



## MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 6:50pm on Thursday 3 December 2020 via Zoom.

**PRESENT:**

Susannah Lynch-Vaughan (Chair)	Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich
Shlomie Bension	Maria Koutsouklakis
Neenah Gray	Daniel Roberts
Jarod Cunningham	Ibrahim A. Ibrahim
Georgia Weeden	Alex Cullen
Alexander Hablutzel	Liz Vrazas
Jade Quisumbing	Emily Ward

**APOLOGIES:**

Hannah Reeve	Laura Middleton
Marlene Khouzam	Shubham Agrawal
Jane Tran	Ateka Rajabi

**ABSENT:**

Angus Webber	Anna Cheng
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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Jingmin Qian – Chair, Student Experience Committee
- Kylie Ebert – Director, Student Life
- Lilia Draganov – Senior Manager, Student Life
- Kimberly La – Project Officer, SRC

**SECRETARIAT:** Xuan Luu – Education Officer, Student Life

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### 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate and opened the meeting at 6:57pm by inviting Neenah Gray to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and pay respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

**Action:**

*Xuan to e-mail all members to call for interest in providing the Acknowledgement of Country at the next SRC meeting, which will be held on Thursday 28 January 2021.*

### 2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and noted that apologies outlined above.

The Chair noted that in addition to SRC members, the following people were in attendance:

- Jingmin Qian – Chair, Student Experience Committee
- Kylie Ebert – Director, Student Life
- Lilia Draganov – Senior Manager, Student Life
- Kimberly La – Project Officer, SRC

#### 4. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

##### 4.1 Disclosure of conflicts of interest

The Chair called for members to disclose any conflicts of interest in relation to the items on this meeting's agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

##### 4.2 Adoption of unstarred items

**Resolution:**

*The Student Representation Committee resolved to adopt unstarred items as a whole. Twelve (12) in favour, one (1) abstention.*

#### 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

##### 5.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held Monday 12 October 2020 were provided.

**Resolution:**

*The minutes of the SRC meeting held Monday 12 October 2020 were confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Moved by Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich, seconded by Emily Ward. Twelve (12) in favour, one (1) abstention.*

#### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

##### 6.1 Summary of Outstanding Action Items

The Committee noted updates on the following items:

Actions from previous meetings	Comments/Status
<p><b>PIR survey relating to recognition of student members of University governance groups (Academic Senate and Faculty Boards)</b> Xuan Luu to circulate Leanne Freame's e-mail address to SRC members following the 12 October 2020 meeting.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p><b>Coursework suite changes for 2021</b> Xuan Luu to circulate the e-mail addresses for the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) to SRC members following the 12 October 2020 meeting.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>

<p><b>Walanga Muru Deadly Ball – the Lesa Parker Award</b> Neenah Gray to follow up with Walanga Muru.</p>	<p>Completed. Walanga Muru grant application approved via circular resolution.</p>
<p><b>Work readiness and professional development programming for Macquarie students</b> Maria Koutsouklakis to lead the SRC proposal on this programming.</p>	<p>Update from Maria Koutsouklakis:</p> <p>Maria has spoken with the Student Careers and Employment Service and with Lilia Draganov (Senior Manager, Student Life). They spent time discussing what the programme would look like, including getting a better understanding of resourcing.</p> <p>This proposal is sitting with Maria at the moment. A paper of some kind needs to be prepared. Maria has also spoken with the MBA Careers team, who had rolled out something comparable, although more focused on virtual coaching for purpose-building and goal-setting, in the past. Not much more has been done on this as of yet.</p>
<p><b>Student Group Awards 2020</b> Lilia Draganov to discuss with the Student Engagement team a way forward for the Student Group Awards in 2020.</p>	<p>Completed. The Student Excellence Awards are being implemented as an alternative to the Student Group Awards in 2020.</p> <p>Update from Kylie Ebert:</p> <p>There were 80 nominations for the Student Excellence Awards. There was an outstanding field of nominations. Kylie acknowledges the contributions of many to keeping student groups and communities going in the time of COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>SRC meeting dates for 2021</b> Xuan Luu to request STC members' feedback and approval on possible SRC meeting dates for 2021.</p>	<p>Completed. 2021 SRC meeting dates approved via circular resolution.</p>

## 7. UPDATE FROM SRC TREASURER

### 7.1 October 2020 SRC and PG Grant Expenditure Reports

Out-of-meeting grant applications have been disseminated, considered, and approved by the SRC via circular resolution between the 12 October 2020 meeting and the current meeting.

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich noted extra money in the current SRC budget. At a meeting of the SRC Executive with the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on 30 November 2020, this was discussed. SRC Executive members raised the possibility of rolling the money over to 2021, or finding another appropriate workaround. This decision is currently sitting with the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. An update will be provided as soon as practicable.

#### **Resolution:**

*The Student Representation Committee resolved to note the SRC and PG Grant Expenditure Reports for the October 2020 period.*

**8. UPDATE FROM SRC SPOKESPERSON/S**

Some correspondence to and from the SRC via the SRC Spokesperson/s is noted in the SRC Project Officer's weekly reports. Between the 12 October 2020 meeting and the current meeting, no requests for SRC comment have been presented to the SRC Spokesperson/s.

**9. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

Jingmin Qian provided an update on University Council business on behalf of Alex Hablutzel (Student Member appointed to University Council). The University Council last met some time ago on 19 October 2020. The next University Council meeting will be held on 10 December 2020.

At the 19 October 2020 meeting, the University Council went through strategy and key challenges for the University. Overseas students account for a significant proportion of the University's revenue, which has created a major impact for future years.

The University Council have talked about how to manage this reduction in earning this year and next year, and asked the question of how the University may secure more funding of some kind. The structures of the University are also challenging. The University's Operating Plan 2020-2024 has also been discussed by the University Council. The institution's Indigenous Strategy has been a focus, as well as campus planning – including construction projects.

A key priority from the perspective of the University Council has been how to best support struggling students despite budget shortfalls for the institution during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Student Success Support Package initiative arising has included loans, grants, and e-vouchers as part of a coordinated support response to students' needs.

The University Council has outlined in recent discussions also that curriculum changes and staff structures will be changing in the coming times.

**10. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)**

Alex Cullen provided an update on SEC business on behalf of SRC members who attend meetings of the SEC.

The SEC met on 12 November 2020. The SEC discussed campus security, specifically in relation to issues of international students being targeted by scammers and other sources of concern. The SEC are currently scoping options for responding to this issue.

With respect to SRC business on the SEC agenda, the SRC Review and FRANK Review items were discussed. There was discussion relating to the SRC's staffing, including the role of the Project Officer in supporting the SRC.

The SEC noted the SRC's Interim EOY Report and EOY Financials Report. The SEC also noted that the intention will be to update those reports at the March 2021 SEC meeting with SRC reporting on the full 2020 year.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### 11.1 Recent circular/out-of-meeting resolutions

The Chair outlined circular resolutions enacted between the 12 October 2020 meeting and the current meeting. The Chair confirmed all were passed with the majority in favour, as below.

Motion	Outcome
SRC Treasurer's Report for September 2020	Majority in favour (N=11)
SRC Interim End-of-Year Report for 2020, including Interim End-of-Year Financials	Majority in favour (N=11)
Grant applications from (1) Walanga Muru, and (2) Automotive Society	Majority in favour (N=11)
Interim Process for Equity and Diversity Casual Vacancies	Majority in favour (N=14)
Grant Application from MQ MBA Association	Majority in favour (N=12)
Revised MQ MBA Association Event Proposal	Majority in favour (N=11)
2021 SRC meeting dates	Majority in favour (N=16)

Maria Koutsouklakis acknowledged the support of the SRC in passing the Macquarie University MBA Association's (MUMBAA) revised replacement proposal for an inauguration event. They have sold sixty (60) tickets in a matter of three (3) days for this event. Maria outlined that this will be a big positive impact on students.

**Resolution:**

*The Student Representation Committee noted the recent circular/out-of-meeting resolutions.*

### 11.2 Proposal for SRC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Extracurricular Award Program

Paper submitted by Alex Cullen, SRC Treasurer, and Neenah Gray, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students' Representative, was noted.

Neenah Gray acknowledge that Alex Cullen has helped bring this to reality. Alex C. noted that this was presented previously to the SRC, at which time there were questions. Neenah and Alex C. have addressed these questions and pieces of feedback through the detailed project plan included.

More clarity is needed on extracurricular scope. However, the overall aim is to support all-rounders and high-achieving students who are also achieving outside their studies.

**Resolution:**

*The Student Representation Committee resolved to allocate \$28,000 of the MUPRA funds for the purpose of creating a series of grants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate students to support extra-curricular activities. Moved by Maria Koutsouklakis, seconded by Alex Cullen. Ten (10) in favour. Motion passed.*

## 12. UPDATE FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

12.1 Equity and Diversity (E&D) Subcommittee

This Subcommittee has not met since the 12 October 2020 SRC meeting. The group have been discussing a dinner and extending this invitation to all SRC members.

12.2 Infrastructure Subcommittee

This Subcommittee has not met since the 12 October 2020 SRC meeting.

12.3 Marketing and Communication Subcommittee

This Subcommittee has not met since the 12 October 2020 SRC meeting. Ateka Rajabi and Shlomie Bension have participated in SRC Instagram takeovers. It is expected that Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich will be participating in the next takeover.

12.4 Student Elections Subcommittee

This Subcommittee has not met since the 12 October 2020 SRC meeting. The Subcommittee members are waiting on the outcome of the FRANK review to inform their work.

12.5 Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee

This Subcommittee has not met since the 12 October 2020 SRC meeting.

However, the Subcommittee has provided collective advice for the recent out-of-meeting circular resolutions.

**Action:**

*Jarod Cunningham will follow up on additional grants offline with Alex Cullen and Xuan Luu.*

12.5.1 October 2020 Grant Applications

**Resolution:**

*The Student Representation Committee noted the recent circular/out-of-meeting resolutions in covering some of the October 2020 grant applications, with further follow-up to be undertaken offline in relation to more recent applications.*

**13. QUESTION TIME**

13.1 Question in relation to what student support will look like in the coming sessions

Alex C. requested Kylie to share further information with the SRC about the report relating to the Student Success Support Package (SSSP). Kylie confirmed that a consolidated view of this can be provided at the end of the year.

A continuing partnership with Study NSW has enabled excellent initiatives such as food hampers, etc., to ensure food security for students. Session 3 arrangements are being organised, including student support outreach and case management.

**Action:**

*Kylie Ebert to follow up offline with the SRC. after this meeting to provide further information relating to the SSSP Report as discussed.*

13.2 Question in relation to the 2021 approach to the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF)

From next year, distance students will be charged a SSAF fee – Kylie confirmed that this was approved by the University’s Executive Group. There is a need for more information about things such as how this will influence SSAF pool – and therefore SRC budget.

In terms of predictive modelling, there is no clarity yet on where the funding will be directed. The final amount is not determined until after Census Date. It is unlikely that the SSAF to be paid by distance students in 2021 will offset the SSAF that would have otherwise been paid by international students. The University is working with other universities to discuss a pilot return for international students.

Kylie Ebert expressed sincere congratulations to the SRC on a fantastic year. This year has brought out the best in the SRC despite the many challenges. The SRC have achieved some great things of impact, using money well to address students’ wellbeing and employability. Looking forward to a successful 2021.

**Action:**

*Kylie Ebert to follow up offline with Alex C. after this meeting to provide further information relating to SSAF for 2021.*

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 SRC Executive meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich provided an update on this meeting (held Monday 30 November 2020), including the following topics discussed:

- Return to campus;
- O-Week for Session 1, 2021;
- Central Courtyard activations;
- Possibility of SRC budget rolling over to 2021;
- Scope for grandfathering degrees that are being cut (determined that a range of degrees will be placed into teach-out mode and affected students will still be able to complete the degree/s in which they are currently enrolled);
- The need for a new platform for clubs management and whether the University can explore a new platform for student engagement and development of clubs and societies;
- Student experience as a result of cuts, including key questions such as:
  - How do we ensure student services don’t lose their use and value to students?
  - What are the metrics to monitor student welfare and how services meet needs?

- How can long waiting times for mental health support appointments via Student Wellbeing be potentially reduced?

Alex Cullen provided further information about discussions at this meeting, including:

- Discussing the importance of the exceptional circumstances of 2020 and how this makes a case for budget rollover for 2021;
- The need to think about the business case from the SRC to justify an additional budget beyond what will be allocated – this will be difficult as confirmed allocation is pending;
- A clear and beneficial online campus component needs to be included in any budget allocations for 2021, noting here the hybrid delivery of activities and the importance of COVID-safe options – this will need to reflect recognition from the University of the importance of online presence, online support, and appreciating online students.

#### 14.2 Remarks from Jingmin Qian as Chair, Student Experience Committee

Jingmin commented that it was really good to see lots of faces and hear lots of voices. Jingmin was a student representative committee member (equivalent) as an undergraduate and postgraduate student, and personally found the experience was helpful for career development. Trial, error, and practice in group decision-making were valuable; one doesn't usually get this experience until one gets to senior roles in one's career.

Jingmin expressed hope that in this committee members would represent the full student body as the University focuses on the whole student experience. Jingmin reminded members that the student community elected them to speak and advocate for everyone. Jingmin outlined for members that for the following year, they would ordinarily fight to maintain an equivalent budget. This is standard business practice and rollover is not usually done.

Jayden asked Jingmin to explain more about the SEC Chair's role, what Jingmin has accomplished and gained in experience, and so on.

Jingmin is Chair of the Student Experience Committee and member of the University Council, and this includes many different dimensions. Examples include long-term planning for how the University should move forward and work towards returning student representation into the hands of students with proper, effective, accountable governance. Jingmin also contributes to other governance groups, such as audit and risk committees.

As a member of Council, Jingmin contributes to decision-making about and for the University. Jingmin is also a Non-Executive Director sitting on different boards at different companies and organisations outside the University. Jingmin holds degrees in economics and business administration, CFA, and qualifications in governance.

Jingmin outlined that the Student Experience Committee is the governing body of the SRC at Macquarie University. Jingmin advised SRC members to think about key questions. Examples of these questions include:

- How do we support for example international students who haven't been able to access food securely this year as a result of the pandemic?
- What about tackling sexual harassment on campus?



Jayden asked Jingmin to talk a bit more about the planned return to campus. Jayden asked: “What do you think O-Week will look like next year and other events? What will physical or social life be like next year?”

Jingmin suggested that around the middle part of next year, we should see a working vaccine and be pretty much back on campus as “normal”. It is encouraged to plan a hybrid of activities – some social interaction on campus would be good. Jingmin noted that businesses are also struggling to see what they can do to support their customers.

Alex Hablutzel noted and asked: “The Council have already been talking about the COVID-19 position of the University. How would you say the SEC is positioning themselves in relation to this? What do you think the SRC should be focusing on in this hard and elusive time?”

Jingmin noted the importance of asking how the University can reach students quickly and effectively, and also hear from students quickly and effectively. Technology may play a role, but there are other resources and approaches as well. Secondly, the University needs to consider how it structures courses and ensures employability for students.

14.3 SRC Book Fair survey data and results dissemination.

Alex Cullen noted that over 500 responses from students have been received via the about what the SRC is doing and what can be done for 2021

**15. MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:12 pm.

**16. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee will be held on Thursday 28 January 2021. Agenda items are due by Thursday 14 January 2021.

**CONFIRMED** as a true record.

**SUSANNAH LYNCH-VAUGHAN**  
**CHAIR**