



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

**ABN 49 844 560 526**

**29 April 2023 11:00 AM ON ZOOM**

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Meeting held on **29/04/2023**

**Chair:** Naz Sharifi

**Minute taker:** Julia Lim

**Meeting opened:** 11:07am

**Present:**

Naz Sharifi	President	2044826
Arasa Hardie	Vice President (Education)	2041054
Vaughan Marega	Vice President (Careers)	2205814
Charmaine Lui	Vice President (Social Justice)	1716595
Mahmoud Al Rifai	Treasurer	1959961
Julia Lim	Secretary	1938867
Vivien Lu	Sponsorship Director	2015758
Christine Aung	Competitions Director	2120575
Danielle Tweedale	Competitions Director	2091172
Niveditha Sethumadhavan	Socials Director	2113003
Kaela Goldsmith	Campus Director	2220497
Nick Leavenworth	Sports Director	2125648
Charis Chiu	Publications Director	2006992
Lea Nguyen	International Student Officer	2191919
Maeve Cairns	Equity Officer	2007425
Brianna Ho	Women's Officer	2116684
Lucas Kao	Disabilities Officer	2103639
Miesha Binta Noor	Ethnocultural Officer	2205098
Emily Wooding	First Nations Officer	2042860
Annika Lee	Marketing Director	2208006



Alice Shan	Design Director	2237723
Ben Hines	Immediate Past President	1802458
Eden McSheffrey	Immediate Past Secretary	1905814
Ben Cullen	Member	2309093
Stephen Bursic	Member	2385271
Zoe Townsden	Member	2167792

### **Late:**

Brianna Ho (11:16am)      Women's Officer

### **Absent:**

Priya Mehra      Socials Director

Rohan Shankar      Queer Officer

### **Apologies:**

Julia Tran      Immediate Past Treasurer



## MINUTES

### 1 Opening and acknowledgement of country

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and Emily Wooding delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

### 2 Apologies and leaves of absence

No apologies were received and a leave of absence was requested by Brianna Ho for leaving the meeting early.

**Motion:** That a leave of absence be granted for Brianna Ho for the 2023 SULS AGM.

Moved: Julia Lim

Seconded: Naz Sharifi

The motion was carried with zero abstentions.

### 3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (Special General Meeting, 4 November 2022) were made available [online](#) on the Society's website after the previous meeting.

**Motion:** That the minutes from the Special General Meeting held 4 November 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Julia Lim

Seconded: Ben Hines

The motion was carried.

### 4 Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the previous meeting minutes.

### 5 Annual Reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer

#### a. Past President's Report - Ben Hines

In the interest of time, Ben's past President's report was distributed to the meeting before Ben then provided a brief summary (**Appendix B**).

**Motion:** To accept Ben Hines' past President's report.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Nick Leavenworth

The motion was carried with zero abstentions.



Naz explained that Julia Tran had submitted an apology, and moved a motion to accept.

**Motion:** To accept the apology received from Julia Tran for the 2023 SULLS AGM.

Mover: Naz Sharifi

Seconder: Mahmoud Al Rifai

The motion was carried with zero abstentions.

### b. Past Secretary's Report - Eden McSheffrey

Eden McSheffrey delivered his past Secretary's Report (**Appendix C**).

**Motion:** To accept Eden McSheffrey's past Secretary's report.

Moved: Ben Hines

Seconded: Julia Lim

The motion was carried with zero abstentions.

### c. Past Treasurer's Report - Julia Tran

In Julia's absence, her past Treasurer's report (**Appendix D**) was distributed to the meeting and delivered by Ben Hines.

**Motion:** To accept Julia Tran's past Treasurer's report.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Vaughan Marega

The motion was carried with zero abstentions.

### d. Current Treasurer's Report - Mahmoud Al Rifai

Mahmoud delivered the current Treasurer's report (**Appendix E**) and went through the SULLS Operating Budget (**Appendix F**), noting that due to delays, the audited financial report for the year ended 31 December 2022 will be distributed to members once received.

**Motion:** To accept Mahmoud Al Rifai's current Treasurer's report and SULLS Operating Budget (**Appendix E & F**), noting the audited financial report will be distributed via our website as soon as it is received.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Ben Hines

The motion was carried with zero abstentions.



**6 Motions on notice**

Naz explained that there were ongoing conversations with the USU, meaning that motions initially tabled for the meeting could no longer be voted on. Naz noted that as amendments resulting from these discussions formed a significant portion of the motions on notice, any remaining motions not related to the USU would be discussed in a General Meeting later in the year. As a result, the motions were withdrawn.

**7 General Business**

No general business was raised.

Meeting closed: **11:42am**



APPENDIX A

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

NOTE: Amendments to motions made at the General Meeting are indicated in red below.

*Proposed amendments to the Constitution*

1. Clarifying SULLS' recognition of relationship with USU [WITHDRAWN]

**Background/Rationale**

SULLS has been in discussions with the University of Sydney Union since passing various constitutional amendments at last year's Special General Meeting. The below motion is proposed in line with an agreement to clarify SULLS' relationship with, and obligations owed to, the USU.

**Summary of the proposed change**

Old Clause	New Clause
<p>90. The Society shall attempt, where consistent with the objects and best interests of the Society, to comply with all requirements of the University of Sydney and the University of Sydney Union for recognition as a registered society of the University of Sydney Union.</p>	<p>90. The Society <b>and its Executives</b> shall <b>attempt, where consistent with the objects and best interests of the Society, to the extent permitted by law (including, without limitation, section 30A of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW))</b>, to comply with all requirements of the University of Sydney and the University of Sydney Union for recognition as a registered society of the University of Sydney Union.</p>

2. SULLS' entry into annual contractual agreements with the USU [WITHDRAWN]

**Background/Rationale**

SULLS has been in discussions with the USU since passing various constitutional amendments at the 2022 Special General Meeting. The below motion is proposed to introduce a new Clause



~~90A in line with the agreement to implement a fit-for-purpose contractual arrangement between the USU and SULLS each year, as opposed to the previous constitutional entrenchment.~~

**Summary of the proposed change**

Old Clause	New Clause
	<p><del>90A. The Society and its Executives shall attempt, to the extent permitted by law (including, without limitation, section 30A of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)), to enter into an annual Affiliation Agreement with the University of Sydney Union outlining the requirements and responsibilities of each party and the elements of the relationship between them for a given year.</del></p>

**3. Removal of physical location requirement for AGM [WITHDRAWN]**

**Background/Rationale**

~~SULLS has held the Annual General Meeting online for the past few years in the context of COVID-19, and has continued to do so in ensuring that meetings are as accessible as possible. The current clause confirms that the meeting may indeed be held online and on-campus ‘where possible’, but the proposed amendment seeks to remove initial wording which seems to inconsistently mandate the physical location requirement.~~

**Summary of the proposed change**

Old Clause	New Clause
<p><del>47:</del></p> <p><del>...</del></p> <p><del>d) The Annual General Meeting shall be held between 9am and 9pm at a place on a campus of the University of Sydney during the semester teaching period (from the start of main semester to before the</del></p>	<p><del>47:</del></p> <p><del>...</del></p> <p><del>d) The Annual General Meeting shall be held between 9am and 9pm <b>at a place on a campus of the University of Sydney</b> during the semester teaching period (from the start of main semester to before the commencement</del></p>



<del>commencement of STUVAG). The meeting shall be held online using suitable audio-visual conferencing software and, where possible, at a place on a campus of the University of Sydney.</del>	<del>of STUVAG). The meeting shall be held online using suitable audio-visual conferencing software and, where possible, at a place on a campus of the University of Sydney.</del>
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#### 4. Minimum meeting notice period [WITHDRAWN]

##### Background/Rationale

The Constitution currently requires SALS to provide members with a minimum 14 days' notice for an Annual General Meeting. Although this aligns with USU C&S requirements, as an incorporated charity SALS is technically required to provide a minimum 21 days' notice per s 249H of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth):

##### ***249H Amount of notice of meetings***

###### *General rule*

*(1) Subject to subsection (2), at least 21 days notice must be given of a meeting of a company's members. However, if a company has a constitution, it may specify a longer minimum period of notice.*

This change is proposed in order to bring SALS in line with this legal requirement.

##### Summary of the proposed change

Old Clause	New Clause
<del>47.</del>  <del>...</del>  <del>b) At least fourteen (14) days' notice of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting must be given to all members of the Society.</del>	<del>47.</del>  <del>...</del>  <del>b) At least <b>fourteen (14) twenty one (21)</b> days' notice of the time and place of the Annual General Meeting must be given to all members of the Society.</del>





**APPENDIX B**

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BEN HINES**

The full Immediate Past President's report can be read [here](#).

**APPENDIX C**

**IMMEDIATE PAST SECRETARY'S REPORT – EDEN MCSHEFFREY**

The full Immediate Past Secretary's report can be read [here](#).

**APPENDIX D**

**IMMEDIATE PAST TREASURER'S REPORT – JULIA TRAN**

In 2022, the SULLS executive was pleased to welcome back on-campus life for law students across 17 different portfolios, including the newly added Disabilities portfolio. Whether it was through new initiatives, for example the new Alumni Speaker Series led by the President, and Social Justice's inaugural Ramadan Iftar night, or maintaining flagship events like Education's Law School Basics, Careers' Clerkship Cocktail Evening and Socials' Law Ball and Cruise, it was the role of the Treasurer to ensure that all portfolios' events were sufficiently funded to provide students the best possible experience and services, whilst also balancing the needs of maintaining the society's financial sustainability.

In April 2022, SULLS was projected to make a profit of \$28,609.16. I am happy to share that SULLS has in fact made a profit of \$67,451.76 for the financial year ended 31 December 2022, noting that the final numbers are subject to change due to the delay of the audited financial statements.

- This amount of \$67K greatly exceeds the approximate \$22K profit which was previously seen over the previous 4 years. This has been contributed by an increase in income streams, for example from greater sponsorship due to our Sponsorships Director, the successful revival of competitions faculty funding donation by our Competitions Directors, and an approximate \$5K increase in merchandise income from 2021 thanks to our Sports Director.
- It was also contributed by a reduction in expenses as some events were unable to run, for example First Year Law Camp. Accounted within this projected profit were overbudget events, including Law Ball with an approximate \$50K loss. Guidance has



been provided to the 2023 Treasurer to prevent excessive budget blowouts from occurring.

In efforts to maintain transparency with its members, the Treasury Committee was also proud to release on social media 2 financial summaries: one summary was released for 2021 which provided a breakdown of how SULLS secured \$347.7k in income and expended \$353.1k, and another one for 2022 Semester 1 which explained how SULLS secured approximately \$245k in income and expended \$87k.

In efforts to further the financial sustainability of the society, the Treasury Committee undertook investment research resulting in a recommendation to the Executive, to pursue a long term, diversified ESG-aligned investment strategy. This would leverage up to a potential 3.98% return or \$1989.5 profit on a \$50,000 investment in 5 years. The investment was not commenced in light of the uncertain market conditions which prevailed in 2022.

Best of luck to the 2023 executive and Mahmoud with Treasury in the new year!

## APPENDIX E

### **CURRENT TREASURER'S REPORT – MAHMOUD AL RIFAI**

Thank you all for coming. Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which I am calling the Dharug people. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. Like many other nations, they were brutalised and unjustly dispossessed of the land to make way for institutions such as ours that claimed to advance justice, the law, civility and civilisation, with no sense of irony. We are all embroiled in the injustices that were and continue to be carried out and bear their heavy burdens.

As the current SULLS treasurer, I will present my operating budget for SULLS 2023 (which will be shared on screen) per 12 (e) of the constitution.

I anticipate FY23 to be a year of highs and challenges. I am proud to witness the increase in quality and grandeur of events. We have seen most of our events take place in person, with a renewed sense of energy and engagement with SULLS.

The role of a treasurer is boring, but, and in no way do I say this to inflate my ego (wink), it is an essential. Along with Naz's assistance in curbing my indulgences, I apply discretion and allocate appropriate funding to each of the portfolio and non-portfolio needs of SULLS and ensure that we fulfil any financial reporting obligations as a charity organisation. My role as the Treasurer is to ensure each portfolio within SULLS is provided with an opportunity to achieve its visions, where possible, by receiving appropriate funding. With an executive as ambitious and competent as



ours, I am pleased to say that most portfolios received increased financing to best cater to the SULLS membership.

This year, SULLS is projected to make a profit of \$30, 519.26. This is a slightly more positive forecasted figure compared to 2022, and above the approximate average of 23,000 over the past four years. Thanks to the generous contributions of the Faculty, and the work of Vivien, our wonderful Sponsorship director, we anticipate an increase in income. Furthermore, I have applied very conservative assumptions about the expenses we will incur, given the increase in costs we have witnessed. I have also considered expenditures incurred by the 2022 executive that have to be paid in 2023, such as 2022 publications and a significant overspent deposit.

I will also ensure that my treasury committee continues the wonderful work of Julia Tran by working on the investment project. We anticipate having a working implementation plan ready to be proposed to the executive by the beginning of semester 2.

To ensure that SULLS remains adaptable to the needs of the students, I intend to formally check in with each portfolio Executive at the end of Semester 1 where modifications to the proposed portfolio budgets may be made in light of being over or under-budget with past initiatives held.

That concludes my report.

## APPENDIX F

### **SULLS 2023 OPERATING BUDGET**

The SULLS 2023 Operating Budget can be viewed [here](#).



**Chair: Naz Sharifi**

**Minute taker: Julia Lim**

Signed 29 April 2023

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Naz Sharifi  
**President**, Sydney University Law Society Incorporated

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Julia Lim  
**Secretary**, Sydney University Law Society Incorporated