

**TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES**

For the meeting of the TUSA State Council to be held at
November 25th, 2024 at 4pm AEST
at the TUSA Building Boardroom, Sandy Bay TAS [with zoom access].

Chair: L McLaren

Meeting opened: 4:03pm

#	ITEM	APPENDIX	TIME EST
1.	INTRODUCTORY ITEMS		5 mins
	<p>1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</p> <p>L McLaren</p> <p>L McLaren emphasised the importance the State Council places on providing a personalised Acknowledgement of Country rather than merely reading from a script, before providing his own personalised Acknowledgement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those that don't know, I actually come from the far north-west of Tasmania, specifically the Circular Head region up near Smithton. I grew up in a community with an extremely dark Indigenous history. At the furthest northwestern point, Cape Grim, we had a massacre of 32 local Kanamaluka people, a massacre that saw men, women and children pushed off a cliff at gunpoint, falling to the below bay that colonisers still, to this day, call suicide bay. • Is this a fact that is widely known in my local community? Not really. It's only something that I really learned about when I continued my school studies in the north of the state. It is an event for which my community holds great shame to this day. • Further than that, my hometown also saw one of the largest rallies in recent memory, with 4,000 four-wheel drive enthusiasts after it was announced that 15 four- 		

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	<p>wheel driving tracks would be closed in the Arthur-Pieman conversation area to protect important Aboriginal heritage sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet, my local community is also one whose lifestyle and diet is so closely connected to the country on which they live. Every holiday I had as a child was spent on Tasmania's west coast, and to this day my favourite place on earth, the Arthur River, home to the Manegin people. This is because I have an indescribable sense of place when I drive over the hill and I'm looking out onto the river, out into the Southern Ocean, knowing that the next piece of land is over 10,000 kilometres away in Argentina. • So today I would like to pay my respects specifically to the Tommeginer people of Table Cape, the Lorinna people of Rocky Cape, the Parperloihener people of Robbins Island, the Pennemukeer people of Cape Grim, the Pendowte people of Studland Bay, the Peerapper people of West Point, the Manegin people of the Arthur River, the Tarkinener people of Sandy Cape and the Peternidic people of the Pieman River, all from the local area where I grew up, and finally the Palawa and Pakana people and the Gadigal and Wangal people who are the traditional owners of the land on which TUSA operates. • I'd like to thank them for caring for these lands and for shaping and supporting the wonderful place that Tasmania is today, and to recognise that this Aboriginal land was never ceded. I stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, culture, language and history, and a continued effort to fight for Aboriginal justice and rights, paving the way for a strong future. 			
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	<p>1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED EXPERIENCE M Warrington</p> <p><i>We would also like to acknowledge that everyone in this meeting today, has their own personal lived experience they bring to discussion. We as a committee respect and value every individual member's lived experience and will take that into consideration during our discussions.</i></p>		
	<p>1.2 WELCOME Chair – L McLaren</p>		
	<p>1.3 ATTENDANCE Outgoing (voting): L McLaren, M Warrington, J Oates Pryor, E Alsop, SY Yu, K Lertsinpakdee</p> <p>Incoming (non-voting): A Smith, SL Buelens, N Kumar, R Fox, H Shojaee Pour</p>		
	<p>1.4 APOLOGIES</p>		
	<p>1.5 ABSENT A Bisset Stewart, M Douglass, J Bell</p>		
	<p>1.6 GUESTS & OBSERVERS Executive Assistant – C Harris TUSA Student Advocates – J Lenthall & K Davey</p>		
	<p>1.7 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST State Council members are reminded of the requirements of clause 6 of the TUSA's Conflict of Interest Policy (instituted on 28 November 2019) which requires members to identify and disclose any conflicts of interest including gifts.</p>		
	<p>2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</p>		<p>5 mins</p>
	<p>2.1 AMENDMENTS</p>		

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	<p>2.2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> that the minutes of the TUSA State Council meeting held on October 2nd, 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting, and approved for upload to the TUSA website.</p> <p>MOVED: L McLaren SECONDED: M Warrington <i>Motion passed with no abstentions.</i></p>	APPENDIX A	
	<p>2.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See action items table 		
3.	CORRESPONDENCE		10 mins
	<p>3.1 INWARDS</p> <p>3.1.1 2024 TUSA Elections Report Correspondence accepted by State Council.</p>	APPENDIX B	
	<p>3.2 OUTWARDS</p> <p>3.1.1</p>	N/A	
4.	<p>INTERNAL UPDATES</p> <p>4.1 Advocate Report J Lenthall & K Davey October statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 cases total for the month of October. • 40 cases were financial issues • 10 academic integrity, 7 assessment-related cases, and then miscellaneous one-off cases including admissions, course concerns, and leave of absence. • 41 domestic students, 31 international. • 28 students from Newnham; 16 Sandy Bay, 1 Hobart, 7 distance, 4 Sydney, 2 Cradle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursing students make up a decent cohort of Newnham students. 	VERBAL ONLY	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Placement poverty was also named as a major issue by the Advocates. • State Council and the Advocates discussed financial difficulties among students as an ongoing issue, with Advocates reporting that students will be sent to them by student advisers and counsellors for the purpose of financial support through food vouchers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They also discussed potential options for the future of UTAS supporting students facing financial hardship beyond the vouchers they currently offer, with the aim of making it easier for students to get the help they need instead of being given something that may not work for them. • Incoming State Council enquired as to whether an influx of cases from one campus or area indicated a bigger issue on that campus/in that cohort, or a better knowledge of TUSA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This can depend on whether there is a bigger issue at play, such as poverty among students, as well as whether students have much knowledge of TUSA before coming in. ○ Campus culture can also play into this; for example, Rozelle does not have a in-person Advocate, but the Advocates still receive cases from this campus. 		
5.	COUNCIL REPORTS		10 mins
	5.1 PRESIDENT L McLaren Report accepted by State Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L McLaren provided a brief overview of his annual report, sharing some major moments from 2024: 	APPENDIX C	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The increase in SSAF funding for TUSA that was achieved in 2024. ○ Legislation on HECS indexation (inclusion of wage growth index), mandatory 40% SSAF, fee-free courses and paid placements, which as of the day of the meeting, was passed by the Senate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted by L McLaren that reps in 2025 will have lots of work to do in ensuring paid placements are rolled out properly, as well as ensuring they are expanded to all degrees that require placements. ▪ Mandatory 40% SSAF was also raised as something for reps to keep an eye on in 2025 as it begins to be rolled out. ○ The Action Plan for Addressing Gender-Based Violence getting to its final stages of approval during 2024 after lots of campaigning and hard work from State Council members. ○ Addressing issues around changes for international students, including international student numbers and visa changes. ○ Updates to student-facing procedures and policies in the best interest of students. ○ Student reps helping to fight for continuation and expansion of the TUSA Food Hub to additional campuses. ● L McLaren also shared some additional items for the 2025 reps to keep an eye on as they head into their terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The upcoming National Student Safety Survey (NSSS), which is scheduled for the first 6 months of 2025. ○ National report on Racism on Campus, which is scheduled for release next year. 		
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- L McLaren thanked the members of the 2024 State Council for their hard work, advocacy and commitment to representing students throughout their terms.

Preamble:

Unfortunately, in the recent State Council elections, we did not receive any nominations for the position of Rozelle President, even with nominations being opened for this role in particular for an extra week. This meant, that we then needed to move to an Expression of Interest process for to fill this role. This process was promoted at the Democracy Donuts event on Rozelle campus, as well as by emails to students and promotion through posters and digital screens. From this we had a group of students express desire to apply, and a student follow through and express interest. In the first instance, the Returning Officer reviewed the expression and passed onto myself (Liam) as President and organised a time for us to meet, including the incoming President, Jack Oates Pryor, and General Secretary, Annabelle Smith, in the meeting. From this meeting, the nominee, Jack Bell, impressed all three of us with their passion, keenness, and willingness to come on board into the role. Jack OP and Annabelle have then gone back to their 2025 State Council informally to sense check their happiness with the appointment where it received unanimous support, and I am now bringing to State Council for the approval of appointing Jack Bell as the 2025 Rozelle Campus President inline with our constitution.

Motion:

That the TUSA State Council appoint Jack Bell as the 2025 Rozelle Campus President.

Moved: L McLaren **Seconded:** J Oates Pryor
Motion passed via circular with no abstentions.

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<p>5.2 EQUITY PRESIDENT M Warrington Reports accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Warrington provided a brief overview of his annual report, highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The re-formation of the TUSA Equity Committee to better support the Equity President in understanding and advocating for our Equity cohorts. ○ Advocacy for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan review by UTAS. ○ The creation and distribution of pronoun badges across all of our campuses. ○ The change to the State Council Acknowledgement of Country to make it more personalised. ○ Being able to work on and release media statements throughout the year. • The State Council enquired as to M Warrington's goals for 2025 as he continues in his role. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tweaking and streamlining of the Equity Committee, such as adjusting some of the positions to better support students and expansion to bring in an additional Equity Officer representing carers. ○ To streamline processes and make things a bit more manageable for when the next Equity President steps into the role. <p>ACTION ITEM: for campus representatives to provide Mark with a number of pronoun badges available on each campus.</p>	<p>APPENDIX D1 & D2</p>	
<p>5.3 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – SOUTH J Oates Pryor Reports accepted by State Council</p>	<p>APPENDIX E1, E2 & E3</p>	

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- J Oates Pryor provided an overview of their annual report, including highlighting:
 - The decentralised campus situation in the south and the challenges it poses.
 - Continuing to make progress on getting more student input into the southern campus move, building on efforts from 2023.
 - Being able to work closely with L McLaren as the Deputy President, and to make connections and pick up new skills through this.
- J Oates Pryor then shared what he believed would be some key priorities for the incoming Southern Campus President:
 - The Forestry Building in the city and STEM remaining in Sandy Bay, and ensuring there is student input in both of these.
 - The NSSS and Racism on Campus surveys/reports, both for input and output.
 - The Campus Intuition survey being brought to the southern campuses sometime in the next 2 years.
 - Inter-campus transport and the connectivity between the southern campuses.

MOTION: **Moved:** L McLaren **Seconded:** E Alsop
That the following societies affiliations be accepted for 2024, subject to fulfilling all the affiliation criteria:

(Statewide)

Tia Postgraduate Society

The objects and purposes of the Society shall be:

- Provide a place for TIA HDRs to feel welcomed at UTAS, bringing them together as a community for support, knowledge sharing, and representation through peer-to-peer connection

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To organise and/or facilitate events for HDRs at each UTAS campus, and online, for social networking • To endeavour to share information on industry and academic research relevant to TIA (Horticulture, Food Science, Animal Science, Agricultural Systems) • To ensure the Society upholds all requirements as directed by TUSA <p>(Statewide)</p> <p><u>University Vegan Alliance, Lutruwita Society (UVAL)</u> Objects and Purposes of the Club The mission of the University Vegan Alliance, Lutruwita Society (UVAL) is to create a supportive environment for those interested in engaging in activities that foster empathy, understanding, and social change relating to non-human individuals. Central to this mission is the fact that animals are individuals, not commodities. UVAL recognises that animal exploitation is deeply embedded in society and seeks to aid in the transition to a plant-based, cruelty free, society. UVAL recognises this journey varies by individual and welcome all members, from those who have a passing interest to those who have fully adopted a vegan philosophy. <i>Motion approved via circular with no abstentions.</i></p>		
	<p>5.4 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – NORTH E Alsop Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E Alsop thanked the 2024 TUSA State Council for an amazing year, and mentioned highlights from her annual report such as such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Getting a shuttle bus trial between Newnham and Inveresk. ○ Being able to help individual students and having small wins throughout the year. ○ Working with M Warrington to get the Equity room set up and launched in the North. 	<p>APPENDIX F & F1</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensuring UTAS remains dedicated to people when pursuing sustainability amongst issues such as removing restricted mobility for e charging parks. ● E Alsop then shared what they believed would be some of the biggest issues for the 2025 Northern Campus President. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Security is always a big factor in the North. ○ Ensuring the people side of sustainability – such as accessibility – is upheld in new buildings. ○ Continuing to make sure the North is recognised and their issues are heard, as well as increasing TUSA brand awareness in the North. 		
<p>5.5 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – CRADLE COAST A Bisset Stewart Report accepted by State Council.</p>	APPENDIX G	
<p>5.6 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – ROZELLE M Douglass Report accepted by State Council.</p>	APPENDIX H	
<p>5.7 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (UG) K Lertsinpakdee Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● K Lertsinpakdee provided an overview of her annual report, including highlighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successes in policy and procedure throughout 2024, including graduate outcomes and the Academic Progress Review, which will lead to better support for students. ○ Working to ensure there is a fair and just appeals system where the same rules apply everywhere within the University ○ Work around gender-based violence and student safety, and ensuring students are safe and receiving quality education. 	APPENDIX I	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L McLaren asked about what K Lertsinpakdee thinks the key focuses for the 2024 Undergraduate Education President will be. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pushing for more accessible online learning. ○ Monitoring the paid placement rollout to find areas for improvement to ensure students are supported. ○ Following through on policy and procedure work done in 2024, such as gender-based violence and reviews and appeals. 		
<p>5.8 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (PG) SY Yu Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SY Yu provided a brief overview of her Annual Report, including highlights such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removing working hour restrictions for HDR students so they are able to financially support themselves. ○ Helping to improve the library management system, which has been done based on student feedback. ○ Building connections between different departments, as well as with external organisations. • SY Yu then shared what she thought the biggest issues would be for 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stipend issues for HDR students. Though working hour restrictions have been removed, the current stipend may still mean students are struggling to financially support themselves. 	<p>APPENDIX J & J1</p>	
<p>5.9 Projects Register C Harris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For discussion of items for update/creation in project register 	<p>VERBAL ONLY</p>	

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6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		40 mins
<p>6.1 Key Messaging Document L McLaren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L McLaren mentioned the media statement and socials post from early November around the Southern Campus move, with the announcement that STEM and Law will be remaining in Sandy Bay, while Business, Economics and Humanities will be moving into Forestry in 2026. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He also mentioned tabled amendments in Parliament that would allow the parts of the University above Churchill Avenue to be rezoned as residential. This would allow them to be sold, which would then fund the new UTAS buildings in both Hobart and Sandy Bay, with STEM set to see significant upgrades. ○ It was noted that most of these buildings are the oldest on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus and that, unlike other buildings further down the campus, they might not be able to be retrofitted. ○ Though some of the changes may be seen as learning space upgrades, it was emphasized that this should not come at the expense of the student experience. • Outgoing State Council highlighted that the 2025 State Council should ensure there is enough space for students on campuses, particularly those in the city, which may struggle with overcrowding. This could result in students not having access to vital amenities such as lockers, study spaces and prayer rooms. 	<p>VERBAL ONLY</p>	
<p>6.2 SC Strategy Update All State Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand Student Representative Number – E Alsop 	<p>VERBAL INLINE WITH</p>	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Improve Handover Process – L McLaren <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. OneNote handover system in place, signifying an improvement upon last year’s handover that will hopefully continue to improve in the future. 3. Address Operational Inadequacies – L McLaren <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improving State Council hours to ensure they aren’t overworking and ensuring support for the State Council now and in the future. 4. Improve C&S Relationships – M Douglass 5. Implement a Volunteer Management System – S Yu 6. Influence TUSA Strategy 2025 & Beyond – K Lertsinpakdee 7. Engaging already established student representatives – J Oates Pryor 8. Implement Equity Committee – M Warrington 9. Make SC Appealing to Student Leaders – L McLaren 	ATTACHED STRATEGY	
7. OTHER BUSINESS			5 mins
	<p>7.1 Thank You’s L McLaren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TUSA State Council thanked C Harris for her work with the State Council over the past 2 years, first as Campaign Coordinator and then as Executive Assistant. • L McLaren thanked the TUSA State Council of 2024 for all their hard work and dedication, noting that they have all done amazing work and helped make major changes. 		

Meeting Closed: 5:45pm

Next Meeting: TBC