

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, 11 March 2025 in person.

PRESENT:	<p>SRC Members</p> <p>Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative Jongho (Pedro) Roh – Member of Council (attended virtually) Hoang Diem Tho Bui - International Student Representative Haylee Vella - Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Representative Georja Bennett - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative Cameron Last – Disability Representative Anna Smith – Official University Sport Representative Rizki Deni – Faculty of Arts Representative</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Kamil Zielinski – Secretary Vivian Chan – SRC Project Assistant</p> <p>Guests</p> <p>Melinda Chadwick – Head of Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging Dylan Crowther – Manager of First Year Experience & Peer Programs Sam Rickets - Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) A/Professor Kate Gleeson – Respect. Now. Always. Director Luke Heckendorf – Campus Life Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Lead</p>
APOLOGIES:	<p>Professor Leanne Piggot – Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Students Coco Chen –Macquarie Business School Representative</p>
ABSENT:	<p>Rhys Collyer – Postgraduate Representative Kathy Htun –Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative</p>

SECRETARY: Kamil Zielinski

CHAIR: Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair commenced meeting at 10:05 AM and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.2. Chair's Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies

The Chair noted apologies and welcomed the staff members present. All attendees introduced themselves.

1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest declared at commencement of meeting.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1. The Student Representative Committee resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

- Member of Council advised that Macquarie Strategy was discussed, and he was very positive about the future of Macquarie University despite reform challenges.

Action Items:

- Nil

4. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Indigenous Strategy (For discussion)

- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Sam Rickets outlined the challenges for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students at University and discussed:
 - The role of the Pathways and Engagement Teams in supporting ATSI students.
 - The recommendations made by the Universities Accord and the University's strategy of increasing ATSI recruitment as well as increased incorporation of Indigenous content into the University curriculum.
- Member of Council Pedro Roh queried why the gap in outcomes between ATSI students and the general cohort had not changed despite the University's efforts and asked for information on what the SRC can do to support the University's initiatives.

- Member of Council queried how greater engagement can be encouraged in SRC elections from ATSI students. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Sam Ricketts noted that this is a smaller cohort of students so lower participation should not be equated with low engagement.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative Georja Bennett offered her view that ATSI students may be burdened by taking on a substantial cultural load due to there being few ATSI students represented at university.

Action Items:

- Nil

4.2 Disclosures of Sexual Misconduct

(For discussion)

- Respect. Now. Always. (RNA) Director provided overview of:
 - RNA program and the broader political and regulatory context in relation to this.
 - Data collated from Australian Bureau of Statistics and the critical role universities play in responding to disclosures.
 - The important role of student surveys in providing qualitative data to inform approaches.
 - Opportunities for raising matters through SRC to increase diversity of student viewpoints and avoid doubling up on work of students in advisory groups.
- Chair queried what feedback had been received previously and RNA Director provided information in relation to development of content for modules and communications strategy which students in advisory group provided feedback on.
- Member of Council queried if data could be received in relation to sexual violence reporting and RNA Director confirmed materials made available to the Audit and Risk Committee were publicly available online and contained the relevant data.

Action Items:

- RNA Director to forward data presented to *Audit and Risk Committee* to SRC.

4.3 Campus Life Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

(For discussion)

- Campus Life Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Lead Luke Heckendorf provided overview of the function of Campus Life and his role in which he is responsible for incorporating DEIB initiatives.
 - Clarified that all university sport is managed by Campus Life.
 - Expressed interest in increasing student engagement through direct feedback from SRC, to ensure initiatives are effective and supported by student cohort.
 - Advised on upcoming events including National Reconciliation Week.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative Georja Bennett queried if there are options to reduce barriers for students from lower socio-economic status so they can be more involved in events.
- Official University Sport Representative Anna Smith advised of cheaper Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre (MUSAC) membership options and the role of Student Wellbeing in supporting students to access this option.

Action Items:

- Campus Life DEIB Lead to send calendar of upcoming events to SRC.

4.4 SRC Grant (Hansani Galappaththige) Museum Research Trip (\$1,749) (For circulation and voting)

- Chair Ria Prasad provided overview of grant.
- Member of Council Pedro Roh expressed concern that there are currently insufficient safeguards to prevent abuse of grant application process.
- Member of Council suggested that there should be a means for SRC to view available budget for grants throughout the year.
 - Manager of First Year Experience & Peer Programs Dylan Crowther proposed that SRC remaining budget could be added as standing item for all SRC agendas moving forward.

Resolution:

- Committee voted unanimously in favour of including SRC Budget as standing item for meeting agendas moving forward.
- Seven votes cast in favour of grant and one against. Grant for applicant Hansani Galappaththige is approved for \$1,749.

Action Items:

- Secretary to add SRC Budget as standing item for future agendas.
- Secretary to inform grant applicant Hansani Galappaththige of outcome.

4.5 Professional Headshots Photography Service (For discussion)

- Member of Council provided update in relation to discussions with Photography Society regarding financial remuneration in exchange for their services to support this initiative.
- SRC Project Assistant advised that timeline for implementing initiative would depend on the responsiveness of representatives of Photography Society.
- Committee discussed ideas for improving contact success with Photography Society.

Action Items:

- SRC Project Assistant to follow up with Photography Society.

4.6 University Sports Carnival (For discussion)

- Official University Sport Representative provided update in relation to this initiative and advised of:
 - Proposed date of sports carnival as 15 August 2025 9am-3pm.
 - That carnival will be separated into three sections: competitive, social, and novelty.
 - Location options, with a preference to use the grass area behind Lighthouse Theatre and opposite Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre (MUSAC).
 - That this space will very likely be able to be used free of charge.
 - That current cost projection for carnival is approximately \$2,500.
 - That the intention is for the carnival to be faculty led.

Action Items:

- Nil

4.7 Amending Grant Application Form

(For discussion)

- Secretary provided overview of proposed changes to SRC grants webpage and sought endorsement from committee to implement these changes.
- Committee provided feedback in relation to these proposed changes which culminated in the following decision:
 - Remove \$2,000 limit for grants and instead replace this with guidance for how much we would expect to be requested for different types of grants.

Action Items:

- Secretary to request amendment to SRC grants webpage with website team following confirmation from SRC via circular motion.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

- Faculty of Arts Representative queried options for holding meetings at different times and Secretary to provide option for representatives to vote for all timeslots which they are available to attend.
 - Committee discussed option of holding more frequent meetings
 - Secretary suggested that SRC can instead meet informally
 - Manager of First Year Experience & Peer Programs suggested SRC could form subcommittees and decisions could be made by circulation instead of holding more official meetings.

Action Items:

- Secretary to confirm the best availability of representatives for all suitable dates/times for future meetings for Session 1 2025.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be held TBC, all agenda items must be submitted to the Secretary at least 10 business days in advance by emailing SRCSecretariat@mq.edu.au.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 11:58 AM.