



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 3:00pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023 in 18WW-167E-Bara and via Teams.

PRESENT: <i>*Attended in Person</i>	Kathy Htun –Faculty of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Representative Manasbi Poudel –Council Representative Rhys Collyer –Postgraduate Representative Will Glen –Arts Undergraduate Representative Coco Chen –Macquarie Business School Undergraduate Representative Ria Prasad –Women’s Representative Aaryan Shah –Disability Representative
<i>* Attended via Zoom</i>	Reece Nuttall – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Representative Wanjing Xiao –International Student Representative
APOLOGIES:	None
ABSENT:	Annelise Pollard – LGBTQIA+ Representative Nehal Malakar – Official University Sport Representative

SECRETARIAT: Rosemary Mikleic – Manager Dean of Students Operations

SECRETART: Bella Galea – Governance (SRC) and Education Officer

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Secretary commenced meeting at 3:11 pm. The Secretary provided the Acknowledgment of Country as per the text provided by the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy):

“I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Macquarie University land, the Wallumattagal clan of the Dharug Nation. May we pay respects to the Elders, and knowledge holders who have, and continue to, pass on their knowledge and wisdom for the sustainability of our environments, our cultures, our education and our communities. May the ancestors spirits watch over us today to ensure that we have a successful and productive meeting and may we remember to tread lightly on our countries and to thoughtfully carry on the legacy of those that walked before us on this land.”

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative to provide a Welcome to Country at the next meeting.

1.2. Chair’s Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies

The Secretary declared the meeting quorate and opened the meeting at 3:11 pm, welcoming all attendees.

The Secretary noted that no apologies were received from SRC members. The Secretary noted that if members are absent without notice for more than two meetings the position will be considered vacant as per the Terms of Reference.

1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

None declared.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1.** An explanation of the process of discussing and approving minutes from previous SRC meetings.

3. REPORT FROM SRC TREASURER

3.1. SRC & MUPRA January - November 2023 SRC Expenditure Report

The Secretariat presented an overview of expenditure for the SRC and MUPRA since January 2023.

The SRC budget is managed internally with funding provided by the University to the SRC. Therefore, the Secretariat has access to the SRC budget on behalf of SRC members, and the Secretary will present financial reports at SRC meetings for 2024/25. The Secretariat and the Secretary are not decision-makers and the SRC retains the right to undertake spending decisions as they see fit. The SRC financial log will be made available to SRC members for review. All SRC financial decisions for 2023 must be finalised by the end of November for payment in December.

The SRC budget for 2024 will be \$208,000 as of January 1, 2024. There will be no roll-over of the previous SRC budget in 2023. The MUPRA budget is a separate line item in the SRC budget and is a fixed budget allotted for spending on postgraduate initiatives. The MUPRA budget is currently 1.5 months in arrears, with a total of \$113,000 as of September 2023. The Secretariat will provide a formalised written update with the publication of the minutes of this meeting.

Action Item: Secretariat and Secretary to provide Extraordinary Financial Report at the end of December 2023.

4. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

4.1 The Council Member provided updates from the University Council:

- First Council meeting Update: Involved discussion surrounding the current TEQSA renewal.
- Second Council meeting: The member provided an SRC update to the Council about interests of students from the members of SRC, job opportunities for students, potential events supported by the SRC.
- Third Council meeting: Focused on the use of AI within the tertiary context, including the affect of ChatGPT on students and the integration of ChatGPT within an academic context. The Council also considered potential misuse of AI and potential contract cheating issues arising for students.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Appointment of the SRC Chairperson (Update)

- Ms Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative was appointed the SRC Chair for 2024.
- Ms Coco Chen – MQBS Undergraduate Representative was appointed the SRC Deputy Chair for 2024.

5.2. Kickstart 2024 Paper (Update and Discussion)

The Secretary and the Secretariat presented the Kickstart paper outlining the funding requested by the Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging team to provide SRC branded pens and an SRC branded fidget cube.

The Student Representative Council discussed the paper:

- SRC raised questions about marketing, branding and logo design to be tabled at future meetings in 2024.
- SRC noted discrepancies between the quantity requested and the quantity listed in the graphic. The Secretary clarified that these figures were revised down during an initial review of the paper due to the large expense they would have imposed on the SRC budget for 2023.
- The Secretariat clarified that the initial quote was \$28,700 for the fidget cube for 10,000 units which the SRC could choose to endorse if they wish.
- The Secretary provided clarification that items purchased would be used for Kickstart programs run in Session 1, 2024 and Session 2, 2024.
- The Secretariat reiterated it is the decision of the SRC members as to whether to proceed with the purchase of 2000 fidget cubes to be distributed from the SRC Stall at O-Week.
- The Secretariat notified the SRC that the next budget for SRC will be released on 1st January 2024.
- The current proposal is to be funded by the 2023 SRC budget.
- The Secretariat provided clarity on the items presented within the paper to confirm there was initially requested perishable food items which the Secretariat and Secretary deemed inappropriate for presentation to the SRC.
- If new designs arise to be communicated to the SRC for review and feedback in future.

Resolution:

- Six in favour, three against. The motion passes, funding granted.

Action Item:

- The Secretary to inform Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging staff of the outcome.

5.3. Grants

(Discussion and Vote)

5.3.1 SRC & Society Grant Ginger Mahoney Financial Review 2023

(Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- SRC members expressed concern about the benefit of the grant to the wider student community through the approval of a grant which benefits an individual student.
- Members discussed the appropriateness of the grant, and whether it reflected the student bases they have been elected to represent.
- The Secretary provided clarification about the purpose of these grants which is to enrich student experience and develop professional skills. The Secretary also reiterated the various approaches to reviewing individual student grants holistically.
- The Council Member flagged that the Women in Business student group are already involved in hosting a number of panels and events with sponsors. The member believes the funding could be better directed to students with less access to resources. The member is also member of the Women in Business student group.
- SRC was reminded that feedback can be provided to students in the event a grant is unsuccessful for future applications.

Resolution:

- Five against, four in favour, the motion fails. Funding is not granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.

5.3.2 SRC & Society Grant Nicholas Laybutt AIESEC

(Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- The SRC would like to request additional information. Members raised concerns the grant does not provide benefit to the student base as a collective.
- The Secretary provided clarification that most grants are likely to be individual student applications.
- The SRC expressed their desire to construct a grants guide to support student grant applications in future. The Secretary directed members to the information available to students on the website. The Secretary will collaborate with members to create a guide for students applying for grants.
- The Secretariat reiterated that as the grant outcome is unclear, members may vote in favour, against, or opt to defer to a circular motion pending additional information from the student as the vote within the meeting will be final.

Resolution:

- Five against, two votes to defer, two in favour, the motion fails. Funding is not granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to reach out to SRC Members to collaborate on the creation of a grants guide for students.
- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.

5.3.3 SRC & Society Grant Harry Gallagher AIESEC National Conference (Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- The SRC expressed that there was not enough information provided to make a decision on this grant.
- The Secretary clarified that students may apply for more than \$2000 in grant funding, although it is recommended grants are limited to \$2000. For grant applications over \$2000 the SRC may vote and approve these grants at their discretion.
- The Secretary clarified that countermotions are an option where the SRC would like to partially approve a grant. The SRC determines what they are comfortable approving, the Secretary records this as a countermotion and contacts the grant applicant. If the grant applicant approves of the amendment, the countermotion will be disseminated via circular motion for a vote.

Resolution:

- Five against, two votes to defer, two in favour, the motion fails. Funding is not granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.

5.3.4 SRC & Society Grant Chaturanga Dharmarathne Melbourne Travel Grant (Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- The SRC noted one of the previous applications was to attend the same conference, but there is a disparity in the costs noted.
- Members discussed the cost associated with travel and variations between the current and previous grant as well as escalated travel costs during December.

Resolution:

- Four against, five in favour, the motion fails. Funding is not granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.

5.3.5 SRC & Society Grant Andrea Kee AIESEC TESOL Grant
(Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- The Secretary reviewed the grant and explained that recipients of these grants are expected to report back to the SRC to provide a report on their experience, which is then incorporated into the SRC end-of-year report.
- The SRC raised concern about the area of interest identified within the grant and the student's program of study.
- The SRC also identified the potential benefits to the broader community and the education opportunities afforded to individuals both within and outside the University sphere.

Resolution:

- Three against and six in favour, the motion passes. Funding is granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.
- The Secretary to send the grant for processing.

5.3.6 SRC & Society Grant Kanav Gupta AIESEC National Conference
(Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- SRC identified the variation in flight costs comparative to similar grants presented within the meeting.
- Members expressed there is not enough information provided to the SRC for adequate deliberation.
- The student's area of study appears to align more closely with the purpose and intention of the grant.

Resolution:

- Six against, one vote to defer and one in favour, the motion fails. Funding is not granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.

5.3.7 SRC & Society Grant Marielle Caponas Indigenous Allied Health Australia Conference

(Discussion and vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- Members addressed the importance of supporting indigenous focused grants considering current wider community conversations within the space and those higher barriers to access of service experienced by indigenous Australians.
- The SRC discussed the net benefit to the wider community outside alongside individual student enrichment.
- Members also raised concerns about the benefit of the conference from an educational perspective for the student, as the short duration and corporate approach of the conference may compromise learning outcomes.

Resolution:

- One against, eight in favour, the motion passes. Funding is granted.

Action:

- The Secretary to inform the student of the outcome of this grant.
- The Secretary to send the grant for processing.

5.4 Identification of individual areas of interest and formation of sub-committees

(Discussion)

Discussion of tabling motions at SRC meetings:

- The Arts Undergraduate Member provided an update on several motions submitted to the Secretary which were not included on the agenda.
- The Secretary reiterated that not all items will be appropriate to present as motions but can be presented as agenda items.
- The Secretariat clarified that the Secretary and the Secretariat wanted the opportunity to provide context and explain how motions function prior to presenting a motion in an SRC meeting. It is the intention of the Secretariat to have these types of issues raised as individual areas of interest.
- The Secretary explained the importance of ensuring due diligence is undertaken prior to presenting issues related to University staffing and the alternation of academic programs and resources to students to formal SRC meetings.
- The Secretary also provided an update on issues related to faculty-specific strategic plans and University offerings within the context of the draft motion sent to the Secretary from the Arts Undergraduate Representative.
- SRC representatives were encouraged to discuss issues raised within their faculty, or across other faculties within the University with the Secretariat and Secretary to assess appropriateness and carry out due diligence where required.
- The Secretariat and Secretary reiterated the importance of forming positive relationships with key internal and external stakeholders.
- SRC members raised concern about the University potentially tabling program and funding changes at the end of the year leaving the SRC and other student bodies limited time to respond.

Areas of interest:**Student groups:**

- Student Groups identified as an area of interest for several members. The potential establishment of a student advisory is recommended to address administrative issues.
- The Secretary provided an explanation of the context of Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging working alongside the Dean of Students Operations team in providing two separate areas of administrative support to the student groups.

Actions:

- The Secretary to put a call out to SRC members to gauge interest in joining a potential student advisory to Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging.

Food Pantry:

- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative expressed interest in creating a Food Pantry initiative on campus with support from other SRC members. The member has been in contact with the Global Leadership Program (GLP) and REACH MQ an affiliated student group focused on volunteering who are interested in supporting this initiative.
- The Secretariat has been in contact with U@MQ and Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging who have engaged in formal discussions with FoodBank and are now scoping sites to operate within the University.

Action:

- The Secretariat to facilitate connections between interested members of SRC and FoodBank.

Social Media Channels SRC:

- The Secretary provided an update about the social media channels available (Instagram) to gauge SRC member interest in running those channels.

Action:

- The Secretary to put a call out for expressions of interest to the SRC for those interested in being involved in managing the SRC Instagram page.

Reconception Festival:

- The Disability Representative expressed interest in reviving the Reconception Music Festival to encourage student engagement and provide a social community event.
- The Arts Undergraduate Representative also identified the significant cost and time required to deliver a music festival to students.
- The Council member noted that the festival could be a good way of engaging international students and providing a social event for students to connect more broadly.

Action:

- The Secretary to discuss with the Secretariat reach out to Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging to undertake investigation and seek a formal response.

**5.5 O-Week planning
(Discussion)**

Discussion on O-Week planning has been deferred for discussion at the next SRC Meeting.

Action: The Secretary to add O-Week planning to the agenda of the next SRC meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of Meeting Dates

- The Secretary proposed dates for next meetings: 13th, 14th or 15th of December.
- The Council member has expressed that the Council has encouraged the SRC to meet more frequently.
- SRC Members also raised questions about the time of the meeting and the number of times available. The Secretariat clarified that there are occasionally building access issues but it is possible to host evening meetings if this suits the majority of members.
- SRC Members also discussed the modality of the SRC meeting, it was confirmed by the Secretary that meetings will always be delivered in a hybrid mode.

Action:

- The Secretary to disseminate a poll to SRC Members to determine the best date for the next two meetings.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be **TBD** all agenda items must be submitted to the SRCSecretariat@mq.edu.au.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Secretary at 4:56 PM.