

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

For the meeting of the TUSA State Council to be held at
July 23rd, 2025 at 3:30pm AEST
held Online via Zoom.

Chair: J Oates Pryor

Meeting opened: 3:35pm

#	ITEM	APPENDIX	TIME EST
1.	INTRODUCTORY ITEMS		5 mins
	<p>1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</p> <p>M Warrington</p> <p>I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, the Palawa and Pakana Peoples of Lutruwita — Tasmania. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and I extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples joining us today.</p> <p>This year's NAIDOC theme, <i>Keep the Fire Burning: Blak, Loud & Proud</i>, invites us to celebrate the unbroken strength of culture, community, and resistance — not as a memory of the past, but as a living, ongoing presence. That fire has always been here. Despite invasion, despite erasure, despite the myth of extinction.</p> <p>Here in Lutruwita, that myth was declared loudly in 1876 with the death of Trukanini. But what's less often remembered is that, just a few years later, Aboriginal people were actively organising — seeking recognition, land, and community control. By 1881, 4,000 acres on Cape Barren Island Tasmanian Aboriginal History in the Furneaux Region - Flinders Council had been reserved for the Aboriginal community. A school was established by 1890, and by the turn of the century, the island was a hub of</p>		

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<p>cultural and economic activity — from muttonbirding to seal trading. The Islander Association formed in 1897, and through both activism and survival, the community laid the groundwork for what would become the Cape Barren Island Reserve Act of 1912 54280.pdf — one of the first formal recognitions of an Aboriginal community in Australia. It wasn't perfect. It wasn't just. But it was a declaration: <i>We are still here.</i></p> <p>As a student association, we at TUSA are taking early steps in developing our first Reconciliation Action Plan. The process is being led by a student working group committed to listening, learning, and building genuine relationships. We're still working to deepen our engagement with Aboriginal students — and we know that trust isn't built by announcements or deadlines, but through consistent, honest action. Reconciliation is not a one-off project — it's a practice. And we're in it for the long haul.</p> <p>As we gather here in student governance, we do so on lands that carry long stories — of Country, of kinship, of sovereignty that was never ceded. Our work, our decisions, and our presence should reflect that reality.</p> <p>Let us be guided not only by policy and process, but by truth, and by the responsibility to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are not just heard, but centred — loudly, proudly, and with fire.</p>		
<p>1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED EXPERIENCE M Warrington</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</p>		

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<p>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 (left 5pm), M Warrington, A Bissett Stewart (joined 3:53pm), J Bell (left 5pm), H Shojaee Pour, SL Buelens, N Kumar</p>		
<p>1.4 APOLOGIES</p> <p>R Fox</p>		
<p>1.5 ABSENT</p>		
<p>1.6 GUESTS & OBSERVERS</p> <p>C Harris – Executive Support and Media Administrator</p> <p>L McClean – Director, Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment</p> <p>C O'May - Senior Tasmanian Transitions Manager</p>		

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	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 May 21st, 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: A Smith SECONDED: SL Buelens</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 3.2.1	N/A	
4.	INTERNAL UPDATES No internal updates provided.	VERBAL ONLY	
5.	COUNCIL REPORTS		10 mins
	5.1 PRESIDENT	APPENDIX B	

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<p>J Oates Pryor</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith and the State Council thanked J Oates Pryor for their hard work, particularly over the June/July period. 		
<p>5.2 GENERAL SECRETARY</p> <p>A Smith</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith noted that paid placements had not been rolled out as of the date of the meeting, identifying this to be an issue that she was actively campaigning to be resolved. 	APPENDIX C	
<p>5.3 EQUITY PRESIDENT</p> <p>M Warrington</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Warrington raised that the first draft of the Reconciliation Action Plan has been finalised and submitted to Reconciliation Tasmania for their review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He also noted that an Expression of Interest has been put out for an artist as part of the RAP. Interest in the LGBTQIA+ Officer role on the Equity Committee has been received following the previous office bearer stepping down due to competing commitments. 	APPENDIX D	
<p>5.4 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – SOUTH</p> <p>R Fox</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council requested a tentative calendar of semester 2 Vent Tent dates. <p>ACTION ITEM: R Fox to provide a list of tentative Semester 2 Vent Tent dates to the State Council.</p>	APPENDIX E	
<p>5.5 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – NORTH</p> <p>H Shojaee Pour</p>	APPENDIX F	

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	<p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H Shojaee Pour noted that posters and flyers for the State Council's Gender-Based Violence campaign have been distributed across Inveresk, and will be in AMC and Newnham in the week following the meeting. 		
	<p>5.6 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – CRADLE COAST</p> <p>A Bisset Stewart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bisset Stewart updated the State Council that he is continuing conversations for increased security presence on Cradle Coast campus. He also noted that he will be bringing forward that out of area students on the Cradle Coast are not being given the extra support they need. 	APPENDIX G	
	<p>5.7 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – ROZELLE</p> <p>J Bell</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p>	APPENDIX H	
	<p>5.8 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (UG)</p> <p>SL Buelens</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p>	APPENDIX I – TO BE CIRCULATED	
	<p>5.9 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (PG)</p> <p>N Kumar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N Kumar raised that Shut Up and Write in-person sessions would be starting in the second week of August, and that details for promotional purposes would be provided shortly. 	APPENDIX J	
6.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		40 mins
	<p>6.1 Key Messaging</p> <p>J Oates Pryor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Oates Pryor noted media statements and social media content about the CALE Change Proposal, socials content and media interviews about cults on campus, and media on the 20% reduction of HECS debt. 	VERBAL ONLY	

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<p>6.2 Tasmanian Transitions: The Education Transition L McClean & C O'May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L McClean and C O'May provided a presentation on the Tasmanian Transitions. This focused on the Education Transition, but also touched on Health. • Following the presentation, L McClean and C O'May opened to questions or comments from the State Council around the Education transition and what might be effective ways to foster higher educational attainment in Tasmania, as well as the best ways to engage the broader student body. • J Bell asked if there were any plans to look at bullying at schools as part of this transition, as it might be a big reason students leave or quit school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was confirmed to be something considered within the plan, falling under the wellbeing section. It was agreed that bullying directly impacts the wellbeing of students and needs to be addressed. • M Warrington raised that motivations and aspirations of students are things that have previously been neglected in educational attainment discussions, particularly in rural communities. He proposed that mentorship opportunities could help combat this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This was also confirmed to be part of the proposed plan. • S Buelens asked if some of the components in the plan were things that fell under State or Federal Government jurisdiction to change, and how it would be managed if so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L McClean and C O'May stated that the University can have some impact on its own, but that it is the goal to work in partnership with the government in regards to areas such as education reform. 	<p>VERBAL ONLY</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L McClean raised potentially engaging the wider student body and what the State Council thought of this idea. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H Shojaee Pour suggested being meaningful with student engagement and making them co-authors and co-designers instead of merely surveying or informing them. She also noted that students should be met where they are, not just where the policy is. ○ S Buelens also suggested a potential focus on students in those areas that most frequently engage with students. ○ J Oates Pryor raised the Students as Partners framework as a potential method to engage with students. ○ Working with pre-existing groups, including the State Council and academic units, to support student leaders to be a part of this change was also raised. • The session concluded with discussion of a State Council August or September workshop for moving through all of the Transitions, inclusive of Education as discussed. 		
	<p>6.3 NUS Reaffiliation J Oates Pryor</p> <p>MOTION: that the TUSA State Council approve NUS affiliation and payment for 2025. MOVED: M Warrington SECONDED: N Kumar Passed with no abstentions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Oates Pryor raised discussion around reaffiliation with NUS, and the positives and negatives of approving affiliation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion surrounded the current structure and operations of the NUS, the power of NUS 	<p>VERBAL ONLY</p>	

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	<p>backing and support on major issues, and Tasmania's place within the NUS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was also discussion around awareness of the NUS, including that students may not necessarily know what the NUS is and what they do. • The State Council noted open-ended answers around the monetary cost, as well as uncertainty around benefits of reaffiliation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was confirmed that last year's amount was \$5,000, and that this year would likely be the same. 		
	<p>6.4 Notices for the team</p> <p>A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Smith raised output of work for the remaining part of the 2025 State Council term, noting that there has been a general drop in both output and engagement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She indicated that she was planning to meet with the State Council members to discuss their goals and plans for the remainder of the year. ○ She applauded all the hard work that had been done so far, and that she was keen for this to continue to expand throughout Semester 2. • M Warrington asked if there was consideration around mapping how many hours State Council representatives are doing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Smith confirmed that this was something she wanted to discuss, regarding both the expected hours and how many hours are actually being done. • J Oates Pryor the idea of a casual, drop-in fortnightly meeting for the State Council representatives. 	VERBAL ONLY	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This was met with support by the State Council, with specific details to be finalised outside of the meeting.		
7.	OTHER BUSINESS		0 mins
	N/A		

Meeting Closed: 5:22pm

Next Meeting: August 19th, 2025

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ACTION REGISTER
as at July 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.	<p>To be taken to the TUSA Retreat.</p> <p>To be discussed in a meeting before the next State Council – week of May 5.</p> <p>To be integrated into the Students as Partners project.</p>	Closed
2	23.01.25	Project Register (linked)	All Reps	To update the Projects Register before the February State Council meeting.	<p>To be revisited for a refresh by J Oates Pryor, A Smith and C Harris.</p> <p>Removed from the website until further progress.</p>	Paused
3	23.07.25	Vent Tents	R Fox (in consultation with other reps)	To provide a list of tentative Semester 2		Open

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			running Vent Tents)	dates for Vent Tents.		
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TUSA STATE COUNCIL
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	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

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				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