

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

For the meeting of the TUSA State Council to be held at
April 16th, 2025 at 3:30pm AEST
at the TUSA Building Boardroom, Sandy Bay TAS [with zoom access].

Chair: J Oates Pryor

Meeting opened: 3:32pm

#	ITEM	APPENDIX	TIME EST
1.	INTRODUCTORY ITEMS		5 mins
	<p>1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</p> <p>SL Buelens</p> <p>I would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today. I pay my deepest respects to elders, past and present, of the Wangal people of the Eora nation, the Palawa Pakana people of Kanamaluka (Launceston), Pataway (Burnie) and Nipaluna (Hobart).</p> <p>In Nipaluna (Hobart), I pay respect to the traditional and original owners of this land, the Muwinina people, and pay respect to those that have passed before us. No Muwinina people are alive today due to invasion, war, and genocide. I also want to acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.</p> <p>We are gathering today on lands that have been cared for, and where stories have been told and knowledge has been passed on for tens of thousands of years. I personally love Lutruwita Tasmania for its beautiful landscape. But when I go bushwalking on this land, these places are not untouched wilderness. They're old country walked and known by Palawa Pakana ancestors long before we came to admire the views.</p>		

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

<p>Today I would also really like to share a story of the Palawa Pakana people, the dreamtime story of Dromerdeene and Luina the blue wren. In this story, Dromerdeene sets out to reconcile with his brother Moihernee, but is attacked by the beasts that are guarding his brother. As Dromerdeene lies there injured, there is a tiny grey bird, a very little wren who overhears the beasts plotting to return and finish off Dromerdeene. The bird, even though it is very small, tries to rouse Dromerdeene and then, when the beasts return, it even goes so far as to fight them.</p> <p>The wren is immediately thrown against the gum tree, but its bravery sparks a response. All the other bush creatures come to help, and even the gum tree itself rains down the gumnuts on the attackers until eventually a star carries Dromerdeene to safety. In gratitude, Dromerdeene transforms each helper thanks to the star, but especially the bird, who he gives bright black eyes, a fan-like tail, and the radiant blue on its crown. From then on, this blue wren, Luina, symbolised courage and freedom.</p> <p>This story speaks quite deeply to me, especially as it's a reminder that even the smallest acts of protection and care can really spark a great change. As we begin this meeting, I would like to hold space for those connections, to place, to each other, and to the stories that have always been there.</p> <p>I have shared this story alongside a painting by Domica Hill, who is a Pakana woman who captures many Aboriginal Dreamtime stories in her paintings, and I think it's also a great reminder that the culture of the Palawa Pakana people is not just history, but is alive today, carried forward in story, language, art, and Country.</p>		
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TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

<p>1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED EXPERIENCE</p> <p>M Warrington or as directed by the chair.</p> <p>As we come together today, let's take a moment to recognise that each of us brings with us a unique lived experience.</p> <p>We're students, advocates, leaders — but we are also people shaped by our cultures, our communities, our identities, and our circumstances.</p> <p>Some of us may carry the weight of discrimination, disability, family responsibilities, or financial strain. Others may be navigating health challenges, or simply the pressure of showing up when things are hard.</p> <p>Through our recent workshops on <i>Leading with confidence</i>, we've reflected on how we each show up in the room — what our natural communication styles are, how we respond under pressure, and how important it is to listen, advocate, and influence with empathy.</p> <p>So today, as we step into discussion and decision-making, let's give each other space — space to speak honestly, to feel heard, and to be human.</p> <p>Let's choose kindness in our tone, understanding in our questions, and courage in our advocacy.</p>		
<p>1.2 WELCOME</p> <p>Chair – J Oates Pryor</p>		
<p>1.3 ATTENDANCE</p> <p>J Oates Pryor, A Smith, R Fox, A Bissett Stewart (left 3:54pm), J Bell (left 5:01pm), H Shojaee Pour (arrived 3:56pm), SL Buelens, N Kumar (left 5:02pm)</p>		
<p>1.4 APOLOGIES</p> <p>M Warrington</p>		

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

	1.5 ABSENT		
	1.6 GUESTS & OBSERVERS Executive Assistant – C Harris		
	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.		
2.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING		5 mins
	2.1 AMENDMENTS		
	2.2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING <u>Motion:</u> that the minutes of the TUSA State Council meeting held on March 20th, 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting, and approved for upload to the TUSA website. <i>MOVED: R Fox SECONDED: A Smith</i> <i>Passed with no abstentions</i>	APPENDIX A	
	2.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See action items table 		
3.	CORRESPONDENCE		10 mins
	3.1 INWARDS 3.1.1	N/A	
	3.2 OUTWARDS	N/A	
4.	INTERNAL UPDATES No updates	N/A	

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

5.	COUNCIL REPORTS		10 mins
	5.1 PRESIDENT J Oates Pryor Report accepted by State Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council asked a question about TUSA's SSAF funding, which was responded to with discussion of SSAF payments and payment timing. 	APPENDIX B	
	5.2 GENERAL SECRETARY A Smith Report accepted by State Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R Fox asked when the Climate Change Fund grant submission and results will come through. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith noted that there were some issues in getting the application completed, but that it has been approved, and TUSA is now in the pool of applicants. 	APPENDIX C	
	5.3 EQUITY PRESIDENT M Warrington Report accepted by State Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R Fox asked on notice if there were any key updates from Student Equity and Success Working Group. 	APPENDIX D	
	5.4 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – SOUTH R Fox Report accepted by State Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council asked if there were any overarching issues or themes coming out of vent tents. This was left to be discussed in item 7.2. NEW AFFILIATION	APPENDIX E	

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

<p><u>MOTION:</u></p> <p><u>Moved:</u> R Fox <u>Seconded:</u> A Bisset Stewart</p> <p>Passed with no abstentions.</p> <p>that the International Buddhist Students Society (IBSS) affiliation be accepted for 2025, subject to fulfilling all the affiliation criteria:</p> <p><u>International Buddhist Students Society (IBSS)</u></p> <p>The objects and purposes of the Club shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the understanding and practice of Theravada Buddhist teachings and principles among students at the University of Tasmania. • To provide opportunities for spiritual growth and vision improvement through meditation, Theravada Buddhist teachings, and other religious activities. • To create a supportive community where members of diverse backgrounds can interconnect and share experiences. • To organise events and activities that foster personal growth, ethical values, and intercultural understanding. • To engage in charitable and community activities that align with Theravada Buddhist values and principles. 	
<p>5.5 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – NORTH</p> <p>H Shojaee Pour</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Warrington asked prior to the meeting if culturally inclusive food promotion being considered as part of the Food Hub rollout. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H Shojaee Pour noted that this was a very good point, and something that should be explored. Her primary focus now has been on 	<p>APPENDIX F</p>

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

	<p>visibility, but she stated she would follow up with K White.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H Shojaee Pour raised the rejected direct debit fee, as well as a lockout fee, and whether this should be a formal advocacy item in the register. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting to be organised with H Shojaee Pour, A Bisset Stewart, A Smith and R Fox to discuss this issue and the attached complaint to the National Student Ombudsman. • Charging students for getting locked out (in line with above) <p><u>MOTION:</u> <u>Moved:</u> J Oates Pryor <u>Seconded:</u> A Smith Passed with no abstentions.</p> <p>that the following societies affiliation be accepted for 2025, subject to fulfilling all the affiliation criteria:</p> <p><u>Data Nexus Society</u> (Launceston based) The objects and purposes of the Club shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Knowledge and Skills: Provide students, especially HDRs, with a deeper understanding of the role of data in research and equip them with practical skills in data collection, preparation, processing, post-processing, visualisation, and analysis. • Explore Advanced Techniques: Facilitate learning about the utilisation of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and deep learning models in research. • Foster Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Involve students, HDRs, postdoctoral researchers, and interested faculty from diverse fields to encourage the exchange of ideas and methodologies. 		
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**TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Engagement and Collaboration: Organise competitions, newsletters, and tech talks to create an engaging and interactive learning environment. 		
<p>5.6 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – CRADLE COAST A Bisset Stewart Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Warrington asked on notice if there are any equity priorities/themes emerging through engagement like the Run Club or CommUNity Fest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bisset Stewart had left the meeting due to class commitments and was unable to answer. Question taken on notice. <p><u>MOTION:</u> <u>Moved:</u> J Oates Pryor <u>Seconded:</u> J Bell Passed with no abstentions.</p> <p>that the following societies affiliation be accepted for 2025, subject to fulfilling all the affiliation criteria:</p> <p><u>Sprouts Society</u> (Cradle Coast based) The objects and purposes of the Club shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn and share knowledge about horticulture and sustainable practices within the society and broader community Growing and sharing of garden produce Promote on-campus community growth through gardening 	<p>APPENDIX G</p>	
<p>5.7 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – ROZELLE J Bell Report accepted by State Council</p>	<p>APPENDIX H</p>	

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Warrington asked prior to the meeting if there are any access or disability-related issues at Rozelle that we should be aware of. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J Bell did not have any that he was aware of, but stated that he would take note of them if they arose. ○ He also indicated he would have an opportunity to ask leadership staff in May if they had encountered any issues. ○ He did briefly raise that the ramps take considerably longer than using the stairs, but that they do get people where they need to go. • 		
5.8 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (UG) SL Buelens Report accepted by State Council	APPENDIX I	
5.9 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (PG) N Kumar Report accepted by State Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R Fox asked about the Shut Up & Write program, where it will be and who it will be available to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is an online session primarily, but N Kumar stated there had been expressed interest for an in-person session. A location has not yet been decided, due to accommodations such as monitors being needed for students to attend in-person. ○ A date has also not yet been decided for the in-person session and will be decided once a location is confirmed. 	APPENDIX J	
5.10 Projects Register C Harris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For discussion of items for update/creation in project register. 	VERBAL INLINE WITH ATTACHED	

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

6.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	40 mins
	6.1 Key Messaging J Oates Pryor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No key messaging for approval yet, but work continues on getting a second appointed student rep on University Council. 	VERBAL ONLY
	6.2 Board of Management (BoM) Update A Smith/J Oates Pryor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council discussed the key outcomes of the April Board of Management meeting. 	VERBAL ONLY
	6.3 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Update A Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First major planning session with Reconciliation Tas has been held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were lots of breakouts and discussions around reconciliation, and a lot of homework was sent out to the members of the RAP. A Reconciliation Action Plan will come out of the working group; it will begin with a focus on Tasmania, before being rolled out to Sydney. There will also be an art piece alongside the RAP. J Oates Pryor noted that the RAP is not a one-year process – it's a 10-year process overall, and the first year is just the start of the initial changes and the development of the plan to be carried out. 	VERBAL ONLY
	6.4 UTAS GBV Action Plan Update A Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith and J Oates-Pryor attended the previous meeting, with J Oates-Pryor standing in as a proxy for SL Buelens. It was discussed that H Shojaee Pour and J Bell had not yet seen the UTAS posters, despite them being all over the southern campuses. 	VERBAL ONLY

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith highlighted that the key task for the State Council would be holding the University accountable to continue their work on the Action Plan. 		
	<p>6.5 TUSA Socials & Marketing</p> <p>C Harris & A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C Harris reminded the State Council that any marketing or comms activity from the State Council goes through C Harris in the first instance and is only escalated to M Lutan if C Harris is away or does not have capacity. They also expressed that 2 weeks prior to the date of the desired marketing time was the deadline for getting events/initiatives to C Harris for development of materials, unless a campaign has popped up last-minute (as they sometimes do in this space). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this instance, as much notice as possible is appreciated. J Oates Pryor asked if there had been any updates about the potential shift to a new TUSA social media shift in account styles, but no decision has been made in this area. 	VERBAL ONLY	
	<p>6.6 Campaign Gantt Chart</p> <p>A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gantt Chart for the State Council's campaign planning was circulated to State Council members as an update on the campaign for those not directly involved. The campaign is only in its first week, but work has already begun on key communications. 	VERBAL IN LINE WITH LINKED	
	<p>6.7 TUSA C&S Policies Draft for Review</p> <p>A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes have been made to the C&S Policy, which were outlined by A Smith. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C&S are referred to as Clubs rather than Clubs & Societies. 	APPENDIX K	

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issues in wording that was not used correctly were rectified. ○ No more than half of a Club's membership may be associate (non-student) members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ J Oates Pryor asked if a phase out period had been identified, or an amount of time before this comes into effect. This has not been confirmed, but A Smith noted it was likely there would be one. ▪ J Oates Pryor expressed hesitation of allowing too long of a phase-out period. ○ Quorum for meetings has been updated to be clearer for Clubs, providing solid numbers. ○ A Behaviour and Discipline Policy has been added, meaning Clubs must abide by the TUSA Code of Conduct. ○ Bank account management has been updated so that half of the bank signatories must be current UTAS students. • R Fox stated that she believed the document should go to the Governance Committee, indicating that she could see things that could be changed from a governance perspective. This was widely agreed upon by the State Council. • J Oates Pryor thanked the Clubs team for their work, while also noting that the tracked changes made the document difficult to engage with. • The State Council also commended I Lagerewskij and C Vinaviles on their work with the Clubs and Societies. <p>MOTION: that the State Council refer this document on to the Governance and Nominations Committee for their</p>		
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TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

<p>consideration and awareness, particularly relating to any governance risks that this may expose TUSA to.</p> <p>MOVED: R Fox SECONDED: A Smith</p> <p>Passed with no abstentions.</p>		
<p>6.8 TUSA Strategy Refresh</p> <p>J Oates Pryor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will be taking part a workshop that includes a TUSA Strategy refresh session. • It was noted that there was an appetite to make a State Council strategy, as discussed at the Retreat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On the note of this, J Bell indicated that it would be good to ensure continuity of programs across reps, so that things continue year on year. • J Oates Pryor asked the team if they had any thoughts around potential shifts or changes that could be made to the TUSA Strategy in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The State Council discussed potentially having more structure around succession and continuation of programs and initiatives from past years. ○ SL Buelens asked if she could provide thoughts outside of the meeting once she had had more time to look over the strategy document, which was confirmed, with the note that the Board workshop was on the 17th at 4pm. ○ R Fox also indicated that she had notes to send through and indicated that it might be nice to have a formal State Council proposal to take to this meeting. ○ Due to time constraints, this would at minimum be ideas and points to be taken to the session by J Oates Pryor and A Smith. • The State Council organised a session the following day to sit down and provide their feedback, and to 	<p>APPENDIX L</p>	

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

	send through notes if they were not available at this time.		
7.	OTHER BUSINESS		5 mins
	7.1 National Student Ombudsman - Accommodation A Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As discussed in item 5.5. 	VERBAL ONLY	
	7.2 Vent Tents R Fox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R Fox informed the State Council that student responses will be assessed on a fortnightly basis due to capacity and effectiveness, and that it was on this fortnightly basis that issues or concerns would be emailed out to relevant parties. R Fox has put together a spreadsheet to contain all the information received from the vent tents, to ensure nothing is missed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She encouraged State Council who attend these vent tents to write down all student concerns they receive so they can be added to this spreadsheet. J Oates Pryor indicated that there had been interest from UTAS Committees for findings from these vent tents to be brought to them. 	VERBAL ONLY	
	7.3 AI Use in Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council discussed the use of AI in reporting and how they would or would not like to use it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general consensus among the present State Council members was that they do not use it to substantially develop their reports, but that they can use it to make their reports more formal or polished. The use of AI to make report submission more accessible was also discussed and 	VERBAL ONLY	

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

	agreed upon, but to be used as a tool alongside the team supporting one another rather than to write a full report, whether internal or external-facing.		
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Meeting Closed: 5:05pm

Next Meeting: May 21st, 2025

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES
ACTION REGISTER
as at April 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. To be discussed in a meeting before the next State Council – week of May 5.	Paused
2	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.	Closed
3	23.01.25	Project Register (linked)	All Reps	To update the Projects Register before the February State	To be revisited for a refresh by J Oates Pryor, A Smith and C Harris.	Paused

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

				Council meeting.		
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TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES
TUSA STATE COUNCIL
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST REGISTER
as at April 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

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

				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 Associate Future Student Officer with UTAS		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, Interstate	Ongoing

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
TUSA State Council
MINUTES

				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