

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Advisory Board (SAB) held at 5.40 pm on the 23 April 2015 in the Senate Room, Lincoln Building C8A, Macquarie University.

PRESENT: Fiona Reed (Chair) Lloyd Jones Jacob Rock
Nicola Amys Bradley Lewer Eleanor Sanderson
Kristofer Gilmour Janson Lim Benjamin Vassallo
Harrison Howard Gemma Quinn Yi Wong

APOLOGIES: Kristina Hewetson Arpita Ray Paris Manson
Zain Krishna Ansari

ABSENT: Ned Barsi Nathan Falzon Kathryn Glover
Seung Hoon Ha Avia Madar Lachlan Woods
Vikas Veerareddy David Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: James Burman – Project Officer – Office of the DVC (Corporate Engagement & Advancement) for item 2.3.

SECRETARIAT: Amanda Phelps, University Committee Secretary

1 MEETING OPENING

1.1 WELCOME, QUORUM AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members to the last the Student Advisory Board meeting of the current membership term and noted at the start of the meeting at 5:40pm there was two members short of the required quorum of eleven members.

A quorum was present for the discussion of items 2.1, 2.2, and items 3.1 – 4.

The Chair noted that apologies had been received from Kristina Hewetson, Paris Manson, Arpita Ray and Zain Krishna Ansari.

In the absence of a quorum the meeting began with a presentation about the Illuminate Festival from James Burman from the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement & Advancement), the minutes are recorded in the order that they appear on the agenda.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 5 March 2015 were confirmed by the nine members in attendance and accepted as read.

1.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Discussion of this item was deferred.

2. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2.1 DISABILITY STUDENTS

Bradley Lewer spoke to his submitted paper and provided background to his claims against the University in relation to the treatment of disabled students. He advised the Board that this issue in relation to decision making around disabled students was a matter being investigated by the Macquarie University Grievance Committee, NSW Ombudsman and Anti-Discrimination Board and claimed that he has attempted to follow the University's complaint processes.

The following claims were detailed:

1. That there have been inoperative computers or computers in need of repair in the library for months.
2. Desire for a dedicated space, noting that Newcastle University has a dedicated space for disabled students.
3. That disabled students have had specific access to spaces reduced.
4. That Macquarie University has breached the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act.

The Chair provided information that had been provided to her directly by Campus Wellbeing and noted that seventeen of the eighteen dedicated space have ergonomic arrangements currently in place. There are currently 1500 students registered with a disability with the University, with a total University population of approximately 36,000 students. The Chair noted that there are approximately 15 - 20 bookable rooms available for all students to access.

The Board was advised of the previous arrangements that had been in place in the old library (which is now known as the MUSE space). Noting that there had been a dedicated space in the old library in 2011 for disabled students and in the new library there was a dedicated space but this space was reallocated in 2014. The current arrangements regarding access to rooms within the library was discussed, noting that there are currently rooms that can be accessed by disabled (and all) students.

Another Board member spoke of his experience in having discussions with JoAnne Sparks and Deidre Anderson regarding the standards of the available rooms in the library not meeting expectations and noted that the results of these discussions were inadequate.

The Board discussed the consumption of food within the library and the Chair noted her advice that food can be consumed in certain areas or with permission. Bradley Lewer suggested that disabled students should be exempt from all rules limiting the consumption of food in the library.

Kristofer Gilmour arrived at 6:27pm at which time a quorum was reached.

The Board were supportive of an overall increase in the services available to disabled students and the repair of equipment, however noted that claims that the University had breached Anti-Discrimination legislation were significant.

The Board discussed the recommendation within the submitted discussion paper; that there be a guarantee that disabled students at Macquarie University would not be discriminated, subjected to any detriment, or denied access to any good or service. The Board noted that they agreed in principle but did not support the current wording of the recommendation.

The Board proposed and considered two separate resolutions in the alternative:

1. That Macquarie University increases funding to the Disability Unit for the purpose of improving services for disability students made in consultation with students with a disability and the SAB disability representative.

The Board unanimously agreed with the proposed resolution.

2. That Macquarie University re-establishes a common room for the disabled student community, equivalent to other community specific rooms on campus, for example Queer Space, Women's Room and the Indigenous students space.

The Board unanimously agreed with the proposed resolution.

2.2 DEMOCRACY PROPOSAL

Bradley Lewer spoke to his submitted paper around his proposal relating to increased democracy, decision making and accountability of the Student Advisory Board (SAB). The Chair noted her concerns that the submitted discussion paper related to matters extending beyond the scope of the Student Advisory Board according to the current SAB Constitution and Charter. The Chair further noted that as part of the process for the development of the current SAB Charter, Constitution and Procedures, approved by University Council on 9 April 2015; that the Charter Review sub-committee of the SAB had been consulted.

One Board member noted that they were not entirely satisfied with the final SAB Constitution and Charter documentation.

The Chair highlighted that the Charter will be reviewed in twelve months' time and that feedback highlighting any issues with the current suite of SAB documentation can be provided.

Bradley Lewer noted his preference in the event that this was to occur, that any disestablishment of the Student Advisory Board should occur democratically and questioned why University Council has this authority.

The Board discussed the proposal and the comments of Bradley Lewer and noted that there is a requirement that a student body (in some form) exists within the University

and therefore concerns around the authority of the University Council to disestablish the current SAB were minimal.

The Board engaged in robust discussions around the role of and current SAB model.

Bradley Lewer requested consideration of his proposed recommendation to elevate the Student Advisory Board powers to a Student Council and promote democracy, student decision making and to act as an independent body to serve the University.

Bradley Lewer's proposal was not seconded by the members of the Board.

RESOLVED:

That discussions and dialogue are facilitated with the University in relation to the appropriate structure and model of SAB that may work more effectively.

2.3 ILLUMINATE FESTIVAL

James Burman who works within the Office of The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement & Advancement) spoke and presented to the Board about the proposed "Illuminate Festival", noting that the final name of this festival would be changing. Background around the conceptual development and the purpose of the weeklong festival to be held in October 2015 was explained to the Board. The objective of the festival was stated as being to increase Macquarie University's point of distinction and events are planned on campus and at offsite locations.

The Board were supportive of the concept and the content presented and suggestions were welcomed around the naming of the event. It was suggested that students currently studying Marketing and other interested students should be encouraged to participate in the staging of events.

The Board suggested including a focus during the event on the achievement of student groups, for example international charity work.

The Board were encouraged to provide their feedback and further consultation between the Board and James was encouraged.

Eleanor Sanderson arrived at 6:07pm at this time the meeting remained inquorate.

ACTION:

The Board Secretary to provide James Burman's contact details to all Student Advisory Board members. That further discussion of this upcoming event occurs at future meetings of the Student Advisory Board.

The presentation from James Burman concluded at 6:11pm at which time the meeting remained inquorate.

3 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOTING

3.1 UPDATES FROM THE SAB SUB-COMMITTEES

The Chair requested verbal updates from the Student Advisory Board sub-committees.

Lloyd Jones advised that discussions were continuing with Ian Robertson in relation to the MUSE sub-committee.

Kristofer Gilmour spoke on behalf of the Marketing and Communication sub-committee and identified the ongoing issues surrounding the development of a SAB logo, noting that this issue had most recently been discussed at the Student Experience Committee of Council meeting on 24 March 2015. The Board were advised that conversations remain ongoing between the sub-committee and Craig Oliver, noting that Craig has discussed this matter with the Head of Marketing, Kathy Vozella.

Kristofer noted at a previous meeting with Marketing they were provided with draft SAB logos created by Board members Janson Lim, all submissions were subsequently rejected by Marketing.

Gemma Quinn advised that Deidre Anderson had requested that Board members contact her directly with any suggestions for the new SAB logo.

ACTION:

That the Board continue discussions with Craig Oliver and Deidre Anderson around the development of a SAB logo; who can provide assistance in discussions with Marketing if required.

That Chair noted that this would be the last meeting of a number of members including Kristofer Gilmour and Gemma Quinn as they had indicated they would not be seeking election.

The Chair also thanked all members in attendance and briefly discussed the aims for the future of the Student Advisory Board.

3.2 SAB ELECTION TIMEFRAME

The Board noted the 2015 Student Advisory Board election timeframe.

3.3 SAB CONSTITUTION, CHARTER AND PROCEDURES APPROVED BY COUNCIL 9 APRIL 2015

The Board noted the Student Advisory Board Constitution, Charter and Procedures had been approved by University Council on 9 April 2015.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Nicola Amys thanked the Chair for her involvement with the Student Advisory Board over the past twelve months.

The Chair reminded members about a request for feedback from Craig Oliver's office regarding the future of Conception Day and indicated to members that they were being asked to participate in a fifteen minute question and answer consultation. The Chair encouraged members to participate in this request for consultation about Conception Day.

The Chair noted that when the new SAB members commence their term in May 2015 one of the first matters for consideration will be to arrange a planning day coordinated by an external facilitator to focus on priorities and the development of strategic goals.

ACTION:

At the start of the new Student Advisory Board membership term a planning day for new members is to be arranged with the assistance of Craig Oliver's team.

5. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed after the new Student Advisory Board membership term commences on 14 May 2015.

CONFIRMED as a true record

**MS FIONA REED
CHAIR**