

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 19 October 2017 in the Academic Senate Room, Level 3, 16 Wally's Walk (C8A).

PRESENT:

Fiona Reed (Chair)	Runali Kamble	Caitlin Rhodes
Alex Cullen	Kimberley La	Paul Russell
James Cummins	Milind Lokhande	Anthony Ryan
Aidan Galea	Timothy Mathew	Aditya Srivastava
Alexander Hablutzel	Suren Missaghi	Dee Zegarac
Sam Hurrell	Mahyar Pourzand	

APOLOGIES:

Kim Guerin	Tamara Paulin	Zoe Williams
Sarah McCabe	Cissy Shen	

IN ATTENDANCE: Professor Leigh Wood - Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)
Eric Daro, Director, Individual Giving, Office of Advancement
Megan Kemmis - University Committee Secretary and Manager of Secretariat Services
Nicole Saunders, Manager, Campus Engagement

ABSENT:

Stacey Broll	Grace Goddard	Zwe Paing Sett
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SECRETARIAT: Air Sinthawalai, Governance Officer

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Milind Lokhande provided an Acknowledgement of Country on behalf of the SRC.

ACTION:

James Cummins will provide the Acknowledgement of Country at the next SRC meeting, 13 November 2017.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and noted that apologies had been received from Ms Kim Guerin, Sarah McCabe, Tamara Paulin, Cissy Shen and Ms Zoe Williams.

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

- Professor Leigh Wood - Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students)
- Eric Daro, Director - Individual Giving, Office of Advancement
- Megan Kemmis - University Committee Secretary and Manager of Secretariat Services
- Nicole Saunders – Manager, Campus Engagement

and confirmed that a quorum was achieved.

3. REPORT ON STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Members noted the update from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) on student experience at the University, including an open invitation to SRC members to meet with Professor Wood to discuss any concerns. The times and location will be provided to members shortly.

Professor Wood departed the meeting at 5.46pm.

4. CHANGES TO SRC MEMBERSHIP

Members were informed of the following:

- the results of the recent interviews to fill Equity & Diversity (E&D) positions on the SRC:
 - Distance Students Representative – Alex Cullen;
 - Postgraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Human Sciences – Tamara Paulin; and
 - Postgraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Science and Engineering – Runali Kamble;
- Resignations have been received and the following positions are vacant:
 - Major Student Organisation Representative;
 - Student Representative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students; and
 - Student Representative for Women Students;

Members noted advice from the Chair regarding the current process for appointing Equity and Diversity (E&D) members on the SRC and the process for filling casual vacancies in the E&D positions which has been endorsed by the previous SRC and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students). The Chair, who is also the Chair of the Selection Panel, affirmed the Selection Panel members' independency and professionalism.

RESOLUTION:

The Committee resolved to endorse appointing the next best candidate for each position from the interviews held in May 2017. Proposed by Suren Missaghi and seconded by Sam Hurrell. Thirteen (13) votes in favour and two (2) abstentions.

Aidan Galea arrived and attended the meeting at 5.51pm.

5. PRESENTATIONS BY INVITED GUESTS

5.1 GIVING DAY CAMPAIGN

Eric Daro, Director, Individual Giving, Office of Advancement, was in attendance and spoke to the Giving Day campaign. Members noted the campaign had been launched in Canada and used by the University of Sydney and were invited to meet with the consultant on this project, Justin Ware in the "Pink Room", on level 3 at MUSE, on Wednesday 8 November from 3 pm to 4 pm.

Mr Daro departed the meeting at 6.07 pm.

6. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Suren Missaghi, Alexander Hablutzel, Sam Hurrell, Paul Russell and Dee Zegarac declared perceived conflicts of interest in relation to item 13.1 'Grant For Macquarie University Tamil Society's Basketball Tournament' and 14.4 'Funding Application Recommendations'.

7. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

7.1 ADOPTION OF UNSTARRED ITEMS

The items not starred for discussion were noted, and where appropriate, adopted as recommended.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

8.1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18 SEPTEMBER 2017

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held 18 September 2017 as a true and accurate record.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.1 SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

The Committee noted the completed action items and updates on other outstanding items:

- Improved Dialogue with Student Body – ongoing, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been drafted and will be referred to University Bodies for consultation to ensure it is constitutionally valid. The document will be presented to the SRC for approval at the next meeting.
- Extended Hours of E6A Computer Laboratories and Library Access – ongoing, Library has commenced a trial opening period from 5am to 1am daily. Concerns regarding safety and public transport for students were discussed as the Macquarie University train station closes at 1am.
- Extended Hours of MUSE and Bassline access – completed, the hours have been extended to 7 am to 10 am on weekdays and 10 am to 6 pm on weekends.

10. UPDATE FROM SRC TREASURER

10.1 Expenditure Report

The Committee noted the updated October 2017 expenditure report which was tabled at this meeting.

11. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

The Committee noted that no meeting of University Council has been held since the last SRC meeting.

12. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)

The Committee noted that no meeting of SEC has been held since the last SRC meeting.

ACTION:

SRC Secretariat to seek the Chancellor Office's permission for SRC reports deadline extension.

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Chair noted her support for the active engagement and discussion of important SRC issues through social media platforms. The members of SRC were reminded that in order for these matters to be considered as formal decisions of the SRC, they must be discussed, minuted and where appropriated, formal resolutions recorded by the SRC Secretariat.

The Chair confirmed that any urgent matters can be dealt with by circular resolution, via the Secretariat email and if approved by the Chair.

13.1 GRANT FOR MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY TAMIL SOCIETY'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Paper submitted by Suren Missaghi, Undergraduate Student Representative.

This item was considered under item 14.4.

13.2 UNIVERSITY DATA REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Paper submitted by Mahyar Pourzand, Student Representative from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background.

Following the release of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) report on sexual assault and harassment at Australian universities earlier in the year, Universities Australia (UA) committed to another nation-wide survey in three years' time. Eight other universities have decided that another survey in three years' time is not sufficient and have committed to make their individual data available which shows commitment to this very important issue.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved to recommend the University commit to releasing the number of sexual harassment and sexual assault complaints and incidents that they receive each year. Proposed by Mr Pourzand and seconded by Mr Anthony Ryan. All in favour.

13.3 QUEERSPACE GRANT

Paper submitted by Paul Russell, GLBTIQ Students Representative

Members noted the submission and that Campus Engagement has already allocated funds for some of the proposed Queerspace items which reflects the amount of financial support needed from the SRC. Mr Russell was recommended to defer this motion until the next meeting after a consultation with Campus Engagement.

13.4 SRC MARRIAGE EQUALITY STATEMENT

Paper submitted by Paul Russell, GLBTIQ Students Representative.

Members noted that the previous SRC had discussed this matter on 28 September 2015 and the resulting statement was signed by the Chair on behalf of the SRC members only, not representing the views of the entire student body. The statement was then forwarded to the Australian Marriage Equality by the former GLBTIQ Students Representative. During this meeting, the referred statement was circulated to members by email for comments.

The Chair reminded members that should a working group be formed to review the existing statement and should there be changes to it, the final draft needs to be circulated by the SRC Secretariat for voting and signed by the Chairperson prior to any publication.

The committee noted the sensitivity of this discussion and members requested the vote be conducted by a secret ballot.

RESOLUTION:

SRC members voted to express support for Marriage Equality. Nine members voted in favour, six members voted against and one member abstained.

13.5 NOMINATION OF SRC MEMBERS FOR 2018 SSAF FUNDING ALLOCATION

Paper submitted by Kim Guerin, Campus Life Director

Under the Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines, universities are required to have a formal process of consultation with student representatives and each year Campus Life engages with nominees of the SRC regarding the specific uses of proceeds from any compulsory student services and amenities fee.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved unanimously to nominate four members to consult with Campus Life on the allocation of SSAF funding for 2018 (the Assistant Chairperson (James Cummins), the Treasurer (Dee Zegarac), the Assistant Secretary (Alexander Hablutzel); and SSAF, SRC Budget and Finance Sub-Committee's Chairperson and Major Student Organisations Representative (Aidan Galea)). Sam Hurrell to be the alternate representative of the Treasurer if she is not available. All in favour.

14. UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

Members were reminded to ensure changes to membership are updated with the SRC Secretary.

ACTION:

SRC Secretariat to circulate sub-committee information to the new members.

14.1 INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-COMMITTEE

There was no report provided at this meeting. However it was noted that the members will meet before the end of 2017.

14.2 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that due to Isuru Weerasooriya's resignation, the current Marketing and Communication Sub-Committee members are in the process of appointing the new chairperson. During the meantime, Mahyar Pourzand will monitor the SRC social accounts.

Members noted the Health Week updates.

14.3 STUDENT ELECTIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that the members met and discussed proposals for the filling of E&D positions on the SRC, proportional representation for faculties, approval of campaigning materials, allocation of students to faculties for voting, proxy voting at meetings and open sessions at meetings.

14.4 STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE (SSAF), SRC BUDGET AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that the Sub-Committee meeting was held on 11 October 2017 to review grant applications and the recommendations were circulated as a late paper.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved to accept the SRC Budget, Finance, SSAF Sub-committee's recommendations:

- approve the following funding applications:
 - Geoscience Society (\$1,200 for 2017 Macquarie University Science and Engineering Ball);
 - Clinical Science Society (\$1,055 for 'Racing Towards a Cure' – orienteering gala day to raise funds for MQ Cancer Research Programs);
 - Chess League (\$650 for end of semester party/ movie screening/ chess event);
 - Debating Society (\$1,000 - registration subsidy for World University Debating Championships);
 - Jesse Slok (conference costs only ~\$2,300); and
 - Tamil Sangam Society (\$500 for basketball tournament).
- defer Maddison O'Grady-Lee's application until the next sub-committee meeting to be held in November in order to get further information; and
- decline the funding request by Disney Appreciation Society \$580 as the event has passed.

Twelve (12) votes in favour and four (4) abstentions.

15. QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 ASSESSMENT POLICY POST-IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW: REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

Members noted the paper submitted by Dr Mitch Parsell, Chair, Senate Learning and Teaching Committee (SLTC) and were asked to provide feedback to the SLTC on the proposed amendments to the Assessment Policy arising from a post-implementation review of the policy via sltc@mq.edu.au by 31 October 2017.

16.2 UNIVERSITY'S ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2018-2020

An invitation was extended to attend a briefing on the University's Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2020 on 31st October from 2 pm to 3 pm – contact Anthony Ryan (Student Representative for Students with a Disability) for more information.

16.3 SRC Office

Campus Engagement is working on updating the office door's signage.

17. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:05 pm.

18. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee will be held on Monday 13 November 2017.

CONFIRMED as a true record.

MS FIONA REED
CHAIR