



**Arc @ UNSW limited**  
**SRC MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, 4 September 2023**  
**Online (TEAMS)**  
**6:00 pm**

**Present:** Paige Sedgwick, Reid Hou, Daniel Mulia, Pepsi Sharma, Dan Magee, Junias Tjanaria, Nadia Pandoulis, Hannah Horton, Gina Elias, Corwin Ollis, Estell Mathew, Cherish Kuehlmann, Harrison Zheng, Danielle Moutopoulos, Rebecca Blundell, Emma Terry, Chiara Moore, Shovan Bhattarai, Jeremy Groh, Tanvi Vakkalagadda

**In attendance:** Zachary Morris, Timothy To (Students with Disabilities Officer Candidate), Brydie Zorz (UNSW Indigenous Academic Board Representative), Theodore Herzl, Michael Grenier, Kim Stern, Tanna Klevansky

**Apologies:** Emma Terry in-part, Rosina Baumann, Caleb Watts, Chiara Moore in-part, Michael Rahme, Mitch Battersby

**Absent:** Mya Thit Khet, William Nguyen

**1. Meeting Opening**

The meeting opened at 6:10pm

**1.1. Acknowledgement of Country**

Completed by the SRC President.

**1.2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from E. Terry, R. Baumann, C. Watts, C. Moore, M. Rahme, and M. Battersby.

**RESOLUTION**

THAT the apologies received from E. Terry, R. Baumann, C. Watts, C. Moore, M. Rahme, and M. Battersby are accepted.

**CARRIED**

**1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure**

N/A

**1.4. Previous minutes**

**1.4.1. Confirmation: 7 August 2023**

**1.4.2. Confirmation: 16 August 2023**

**RESOLUTION**

THAT the minutes from the SRC meetings held on 7 August 2023 and 16 August 2023 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED**

**1.4.3. Matters arising/ action list**

The action list was noted.

**1.5. Meeting administration**

**1.5.1. Trigger Warning Announcements**

Trigger warnings announcements were made in relation to Indigenous rights, Palestine Israel conflict, and LGBTI+ discussions.

### **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. The Election of Timothy To to Student's with Disabilities Co-Officer**

The paper was taken as read.

T. To delivered a self-introduction of himself, noting his reasons for nomination.

### **RESOLUTION**

THAT the election of Timothy To to Student's with Disabilities Co-Officer is carried.

**CARRIED**

### **2.2. The UNSW SRC Supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart in Full**

The paper was taken as read.

B. Zorz, the UNSW Indigenous Academic Board Representative spoke to the motion:

- The Uluru Statement is important for both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.
- The regional dialogue process that resulted in the Statement was the largest consultation process in the history and was led and designed by the First Nations people.
- Polling carried out after the dialogue process showed that over 80% First Nations people supported the Statement.
- It is important that Indigenous people have the power to lead their own lives, which is what the Statement is about.
- Treaty can take years to be implemented, and the Voice is a big step towards treaty and truth telling.

For the motion:

- Socialist Alternatives support the motion. The Voice is not enough to alleviate the oppression of Indigenous Australians. In response to the oppression, it was raised that Australian capitalism should be fought against.

### **RESOLUTION**

THAT the UNSW SRC supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

**CARRIED**

### **2.3. The UNSW SRC Adopts the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and Stands Against Antisemitism**

The paper was taken as read.

G. Elias proposed an amendment to the motion:

- Title change: UNSW SRC stands against antisemitism and the 'far-right'.
- Resolution change: The UNSW SRC restates its opposition to antisemitism and recommits to fighting against racism and the 'far-right'.
- Key notes:
  - The UNSW SRC opposes all forms of racism and religious discrimination including antisemitism.

- Antisemitic groups such as the National Socialists, a fascist organisation, have taken public actions around Australia in the last year, including Sieg Heils and wearing Nazi Swastika armbands.
- Internationally, the 'far-right' are on the rise and have been influencing Australian politics through anti-COVID conspiracy theories, attacking LGBTI rights, and releasing content online with vile anti-Semitic ideas.
- Solidarity with Palestine and opposition to the racist actions of the state of Israel is legitimate anti-racist sentiment and activism.
- Over 40 Jewish organisations have publicly come out against the IHRA definition.
- Many academics across Australia have signed an open letter opposing the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism because it conflates criticism of the state of Israel with anti-Semitism. The International Statement by Scholars of 3 November 2022 identifies fundamental problems with the IHRA definition and its associated campaigns. The statement was signed by 128 noted scholars of Antisemitism, Holocaust Studies, Modern Jewish History and related fields including more than a dozen Israeli professors, most from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- The 2022 National Union of Students National Conference, the peak representative body of students in Australia, opposed adopting the IHRA definition on similar grounds.

For the amendment:

- Conservatives are making more gestures to antisemitic politics. To use IHRA definition to is dangerous when the 'far-right' is on the rise.
- The IHRA definition has caused controversy and many Jewish people and academics have rejected the definition.

Against the amendment:

- The IHRA definition states that the criticism of Israel cannot be antisemitic. The purpose of the motion is not about Israel or Palestine, but about the Jewish University Experience Survey Report and how the SRC can address the rise of antisemitism and support Jewish students at UNSW.
- No Social Alternatives have approached Jewish groups and sought to help with antisemitism. It was raised that students should approach Jewish students and try to understand them as that is the most important aspect of the motion.
- The IHRA definition is endorsed by all mainstream Jewish communities and organisations in Australia.

### **MOTION**

THAT the UNSW SRC restates its opposition to antisemitism and recommits to fighting against racism and the far-right.

**NOT CARRIED**

For the motion:

- The IHRA definition provides a guide to identifying antisemitism. While there may be concerns around how it might silence pro-Palestinian voices, the IHRA definition makes a difference in empowering students to report and address the issues.
- The motion was written as a result of the voice of Jewish students on-campus.
- The Safer spaces policy also exists where needed.
- The motion is not about criticising Israel or Palestine.
- There is a way to criticise Israel without being antisemitic. The two are not conflated. The IHRA definition notes when instances can be antisemitic.
- Issues that are evidently antisemitic are being addressed.

Against the motion:

- The motion will not help people who are oppressed because of the IHRA definition. The definition has been used to attack pro-Palestine Jews, activists and academics and gives further opportunity for people to do so in the future.
- To adopt the IHRA definition will be a breach of academic freedom.

## **MOTION**

THAT the UNSW SRC adopts the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and stands against antisemitism.

**NOT CARRIED**

### **2.4. The SRC Supports the Education Collective in their work on the NUS 'Get A Room' Campaign**

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- There is no action on the Australian housing market from the Government.
- The SRC should take opposition action towards the Government, who are demolishing public housing. It is important that the SRC stands with the students who are in financial stress.
- With rents increasing significantly, more people on the public housing waitlist and living expenses on the rise, the Government is instead choosing to spend money on stage 3 tax cuts and nuclear submarines.

## **RESOLUTION**

THAT the SRC Supports the Education Collective in their work on the NUS 'Get A Room' Campaign.

**CARRIED**

### **2.5. The UNSW SRC Condemns the Labor Governments Housing Australia Future Funds (HAFF) and supports the Greens in opposing it**

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- The Greens' demands are insufficient, there needs to be more money spent on public housing. It is purely a political choice and the SRC should demand policies to address the housing crisis.
- The Labor Party is not treating housing as a basic human right and is proposing a market to make profits.
- There needs to be a big expansion in the government building houses.
- The premise of the HAFF is a neoliberal policy that instead of money into social spending, will create low-income homes and gamble money on a fund that is managed and setup by Liberals. Only if there are returns, they will be spent on social housing, which are run by developer themselves and are not actually public housing.

Against the motion:

- Sustainable investment in housing will prevent further housing crisis from ever happening.
- Budget estimates show that the Greens' housing investment proposals are unsustainable and impractical.
- The HAFF has been successful in other countries in building infrastructure without harming the budget, with high returns on investment. It is a great first step to ensure Australia has continuous investment into housing and affordable housing.
- The Labor Party has not only brought the HAFF to the housing market but is also working with each state to work on more housing policies.

## **MOTION**

THAT the UNSW SRC Condemns the Labor Governments Housing Australia Future Funds (HAFF) and supports the Greens in opposing it.

**NOT CARRIED**

### **2.6. The UNSW SRC Condemns the Chris Minns NSW Labor Government for going against his election promise and selling off public housing at Waterloo and Glebe during a housing crisis.**

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- The idea of public housing being opened up to the market and private developers is against human rights and is classism.
- Public housing is different to social affordable housing, where social affordable housing is also run by real estate agents and is capped at 80% market rate. Therefore, having public housing remains critical.
- Tenants who are kicked out of their public housing accommodation will face hardships.

Against the motion:

- The current public housing is old and in unliveable condition.
- There are 3000 apartments being built on those blocks, where 50% of them will be social and affordable. Of the 750 houses demolished, there is a comeback of 3000 total new houses, hence many more social affordable houses are being delivered as a result.

### **MOTION**

THAT the UNSW SRC Condemns the Chris Minns NSW Labor Government for going against his election promise and selling off public housing at Waterloo and Glebe during a housing crisis.

**NOT CARRIED**

## **2.7. The UNSW SRC opposes the Labor Governments attacks on LGBTI Rights**

The paper was taken as read.

For the motion:

- The Bill gives power to religious institutions to discriminate based on gender and sexuality. Activists need to stand and defend LGBTI rights.
- To move forward with the motion is to take a stand against the 'far-right'.
- It is widely recognised that this Bill is a legacy of a previous religious freedom bill that was against marriage equality, which was pushed by the Christian lobby. This Bill is not about defending religious minorities, but about allowing discrimination against LGBTI people.
- The SRC needs to fight for oppressed groups.

Against the motion:

- The bill is not about LGBTI rights. The reason and intent of the Bill passed is that it would be unlawful to vilify people of religious minorities.
- Students of minority religions may not feel comfortable speaking out and the Bill is important in giving them a safe space to do so.

### **MOTION**

THAT the UNSW SRC opposes the Labor Governments attacks on LGBTI rights

**NOT CARRIED**

## **3. Matters for Discussion**

N/A

## **4. Office Bearer Reports**

### **4.1. President**

Updates:

- The President has met with the UNSW CFO about student housing issues on-campus and is awaiting some further information. SRC members who are interested in the working on the related campaign are encouraged to reach out to the President.
- Free menstrual products will be installed in the upcoming week.
- Sextember Hump Day is coming up. SRC members interested in assisting with the SRC stall at the day are encouraged to contact the President.

- The Environmental Crafters Collective has reached out to the President as part of Arc's Diversity Festival activation, and any SRC Collectives interested are encouraged to contact the President.

#### **4.2. General Secretary**

Updates:

- The General Secretary has been working on administrations of the Council.
- O-Week has started and the SRC will have people minding its stall until Wednesday. SRC members are encouraged to reach out to the General Secretary if support is needed.

#### **4.3. Education Office Bearer**

Updates:

- The Education Officer has been organising the Get-a-Room rally for the weekend with the NUS. The Get-a-Room campaign has been progressing well and has received much attention and support.
- The Education Officer is seeking to have an Education Collective meeting during the week.

#### **4.4. Environment Office Bearer**

Updates:

- The Environment Officer has rejected participation in a few initiatives that externals have reached out about.
- The Environment Officer attended the SDG meeting where changes have been discussed in relation to stipends and SDG advocates, and the final proposal will be provided soon.
- There has been a lot of signups to the Environment Collective, and it would be good to hold an Introduction to the Environment Collective event.
- SRC members are encouraged to attend the Stop Coal Seam Gas rally on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **4.5. Ethnocultural Office Bearer**

N/A

#### **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.

Further updates:

- Queer Collective meetings have been locked at a consistent time each week.
- Education focused events have been organised with a few different societies.

#### **4.9. Welfare Office Bearer**

N/A

#### **4.10. Women's Office Bearer**

Updates:

- Period products will be available in 10 toilets on campus soon.
- The Women's collective is looking to hold a "women with disabilities" panel in the coming month.

**4.11. Students with Disabilities Office Bearer**

N/A

**4.12. Paddington Domestic Officer**

The report was taken as read.

**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. Tanvi Vakkalagadda**

N/A

**5.2. Emma Terry**

N/A

**5.3. Dan Magee**

N/A

**5.4. Chiara Moore**

N/A

**5.5. Gina Elias**

N/A

**5.6. Jeremy Groh**

N/A

**5.7. Shovan Bhattarai**

N/A

**5.8. Junias Tjanaria**

N/A

**5.9. Corwin Ollis**

N/A

**5.10. Mitch Battersby**

N/A

**5.11. Nadia Pandoulis**

N/A

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

N/A

**7. Meeting Finalisation**

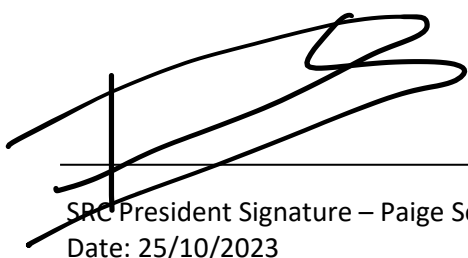
**7.1. Meeting evaluation**

It was great to see the IHRA definition being voted down, however it was disappointing to see the other motions being voted down. G. Elias encouraged everyone to reach out regarding associated rallies after the meeting.

**7.2. Next meeting date: 2 October 2023**

**7.3. Meeting close**

The meeting closed at 8:16pm.



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SRC President Signature – Paige Sedgwick  
Date: 25/10/2023