

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 2:00pm on Friday 15th December 2023 in 16WW-131-Bara and via Teams.

PRESENT: <i>*Attended in Person</i>	Kathy Htun –Faculty of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Representative Manasbi Poudel –Council Representative Coco Chen –Macquarie Business School Undergraduate Representative Aaryan Shah –Disability Representative
<i>* Attended via Zoom</i>	Rhys Collyer – Postgraduate Representative Reece Nuttall – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative Annelise Pollard – LGBTQIA+ Representative Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative Mariella Herberstein – Dean of Students
APOLOGIES:	Will Glen - Arts Undergraduate Representative Aaron Douglas – Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Representative
ABSENT:	Nehal Malakar – Representative for Official University Sport

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

CHAIR: Ria Prasad/Bella Galea

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Secretary commenced meeting at 2:02 PM. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative 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 to be determined to provide an Acknowledgement of Country at the next meeting.

1.2. Chair's Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies

The Secretary noted that apologies were received from Will Glen and Aaron Douglas.

1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative declared a conflict of interest and will abstain from voting on the **3rd Global Peace Summit by Humanitarian Affairs Asia** grant.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1.** The Student Representative Committee resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

- 3.1** The Council Member provided updates from the University Council:
- The Council discussed marketing strategies, inclusion policies which could be implemented to attract and retain new student cohorts.

4. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Grants for Approval (Discussion and Vote)

4.1.1 Hannah Vogel to attend the 3rd Global Peace Summit by Humanitarian Affairs Asia (Discussion and Vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- The Postgraduate Representative proposed a countermotion the motion recommending the SRC provide \$500 in funding to support the student in lieu of approving the entire grant.
- Faculty of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Representative and Council Representative discussed and supported a countermotion to partially approve the grant.

Resolution:

The Student Representative Committee voted to amend the grant and accept the countermotion providing the student with \$500 in funding.

Action Item:

The Secretary to communicate this outcome to the grant recipient.

4.1.2 Vanessa Penna Goncalves to attend the Symposium of Sociality in Spiders

(Discussion and Vote)

The Student Representative Committee discussed the grant:

- The Postgraduate Representative discussed the expense associated with the grant and proposed a grants committee where funding arrangements can be discussed and vetted prior to SRC meetings.
- The Council member supports the creation of a sub-committee focused on the delegation of funding and budgetary provision.
- The Secretary reiterated that this style of grant is typical for SRC consideration.
- The Student Representative Committee raised concerns about the cost associated with the fulfilment of the grant for one individual.
- The Chair proposed a motion to request additional information prior to a vote on this grant.

Resolution:

The Student Representative Committee voted to request more information from the applicant before voting on the grant.

Action:

The Secretary to request more information from the grant applicant.

4.2 Student & Societies Grant *(Discussion)*

The Student Representative Committee discussed the item:

- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative opened the discussion to the SRC to examine how the grants process could be improved for students and SRC members including through:
 - The application process;
 - The way the SRC receives information related to grants; and
 - Gathering all required information from in a timely manner to reduce follow up requests.
- The representative proposed five domains of grant applications:
 - Professional development
 - Academic development
 - Leadership development
 - Volunteering/Community development
 - Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- All domains are to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Council member queried the existence of a separate budget to fund individual and student group items.
- The Secretary clarified the modality of the SRC budget and reiterated that the SRC is not restricted to the approval of grants but can also consider funding submitted through formal papers or raised as motions to the SRC.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative raised concerns of the restrictions place on the SRC in the event of devising a budget to limit spending on grants.

Action:

- The Secretary to send out the proposed grants revision structure as submitted by the Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative for review and feedback to facilitate an update to the existing grants procedure.
- Once the full SRC are in agreement about the changes, the document may be disseminated to the Student Groups for feedback and consultation.

4.3 Critical Studies Conference (Discussion)

Action:

- Discussion deferred until next meeting.

4.4 Reconception Festival (Discussion)

- The Council Member proposes the revival of the Reconception Festival as per their campaign for their SRC position.
- The member explained that the festival was previously considered a key engagement event for students and can be used to market the University positively for potential future students.
- The member outlined that this event may provide a space domestic and international students to connect on campus.
- Member is seeking endorsement from the SRC to support the revival of the event with staff and student participation.
- The Secretary responded to reiterate that the event was previously discontinued due to significant safety concerns for students, staff and members of the public in attendance.
- The member supports funding being provided by the University to run this event.
- The Secretary explained that there would be an expectation that the SRC would provide some funding toward the event if it were to be approved.
- The member has raised the concept with Council, the matter was deferred pending SRC member selection.
- The member to raise at Council meeting in February 2024.
- The Postgraduate member reiterated that safety is key and the event would be an excellent opportunity to create a vibrant campus for students.

Action:

- The Secretary to consult with the Chairperson to extend an invitation to the Head of Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging to discuss the prospect of reviving the Reconception Festival with the SRC.

4.5 Orientation Week Stall (Discussion)

- The Council member recommended the SRC provide a DJ, a film festival or a fireworks display for the enjoyment of students attending O-Week to promote a celebratory atmosphere.

- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative proposed engaging members of the Dance Society to provide a performance for students during O-Week to provide representation for Student Groups more broadly.
- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative reiterated the importance of providing some compensation (either monetary or via gift voucher) to Student Groups for their support and involvement in SRC initiatives.
- The Secretary confirmed a gift voucher could be appropriate in return for performance or engagement.
- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative recommended the provision of eskies and/or coolers for the Student Groups to store cool drinks for students during warm weather.
- All members agree that the SRC needs to be more present at O-Week to raise awareness and engagement of the SRC across campus.
- All members are interested in investigating current SRC branding and revising logos and marketing material in 2024.

Action:

- The Secretary to follow up with Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging and then investigate whether this is appropriate for the SRC to sponsor and provide.
- The Secretary to convene an O-Week subcommittee to organise O-Week activities with interested SRC members.
- The Council Member to coordinate SRC member profiles for publication on the SRC Instagram account.
- The Secretary to request the printing of SRC shirts ahead of O-Week.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Faculty of Science and Engineering Representative raised concerns about changes to Student Group operations (including the introduction of a tiered system) during 2023 and requested information on any upcoming changes in 2024.
- Members of the SRC raised concerns about the Student Groups team communications, correspondence, conduct and affiliation requirements.
- The Secretary outlined procedures to escalate concerns and complaints.
- The Council Member proposed the idea of running information panels and interactive events for the SRC and the student base.
- The Secretary discussed meeting dates, the SRC proposed January 15th as the date of the next SRC meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be January 15th, 2024, 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 3:51 PM.