WUSA MEETING

Minutes
2/11/2026

Date: 2/11/2026
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Building 20-2, Online

President: Caitlin Veigel

General Secretary: Hanzel-Jude Pador

WUSA Meeting Minutes – 2/11/2026

Meeting opened: 6:45PM

Acknowledgement of Country

Delivered by Caitlin

Attendance

Caitlin Veigel
Alexia Chipperfield
Daniel McClelland
Hanzel-Jude Pador
Simon Upitis
Megan Guy
Ryan Chapman
Tidus Funaki
Antony Tzamouranis
Asher-Kyla Woods

Apologies

Neo Xavier

Caitlin Veigel

Business Arising

None

Daniel McClelland

Motion to accept previous WUSA Council Meeting Minutes 17/08/2026

Mover: Daniel
Seconder: Megan

Passes unanimously

Correspondence Incoming

Psych Subjects related correspondence

Correspondence Outgoing

N/A

President's Report

- Sat on panel with NTEU Secretary, Susan Engels, Dr Sarah Kaine, Arthur Rorris and Richard Denniss re Parliamentary enquiry into University Governance.
- Bad response from local MPs as reported by the Illawarra Mercury, who reportedly did not endorse the report of the inquiry and to reform the university sector and reform to UOW.
- Ongoing campaign to remove University Council.
- WUSA hosted NUS DivCon in September/October.
- Attended(ing) a Conference on Student Governance and the National Press Club on AUKUS submarines.
- Lot of background admin, largely resolving honorariums, student elections, and SSAF projects.

    - Simon asked a question regarding student protests in Europe, asking Caitlin's stance.
        - Caitlin agreed that these largely student-led protests is historical and hopes similar energy can be mobilised in Australia.
    - Simon f/u asking what WUSA's concrete action could be to build towards such a movement.
        - Caitlin iterated that it is important to build further engagement in student democracy and student unionism, using and gaining more resources to fuel the movement.

- Megan and Ryan rejects this sentiment and accuses Caitlin's associated student election tickets of just using the lowest common denominator.
    - Caitlin states that this is a misleading idea, retorting that the French protests started with a simple comparatively small issue that snowballed from there; arguing that welfare provisions has to work hand in hand with activism to build engagement.

General Secretary's Report

- Reiterated the background work of administrating the correspondence and communications of the union, particularly with the elections, DivCon, psychology subject's issues, honorariums, and SSAF projects
- Working particularly with the SCLC Council and local activists in the community; denoting a personal story wherein a legendary local activist was proud to hear that WUSA has continued to be proudly left-wing.

Representative Reports

Treasurer

- Honorariums delivered, most expenditure has been expended as the year wraps up, with the last bit of spending of SSAF and operational budget being tied up accordingly.
- Noted and thanked the WUSA's Executive for their role in organising and hosting DivCon.
- Reiterated what a great term it has been for treasurer.

- Simon and Ryan alluded to personal anecdotes to indicate empirically that students knew about the student union because of the Hanson protests.
    - Daniel rejects this concept as factually incorrect, saying that there are multiple reasons as to why students know about WUSA.

- Megan asked if Daniel is bringing up France in NUS discussions.
    - Daniel is yet to speak about it but will be speaking about it on Wednesday.

Education Officer/Assistant Secretary

- Second Pauline Hanson protest at the mall since last meeting, acknowledging that it had a smaller turnout but still very important.

- Commented that Auspol has been boring for so long, and that in a way, the rise ofPauline Hanson and the far-right was useful in organising students and people.

- Mentioned small speak out re Labor's cuts to immigration, especially towards students.

    - Caitlin asked a question why Socialist Alternative members at NUS EdCon stated "no one cares about international students" and why members took so long in mobilising against it.
        - Several OBs rejected this.
    - Caitlin further asked where these members were in being involved in mobilising for the University Inquiry, and working with the UOW NTEU.
        - Simon stated that they were in the audience of the panel of the University Inquiry, and that they were at the USyd pickets.

    - Antony asked on how Socialist Alternative members were supposed to re-instate lost staff jobs as part their elections promises, warning of the issue of promising workers policy and goals and underdelivering.
        - Simon spoke to the protests in France, but stated they weren't necessarily promises, but rather something they support/will be fighting for.

Tert Coordinator (Asher served as interim coordinator)

- Spoke on the great work of the Tert so far, noting the work of the Gala and releasing the final editions of the paper and the Tert Coordinator

Welfare Coordinator

N/A

Women's Representative

- Restarted WOCO!
- Working to maintain supplies and provision of free period products for students, seeking to expand next year

Environment Representative

- Spoke on his role in rallies on and off-campus, contributing to the background and in the front by speaking.
    - Iterated the importance of these rallies and the mission of them.
- Noted and celebrated the NUS Small and Regional workshop himself and Hanzel delivered at NUS DivCon.
- Attended COP31 protests and stated intention to support and attend Rising Tide protests.

- Megan and Simon f/u asked Antony's point on student and trade unionism, asking if he believes that student unions can win back jobs.
    - Antony stated that he does, and reiterated the crux of his statement was to not over-promise and under-deliver, which only

alienates and turns off the working class. Also commented on strengthening industrial relations laws and scrapping the Accords.

Allsorts Queer Representative

- The Queer Space has been pretty quiet after QOW week, which was a pretty successful series of events. We've been focusing on spending as much of the rest of our honorarium as possible before the end of the year, as we didn't spend a lot in the first semester. We've been working on a mural on the wall that was planned last year, as well as improving the space generally with decorations, restocking on sexual health items, and activities like board games.

International Students Representative

N/A

Ethno-Cultural Representative

- Reiterated his work in the rallies and attacked supposed discrepancies between Caitlin's rhetoric.

- Petioned against the Western Sydney AI data centre, and expressed that UOW students are scared of AI.

Disabilities Representative

N/A

General Representatives

Megan

- Spoke to involvement against campaigns university management, and writing an article about French protests.

Ryan

- Agreed with the rhetoric of the reports of other OBs, working with the Public Housing Action Network, and spoke against the far-right and the ALP in Wollongong.

Motion to accept reports

Mover: Daniel M

Seconder: Simon U

Passed unanimously

Motions on Notice

Motion 1 - WUSA supports the community picket of Bisalloy Steels

Mover: Megan Guy

Seconder: Simon Upitis

Preamble:

From November 15th to 17th, community group Wollongong Friends of Palestine will hold their 11th picket of Bisalloy Steels in Unanderra. As WUSA has

acknowledged previously, Bisalloy Steels is involved in the supply chain to Israel, its genocide in Gaza, and its occupation of the West Bank through the manufacturing and sale of weapons grade armoured steel to Israeli companies such as Plasan Re'em and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. Further, Bisalloy Steels is set to be integrated into the AUKUS pact, having been awarded US$2 million in July from General Dynamics Electric Boat (GDEB) to produce plate for Virginia-class submarines. US officials have stated that steel is a key priority to ensure the industrial base for their submarine industrial base. Australian government officials like Minister for the Defence Industry Pat Conroy have celebrated the integration of Australian steel with AUKUS and the weapons industry.

Platform:

1. WUSA continues to support the community picket of Bisalloy Steels.

2. WUSA opposes all ties between UOW and Bisalloy Steels and calls on UOW to scrap all ties with defence materials companies and pull out of the Defence Materials Technology Centre.

3. WUSA encourages UOW students to attend the picket.

4. WUSA opposes all ties between the Australian government and companies with the AUKUS pact. Profits gained from these contracts are blood money. Equipping Australia and the US with these submarines is an escalatory gesture that makes war more likely.

Action:

1. WUSA will allocate $100 from the ~~activist~~ WUSA budget to print the promotional posters designed by Wollongong Friends of Palestine.

2. WUSA will promote the Bisalloy picket on our social media accounts.

3. WUSA representatives will attend the community picket.

Motion as amended passed unanimously

Motion 2 – WUSA supports the student movement in France

Mover: Tidus Funaki
Seconder: Simon Upitis

Preamble:

In September 2026 French highschoolers from poor and migrant suburbs began blockading their schools to protest against poor classroom conditions and systematic racism. These protests have since evolved into a huge movement sweeping up workers and youth into a struggle against government austerity and inequality. On Saturday the 24th of October 800,000 workers and students marched in France despite government bans and serious threats of repression. 70,000 police were mobilised, and tear gas and water cannons were used to break up the protests. Students have held mass assemblies on high school and university campuses
to democratically organise the movement. Students are calling on workers to do the same in their workplaces and are supporting the general strike called for this Thursday the 5th of November.

Students in Australia are facing the same core issues as those in France, facing a cost-of-living crisis and a deteriorating education system. Students here should look to France as an example of how to fight for our rights to a quality education and against increasing austerity.

Platform:

1. WUSA supports French student protesters and stands against the police repression and violence enforced against them.

2. WUSA agrees to take important lessons from the French student movement including; the importance of mass participation in demonstrations and assemblies and the need for co-ordination and solidarity between students and workers in order to pose a serious challenge to government austerity measures.

Action:

1. WUSA will release a statement on social media supporting the French student protesters.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion 3 – WUSA Opposes Labor's Racist Immigration Policy Changes

Mover: Simon Upitis
Seconder: Tidus Funaki

Preamble:
In September, the federal Labor government announced a suite of racist and discriminatory changes to immigration regulations. Many of them target international students. These include forcing international students who change degrees to reapply for student VISAs from offshore, drastically reducing the number of family VISAs available to international students and increasing the cost of applying for student VISAs. Labor will also fund the training of more immigration police to assist in deportation efforts.

These changes promote the idea that migrants are "visa-hopping" and trying to "rort" the system. For the last couple of months, Labor, One Nation and the Coalition have been engaged in a disgusting three-way race to the bottom over immigration levels. Along with plenty of help from the media, the idea that migrants are to blame for the housing crisis has been normalised. Nearly half of all international students already report being racially harassed at some point in their time in Australia. With these changes, Labor is contributing to the racist scapegoating of migrants.

Student unions have a responsibility to oppose these racist and discriminatory changes.

Platform:

1. WUSA opposes Labor's immigration policy changes

2. WUSA recognises these changes are a capitulation to racists and the far right

3. WUSA opposes any racist rhetoric or actions directed at international students.

Action:

1. WUSA will share this motion from its social media accounts

Motion passed unanimously

Procedural motion to remove the chair

Mover: Simon U

Seconder:Tidus F

Procedural motion fails

Motion 4 – Motion to fill WUSA's casual vacancy for the Tert Coordinator

Mover: Daniel

Seconder: Ryan

Preamble:

Section 3.2 of WUSA's rules governing elections dictate the process for the filling of casual vacancies.

The Council shall be responsible for advertising nominations for casual vacancy elections within 30 days of notice of the vacancy. The Council will appoint, by a 2/3 Majority vote, a person to fill the vacancy from amongst the nominations for the vacant position.

In accordance with the Constitution a casual vacancy had been declared for the position of Tert Coordinator.

Action:

1. WUSA Council resolves to:
    a. Elect Asher-Kyla Wood as the Tert Coordinator;
    b. Note that Asher-Kyla Wood has, since the start of the semester, been acting as the Tert Coordinator fulfilling the duties required of that role.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion 5 - Motion to release funding for the National Conference of the National Union of Students (NUS)

Mover: Daniel McClelland

Seconder: Hanzel

Preamble:

In support of the student unionist movement, WUSA continues to engage with and support the NUS. This year's National Conference, where delegates convene to discuss student unionism, elect officials, and vote on NUS policy, will take place between 7 - 10 December.

Action:

1. That all 7 UOW NUS delegates elected during the 2026 WUSA elections or a proxy of those delegates, and any other UOW student at the discretion of the WUSA President shall be able to receive funding to support their attendance at the NUS National Conference.

2. WUSA releases funding for attendees as follows:
    a. The cost of an economy flight between Sydney and Melbourne (capped at ~~$200~~ $250); or,
    b. The cost of fuel between Sydney and Melbourne; and,
    c. Up to $500 per attendee for accommodation.

3. WUSA releases the amount required to purchase delegate and accredited observer tickets for all attendees as invoiced by the NUS.

Motion as amended passed unanimously

General Business

Emergency motion - WUSA stands in solidarity with USyd SRC

Mover: Daniel M

Seconder: Antony

Preamble:

WUSA stands in solidarity with USyd SRC in their effort to maintain their independence. WUSA is all too familiar with university management and their attempts to curtail the independence and legitimacy of student unions. Student unions provide a valuable service to students, advocating for students' rights and interests, as well as delivering much needed support services.

This attack on USyd SRC by university management whilst an attack on students, cannot be separated from the Palestine activists who ran in the USyd SRC's elections under the name, "globalise the intifada". USyd SRC and its members have consistently taken left-wing and progressive stances on the genocide in Palestine and this attack shows which side USyd university management sit on.

Action:

1. WUSA will publish this motion on its social media.

Motion passed unanimously

No further general business

Student Question Time

N/A

Meeting closed: 9:10pm