

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

For the meeting of the TUSA State Council to be held at  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:30pm AEST**  
at the TUSA Building Boardroom, Sandy Bay TAS [with zoom access].

**Chair: J Oates Pryor (until 4:48pm) & A Smith (from 4:48pm)**

**Meeting opened: 3:31pm**

#	ITEM	APPENDIX	TIME EST
1.	<b>INTRODUCTORY ITEMS</b>		5 mins
	<b>1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</b> A Bisset Stewart  I would like to acknowledge the Palawa people of Lutruwita today, as well as the Gadigal and Wangal people from where I'm from in Sydney. I would like to acknowledge eldest past and present, as well as anyone who is with us today.		
	<b>1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED EXPERIENCE</b> M Warrington  <i>As we gather today, let's all take the opportunity to remember that, as a reflection of the diverse student groups we represent, we all navigate different challenges and hold diverse experiences. The human experience is full of complexities, whether they be financial pressures, health concerns, social inequalities, and or personal struggles. That rich, flawed tapestry of lived experience can significantly impact the way we project ourselves and the way we view others. With that in mind let's approach our discussions today with empathy, understanding, kindness, and a commitment to create and maintain a safe and inclusive space for everyone.</i>		

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	<b>1.2 WELCOME</b> Chair – J Oates Pryor		
	<b>1.3 ATTENDANCE</b> J Oates Pryor, A Smith, M Warrington, R Fox, A Bissett Stewart, J Bell, H Shojaee Pour, SL Buelens, N Kumar (joined 3:58pm)		
	<b>1.4 APOLOGIES</b>		
	<b>1.5 ABSENT</b>		
	<b>1.6 GUESTS &amp; OBSERVERS</b> Executive Assistant – C Harris TUSA Student Advocate – A Lamont		
	<b>1.7 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</b> 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.		
	<b>2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b>		<b>5 mins</b>
	<b>2.1 AMENDMENTS</b>		
	<b>2.2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> <u>Motion:</u> that the minutes of the TUSA State Council meeting held on <b>February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025</b> be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting, and approved for upload to the TUSA website.  <b><i>MOVED: A Smith      SECONDED: M Warrington</i></b> Passed with no abstentions.	<b>APPENDIX A</b>	
	<b>2.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See action items table</li> </ul>		

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3.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<b>10 mins</b>
	3.1 INWARDS	N/A
	3.2 OUTWARDS	N/A
4.	<b>INTERNAL UPDATES</b> Advocacy Update – A Lamont February Stats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53 cases with 99 case interactions, meaning there were just under 2 interactions per student.</li> <li>• 16 students presented with financial concerns, with 8 batches of food vouchers distributed, 3 laptops provided, and 2 referrals to the UTAS financial hardship scheme.</li> <li>• 11 students presented with fee-related issues, and issues also arose around scholarships, behaviour, and general course concerns.</li> <li>• 23 international students, 28 domestic, and 2 unknowns. 45 undergraduates and 8 masters.</li> <li>• 8 students based in Hobart CBD, 8 Newnham, 5 Cradle Coast, 5 Inveresk, 23 Sandy Bay, 5 Rozelle, and 3 distance students.</li> <li>• 28 students based in CoSE, 20 CoHM, 6 CALE, 2 unknown.</li> <li>• A Lamont noted the Advocates have been busy, finalising their Advocacy Charter, revising their Code of Conduct and Complaints processes, and meeting with relevant UTAS staff.</li> <li>• They have also attended Orientation events across all campuses (including Rozelle), including a study space in Zeehan.</li> <li>• The Advocates have also attended Student Experience Network sessions, including a session about food and food insecurity.</li> </ul>	<b>VERBAL ONLY</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From March, the Advocates will be recording data about insecure housing – however, it may be difficult to accurately record numbers due to how people present (ie. Some people may not mention it, so the Advocates will not know).</li> <li>R Fox asked if there was anything interesting about how UTAS conduct their academic integrity cases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S Nolan informed the Advocates that this training was an interesting insight, particularly as UTAS looks to have a more formalised process with consistency across the board, rather than different Colleges doing things differently.</li> </ul> </li> <li>J Bell asked about Advocate capacity, particularly with the knowledge that TUSA has four Advocates, most of whom do not work full-time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Lamont agreed that the Advocates are busy and have a lot of complex cases, but are doing their best with the time and resources they have.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Advocates have been discussing the Melbourne campus and ensuring that students there have Advocacy access. This led to a discussion around TUSA's highly restricted capacity to support these students.</li> </ul>		
<b>5.</b>	<b>COUNCIL REPORTS</b>		<b>10 mins</b>
	<b>5.1 PRESIDENT</b> J Oates Pryor Report accepted by State Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H Shojaee Pour asked for an update on lobbying efforts with local politicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J Oates Pryor noted that there have been little updates in this space, though there is some interest from politicians in coming to see the Food Hub in person.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX B</b>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Smith asked J Oates Pryor for an NUS update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ J Oates Pryor raised the Federal Government inquiry into University Governance, stating that the NUS have made a submission. They wanted TUSA to be a co-signer but has not yet received a response from the NUS.</li> <li>○ He also raised a potential ethnocultural conference in Tasmania later in the year, something he noted would be highly relevant for our student body.</li> <li>○ J Oates Pryor also indicated there may be opportunities to connect with the NUS on State Council campaigns.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<p><b>5.2 GENERAL SECRETARY</b></p> <p>A Smith</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Smith noted she is excited to get into work on the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), as well as the recruitment process for new and existing roles on the Equity Committee.</li> <li>• H Shojaee Pour asked if there was anything specific related to the GBV action plan that should be communicated to students, to ensure all campuses are aligned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Smith noted that this is something which is currently being navigated.</li> <li>○ TUSA is working really hard to make sure UTAS stays accountable for all the things they have written in their report.</li> <li>○ She also highlighted the campaign planning the State Council have been doing and how this will sit alongside keeping the university accountable.</li> <li>○ The action plan is a step, but it is by no means the end of the journey.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>APPENDIX C</b></p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Bell asked if the RAP would include Rozelle, or if it was Tasmania-focused, and A Smith confirmed that it would be university-wide.</li> <li>• A Smith's highlight of the month was participating in O-Week and meeting heaps of students.</li> </ul>		
<b>5.3 EQUITY PRESIDENT</b> M Warrington Report accepted by State Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M Warrington noted that the Equity Committee is moving towards interviews for the International Students Officer, which will be chaired by A Smith. He also noted that the Carer's Officer role may be a more informal group, though this is in the early stages.</li> <li>• Following events with the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, M Warrington would like to get their outreach officer out and about on-campus to connect with students in a more informal manner.</li> <li>• He also noted the Neurodiversity Week table held with the Disability Officer and gave a shout-out to the Women's and Disability Officers for their yarnbombing on International Women's Day.</li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX D</b>	
<b>5.4 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – SOUTH</b> R Fox Report accepted by State Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Smith asked for an update on vent tents for the southern campuses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Posters and dates have been finalised, with the first to be held just over a week after the meeting.</li> <li>○ R Fox noted she is looking for representatives in the south to help with holding the vent tents, to which N Kumar offered to assist.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX E</b>	
<b>5.5 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – NORTH</b> H Shojaee Pour	<b>APPENDIX F</b>	

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<p>Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H Shojaee Pour updated that the Launceston Food Hub launch and eat it all events were a success, giving special thanks to K White for her hard work in setting them up.</li> <li>• H Shojaee Pour raised car incidents at Newnham accommodation, and reported that security is being worked with to update existing security cameras and security patrols, as well as changing security schedules. All matters are being reported to Tas Police, and residents are being communicated with.</li> <li>• A Smith asked how H Shojaee Pour feels about the response to the car incidents by UTAS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ H Shojaee Pour stated that it feels like it should be enough, but that she needs to talk to students to make sure change is happening and that they're happy with that change.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• J Oates Pryor asked about H Shojaee Pour's informal conversation with AMCSA reps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ She stated that it went well, and that she hoped there would be more formal conversations in the future around what they could be doing collaboratively.</li> <li>◦ She and J Oates Pryor agreed that it was important to build up a relationship with AMCSA, even if it was as simple as making sure they are aware they can access TUSA support and representation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p><b>5.6 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – CRADLE COAST</b>  A Bisset Stewart  Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Bisset Stewart raised an email he received from university accommodation about rental direct debits and fees for bounced or rejected payments, which A Smith confirmed was on the State Council's radar.</li> </ul>	<p><b>APPENDIX G</b></p>	

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	<p>She also stated that discussions were occurring about whether this should be raised to the National Student Ombudsman due to complaints from students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Bisset Stewart raised that things have been stolen from the bike shed, which does not have cameras. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ J Oates Pryor noted that almost \$60,000 of bikes have been stolen over the past 8 days in Sandy Bay – however, this does not seem like it has been from students so far.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<p><b>5.7 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – ROZELLE</b> J Bell Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Smith asked if the motion in J Bell's report could be carried to the retreat, to ensure everyone has had time to read it and ask any questions.</li> <li>• R Fox asked how J Bell practically plans to use this Committee to support students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He wants the Committee to meet monthly, and for them to lead to events being held in the time between each meeting.</li> <li>○ He explained he wanted to do this because currently, there are very few events run at Rozelle, and those that are run are not done in consultation with students and that they have poor turnout.</li> <li>○ He also noted wanting to use the Committee to get student feedback on non-course related issues at the Rozelle campus.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• J Bell clarified that the Rozelle Committee is designed to create events and initiatives that people want, and to improve the sustainability of the university across all SDGs.</li> </ul>	APPENDIX H	
	<p><b>5.8 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (UG)</b> SL Buelens Report accepted by State Council</p>	APPENDIX I	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SL Buelens raised concerns she had received from students, including concerns around classes not running well. She noted that she had been able to connect with some contacts for these courses but is still working on others.</li> <li>She updated that she is still working on what Academic Roundtables will look like, and that she would like to discuss how they would look on each campus. She stated she would also like to speak to M Warrington to ensure they are accessible for everyone from an equity standpoint.</li> </ul>		
	<b>5.9 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (PG)</b> N Kumar Report accepted by State Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N Kumar had hoped to host an academic writing workshop in late April, but this is being postponed until May due to unavailability issues.</li> <li>SL Buelens asked about the PhD students survey and if the State Council would be able to access the results and findings of that survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N Kumar agreed to circulate the results of the survey to the State Council.</li> <li>He noted this did not have a great respondent turnout (17 students), but it has still led to an academic writing workshop as discussed above for Semester 1.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>APPENDIX J</b>	
	<b>5.10 Projects Register</b> C Harris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For discussion of items for update/creation in project register.</li> </ul>	<b>VERBAL INLINE WITH ATTACHED</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>		<b>40 mins</b>
	<b>6.1 Key Messaging Document</b> J Oates Pryor	<b>VERBAL ONLY</b>	
	<b>6.2 TUU Constitution</b>	<b>APPENDIX K</b>	

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<p>J Oates Pryor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J Oates Pryor informed the State Council that the Constitution needs to be changed due to 40% SSAF legislation – this legislation requires that the SSAF go to a student-led organisation, which must have a Board that is majority students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He stated that independent legal advice was provided to ensure that the changes were in line with the legislation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>He also noted that elections content is being moved to the Elections Policy so that the Constitution does not need to be amended every year to allow Elections changes based on the previous year.</li> <li>Upon confusion from the State Council, J Oates Pryor reported that Board members do not immediately have voting rights at the AGM – currently the AGM comprises of only 2 members, which is not standard practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TUSA have amended this to be a student-led AGM in the new Constitution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>MOTION: that, in principle, the TUSA State Council support and endorse the amendments to the Constitution (given that, if any changes occur, the State Council be given the updates for re-approval).</p> <p>Moved: J Oates Pryor      Seconded: M Warrington  Passed with no abstentions.</p>		
<p><b>6.3 Campaign Planning</b></p> <p>A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Smith checked in with everyone following the campaign planning sessions, and stated she was a safe space to talk to if people are willing, but that they are also welcome to reach out to other members of the team, including the TUSA Student Advocates.</li> </ul>	<p><b>VERBAL ONLY</b></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She also congratulated the team on their work so far in these sessions, and that she is pleased tangible changes for the State Council to push for are starting to become clear.</li> </ul>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>		<b>5 mins</b>
	<b>7.1 Feedback</b> A Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The TUSA Team has requested feedback from the State Council about all the start of semester events.</li> <li>A Smith encouraged the State Council to write this feedback down and pass it on to her so she can give it to the wider team.</li> <li>She also noted that this could be feedback on other matters such as communication.</li> </ul>	<b>VERBAL ONLY</b>	
	<b>7.2 Social Student Council Meetings</b> A Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Smith and J Oates Pryor have been discussing that, despite the monthly meetings, they felt it would be good for the State Council to connect with one another more frequently in a more social meeting environment without an agenda.</li> <li>These would not be obligatory meetings but would be an opportunity for the State Council to chat about things they're working on and give them more consistent opportunities to work and chat together.</li> <li>A Smith proposed for these to be held in the time in the middle of the time between State Council meetings.</li> <li>J Oates Pryor noted that this was to foster greater connection and collaboration between the State Council members.</li> <li>It was discussed that it would be better for this to be online, as hybrid settings don't often allow the online participants to engage as much.</li> </ul>	<b>VERBAL ONLY</b>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State Council discussed timing, which would ideally be later in the afternoon, and also discussed the potential of having activities or even dinner during these social meetings.</li> </ul>		
	<b>7.3 Harmony Week</b> M Warrington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M Warrington raised Harmony Week, as well as Harmony Day, on March 21<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>Harmony Week's aim is to promote inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for all Australians, regardless of their cultural backgrounds. M Warrington stated that this is particularly relevant when big talking points are the prevalence of racism and racism-fueled assaults within the community.</li> <li>This year's theme is "We all have a role to play", and to participate, people can wear orange or start difficult conversations about inclusivity.</li> <li>M Warrington noted that UTAS is the most diverse University in Australia.</li> </ul>		

**Meeting Closed:** 4:56pm

**Next Meeting:** April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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**ACTION REGISTER**  
 as at March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

#	Date of Meeting	Action Item	Responsible Party	Action	Progress to Date or Further Action Required	Status
1	07.08.24	Student Representative Map	All Reps	All reps to provide any additions to the student representative map before the next State Council meeting.	To be taken to the TUSA Retreat.	Ongoing
3	23.01.25	Conflict of Interest Register (linked)	H Shojaee Pour, J Bell	To update the Conflict of Interest Register prior to the February State Council meeting.	If you do not have any Col's, please let C Harris know.	Closed
4	23.01.25	President-Specific Posters	A Smith, M Lutan	For A Smith to contact M Lutan about creating posters for each State Council member	M Lutan on leave until 11/2 - working remotely until 17/2.  A Smith requested for reps to contact her if they had any specific ideas for their posters.	Open

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7	23.01.25	Project Register (linked)	All Reps	To update the Projects Register before the February State Council meeting.	To be revisited for a refresh by J Oates Pryor, A Smith and C Harris.	Paused
8	13.02.25	Orientation Week Shift Confirmation	All Reps	Reminder to update availability and times away on the team calendar.		Closed

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REGISTER  
as at March 2025

#	Date of Meeting	Relevant Parties	Conflict of Interest	Comments	Status (Open/ongoing/ closed)
1	20.11.23	M Warrington	Current President of Disability Students Collective (DiSCo)	Aleah Clarke is the Vice President	Ongoing
2	20.11.23	M Warrington	Member of the UTAS Disability Inclusion Campus Reference Group (DICRG)	Paid casual rate for attendance at meetings usually spaced six weeks a part for three hours at a time.	Ongoing
3	01.12.23	M Warrington	Board Member of Disability Voices Tasmania		Ongoing
4	01.01.23	M Warrington	Member of Blind Citizens Australia (BCA) and Committee member of the BCA National Policy Committee		Ongoing
5	06.12.23	J Oates Pryor	Member of the Tasmanian University Law Society.		Ongoing
6	5.3.24	J Oates Pryor	Member of Tasmanian Students for Palestine		Ongoing
7	06.12.23	J Oates Pryor	Paid Casual UTAS Staff Member	Including various roles: OSCE Role Player; Casual	Ongoing

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				Staff Member for both Theatre department and Faculty of Law	
8	23.01.25	J Oates Pryor	NUS State Branch President		Ongoing
9		A Smith	Treasurer and Events Manager of the Tasmanian University Social Work Community		Ongoing
10		A Smith	Casual Committee Member of the Psychology Society		Ongoing
11		A Smith	Past President of John Fisher Residential College		Closed (2023)
12		A Smith	Life Member of John Fisher Residential College		Ongoing
13		A Smith	Past Student Recruitment officer (Interstate) full-time with UTAS		Closed (January 2025)
14		A Smith	Casual Engagement Staff Member with UTAS	Interstate Engagement Ambassador	Current
15		A Smith	CALE – Social Work Student Advocate		Current
16	28.1.24	R Fox	Casual Member of the Bottom of the Earth Society		Ongoing
17		R Fox	Paid casual UTAS staff member	KSM101 PASS Leader,	Ongoing



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				Interstate student ambassador	
18		R Fox	Past Vice President and Social Convenor of John Fisher Residential College		Closed - 2023
19		R Fox	Life Member of John Fisher Residential College		
20		R Fox	CSIRO CAST Student internship	Joint CSIRO-UTAS contribution to honoraria.	Closed – 2024
21		R Fox	Agrifutures Australia 2024/25 Scholar	Honoraria received from Agrifutures Australia.	Ongoing
22	3.2.25	S Buelens	Member of the Maths and Physics Society		Ongoing
23		S Buelens	Member of the Engineering Society		Ongoing
24		S Buelens	Partner works for UTAS as a Community Engagement Leader		Ongoing
25		S Buelens	Student Associate Membership of the Australian Institute of Physics		Ongoing
26		Namesh Kumar	Student Ambassador for Study Tasmania		Ongoing