

INQUIRY INTO NSW UNIVERSITY SECTOR

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Dr Lisa O'Brien AM

1. As Chair of the Student Council Liaison Group what issues brought to you by students have you raised at UTS council? Please provide notes, briefing papers or council minutes that detail these?

Following each meeting of the Student Council Liaison Group I write a report to Council including the key issues raised in the meeting and this report is included in the meeting papers for the next following Council meeting. Generally in the Council meeting I will speak to the report and invite questions. Copies of the reports from the Student Council Liaison Group to Council for 2025 are attached.

2. How do you deal with requests from students to put things on the agenda of the student council liaison group? What amount of notice do you require of students to notify you of issues to put on the agenda?

For members of the Student Council Liaison Group to place items on the agenda on behalf of the student body they are required to submit a paper outlining the issue they wish to raise. The paper should be provided to the secretariat a month prior to the meeting. This arrangement was put in place to ensure that issues could be investigated by management prior to the meeting and thereby facilitate a more informed discussion. Alternatively matters may be raised without notice either under the standing item of "Committee Business" where each student representative in turn can raise matters of interest. Alternatively matters can also be raised under "General Business".

3. In your evidence you note that no one at UTS told you to send any correspondence to the VCs office about the OSI and yet when asked why you didn't reply to the letter that I sent you as a member of council you replied 'they said they were going to respond for all of us'. Who said this to you and when? In what context was the issue of my letter or other correspondence about the OS I discussed? please detail if it was at a UTS council meeting, individual and in person conversations, by email, phone call, SMS, or other message app.

I confirm my evidence that no one told me to send through correspondence regarding the OSI to the VC's office. I received the first correspondence from an external party regarding the OSI on September 28th. At that time, I called the Secretary to Council. I considered that the correspondence was a matter for management and that it should be considered as part of the consultation process that was underway. I therefore said I would forward the letter to the Secretary, and I requested that the University acknowledge the letter on my behalf and include it in the consultation process. I subsequently received an email sent to all Council members confirming that the university was going to respond to the correspondence we were all receiving on our behalf. Hence my statement, "they said they were going to respond for us all". However for avoidance of doubt, I specifically requested that occur in respect of the correspondence I received. I don't recall any further discussion about correspondence about the OSI.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5.5

MEETING 25/2

16 APRIL 2025

DR LISA O'BRIEN AM
CHAIR, STUDENT/COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT/COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP

Purpose

To provide UTS Council with a report on matters considered by the Student/Council Liaison Group (SCLG or "the Group") at its 25/1 meeting held on 4 March 2025.

Recommendation

Council to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 5.5 – *Report from the Student/Council Liaison Group*.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

Student/Council Liaison Charter

The Chair addressed the Charter and invited discussion from members on the Charter.

Student Partnership Agreement

The UTS Student Partnership Agreement 2025-2027 (the agreement) constitutes a statement of mutual intentions with respect to student engagement with representatives from UTS, ActivateUTS and the UTS Students' Association.

The agreement has been endorsed by the UTS Students Association and the Student Elected Representative but is still pending endorsement by the ActivateUTS Board.

Once all parties have endorsed the SPA, it can be signed.

Education and Students Report

The Group were briefed on matters in relation to UTS services and their usage.

Student Forum 2024 Outcomes Report

The UTS Student Forum 2024 was held on Wednesday 2 October 2024. The Forum culminated in a Futures Showcase delivered to university leaders at the end of the workshop. This involved the creation of future scenarios of UTS, built upon areas of emerging change identified by students.

The Associate Lecturer, TD School addressed the *Student Forum 2024 Outcomes Report* to update the Group on the key findings and insights into the student experience and perspectives on the future of the university.

Consideration to the future of the Student Forum will be given by the DVC (E&S).

Update on the Review of the Student Misconduct Rules

The DVC (E&S) briefed the Group on the Education and Student Priorities for 2025. These priorities will include student safety and wellbeing, streamlining the student complaints and misconduct processes, implementation of a consistent approach to academic administration activities, sustainable Teaching and Learning and the student experience.

The Group noted that work is progressing on the broad review in relation to Student Misconduct, Sexual Harm, Gender Based Violence, Concerning Behaviours and Interventions Policies, Rules and processes.

Proposal of Permanent Space for UTSSA Food Services

The President, Students' Association addressed the *Proposal of Permanent Space for UTSSA Food Services* paper to propose the establishment of a permanent, university-provided space to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential services provided by UTSSA.

Recommended Reform of UTS Housing Licence Agreement

The President, Students' Association, Welfare Officer, Students' Association and UTS Housing representative addressed the *Recommended Reform of UTS Housing Licence Agreement* paper to recommend changes to contract terms and policies in relation to student housing.

Student Representation

The student members were invited to raise any matters of interest.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5.7

MEETING 25/3
18 JUNE 2025

DR LISA O'BRIEN AM
CHAIR, STUDENT/COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT/COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP

Purpose

To provide UTS Council with a report on matters considered by the Student/Council Liaison Group (SCLG or "the Group") at its 25/2 meeting held on 16 June 2025.

Recommendation

Council to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 5.7 – *Report from the Student/Council Liaison Group*.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

UTS Student Partnership Agreement

The UTS Student Partnership Agreement 2025-2027 (the 'SPA') was signed by all parties on 16 June 2025.

The SPA constitutes a statement of mutual intentions with respect to student engagement with representatives from UTS, ActivateUTS and the UTS Students' Association.

In addition to the SPA, the Group were presented with a RACI Framework which identifies parties that are responsible, accountable, consulted and informed and were invited to provide feedback on the framework.

Education and Students Report

The Group were briefed on matters in relation to UTS services and their usage.

The Group discussed inconsistencies in the data reported across various forums. The Student Services Unit will investigate these discrepancies and take the appropriate action to ensure accurate and consistent reporting.

Student Voice Principles and Student Experience Bench-marking Survey

The Group were briefed on matters in relation to the Student Voice Principles and the Student Experience Bench-marking Survey conducted by Customer Service Bench-marking Australia.

Student Complaints Resolution Office 2024 Annual Report

The Group were presented with the Student Complaints Resolution Office (SCRO) 2024 Annual Report and invited to provide feedback on the report.

The SCRO Annual Report aims to inform stakeholders of the work done by SCRO to resolve student complaints and make improvements to the teaching and learning environment at UTS in response to complaints.

Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF): Governance, Compliance and Strategic Reform

The President, Students' Association addressed the *SSAF: Governance, Compliance and Strategic Reform* paper to outline potential governance and legislative compliance risks in the current SSAF allocation process at UTS and to propose a reformed SSAF governance model that ensures student voice, transparency, and alignment with UTS's strategic commitment to being a student-centred university.

The report will be referred to the UTS SSAF Committee for consideration.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5.6

**MEETING 25/6
26 NOVEMBER 2025**

**DR LISA O'BRIEN AM
CHAIR, STUDENT/COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP**

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT/COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP

Purpose

To provide UTS Council with a report on matters considered by the Student/Council Liaison Group (SCLG or "the Group") at its 25/3 meeting held on 28 October 2025.

Recommendation

Council to receive and note the report as detailed in Document 5.6 – *Report from the Student/Council Liaison Group*.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

UTS Student Partnership Agreement

The UTS Student Partnership Agreement 2025-2027 (the 'SPA' or the 'Agreement') was signed by all parties on 16 June 2025. The Group received an update on progress to date against the priorities outlined in the Agreement. Given the short time since the Agreement was signed, further updates on progress will be provided in the next progress report.

Education and Students Report

The Group were provided with an update on education and student-related matters, including the Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) survey results, support for students at UTS and UTS services and their usage.

Gender-Based Violence Policy and Whole-of-Organisation Response Plan

The DVC (E&S) and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) provided an overview of coordinated work underway to strengthen UTS's institutional response to gender-based violence.

Members were invited to provide feedback to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) or to the Policy Manager, GSU.

Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) Governance Report, Response to Student Paper and Next Steps

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) addressed the report responding to the paper submitted to the SCLG in June 2025, which identified perceived governance, compliance, and strategic reform issues related to the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF).

The Group discussed the proposed SSAF Committee's structure and voting membership. The DVC (E&S) and Chair, SSAF will re-evaluate the points raised in the context of the obligations for managing SSAF funding under the HESA.

Standards for Student Payment for Non-Contract Work

The TD School, Academic Board student representative addressed the *Standards for Student Payment for Non-Contract Work* paper, highlighting the need for fair and consistent payment for students undertaking ad hoc work.

The report will be referred to the People Unit for consideration, with the PVC, Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion team in support.

Academic Misconduct Cases Timeline

The UTS Business School, Academic Board student representative addressed observed challenges with the current timeline for handling academic misconduct cases and will meet with the Manager, Student Misconduct and Appeals, GSU to discuss these matters.