

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

For the meeting of the TUSA State Council to be held at
May 21st, 2025 at 4:00pm AEST
at the TUSA Building Boardroom, Sandy Bay TAS [with zoom access].

Chair: J Oates Pryor

Meeting opened: 4:05pm

#	ITEM	APPENDIX	TIME EST
1.	INTRODUCTORY ITEMS		5 mins
	1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY N Kumar I would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging the Muwinina people who are the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the land on which we are gathered today in Nipaluna. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. I also wish to pay my deep respects to elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be here with us today. We value their enduring presence and all of their contributions.		
	1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIVED EXPERIENCE M Warrington or as directed by the chair. As we come together today, let's take a moment to recognise that each of us brings with us a unique lived experience. We're students, advocates, leaders — but we are also people shaped by our cultures, our communities, our identities, and our circumstances. 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. Through our recent workshops on <i>Leading with confidence</i> , we've reflected on how we each show up in the room — what our		

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	<p>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, J Bell, H Shojaee Pour, SL Buelens, N Kumar, M Warrington (joined 4:44pm)</p>		
	<p>1.4 APOLOGIES</p> <p>M Warrington, A Bisset Stewart</p>		
	<p>1.5 ABSENT</p>		
	<p>1.6 GUESTS & OBSERVERS</p> <p>Executive Assistant – C Harris</p> <p>Student Advocate – A Lamont</p> <p>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) – L Bereznicki</p>		
	<p>1.7 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</p> <p>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>		
2.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING		5 mins
	<p>2.1 AMENDMENTS</p>		
	<p>2.2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>that the minutes of the TUSA State Council meeting held on April 16th, 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the</p>	APPENDIX A	

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	proceedings of that meeting, and approved for upload to the TUSA website. MOVED: R Fox SECONDED: S Buelens		
	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 Cradle Coast Food Hub Launch – Media Release	APPENDIX B	
4.	INTERNAL UPDATES 4.1 Advocates Update A Lamont <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84 cases in March, with 10 additional referral reasons. 176 case interactions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41 financial cases, 15 course concerns. 28 food vouchers distributed, 9 Food Hub referrals, 7 laptops, 5 UTAS hardship, 4 instances of insecure housing, and three ACF referrals. By location: 25 students from Sandy Bau, 15 Hobart, 14 off-campus, 13 Cradle, 11 Inveresk, 3 Newnham, and 3 Rozelle. 67 cases in April, with cases being more complex. 12 additional referral reasons. 215 case interactions (average of 3.2 per case). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 financial cases, 10 fees-related, 9 broad/other issues that sit outside standard reporting categories, 8 general course concerns. By location: Sandy Bay 18, Hobart 18, Inveresk 13, Newnham 7, Distance 6, Burnie 3, Sydney 1, with 1 unknown location. 	VERBAL ONLY	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9 food vouchers distributed, 8 Food Hub referrals, 3 referrals to counselling, 3 instances of insecure housing, 2 laptops distributed. • A Lamont noted that the Advocates are facing a high number of complex cases at this time of the year. • The Advocates are, at the date of the meeting, at 82 cases in May, with 2 case interactions per student. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most cases are from Sandy Bay (29) and Inveresk (13). ○ The primary reason for cases is financial. • A Lamont noted that, if the Advocates continue giving out food vouchers to students at their current rate, they will run out by October. This shows high demand from students for financial support and food relief initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Advocates have been trying to shift toward giving more people free access to the TUSA Food Hub where possible. 		
5.	COUNCIL REPORTS		10 mins
	5.1 PRESIDENT J Oates Pryor Report accepted by State Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Warrington asked on notice if there was any further update on the TUSA-UTAS Funding and Affiliation Agreements and if there has been slippage in timelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J Oates Pryor informed the State Council that \$700,000 of SSAF funding has been received from UTAS, despite the Funding and Affiliation Agreements not yet being finalised or signed. • J Oates Pryor noted that, though UTAS is legislated to provide TUSA with 40% SSAF in 2025, it has not yet been received due to lack of a finalised funding agreement. • H Shojaee Pour asked about connecting Vent Tent data to UTAS data and what kind of overlaps have been identified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Smith stated intention to collate the data and provide it to State Council members so they have statistics to use in meetings with UTAS. 	APPENDIX C	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ R Fox also reiterated that the data is online, and reps are welcome to access and use it at any time. ○ It was also discussed that there has been appetite on the UTAS side to see this data to gain an understanding of issues being raised by students. • N Kumar asked for an update regarding CAPA affiliation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J Oates Pryor noted that there had been no update at this stage due to discussions around affiliation costs, which have been paused until the Funding Agreement is signed. 		
	<p>5.2 GENERAL SECRETARY</p> <p>A Smith</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Warrington asked on notice if there has been any internal review of discussion about how successfully the UTAS GBV campaign is reaching underrepresented cohorts (e.g. students with disability, international students, mature age students). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been no internal review of the success of the GBV campaign, and it seems there is no current progress on the campaign overall. 	APPENDIX D	
	<p>5.3 EQUITY PRESIDENT</p> <p>M Warrington</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p>	APPENDIX E	
	<p>5.4 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – SOUTH</p> <p>R Fox</p> <p>Report accepted by State Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R Fox noted that, over the next month, she will be putting together a plan for semester 2 vent tents and is looking for other reps to take charge of a vent tent of their own. • M Warrington asked when vent tents are happening outside HOBART, And A Smith indicated that this would be done when reps in other locations have the capacity to run vent tents on their campuses. <p>MOTION: Moved: R Fox Seconded: A Smith</p>	APPENDIX F	

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<p>that the following society's affiliation be accepted for 2025, subject to fulfilling all the affiliation criteria:</p> <p><u>Physics and Maths Postgraduate Students (PHAMOUS) Society</u> (Hobart based)</p> <p>The objects and purposes of the Club shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide opportunities for PhD candidates in Maths and Physics to network and socialise with other candidates and staff. • To arrange social events for postgraduate students in Maths and Physics • To provide opportunities for professional development relating to tasks undertaken by HDR candidates 		
<p>5.5 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – NORTH H Shojaee Pour Report accepted by State Council</p>	<p>APPENDIX G</p>	
<p>5.6 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – CRADLE COAST A Bisset Stewart Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Smith asked on notice for an update about the Run Club, including student attendance numbers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Bisset Stewart advised that there had been a total of 38 attendees over 8 weeks, with 12 unique attendees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 75% of these were medical students, and 25% were from other disciplines (Ag Science, Business, Nursing). ○ Week 1: 12, Week 2: 8, Week 3: 4, Week 4: 3, Week 5: 3, Week 6: 2, Week 7: 3, Week 8: 3. 	<p>APPENDIX H</p>	
<p>5.7 CAMPUS PRESIDENT – ROZELLE J Bell Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Warrington asked on notice for more details on the Safe Havens proposal, and whether there's any plan or opportunity for this to intersect with the work of the Equity Committee or mental health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ J Bell offered to send the proposal through to M Warrington. 	<p>APPENDIX I</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Bell raised vent tents and stated that he would be able to get a lot of this feedback from his Committee, which may prove more useful than hosting a Vent Tent when there may not be many students on campus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith noted that some students might not be willing to share all their feedback with staff present. J Bell agreed that he would also ask for feedback in more informal settings with students, but that he did not feel there would be enough people on campus to have an official vent tent. 		
<p>5.8 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (UG) SL Buelens Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M Warrington asked on notice what support was needed from State Council members to amplify the campaign around earlier release of exam timetables. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S Buelens noted this was a point she is keen to keep bringing up, as staff will accept it as useful feedback, but it can be difficult to see what is being done to make change. 	APPENDIX J	
<p>5.9 EDUCATION PRESIDENT (PG) N Kumar Report accepted by State Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R Fox asked if she could see the attendance of the Shut Up & Write sessions to see where these students are coming from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N Kumar noted that most of these students are distance students. Numbers started at around 2-3 students but have increased to 5 and then 10 students joining the sessions. Due to connection issues, the State Council requested that N Kumar provide a further update on Shut Up & Write sessions in his next State Council report. 	APPENDIX K	
<p>5.10 Projects Register C Harris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For discussion of items for update/creation in project register. 	VERBAL INLINE WITH ATTACHED 1. Project Register SC - UTD.docx	

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6.	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	40 mins
	6.1 Key Messaging J Oates Pryor	VERBAL ONLY
	6.2 Student Experience Committee J Oates Pryor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Oates Pryor stated that this item will be put on pause for this meeting. 	VERBAL ONLY
	6.3 TUU Constitution J Oates Pryor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J Oates Pryor noted that very few changes had been made since the last time the State Council saw the Constitution, and that said changes had been minor. J Oates Pryor asked the State Council if there were any particular points they would like to discuss prior to voting to approve the Constitution. S Buelens asked for a highlight of the overall major changes to the Constitution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the elections will be removed from the Constitution and put into a separate Elections Policy, making it easier to make changes as needed. TUSA will have a student-led Board, with the majority of the Board members to be students. It was noted here that changes to membership of the AGM were not being progressed at this stage but would be pursued in the future. It was noted to the State Council that the changes currently progressing would make TUSA student-led for the purposes of 40% SSAF legislation. J Oates Pryor and A Smith asked which State Council members would be interested in potentially joining the Board of Management for the remainder of their terms. State Council members were given the opportunity to think about this before an expression of interest process after the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council discussed the bi-monthly commitment and pre-reading of the Board 	APPENDIX L

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	<p>meetings, and emphasised that Board members need to come to the meetings prepared.</p> <p>MOTION: that the TUSA State Council supports and endorses the amendments to the Constitution as they currently stand.</p> <p>MOVED: J Oates Pryor SECONDED: J Bell</p>		
	<p>6.4 People Insight Check Ins</p> <p>A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Smith highlighted she would be sending out People Insight times next week, and stated that these meetings are important, even in heavy workload times. A Smith also noted she had seen a large drop in meetings and commitments by the State Council in the previous month, and that it might be good to consider what is being attended and making sure students are being represented in line with the hours in PD's. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She stated that capacity and support for State Council members would also be discussed in these People Insights. 	VERBAL ONLY	
	<p>6.5 Appetite for Financial Planning Sessions</p> <p>A Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Council have been offered financial planning sessions for their financial futures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most members of the State Council expressed interest in this. 	VERBAL ONLY	
	<p>6.6 2026 Study Periods Change Proposal</p> <p>L Bereznicki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L Bereznicki shared a set of slides outlining the proposed change of study periods to make them more consolidated and uniform, with the end goal of improving the student experience. Following staff consultation and approval, the proposal will be provided to students through the Student Portal for a feedback period. The new proposal has 2 key semesters, an optional trimester, and winter, spring and summer intensives where required. Semesters 1 and 2 will be moved from 13 teaching weeks to 12 teaching weeks. 	VERBAL ONLY	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L Bereznicki noted that most universities have moved to a 12-week semester model, and those that have not are looking at doing so. • J Bell noted that Rozelle has been misaligned with the proposed model, with one course offered as semesters and the other as trimesters, and asked if there was intention for both courses to be put on the same schedule to ensure better access to services for all students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L Bereznicki noted that the standardisation means all course schedules would be supported, regardless of if they are on a semester or trimester model. This will allow all students to easily access support at any time in their studies. • S Buelens asked for clarification around if the winter break had been shortened in the new model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He confirmed that the winter break had been shortened, in part to allow for a break between semester 2 and the trimester. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He also stated that not all courses use the assessment period, meaning this time will become a break for some students. ○ L Bereznicki noted that the assessment period had also been standardised across units. There will be 12 teaching weeks, SWOTVAC/study week, and 2 assessment weeks across both semesters and the trimester. ○ He also noted that courses will be worked with to move away from providing exams and final tests within the same week in one degree/discipline, and leaning toward more diversity of assessment types and dates. • S Buelens noted that some courses, such as physics, there are requirements around the amount of closed-book tests to become accredited. She stated this was understandable, but that some variety in dates of these tests between classes would be helpful for students. • A Smith expressed concern about an overload of assignments, particularly in a 12-week semester, with examples of units having assessments due in SWOTVAC 		
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	<p>while students are also studying for an exam or exam-like assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Course and unit coordinators will be supported to redesign their course plans and assessment models to align with the 12-week semester. ○ Assessment overload was discussed here, with measures being taken to counter this in degrees where units often have assessments due at the same time. ○ A Smith also raised the importance of ensuring students are given feedback throughout the semester, so they can ensure they are on the right track with their learning and assessments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S Buelens expressed concern about the high volume of content in some courses, citing her own experience studying natural science, and how this will be condensed into 12 weeks without overwhelming students with more contact hours. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This issue, alongside the unevenness of study content between units, were confirmed to be items for consideration when redesigning units to ensure students are not overloaded with content. • J Bell raised that some units may have a short turnaround between learning relevant content and having an assessment task due (such as learning the content for an assessment task the same week as the assessment task is due). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L Bereznicki again stated that this is something that would be considered when working with unit coordinators to re-design their units. ○ He noted that this feedback might not be coming across in the current Evaluate surveys, which may be why these issues have not been raised with staff previously. • Both L Bereznicki and the State Council suggested a further session to discuss these ideas and concerns more and ensure all student concerns were captured and considered in the redesign. • H Shojaee Pour asked if staff would be supported in redesigning their units. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L Bereznicki confirmed that staff will be supported and stepped through the redesign process. • H Shojaee Pour raised that HDR students go by year and not by semester, unless they have coursework components. She asked how this would be incorporated into the new model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L Bereznicki stated that the Researcher Capability Framework is currently being developed to sit in this space, though it will look different to the changes to coursework units. He noted the study period changes should not majorly impact HDR students, and that they will still be able to take semester-based units as required. 		
7.	OTHER BUSINESS		0 mins
	N/A		

Meeting Closed: 5:34pm

Next Meeting: July 23rd, 2025

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ACTION REGISTER
 as at May 21st 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>	Paused
2	23.01.25	Project Register (linked)	All Reps	To update the Projects Register before the February State Council meeting.	<p>Alternative to be discussed by J Oates Pryor, A Smith and C Harris.</p> <p>Removed from the website until further progress.</p>	Paused

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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 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