



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 6:00pm on Monday 26 September 2022 in the VC Boardroom and via Zoom.

PRESENT: <i>*Attended in Person</i>	Jarrold Currey Sadra Yousefi Udai Kamath
<i>* Attended via Zoom</i>	Kaitlin York Curtis Micallef Amanda O'Neill Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich Leila Maruca (permission to leave at 7:00 pm) Elizabeth Christie Fatima Khan
APOLOGIES:	Pavel Pfitzer
ABSENT:	Jaesong Kim
IN ATTENDANCE:	Rosemary Mikleic – Manager of Operations, Dean of Students Jordan Akhurst – Manager of Student Diversity & Inclusion Kane Murdoch – Manager of Complaints, Appeals and Misconduct Brett Morley – Manager of University Sport

SECRETARIAT: Rosemary Mikleic – Manager of Operations for the Dean of Students

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

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair commenced meeting at 6:15 pm. Udai Kamath the Chair 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.”

SRC Member Sadra Yousefi to provide the acknowledgement at next meeting.

1.2. Chair’s Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies

The Chair declared the meeting quorate and opened the meeting at 6:15 pm, welcoming all attendees – both those in the room and those joining the meeting remotely.

The Chair noted that apologies were received from Pavel Pfitzner and acknowledged the University staff in attendance.

1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

A potential conflict of interest was flagged by Amanda O'Neill who is on the editorial board of Grapeshot – raised conflict of interest for the Grapeshot item to be discussed under “Other business”.

2. PRESENTATIONS FROM INVITED GUESTS

2.1. Introduction to the Manager of the Dean of Students Rosemary Miklecic

Rosemary provided a brief introduction to the Dean of Students portfolio and outlined her role within the portfolio.

2.2. Introduction to the Manager of Student Diversity and Inclusion Jordan Akhurst

Jordan provided a brief introduction to the Student Diversity, Inclusion and Equity team and explained her role within the portfolio outlining the purpose of the department for students. Recently joined the university as part of the Inclusion, Equity and Diversity team. Jordan explained to the SRC the purpose of her department and portfolio for students.

2.3. Introduction to Complaints, Appeals and Misconduct Kane Murdoch

Kane provided a brief introduction to the Complaints, Appeals and Misconduct portfolio and explained his role within the portfolio outlining the purpose of the department for students.

2.4. Introduction to University Sport Brett Morley was tabled until the November 3rd, 2022, SRC meeting.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

3.1. The Minutes of the previous meeting held 11 August 2022 enclosed (For approval).

The Student Representative Committee verbally resolved to endorse the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. REPORT FROM SRC TREASURER

4.1. SRC August 2022 Expenditure Report

The treasurer was unable to provide SRC Financial reports as there was some discrepancy between the figures represented by the finance team. The reports will be circulated once available

4.2. Postgraduate Fund (MUPRA) August 2022 Expenditure Report

The treasurer was unable to provide MUPRA Financial reports as there was some discrepancy between the figures represented by the finance team. The reports will be circulated once available

5. REPORT FROM SRC SPOKESPERSON/S

Kaitlin York provided an update as the incumbent SRC Spokesperson. Kaitlin now has access to the SRC Instagram and SRC email inbox. Kaitlin still requires access to the Facebook account (one of the previous administrators to the Facebook Page will need to provide access).

Kaitlin noted correspondence which had come through the SRC email including an email from a postgraduate student who wished to donate their plants, with a preference the plants were gifted to postgraduate students. Similarly, beer brewing equipment donated by students will be directed to Student Engagement for distribution/usage. Kaitlin has also received correspondence from students requesting increased engagement in student elections, the SRC seconded the promotion of student elections via the SRC social media channels.

The SRC representatives discussed the possibility of adding an extension or announcement to iLearn to raise general awareness in the student body about the upcoming SRC elections.

Recommendations: Contact relevant team at university to increase awareness of student elections via iLearn. It was also recommended that a procedure is created on this process, and for access to SRC accounts (social media and email address).

Action Item: Bella to investigate and create procedures for Chair approval.

6. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich provided an update on the university council. There has been one meeting of council since last SRC meeting which was mostly procedural in nature. The reappointment of one council member and elected a new council member. No names disclosed. Jayden noted that the university is currently undertaking a reaccreditation process under TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency). The Chancellors' outcomes and progress report was presented at the Council meeting and indicated the university is performing well under current operating plans. There was some discussion about the jobs summit and what that means for the university going forward with no specific conclusions drawn.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1. SRC & Sport Connectivity (*For discussion*)

Action: Carry over to next meeting.

7.2. SRC Office Update (*For discussion*)

Rosemary Mikleic provided an update on the SRC Office. The Office is nearing completion with a new coat of paint, refurbished carpets, tables and new chairs being ordered. Rosemary and Bella will notify the SRC as soon as the space is ready for the SRC to use, the plan is to host the next SRC meeting in the SRC Office. If the SRC wish to provide recommendations on furniture for the space, please send these recommendations through to the Secretariat inbox ASAP. If the SRC requires additional whitegoods (such as a refrigerator) members should reach out to Rosie or Bella.

7.3. MQ Debating Grant (For discussion)

Grant from debating society, large amount of money. Information has been provided in the reading materials. What is the cost: \$18,840 total.

The SRC Grant received by the treasurer Sadra Yousefi for \$18,840 total was put forward to the SRC for discussion and votes, additional information was provided to the SRC Representatives in the reading materials.

Vote on the MQ Debating Grant Request:

Online votes:

Jayden Whaites 07:44 PM:

in favour

Kaitlin York 07:44 PM:

Against

Curtis Micallef 07:44 PM:

Against

Fatima Khan 07:44 PM:

in favour

Amanda oneill 07:44 PM:

favour

Elizabeth Christie 07:44 PM:

in favour

In person:

Sadra Yousefi: In favour

Jarrold Currey: In favour

Udai Kamath: In favour

Motion: Passed

Action Item: Bella to process via Dean of Students/Finance.

7.4 Epigeum Research Skills Toolkit (For discussion)

Sadra Yousefi has been in discussions with Linda Schofield about how to contribute the MUPRA budget towards research by co-investing part of the MUPRA budget.

Linda Schofield: Epigeum, allows research students to research any work they are doing throughout the academic world. The university has utilised the company's services before, but we are now seeking to renewing the university's subscription. The department are looking to provide 50% of the payment for another 3-year subscription to Epigeum. It would be very beneficial for the SRC to invest 50% of the subscription funding for this term of subscription. The SRC would provide £80,000 pounds for a three-year subscription (50% of the funding required to renew the Epigeum subscription) which would come out of the MUPRA budget (costs may vary according to the exchange rate, but it would be approximately \$140,00 AUD).

Questions and discussion:

Udai: What does the toolkit do?

Linda: Provides a whole lot of online resources put together by various academics and professionals to provide access to academic skill development. Wholistic modules to upskill researchers in academic research. Framework for developing skills to do your PhD or enter academic employment.

Sadra: There are presentational slides directly from the company itself for more information.

Udai: There is often a lot of money in the MUPRA budget.

Mariella: MUPRA is a one-off budget – it is a historical hangover from the previous iteration of the SRC it was set aside in its own account. We will spend the budget, and once depleted we will have a single SRC budget.

Amanda: Is there going to be a cost to students? Free of charge for the students.

Udai: Seems like a sensible initiative to fund.

Sadra: Has already provided benefits to students in the past.

ORIGINAL MOTION: Current standing motion.

Online Votes:

amanda oneill 06:38 PM:

favour

Jayden Whaites: 06:38 PM:

yes

Fatima Khan 06:38 PM:

in favour

Curtis Micallef 06:38 PM:

in favour

Kaitlin York 06:38 PM:

In favour

Elizabeth Christie 06:38 PM:

in favour

From Leila Maruca to Everyone 06:38 PM

In favour

Vote in person:

Sadra Yousefi: In favour

Udai Kamath: In favour

Jarrold Currey: In favour

Motion passed: All in favour.

Further questions:

Jayden: Can we draw this money from the SRC budget rather than the MUPRA budget (it would come out of this year's budget).

Rosie: We cannot do journal transfers from the SRC Account to the MUPRA Account.

ADDITIONAL MOTION:

Jayden: Motion to draw the funds from the SRC budget rather than the MUPRA budget.

Sadra: We need to provide an explanation for why we spent funding on our initiatives.

Online Votes:

Jayden Whaites 07:31 PM:

in favour

Elizabeth Christie 07:32 PM:

against

Fatima Khan 07:32 PM:

in favour

Kaitlin York 07:32 PM:

In favour

Curtis Micallef 07:32 PM:

against

amanda oneill 07:32 PM:

Against

In Person Votes:

Sadra Yousefi: Against

Jarrold Currey: In favour
Udai Kamath: In favour

Motion does not pass; originally approve motion remains.

Action Item: Bella/Sadra to arrange the dispensing of MUPRA Funds for this initiative as per the original motion.

7.5 MUPRA Funds for Graduate Research (For discussion)

The Graduate Research Funding proposal has been raised by Linda Schofield and her team. The grant in this case would be a co-investment by the SRC to fund part of the graduate research group who will investigate how we can best support the wellbeing service needs of students (using focus groups and market research). Linda's team has requested approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000 in funding for this initiative.

Sadra Yousefi: There will still be room in the MUPRA budget if both initiatives are passed.

Linda: When students talk about Wellbeing, what do they mean? What support do students actually need, what are their priorities? It is essentially focus groups asking the students to prioritise wellbeing and what that means to them.

Questions:

Jayden: If this is through MUPRA? Doesn't the University already do this research through student surveys? Why is this coming to SRC for funding?

Sadra: It is MUPRA budget, trying to figure out the best investment options under the current budget.

Linda: It is for postgraduate research students as a specific group of research students and that has not been done at MQ yet that is why they are requesting the MUPRA funds. The Graduate Research Academy (GRA) has funding to support half of that, but they do require additional funding to reach full funding. It is a happy coincidence that the SRC has additional funds under the MUPRA budget that might be directed toward this initiative.

Amanda: How are the results of research disseminated, who will get access to the research?

Linda: We are happy to share that, and happy to work on a brief about what we would like the market researchers to do and what results we would get. If SRC contributes to funding the results will be shared with the SRC.

Udai: \$70,000 seems expensive for this kind of research. What specific research methodologies would this money be spent on?

Linda: It is fairly standard as a cost and depends on the scope of the research. What will you include in the research? will it be qualitative and quantitative research? Will there be deep diving into focus groups etc?

Sadra: That is why the cost is an approximation, because we don't know yet because we haven't done it yet.

Jayden: Is there a reason we're trying to spend our MUPRA funding? It isn't a problem if we don't spend it all in our term? Is there not an argument to preserve it rather than use it for costs in other departments at the university.

Sadra: There isn't any tradition to pass the funds on to the next SRC, we are losing the money by not spending the money, the best way to support students is to fund these kinds of programs. We can achieve more with these projects than holding on to the money.

Jayden: Previous SRC would sponsor students to go to overseas conferences from the MUPRA funds. So, the MUPRA budget was the only budget these students could draw from to attend these conferences. This is an unusual subsidy for the SRC to provide to a different arm of the university.

Sadra: There hasn't been a lot of demand for the conference grants, 5 max per year. We still have money left for those grants even if we do pay these initiatives out.

Udai: The university would like to rationalise these two budgets together, so the comparison should be is this a prudent use of \$25 – 35,0000. If we believe this is a poor use of funds we should not spend it just because we can.

Jayden: Money we spend in that budget is not recurring funds. We are spending a significant amount of money to basically assist an arm of the university in their decision-making process in what programs they might fund in the future. Not necessarily a good use of money by the SRC when that money could be spent on students.

Sadra: We have enough money to support both initiatives and the conference grants.

Jayden: If we consolidate the funds does that mean SRC gets an increased annual budget?

Response: No.

Online Vote:

amanda oneill 07:11 PM:
in favour

Curtis Micallef 07:11 PM:
in favour

Jayden Whaites 07:11 PM:
against

Kaitlin York 07:11 PM:
Against

Fatima Khan 07:12 PM:
against

Elizabeth Christie 07:12 PM:
in favour

In Person Vote:

Sadra Yousefi: In favour
Jarrod Currey: Against
Udai Kamath: Against

Motion does not pass.

7.6 SRC Sleep-pods (For discussion)

Rosemary: The SRC pods must be moved at the discretion of the SRC. The pods will not fit inside the SRC Office however several recommendations have been suggested. The SRC must remember that once the pods have been moved, they will stay in their new location permanently.

Recommendations:

- Library: How many do the library want to take? (Rosie to follow up) motion can be refashioned to fit what the library would take.
- 1 in the SRC office, then priority to the library then 1 to the other spaces.
- 3 in library, 1 in the office, remainder in MUSE.

Action Item: Bella to follow up with the library staff to see how many of the pods they can accommodate.

8. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

8.1. Marketing and Communications Subcommittee

Kaitlin is now automatically the chair of Marketing and Communications subcommittee, may need to recruit into the subcommittee. Jayden might be on the M&C subcommittee.

- Jayden added to the subcommittee.

8.2. Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), Budget and Finance Subcommittee

Sadra, no additional information to provide as information was provided during the treasurers report.

8.3. Mental Health Subcommittee

At the previous meeting the subcommittee elected to put forward a motion at this meeting.

Action Item: Bella to send Jarrod information on the motion considered at the last meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Grapeshot showcase and engagement piece (*For discussion*):

Rosemary: We are trying to determine the nature of relationship between Grapeshot and the SRC and discern whether there is any appetite within the SRC to write up a piece for Grapeshot that covers the wins of the SRC throughout 2021 -2022. Rosemary will be looking to engage the editor of Grapeshot within the coming weeks to pitch the idea of an SRC piece in one of the latter issues of Grapeshot for 2022. We would also like to encourage the Grapeshot editors to attend SEC meetings to encourage engagement and dialogue.

Action Item: Bella to invite Grapeshot for next meeting and Rosie to engage Grapeshot for the showcase piece.

9.2 Additional Item: SRC End of Year Report

Jayden: Good for the SRC to do a 2 or 3 pager with the SRC report for achievements and wins and a one pager on plan for future works going into next year. The paper could be presented to council. Report to be compiled after the final meeting at the end of the year.

Action item: Bella to provide Udai with previous SRC End of Year Report.

9.3 Additional Item: Student Group Reaffiliation Update

Udai: Student Groups affiliation: Reaffiliation is open for immediate reaffiliation, once that action is sent through it is likely to be granted.

Without reaffiliation Student Groups lose access to:

- Room bookings
- Funding
- Insurance

Affiliation will continue throughout the year, the groups who affiliate in 2022 will be affiliated for the year (will not have to reaffiliate in 2023).

At the final meeting for the year could I request that all SRC members attend in person – please bring motions to that last meeting so there can be movement on motions and we can be productive going into our last session on the SRC.

10. QUESTION TIME

Library Opening Hours and Usage:

- Expanding library hours and increasing resources at the library – increasing the access to online textbooks.
- Udai forwarded the survey data to the library for consideration (Bella to resend).

Action Item: Bella to request data from the library staff.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be held Thursday, November 3, 2022. Agenda items are due by 27 October 2022 via e-mail to SRCSecretariat@mq.edu.au.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8:04 pm.