



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 3:00pm on Tuesday, 30th July 2024 on campus.

<p>PRESENT: <i>*Attended in person</i></p>	<p>SRC Members Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative (Chair) Aaron Douglass - Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Representative Anna Smith – Official University Sport Representative Annalise Pollard – LGBTQIA+ Representative Hansani Sathsara Sandukalani Daluwatta Galappaththige – HDR Representative</p> <p>Staff Professor Leanne Piggott, Dean of Students Rosemary Mikleic, Manager of Operations, Dean of Students Bella Galea, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (acting Secretary)</p>
<p>APOLOGIES:</p>	<p>Kathy Htun –Faculty of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Representative Coco Chen –Macquarie Business School Undergraduate Representative Rhys Collyer – Postgraduate Representative Aaryan Shah – Disability Representative Reece Nuttall – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative</p>
<p>ABSENT:</p>	<p>Wanjing Xiao – International Student Representative Will Glen – Faculty of Arts Representative</p>

SECRETARY: Bella Galea, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (acting Secretary)

CHAIR: Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair commenced meeting at 3:02 PM and provided the Acknowledgment of Country as per the text provided by the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy).

1.2. Chair’s Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies

The Chair noted that apologies and welcomed the staff members present.

1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

None declared.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1.** The Student Representative Committee resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the amendment of two of the SRC members' names in the record to reflect accurate spelling.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Dean of Students Open Forum to the 2024 SRC Members

- The SRC were introduced to the Dean of Students and prompted to provide their reasons for joining the SRC and the changes they wish to support within the Macquarie University Community.

3.2 Housing Affordability and Cost of Living Pressures:

- The Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Representative shared their interest in activism on campus related to housing affordability, food security, and other cost of living pressures faced by students.

Action Item:

- The Secretary to invite the Head of Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging to the next SRC meeting to discuss current university food security activations for students, the role of student groups in fostering connectivity and relationships, and current measures for addressing cost of living pressures for students.

3.3 Security Issues faced by female-identifying students on campus:

- The Chair (Women's Representative) identified security issues for female-identifying students on campus. The representative would like to see the University install additional lighting in specific areas of campus where individuals have expressed they feel unsafe.

Action Item:

- The Dean of Students to liaise with Property to discuss practical options related to lighting and security on campus after dark.

3.4 Connectivity and Engagement on Campus:

- The LGBTQIA+ Representative expressed their interest in fostering a more connected community on campus.
 - The representative identified the relationship between the SRC and Grapeshot is something that may be beneficial to connectivity and recommended each member of the SRC is interviewed by Grapeshot to enhance awareness of the SRC on campus.

- The representative also identified Grapeshot as a vessel through which the SRC could support promote projects and grant funding to students.
- The Dean of Students explained that a new space in 10 Hadenfeld Avenue is being designed as an engagement hub for students, and that it may be an appropriate venue to hold SRC forums/consultations with students in future.
- The Dean of Students noted the space includes a disused café space and seating area, which will be used as part of the Food Hub initiative. The SRC may wish to support, participate in, and raise awareness about these activations.
- The SRC and Dean of Students discussed the possibility of activations in which students provide feedback to the SRC in exchange for vouchers for campus food outlets.
- The Dean of Students also outlined current Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives including the student breakfast bar, previous initiatives including subsidised toasties and coffee.
- The Dean of Students raised the possibility of working with U@MQ to fund the provision of some subsidised food items for sale at university outlets.

Action Item:

- The Secretary to connect the SRC with Grapeshot Executive team to facilitate relationship and progress interview project.

Food Insecurity and University Sport:

- The Official University Sport Representative also raised issues of food insecurity for students at the University, advocating for the development of a connection point between the SRC and students in an open forum setting to garner feedback and guide project development.
- The Official University Sport Representative also noted equity issues associated with the price of Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre membership and casual access.

3.5

Action Item:

- The Secretariat to liaise with the Manager of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, University Sport Manager and to discuss current initiatives for domestic and international student use and equitable access of Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre.

Outreach Projects:

- The Official University Sport Representative would also like to be more involved with outreach projects and funding including those like the ‘Birthing Kit’ grant supported by the SRC in early 2024.
- The Dean of Students noted current Student Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives including the student breakfast bar, previous initiatives including subsidised toasties and coffee.
- The Dean of Students floated the idea of SRC training to equip the SRC with skills required to mobilise the student base and direct them toward the SRC with feedback.
- The Women’s representative recommended an SRC social event mirroring those delivered by Student Groups or in partnership with the Student Groups (such as an SRC Ball or regular movie night).
 - Students at these events should be asked to come prepared with issues they would like to see addressed on campus e.g., “What causes would you like to see the SRC support or fundraise for?”

3.6

- The Dean of Students and Secretary raised the upcoming Sextember event as an opportunity for the SRC to host a stall and distribute SRC branded Sexual Health packs to students on campus.
- The Secretary also notified the SRC of the October Healthy Living activation for consideration ahead of the next SRC meeting.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to scope external training and support to equip the SRC with the skills to undertake a student political campaign as part of members professional development.
- The Secretary to arrange SRC Sexual Health packs.
- The SRC to respond to the Secretary with availability to host the SRC Stall at Sextember.
- The Secretary to extend an invitation to the University Sport Manager to discuss initiatives for Healthy Living October.

4.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be 9:00 AM on 28 August for 1 hour, all agenda items must be submitted to the SRCSecretariat@mq.edu.au.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 3:54 PM.