



AGENDA – ANUSA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) 1 2024

Wednesday, 21 February 2024

6:15pm, Zoom and Marie Reay room 2.02

Item 1: Meeting Opens and Apologies

Meeting opens at 6:24

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies received

Milli McDonald: Standing orders hard to understand. Question 30s allocated for exec, departments, NUS del. and Pres Summit reports. Then motions, mover (3min) and seconder (3min), alternating for and against, request for respect, naming if rules violated (and/or asked to leave room), no tolerance for discrimination.

Item 2: Passing the previous meetings minutes

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fqk8WztaUhYakgdL2wFEmeLWUnPaKmREczRcLJVCObg/edit?usp=sharing>

SRC 7 minutes!

Mover: Luke Harrison

Seconder: Will Burfoot

Item 3: Executive Reports

Exec reports on bloc

Moved by: Phoenix O'Neill

Secunder: Charlotte

3.1 President's report (P.O'Neill) [Reference A]

I will take my report as read but I will be highlighting some things, congratulations to Seungbin for his amazing work, organising almost 100 events in 5 days, congratulations to other departments for their work. I'm happy to say the ANU has a new disclosure tool for SASH, which will include all forms of discriminatory behaviour, and will be submitting feedback on the form. Reach out to Phoenix for feedback. Working on 485 visas, working with Charlotte on this.

3.2 Vice President's report (C.Carnes) [Reference B]

Keep it largely short and as read. BKSS doing well, come visit, enjoy tea and nice staff. Mostly administrative and internal work—but bulk of work will be largely academic.

3.3 Education Officer's report (L.Harrison) [Reference C]

I will take my report as read, congrats to Seungbin, and also congrats to in particular EWAG which I did in collaboration with Skye, our first meeting was on Monday, and spoke about student strike for Palestine, Housing crisis. I spoke about the school of art design library closure for construction, but the ANU has not given a set date of completion. There was a mass book borrow in protest, which the ANU declared as lost and slapped students with thousand dollar fines. Inviting students to upcoming Palestine protests.

3.4 General Secretary's report (M.McDonald) [Reference D]

Lot of summer getting ready for governance review, found consultants. Submissions and input welcomed to improve how student union is administered. Big thank you to Seungbin and O-Week coordinators for the successful week.

3.5 Treasurer's report (W.Burfoot) [Reference E]

Take report mostly as read, report mostly dedicated to surplus spending, SSAF funds ANUSA, and merger has resulted in adjusted projections around budget/onboarding. This has meant looking towards SSAF surplus, extra spending needed to be made available in the report. Moving from 1 to 3 year agreement, longer term planning, \$3.5M spending allowed but actual spending lower. Want to bring expected expenditure to SRC and share the nature of spending and the different services ANUSA offers. ESC big thank you to everyone, but terrible process and looking to improve - welcome input.

Question from James: How much was spent on upgrade to ANUSA balcony?

Will: Will provide numbers later but will refer to Charlotte.

Charlotte: Supplies ordered, but backlogged

Point of Clarification from Phi: Only started hiring process until confirmed

Question from Carter: Spending on ute, balance of services while staying affiliated?

Will: Currently changing services around while staying affiliated. Ute was spent from surplus, decision was made from previous exec. There might be value to using the ute for ANUSA, valid concerns.

Point of Clarification from Phi: Decision made in consultation with new exec

Question from Kiera: Was BKSS decision made with concern to accessibility?

Charlotte: Unable to change doors due to permission denied. Realised that people would need to get paid with reasonable timeline.

Question from Harry: Spending on BKSS? Running out of supplies, what can we do surplus funding?

Will: Expenditure need to get pulled to end of last year. \$90,000 on consumables - \$1,500 on consumables each year. Defer to Charlotte

Charlotte: Problem with supplier not having enough milk, silver lining that BKSS is popular. Working on improving without losses. Looking what can give way with budget and changing milk supply.

3.6 Clubs Officer's report (S.Kang) [Reference F]

My role mainly deals with social, clubs and societies, mostly to do with oweek currently, Im really proud of the work i've done, thanks to Kelsie and Kendall, congrats to them. Congrats to the volunteers especially in the SRC which help events run smoother. Thanks to exec for helping with last minute tasks. Thanks to department officers. Thanks academic officers and college reps. Thanks to Erin.

Spent a lot of time refining ideas, Projecting a good spend, oweek was budget friendly. We have a lot more time now to focus on clubs with new staff and training- congrats to Patrick.

I want to revisit postgrad engagement into clubs and societies.

I want to spend more time reimagining and reforming this role.

Question from Sarah: Wondering why you are working more hours?

Seungbin: Depends on the person, new staff helped, more about executing vision, and might make changes for Bush Week?

3.7 Welfare Officer's report (S.Prevedec) [Reference G]

Congrats to Seungbin and everyone else who worked on O'Week. I will read my report. Counter-course guide took up most of my time and I'm really proud of everything that went into it and very glad with how it. First EWAG went well, and got a lot of engagement from o'week, working on supporting students' strike for Palestine. Working with the NUS around

student poverty campaigning. I want to restart work around expanding ANUSA's welfare programs.

Item 4: Department Officer Reports

4.1 Indigenous Department (F.Stevens) [Reference H]

Faith (she/her) introduces herself as Officer. Mostly as read. Very successful O-Week, including collaboration with BIPOC Dept. A lot of engagement with students, and demand for education sessions etc.

4.2 Women's Department (L.Johnson) [Reference I]

I will take my report as read. I want to thank my committee, o'week was a success. I want to talk about our midnight snack event, which was an alternative to going to moose. The turnout was great and goes to show students do want to participate in these events. New flooring in our autonomous space - its green.

4.3 Queer* Department (G.Gorrie) [Reference J]

Taking report mostly as read. Flagging things in the future, next event semi-older Queer* panel, Wednesday 6pm. Queerzine project will continue this year and looking for community contributions.

4.4 International Students' Department (R. Agrwal) [Reference K]

Apologies sent, deferred exam.

4.5 Disabilities Department (F.Cooper, G.Wright) [Reference L]

Take my report as read. O'Week was a success, turnout was great, including an EAP help session. Shoutout to Mira Robson and social officer Anna. That's all.

4.6 Environment Department (W.Somerville) [Reference M]

Most of work focussed on Palestine activism, Garema place rally and school strike. Protesting 3rd, largest weapons manufacturer, Northrup Grumman, involved with Israel, spreading awareness. Decent turnout with new faces for first meeting, excited to see where it goes.

Question from James: Handing out merch on Market Day, wrapped up plastic - will be involved in environment campaigns of that sort?

Wren: Involved in ANU below Net Zero campaign, but question misses big picture.

Response from James: RIP the turtles I guess.

Question: Who stands to lose from no longer accepting scholarships?

Wren: University shouldn't be involved in supporting weapons manufacturers and pushing students into such a field.

Question: Will there be any involvement in reviving ANU recycling services?

Wren: They have place on campus, below Zero board is planning on getting back on campus. Bring to collective meeting.

4.7 Bla(c)k, Indigenous and People of Colour Department (S.Wania) [Reference N]

I will take my report as read. O week was successful but busy, turnout was great. Thank you to our department for helping us. Our best event was the land back event. We have a new safe space within the Haydon-Allen building. My work mostly comprised of making our logo more accessible to students. Feedback was given to the disclosure tool too. We have BIPOC talks next tuesday. Palestine advocacy continues. Walkovers for Garema place rallies. Elections for first rep and Basque? President.

Item 5: NUS Reports

5.1 Delegate P. O'Neill [Reference O]

Not a pleasant time on conference floor. Proud of working with Skye on left-wing motions. Unhappy with culture of violence, and BizComm example of that, as well as accessibility requirements not met. Political situation means politics are really dire. Unhappy with all Palestine-related motions being put into the ethnocultural chapter, as well as editing of motions. Upset about NLS pulling quorum, and then prioritisation of motions. Big battle to get trans rights motion heard, as well as Indigenous chapter. Voted similarly to Skye (though not the same), and had to make choices on bloc motions.

5.2 Delegate N. Lawson [Reference P]

Hiya, my name is Neve and I am a third-year Law/Arts student originally from the South Coast of NSW! I was one of the six delegates sent by ANUSA to the NUS National Conference - or more fondly, NatCon - held in Ballarat in December 2023. I am also a proud Student Unity member!

A brief rundown: Our National Union of Students (NUS) holds its National Conference at the end of each year to debate on amendments to its national policy platform, and more widely, to decide the direction the NUS will take the following year policy-wise. We also hear reports from each executive member and office-bearer at the end of their term. Any student is allowed to attend as an observer, but delegates hold votes for policy motions. This means we play a key role in backing and advocating for policies that, in turn, will make our national student union stronger and more efficient for us.

Conference itself was a very confronting and exhausting time, but I do believe that's a testament to the amount of motions and platforms that were put forward, showing people do care about the NUS all over the nation. I think having so many different perspectives brought by a wide range of factions is a really important thing. That being said, I do believe the accessibility of NatCon is an issue we need to address urgently. The content discussed during the conference, whilst relevant and vital, is often very heavy, coupled with screaming and intimidation across the conference floor for hours across the week. We want NatCon to

be a place all students can feel comfortable bringing their policy platforms and engaging in debate.

With respect to particular policy motions, I think the conference functioned best when we stuck to the organised order given by the policy booklet. A lot of fantastic motions were quickly derailed and trivialised when Socialist Alternative diverted attention from a completely unrelated topic to the Free Palestine movement. I entirely condemn this genocide and all genocides, am committed to the fight for land back and believe all motions brought up during the ethnocultural chapter were vitally important and developed strongly. However, the manner in which Socialist Alternative drew attention to the issue throughout conference was, at best, virtue signalling, and at worst, ableist. The way we keep conference floor accessible and safe is to go by the book and have procedures in place so that people know what to expect and aren't personally targeted. While I believe targeting people's politics is a part of healthy debate, targeting people themselves is never okay. It was incredibly disappointing to see SAlt's behaviour during the entire week and I hope something like the last night of conference never happens again.

It was also disappointing to see the National Labor Students (NLS) pull quorum during Unity's Save our LTSU motion regarding the La Trobe student union. For a faction that prides themselves on democracy there were far better ways to show solidarity within their group. Pulling quorum is not equivalent to controlling the conference floor, it's only equivalent to taking away the ability for us all to debate. We could have gotten through so many more motions and given proper weight to autonomous chapters like women's, queer and disability if NLS hadn't pulled quorum. I didn't like having to rush through important autonomous chapters because NLS had taken precious time away from us. This is another example of why it's important to play by the book to keep NatCon predictable, dependable, fair and safe.

I'm incredibly grateful to Ella for organising the conference and for throwing her heart and soul into making it the safest place it can be. I also want to thank Grace Franco, Ben Naiju and our other fantastic Unity people who chaired during NatCon - it was so great to see such eloquent and reasonable people lead the conference.

It was super positive that ANUSA covered the cost of delegate tickets as well as funding our flights to Melbourne and back. I love that our student union engages in the NUS and I'd like to commend each and every member of the ANUSA executive for organising this for us.

One special thing about Student Unity is that it's a broad church and we are given space to develop and express our own views. I've always felt that my beliefs and passions have been celebrated by all those within my group and it's allowed me to grow in politics and as a person. Equally, so many incredible motions were put up by my friends and it makes me so proud to see you all find your political niches and make shit happen. My friends also copped a very emotional Neville all week long and tirelessly nurtured me anyway. I am so grateful, thank you all so much.

I'm happy to chat to anyone about my experience and my thoughts on any particular section of the conference, different areas of NUS policy or the NUS in general, feel free to shoot me a message on Messenger or email nevelawson@outlook.com :))

Sarah Strange: Question about thunderdome motions

Sam: No known involvement

Skye: Question about Palestine-related motions being pushed to ethnocultural chapter

Sam: It was meant to support Palestinian and Jewish students in pre-caucus

Luke: Question about proxying from Liberal-aligned delegates

Sam: It was the decision of said delegates independently

Phi: Clarifying that this there were no negotiations

Sam: Not to my knowledge, can't speak for other campuses

5.3 Delegate N. Reich [Reference Q]

Proxied and Written by Chris

Condemnation of ALP's involvement in AUKUS

Condemnation of Labor's approach to Palestine at NATCON

A key argument that myself and other Socialist Alternative delegates and proxies waged at the NUS National Conference last year was that the Labor government has carried out a whole suite of attacks on the working class and students, since taking office. The cost of living crisis has demonstrated that Labor will continue to rule for the rich. Amidst growing poverty, a crisis in the housing market, a worsening climate crisis, and so on, Labor has done everything to show its loyalty to the bosses. Rather than raising the rate of welfare to a livable allowance, building public housing, pumping money into schools and hospitals, Labor is committed to a surplus of over \$20 billion. All of this in the context of the imperialist AUKUS deal, which commits hundreds of billions towards the drive to war. We argued, in opposition to the Labor factions which still dominate NUS, that the National Union must be fiercely independent of the ALP and organise against government attacks regardless of who is in power.

The response to the genocide in Gaza, the most pressing political issue of this moment, is another crime of the Labor government. As we speak, confirmed deaths rise above 30,000 with the bombing of Rafah. After months of genocide, the seemingly total annihilation of the Gazans is not even enough to see Labor put the most basic pressure on Israel. It is also shameful that the NUS

took so long to do anything about the genocide - whether it be public statements, campaigns and political condemnation of the ALP. Every development since December has shown the importance and urgency of the NUS contributing to campaigns in solidarity with Palestine. Shame on the ALP and Labor student clubs for foot dragging for so long on this question.

A litany of other events highlight the shameful behaviour of both Labor factions at this conference. I'll reference only a few here.

Useless delays by NLS over frivolous matters of factional pride lost us more than a day of conference, which meant many chapters were either rushed or were never discussed.

The Labor factions also shamefully delayed discussion on Palestine and continuously voted to water down every single Palestine motion.

Labor students were even too sectarian to support a motion condemning Nazis in Melbourne and fascists across the country. It seems anti-fascism is conditional on whether organising against fascists is a "SAlt thing" or not. Thanks to the tireless work of CARF and its activists, including many Socialist Alternative members, the nazi gym in Sunshine, Melbourne, has finally been shut down.

The problems of the NUS are not imagined, they are the same political problems which plague the student wings of Australia's ruling party, the ALP. For there to be so many useless conflicts and so little left-wing or activist politics in the peak representative body of students in this country is a disgrace.

Thankfully, though, Socialist Alternative has been able to win almost a quarter of conference floor through serious and principled national campaigning.

SA's intervention in this conference showed what was sorely lacking from the NUS. We need the national union to be agitational and confrontational to all forms of reactionary politics in Australia, whether that be the ALP and its criminal support of genocide, or fascist gangs.

Point of clarification (Sammy): Regarding Labor and cost of living mischaracterisation

Chris: Rejects the mischaracterisation

Sarah Strange: Question regarding abelist allegations from Woroni

Chris: Rejects the characterisation

5.4 Delegate J. Donnelly [Reference R]

Proxied and Written by Sam

Samuel MacRae - NUS Delegate Report

On the behalf of James Donnelly

Sections:

- **Introduction**
- **Conference itself / Factions**

- **Thoughts on some of the Natcon debates**
- **Thoughts on the NUS**
- **Final Words**

Introduction:

Hi everyone, it's me again for another year for another NUS delegate report. My name is Sam or Samuel (however you prefer), I go by he/him pronouns and I'm a fourth year law/arts student. I'm going to keep this delegate report relatively brief compared to the one I wrote for the 2022 NUS National Conference, for which I was an elected delegate to.

I'll begin with some clarifications, disclaimers and context about my report and myself. Firstly, I'm writing this report on the behalf of James Donnelly, who was elected to be an NUS Delegate on their own independent ticket in the 2023 ANUSA elections. James was unfortunately not able to attend the National Conference, and made the decision to proxy his vote to myself to hold on the conference floor, for the entirety of the conference. I was able to do this as one of ANUSA's nominated accredited observers, who is essentially a normal observer who has the ability to hold votes throughout the conference.

James proxied his vote to me, with full awareness that I am a member of student unity, and that I planned to use his proxied vote as part of student unity's delegate total (or floor % of delegates) for the entirety of the conference. The latter was a decision that was mine, but that I fully intended to do heading into the conference so I made James aware of that beforehand. In return, I did not consult with James on how his proxied vote was used on specific motions (it was used entirely with how student unity voted on each issue, so if you want to know for specific motions, look for how student unity voted).

The positions on each vote taken by student unity does not, in any way, directly reflect the political views or opinions of James, or his views on any specific vote or amendment. Additionally, the thoughts, direction and views expressed in this report are solely mine.

If you are curious about how James thinks on a given issue, I encourage you to ask him, or else if you are curious about mine or student unity's, I can be emailed at samuel.macrae@anu.edu.au.

Why I held the proxied votes is because in 2023 I was student unity convenor, and leading the contingent of student unity members and delegates from the ANU (ACT) to attend student unity's pre-conference, and the NUS National Conference.

In other disclaimers besides being a member of student unity and the arrangement of the proxy votes, I am a member of the ACT Labor Party and affiliate myself with Student Unity, or the "Labor Right" faction, at both the ANUSA and NUS level.

I am a proud member at that xx

Conference Itself / Factions

Conference itself for me was quite chaotic being a convenor at the same time, but I will just talk specifically about conference motions themselves and only refer to others as their factions generally, since at the NUS that's how votes are counted by viewing the floor, knowing the % of delegates the three main factions have, and seeing how they voted to determine whether something passed or not. At the 2023 Conference, Student Unity held over 51% of the delegates, so essentially whatever Student Unity decided was how it went. Obviously I am very elated SU had the majority of conference floor, to detractors in other factions I simply say get more delegates (nationally). There were a lot of key debates and themes to the story of NatCon 2023 so i'll go by faction and give my two cents that way. I highly encourage anyone who wants a more detailed view to check out Woroni's recap of each day on their website!

First things first, one of the biggest takeaways was the relinquishment by NLS (National Labor Students) (The Labor Left Faction) to actually having a productive and functioning conference. NLS pulled quorum only barely a couple hours into Natcon actually starting over a motion put forward by Student Unity condemning the behaviours of the previous members of the La Trobe Student Union, who were NLS members, and took their union down a pathway of calamity and did everything in their power to stop a free and fair student union election at La Trobe last year. This included stacking clubs and making it so for a ticket to even get on the ballot, they had to be endorsed by those clubs. There were other things at play that I don't exactly remember, but the key takeaway from me was the hypocrisy of NLS as a faction. Our groupings are not perfect, but the key difference is that we all, at least most of us, can sit here and take criticism even if it was for an ally of ours, when we had no part in it ourselves. For a group that has democracy in its logo, it's support of undemocratic processes is a disgrace. The NUS has every right to call out the stifling of democracy within its organisation as it affects the NUS, as well as students at La Trobe. We all know La Trobe NLS fucked up. NLS members will admit that to you privately, while Victorian NLS may even just gloat about it. ACT NLS I firmly believe does not support the actions of the previous LTSU and La Trobe NLS, but I will also say I don't speak for them.

But, my key takeaway from the quorum pulling fiasco is do not get it twisted. If you see *any* criticism about how the conference had to rush through autonomous chapters and the arrangement of policy chapters throughout the week, **that never would have been an issue if NLS didn't pull quorum and lose us over an entire day of conference, because they couldn't stand to be criticised.** Even then, Unity had to cave to their demands just to get conference even going again on Day 2.

(In the end, the La Trobe motion passed unamended in the massive bloc of motions at the end of conference that was passed amidst the SAlt induced chaos <3)

Next, SAlt. I don't really have too much to say about Socialist Alternative. Their actions throughout the conference were not surprising, so I left the conference thinking about them and what they performed with just a massive sigh. I will instead use a series of words to describe what SAlt was like at conference:

- Ableist
- Counter-productive
- Childish
- Racist
- Sexist
- Homophobic

- Transphobic
- Abusive
- Loud
- Snarky
- Disingenuous
- Fake
- Bizarre
- Stupid
- Delusional
- Dumb
- Barefoot (for some reason they *really* hated the shoe enforcement on conference floor rule)

Next, the independents. This year the Independent delegates to conference were the two delegates from ANU (Phi and Skye) and two from UWA, although there were some Grassroots/Switch members from USyd who also came along, along with Damien from UTS. That was about it for their contingent, along with Luke from ANU. Objectively I found the independents at conference this year far more pleasant than at Natcon 2022. Moreover, I believe most people in Student Unity who were involved with floor management (whipping, cog table, etc), would say that between NLS, SAIt and the Indies, the Indies were by far the most pleasant and reasonable grouping to deal with. Not because they did policy deals with Student Unity or anything like that, but when they had a particular motion they wanted debated, or an amendment to a motion of ours, they would approach without any games and we would have those discussions productively and reach an outcome together, even though Student Unity had the numbers to do as they pleased for most chapters (except for Rules changes). Finally, Student Unity. I am so proud of how student unity conducted itself throughout the conference. Of course there was the expected chanting and jeering. I am proud as always each year of the capability, talent and determination from so many Unity members from all walks of life, from all across Australia and including many international students as well! It is a family and I am a proud member of student unity.

One thing I wanted to address again, and adding onto the words of Milli McDonald at conference, was the low point of Student Unity proposing and passing a motion during the Womens' chapter to have it be only Women can speak. It was a highly ill-thought of amendment to the debate rules which was incredibly insensitive and offensive to many queer attendees of the conference. The motion was a spontaneous thought of someone on Unity's cogging table, and it was not someone from the ACT. I don't think very highly of this particular individual, who even if they had good intentions, did not think it through and put so many others, including those in our caucus, in distress, and I am again incredibly apologetic on behalf of Student Unity for that error.

Thoughts on some of the Natcon debates

I'll keep this part brief as well since I'm not convinced that many particularly care about what I think on debates/issues after saying earlier how I voted was how Student Unity voted. Besides that, I want to congratulate Isabella Harding and Ben Naiju from ANU as last year's disability and ethnocultural officers respectively for chairing particularly sensitive chapters. This is in addition to the other chairs of the conference of course, who also did a fantastic job.

The ethnocultural chapter passed a lot, in my opinion, of critical motions that aligns the NUS firmly with the struggle of Palestinians and those suffering in Gaza right now from Israel's invasion. I stand with the Palestinian people in their fight for a state of their own, and fully recognise that everything Israel is doing right now, not even just talking about the invasion, is not going to lead to a two-state solution. I believe in a homeland for the Jewish people, and I believe in a two-state solution. However, believing in those does not in my opinion mean you can't call out the Israeli Government itself for perpetuating a genocide in Gaza right now. I am glad finally too, albeit late, that the Australian Government has called for a ceasefire in Gaza. I implore the Australian Government, and other Governments, to do everything they can to pressure the Israeli Government to stop its invasion of Gaza and actually take steps towards a pathway for peace for both Israelis and Palestinians. I am for this reason glad that the conference was able to pass a series of motions aligning the NUS with ongoing campaigns and protests supporting Palestine.

The disability chapter had a lot of great motions as well. It was highly regrettable that the chapter was rushed, and I left the conference not knowing exactly what was passed generally, but including the disability chapter, because SAIt made the chapter and the last hours of Natcon so unsafe. People were literally going up to Socialist Alternative members begging that for this chapter they keep the noise down. Every other group at the conference, for example, snapped their fingers instead of clapping, in a simple effort to make the debate more accessible. SAIt's approach to the disabilities chapter was at best ableist and at worst, the most cruel sight to politics I could imagine beyond a full fledged physical brawl. People left the disabilities chapter crying, faint, distraught. I left the disabilities chapter as someone who considers themselves as having very tough skin as shell-shocked. To have speakers go up and yell at the room about Palestine, which we all care about, but in a debate about NDIS funding??? Socialist Alternative, as we all know, does not have any regard for an autonomous department, chapter, policy booklet, if it does not serve their ulterior political purpose (to recruit and make a scene for engagement reasons). They used the disabilities chapter for themselves, and it pains me to think about how those more vulnerable or anxious than I was, as someone who had been to multiple NUS conferences before, entered the gymnasium that morning, would have left that afternoon with the conference derailed, people visibly scared and crying, and everyone fleeing.

Thoughts on the NUS

I left Natcon with the unchanged opinion on the NUS's vitality to engage students from across the country, share ideas, and build national campaigns. Yes, these campaigns obviously need buy-in to succeed, and more student unions, including ANUSA, should look to the NUS to build even stronger campaigns on issues both ANUSA and NUS see eye-to-eye on, like Palestine, Housing, etc. I think ANUSA is in a good place at the moment with the NUS. NUS office bearers make frequent visits to our campus, and plenty more plan to do so. I dearly hope the best for the entire ANUSA executive this year, the NUS office bearers, and that some work can be done forging some cooperation between the two, especially with our location in Canberra, the only university here with a student union, and helping the NUS take the fight to Parliament's door.

I am so proud to also be a part of a student union which was the only union to give 100% of its affiliation fee to the NUS last year. I know this was a big debate on ANUSA last year, and I will acknowledge my role in forcing ANUSA's hand to significantly raise its funding towards the NUS, so I am not impartial on that. But, I have no regrets, nor does anyone in ACT Student Unity or NLS about that motion last year. Moreover, I support keeping it at 100% this year, in line with a CPI increase. ANUSA is an extremely well-funded organisation in the total amount of money it receives in SSAF,

and its SSAF % share, compared to other student unions. The union at the University of Wollongong has a total budget of only a couple hundred dollars. If we are a student union that prides itself on our care for student issues, unions generally, and the politics of the day, regardless of our faction or political belief, we should accept that ANUSA should continue to lift its weight in supporting the NUS. If you support the concept of an NUS to bring all these disparate unions from across the country together, you should support ANUSA's role in supporting the viability of the NUS from its own fortunate financial position.

Final Words

I did not think I would be writing an NUS report until about a week and a half ago when James and Milli informed me I would be doing it since James didn't attend. I said a lot of soppy words in my last NUS Delegate report for the 2022 Conference, and the cringeness of having done TWO consecutive NUS delegate reports is not lost on me.

Having been involved with student unity the last year has been such a fulfilling experience and I wish all my elected little children all the best in the work they do with ANUSA this year!

Some thank yous of mine go out to the following:

- Ben Naiju and Milli McDonald; as my rocks throughout the week of Natcon and Precon before.
- Will Burfoot as the housemate of mine i dragged to Ballarat to be yelled at for four days
- Neve Lawson as a gorgeous slay queenie NUS Delegate
- Jade, Lux, Josh, Liam, Brandon and many others proudly ACT SU xx
- Ashlyn Horton & Lara Johnson as slay NLS comrades
- The rest of student unity

I am always down to have a chat about politics so HMU everyone I have a lot of spare time at the moment.

In Unity,

Sam MacRae xx

Question from Luke: Question about being anti-AUKUS then not.

Answer: Stand Up! was against AUKUS, so that was the nature of the ticket. Seperate from individual opinion.

Question: Position of being in favour of AUKUS contradicting position on Palestine?

Sam: No contradiction. In favour of submarines being built and not used.

Phi: Physical fights and culture around that?

Sam: Don't care for violence of the NUS. In retrospect regret any involvement in the thunderdome or general violence.

Skye: Question around condemning paid trips to Israel?

Sam: Will not defend people going on that trip. Matter of the faction deciding an opinion in pre-caucus, and not everyone agreeing with it.

Skye: Formally bound or not?

Sam: Possible to cross the floor, matters of implications, judgement up to national decision

Nick: Question about whether SU is a zionist faction?

Sam: Doesn't think Student Unity is generally a zionist faction

Question to James: About decision to proxy?

James: Proxied to Unity because I believe they are the most mainstream and competent faction

5.5 Delegate S. Predavec [Reference S]

The NUS deserves to burn but we can't let it

The National Conference of the National Union of Students in 2023 was a disaster. According to some reports I heard from those with more student politics experience than I have, it was the worst one since 2009, or at least for a decade. Last year when I attended Natcon I thought it was dysfunctional, disgraceful, and a complete mess. This year was so so much worse.

Before I get into describing in detail all of the ways I was incredibly disappointed by this conference, I want to acknowledge the good. I'm incredibly proud of the 3 independent conference-goers from ANU, and our friends at uSyd and WA for what we achieved. We passed motions for the freedom of Palestine, for the legalisation of Cannabis and MDMA, Trans Remembrance and Resistance and more. We also brought motions around the housing crisis, grassroots organising, and opposing AUKUS which were shamefully voted down by Labor Right. We were few at the conference, but we punched above our weight in cogging and speaking, and that's something to be satisfied with.

One of the criticisms that I and other independent delegates received last year was that our lack of a faction meant that we lacked transparency. Though I think that's a somewhat unfair complaint that is a natural product of our size, I thought it best to address it before it came up. My voting record is here. I will caveat this in two ways, that the spreadsheet may be inaccurate to how I finally voted on some issues, and that some of these votes may have been a formal opposition to certain elements of a motion, and not necessarily to the central political point (because the vote that I cast would almost never be enough to change the outcome I felt comfortable doing this in some cases).

Student Media was a shining light in the conference. The Woroni team, as well as the journos from Honi Soit, Farrago, Vertigo, the Empire Times and more provided incredible analysis of the goings on. The fact that student media is forced into the position of doing the job of minuting for the conference, and is barred from any kind of recording is pretty disgusting, and comes from a long tradition of the labor

factions trying to block any knowledge of their behaviour. But the live-tweeting that they do is one of the few pieces of transparency that pushes through that veil of ignorance.

Despite these glimmers of hope, I was left with a distinct impression of disgust by the conference. I felt a powerful feeling that that could never ever happen again. Now despite what some people on ANUSA say about the independents, I don't and never have wanted to get rid of the NUS. While I think that no organisation that runs a conference like that deserves to exist, the unfortunate reality is that it must. So instead, it must be fixed. The NUS and its factions must learn from this grave mistake, and become a better, stronger union.

The Procedural Shitshow

Natcon is a poorly organised mess. Sessions start consistently late, the majority of chairs at the conference didn't know what they were doing (except you Ben xx), and information was poorly dispersed due to a reliance on the factional system. All of this exacerbated other issues which I'll get to later around timing. At least one motion was declared passed when it should have failed, bad chairing led to several incidents of physical violence on the floor. Generally this occurred when a labor chair attempted to rip a microphone back from a SAIt speaker. In addition to this violence, there was the cogging table. While through the majority of the conference it was agreed by all factions that the cogging table would remain peaceful, at one point this was removed with everyone except Grindies voting for doing so. Immediately this led to several altercations. People should be able to attend a conference like this without violence.

The Unrepresentative Swill

The three largest factions all exhibited behaviour that made the conference unsafe in different ways, and had political positions that were deeply flawed. I will deal with them one at a time.

Labor Right

They may like to call themselves Unity but I would not describe them as very united. Not only were their political positions disgusting, but the way they conducted themselves was terrible.

To start with, there was the women's chapter. This was apologised for, and I thank Milli for that, however I would be remiss to exclude it from my report. Unity slammed through a motion restricting only those who were not cis men from speaking in the women's chapter. This is terrible for a number of reasons. First, Feminism and Feminist politics are not the domain of only those who are negatively affected by the patriarchy. If we are to build a movement to truly topple those institutions which oppress us, we must make allies and build consciousness in cis men as well. Second, it was an incredible anti-trans measure, as pointed out by Phoenix on the floor. The only way to really judge this would be by the person's visual presentation, meaning that the chair would be the arbiter of someone's gender identity. The problems are obvious. The fact that Unity pushed this through speaks to structural flaws in their faction, and their understanding of their own politics.

In addition to this, we had to fight tooth and nail to even get a single motion about trans rights heard at the conference. And that was the only Queer motion with any speaking time. In an environment of worsening conditions for trans and queer people, that is and continues to be a complete disgrace.

A second problem with Unity was the fact that they're bold faced liars. ANU Unity ran on two election promises, that they were anti-AUKUS and that they were for free education. On both of these points they voted in the opposite ways to what their stated positions were to the students who elected them. On numerous occasions those delegates joked about this, but it's actually not funny. It's a bold-faced fraud to the people who supported you. It's a complete breaking of the trust that was placed in you. You aren't under a formal bind from your faction, so you could have fully taken the position that you promised to

take to ANU students, but you didn't. You just lied. And the Labor Left and SAlt people involved in ANUSA deserve blame for this as well. This was your ticket too, and you enabled this behaviour. Remember that next time you sign a deal with the devil.

On Palestine, though they took a decent position in some ways, we had to fight and deal to ensure that our Palestine motion went through in anything close to the form we proposed. I do not know exactly what changes they made to the rest of the Palestine motions because they used their majority to slam the entire thing through so many amendments that it was next to impossible to decipher. What was clear was that they removed any mention of genocide except in their own motion. In the context of the recent ICJ ruling that Israel was at serious risk of committing a genocide, that is despicable. In addition, they defended to the hilt their own office bearers who took a paid Zionist lobby trip to Israel, where they posed in front of the very IDF weapons of war currently being used to murder Palestinians. In fact, every Unity member was given a golden opportunity to dissent on that particular issue when the room was officially divided to count the votes. None took that golden opportunity.

The chanting and frat like behaviour of Labor Right was apparent throughout the conference. They sang songs and shouted proudly of their disgusting political positions, and when I spoke about how they should feel ashamed of their labor membership at *least* during the motions about how their party treats refugees, many labor right members waved their cards at me.

Labor Right also voted down or refused to consider motions on workers' rights, public ownership, condemning greg donnelly, free primary and secondary education, the housing crisis, condemnation of the modi government (which has actively worked to make muslims second-class citizens), and other basic left-wing positions.

While I find Labor Left pathetic, and much of SAlt's conduct abhorrent, it is labor right which takes the cake for the worst faction by a significant margin. And I will repeat a comment I made in last year's report, that Labor Right maintains its majority through a lack of national organised political opposition. The structure of the NUS allows Labor Right control through several student unions where they are the only significant political force, not because the majority of students there buy into their bizarre brand of politics, but simply through inertia. In addition, they gained their majority this year by taking the votes of LIBERAL delegates. For shame.

Labor Left

If I were to use a single word to describe the achievements and conduct of those stalwart revolutionaries of the labor party during the conference, the one that comes to mind is "pathetic". Free from the shackles of actually needing to care about their votes, much of this faction saw fit to sit on the sidelines of the conference, an impressive feat considering their second-largest status.

The biggest contribution they made to the conference was why I gave them the earlier moniker. From the evening of the first day to most of the way through the second, NLS refused to attend the conference floor, meaning nothing could go ahead. Now you may be asking, was this in order to fight for the rights of Palestinians, who are under a system of apartheid? Was this for trans liberation, while there is an ongoing tide of reaction that oppresses us? Or was it to force the NUS to take action on the cost of living crisis, which bites at the heels of everyday workers in this country? Actually, to the utter shock of all, it was none of these things. Labor Left stalled the conference for a day, costing the equivalent of tens of thousands of student money in order to defend the corrupt conduct of the La Trobe student union.

This single act is ridiculous in of itself. But more importantly it made the rest of the conference a worse shitshow. Labor Left has little right to complain about how chapters were rushed through when they spent 24hrs wasting the time of everyone in Ballarat. It meant that every fight was heightened as we

attempted to rush through the content, and even worse, it meant that half of trade unionism and student unionism chapters, all of Queer, First Nations, Rural and Regional, First Nations, Environmental and Vocational chapters were not even debated. And while some of these were passed without debate, the NUS has 0 Environmental or First Nations policy in 2024. That's genuinely disgraceful and Labor Left should hang their heads in shame for allowing that to happen.

In general, this was another year of exposing the way that Labor left's political positions are wishy washy at best. Their understanding of liberation politics for minority groups does not extend much further than vapid identity politics. In the face of an oppressive neoliberal Albanese government they struggle to articulate a cohesive vision of how to act. And when their collaboration with management turns sour they do not know how to make an about turn. Similarly to last year, their way of dealing with these problems was disengagement, speaking less relative to their presence at the conference compared to any other faction.

This also manifested in their strategy. In the disabilities chapter Labor Left proposed that the NUS should conduct *eighteen* separate campaigns. This was repeated in some of the other autonomous chapters. It's not a very serious engagement with the institution they treasure to sidle a single unpaid office bearer with

Socialist Alternative

Oh SAIt. We have fought on like 75 different fronts, but when all is said and all is done, you have beliefs, Labor has none. SAIt's political positions are 90% good, though we have virulent disagreements on important topics like sex work and organisation. I commend SAIt for being a positive voice for Palestinian liberation, among other issues, at the conference.

However, while I did not witness the worst conduct personally, from what I credibly heard during my days in Ballarat, your members' conduct with regards to a trans member of NLS, and during the disabilities chapter were abhorrent. They should be condemned and I do so. I am a general defender of SAIt conduct at the NUS, and I thought that the complaints of Labor Left last year were overblown and misdirected. In addition, I am not conflating the strategy of loudly advocating for Palestine and other causes with aggressiveness. There is however a line between pressure and abuse, and it was crossed.

Sam point of explanation: Mischaracterised changing positions on HECS and AUKUS

Luke: It means something when it was run on

Will: No bearing on attendance as an individual to conference

Skye: There is a suggested and implicit meaning behind Unity running with Stand Up!

Will: Proud of personal positions on HECS and AUKUS

5.6 Delegate L. Johnson [Reference T]

Report proxied to Ashlyn

Hi, my name is Lara and I use she/her pronouns and was one of your NUS delegates. I am a member of NLS (National Labor Students), we bind as a faction based on our pre-conference caucuses (for autonomous chapters, how NLS votes are decided by the autonomous groups).

If you have any questions on how I voted on specific motions, please feel free to reach out to me at U7468299@anu.edu.au. As my report will only cover two specific areas, where there was significant miscommunication or misinterpretations.

La Trobe Motion

I think it is important to clarify a few key points around the La Trobe motion and NLS leaving the conference floor on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, as there was a lot of miscommunications.

Motion 2.19, titled 'Save the LTSU from Itself', was written by Student Unity condemning the La Trobe Student Union for undemocratic activities. It was the position of NLS that it is nonsensical for the NUS to publicly condemn one of its affiliated unions, especially when a union has incredibly difficult and unstable SSAF negotiations (the LTSU has historically always had an incredibly difficult time negotiating with university management to get their fair share of SSAF, and having the NUS publicly condemn the union would only make future negotiations more difficult).

As Student Unity held a majority on conference floor, the fate of every motion at conference was in Unity's hands. So when this motion came up, NLS's only option to prevent it from passing was to pull quorum. After NLS left conference floor, many propositions on how to move forward were brought to SU by NLS, including amending the motion to just broadly condemn all undemocratic student unions rather than just the LTSU specifically, but this amendment was not accepted by Student Unity. NLS also proposed changing the agenda to move the motion to the end of conference to ensure that other policy - including all the autonomous policy chapters - could be discussed, but this was also rejected by Student Unity.

We did not want to leave conference floor nor did we "throw a tantrum" - we took a principled stance against what was simply a joke motion that if passed would have tangible consequences for the LTSU.

The Women's Chapter + Woroni

During the Women's Chapter a procedural motion was proposed by Student Unity (no one from NLS had seen the motion prior to it being read by the chair). The procedural motion was to ban cis-men from speaking during the Women's Chapter. **NLS actively voted this motion down.** Not only did we disagree that cis-men should not be able to speak during the women's chapter but we also recognised that by banning cis-men - it would be up to the interpretation of the chair of who could and could not speak and that this was transphobic and lacked any intersectionality.

The last point that I wanted to raise and correct! Was that Woroni initially misrepresented NLS on this position and reported that the 'Labor factions' voted for this motion. I am incredibly disappointed in this, as with my position as Women's Officer it is the of utmost importance that women, gender diverse, non-binary and trans students feel welcome and represented in the department.

2024 Pres summit report

On the 31st/1st of Jan/Feb, I went to Melbourne for the NUS Presidents' summit. This is where all NUS OBs and exec of other student unions meet and discuss priorities for the year.

One of the most exciting things to see from pres summit is to see the NUS' change in direction from choosing one or a few campaigns to supporting campuses across the country, bringing us together on issues that we have on our campuses. Essentially, making the NUS more ground-up.

We heard from OBs, TEQSA, EROC, the NTEU, and the Young Worker's centre.

Alongside supporting campus campaigns and holding more conferences (Disabilities and women's conference join the mix this year,) the NUS priorities include:

End student poverty/A reformed welfare system:

- Centrelink's age of independence to be lowered from 22 to 18
- An increase to the rate of Federal Government student income support payments above the poverty line, including Youth Allowance and Rent Assistance
- Paid placements for all students who must complete one as part of their degree More food pantries and food banks on campuses

The Universities Accord

The NUS on the accords:

“The NUS broadly supports the Universities Accord as an opportunity for transformative reform in the Australian tertiary education sector. As an organisation, we have always been strong champions of change for students, and we see the Accord as a way for us to design a higher education sector that truly works for students. However, for the Accord to contribute to genuine and meaningful changes for tertiary education students, our voices need to be not only heard but respected and included in any and all decisions made. Students are the primary stakeholders in education and students are the experts in student experience. There is significant distrust among students towards university management and government and a real power imbalance between us and them. The Universities Accord must embed students into every aspect, from design to eventual implementation, for it to be successful in reforming Australian universities in students' interest.

Housing:

- An increase in the provision of secure, publicly-owned purpose-built student accommodation
- The introduction of weekly rent caps for student accommodation at no more than 25% of the average weekly student income
- Students living on residence to be covered by relevant state tenancy laws
- Other provisions that will make the private rental market more accessible, such as a rent freeze and the indexation of allowable rent increases against median annual wage increases

Sexual Assault/Sexual harassment:

- Student voice to be centred in the creation of survivor-centred, trauma-informed SASH response and prevention policies
- The full implementation of the Draft Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education
- The establishment of restorative justice programs
- A legislated national Duty of Care

Other

- Education funding increased to the OECD average of 1%
- Mandated student representation on university boards
- The abolishment of HECS indexation
- Student Money in Student Hands (100% SAAF & Compulsory student unionism)
- The reversal of the Job Ready Graduates Package

Each OB will be running a campaign ! Contact them too see how you can get involved xx

CONTACT YOUR OBS:

President: Ngaire Bogemann president@nus.asn.au,

Education Officer: Grace Franco education@nus.asn.au

Welfare Officer: Sabine Yassine welfare@nus.asn.au

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Women's Officer: Ela Akyol womens@nus.asn.au

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International Officer: Rey Aiden international@nus.asn.au

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Vocational Education Officer: Bethany Shegog tafe@nus.asn.au

Ethnocultural Officer: Sa' Jacinto Hedus ethno-cultural@nus.asn.au

Small and Regional Officer: Caitlin Marlor sr@nus.asn.au

Sam: Question regarding 2022 LaTrobe student union and candidate endorsements. Would ANU NLS still support pulling Quorum retrospectively.

Ashlyn: ACT or ANU NLS practically does not exist during NatCon, the decision was made as a national faction

Sam: Point of explanation regarding negotiations between Unity and NLS at Natcon

Sarah: Do you stand in solidarity with the Thunder Dome motion

Ashlyn: That is something that shouldn't have happened.

Elliot: Is your opposition to SALT more important than your opposition to Nazis?

Ashlyn: We are not comfortable with the NUS funding SALT

Elliot: Was the motion for funding SALT or anti-facist organisation

Ashlyn: It was for Qarth which is SALT related.

5.7 President's Summit P. O' Neill [Reference U]

Noted respect between attendees. Discussion time was improved, disappointed in NUS Ethnocultural Officer statement on Palestine.

5.8 President's Summit M. McDonald [Reference V]

Enjoyed being down in Victoria, and meeting OBs. Noting change to structure to focusing on bottom-up campaigns which is improvement. Sending contact details of NUS OBs. Also notes questioning TEQSA about having never found university misconduct in handling of SASH complaints.

Question: What is the value of the NUS?

Milli: Important for national campaigns of importance, also believe in the power of unionism and contributing to unionism.

Item 6: Discussion Items/Motions on Notice

6.1 Accepting nominations to the parents and carers committee

Motion: ANUSA accepts Xinyin Fu as treasurer of the Parents and Carers' Committee, and Trisha Toangwera Aruhuri as the secretary.

Mover: Fariba Aurin

Parents and Carers team needs support for events to run effectively. Xinyun and Trisha ran unopposed for their positions.

Secunder: Phi

6.2 BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE EXAMS

PREAMBLE:

The return to in person exams after years of remote learning has exacerbated stress for students across campus. Handwritten in person exams are an outdated concept, and are no longer relevant to the workplace. Despite constant and long term demand for 'bring your own device' (BYOD) exams, ANU has projected that BYOD exams will only be implemented in 2026, due to alleged feasibility concerns. This is not good enough. We are pushing for the university to adopt bring your own device exams by Semester 1 2025. Fast-tracking the university requires immense pressure from the entire student body and from multiple levels. Transitioning to BYOD exams will positively affect students across all colleges.

We call on the SRC to unite in a wide-scale effort across colleges and faculties to push for the implementation of BYOD exams.

MOTION

1. A united and official ANUSA campaign for the implementation of BYOD in person exams by Semester 1 2025.
 - a. BYOD means Bring Your Own Device exams
 - b. All relevant ANUSA representatives will promote the campaign at all possible meetings, and follow up regularly with the university.
 - c. We do not seek to disrupt courses which work best with handwritten exams, however demand that BYOD is implemented in all courses where handwritten exams aren't necessary, to support students' wellbeing and transition into the workforce.

Mover: Mitha Mallichetty

Seconder: Alex Bako

Alex: Increases stress on students and accessibility concerns. Professional implications of online exams, BYOD exams most appropriate. At the least, option of BYOD should be provided.

Luke: Improving accessibility is important

Disability Officer: Important for disabled students and also all students

Mickey: Concerns about accessibility to devices?

Alex: Should be provided

Phi: Concurs

Motion carries

6.3 ANUSA EWAG booklets

Hayden: Commends ANUSA booklets for their helpful material included in the booklet however, there are some points needed to be made:

Preamble:

The Education and Welfare Action Group, or 'EWAG' recently released their "Counter Course Guide"; this booklet was then distributed to 9 of the 11 Res Halls in ANUSA branded folders. The ANUSA branding on these O-week folders then carried the impression that folders and any items within must contain relevant, useful, and important information for students but particularly first years. The halls that accepted these folders then discovered that in between the "helpful advice" they also contained highly politicised material.

Instead of containing information that would be useful for students as they start their academic years, the focus of many of the articles was squarely on pushing the writer's

political positions. While it should be noted the guide did contain some good articles, including the guide to different colleges and a piece on the BKSS, the rest was not what the rescoms that had taken the booklet had hoped.

This resulted in the vast majority of halls (at least 6) rejecting the counter course guide, or taking their own time to go through one by one and pull it out, wasting a LOT of time and energy.

The Education Officer, the Welfare Officer, and EWAG are more than welcome to make political material, to have political discussions, and push the really important issues that deserve the attention of ANU students. But this should NOT be done in a way that is misleading AND wastes students money. ANUSA welcome packs including a "Guide to ANU" booklet SHOULD be focused on real improvements for students, not pushing the writer's own political agenda.

Action items

1. The SRC calls on the Education Officer, the Welfare Officer and their committee "EWAG" to focus on delivering real, substantive change for students, and focus on providing materials to students that they find actually helpful.
2. The SRC apologizes to the rescoms that wasted their time before O-week removing political material from the folders
3. The SRC reaffirms that activism is an important and vital component of ANUSA's work and that this motion does in no way attempt to change or discourage student activism.
4. The SRC affirms the right to freedom of speech and academic freedom for all ANU students.

Jade: Beautifully said by Hayden, an excuse for EWAG to grandstand down the throats of ANU students. Many residential leaders were uncomfortable with the highly politicised material of the booklet. It was a waste of resources, money and time of SAF. Engagement of students has declined because of witnessing just how highly politicised ANUSA is in the rolling out of these countercourse guides.

Speaker: Criticism of the politicised material within the countercourse guides.

Skye: Disappointed to see the motion on the agenda. Defends the premise of countercourse guides. Believes the rejection from the two residential halls were due pro-Palestine articles. It is a guide for students and by students and is not our place to tell students what they can and can't write

Luke: Calls the motion cowardly. The motion is riddled with misinformation regarding how many res halls rejected the guides.

Will: Speaking for the motion, Fenner rejected the countercourse guides.

Hayden: As an SR, it had nothing to do with Palestine, it was for the call to socialism. It is not the right to push political views in their room when they rock up on day one.

Harriet: Wamburun did not receive or reject the countercourse guides.

Charlotte: Motion display of cowardice and praise of res halls. About overriding elections of Welfare and Education Officers. First years at res halls can consume such material.

Hayden: Point of clarification in support of ANUSA activism

Ben Naiju: There is a time and a place to bring politics into the room, it should not be resident's personal space.

Elliot speaker against: Condemns the residential hall's rejection of the counter course guide to socialism.

Jade: Defeats the purpose of wanting to increase engagement in res halls

Aemonn: Provides context behind writing the article regarding socialism.

Brandon: Important to consider the concerns of res halls—they are not pushing a right wing agenda and this motion is not about condemning anyone, but instead about how ANUSA can be a more effective student union going forward.

Sam G: Asserts countercourse guides need to be spoken about further and how to approach countercourse guides in the future as well as how it contributes to spending in the budget. It needs to be done in a way students are not turned off from ANUSA services.

Harriet: As an SR and Wamburun resident, I think students deserve access to this material, to let them know student bodies are talking about everyday political issues.

Phi: Phi disclosed there would be a counter course guide, it was miscommunication in realising res halls didn't know what exactly the material was in it. Rejects the notion the move to reject the countercourse guides was apolitical.

Motion fails

Moved: Hayden O'Brien

Seconded: Jade Poulton

6.4 "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu"

Preamble:

CW: Mentions of sexual assault and harrassmet and student safety.

In 2022, the newly elected Government established the Higher Education Accords. These Accords are the primary way in which reform in the tertiary education sector will be delivered in this Government. The accords have engaged in wide consultation across the sector and delivered interim results, but we still await the final results.

Importantly, the Government listened to the calls from students and organisations such as Fair Agenda, End Rape on Campus, the Stop Campaign and the National Union of Students, highlighting that student safety on campus is a serious issue. People are sexually assaulted on campus and in student residences at abhorrent rates. TEQSA, the responsible body, do little to nothing in oversight relating to Universities neglecting to protect students across the country. The Government, as a part of the accords, have delivered a draft action plan to improve this situation for students. This draft plan, amongst other things, includes taking away responsibility for student safety from TEQSA, establishing an ombudsman and creating a national code that will: Strengthen provider accountability for systemic issues relating to gender-based violence in consultation with the states, territories and other stakeholders.

This will take the form of the Commonwealth Minister for Education tabling in Parliament, following consultation, a new **National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence (National Code)** that will set requirements for embedding the whole-of-institution approach, with rules covering:

- embedding evidence-based primary prevention activities and respectful relationships education
- critical incident management, reporting and reports handling, including the prioritisation of student and staff safety and agency in these processes
- reflection of the whole-of-institution approach in providers' strategic documents and governance arrangements
- requirements to explicitly consider and address the needs of different student and staff cohorts, such as LGBTIQ+, international, First Nations, people living with disability and higher degree research students
- provision of student support and academic adjustments
- whole-of-institutional data collection and transparent reporting
- engagement with sector-wide opportunities for improvements in performance, transparency and accountability

This National Code will open for consultation soon, and it is imperative that ANUSA can share our knowledge, experience and push for this code to be the highest standard for institutions possible.

This plan is supported widely across parliament, and by the student organisations advocating for this plan.

In 2022, this SRC passed a motion, essentially saying that the accords are bad and that ANUSA will not participate in the accords.

For this union to remove student voice from a process that directly includes students, and not share the experiences of those we represent with those who are trying to improve the situation is not why this union exists. To advocate for students, we must engage with, and push for reform so our students can be protected by the highest standard possible.

Actions:

1. ANUSA recognises that the accords can deliver important reforms for student safety.
2. ANUSA will engage with the Draft Action Plan and the National Code as referred to above where possible.

3. ANUSA will work to centre student voices and experiences in the national code. ANUSA recognises that the accords are not the most effective method to fix issues in the higher education sector and student safety but have the potential to deliver significant reforms.

3. ANUSA will continually assess the effectiveness of the Draft Action Plan and the National Code and engage at its discretion.
4. If ANUSA engages with the national code, it will work to centre student voices and experiences.

Mover: Milli McDonald

Pres Summit was valuable for hearing perspectives on this matter. Really important for bringing change, biggest change since HECS. Disappointed with ANUSA for not engaging in this vital process, and with ANUSA preventing itself from engaging. TEQSA losing responsibility of this matter which has failed, moving to Ombudsman. So important for ANUSA and representatives to engage on this matter—putting our students and perspectives at the forefront of change.

Seconder: Lara Johnson

It isn't going to be perfect, but the process is so important to highlighting ANU students' very unique experience. About illuminating their experiencing.

Skye (against): Against the motion, rejects the process entirely. Accords not about supporting students. About the corporate university sector being in power, like the Trade Union Accords. Real change is brought by fighting and activism. We should be focussing on that now.

Sarah (for): Disagree with other areas of the accords, but supports this process strongly. About engaging ANU students. Potential to bring change, even if not subscribing to it entirely.

Mickey (against): ANUSA will waste time on this process that will change things for the worse. Promises have been made but not fulfilled.

Harry (for): Do not understand not engaging in the process, illogical. We need some sort of representation, and why would we stand in the way of that? Making a process more stacked against us.

Elliott (against): Rejects belief in the Accords itself. About working class and students being made decisions against.

Sam (for): We can do both. Activism and engaging—shouldn't stand in the way of students engaging.

Charlotte (against): In December went to TEQSA Conference. Came into it with an open mind, but concerned by the rhetoric of 'markets,' 'consumers,' and 'business'

Jaz (for): Don't let perfect be the enemy of the good

Lea (against): Engaging with the accords is anti activism. We do want to be engaged in this

Hayden (for): Not a perfect opportunity, but we should take it. Plainly, a foot in the door is a foot in the door.

Motion carries amended

6.5 Condemning Labor's stage 3 tax cuts

Preamble:

The stage 3 tax cuts, legislated under the Morrison government, were a massive handout to the rich, and would patently make Australia's tax system far more regressive. Labor have pitched their changes as "cost-of-living relief", and while its true that it will no longer just be a hand out of \$313 billion to the wealthy, we should be clear that the passing of the new stage three tax cuts still make Australia's tax system far more unequal, and to call this cost of living relief is a spit in the face to ordinary people in this country. Under Labor's new reforms to the stage 3 tax cuts the top 20% of earners will receive half of the 313 billion dollars in tax cuts, while the bottom twenty percent will receive just 0.4% of the benefits. The top 3% will receive 25% of the tax cut benefits.

In his address to the press club, Albanese said the tax cuts "will look after low income earners and part-time workers as well. So someone working at Australia's largest employer, Woolworths, earning \$40,000 will now get a tax cut of over \$650." For most, an extra \$650 would not even cover a months rent. Albanese has also failed to mention that the CEO of Woolworths (already one of the highest paid CEOs in the country) gets an extra \$4,500 a year as a result of these tax cuts.

Despite Albanese claiming that no one is left behind, people who don't earn an income will recieve nothing as part of this "Cost of Living Relief". Australians are living through the greatest attacks on living standards in decades--rents have been raised over 10% across the country, electricity prices increasing 14.5%, mortgage costs increasing 68%--all the while wages are being cut in real terms. The Labor government has done incredibly little to help out with the cost of living crisis, despite a budget surplus in 2023. To help the majority of Australians the government should increase funding to medicare, public housing, education, the environment by increasing taxes on the rich, not handing them billions of dollars.

Motions:

ANUSA condemns the stage 3 tax cuts as regressive and demands that the Labor Government do far more to address the cost of living crisis

ANUSA will publish the preamble of the motion on its Facebook and Instagram pages within one week of this motion passing.

Mover: Aemonn Hassan

Tax handout to the rich. Good to change but doesn't change the fundamental fact that this is tilted still. Australian economic situation and inequality bad. More action not being done and status-quo is bad.

Seconder: Aveline

Attack on working class still remains with list of bad policies from Labor Govt. We need to oppose the party.

Skye (for): Labor today is not like the Labor of old (still bad). About highlighting underlying bad policies from Labor Govt.

Will (against): Lists a plethora of action items that Labor has done to concretely work on benefitting workers. Exercise is redundant, especially considering the action item is posting a Facebook post.

Hayden (against): Agrees with Will point. Focus on students, not on political agendas in the SRC. This is not productive and we should be focussing on better issues.

Aemon (right of reply): This what ANUSA should be focussing on.

Motion carries.

6.6 Standing with student victims of wage theft

Preamble:

The fundamental unit on which politics is based is the economic relationship between employer and employee. While members of this body passionately disagree on the tactics and aims of politics, there is near-unanimous agreement that the best thing for society writ large is uplifting working people.

One of the most pernicious tactics in the class struggle of today is wage theft. I won't bother to recount the stats here - needless to say there are reams of information that indicate huge sectors of the Australian economy, from hospitality and retail to agriculture and the university sector, are based on illegal underpayment and other exploitation of workers. Students, in particular international students, are disproportionately victimized by wage theft. A scientific and comprehensive 2019 survey of international student workers conducted by UNSW, UTS and the Migrant Worker Justice Initiative found that 32% of undergraduate international student workers get paid half of the minimum wage or less. A survey of on-campus workers that we conducted in 2022 found around a third were being paid solely in cash, with no superannuation and rates below the minimum wage.

To be clear, though this motion includes a petition being circulated calling the ANU to action, I am under no illusions that institutions like the ANU or the Australian government can entirely fix wage theft. Underpayment is an inevitable consequence of today's market in labour in which workers as a whole are weak and averse to collective action. Unions, which have few members in most industries where wage theft is rife, are under-resourced to properly investigate wage theft (the ACT Young Workers Centre has consistently not responded to several emails from me, the former VP Grace, and the current Welfare Officer about tackling the issue on campus). Of course there are things that the government could do, like making it legal to strike over wage theft. There are also things that the ANU could do - they could attempt to educate students about this serious threat to their wellbeing through Student Safety and Wellbeing, and they could stop renting premises to serial wage thieves that exploit students from their position on campus. But though the petition referenced below is calling for action from the ANU, the real goal of this effort is to encourage workers to take their own action - to talk to co-workers about wage theft, to join unions and to report wage theft rather than accepting it.

Motion:

- ANUSA endorses the petition on wage theft being circulated which reads
“The only way to truly stop wage theft on an ongoing basis is for workers to band together and organise against the illegal and immoral practice. That said, the ANU can do far more to ameliorate the problem of ANU students being exploited, particularly on the ANU's own campus.

We call upon the ANU to

- Provide educational resources on what wage theft looks like and how to stop it to all incoming students.
- Investigate the scope of wage theft from ANU campus businesses and take concrete steps to avoid entering commercial relationships with businesses who rely on flagrantly exploiting students.
- ANUSA will post the above text of the petition on social media by the end of the week.
- ANUSA calls on all working students at the ANU to join labor unions and to stand up against wage theft against themselves and others in any possible way (such as but not limited to seeking legal advice, making a formal complaint, contacting unions and collectively organising in the workplace).
- ANUSA recognises that only a strong workers' movement can prevent wage theft and commits to take action to build such a movement.
- ANUSA recognises that the university itself is a perpetrator of wage theft and stands in solidarity with the NTEU and university teaching and professional staff in attempting to enforce the terms of the EBA.

Mover: Sarah Strange

Formatting only includes first two points. Wage theft is important to continue activism on—referring to Marxist theory of class struggle. Really appreciated if others could join work.

Seonder: Will Burfoot

Wage theft bad.

Speaker (for): Unions and workers power important. Also participate in internal struggle to push unions leftwards.

Skye: Really important to speak on this as a victim of wage theft.

Sarah: Emphasises union solidarity.

6.7 **We have a Housing Fix - Ruin Open Day**

Preamble:

Students at ANU are put under pretty terrible housing conditions. We pay exorbitant rents to live in tiny on-campus rooms. And those rents keep going up. Just this year the ANU rent rise across the board was an estimated **8%**. This cannot continue if any working class students are going to be able to afford to study at this university. Additionally, students at ANU have few to no rights in terms of housing security, and the ability to call their room on-campus an actual home.

We have a petition to fix this, but that's not enough, and we have to hit ANU where it actually hurts: their future students. When thousands of high schoolers descend onto campus on the 16th of March we have to be ready to greet them with smiles and tales of horror about the actual conditions that come with attending this university. And that's exactly what we'll do. EWAG is calling a protest for Open Day, and seeking endorsement from the SRC.

We will be demanding a rent freeze on campus, and actual rights for residents. Please get involved if you, as we do, think that students deserve a better go than we're getting, and that we need to do something about it.

Actions:

- ANUSA endorses the protest of ANU Open day and its demands of a campus rent freeze and better on-campus conditions
- ANUSA strongly encourages all of the SRC to assist with the organisation and promotion of this protest
- ANUSA will promote the protest publicly and in its communications channels

Mover: Skye Predavec

Well basically as everyone knows we pay way too much to live at this university and the rate rises have been bad, more and more working class students to be locked out of the university and the fact that anu sold the reshalls to a private equity firm is bad

ANU is really worried about how little people are living on campus (refers to Julie Bishop Yukeembrook ads)

Secunder: Harriet Ryder

Does Not have much to say but speaks as a current and former reshall student, talks about lack of occupancy at wamburan, knows people are leaving reshalls because of this and says it's a big deal for students

SPEAKER for Luke:

Echos what is said and is excited about our union doing something about fixing this problem, says anu thinks of us as money making machines - absolutely union should back this

No speakers against or more for

Motion carries

6.8

Motion for ANUSA to Endorse a Petition Calling for Accessibility Reforms

To be presented at ANUSA SRC 1 2024, 21 February 2024:

The petition will be addressed to ANU's academic colleges: College of Arts and Social Sciences, College of Asia and the Pacific, College of Business and Economics, College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics, College of Health and Medicine, College of Law, and College of Science. It will also be presented to other relevant members of the University's administration.

The petition will call for a number of reforms aimed at encouraging a fairer and more accessible learning environment at ANU.

The outcomes of this petition should benefit students who face accessibility challenges, such as working students, students from regional or rural areas, students living with disability, students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, international students, and students with caring commitments et cetera.

The reforms called for should include:

- Greater flexibility and choice for students choosing their tutorials (including more online and out of hours classes for working students and remote learners).
- Abolition of attendance grades (attendance does not correspond to a more thorough understanding of course content, students should not be punished for having other commitments).
- Universal assessment deadlines (assessment should be due at reasonable and standard times such as Friday 11:59pm, not Monday 4:00pm, for instance).
- Grades from the first half of the semester must be released before the last date to drop courses without failure date, so that students can exercise their ability to drop a course without failure if they are not on track to succeed.
- Exams must have online options, especially if they are to take place after the semester ends. Expecting students to wait in Canberra for weeks after semester's end for an in-person exam is unreasonable.

The petition will include other reforms that are requested during further consultation with ANUSA, and student stakeholders in accessibility reform. The petitioners will also endeavour to scrutinise any proposed reforms through the lens of viability and achievability for the University.

The petition will not mention or cover any other topics which are not directly relevant to the improvement of accessibility for ANU students, nor will it seek to make any political statements outside of this goal. Reforms called for by this petition should not provide unfair advantage to any student.

Motion:

1. ANUSA stands in solidarity with working students, financially independent students, students with accessibility constraints, rural and regional students, international students and all students who would benefit from a more accessible learning experience at ANU.
2. ANUSA expresses its disappointment that current practices render ANU a perceivably elitist environment which often leaves behind students who work, come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, live a great distance from the university or live with issues affecting their accessibility.
3. ANUSA supports a student petition to ANU's academic colleges and administration demanding specific reforms to achieve better conditions,

- greater choice and flexibility, and a fairer approach to teaching and assessment in order to promote accessibility of learning at ANU, including:
- a. More online classes.
 - b. More out of hours (before 9:00am, after 5:00pm) classes.
 - c. Requiring assessment grades from the first half of the semester to be released before last date to withdraw without fail."
4. ANUSA welcomes this petition calling for other measures aimed at promoting accessibility and flexibility, including:
 - a. Standardising the times of assessment deadlines. For example, mandating that all assessments are due at 11:59pm.
 - b. Abolishing or diminishing attendance grades.
 - c. Continuation and normalisation of online exams, especially those scheduled after the end of semester.
 - d. Greater flexibility for students to swap assigned tutorials.
 - e. Greater consideration for work commitments, which are essential for many independent students supporting their own life while at university.
 5. ANUSA provides appropriate funding for the dissemination of the petition, contributing towards advertising, printing and any other reasonable costs.
 6. ANUSA members endeavour to assist with any further consultation, research and drafting of this petition.
 7. ANUSA members endeavour to assist with the dissemination and promotion of this petition.

Mover: James Donnelly

Experienced being a student and the struggles of being at ANU. Speaks to the elitism and inaccessibility of the campus. Motion calls for uni admin to make classes more accessible, includes making classes for flexible for students. Also changing attendance requirements matters and universally accessible deadlines. Changes to options to dropout is important as well as aforementioned reforms to exams. Further consultation with DSA is important.

Secunder: Charlotte

This is really important for working students and reforms will tangibly better outcomes. Looking forward to working with James

Speaker for Phi: Critical problem, statistics show that ANU is the least accessible university for working students.

Flori: Excited for developments

6.9 "Free Gaza."

ANUSA condemns the Israeli government's blockade and the bombing of Gaza's civilian population, which escalated following October 7th. The Gaza Strip is home to over 2 million people, half of whom are children. Currently, Israel has severely limited food, water, electricity, gas and medical supplies as well as destroyed enormous areas of civilian infrastructure essential to life and well-being of the population. The ability for Israel to wield this power reflects the asymmetrical nature of this conflict. Since Israel's bombing and invasion began, more than 29,000 Palestinians have been killed. At least 10,000 Palestinian children have been killed. Israel's actions are causing an ongoing humanitarian crisis and have inflamed international tensions. We have seen hate crimes against all religious communities that make up the demographics involved in this conflict, whether Jewish, Christian, Muslim or otherwise.

Collective punishment of a civilian population is a war crime. Indiscriminately bombing civilians is contrary to international law. Attacks disproportionately affecting the civilian population are a war crime. Israel's total siege of Gaza is illegal under international law.

Though the Government has expressed 'concerns' about the Israeli government's actions in Gaza, they have not called for a ceasefire. Instead, the government has defunded United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA), who provide a significant amount of aid to Gaza. Foreign Minister Penny Wong has said that this defunding was despite the government not having 'all the evidence'. Depriving humanitarian agencies of funding risks exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

ANUSA condemns the bombing, killing, and kidnapping of innocent Israeli civilians by Hamas. These actions are totally reprehensible and illegal under international and national laws, and Hamas must be held accountable. ANUSA recognises that Hamas does not represent the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

ANUSA will firmly stand against genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the targeting of civilians, and abhors any further violence against any civilians in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel. We unequivocally condemn antisemitism and islamophobia and stand in solidarity with all of those affected by this crisis.

The ICJ is currently considering whether the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza amount to genocide but has found the situation serious enough to require its consideration under the Genocide Convention. The ICJ has also mandated provisional measures for Israel to prevent genocidal actions in Gaza., the Israeli government has not shown any signs of implementing these measures. It is not enough for the Australian Government to say it is 'aghast' at actions like the Rafah military strikes where more civilians have died. The Government must call for a ceasefire and withdraw it's support for Israel's siege on Gaza.

Action:

ANUSA will release a statement and write to the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong.

ANUSA:

1. Condemns the Israeli government's bombing, invasion of Gaza and blockade on basic necessities which have together resulted in the deaths of over 29,000 Palestinians.
2. Condemns the Israeli government's practice of apartheid in the occupied territories as found by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories.
3. Expresses our disappointment in the lack of practical support offered to the Australian Palestinian community, many of whom have loved ones trapped in Gaza;
4. Ask the Australian Government to recognise that Palestinians and Jewish Australians have increasingly been the targets of hate speech, discrimination, and dehumanising language both online and within the community. We call on the government to combat such behaviour wherever it appears.
5. Calls on the Australian Government to reinstate funding to UNWRA immediately;
6. ANUSA supports The Greens, pro-palestine labor mps such as Fatima Payman, and other crossbench mps that have expressed their support for the palestinian people and an immediate ceasefire in condemning Israel's military actions in Gaza and urges federal members to join her in condemning the siege on Gaza theand bombing of civilian populations in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel and the ongoing military conflict;
7. Demands for the Federal Government to uphold the principles of international law and human rights, and to condemn all war crimes that have occurred in this crisis, including actions by the Israeli government that violate international law such as collective punishment;
8. Demands the Federal Government to
 1. Provide the same opportunities for evacuations for Palestinian Australians and their families and Israeli Australians and their families.
 2. Urge the Israeli Government to lift the siege on Gaza, to withdraw military occupation and end the blockade on Gaza.
 3. Urgently and massively expand much-needed humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza including medical supplies and funding.
 4. Work with members of the international community to seek an end to the conflict, protect civilian life, and condemn any further escalations.
9. Commits to supporting peaceful protests for Palestine;
10. ANUSA will firmly stand against genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the targeting of civilians, and abhors any further violence against any civilians in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel. We unequivocally condemn antisemitism and islamophobia and stand in solidarity with all of those affected by this crisis; and
11. ANUSA supports the BDS movement in their calls for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against the Israeli government and organisations complicit in its violation of international law and recommits to complying with all BDS recommendations; and
12. This motion declares ANUSA as an Apartheid Free Zone.

Mover: Brandon Lee

Brandon: As a union, we must always stand up against ethnic cleansing, violence and genocide wherever it occurs and in whatever form it manifests - especially when the stakes could not be higher right here and right now. This imperative could not be more pressing amongst the background of what is currently occurring in Gaza as we speak—with tens of thousands perishing and an entire population at its breaking point. Palestinians today in Gaza are suffering from an acute famine and forced displacement entirely at the whim of the Israeli military, who are currently descending into Rafah with devastating humanitarian consequences for the millions entrapped there who have nowhere to go. The death, destruction and misery that has ravaged simultaneously one of the smallest yet most densely populated strips on Earth is nearly indescribable and should appal us all.

None of this should be happening in the first place, most plainly because the actions of the Israeli Government are egregiously illegal under every working interpretation of international law. Eviscerating hospitals and UN schools, murdering civilians waving white flags, implementing a suffocating blockade of basic necessities to the strip, and the forced displacement of millions from their communities are only some of the worst breaches we are witnessing today. It is in that context the International Court of Justice has warranted finding Israel's campaign as being at risk of breaching the Genocide Convention, and that the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories—Francesca Albanese—has unequivocally stated that Israel needs to fulfil disastrously unmet obligations towards the territories it occupies.

Hamas' attacks on innocent civilians on October 7th, including the killing and the abduction of civilians, are abhorrent along with the severe escalation of violence since that date. In condemning those attacks unequivocally, it is fundamentally important to highlight that Israel's unlawful and brutal 57-year occupation of Gaza and the West Bank has exacerbated a cycle of insecurity, apartheid and violence affecting every community in the area. This must end in order to ensure dignity and security for all affected communities, all of whom must have their right to self-determination upheld. Holding back tears in a recent hearing on the matter of genocide held by the ICJ—Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian Ambassador to the United Nations, stated loudly and clearly, put plain and simply, that 'the Palestinian people only demand respect for their rights, they ask for nothing more and they cannot accept nothing less.' The horrors occurring right now lead nobody anywhere closer to that future.

Again, it is our moral responsibility to represent the thousands of horrified students on campus and take a stand against the devastation in Gaza. This includes urging the Australian Government to move past the words of "concern" into firm and substantive action and using any and all channels to pressure the Israeli Government into an immediate

humanitarian ceasefire. Additionally, from our end, we can uplift peaceful protest and civic action against entities perpetuating what we're witnessing today, and support students on campus experiencing the very real pain that Muslim, Arab, Palestinian and Jewish communities have been feeling worldwide following these horrific last few months. I believe this motion accomplishes all of the above in earnest and, in doing so, I urge every member of the SRC to take a stand and vote for freeing Gaza.

Seconder: Luke Harrison

I think I speak for many people here when I say that this may be one of the most important things we discuss tonight. We are watching a genocide unfold in front of our very eyes. I hope many share my sentiment that this motion needs to be respectful and reflective - not a moment to gain political point scoring or grandstand.

Since October 7, Israel has escalated its genocide of the Palestinian people, by blockading, bombing, and withholding gas, water, and medicine to the Gaza Strip. A 41km long area along the Mediterranean Sea. An area where just over half of the people are children. A story that stood out to me last week of a 6-year-old child, whose whole family had been killed so he lay under the tyre of a truck so he could end his life. He died several hours later from hyperthermia because Israel had made sure no warm clothes could enter Gaza.

Now, we're watching as Israel carpet bombs the city of Rafah - the city Netanyahu, the IDF, and the Israeli Government had herded Palestinian refugees to - claiming it as a safe haven.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong have been complicit in this genocide. They continually support the State of Israel despite significant pressure and have decided to withdraw funding from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA). Defunding UNWRA deprives the people of Gaza of needed humanitarian aid and exacerbates the conditions that Palestinians are living under.

Since October 7, over 29,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel.

This is why this motion is here right now. I recognise that I, as a representative on ANUSA, and as a Jewish student, hold a particular and strong voice. And I

am determined to use that voice to speak out against the genocide of Palestinians and demand action. And ANUSA needs to do the same.

This isn't some detached situation that has no relation to us. This is a shared struggle for justice. When we fight for Palestine, we are fighting against racism, antisemitism, queerphobia, for Indigenous liberation, and more. ANUSA, as a union, has collective power to fight for Palestine and demand an end to genocide.

This is what this motion is about. Demanding an end to genocide, demanding the Australian government end its complicity, and highlighting ways that ANUSA will fight for Palestine.

Free Palestine.

Phi: Speaker for the Motion

Question: What does 'apartheid-free' point mean?

Skye: Tied with BDS, not affiliating with apartheid system like in South Africa

Speaker (Nick): Extension of condemnation of Israel, urging Australian government to heavily condemn Israel's actions.

Elliott: Speaker for the motion

Question (Mitha): How are we implementing 11 in terms of association with corporations associated with Israel?

Phi: ANUSA already does not invest or purchase from the BDA list

Question: Will extend to any updates to the BDA list?

Phi: yes

Question: What does potential involvement of Hamas in UNRWA entail for this motion?

Luke: No substantial evidence and shouldn't entail collective punishment of Palestinians

Motion Carries

6.10 **In our thousands in our millions we will strike for Palestinians**

Preamble:

This motion complements the "Free Gaza" motion also on the agenda at this SRC and should be seen as an extension of it, not a full statement of ANUSA's position on the conflict.

For 5 months tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed in a brutal invasion of Gaza by the Israeli military. Many many more have been injured, and hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes. Cities and towns have been reduced to rubble, and some Israeli ministers have already begun planning how they can re-establish an illegal settler presence on the strip. The International Court of Justice has warned that the government Israel must not allow genocide to occur in Gaza. We cannot stand by as Palestinians are slaughtered day after day and the toll continues to rise. Nor can we stand by while our government and our university take actions that make them complicit.

We have a responsibility as students to show the university that we will not stand for them to continue their partnerships with weapons companies. We have a responsibility to show the government that we as the people they represent will not stand for their continued diplomatic relations with a state that has a long track record of violation of Palestinian rights in the West Bank and Gaza, and which currently at a minimum violate the laws of war and which could amount to genocide. And we have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine whose rights are being violated. In this effort we must organise and mobilise as much as possible for the Student Strike for Palestine on the 29th of February. This motion establishes an ANUSA position to that effect. This motion is the obvious extension of the other Palestine motion to be considered at this SRC, and should be supported by any genuine supporter of human rights and Palestinian freedom.

Motion:

1. ANUSA commits to sharing content about the School Strike for Palestine on the 29th of February through its social media and other communications channels, as well as co-hosting the facebook event
2. ANUSA endorses the rally on the 29th of February and urges all SRC members to attend
3. ANUSA encourages all ANU students to strike in solidarity with the people of Palestine, noting the ANU's complicity through its partnerships with weapons companies on campus.

Mover: Skye Predavec

What needs to be said has already been said. Need to stand up and follow that through with activism for justice. Do not exist in a vacuum, the roots of this is everywhere. Weapons manufacturers. Web of capitalism connects students to the conflict. Motion complements prior one. Protest, strike and fight for the end to war.

Seconder: Nick Reich

Meet in Kambri, bring the pro-Palestine movement to campus. Motion is good to concretely commit ANUSA to what's going on. Students for Palestine organising flag drop around campus, good to support this action.

Speaker for (Elliot): Walking out of classes emphasised

Speaker for (Sarah): Flag March 8 protest at ABC offices over sacking of Antoinette Lattouf

Motion passes

6.11 Motion: "Support for EWAG and the counter course guide"

ANUSA or ANUSA's president will release a public statement by the end of the week

- supporting and standing by the counter course guide released by EWAG and the articles in it, including anti-imperialist, pro-Palestine and anti-wage-theft articles
- Condemning attacks on the counter course guide from various parties
- Affirming that the student union will continue to publish material supporting political causes that matter to students
- Condemning "Antisemitism, Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination
- Affirming Jewish and Palestinian students are welcome on campus and should feel welcome"

Mover: Sarah Strange

Secunder: Mickey Throssell

Phoenix: Amendment concerns removing ANUSA supports the entire counter-course guide, also removing attacking res halls

Sarah: Amendment is friendly

Mickey: Question about amendment aligning

Phoenix: Emphasising ANUSA should support the articles, not the small detail of supporting them

Motion carries

6.12: ANU Sport

Motion 1: ANUSA to Lobby Student Services Council to restrict funding of ANU Sport so as to put pressure on their leadership to peg student prices to the cheapest gym membership in Canberra. The cheapest gym membership currently is at 330 per year for any tertiary or vocational students (CIT gym) vs 460 for ANU students at the university gym, a difference of 130 dollars extra despite the 20 percent of SSAF fees dedicated to student sport. As a recipient of SSAF, ANU Sport has a moral obligation to provide the cheapest, and therefore most inclusive, membership prices to students. Pricing needs to take priority in order to deliver the essentials cheaply first, and to discourage unnecessary luxury bloat to budgets which are not prerogative of student-funded amenities.

Mover: Samuel Sawde

Seconder:

Tabled for next meeting. Procedural passes.

Item 7: Other Business

Item 8: Meeting Close

The next meeting of the Student Representative Council is scheduled to be on **Wednesday, 25th March at 6:15pm at Marie Reay 2.02.**

Expected Close of Meeting: **9:30pm**

Released: 19 February 2024 by Milli McDonald

Reference A

President's Report

SRC0 - 6 December 2023

Phoenix O'Neill
sa.president@anu.edu.au

Welcome

Hi everyone! For those of you who don't know me, I'm Phoenix, I use they/them pronouns, and I'm very excited to be the 2024 ANUSA President.

This year, I really want to keep pushing the ANU on discrimination. There's been a massive amount of reform in the SASH space which is amazing and we want to keep pushing for more, but other forms of discrimination have been neglected - particularly in the prevention space. Student safety and wellbeing is a huge priority of mine and something I am committed to improving for a variety of students.

I'm also very excited to be welcoming in the first full year of ANUSA as the sole student union for all students. This is an exciting time for us to welcome a new cohort of postgraduate students and make sure that we are representing them fully. I'm committed to ensuring that ANUSA is doing a good job representing all students and improving in the postgraduate space significantly this year.

I want to give an absolutely massive shoutout to our O-Week team for the amazing job that they did. They organised almost 100 events that got a huge attendance over the week. Market Day was a huge success thanks to them. A particular shoutout to Seungbin, for his dedication and amazing work throughout the week. Congratulations on your hard work paying off! I'd also like to shoutout our Department Officers, as they also organise a huge amount of events for their communities throughout the week that are so important.

Activism and advocacy

Invasion Day

In the days leading up to Invasion Day, many of my hours were dedicated to helping support the rally. ANUSA organised many marshalls, first aid-ers and legal observers, as well as bringing our supplies and buying water. We do this every year and it's important that we continue helping to show our commitment to Indigenous justice in a material light.

Palestine

I have been working on supporting advocacy and activism for Palestine. This has consumed a lot of my hours, particularly with the Counter Course Guide which is reported more extensively on in Luke and Skye's approach. I have been meeting with any student or member of the ANU community who reaches out and wants to engage with ANUSA in good faith on the issue. This has included a lot of conversations with staff, students, and my legal team.

Committees

Noting that there was a committee meeting that Charlotte attended for me when I had COVID.

Student Safety Wellbeing Committee

This committee discusses SASH and coordinates the response from several divisions. The most recent matters of discussion have included:

-

IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) Governing Committee

This committee meets to discuss strategies for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility. Several taskforces sit under it, such as the Anti-Racism Taskforce, Disability Action Plan Reinvigoration Taskforce, and the Gender Equity Strategy. I had a significant amount of election policy about the ineffectiveness of this committee to create or commit to change, and this meeting confirmed much of it - the heads of all working groups commented on missed deadlines, lack of communication about updates and a seeming lack of dedication to ensuring that the plans are followed through on. The committee has acknowledged that this is an issue but there is no specific answer yet on how this will be followed through on. I find this extremely concerning, and now that O-Week is over I want to focus some advocacy on this committee as the ANU is in desperate need of funding and commitment to these plans.

Student Services Council

Student Services Council did not discuss much when we met.

Internal

Training, retreat and rep support

I went on ANUSA executive retreat and helped Charlotte with the organising of it. We spent our time teambuilding and planning for the upcoming year.

I organised a first session of legal observer training for protests that took place in the summer. I am planning on organising a general, open to all students legal observer training soon. Legal observers are an important part of protests and ANUSA has consistently been unable to find volunteers with appropriate training.

I've also been doing some work on supporting representatives, particularly for ANUSA's newer positions. I've been meeting with each of the incoming executive members and department officers to begin our terms.

I also renewed my first aid and CPR training.

SSAF

We are currently nearing the end of negotiating a three-year SSAF agreement. This will be ANUSA's first three-year agreement, which should hopefully provide us with significantly more stability than in previous years. I've been working closely with Will on the bargaining for this. This should be finalised within a week. Negotiating on the terms of the agreement took up significant time in January.

Casual vacancies

I have appointed several representatives to fill casual vacancies rising from the election and from resignations during the lead up to December 1.

At the moment, the only vacant positions are PGCW CoS Rep, and HDR CBE Rep. I will be going out with another form to fill these casual vacancies soon.

General executive work

I have been supporting exec members in their roles, some of which has required a lot of work. The two in particular to shoutout are O-Week (again, a massive congratulations to Seungbin) which consumed many of my hours, particularly in packing residential hall packs, and setup of the BKSS/dealing with the library books borrowed by SOAD students.

Legal, WHS and staff matters

The President has oversight of all legal, WHS and staff matters that may arise. These are usually confidential but take up a portion of my time.

We are currently renegotiating the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. This is anticipated to continue this week and takes up a lot of time as President.

ANU Council

I also hold the role of Undergraduate Member on ANU Council. Though this is a separate role to President, the constitution allows for their attendance and reporting at meetings. Due to the confidentiality of the agenda, this is a challenging role to report on. ANU Council met on the 1st of December 2023 and on the 9th of February 2024.

Other

SENCON

I attended the Student Experience Network Conference with several members of our staff in November. The conference was interesting and had various ideas, though I think that it's worth noting that it was significantly more helpful for our staff than for student representatives as we were a minority. Still, some of the sessions will definitely be useful, particularly how other unions run food pantries.

National Union of Students

Over the summer I was doing a fair amount of work making sure that we correctly affiliate to the NUS and that our delegates can go to NatCon. I attended NatCon as an NUS delegate and I attended President's summit, which I report on separately.

Timesheet

As of this report, I have worked 335.5 hours from December 1. I have taken one week of leave around the Christmas shutdown. I've also taken one week of sick leave.

Reference B

SRC 1 Vice President's Report Charlotte Carnes

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 - a. Employment
 - b. Upgrades
 - c. Induction
 - d. Student Bites
3. SRC tingz
 - a. Buddies
 - b. Induction day
 - c. Training
 - d. Exec retreat
 - e. Support
4. Academic
 - a. ECA
 - b. Employability Framework
5. Miscellaneous
6. Timesheet

1. Introduction

My name is Charlotte (she/they) and I'm your Vice President for 2024. The Vice President's role is a little difficult to pin down as it changes year to year and is based on a division of duties between the President and the Vice President which is rooted in strengths, capacity, and interests. I mostly manage internal affairs, academic advocacy, and of course the BKSS!

My focus this year is majorly on the academic sphere. I wrote a number of policies around the subject in the election that I intend to see through. We deserve the education we were promised, we deserve the education we want - and are paying obscene costs for - and we need to be demanding that in the age of profiteering universities.

My other two main focuses are on rep support for the SRC: ensuring genreps feel they can achieve their policies, department officers don't burn out, and college reps and academic officers feel empowered in their roles. The second is on increasing the accessibility and visibility of the BKSS.

I am acutely aware of not getting so caught up in those everyday tasks that I fail to make progress on other goals and issues. This report will cover the main tasks and issues I have been working on, but it is neither exhaustive nor static. If you have any questions about my report, love, life, ANUSA, etc. please reach out to me at sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au!

2. BKSS

The Brian Kenyon Student Space otherwise known as the BKSS is a free space for students by students. It's open weekdays 8am - 8pm and is a place to study, relax, eat, and socialise. The BKSS offers a range of things including: free breakfast from 8.30 - 10.30 every day, free condoms, pads, and tampons, a place to heat up your food or make a cup of tea or coffee, chargers that can be borrowed, information about ANUSA and its services, events and upcoming campaigns... and much more!

a. Employment

Hiring for the BKSS was incredibly competitive with almost 100 applicants. In the end, we hired three new BKSS staff members and I'm stoked to have them on board! It's also such a joy to see so many staff members choose to stay on board this year.

b. Upgrades

I bought some new furniture for the balcony and foyer including functional chairs and tables as well as some new couches. It was an election policy of mine to make these areas - the balcony especially - more inhabitable and usable. I spent many hours in the foyer, cleaning, painting, and putting together tables and chairs. Shout out to Will for helping me put together tables. The space feels more like somewhere you can really study and once the other couches arrive it will also be a more comfortable space to relax and socialise. There are still some things I'd like to do that might have to wait until mid-year break when we close again but most of the work is complete. My plans for the space include making it more accessible and redefining mutual aid in the context of the BKSS with the Welfare Officer Skye to return to its original philosophy. I will also be working on the balcony which tends to be a dumping ground

If you have any ideas pertaining to the above or just generally regarding the space and how it might be bettered please please email me at sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au or the BKSS staff at sa.studentspace@anu.edu.au.

c. Induction & training

I conducted the BKSS staff's induction day, we had some really great conversations about the space and its various programs. I underwent the same training they are required to do which includes food health and safety training and allergen awareness training, both of which are mandated in legislation.

d. Student Bites

Student Bites is a free grocery food programme run by ANUSA, built on the principle of mutual aid. The programme seeks to materially support students during the ongoing cost of living crisis and build systems of community care to fill gaps left by the university's services. In partnership with OzHarvest Canberra, Student Bites collects quality excess food from supermarkets and delivers it free of charge to ANU Students from ANUSA's Brian Kenyon Student Space. Sign ups to volunteer for term 1 close Wednesday 21st Feb at midnight! <https://forms.gle/PucLj3j5kbZWM1Z38>

3. SRC Induction and Training

Before our terms started I organised and ran the SRC induction day alongside the executive who each ran a session on the day. So far I've received positive feedback from the day. I personally really enjoyed working with the genreps to flesh out their projects and running the session on what we want to change about the uni and want to see ANUSA do next year.

I also planned, organised, and ran the 2024 Executive retreat over the first weekend of our terms. It was a great weekend with a lot of productive ideas and discussions that came out of our work.

a. Buddies

I have also spent time allocating the genreps to an executive office bearer who will serve as their 'buddy'. The buddy system has been dysfunctional for quite some time now as college reps were also given an exec buddy. However, now that we have Academic Officers on the SRC, the support of college reps will sit with them and exec will be able to focus on the 2 or 3 genreps they have, as opposed to the 6 genreps and college reps they had in the past.

Most of my time around this has involved reading all genrep and exec policies and matching them accordingly. I haven't finished this work yet so to any genreps reading this, your exec buddy hasn't reached out yet because they don't know who their buddies are yet.

b. Induction day

Thank you to everyone who came to SRC induction day the weekend before our terms all officially commenced! I spent a lot of time in the lead up to December 1st planning induction day to ensure it was as useful for all reps as possible. There were sessions on student unionism, events, finance and governance, what we want ANUSA to look like this year and more. Each exec member ran a session and put a lot of work into those. I intend on organising some more planning days throughout the year so keep your eyes peeled and let me know if there's anything you'd like to see at them.

c. Training

I've organised a few different trainings for department officers, staff, and exec including: disclosure training which was a pre O-Week stand in for mental health first aid training; helping admin organise first aid training (there will be a second session near bush week which will be opened up to the rest of the SRC); and finance training for our treasurer and the woroni and observer equivalents. I also organised AICD (Australian Institute of Company Directors) training for the Woroni, Observer, ANU Sport boards and the ANUSA executive. To my understanding, governance training is something owed to us by the ANU in our SSAF contracts.

d. Exec retreat

I organised the annual executive retreat which was completed over December 2nd - 4th. The planning that takes place at this retreat is mostly strategic and broad strokes, it's a time where we think collectively as an executive body rather than within our own individual portfolio's priorities.

e. Support

I have spent a considerable amount of hours since my term began on miscellaneous instances of rep support ranging from department officers to gen reps. I also helped Seungbin with tasks pertaining to O-Week and of course spent most of O-Week lending a hand.

4. Academic

As mentioned in my introduction, academic matters are something I'm really keen to sink my teeth into this year. I'll be the undergrad student member for Academic Board this year. Aside from the below item, I've been working on some miscellaneous academic things that I'll report on in SRC 2. Class representative training is one of those things!

a. ECA

Extenuating Circumstances Application (ECA) replaced the split system of special considerations and deferred exams last year. Some things have improved but overall this new system has many new flaws and a number of people in the University are aware of this and want to see it changed. The Student Assistance Team and I met with the Deputy Registrar to discuss some changes a couple weeks ago. It

was a positive meeting but we're nowhere near done. The main things that we all agreed needed changing were its lack of flexibility and delayed response time.

b. Employability Framework

I sat in on the final meeting of the Employability Framework Working Group as the previous VP was the student representative. It was a productive meeting and contained many fruitful discussions around what it means to be employable, why ANU graduates feel unemployable, and the various opinions on the graduate attributes.

5. Miscellaneous

I spent some time as acting president while Phoenix was at NatCon and Presidents Summit which meant I did things that I ordinarily wouldn't do as Vice President. This included attending a rescomm induction panel where I talked about what it means to be a student leader. I also spent about 4 straight days organising and packing reshall packs, huge shout out to Harrison and Nadeeka for helping out, that was a beastly task!

6. Timesheet

I have worked approximately 324.5 hours since December 1st, averaging 29.5 hours a week. I am paid for 24.5 hours of work per week. I have taken 2 days of personal leave and 1 day of sick leave. If you have any questions about how I use my hours or about the work I do more broadly, don't hesitate to reach out to sa.vicepres@anu.edu.au.

Reference C

Education Officer Report - SRC 1

Introduction Report

O-Week

Education and Welfare Action Group

The Counter-Course Guide

Beginnings of Rad Ed Week

Organising for Power Training

SOAD Library

Things happening right now

Palestine rallies coming up

Introduction

Hi everyone! My name is Luke Harrison (they/them) and I'm your Education Officer for 2024! I'm originally from the beautiful regional city of Wagga Wagga on Wiradjuri Country in western NSW. I came to ANU in 2020 and study a Bachelor of International Relations and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Political Science.

I first got involved in activism and organising in 2021 and became a general representative on ANUSA for 2022. Since then I've been organising around many issues including trans rights, climate change, against war, and more. In particular, I've been involved with education organising in 2022 and 2023 when I was Deputy Education Officer.

My report tends to follow the following structure: I introduce myself, I update the SRC on the work I've done, and I comment/update on events and things going on presently.

I have worked 172 hours since my term began on December 1, 2023.

Report

O-Week

O-Week happened last week! Major congratulations to all those involved with O-Week, in particular Seungbin and the O-Week Coordinators Kendall and Kelise. It was a resounding success and a great week overall. I helped out with many events like Monday Moose, but EWAG also ran multiple events during the week.

Department Fete

EWAG had a stall a Department Fete where we got to speak to many students during the two hours, as well as giving out counter-course guides, and getting students to sign the petition targeting the cost of living on campus.

Banner Paint

We held a banner paint on the ANUSA balcony where we painted a large banner for the Student Strike for Palestine as well many smaller banners about Palestine. We had a large number of students come to the event which was really good.

Market Day

It was a long day but EWAG had its own stall at Market Day, where we got to talk to many students and hand out a bunch of Counter-Course Guides.

Politics in the Pub

We went to PJs in the City for a politics in the pub event where we had really productive conversations over some pints and chips about Palestine organising, the corporate university, and union strategies in general.

Overall it was a great week and we got to engage with many students about the conditions for students living and studying in modern times.

Education and Welfare Action Group

EWAG is in the full swing of things now! Congratulations to the EWAG Co-Convenors Raffy, Harriet, Mickey, and Max. We had our first meeting on the Monday of Week 1 (at the time of me writing this report this hasn't happened yet but I will give a run down orally at SRC 1).

The Counter-Course Guide

The Counter-Course Guide was made! For those of you who don't know, the Counter-Course Guide is a guide to the university for students by students. It has its origins as documents made by student unions that would give a rundown of every course at the university, written by students who actually experienced studying at the university. These days, it's a radical guide to different elements of the university experience, such as the corporate university, living at residential halls, and more.

It took up a lot of time for Skye and I, but I'm really proud of the final product. I personally wrote an article explaining HECS but there are many different articles explaining different aspects of studying at ANU. If you don't have a copy of the Counter-Course Guide you can pick one up at the ANUSA office or contact myself or Skye.

We also included the Counter-Course Guide in 'res hall packs' that ANUSA organised to be given to most res hall students. However, I am disappointed in the decision by some residential committees to remove the Counter-Course Guide from the packs due to its inclusion of articles about Palestine.

The Beginnings of Rad Ed Week

Now that O-Week is over, I will start working on one of my major projects for the year. Rad Ed Week is something I'm looking to adopt here at the ANU. Existing at other universities like USyd, Rad Ed Week is a week of conference style panels that discuss different topics relating to activism, organising, the university, and more. The first part of organising Rad Ed Week will be to gather an organising committee of people keen on helping organise and facilitate Rad Ed Week. I'll be making a form soon and will start sending it around, but if there's anyone who is interested in being a part of it, feel free to get in contact with me now!

Organising for Power Training

Organising for Power (O4P) is a training run by the Rosa Luxemburg Institute (in Germany) that offers to teach skills that help workers organise within their

unions to improve their working conditions. O4P is open to anyone and groups get organised to undertake the training together. I'm organising a group of students to take the training and we can collectively learn skills to organise in a student union context. If you're interested in O4P and want to get involved you can fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/7xpE6YPB393gJZLf6> and I'll get a group chat going soon with those who are keen!

The SOAD Library Closure

As per my last report at SRC 0, the university decided to close down the SOAD library for repairs and no guarantee of it being reopened. This was all day with no consultation with students. In early December, a bunch of students and myself organised a mass borrow protest of the collection located in the SOAD library, which we have been storing in the ANUSA office. The idea was to demonstrate the value of the collection.

Due to the university beginning to declare the books in the collection as 'lost' and threatening students with fines in the thousands, a decision was made to return all the books. However, we're not willing to let the university get away with their continued suppression of education and the arts. So, stay tuned for a meeting in the next couple of weeks to plan the future of the campaign.

Things Happening Right Now

Palestine Rallies Coming Up

As always, there are weekly rallies held by the Palestine Action Group (PAG), typically held in Garema Place at 1 pm on Saturdays. Follow the PAG Facebook page to keep up to date: <https://www.facebook.com/Palestine.ACT>. The rallies in Canberra have had its numbers dwindling over the past couple of weeks so it is imperative that we show up, not act like everything is normal while Israel commits genocide in Palestine - and particularly the carpet bombing of Rafah that's going on as we speak. I encourage everyone to attend the rallies. You can always contact me, anyone here, or the EWAG page if you need people to go with.

On February 29, there will be a Student Strike for Palestine event held at 12pm in Kambri. Students from across the country will be walking out of class to demonstrate support for Palestine and to cause disruption while the

genocide occurs. Furthermore, the ANU has a partnership with Northrop Grumman, the world's third-largest weapons manufacturer and supplies weapons to Israel to carpet bomb Palestinians. I encourage everyone to attend the rally. <https://fb.me/e/1HUyY0IWt>.

If you have any questions or want to get involved with any project or campaign, feel free to email me at sa.education@anu.edu.au.

Reference D

General Secretary Report – SRC 1 2024

Milli McDonald

sa.gensec@anu.edu.au

1. Introduction
2. Meetings / SRC
3. Governance Review
4. ANUSA executive
5. Timesheet

Introduction

Hi everyone! My name is Milli McDonald, (she/her), and I am excited to be the ANUSA General Secretary for 2024.

My role is made up of all things constitution and governance. This year presents a huge opportunity to reform the governance of ANUSA for the better and to help it better deliver for students. Happy to chat to anyone who is interested!

Meetings / SRC

Much of my time this week has been in preparation for SRC 1 and EDC 1.

Over the summer, getting through all the FOC's booking forms, setting meeting dates etc was a priority.

This includes working with people on motions, receiving apologies, etc.

Governance Review

We have received some proposals from consultants, that we will be working on soon! Governance review will hopefully begin very soon.

The terms of reference for the review are to be seen here:

The review shall consider:

1. *ANUSA's governing documents, including its constitution and regulations;*
2. *ANUSA's representative and governance structures and practices;*
3. *The above areas with particular attention to ANUSA's recent transition to representation of postgraduate students;*
4. *Opportunities for improvement and reform of ANUSA's governance, mindful of ANUSA's nature as an independent, student-led organisation.*

The reviewer shall provide the following deliverables:

1. *Consultation sessions with internal ANUSA/student stakeholders to understand internal perspectives on matters within the scope of the review. Consultations shall include consultation with :*
 1. *Current and, if appropriate, former representatives;*
 2. *ANUSA staff;*
 3. *As appropriate, students beyond the SRC.*
2. *Consultation sessions with key ANU stakeholders for the purpose of understanding key ANU expectations of ANUSA including compliance with ANU legislation and other relevant obligations and expectations. These stakeholders shall include:*
 1. *The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Portfolio;*
 2. *The Corporate Governance and Risk Office*
 3. *The University Legal Office*
3. *A set of high-level recommendations for reform of ANUSA's governance to be provided to ANUSA that align with best governance practice for a democratic, student-led student union delivering representation, advocacy, community-building and support. The ANU shall receive a copy of these recommendations.*
4. *Support and advice to an internal ANUSA, student-led implementation and democratic decision-making process, that aligns with the Student Organisation Constitutional Amendments Protocol.*

ANUSA executive

I have been working with the ANUSA executive on O-week, planning for the year and organisational governance over the summer.

Timesheet

Since Dec 1, I have done 137.5 days of work.

TREASURER REPORT

By Will

1. *Introduction*
2. *Surplus reporting*
3. *SSAF*
4. *Budget work*
5. *Other things*
 - a. *Ethical Sponsorship*
 - b. *Department finances*
 - c. *Financial policy update*
 - d. *Timesheet*
6. *Profit and Loss statement*

Introduction

Hello good people of the ANU and welcome to my first proper Treasurer report. I'll deliver one of these each SRC and OGM where I'll go more into depth about what's happening in my space and what my plans are. As always if you have any questions or think some of my work is interesting and want to get involved, please email me at sa.treasurer@anu.edu.au

Surplus Report:

Towards the end of November 2023 ANUSA found itself in a bit of a funky position, due to taking on postgraduate students, we took on more staff and as a result the budget passed for 2023 had to make calculations on their wages. We ended up not onboarding the staff as quickly as thought and so we had over budgeted for their salaries. Which left us with a potential SSAF surplus.

ANUSA is funded by SSAF, which has previously been a one year agreement which doesn't allow rollover. This means we have to spend all our SSAF allocation, we however don't want to spend all of our income that year as that would take us into deficit. This means we tread the line between spending all of our SSAF, but not all of our non SSAF income.

Whenever we think we might have SSAF surplus we look to bring forward some expenditure so we can free up our budget for the next year, particularly we look for capital expenditure which can provide long term value.

There are three ways we have classified the surplus expenditure, these are 2023 regular spending, 2024 regular spending bought forward, and discretionary. It is important to note that these purchases were completed by the 30th of November last year and so as this year's Treasurer my reporting on this is for transparency reasons more than anything.

2023 spending: \$1,526 - this is mostly for computers for staff as well as some printing we needed to pay for

2024 spending: Bought forward some expenditure on comms, this includes business cards, postcards, stickers, decals, banners, wall planners and the beautiful phone wallets we gave out in O-week. This totalled approx. \$18k

Our Student Assistance Team bought forward their expenditure on Grocery and Transport vouchers, another \$18,500.

Also spent \$5000 on masks in preparation for the bushfire season, these are just generally good to have as well!

Our beautiful, stunning tote bags that we gave out in O-week came to \$28,600.

The Res Hall packs we gave out in O-week had \$7k, these were the glossy folders which had the counter course guide in them as well as information about departments and our services.

Discretionary spending: Equipment including tables, goods trolley and marquees came to \$1,148. Balcony and Foyer improvements came to \$16k. We allocated \$5,000 for NUS equity grants but because of lots of enthusiasm we spent a bit more. The largest surplus purchase was \$26,545.45 for a Ute, this has been used to transport stuff for protests, Invasion Day, and O-week. Camera purchase was \$5,400. And last but not least, there was \$5,000 allocated for advocacy training. If you have any questions regarding any of this spending, then please let me know!

SSAF

Student Services and Amenities Fee, allocated by the university in "collaboration" with the Student Services Council. Currently our 2024 looks like it will be not as good as we hoped, with the projected student numbers the exact number is yet to be seen. However, the final number will be below what we bid for and while it might be an increase on last years \$2.8 million, it will be below the ANUSA + PARSA baseline that we had been arguing for. You will notice that in the provisional budget passed at last year's last OGM we have been approved for around \$3.5 million in expenditure. This doesn't mean however that our spending will be stuck at this level considering that would put us at a substantial deficit. This leads us nicely into the next area.

Budget Work!

Following on our SSAF position I have spent time looking at our funding allocations for the past few years in preparation for the March OGM. This requires us to adjust our forecasted spending and there's lots of minute detail that I won't go into here because it would take up many pages. Essentially, I am looking to get real solid expected expenditure and bring that to the general meeting so our finances are as transparent as possible.

We also have

- **Ethical Sponsorships Committee**

ESC has been meeting a lot, particularly before O-week so we can get lots of sponsors approved. Market day proved to be a massive success to was glad to have been able to help just a small part. Shout-out to Phi, Seungbin, Luc, Jade, Kiera, and James for your help with this. Thinking about reform to this committee to speed it up a bit so keep on eye out for that.

- **Department finances**

Have been working very closely with departments as we finalise their budgets for this year and helping out with other issues as they pop up, these include honoraria, stipends, and taking some payments. Yippee.

- **Financial Policy update**

Working very hard to update all our financial policies. I will be putting these out for consultation and am hoping to get them done before OGM. If you would like to help work on them, please let me know. These include procurement, gifts, reserves, and new policies... hint hint investment

Timesheet

Since Dec 1st I have worked a total of 154.75 hours. Yippee!!

Profit and Loss Statement

Profit and Loss

The Australian National University Students' Association Incorporated

For the period 1 December 2023 to 19 February 2024

Account	1 Dec 2023-19 Feb 2024	1 Dec 2022-19 Feb 2023
SSAF Expenses		
Accounting/Bookkeeping - Xero	419.31	362.04
Bank Fees with GST	80.46	58.65
Bank Fees without GST	430.38	254.66
BKSS Food/Consumables	7,211.88	4,976.50
BKSS Non-food	0.00	1,584.71
Bus expenses	3,401.57	515.00
Clubs Council Grants Committee	215.44	0.00
Consultancy	6,930.00	0.00

Departments & Collectives	37,235.18	60,000.00
Education Committee	5,118.41	3,969.11
Equipment Expense	144.52	240.00
Fees & Subscriptions	31,422.92	1,935.85
Leadership and Professional Development	1,750.31	10,877.40
Legal Expenses & Consultancy	2,569.18	2,137.96
Marketing & Communications - Diary	0.00	4,690.00
Marketing & Communications - Printing	816.84	1,550.00
Marketing & Communications - Software Subs	379.20	199.00
Meeting Expenses	0.00	34.91
Other Employee Expense	4,990.11	8,195.35
O-Week Events	11,321.80	76,668.34
O-Week Food purchases	0.00	71.51
O-Week Merchandise	987.78	5,327.18
Parenting Room	0.00	1,431.27
Printer	210.19	582.61
Department - Honoraria	(100.00)	0.00
Department - Stipends	31,712.83	29,534.12
Department - Superannuation	3,488.47	3,101.10
Salaries and Wages	298,606.11	194,907.63
Salaries and Wages - ANUSA Exec & Officers	46,013.86	46,607.55
Salaries and Wages - BKSS	4,474.07	3,730.64
Salaries and Wages - Event Coordinators	12,338.57	11,092.54
Superannuation Expense	48,776.67	32,107.48

Superannuation Expense - ANUSA Exec & Officers	10,348.34	4,893.72
Superannuation Expense - BKSS	1,179.26	410.37
Superannuation Expense - Event Coordinators	1,405.35	1,168.05
SAT Purchases - Student Meals & Others	936.36	1,114.00
Student Assistance Team Grants	17,226.82	13,456.36
Staff Amenities	160.62	44.61
Stationery/General Supplies/Postage	484.10	934.36
Student Engagement	382.06	641.39
Utilities	0.00	921.78
Total SSAF Expenses	593,068.97	530,327.75

SSAF Surplus/ Deficits	(593,068.97)	(530,327.75)
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Other Income

Interest Income	268.76	1,909.04
Miscellaneous (Sundry) Income	0.00	652.25
Other Grant Funding	850.00	0.00
O-Week Income	32,875.00	39,185.00
Ticket/Event Sales - O Week	0.00	6,468.62
Total Other Income	33,993.76	48,214.91

Other Expenses

Non SSAF Expenses		
Events Non-SSAF	0.00	11,798.75
Total Non SSAF Expenses	0.00	11,798.75

	Other Student Grants	2,450.00	0.00
	Social Profolio	181.82	0.00
	SEEF Grants	4,126.86	0.00
	Shut Up and Write program	169.09	0.00
Total Other Expenses		6,927.77	11,798.75
<hr/>			
	Net Profit	(566,002.98)	(493,911.59)

Reference F



Clubs Officer's Report

Student Representative Council 1, 2024
21st February 2024

Seungbin Kang
sa.clubsofficer@anu.edu.au

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Introduction

Hiya! I'm Seungbin, and I'm the ANUSA Clubs Officer for 2024. My role is responsible for all things social - such as planning O-Week, Bush Week, and administering the Clubs and Societies programme among many things. I'm particularly interested in building a more vibrant social scene on campus, through strong ANUSA organising and expanding our social programme, better supporting and empowering our clubs and societies. Most importantly however will be my work in making this vibrant social scene a sustainable and futureproof practice, and reimagining the ways in which we organise communities and better contribute to the overall ANUSA patchwork.

If you are interested in any of my work, please do reach out to me at sa.clubsofficer@anu.edu.au! Would be keen for a chat c:

O-Week



O-Week was a swimming success! I am proud of so many things - whether it be that the O-Week team and I organising the largest ever social calendar, the support we've given to all those that make O-Week possible, and empowering clubs to achieve big in the week, and organising the first ever ANUSA O-Week with postgraduates. By all metrics this was a hugely successful O-Week, and it's something that I'm both proud of but more so grateful to many of.

Firstly, I would like to extend my greatest gratitude to Kelsie and Kendall, the ANUSA O-Week Coordinators. While I set the vision and paint the broad strokes of O-Week, it is largely the O-Week Coordinators who translate this vision into reality. I'm blessed with a wonderful duo that are passionate, capable, and trustworthy, and I'm so proud of our work. In a similar vein, I would like to thank our volunteers and Volunteer Coordinators, of which they're many for they are the ones who make us running the events possible.

I would also like to thank the ANUSA Executive, for dealing with any last minute jobs but more importantly in being such a strong pillar of support for me throughout the past 2 months. Never once had I felt unsupported by the Executive in planning and executing O-Week, and I hope that this continued support can be enjoyed by future Clubs Officers. Another shoutout goes to the ANUSA Departments whom I'm blessed with the opportunity of getting to know and support during O-Week, and them playing a tremendous role in supporting and empowering our communities during O-Week. This also extends to our ANUSA Officers, such as the Parents and Carers Officer, HDR Officer, PG Coursework Officer, and many many more.

I would also like to thank the ANUSA Staff members who've worked tirelessly behind the scenes in making the week possible. Above all however the greatest thanks goes to Erin, the ANUSA Community Officer. Oh, where would I be

without you - thank you for being my most consistent pillar of support. Through the many challenges, early mornings and even later nights, we've taken on the challenge of organising head on and I'm so thankful for all your work and guidance and I'm so excited to work with you for the rest of the year in fulfilling a larger social vision for ANUSA.

Planning O-Week is a gargantuan task that I'm so proud to be of. Thank you all for embracing my vision for the week and all playing a part in translating it into reality. It's never easy, but I am so grateful to have such wonderful people I work with in making it possible.

Some event highlights of mine:

Market Day

Massive success! We had heaps of people present and its always phenomenal to expand on the work of bringing Market Day back to Uni Ave. What I'm most proud of however is our successful recruitment of volunteers and strong Executive support in running Market Day to ensure that our staff can feel supported while running Market Day. A special shoutout here to Woroni for helping us organise music for the event!

Night Markets

What a way to conclude O-Week! It was a really atmospheric event with heaps of attendees, and the addition of music and handicrafts to the Night Markets is such a positive addition that I'm keen to organise more of.

Check N' Tune - How to Repair your Bike

Love love love this event. We had a humongous turnout and I'm glad to see so many people bring their bikes and get it repaired and a lesson out of it. Shoutout to Mojo Cycles for helping facilitate this!

Postgraduate Welcome Evening

Popped off! We really improved from this event previously held during Bush Week, and it was lovely for Phi to present ANUSA's work to Postgraduate students. It is a fabulous start to our work in postgraduate organising this year.

Carnival

Setting up the carnival at the lawns was a great change to this event. I'm so glad that the Coordinators managed to reimagine an event that was

previously not always successful into this showstealer that I had heaps of fun in!

Marketing O-Week

I loved working with Kate, the ANUSA Communications Officer in thinking about marketing strategies for O-Week! A personal highlight of mine is expanding the ANUSA branding to University Avenue, putting our O-Week floor stickers across the stretch that was particularly great to see during Market Day.

On the budget, I will present the spendings of O-Week at SRC 2. From our estimates however, we're forecasting a large amount of positive cashflow that can be directed to other projects across the year.

So what's next when it comes to O-Week? Heaps. I'll be keen to organise a BBQ to celebrate the end of the week with those who made the week possible. There will also be extensive feedback undertaken that can be added on to a robust handover process before O-Week remains dormant for the next year. Wrapping up any loose ends and keeping the week sealed in a lovely present box for the next Clubs Officer. Super proud of the work of my O-Week team and I'm keen for the rest of the year!

Clubs

Through the introduction of the ANUSA Clubs and SEEF Administrative Officer, I've witnessed lots of positive change in the way Clubs Officers work that enables me to spend an equally large amount of time pre-O-Week to organise clubs policies. This is a change I am perpetually grateful for, not only for my personal distaste for administrative work but also because it empowers me to take on a wider scope of work without being bogged down by the day to day minutia of administering the clubs programme. The wheel of the ship is undeniably heavy, so it always helps to have extra hands to help steer it!

Here I have a massive shoutout to Patrick, our Clubs and SEEF Administrative Officer! He's really freed up my plate to spend time thinking about O-Week and thinking about clubs, and that played a huge role in all of my work on clubs prior to O-Week!

Clubs Training

So pleased to have run this before O-Week! We had a stunning turnout with more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of all affiliated clubs being present. It was super lovely to see clubs have fun with the 2nd half of the training which had more workshop elements such as brainstorming and sharing ideas, and a kahoot. As mentioned during training, I'm hoping that Clubs Training is only

the start of a long ANUSA Clubs Training programme, which I hope to cover other topics such as Special Event Organising (Balls), Conflict Resolution, Handovers, ATO, etc. All of this I hope provide club leadership with the skills and support they need to achieve big this year!

Market Day Code of Conduct and Terms and Conditions

I've developed a basic framework of club sponsorship governance that applies currently only during Market Day. It is a current flaw of the current Club Regulations that there are no major mechanisms when it comes to sponsorships, with the potential threat of exploitative organisations entering partnerships with our affiliated clubs. While pleased with its implementation in Market Day, I'm seeking to expand similar policies into the Club Regulations, something which I will do with ample consultation due to my understanding that there are a lot of clubs that rely on external sponsorship to run their clubs. For a sustainable funding model for clubs in the future, it is important that we model our policies around the work of clubs.

Reaffiliation + Affiliation

Opening up reaffiliation early was a positive change at the end of last year! While I did not have a massive hand in reaffiliation, playing a largely overseeing role, I'm super pleased to see so many clubs reaffiliate. Affiliation entails many benefits, so it is important that all affiliated clubs are able to conduct themselves to a high degree of compliance which I am pleased many clubs do have.

Clubs Communications

We've been strengthening our communications with clubs through more frequent emails, and the flagship Clubs Correspondence. Expect this to continue into the year!

We've also created an official ANUSA Clubs Facebook Group with I am looking to share soon. This will create an official forum for the ANUSA Clubs Team to communicate informally with clubs rather than the unofficial clubs group chat that current exists. After the former becomes more utilised, I will exit the unofficial group as I strongly believe there needs to be a space for unmonitored discourse and criticism on my work (which oftentimes occurs there)!

Not completely related but not lengthy enough for its own category, I will be starting Clubs Office Hours soon! Get coffee and chat with me about clubs!

QPay

I am looking into various minor issues on QPay, such as access to grants and prices. While admittedly there is not much space for maneuverability on the latter, I've noticed some clubs moving to alternative platforms. The ramifications of that I've yet to think much about, but it is undeniable that QPay offers a large amount of services that had made the running of clubs much smoother compared to previous services.

Clubs Committee

Keen as a bean! I'm super excited to use Clubs Committee much more this year, with meetings at least once a month. There we will be discussing policy, events, regulations, and much more. I also have a few other projects such as Club Leadership mental wellbeing that I aim to achieve through working with Clubs Committee. Signups will be out soon, and I've scheduled the first meeting to take place in March!

ATO + legislative foresights

There are large taxation changes which captures clubs on campus with its first round taking place at the later end of this year. This is a big change. Currently, I've informed clubs about the change through Clubs Training, and have advised clubs to seek taxation advice. Club Operational Grants will be remodeled to support this, and I have been spending a lot of my time seeking legal support in understanding this new framework. I worry that this change will put deep strain on the clubs system, and it requires a lot of imagination to bridge clubs at its current level of financial governance, ANUSA, and where we need to go as a whole.

Another large legislative change is within the ACT Discrimination act which will capture clubs and conduct within clubs. I will ensure that our affiliated clubs are well prepared for this change, alongside the above ATO changes.

Super fun!

Social

On the broader ANUSA social policy, I generally agree that there is a need for more social events outside of O-Week and Bush Week. I am keen to intertwine social and clubs together, a formula that was successful in events such as Universal Lunch Hour. I am hoping that the positive revenue generated from O-Week can be redistributed into various smaller projects across the year.

I am also looking into refining our postgraduate event calendar, which currently features the Postgraduate Welcome Evening, HDR Coffee Catchup, and Unwind events. I've been receiving lots of feedback which I am keen to implement after later meetings discussing ANUSA's strategy when it comes to postgraduate engagement.

Misc

Clubs Officer

I've been spending a decent chunk of my time thinking about my role. It is undeniable a demanding role, and it is unfortunate that by nature entering the role entails organising O-Week, and administering the clubs and societies programme. There is large baggage in this role, and I'm blessed that there are previous Clubs Officers on the Executive who can empathise with this struggle. I'm committed to spending my term making this role much more accessible to future officebearers, and much less exploitative. It is by nature of the role just like every other that it is what you hold of it (and how you utilise it), and previous changes to the role has been positive.

Equally as important however is thinking about the role of Clubs Officer and how it is connected to the wider ANUSA vision and picture. I would like to work on greater social integration as one of ANUSA's 3 pillars into our overall work,

Activism

I've marshalled for the weekly Palestine Rallies and Invasion Day protests. It is important that we as a SRC that we commit ourselves to Indigenous justice and Palestinian solidarity.

Postgraduate engagement

I'm keen to work closely with the HDR Officer, Postgraduate Coursework Officer, and the Postgraduate/HDR Representatives. We have upcoming meetings scheduled where we can sit down and organise ANUSA's approach and review our previous efforts.

Next projects

Heaps! I suspect most of my time in the next few weeks to the next OGM will be focused on tying up the loose ends from O-Week, but alongside that I hope to kickstart Clubs Committee and think of a wider Clubs Regulation reform package later down the line. A lot of my work ties into a wider vision of

revitalising our campus spaces, but in a way that involves clubs, ANUSA, communities, and all so in a sustainable way.

Timesheet

From December 1st to the 18th of February, I've worked 378 hours. This averages out to be 37.8 hours per week, of which I am paid for 14 hours per week.

Contact

If any of my work sounds like your type of jam, or you would like to look deeper into my work, please reach out to me at sa.clubsofficer@anu.edu.au. Would love to have a chat!

Reference G

Welfare Officer Report - SRC 1

I'm Skye (she/her), and I'm your Welfare Officer for 2024. I'm in this role because I really care about students, and that's what I want to bring to this year in Welfare, taking care of our health, wellbeing and our material conditions. We have a real opportunity to build some great campaigns on Housing, Transport and Workers' Rights, and I also want to stretch ANUSA's capabilities to directly take care of student welfare to the maximum, especially by expanding programs like Student Bites. If you're interested in working on any of that, if you have any questions or ideas about the Welfare Portfolio, please don't hesitate to reach out to me on sa.welfareofficer@anu.edu.au.

At the time of writing this report I have worked 180 hours.

In this report:

5. Counter-Course Guide

6. Housing Campaign
7. Working with the NUS on student poverty
8. O week
9. ANUSA food programs

1. Counter-Course Guide

The counter-course guide is published! Despite some roadbumps with distribution, we printed thousands of beautiful looking and very useful guides for new students on campus. I'm really proud of all the work we did on this, and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed in any way. There are some lessons to take from this process which I'll be passing on to whoever takes on the challenge of producing next year's CCG, but I still think it represents a great success.

The fact that several halls rejected distributing the counter-course guide on the basis of its political nature (specifically referring to articles about Palestine, Imperialism, and Socialism) is a real disappointment. Our position as students and workers in this society is inherently political, and in the face of an ongoing genocide the effective censorship of pro-palestine materials is a reflection of cowardice.

2. Housing Campaign

The housing campaign is heating up! We've been running our petition campaign all through o week, and we have reached the first point of decision. This SRC has an opportunity to endorse an open day protest on the topic of housing, where we will flyer outside residential halls to talk to prospective students about the challenges they'll be facing, as well as holding a rally in a more central location. Please contact me or Luke if you want to get involved in this!

If you haven't already please [sign the petition](#), and [follow the EWAG page on Facebook](#).

3. Working with the NUS on Student Poverty

Frankie, who is the campaign manager for the NUS change the age campaign, has provided some really impressive materials for mounting a campaign on student poverty. I'm really keen to work on this, especially integrating it with our housing campaigns so that we can have a slightly broader focus and ability to collaborate. In the long run I really want to mount a joint protest around the budget on this topic, and in the short-run this will likely look like a promotional event and EWAG taking part in student poverty week (wk7). I really encourage all the people who complained in the past about ANUSA not working with the NUS to help out with this!

4. O week

O week! What a time. I went vastly over my weekly hours, but everything went well, and in particular EWAG had a great time. We ran a banner paint, a politics in the pub, and had our presence at both Department Fete and Market Day. We had a great amount of sign-ups, and

I'm really happy with the work we did. We produced stickers, flyers, and of course the counter-course guide and distributed them to heaps of eager students. A lot of work went into O week for EWAG, and of course even more for the rest of O week. Congratulations in particular to Seungbin for a really well run week.

5. ANUSA Food Programs

ANU students are hungry. We all know this, we've all felt it, and we've all seen it. ANUSA currently provides assistance to prevent this through the BKSS, Student Bites, and our Voucher Program. These are great, but obviously not enough to eliminate student hunger. ANUSA is an organisation with a modest budget, that would never be able to feed every hungry student suffering under an uncaring government and harsh market conditions. But what we *can* do is stretch the money and resources we have to their limit.

I've done some solid work on putting together a proposal to increase ANUSA's mutual aid capabilities, but it's been put on the backburner until after O week. And that's now! If this research and proposal is something that sounds interesting to you, please reach out to me at sa.welfareofficer@anu.edu.au.

In Solidarity,
Skye Predavec
Welfare Officer

Reference G

Department Officer Reports

4.1 Indigenous Department (F.Stevens) [Reference H]

ANUSA INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL 1

Faith Stevens

Executive Summary

1. Summer Projects
2. O-Week
3. Upcoming Events
4. 2023-2024 Handover
5. Expenditure Report

Report

1. Summer Projects:

Over the 2023-2024 Summer Break, the Indigenous department ran a well-being picnic for Invasion Day the 26th of January, as a way to support students during this time. Our Social Officer prepared social media posts to help get the event out so that students were aware of this and could join if they wanted to and needed this level of support.

2. O-Week:

Over the week, the Indigenous Department will hold 3 main O-Week events. These events are/were T-Shirt printing with the BIPOC department, Coffee Catch up and a collaboration movie evening with Yukeembruk Hall and the BIPOC Department. The collaborations were done with the intent to build a relationship with the Hall and BIPOC department to open further avenues for collaborations. The Department Fete and Market Day were successful events as we were able to reach out to more new students as well as get in touch with students who were already in their second year and onwards who haven't previously been involved with the department.

On Monday of O-Week, our first event was the T-Shirting printing collaboration with the BIPOC department. It was a very successful event, we had around 20 or more people show up and order T-Shirts, at least a quarter to half of the students were students from our department. This event was done in hopes of bring the BIPOC community together and give people something fun to engage in. The T-Shirt design used on the T-Shirts were done by the Indigenous Department's Deputy officer, Maggie Knights. The event ended at the time it was suppose to and all the T-Shirts ordered were used during the event.

On the Tuesday, we had the Department Fete, which as expected, didn't have many newcomers show up to our stall. However, we saw a lot of familiar faces involved with the department and got a lot of interest from other students at the university.

On the Wednesday, our department finally got the stickers we had ordered for O-Week just in time for the ANUSA Market Day. This was very successful and we had many new students come up and show interest in coming to our other O-Week events. We added a bunch of students both new to the university and new to the department, to our mailing list. We shared

information about our social media to most students, informed them of autonomous and non-autonomous events and that it will be shared to these platforms if they wish to get involved. The poster cards and stickers designed by our Deputy Officer were big hits at the stall.

On Friday, the Department will be having a Coffee Catch up session which is a reoccurring event that will happen throughout this year and has happened in previous years. We hope to see a big turnout as our Social Media Officer made little note cards which was handed out both at the Department Fete and Market Day but has also been shared to all our platforms.

On Saturday, the collaboration with Yukeembruk and the BIPOC department will start at 4pm and run until 8pm. Snacks will be provided, and we hope to get a decent turn out. The event will be held at the Yukeembruk Student Hall.

3. Upcoming Events

The Indigenous Department will be running fortnightly autonomous coffee catch-ups. The department will also be having a welcome back and welcome new students event in Week 2 which will be a Messina ice-cream evening, where there will be a walk over party from the Tjabal centre so students know where to go. For the new students, the department executive team will point them to where things are on the walk over so that they get a little tour of civic.

4. 2023-2024 Handover I feel as though there is not much to report about the handover as this was completed last year with the former Officer Aleisha Knack who took me through a handover session. There is a continued correspondence with her as I still am learning the role.

5. Expenditure Report

Indigenous Department
Income and Expenditure Report

For the period from 1/12/2023 to 15/02/2024

Income	
ANUSA Funding	
Roll Over from last year	

Total Income	
Expenses	
O-Week T-Shirt Printing – BIPOC Collab	
O-Week Stickers and Postcards – Market Day	
Wellbeing Picnic – Invasion Day	
Total Expense	

Surplus/ (Deficit) of the year	

4.2 Women’s Department (L.Johnson) [Reference I]

WOMEN’S OFFICER REPORT

Lara Johnson

16th February 2023

Introduction

Hi!! My name is Lara, I am this year’s Women’s officer and am very excited for the year ahead. Firstly I would like to thank my incredible committee for all of their work over the last couple of months and especially during O-Week!!!

(A reminder of who is on the Women’s Department Committee):

- Anna + Shalena (Deputy Officers)
- Disha (Social Media)
- Katie (Secretary)
- Phoebe (Treasurer)
- Maia (Web Design)

Support

Whilst O-Week can be a fun and social time, it can also be heavy and filled with lots of new experiences and feelings. I just wanted to remind everyone that it is okay to take a step back and look after yourself after such a big week. There are lots of support resources and

services available and if you need help accessing these, I'm always more than happy to help and can be contacted at sa.womens@anu.edu.au

Pre O-Week

ANU Committees

I attended the first Student Safety and Wellbeing Steering Group meeting of the year. We discussed the National Code and the Student Ombudsman and how that will affect the ANU and their internal policies. We also discussed the updated disclosure form and will continue to provide feedback.

Birth Control Subsidy

The birth control subsidy which has been an initiative of the Women's department for the last two years will continue into 2024. The birth control subsidy will continue to subsidise any form of birth control, insertion costs and other gendered medical expenses. If you have any questions regarding a specific cost, please email me at sa.womens@anu.edu.au

Training

I completed a short session with the Student Safety and Wellbeing Team and I also completed my first aid and CPR training prior to O-Week. However, I have not yet received my Lifeline/mental health training - hopefully this will occur in the next few weeks.

Rapunzel Room

We have completed a number of small working bees to clean and tidy the Rap Room, we have brought some new books, new shelving and a projector. The flooring in the Rap Room was also replaced, as the floorboards were coming off!!!

If you would like access to the Rapunzel Room - please contact me at sa.womens@anu.edu.au or you can find the google form on our linktree in our Instagram bio.

O-Week

We had an amazing O-Week!!! A huge thank you to my committee, Anna, Shalena, Phoebe, Maia, Disha and Katie! All of our events were very successful, with lots of great turnout.

I am especially proud of Shalena, Katie and Maia's event "Midnight Snack" which was very popular and introduced multiple new students to the Rap Room! The event was an alternative event to Moose, for anyone who wanted to be social but didn't want to go clubbing and I think shows that there is interest and we should encourage fun, exciting and well planned alternative events to drinking events.

I'd also like to share my deepest gratitude to Anna and Phoebe for volunteering at the Moose event. Finally, I would like to thank DinSoc for their help in organising and collaborating with us for our Badger dinner event!!

Women's Health Matters and other meetings (CW: Brief mention of Sexual Violence):

Over the summer, I meet with Ursula from Women's Health Matters and consulted on their new project which is to create a consultation model for with people who have lived experience of domestic, family and sexual violence to inform improved services and systems in the ACT. We are investigating how the Women's Department at ANU can be involved and looking to what services outside of the ANU, students need and are asking for.

I also attended the EROC (End Rape on Campus) briefing regarding the National Code and Student Ombudsmen. This was incredibly informative and am very much looking forward to further discussions regarding how this will affect ANU and its processes.

Finally I met with Anna, the Wellbeing Coordinator at BnG for a quick catch up - we spoke about future collaborations and engagement in residential halls from the ANU Women's Department.

International Women's Day + Upcoming Events

Collective Meetings

The Women's Department Collective Meetings will be on Mondays from 6pm in the ANUSA boardroom. Women, gender diverse, non-binary and trans students are welcome at our collective meetings!!!

International Women's Day

For International Women's Day - the Women's Department will be drawing murals using chalk on University Avenue both on Thursday night and on Friday morning, with messages and drawings describing our thoughts and feelings towards the day and our experiences living under the patriarchy. We will also be running a special book club, FCR and collective meeting.

FCR + Book Club

Feminist Consciousness Raising and the Women's Department book club will continue into 2024!! FRC will be led by one of our deputies Anna, FCR will be run on Tuesdays from 5pm. We will be looking for facilitators for sessions throughout the year, if you are interested please get in contact with Anna, via anu.womens.dept@gmail.com. We will also be a book

club on Thursdays from 5pm, this semester the book club will have a broader scope and include more fiction novels.

Source of Income	Details	Amount	Total
Baseline Funding from NUSA	5,000	5,000	5,000
		total income	5,000.00

Expenditure	Amount
possy	460
Merch	1415.7
Canva Subscription	165
kea shelving and Rap Room Supplies	186
Food for O-Week	423
Projector	97
total Expenditure	2,746

Timesheet

I have worked approximately 168 hours since December 1st. Monday and Tuesdays are my office days, but please feel free to reach out if you would like to meet me outside of these days at sa.womens@anu.edu.au

4.3 Queer* Department (G.Gorrie) [Reference J]

SRC 1 Queer* Officer's Report

Georgia Gorrie, 16/02/2024

Department Activities

Merch – Merch was designed, ordered, and advertised in time for O-Week. Merch should be able to be re-used in coming years – 2023 merch has the year marked on the design, which is why new merch needed to be printed in the first place.

Zine – Zine finalised and advertised, printed in time for Market day. Successful project for community engagement – will be repeated next year.

Finance – Preliminary plan for budget has been worked on. Previous budgets consulted for major budgetary items. Treasurer position to be filled on 20/02/2024, after which a finalised budget will be created.

Queer* House – Several large pieces of furniture were moved into the House, old furniture was removed, and other significant décor changes were made. A project was started to request donations from collective members to help decorate the house. Significant improvement has been made – whole extra room is now usable.

Engagement – Set up a messenger chat for first year queer students. Established a discord server for the general collective. Discord server has been a success, and has assisted in creating a more casual, informal space for interactions and announcements. First year chat has been difficult to kickstart, but has served some purpose for communication.

Events – All O-week events planned and advertised successfully. Strong turnout to all events that have run so far. Schedule for semester events confirmed, majority of venues booked. Fortnightly discussion groups and coffees are the majority of the events that will be run – run consistently in an attempt to develop a consistent engaged collective contingent, which was lacking throughout 2023. Major semester event - Panel with elder queers from the external queer community booked and confirmed for Week 5. Part of a larger project to get students more connected with external queer resources and activities.

Income and Expenditure

Income: \$5,773.33

Expenditure: \$5,421.01

Current balance: \$3,349.21

Date	Amount	Merchant	Statement Description	Bank balance
2/12/2023	-\$34.84	amazon	Queer House decor	\$2,996.89
4/12/2023	+\$5000.00	NUSA	SAF Basline	\$7,996.89
5/01/2024	-\$600.00	asmine Small	Merch	\$7,396.89
5/01/2024	-\$600.00	ehan ayawickrama	Merch	\$6,796.89

2/01/2024	-\$20.00	target	Queer House Decor	\$6,776.89
2/01/2024	-\$116.00	mart	Queer House Decor	\$6,660.89
2/01/2024	-\$5.00	innies	Queer House Decor	\$6,655.89
8/01/2024	-\$25.25	ff Ya Tree	Queer House Decor	\$6,630.64
5/02/2024	-\$1607.65	luegum	Merch - Shirts	\$5,022.99
5/02/2024	-\$525.25	luegum	Merch - Totes	\$4,497.74
0/02/2024	+\$15.00	(A Jakob-Van-vooren	Merch purchase	\$4,512.74
1/02/2024	-\$211.70	oolworths	Food for O-Week	\$4,301.04
1/02/2024	-\$49.00	KEA	Queer House Decor	\$4,252.04
2/02/2024	+\$35.00	Rainbird	Merch purchase	\$4,287.04
3/02/2024	-\$64.77	oolworths	Food for O-Week	\$4,222.27
3/02/2024	-\$1,571.80	ytes N Colours	Line Print	\$2,650.47
4/02/2024	+\$219.68	quare	Merch purchase	\$2,870.15
5/02/2024	+\$503.65	quare	Merch purchase	\$3,373.80
5/02/2024	-\$24.59	hirsty Camel Daily cton	Food for O-Week	\$3,349.21

4.4 International Students' Department (R. Agrwal) [Reference K]

ISD SRC 1 REPORT

DATE: 18/02/2024 | AUTHOR: Rishika Agrawal (she/her)

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Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa 1

Women's Health Matters 1

Recruitment of ISD Directors & Reps	2
Orientation Week	2
Upcoming Plans	2
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Introduction

Hi everyone! I am Rishika Agrawal and I use she/her pronouns, and will be the 2024 ANUSA International Students' Officer, as well as the President of the ANU International Students' Department (ISD).

ISD is an autonomous department under ANUSA, which exists to represent and advocate for international students. We also create resources, run initiatives, and organise events for international students, both on-campus and overseas.

You can reach out to us via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/anuisd>), or email me directly at sa.international@anu.edu.au.

Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa

Several international students raised concerns with the proposed change introduced in the 485 Temporary Graduate Visa (at page 69 of the Migration Strategy) to lower the upper age limit for the TGV, from 50 to 35, a decision that will surely impact current and prospective international students, especially HDR students, many of whom begin their research degrees in their 30s. I have sat in a meeting with Diana Tung (HDR Officer), Phoenix and Errol Phuah from the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, discussing ways in which affected students can be supported. Along with ANUSA releasing a statement regarding its take on the matter, a letter to the Minister has also been sent.

Women's Health Matters

During the summer break, I had the opportunity to talk with Ursula De Ruyter about a project Women's Health Matters is running to raise the voices of people with lived experience of sexual and gender-based violence in the ACT and region. We discussed various ways in which international students in ANU with such lived experiences can be best supported.

Recruitment of ISD Directors & Reps

Over the last three months, the ISD Executive recruited Directors for the Wellbeing, Social, Education, and Publications Portfolios. I welcome Rachel Theresa Thomas as Wellbeing Director, Poorva Bhaiya as Social Director, Maythem Al-Anpaqi as Education Director, and Madelynn Zhang as Publications Director.

Additionally, ISD also recruited reps for these portfolios during January, continuing till the end of o-week. The rationale behind earlier rep recruitment was to ensure that Directors' workloads were more manageable, and to allow ISD to run a more comprehensive Orientation Week calendar.

Orientation Week

This year's Orientation Week program was one of the ISD's most extensive, with events almost each day of the week. A huge shoutout to all the ISD Execs and Reps that worked tirelessly to run the events.

ISD's Orientation Week events comprised of:

- Tuesday-Department Fete
- Wednesday- Market Day
- Thursday- Treasure hunt X Mixer
- Friday- Lunar New Year themed Speed Friending (on the suggestion of our lovely Clubs' Officer- Seungbin, and may I add that it was a major hit).

Upcoming Plans

The department has the following plans:

1. OGM: ISD will be hosting its first OGM of 2024 on Monday the 19th of February. The purpose of this OGM is to pass associate memberships (for Domestic students who wish to be a member of ISD) and discuss plans for the semester.
2. ISD Constitutional Amendments– Currently, ISD's Secretary is in the process of reviewing our constitution and making amendments that may be required since after PARSA merged with ANUSA.

Income & Expenditure

International Students' Departments Expenditure Report

As of 18/02/2024

Opening Balance as of 30/11/2022		\$3,009.89
Income		
ANUSA Baseline Funding		\$5,000.00
Merch Sales Revenue		\$194.00
Total Income		\$5,194.00
Expense		
Merch Expenditure	(\$2,317.62)	
Website Domain	(\$27.00)	
Total Expense	(\$2,344.62)	
Closing Balance as of 18/02/2024		\$5,859.27

4.5 Disabilities Department (F.Cooper, G.Wright) [Reference L]



Disabilities Officer Report

SRC 1, Semester 1, 2024

Florence Cooper (she/her) and Griffin Wright
(they/them)

Disabilities Co-Officers

ANU Disabilities Student Association

Prepared 19/02/24

Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Advocacy & Campaigning
3. Media & Community
4. Administration
1. Executive Summary

We have a lot of exciting plans for 2024! We are looking forward to working with our wonderful new committee to make a difference for disabled students at ANU!

2. Advocacy & Campaigning

Issue based Advocacy & Student Support

Students who contact the Officer with individual issues of ableism and discrimination can receive assistance. We have been in contact with various parties, including conveners, Accessibility, other university staff members, and others in order to address the individual concerns of students, including over the non-teaching period. During O-Week we ran an EAP Help Session to assist students in navigating Accessibility, acquiring Education Access Plans, and requesting accommodations. The details of these interactions will remain unspecified for reasons of confidentiality.

If you ever have an issue like that, please don't hesitate to contact us at sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au, or any other means through which you are comfortable seeking contact.

Additionally, we have attended meetings with various university staff members to advocate for increased accessibility on campus, including digital accessibility and access to the ANU Medical Centre.

NUS Disabilities Officer

During O-Week we had a visit from the new NUS Disabilities Officer, Mairead Foley. She participated in the Spoon Space Tour and Chill, engaging with attending members of the collective. We also had a meeting discussing her plans for the year.

These included the Disabilities Conference, planned for late May, at which we will run several workshops and encouraging students unions, including ANUSA, to join the Hidden Disability Sunflower Scheme. We also discussed the administration of our department, and how it differs from the operations of disability advocacy at other universities. We plan to continue to work closely with her for the remainder of the year.

3. Media & Community

Spoon Space access

The Spoon Space will remain accessible for those with card access 7am-7pm weekdays over the non-teaching period. Those collective members with 2023 access will have to reapply for 2024 access.

If you want Spoons Space access and do not yet have it, please fill in the form here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkHwwEA4TgBQMO7wEkAq6QPyF9swquFQd4QwdJjk3zmtFcUQ/viewform>

Merchandise and Spoon Space library

Last November, we ordered new DSA merchandise, which has since been delivered. Suggestions were taken from the committee and collective about what should be acquired. The new merchandise was sold or given away during O-Week and proved very popular.

The previous co-officer and current publicity officer, Mira Robson, has been acquiring disability-related books for a library in the Spoon Space. She has been reading the books, providing descriptions and content warnings, and cataloguing them. The new library will be installed in the Spoon Space in the coming weeks.

Social Strategy Update and Recurring Events

O-Week was very successful, the events ran fairly smoothly and we had a good turn out for each event. On Market Day in particular we had lots of lovely conversations about what we do and spread information to people who didn't know we existed. A considerable number of new students have requested Spoon Space access, which is very good to see.

Information about our recurring events, including casual coffee, craft sessions and our collective meetings, will be up on our Facebook group shortly.

Over the non-teaching period, our public-facing Facebook page was hacked. We are currently undergoing processes to retrieve access. In the meantime, we suggest that students join the autonomous ANU DSA Social and Alumni Facebook group, our Instagram page or our Discord for information about events. Links to these groups can be found in the following linktree:

https://linktr.ee/ANUDisabilities?utm_source=qr_code&fbclid=IwAR3K7s3JEWIXW_YjOXEaZtPatQZ4HFPmnAYtqIGlwKmnSDy4Jt9XRPJG7f0

4. Administration

Office Hours

Office hours have resumed, and run both in-person and online via zoom. You can come to find out more about the DSA, discuss an issue you are having regarding accessibility, or seek information and advice on navigating the disability policies and structures in place at the ANU, like EAPs and medical withdrawal. The current office hours for this semester are Griffin on Mondays 2:30-4pm, and Florrie on Thursdays 1-2:30pm in the Spoon Space. These may be subject to change once our event calendar is confirmed. We can be available for appointments outside those times too, please get in contact via sa.disabilities@anu.edu.au to make an appointment.

Elections

We will have upcoming elections for the vacant Post-grad Representative committee position when collective meetings resume in Semester 1. More information about nominations will be posted on our Facebook page closer to the time.

Financial report since December 1, 2023

Money in

Item	Amount
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Credit Interest	\$12.59
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Money Out

Item	Amount
------	--------

Casual Coffee	\$297.50
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Collective Subgroups ADHD ASD Coffee	\$30.50
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Foods (Costco, Woolworths, Coffee Meeting)	\$326.40
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Library Revamp (Harry Hartog)	\$82.97
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Total Out: \$737.37

Timesheet

During the period between 1 December and the writing of this report, the co-officers worked a total of 118hrs and 30mins. Most of this time was spent in organising the

handover of committee roles, individual advocacy and emails, and O-Week. A full breakdown of how our time was spent is available upon request.

4.6 Environment Department (W.Somerville) [Reference M]

Environment Officer Report

10. O week!
11. No Northrop Grumman @ ANU Campaign
12. Social Media
13. Income and Expenditure

14. O Week

Of course O week has been the big thing that we've all been working towards. We held an EC meetup the week before to paint a new stall skirt and do some last minute planning for the week. This year we also produced zines to distribute during o week with articles written by members of the collective covering a range of different topics related to environmental activism today - including one on why it's not too late to save the planet (to combat doomerism) and climate change and imperialism. The zines proved to be pretty popular during the week, lots of people took them and I even had a few people come up to the stall who had read someone else's copy and wanted to get one for themselves!

Our main event this week was an EC intro meeting on Tuesday night which had a cohort of new people who were keen to get stuck into activism! Our main focus for the first semester is going to be campaigning against Northrop Grumman on campus (which I will talk about in more detail in the next section) and everyone had a lot of great ideas to build the campaign and we now have an EC working group that will be focusing on that between meetings. Also coming out of the meeting we will be having a banner painting next friday to paint an anti-Northrop Grumman banner and signs to bring along to the Student Strike for Palestine on February 29th.

We then got the word out about the banner painting on market day. We also helped promote the strike itself during market day and the Students for Palestine organising for it that happened last Friday! At both the stall at the department fete and market day, we were able to get into lots of chats with students keen on environmentalism and had a lot of new people keen to get involved in the EC sign up to our mailing list. So overall the week was very successful!

15. No Northrop Grumman @ ANU

We launched a petition in O week targeting ANU's links with Northrop Grumman (the world's third largest weapons company). We wanted to particularly target Northrop Grumman because ANU has STEM scholarships and internships with them, as well as over \$50,000 yearly investment in them. There's a lot of crimes that Northrop Grumman can be linked with but one of the most pressing is the fact that they manufacture the air warfare systems in the f-35 fighter jets that are currently being used to bomb Gaza. We felt that having a targeted campaign against a single (incredibly appalling) company would be a good angle to approach a divestment type campaign with - particularly because there was a recent win for a similar kind of campaign at RMIT against Israeli weapons company Elbit Systems.

Coming out of our o week meeting it seems like there's real energy to turn it into a broader campaign over the course of this semester. Please sign the petition here - <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/no-northrop-grumman-at-anu>

16. Social Media

In the summer break we had a bit of a focus on trying to build up more of a social media presence for the EC, we put out general climate news posts, as well as a little series on where the climate movement is at around the world today including a cool success story from Panama where nationwide mass protests successfully stopped the development of a copper mine. We didn't have much success in expanding the EC's audience this way, but now that semester is back and there is more interest in getting involved with campus groups, we will try to continue to work on the EC's social media presence.

17. Income and Expenditure

Our main expenditure has of course been on material for O week. We went a little bit over the budget that was set last year but we are planning on passing a new budget in our next collective meeting in the teaching period that shifts spending to be more outward focused.

*Note: There were some issues with handover and finances and as such we do not yet have access to the EC bank account, which is why the opening and closing balance is not displayed.

4.7 Bla(c)k, Indigenous and People of Colour Department (S.Wania) [Reference N]

SELENA WANIA (SHE/HER)

Student Representative Council 1

Wed, 21 February 2024 6:15 PM

OUTLINE:

- I. O-WEEK
- II. SOCIAL PORTFOLIO
- III. ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO
- IV. FINANCE
- V. ADMINISTRATION

VI. O-WEEK

We had a very busy 6 day O-Week calendar with a total of 7 BIPOC Department events (including collaborations). We had quite a successful turn out for each event with the exception of the movie night at Yukeembruk. The following is highlights from each event:

- **Monday - DJ Workshop:** This was our first event of the week with about 30 attendees all together. The event provided a unique opportunity for BIPOC students to learn directly from other BIPOC DJs, offering hands-on experience with a DJ deck. This was particularly significant as we were able to support the BIPOC art and creative community since DJ workshops are typically expensive and challenging to access for practice.
- **Monday - 'Land Back' Screenprinting Collaboration with Indigenous Department:** This was our first collaboration with Indigenous Department for the year. The beautiful design by the Indigenous Department which says "Land Back. From the rivers to the seas," reflects the BIPOC Department's commitment to Indigenous and Palestinian advocacy. We are quite happy to see BIPOC and Indigenous students around campus wearing these powerful T-shirts.
- **Tuesday - Departments Fete:** Departments Fete was a good practice run for Market Day. We had the chance to introduce the Department to new students while also seeing old faces. Our sales for merchandise were also successful.
- **Tuesday - Safe Space Launch:** BIPOC Base has now been officially launched and marks a long awaited moment for the BIPOC Department. We are very grateful to have had Noah Allan do a Traditional Acknowledgement of Country, which was then followed by speed friending and a potluck. BIPOC Base is now accessible to all BIPOC students.
- **Wednesday - Market Day:** This was the longest and busiest day for the week. We reached out to many new students and promoted our Badger Mixer which was on that same evening. Our merchandise sales doubled those of Department's Fete.

- **Wednesday - Badger Mixer:** Promoting our Badger Mixer during Market Day resulted in quite a large turnout. We ran out of food in the first 30 minutes! It was great to see the ANU BIPOC community mixing with each other.
- **Thursday - Chai & Chats:** Chai & Chats is one of our regular events we do throughout the year. On Thursday we paid for 22 people's hot and cold drinks at Milligram!
- **Friday - Mehndi Event:** Mehndi or Henna is a beautiful body art tradition of many BIPOC cultures which was a pleasure to share with other BIPOC students. We had 3 talented Mehndi volunteers who we are very thankful to for offering their time to apply Mehndi on others.
- **Saturday - Movie Night Collaboration with Indigenous Department and Yukeembruk:** We wanted to wrap up our hectic O-Week with a relaxing movie night at Yukeembruk with Indigenous Department. We offered various movie options to pick from a Google form with the winner being 'Wedding Season'. The aim to collab with a residential hall was to increase the Department's presence within the community however turnout was low.

What's Next? We will be releasing an O-Week feedback form very soon to understand what we did well and where we can improve.

VII. SOCIAL PORTFOLIO

Overall we had a very successful O-Week and will soon start planning for social events for the rest of the semester. We are yet to decide on how often we will be hosting regular Chai & Chats. We are currently in the process of planning for our First Sem Party.

The Social Committee sign ups are now open if you are interested in joining [here](#).

VIII. ADVOCACY PORTFOLIO

BIPOC Base

Our biggest advocacy accomplishment is securing and launching the Safe Space, BIPOC Base (Old Griffin Hall). Over the summer break, I had communications with ANU's Facilities and Services to organise general maintenance for BIPOC Base. I have managed to remove all Griffin Hall related exterior such as the lettering above the door, logo on the door, old pin boards and old mural. We have successfully replaced it with new BIPOC Base lettering, a new BIPOC Base logo, and repainted the door to purple.

We have also created a new Safer Spaces Policy (SSP) which applies to the BIPOC Base, all ANU BIPOC Department events, and our Online Spaces. The purpose of the SSP is

aimed at developing and maintaining a safer space culture founded upon mutual respect within the community. To gain 24/7 card access to BIPOC Base you must agree to this SSP since we are committed to providing a space for BIPOC students to feel safe in their identity. You can find the SSP [here](#) and the access form [here](#).

Student Safety Wellbeing (SSW)

Within the advocacy portfolio we have ongoing work with Student Safety Wellbeing (SSW).

We have provided feedback to SSW regarding their new Disclosure Tool about Harmful Behaviours which includes discrimination and racism. We believe there is much ongoing work to be completed for this new form.

The BIPOC Department will always advocate for BIPOC student's mental health and wellbeing. After speaking with the Practice Lead of SSW, we have begun discussions of introducing a pilot program in all residential halls (including UniLodge, excluding Johns and Burgmann). This pilot program will introduce a SSW case manager to the residential community with a fixed one hour drop in session weekly for all students. SSW have given us an approximate timeframe being the second week of March.

BIPOC Talks

BIPOC Talks are fortnightly consciousness raising circles autonomous to BIPOC students for a chance to come together and discuss their BIPOC identity and how it intersects with other identities and lived experiences. We aim to have the first one for the year on Tuesday Week 2 with the topic 'Being BIPOC'.

Palestinian Advocacy

The BIPOC Department has taken a pro-Palestinian stance and will continue to always stand in solidarity and advocate for Palestinian freedom and liberation.

Towards the end of Semester 2 in 2023 the BIPOC Department organised Palestinian movie nights after our collective meetings and organised walk-overs to Palestinian protests / rallies. In 2024, the BIPOC Department will continue those initiatives along with other new projects to stand in solidarity with Palestinians.

I and another BIPOC exec member have offered to speak at the Student Strike for Palestine on the 29th of February. We are planning on organising Palestinian fundraisers, the first hopefully being a DJ night celebrating Palestinian and MENA DJs. Consuming and showcasing the art of oppressed groups is a form of resistance against colonialism, especially when honouring and celebrating it. We are also planning to organise an educational panel to increase awareness of the current genocide in Palestine. We are looking to have a diverse panellist - if you know of someone who would be interested please reach out at sa.bipoc@anu.edu.au

The Advocacy Committee sign ups are now open if you are interested in joining [here](#).

IX. FINANCE

BIPOC Department - Income and Expenditure Report		
For the periods 19/01/2024 - 16/02/2024		
Income		\$
ANUSA Baseline Funding		\$5,000
Total		\$5,000
Expenditure		\$
Social		
Chain Chats		\$91
Merch		
Tote Bags		\$841.50
Stickers		\$270
Executive		
Google Account		\$4.98
MYOB Subscriptions		\$5.97
One-week		
Mehndi Night		\$33.94
Safe Space Launch		\$122.97
Total		\$1,370.36
Surplus/Deficit		\$3,629.64

X. ADMINISTRATION

ELECTIONS

All Exec members for 2024 have been filled except for BASC President (Black African Student’s Collective) and First Year Rep. In line with our constitution, nominations for the First Year Representative will open the day after the fourth collective meeting of the academic year and will be elected at the fifth collective meeting of the academic year.

The election process for the BASC position is not outlined in our constitution. The BIPOC Secretary and I are working on constitution changes, which will be presented in a later collective meeting.

OFFICE HOURS

My office hours are Wednesdays 3PM - 4PM at BIPOC Base (BIPOC Department Safe Space) or via Zoom. Please contact me to set up a Zoom link.

TIMESHEET

From 06/12/2022 - 16/02/2024 I have worked more than 120 hours and 15 minutes. You can email me at sa.bipoc@anu.edu.au for a more detailed breakdown of my hours

Item 5: NUS Reports

5.1 Delegate P. O'Neill [Reference O]

On the second day of NatCon 2023, I was told it was a "historically bad natcon" - and it got worse from there.

I went to NatCon as an independent delegate. For a long time the factions at ANU have called on anu's independents to get more involved. I would say that we were extremely involved this year. I was speaking, voting, negotiating amendments and more the entire time I was on the conference floor and I am proud to report that. However, it did consistently prove to me how flawed the NUS is and that NatCon has serious institutional flaws.

Culture and behaviour

There are several cultural concerns that came up at NatCon.

Violence

I cannot believe that pretty much every year, delegates come back to ANU and note that there was violence at NatCon. It's pretty disgusting that this is an ongoing and legitimate concern. I was told going in that BizComm, who handle most of the amendments going through to the floor, are usually responsible for the violence because they are allowed to physically restrain one another to prevent amendments going through. I was reassured that this would not be the case this year. However, at one point a procedural called 'Bring Back the Thunderdome' was proposed and passed by Labor, meaning that people could tackle each other etc again. Lo and behold, within 10 minutes there was a physical altercation between members of BizComm and the procedural had to be walked back. Several other arguments almost devolved into physical violence. I think it's abhorrent that this is not only culturally tolerated but at times encouraged and I think the NUS needs to honestly get a grip and do something serious about it.

Poor organisation (incl. ableism)

I have heard that the conference asked several attendees to provide their accessibility needs and then did not actually meet them. I did not directly experience this but I am very unhappy to hear that this took place and call on the NUS to make sure that this doesn't happen again.

We received a 328 page policy book less than three days out from the beginning of the conference. This left very little time to actually look through the policy and basically no time to consult our Department officers on their chapters. There were several organisational issues, but I think that the short lead-in time for the policy book with no heads up on when it was expected was a significant one that prevented Delegates from engaging with important communities on their campuses about the motions, which should be an important part of a delegate's job.

Political analysis

Sectarianism

I think that it's pretty natural that in a politically charged environment, people will split into parties or factions. You can find an explanation of the factions that are present at NatCon in this [2022 Honi Soit article](#) (though the names and percentages of the floor are outdated). The only thing worth noting is that the Grassroots Independents pretty much no longer exists as a faction and there are just a handful of independents.

I wouldn't say that factions existing is in-and-of itself problematic. I don't love that the majority of the floor are made up of Labor-party aligned factions, but hey, they were elected. However, I think that the really strong culture of sectarianism at NatCon and in the NUS in general has two big effects: (1) it makes productive political debate pretty much impossible and (2) it makes it incredibly hard to engage in the conference as an independent.

On the first point, a vast majority of the discussions on the floor were used by many people for political point-scoring against other factions rather than for legitimate political debate. I had an argument with a member of SAIt when I told them that I wanted to speak on a pro-HECS motion, where I told them I wanted to talk on the substance of the motion and they said I could speak about HECS later because they had to "make a point to NLS". SAIt making a point to NLS is a recurring theme throughout pretty much every NatCon, from my understanding - and they're not always amazing at actually linking the motion discussed back to exactly why this criticism is being made. However, I also think that their criticisms of the Labor party and the ability to change the party from within are extremely accurate and should not be dismissed.

During another motion, a speaker said that they "wanted to speak about Palestine, but had to address SAIt's hypocritical behaviour first". I think that SAIt are particularly hard done by

with this behaviour, and are typically treated in an incredibly hostile manner from the beginning of the conference. While I note that their behaviour at the end of the conference was unacceptable and talk about that in other sections of the report, I overwhelmingly noticed that when members of SAIt were talked over or even shoved, it was not at all addressed.

It's also hard to engage in political discussion when most factions have pre-decided and bound their members to vote a certain way on motions. It feels a bit futile getting up there and trying to actually argue the point of the motion when the vote is already set in stone (particularly with Unity having complete control of the floor this year). I think that this contributes to the sectarian engagement on the floor because if the vote is decided, you might as well just get up there and yell at other factions rather than engaging with the content of the motion. This causes a complete inability for people to interact collaboratively or engage in good faith on the conference floor. I think this is a serious contributor to cultural issues, stemming from a serious political issue.

On the second point - it seems to me that a lot of essential information is spread through factional networks. Only by following people from factions did we know things like where to get dinner, or how to get amendments up on the floor. I think this is also just poor organisation, but it's worth noting. The official governance was only barely (or sometimes not) followed for nominations of candidates for elected positions because it was all sorted in back-room deals, which meant that when we engaged in these supposedly open processes the NUS basically...didn't engage back.

I'd like to give a big shoutout to my fellow ANU delegates and attendees, who engaged with us in really good faith and would break down these political barriers.

Issues with Queer & Women's chapters, and skipped chapters

The only reason that there was any single motion from the Queer chapter was because independents from the ANU and other campuses fought for it. Even then, we were consistently dismissed and told that there was 'a lot to get around to' on a motion that was literally about the amount of trans people who died because of discrimination. I appreciated the response once it was on the floor and apologies received afterwards, but it was clear that some issues were prioritised and some were simply not - and trans issues were one of the ones on the chopping block. I was also extremely disappointed that not a single motion from the Indigenous chapter was considered. I acknowledge that a lot of this was because of the approx. 8 hours lost on the conference floor, but it does highlight the issues that students at the NUS do and don't care about.

I also was extremely disappointed at what happened during the Women's chapter. During this chapter, after several men had talked about motions, Student Unity moved that cis men were not allowed to talk during this motion anymore. I find this discriminatory because you cannot tell a person's gender based on their appearance and they weren't asking about it. Because I look like a woman, I was allowed to speak more easily than my trans peers who might not 'pass' - to be clear, I did face some questioning when I went to speak but that was questioning if I would 'stay on topic' as the chair did not want me to call out this procedural.

But on top of this, I found it a politically challenging procedural because when I spoke to a motion, the motion was about sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH). Of course SASH contains issues of Gender-Based Violence, but we cannot ignore the statistics that men who are disabled, queer, or BIPOC face SASH at an increased rate too. In fact, ignoring that this issue is an intersectional one has led to a lot of institutional discrimination at Universities where SASH is treated as only a gender issue in policy. Finally, I do think that good feminism includes men speaking up on feminism and defending women's rights - and I think trying to silence political discourse by silencing men makes our feminism worse.

Palestine

I was in some ways pleased to see Unity moving in a stronger direction than before on Palestine. I think that the motion that they passed was a significant departure from their previous positions, and was much stronger than I anticipated, and I'd like to acknowledge the work that went into that. But I do think that by moving all motions relating to Palestine into the ethnocultural section rather than the relevant sections - ie Queers for Palestine - and moving them en bloc by if Unity agreed or disagreed significantly stifled discussion. There was never proper reason put to it and it's completely fair that SAIt kicked up a fuss about this until it was fixed.

I also think that Unity mass editing all other motions to remove any content that they had decided they were against was disappointing at the least. It was suggested that there was input from the Labor Party about what should and shouldn't be said by the Labor factions. I obviously can't confirm this but if that is the case, I think it's a sign of a pretty sad state of the union. After talking to people who were working hard for Palestinian justice within the NUS, including those directly impacted by the content, their accounts were that it was extremely difficult to have their views heard and that they were consistently undercut and not listened to. The fact that external, non-elected bodies like AUJS or the Labor Party would have more input than those elected to the NUS is politically objectionable.

Disabilities chapter

From my understanding, the disabilities chapter devolved into a lot of fighting, physical intimidation from SAIt's end, and eventually the rest of the conference that had not been considered being voted en bloc as Labor pulled quorum. I was not present in the room at this point as I was debriefing after the Queer chapter and so I did not witness it. From what I have heard, the behaviour was abhorrent and should not be tolerated. I am extremely disappointed that this took place and I sincerely hope that anyone who was impacted is doing okay. Although I was not happy with the political contents and direction that the policies in the disabilities chapter took, I don't think that that was an acceptable 'strategy' or approach to the chapter.

After the conference, many people were upset, distressed, and exhausted. I made sure to reach out to all ANU reps as much as I could, because I do think that it's important that our campus looks after each other. I think in theory that NatCon and the NUS would be amazing

vehicles for change, but the political and cultural contents of NatCon have ultimately left me feeling that it's a space that literally nobody enjoys or gets anything out of.

Conclusion

I will note that I wanted to compile a list of concerns about the NUS that could be mostly agreed on cross-factionally for this SRC. Though I didn't have the capacity for that, I will be looking into having these conversations more. I've raised my cultural concerns in particular with the 2024 NUS president and would to push ANUSA to have a stance that this kind of behaviour is not okay and to continue support NatCon, serious change and reviews are needed.

5.2 Delegate N. Lawson [Reference P]

Neve Lawson: NUS Delegate Report

Hiya, my name is Neve and I am a third-year Law/Arts student originally from the South Coast of NSW! I was one of the six delegates sent by ANUSA to the NUS National Conference - or more fondly, NatCon - held in Ballarat in December 2023. I am also a proud Student Unity member!

A brief rundown: Our National Union of Students (NUS) holds its National Conference at the end of each year to debate on amendments to its national policy platform, and more widely, to decide the direction the NUS will take the following year policy-wise. We also hear reports from each executive member and office-bearer at the end of their term. Any student is allowed to attend as an observer, but delegates hold votes for policy motions. This means we play a key role in backing and advocating for policies that, in turn, will make our national student union stronger and more efficient for us.

Conference itself was a very confronting and exhausting time, but I do believe that's a testament to the amount of motions and platforms that were put forward, showing people do care about the NUS all over the nation. I think having so many different perspectives brought by a wide range of factions is a really important thing. That being said, I do believe the accessibility of NatCon is an issue we need to address urgently. The content discussed during the conference, whilst relevant and vital, is often very heavy, coupled with screaming and intimidation across the conference floor for hours across the week. We want NatCon to be a place all students can feel comfortable bringing their policy platforms and engaging in debate.

With respect to particular policy motions, I think the conference functioned best when we stuck to the organised order given by the policy booklet. A lot of fantastic motions were quickly derailed and trivialised when Socialist Alternative diverted attention from a completely unrelated topic to the Free Palestine movement. I entirely condemn this genocide and all

genocides, am committed to the fight for land back and believe all motions brought up during the ethnocultural chapter were vitally important and developed strongly. However, the manner in which Socialist Alternative drew attention to the issue throughout conference was, at best, virtue signalling, and at worst, ableist. The way we keep conference floor accessible and safe is to go by the book and have procedures in place so that people know what to expect and aren't personally targeted. While I believe targeting people's politics is a part of healthy debate, targeting people themselves is never okay. It was incredibly disappointing to see SALT's behaviour during the entire week and I hope something like the last night of conference never happens again.

It was also disappointing to see the National Labor Students (NLS) pull quorum during Unity's Save our LTSU motion regarding the La Trobe student union. For a faction that prides themselves on democracy there were far better ways to show solidarity within their group. Pulling quorum is not equivalent to controlling the conference floor, it's only equivalent to taking away the ability for us all to debate. We could have gotten through so many more motions and given proper weight to autonomous chapters like women's, queer and disability if NLS hadn't pulled quorum. I didn't like having to rush through important autonomous chapters because NLS had taken precious time away from us. This is another example of why it's important to play by the book to keep NatCon predictable, dependable, fair and safe.

I'm incredibly grateful to Ella for organising the conference and for throwing her heart and soul into making it the safest place it can be. I also want to thank Grace Franco, Ben Naiju and our other fantastic Unity people who chaired during NatCon - it was so great to see such eloquent and reasonable people lead the conference.

It was super positive that ANUSA covered the cost of delegate tickets as well as funding our flights to Melbourne and back. I love that our student union engages in the NUS and I'd like to commend each and every member of the ANUSA executive for organising this for us.

One special thing about Student Unity is that it's a broad church and we are given space to develop and express our own views. I've always felt that my beliefs and passions have been celebrated by all those within my group and it's allowed me to grow in politics and as a person. Equally, so many incredible motions were put up by my friends and it makes me so proud to see you all find your political niches and make shit happen. My friends also copped a very emotional Neville all week long and tirelessly nurtured me anyway. I am so grateful, thank you all so much.

I'm happy to chat to anyone about my experience and my thoughts on any particular section of the conference, different areas of NUS policy or the NUS in general, feel free to shoot me a message on Messenger or email nevelawson@outlook.com :))

5.3 Delegate N. Reich [Reference Q]

A key argument that myself and other Socialist Alternative delegates and proxies waged at the NUS National Conference last year was that the Labor government has carried out a whole suite of attacks on the working class and students, since taking office. The cost

of living crisis has demonstrated that Labor will continue to rule for the rich. Amidst growing poverty, a crisis in the housing market, a worsening climate crisis, and so on, Labor has done everything to show its loyalty to the bosses. Rather than raising the rate of welfare to a livable allowance, building public housing, pumping money into schools and hospitals, Labor is committed to a surplus of over \$20 billion. All of this in the context of the imperialist AUKUS deal, which commits hundreds of billions towards the drive to war. We argued, in opposition to the Labor factions which still dominate NUS, that the National Union must be fiercely independent of the ALP and organise against government attacks regardless of who is in power.

The response to the genocide in Gaza, the most pressing political issue of this moment, is another crime of the Labor government. As we speak, confirmed deaths rise above 30,000 with the bombing of Rafah. After months of genocide, the seemingly total annihilation of the Gazans is not even enough to see Labor put the most basic pressure on Israel. It is also shameful that the NUS took so long to do anything about the genocide - whether it be public statements, campaigns and political condemnation of the ALP. Every development since December has shown the importance and urgency of the NUS contributing to campaigns in solidarity with Palestine. Shame on the ALP and Labor student clubs for foot dragging for so long on this question.

A litany of other events highlight the shameful behaviour of both Labor factions at this conference. I'll reference only a few here.

Useless delays by NLS over frivolous matters of factional pride lost us more than a day of conference, which meant many chapters were either rushed or were never discussed.

The Labor factions also shamefully delayed discussion on Palestine and continuously voted to water down every single Palestine motion.

Labor students were even too sectarian to support a motion condemning Nazis in Melbourne and fascists across the country. It seems anti-fascism is conditional on whether organising against fascists is a "SAIt thing" or not. Thanks to the tireless work of CARF and its activists, including many Socialist Alternative members, the nazi gym in Sunshine, Melbourne, has finally been shut down.

The problems of the NUS are not imagined, they are the same political problems which plague the student wings of Australia's ruling party, the ALP. For there to be so many useless conflicts and so little left-wing or activist politics in the peak representative body of students in this country is a disgrace.

Thankfully, though, Socialist Alternative has been able to win almost a quarter of conference floor through serious and principled national campaigning.

SA's intervention in this conference showed what was sorely lacking from the NUS. We need the national union to be agitational and confrontational to all forms of reactionary politics in Australia, whether that be the ALP and its criminal support of genocide, or fascist gangs.

5.4 Delegate J. Donnelly [Reference R]

Samuel MacRae - NUS Delegate Report

On the behalf of James Donnelly

Sections:

- **Introduction**
- **Conference itself / Factions**
- **Thoughts on some of the Natcon debates**
- **Thoughts on the NUS**
- **Final Words**

Introduction:

Hi everyone, it's me again for another year for another NUS delegate report. My name is Sam or Samuel (however you prefer), I go by he/him pronouns and I'm a fourth year law/arts student. I'm going to keep this delegate report relatively brief compared to the one I wrote for the 2022 NUS National Conference, for which I was an elected delegate to.

I'll begin with some clarifications, disclaimers and context about my report and myself. Firstly, I'm writing this report on the behalf of James Donnelly, who was elected to be an NUS Delegate on their own independent ticket in the 2023 ANUSA elections. James was unfortunately not able to attend the National Conference, and made the decision to proxy his vote to myself to hold on the conference floor, for the entirety of the conference. I was able to do this as one of ANUSA's nominated accredited observers, who is essentially a normal observer who has the ability to hold votes throughout the conference.

James proxied his vote to me, with full awareness that I am a member of student unity, and that I planned to use his proxied vote as part of student unity's delegate total (or floor % of delegates) for the entirety of the conference. The latter was a decision that was mine, but that I fully intended to do heading into the conference so I made James aware of that beforehand. In return, I did not consult with James on how his proxied vote was used on

specific motions (it was used entirely with how student unity voted on each issue, so if you want to know for specific motions, look for how student unity voted).

The positions on each vote taken by student unity does not, in any way, directly reflect the political views or opinions of James, or his views on any specific vote or amendment. Additionally, the thoughts, direction and views expressed in this report are solely mine.

If you are curious about how James thinks on a given issue, I encourage you to ask him, or else if you are curious about mine or student unity's, I can be emailed at samuel.macrae@anu.edu.au.

Why I held the proxied votes is because in 2023 I was student unity convenor, and leading the contingent of student unity members and delegates from the ANU (ACT) to attend student unity's pre-conference, and the NUS National Conference.

In other disclaimers besides being a member of student unity and the arrangement of the proxy votes, I am a member of the ACT Labor Party and affiliate myself with Student Unity, or the "Labor Right" faction, at both the ANUSA and NUS level.

I am a proud member at that xx

Conference Itself / Factions

Conference itself for me was quite chaotic being a convenor at the same time, but I will just talk specifically about conference motions themselves and only refer to others as their factions generally, since at the NUS that's how votes are counted by viewing the floor, knowing the % of delegates the three main factions have, and seeing how they voted to determine whether something passed or not. At the 2023 Conference, Student Unity held over 51% of the delegates, so essentially whatever Student Unity decided was how it went. Obviously I am very elated SU had the majority of conference floor, to detractors in other factions I simply say get more delegates (nationally). There were a lot of key debates and themes to the story of NatCon 2023 so i'll go by faction and give my two cents that way. I highly encourage anyone who wants a more detailed view to check out Woroni's recap of each day on their website!

First things first, one of the biggest takeaways was the relinquishment by NLS (National Labor Students) (The Labor Left Faction) to actually having a productive and functioning conference. NLS pulled quorum only barely a couple hours into Natcon actually starting over a motion put forward by Student Unity condemning the behaviours of the previous members of the La Trobe Student Union, who were NLS members, and took their union down a

pathway of calamity and did everything in their power to stop a free and fair student union election at La Trobe last year. This included stacking clubs and making it so for a ticket to even get on the ballot, they had to be endorsed by those clubs. There were other things at play that I don't exactly remember, but the key takeaway from me was the hypocrisy of NLS as a faction. Our groupings are not perfect, but the key difference is that we all, at least most of us, can sit here and take criticism even if it was for an ally of ours, when we had no part in it ourselves. For a group that has democracy in its logo, it's support of undemocratic processes is a disgrace. The NUS has every right to call out the stifling of democracy within its organisation as it affects the NUS, as well as students at La Trobe. We all know La Trobe NLS fucked up. NLS members will admit that to you privately, while Victorian NLS may even just gloat about it. ACT NLS I firmly believe does not support the actions of the previous LTSU and La Trobe NLS, but I will also say I don't speak for them.

But, my key takeaway from the quorum pulling fiasco is do not get it twisted. If you see **any** criticism about how the conference had to rush through autonomous chapters and the arrangement of policy chapters throughout the week, **that never would have been an issue if NLS didn't pull quorum and lose us over an entire day of conference, because they couldn't stand to be criticised.** Even then, Unity had to cave to their demands just to get conference even going again on Day 2.

(In the end, the La Trobe motion passed unamended in the massive bloc of motions at the end of conference that was passed amidst the SAlt induced chaos <3)

Next, SAlt. I don't really have too much to say about Socialist Alternative. Their actions throughout the conference were not surprising, so I left the conference thinking about them and what they performed with just a massive sigh. I will instead use a series of words to describe what SAlt was like at conference:

- Ableist
- Counter-productive
- Childish
- Racist
- Sexist
- Homophobic
- Transphobic
- Abusive
- Loud
- Snarky
- Disingenuous
- Fake
- Bizarre
- Stupid
- Delusional
- Dumb
- Barefoot (for some reason they *really* hated the shoe enforcement on conference floor rule)

Next, the independents. This year the Independent delegates to conference were the two delegates from ANU (Phi and Skye) and two from UWA, although there were some Grassroots/Switch members from USyd who also came along, along with Damien from UTS. That was about it for their contingent, along with Luke from ANU. Objectively I found the independents at conference this year far more pleasant than at Natcon 2022. Moreover, I believe most people in Student Unity who were involved with floor management (whipping, cog table, etc), would say that between NLS, SAlt and the Indies, the Indies were by far the most pleasant and reasonable grouping to deal with. Not because they did policy deals with Student Unity or anything like that, but when they had a particular motion they wanted debated, or an amendment to a motion of ours, they would approach without any games and we would have those discussions productively and reach an outcome together, even though Student Unity had the numbers to do as they pleased for most chapters (except for Rules changes).

Finally, Student Unity. I am so proud of how student unity conducted itself throughout the conference. Of course there was the expected chanting and jeering. I am proud as always each year of the capability, talent and determination from so many Unity members from all walks of life, from all across Australia and including many international students as well! It is a family and I am a proud member of student unity.

One thing I wanted to address again, and adding onto the words of Milli McDonald at conference, was the low point of Student Unity proposing and passing a motion during the Womens' chapter to have it be only Women can speak. It was a highly ill-thought of amendment to the debate rules which was incredibly insensitive and offensive to many queer attendees of the conference. The motion was a spontaneous thought of someone on Unity's cogging table, and it was not someone from the ACT. I don't think very highly of this particular individual, who even if they had good intentions, did not think it through and put so many others, including those in our caucus, in distress, and I am again incredibly apologetic on behalf of Student Unity for that error.

Thoughts on some of the Natcon debates

I'll keep this part brief as well since I'm not convinced that many particularly care about what I think on debates/issues after saying earlier how I voted was how Student Unity voted.

Besides that, I want to congratulate Isabella Harding and Ben Naiju from ANU as last year's disability and ethnocultural officers respectively for chairing particularly sensitive chapters. This is in addition to the other chairs of the conference of course, who also did a fantastic job.

The ethnocultural chapter passed a lot, in my opinion, of critical motions that aligns the NUS firmly with the struggle of Palestinians and those suffering in Gaza right now from Israel's

invasion. I stand with the Palestinian people in their fight for a state of their own, and fully recognise that everything Israel is doing right now, not even just talking about the invasion, is not going to lead to a two-state solution. I believe in a homeland for the Jewish people, and I believe in a two-state solution. However, believing in those does not in my opinion mean you can't call out the Israeli Government itself for perpetuating a genocide in Gaza right now. I am glad finally too, albeit late, that the Australian Government has called for a ceasefire in Gaza. I implore the Australian Government, and other Governments, to do everything they can to pressure the Israeli Government to stop its invasion of Gaza and actually take steps towards a pathway for peace for both Israelis and Palestinians. I am for this reason glad that the conference was able to pass a series of motions aligning the NUS with ongoing campaigns and protests supporting Palestine.

The disability chapter had a lot of great motions as well. It was highly regrettable that the chapter was rushed, and I left the conference not knowing exactly what was passed generally, but including the disability chapter, because SAlt made the chapter and the last hours of Natcon so unsafe. People were literally going up to Socialist Alternative members begging that for this chapter they keep the noise down. Every other group at the conference, for example, snapped their fingers instead of clapping, in a simple effort to make the debate more accessible. SAlt's approach to the disabilities chapter was at best ableist and at worst, the most cruel sight to politics I could imagine beyond a full fledged physical brawl. People left the disabilities chapter crying, faint, distraught. I left the disabilities chapter as someone who considers themselves as having very tough skin as shell-shocked. To have speakers go up and yell at the room about Palestine, which we all care about, but in a debate about NDIS funding??? Socialist Alternative, as we all know, does not have any regard for an autonomous department, chapter, policy booklet, if it does not serve their ulterior political purpose (to recruit and make a scene for engagement reasons). They used the disabilities chapter for themselves, and it pains me to think about how those more vulnerable or anxious than I was, as someone who had been to multiple NUS conferences before, entered the gymnasium that morning, would have left that afternoon with the conference derailed, people visibly scared and crying, and everyone fleeing.

Thoughts on the NUS

I left Natcon with the unchanged opinion on the NUS's vitality to engage students from across the country, share ideas, and build national campaigns. Yes, these campaigns obviously need buy-in to succeed, and more student unions, including ANUSA, should look to the NUS to build even stronger campaigns on issues both ANUSA and NUS see eye-to-eye on, like Palestine, Housing, etc. I think ANUSA is in a good place at the moment with the NUS. NUS office bearers make frequent visits to our campus, and plenty more plan to do so. I dearly hope the best for the entire ANUSA executive this year, the NUS office bearers, and that some work can be done forging some cooperation between the two, especially with our location in Canberra, the only university here with a student union, and helping the NUS take the fight to Parliament's door.

I am so proud to also be a part of a student union which was the only union to give 100% of its affiliation fee to the NUS last year. I know this was a big debate on ANUSA last year, and I will acknowledge my role in forcing ANUSA's hand to significantly raise its funding towards the NUS, so I am not impartial on that. But, I have no regrets, nor does anyone in ACT Student Unity or NLS about that motion last year. Moreover, I support keeping it at 100% this year, in line with a CPI increase. ANUSA is an extremely well-funded organisation in the total amount of money it receives in SSAF, and its SSAF % share, compared to other student unions. The union at the University of Wollongong has a total budget of only a couple hundred dollars. If we are a student union that prides itself on our care for student issues, unions generally, and the politics of the day, regardless of our faction or political belief, we should accept that ANUSA should continue to lift its weight in supporting the NUS. If you support the concept of an NUS to bring all these disparate unions from across the country together, you should support ANUSA's role in supporting the viability of the NUS from its own fortunate financial position.

Final Words

I did not think I would be writing an NUS report until about a week and a half ago when James and Milli informed me I would be doing it since James didn't attend. I said a lot of soppy words in my last NUS Delegate report for the 2022 Conference, and the cringiness of having done TWO consecutive NUS delegate reports is not lost on me.

Having been involved with student unity the last year has been such a fulfilling experience and I wish all my elected little children all the best in the work they do with ANUSA this year!

Some thank yous of mine go out to the following:

- Ben Naiju and Milli McDonald; as my rocks throughout the week of Natcon and Precon before.
- Will Burfoot as the housemate of mine i dragged to Ballarat to be yelled at for four days
- Neve Lawson as a gorgeous slay queenie NUS Delegate
- Jade, Lux, Josh, Liam, Brandon and many others proudly ACT SU xx
- Ashlyn Horton & Lara Johnson as slay NLS comrades
- The rest of student unity

I am always down to have a chat about politics so HMU everyone I have a lot of spare time at the moment.

In Unity,
Sam MacRae xx

5.5 Delegate S. Prevadec [Reference S]

NUS Delegate Report - Skye Predavec

The NUS deserves to burn but we can't let it

The National Conference of the National Union of Students in 2023 was a disaster. According to some reports I heard from those with more student politics experience than I have, it was the worst one since 2009, or at least for a decade. Last year when I attended Natcon I thought it was dysfunctional, disgraceful, and a complete mess. This year was so so much worse.

Before I get into describing in detail all of the ways I was incredibly disappointed by this conference, I want to acknowledge the good. I'm incredibly proud of the 3 independent conference-goers from ANU, and our friends at uSyd and WA for what we achieved. We passed motions for the freedom of Palestine, for the legalisation of Cannabis and MDMA, Trans Remembrance and Resistance and more. We also brought motions around the housing crisis, grassroots organising, and opposing AUKUS which were shamefully voted down by Labor Right. We were few at the conference, but we punched above our weight in cogging and speaking, and that's something to be satisfied with.

One of the criticisms that I and other independent delegates received last year was that our lack of a faction meant that we lacked transparency. Though I think that's a somewhat unfair complaint that is a natural product of our size, I thought it best to address it before it came up. [My voting record is here](#). I will caveat this in two ways, that the spreadsheet may be inaccurate to how I finally voted on some issues, and that some of these votes may have been a formal opposition to certain elements of a motion, and not necessarily to the central political point (because the vote that I cast would almost never be enough to change the outcome I felt comfortable doing this in some cases).

Student Media was a shining light in the conference. The Woroni team, as well as the journos from Honi Soit, Farrago, Vertigo, the Empire Times and more provided incredible analysis of the goings on. The fact that student media is forced into the position of doing the job of minuting for the conference, and is barred from any kind of recording is pretty disgusting, and comes from a long tradition of the labor factions trying to block any knowledge of their behaviour. But the live-tweeting that they do is one of the few pieces of transparency that pushes through that veil of ignorance.

Despite these glimmers of hope, I was left with a distinct impression of disgust by the conference. I felt a powerful feeling that that could never ever happen again. Now despite what some people on ANUSA say about the independents, I don't and never have wanted to get rid of the NUS. While I think that no organisation that runs a conference like that deserves to exist, the unfortunate reality is that it must. So instead, it must be fixed. The NUS and its factions must learn from this grave mistake, and become a better, stronger union.

The Procedural Shitshow

Natcon is a poorly organised mess. Sessions start consistently late, the majority of chairs at the conference didn't know what they were doing (except you Ben xx), and information was poorly dispersed due to a reliance on the factional system. All of this exacerbated other issues which I'll get to later around timing. At least one motion was declared passed when it should have failed, bad chairing led to several incidents of physical violence on the floor. Generally this occurred when a labor chair attempted to rip a microphone back from a SAIt speaker. In addition to this violence, there was the cogging table. While through the majority of the conference it was agreed by all factions that the cogging table would remain peaceful, at one point this was removed with everyone except Grindies voting for doing so. Immediately this led to several altercations. People should be able to attend a conference like this without violence.

The Unrepresentative Swill

The three largest factions all exhibited behaviour that made the conference unsafe in different ways, and had political positions that were deeply flawed. I will deal with them one at a time.

Labor Right

They may like to call themselves Unity but I would not describe them as very united. Not only were their political positions disgusting, but the way they conducted themselves was terrible.

To start with, there was the women's chapter. This was apologised for, and I thank Milli for that, however I would be remiss to exclude it from my report. Unity slammed through a motion restricting only those who were not cis men from speaking in the women's chapter. This is terrible for a number of reasons. First, Feminism and Feminist politics are not the domain of only those who are negatively affected by the patriarchy. If we are to build a movement to truly topple those institutions which oppress us, we must make allies and build consciousness in cis men as well. Second, it was an incredible anti-trans measure, as pointed out by Phoenix on the floor. The only way to really judge this would be by the person's visual presentation, meaning that the chair would be the arbiter of someone's gender identity. The problems are obvious. The fact that Unity pushed this through speaks to structural flaws in their faction, and their understanding of their own politics.

In addition to this, we had to fight tooth and nail to even get a single motion about trans rights heard at the conference. And that was the only Queer motion with any speaking time. In an environment of worsening conditions for trans and queer people, that is and continues to be a complete disgrace.

A second problem with Unity was the fact that they're bold faced liars. ANU Unity ran on two election promises, that they were anti-AUKUS and that they were for free education. On both of these points they voted in the opposite ways to what their stated positions were to the students who elected them. On numerous occasions those delegates joked about this, but it's actually not funny. It's a bold-faced fraud to the people who supported you. It's a complete breaking of the trust that was placed in you. You aren't under a formal bind from your faction, so you could have fully taken the position that you promised to take to ANU students, but you

didn't. You just lied. And the Labor Left and SAlt people involved in ANUSA deserve blame for this as well. This was your ticket too, and you enabled this behaviour. Remember that next time you sign a deal with the devil.

On Palestine, though they took a decent position in some ways, we had to fight and deal to ensure that our Palestine motion went through in anything close to the form we proposed. I do not know exactly what changes they made to the rest of the Palestine motions because they used their majority to slam the entire thing through so many amendments that it was next to impossible to decipher. What was clear was that they removed any mention of genocide except in their own motion. In the context of the recent ICJ ruling that Israel was at serious risk of committing a genocide, that is despicable. In addition, they defended to the hilt their own office bearers who took a paid Zionist lobby trip to Israel, where they posed in front of the very IDF weapons of war currently being used to murder Palestinians. In fact, every Unity member was given a golden opportunity to dissent on that particular issue when the room was officially divided to count the votes. None took that golden opportunity.

The chanting and frat like behaviour of Labor Right was apparent throughout the conference. They sang songs and shouted proudly of their disgusting political positions, and when I spoke about how they should feel ashamed of their labor membership at *least* during the motions about how their party treats refugees, many labor right members waved their cards at me.

Labor Right also voted down or refused to consider motions on workers' rights, public ownership, condemning greg donnelly, free primary and secondary education, the housing crisis, condemnation of the modi government (which has actively worked to make muslims second-class citizens), and other basic left-wing positions.

While I find Labor Left pathetic, and much of SAlt's conduct abhorrent, it is labor right which takes the cake for the worst faction by a significant margin. And I will repeat a comment I made in last year's report, that Labor Right maintains its majority through a lack of national organised political opposition. The structure of the NUS allows Labor Right control through several student unions where they are the only significant political force, not because the majority of students there buy into their bizarre brand of politics, but simply through inertia. In addition, they gained their majority this year by taking the votes of LIBERAL delegates. For shame.

Labor Left

If I were to use a single word to describe the achievements and conduct of those stalwart revolutionaries of the labor party during the conference, the one that comes to mind is "pathetic". Free from the shackles of actually needing to care about their votes, much of this faction saw fit to sit on the sidelines of the conference, an impressive feat considering their second-largest status.

The biggest contribution they made to the conference was why I gave them the earlier moniker. From the evening of the first day to most of the way through the second, NLS refused to attend

the conference floor, meaning nothing could go ahead. Now you may be asking, was this in order to fight for the rights of Palestinians, who are under a system of apartheid? Was this for trans liberation, while there is an ongoing tide of reaction that oppresses us? Or was it to force the NUS to take action on the cost of living crisis, which bites at the heels of everyday workers in this country? Actually, to the utter shock of all, it was none of these things. Labor Left stalled the conference for a day, costing the equivalent of tens of thousands of student money in order to defend the corrupt conduct of the La Trobe student union.

This single act is ridiculous in of itself. But more importantly it made the rest of the conference a worse shitshow. Labor Left has little right to complain about how chapters were rushed through when they spent 24hrs wasting the time of everyone in Ballarat. It meant that every fight was heightened as we attempted to rush through the content, and even worse, it meant that half of trade unionism and student unionism chapters, all of Queer, First Nations, Rural and Regional, First Nations, Environmental and Vocational chapters were not even debated. And while some of these were passed without debate, the NUS has 0 Environmental or First Nations policy in 2024. That's genuinely disgraceful and Labor Left should hang their heads in shame for allowing that to happen.

In general, this was another year of exposing the way that Labor left's political positions are wishy washy at best. Their understanding of liberation politics for minority groups does not extend much further than vapid identity politics. In the face of an oppressive neoliberal Albanese government they struggle to articulate a cohesive vision of how to act. And when their collaboration with management turns sour they do not know how to make an about turn. Similarly to last year, their way of dealing with these problems was disengagement, speaking less relative to their presence at the conference compared to any other faction.

This also manifested in their strategy. In the disabilities chapter Labor Left proposed that the NUS should conduct *eighteen* separate campaigns. This was repeated in some of the other autonomous chapters. It's not a very serious engagement with the institution they treasure to sidle a single unpaid office bearer with

Socialist Alternative

Oh SAIt. We have fought on like 75 different fronts, but when all is said and all is done, you have beliefs, Labor has none. SAIt's political positions are 90% good, though we have virulent disagreements on important topics like sex work and organisation. I commend SAIt for being a positive voice for Palestinian liberation, among other issues, at the conference.

However, while I did not witness the worst conduct personally, from what I credibly heard during my days in Ballarat, your members' conduct with regards to a trans member of NLS, and during the disabilities chapter were abhorrent. They should be condemned and I do so. I am a general defender of SAIt conduct at the NUS, and I thought that the complaints of Labor Left last year were overblown and misdirected. In addition, I am not conflating the strategy of loudly advocating for Palestine and other causes with aggressiveness. There is however a line between pressure and abuse, and it was crossed.

5.6 Delegate L. Johnson [Reference T]

NUS Delegate Report

Introduction

Hi, my name is Lara and I use she/her pronouns and was one of your NUS delegates. I am a member of NLS (National Labor Students), we bind as a faction based on our pre-conference caucuses (for autonomous chapters, how NLS votes are decided by the autonomous groups).

If you have any questions on how I voted on specific motions, please feel free to reach out to me at U7468299@anu.edu.au. As my report will only cover two specific areas, where there was significant miscommunication or misinterpretations.

La Trobe Motion

I think it is important to clarify a few key points around the La Trobe motion and NLS leaving the conference floor on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, as there was a lot of miscommunications.

Motion 2.19, titled 'Save the LTSU from Itself', was written by Student Unity condemning the La Trobe Student Union for undemocratic activities. It was the position of NLS that it is nonsensical for the NUS to publicly condemn one of its affiliated unions, especially when a union has incredibly difficult and unstable SSAF negotiations (the LTSU has historically always had an incredibly difficult time negotiating with university management to get their fair share of SSAF, and having the NUS publicly condemn the union would only make future negotiations more difficult).

As Student Unity held a majority on conference floor, the fate of every motion at conference was in Unity's hands. So when this motion came up, NLS's only option to prevent it from passing was to pull quorum. After NLS left conference floor, many propositions on how to move forward were brought to SU by NLS, including amending the motion to just broadly condemn all undemocratic student unions rather than just the LTSU specifically, but this amendment was not accepted by Student Unity. NLS also proposed changing the agenda to move the motion to the end of conference to ensure that other policy - including all the autonomous policy chapters - could be discussed, but this was also rejected by Student Unity.

We did not want to leave conference floor nor did we "throw a tantrum" - we took a principled stance against what was simply a joke motion that if passed would have tangible consequences for the LTSU.

The Women's Chapter + Woroni

During the Women's Chapter a procedural motion was proposed by Student Unity (no one from NLS had seen the motion prior to it being read by the chair). The procedural motion was to ban cis-men from speaking during the Women's Chapter. **NLS actively voted this motion down.** Not only did we disagree that cis-men should not be able to speak during the women's chapter but we also recognised that by banning cis-men - it would be up to the interpretation of the chair of who could and could not speak and that this was transphobic and lacked any intersectionality.

The last point that I wanted to raise and correct! Was that Woroni initially misrepresented NLS on this position and reported that the 'Labor factions' voted for this motion. I am incredibly disappointed in this, as with my position as Women's Officer it is the of utmost importance that women, gender diverse, non-binary and trans students feel welcome and represented in the department.

5.7 President's Summit P. O' Neill [Reference U]

5.8 President's Summit M. McDonald [Reference V]

2024 Pres summit report

On the 31st/1st of Jan/Feb, I went to Melbourne for the NUS Presidents' summit. This is where all NUS OBs and exec of other student unions meet and discuss priorities for the year.

One of the most exciting things to see from pres summit is to see the NUS' change in direction from choosing one or a few campaigns to supporting campuses across the country, bringing us together on issues that we have on our campuses. Essentially, making the NUS more ground-up.

We heard from OBs, TEQSA, EROC, the NTEU, and the Young Worker's centre.

Alongside supporting campus campaigns and holding more conferences (Disabilities and women's conference join the mix this year,) the NUS priorities include:

End student poverty/A reformed welfare system:

- Centrelink's age of independence to be lowered from 22 to 18
- An increase to the rate of Federal Government student income support payments above the poverty line, including Youth Allowance and Rent Assistance
- Paid placements for all students who must complete one as part of their degree More food pantries and food banks on campuses

The Universities Accord

The NUS on the accords:

"The NUS broadly supports the Universities Accord as an opportunity for transformative reform in the Australian tertiary education sector. As an organisation, we have always been strong champions of change for students, and we see the Accord as a way for us to design a higher education sector that truly works for students. However, for the Accord to contribute to genuine and meaningful changes for tertiary education students, our voices need to be not only heard but respected and included in any and all decisions made. Students are the primary stakeholders in education and students are the experts in student experience. There is significant distrust among students towards university management and government and a real power imbalance between us and them. The Universities Accord must embed students into every aspect, from design to eventual implementation, for it to be successful in reforming

Australian universities in students' interest.

Housing:

- An increase in the provision of secure, publicly-owned purpose-built student accommodation
- The introduction of weekly rent caps for student accommodation at no more than 25% of the average weekly student income
- Students living on residence to be covered by relevant state tenancy laws
- Other provisions that will make the private rental market more accessible, such as a rent freeze and the indexation of allowable rent increases against median annual wage increases

Sexual Assault/Sexual harassment:

- Student voice to be centred in the creation of survivor-centred, trauma-informed SASH response and prevention policies
- The full implementation of the Draft Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education
- The establishment of restorative justice programs
- A legislated national Duty of Care

Other

- Education funding increased to the OECD average of 1%
- Mandated student representation on university boards
- The abolishment of HECS indexation
- Student Money in Student Hands (100% SAAF & Compulsory student unionism)
- The reversal of the Job Ready Graduates Package

Each OB will be running a campaign ! Contact them too see how you can get involved xx

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