Arc Board for the SRC to have a legal assistant/intern officer to help with the SRC with student specific legal matters. There will be a conflict of interest if the SRC President or General Secretary took on the role, hence requesting someone else to work directly with Arc lawyers and be able to assist with issues at a faster speed.
- The SRC Charter review will be circulated, and a poll will be sent for discussion.
- While SRC elections are happening, no SRC stalls should be run except by those who are not contesting, after raising with the SRC President and General Secretary. Discussions of any topics related to future SRC is not permitted. If there is a conflict of interest found, relevant action will be taken.
- The NUS EthnoCon was successful, with around 120 attendees. There were a lot of opportunities for learning, and it is encouraged that people get involved in the future.
- The Special Considerations survey looks at difficulties students have faced, seeking to understand structural barriers and what UNSW needs to improve on. It was raised that SRC members help share the survey within their Collectives.
- There are concerns on how bias might be involved in the myExperience feedback, discussion is welcome from anyone with thoughts on how bias can be understood.

3.2. General Secretary

The paper was taken as read.

It was mentioned that the NUS EthnoCon was a great event.

3.3. Education Office Bearer

It was noted that the Education Officer be contacted for any questions.

The President noted that there is currently limited information on the Together's Harmony Day Walk, additional details will be posted once received.

3.4. Environment Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

It was raised that there will be a protest at the ALP conference on 16th October for anyone interested to attend.

3.5. Ethnocultural Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

The Ethnocultural Officer wished people running for the SRC elections good luck.

3.6. Indigenous Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

It was noted that the Indigenous Officer be contacted for any questions.

3.7. International Students Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

3.8. Queer Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

The Queer Collaboration was held last week, while there were a couple of issues with funding, it was a general success. There were some good discussions during the event, and feedback was given from attendees that the presentations were great.

3.9. Welfare Office Bearer

N/A

3.10. Women's Office Bearer

The report was taken as read.

The Women's Collective collaborated with the Queer Collective for the Sextember stall, which was a big success and increased the presence of the Collectives.

The Women's Collective will also be hosting the Diversity Fest in October. It was raised that SRC members would help promote the event for anyone who may be interested.

3.11. Students with Disabilities Office Bearer

- The Students with Disabilities Officer raised that the Disability Inclusion Action Plan working group meeting was disappointing in that UNSW management has been irresponsible, making it difficult for those who are looking to transform the University. Now lies a question of how the Collective can strategically manage the issue, while still being able to receive appropriate consultation.
- Senator J. Steele-John will also be meeting with the Disabilities Collective to work on strategies to address the working group issue, with also opportunities to collaborate on events with the Collective.
- The Collective is also taking part in the Special Considerations reviews.
- The Students with Disabilities Officer sought help from other SRC members with responses from Officers across various Collectives willing to help.

3.12. Paddington Domestic Officer

N/A

3.13. Paddington International Officer

N/A

3.14. Paddington Representation Officer

The report was taken as read.

4. Councillor Reports

4.1. Councillor reports

All reports were taken as read.

4.1.1. Tristan Johnson

4.1.2. Jennifer Lin

4.1.3. Pratham Gupta

4.1.4. Luca Charlier

4.1.5. Gina Elias

4.1.6. Austin McDonald

4.1.7. John Nalus

4.1.8. Caleb Watts

4.1.9. Paige Sedgewick

4.1.10. Pranav Sharma

4.1.11. Jiayang Wang

4.1.12. Cynthia Leung

5. Matters for Discussion

5.1. The SRC reaffirms its opposition to 2022 ADA program mergers, and will campaign against course and staff cuts

Discussions:

- The Education Collective had petitions signed against the cuts and it was raised that the reason to fight cuts are very much valid. On another note, the Education Collective managed to have the arts fees for existing students taking on new ADA degrees reversed, which were to be initially doubled.
- The cuts have also limited the breadth of the degrees. Courses have been removed from later years and added to the previous year of the course as prerequisites, impacting the whole structure of the degree.
- The SRC has previously endorsed the motion that cuts are not supported. The protest last week was also a significant demonstration that students do not want cuts.
- It was noted that the meeting on 28 June 2022 was not a private meeting, but an Academic Board meeting.
- Many students who supported the changes had specific reasons they could justify. In addition, NTU staff also supported it. It is important that the council looks at the whole student voice because there are students both pro and against cuts.
- It is important that SRC distributes the information to demographics where the information may be less accessible. Increasing accessibility of information will help the SRC gain a better understanding of how students feel about the matter.
- There is a published list of cut courses, with reasons and justification of why they have been cut. Many state that the convenor has chosen to cut the course, and some state that the course requires international travel etc. While some have good justifications, some do not.
- The Education Officer was contacted initially in December. Hence, the SRC found out about the matter at the same time as Tharunka, while it made sense for the matter to be released by Tharunka. The SRC President does not have access to the Education Officer

email to have been aware of the matter initially. The previous Paddington Officer was also emailed, who did not respond.

- The information was not released since it was informed that the information was confidential. Whilst the SRC should have been consulted, the council was not kept informed in the process.
- The consultation process throughout the matter was inconsistent, and there is a need for SRC to be included in conversations with faculties in the future. The SRC will continue to push for more student voice to be recognised and engaged with. Reasons for cuts are understood, but there is a question of how the courses can be re-offered in the future and maintained.
- G. Elias raised that sending emails is an insufficient means of communication, where it should have been broadcasted to all students. G. Elias also noted that it is impossible to represent all students and only a definitive for or against can be made in regards to cuts.

T. Johnson left the meeting at 7:15pm.

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

6.1. The UNSW SRC confirms the appointment of Michael Rahme as the 2022 SWD Collective Co-Officer

The paper was taken as read.

6.2. The UNSW SRC notes and supports the Good Food Charter facilitated by the HPU and EM teams

The paper was taken as read.

A link to the Good Food Charter was shared and it was mentioned that it would be helpful for Tharunka to report on the matter.

7. Meeting Finalisation

7.1. Meeting evaluation

The meeting went well, and the motions passed through smoothly. The Council had a good discussion about ADA cuts.

7.2. Next meeting date: 31 October 2022.

7.3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 7:29pm.



SRC President Signature

Date: 14/11/2022