



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 5.30 pm on the 26 May 2016 in the Council Room, E11A Building, Macquarie University.

PRESENT:	Fiona Reed (Chair)	Sita Khiani	Sinead Simpkins
	Kieren Ash	Chui-Ann Lee	Ryan Thalari
	Shantell Bailey	Janson Lim	Freya Wadlow
	Alistair Booth	Budhaditya Majumdar	Yi Wong
	Andrew Brennan	Lachlan McGrath	Timothy Zhang
	Elizabeth Carter	Jacqueline Olling	
	Lachlan Greenberg	Sherry Shi	
APOLOGIES:	Stefanie Costi	Eleanor Sanderson	
	Tung Dinh	David Yao	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Natalie Dainer, Campus Engagement Manager Anna Glen, Academic Senate Student Representative Kim Guerin, Director, Campus Life		
ABSENT:	Freya Wadlow		
SECRETARIAT:	Air Sinthawalai, Governance Officer		

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 WELCOME, QUORUM AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed new SRC members and noted that apologies had been received from Stefanie Costi, Tung Dinh, Eleanor Sanderson and David Yao.

Jacqueline Olling attended this meeting via Skype.

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

- Kim Guerin – Director, Campus Life
- Natalie Dainer – Campus Engagement Manager
- Anna Glen – Academic Senate Student Representative

The Chair confirmed that a quorum was achieved. Members expressed concerns about the attendance at SRC meetings, achieving a quorum and sought advice on the resignation process should any members choose to voluntarily resign from their positions on the SRC.

ACTION:

The SRC Secretariat to ensure that members who are absent from SRC meetings are reminded of the constitution and their obligation to SRC.

The SRC Secretariat to advise the process for resigning from the SRC.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting of 4 April 2016 were adopted as a true and accurate record. All in favour with 2 abstentions.

1.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Updates on the action items from the meeting of 27 October 2015:

- Item 3.8 Fridges for student groups – The fridges have been purchased and Campus Engagement has liaised with the SRC representatives regarding locations. The fridges are expected to arrive within a few weeks.

Updates on the action items from the meeting of 30 November 2015:

- Item 3.5 Legal Service Centre at Macquarie University – The Committee was advised that the Law School will be running a social justice clinic in 2017 for one of its PACE units. The proposal of hiring one lawyer to be available one day per week to assist students in general, is under discussion. The length of the process is subject to available office space and budget.

The Committee also noted that the Law Society and the SRC representatives will be collaborating for Legal Seminars. Brodie Purdon, Law Society Social Justice Director, and the SRC representatives are currently planning an official opening ceremony for the Student Legal Service (SLS) in August 2016.

Updates on the action items from the meeting of 4 April 2016:

- Item 3.1 Revised associated documents to the SRC Constitution – all SRC/MSO members were reminded to sign the consent to become a member form and to submit the form to the SRC Secretariat as soon as possible.
- Item 5 Changing the frequency of the SRC meeting schedule to monthly– the meeting invitations have been circulated to all SRC members and Senate Student Representatives, completed.

Kieren Ash arrived and joined the meeting at 5.53pm.

2. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)

From the SEC meeting on 24 May 2016, the Committee was advised that:

- Issues with disability access to certain buildings and facilities was noted and will be referred to Facilities Management immediately.
- The progress on the Student Journey Mapping Project which aims to provide a better understanding of the end to end academic journey of a student was reported.
- The Committee noted the Student System Upgrade project which identified that existing current systems and infrastructure are not sufficiently agile to support an evolving academic model. A tender process will be initiated later this year.
- Initiatives are being developed for an online enrolment process to ensure that students feel welcomed and are embedded into life on campus.

It was suggested that more activities for Postgraduate students should be included during Orientation weeks. SRC Postgraduate Student Representatives expressed their interest in being involved in the planning of the S2 Orientation.

ACTION:

The SRC Secretariat to invite the Orientation Program Manager to attend the SRC meeting on 27 June 2016 to provide a presentation on S2 Orientation Planning.

The Committee noted that Dr Alisha Sial has graduated and therefore her position as one of the SRC representatives on the SEC is vacant. Following the elections of two MSO members to sit on the SRC, the call for nominations for one SRC representative on the SEC will commence.

Ryan Thalari arrived and joined the meeting at 6.05pm.

3. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE SENATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON SRC

The paper submitted by Lachlan McGrath, Undergraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Human Sciences and the SRC Treasurer, was noted.

Members discussed the importance of Senate Student Representatives involvement on the SRC as members with full voting rights. The Committee was advised that several of the Senate Student Representatives are active members on the SRC and have made numerous contributions in the past. Without the right to vote Senate Student Representatives on SRC feel disengaged.

Members were reminded that the purpose of having the Senate Student Representatives present at the SRC meetings is to create and maintain the interaction between the two governing bodies. This relationship can be developed by Senate Student Representatives attending SRC meetings and sharing their comments and recommendations.

Members suggested that meetings should be arranged so that all student representatives from all Committees and Boards are invited to meet and discuss their ideas in order to improve student's experience at the University. Ms Guerin supported the idea and suggested that two meetings per year may be arranged and that the Chair of Academic Senate was keen to engage with the SRC.

Members were reminded that regardless of the outcome of this motion, there is a process of changing the constitution which could take some time.

Mr McGrath proposed the withdrawal of this motion as it requires further discussion and consultation before being considered by SRC.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the contributions made by all Senate Student Representatives to the SRC throughout the year.

The SRC noted that Mr McGrath withdrew the motion and would seek further consultation on this matter outside this meeting.

ACTION:

The SRC Secretariat to pass on SRC acknowledgement and appreciation for the contributions of the Senate Student Representatives via the Chair of Academic Senate.

4. UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

The Chair addressed the importance of sub-committees scheduling meetings prior to the SRC meetings so that matters could progress with agility in the future.

4.1 MAJOR STUDENT ORGANISATION (MSO) SUB-COMMITTEE

The MSO sub-committee has not met since the previous SRC meeting.

The Committee was informed that the casual vacancies on the MSO have been filled and the results have been published on the MSO webpage. Members requested the list of all new SRC and MSO members who have been elected and appointed recently.

ACTION:

The SRC Secretariat to provide the updated SRC and MSO membership list to all SRC members.

The SRC Secretariat to provide the new constitution replacing the Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association (MUPRA) and its membership list.

4.2 STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE (SSAF) SUB-COMMITTEE

Updates from the SRC Treasurer:

- The funds for the Equity and Diversity student group have been granted.
- A working group is considering the possibility of donating unused funds to SRC oriented events such as Conception Day. The working group is scheduled to meet in the near future to plan a large social event in 2016.
- It is yet to be determined whether the cost of the SRC elections BBQ should be paid from the SRC budget.
- Guidelines and criteria for Student Groups grant funding is in progress. The Committee noted the importance of the involvement of more student groups.

ACTION:

The SRC Treasurer to create and implement the guidelines and criteria for Student Group grant funding and to present the budget report at the next meeting.

The Committee was advised that the SRC has proposals for scholarship funds from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) but has yet to receive any updates. The members were informed that the current SSAF information is available on the University website.

ACTION:

Campus Life to follow up on the scholarship funds request and provide the information at the next meeting.

4.3 SRC BUDGET AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chair suggested that the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) and the Budget and Finance sub-committees be consolidated.

RESOLVED:

The SRC resolved to consolidate the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) and the Budget and Finance sub-committees.

4.4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee was advised that the SRC social media channels are doing well. However, more involvement from all members involved in SRC events is needed in order to better represent the SRC profile.

The concern about an alleged breach of the SRC constitution and charter by SRC members was raised. The members questioned the definition and level of confidentiality on SRC matters discussed at SRC meetings and what can be disclosed to the public prior to the publication of meeting minutes on the University website.

The Committee noted that any Grapeshot articles related to the SRC are reviewed by the Editorial Board, which includes current SRC members as Board members, and Campus Life prior to publication.

The Chair advised members that allegations which may cause serious consequences to an individual must be investigated thoroughly and supported by evidence to substantiate any claims. A determination should not be made on the issues raised at this meeting without proper evidence nor guidance from the Office of the General Counsel.

ACTION:

The Chair to discuss with the Office of the General Counsel for guidance and appropriate recommendations to be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

4.5 PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee was advised of the following:

- The Rainbow Flag was raised during the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) Day celebration. The SRC Sub-Committee is still pursuing having the flag raised on a more permanent basis on campus. However, the Sub-committee was advised that due to the building renovations on campus, this project will likely be delayed. The GLBTIQ Representative will continue to work with the University to achieve this goal.
- The Gender Neutral Bathroom has been approved. After thorough consultation with the community, the sign to be used for the Gender Neutral Bathroom has been confirmed and the GLBTIQ Representative will submit the most popular sign to the Property Office.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Grants for Attendance at Queer Collaborations Conference
The SRC Equity and Diversity Committee are sponsoring four students to attend the Queer Collaborations Conference which will be held from 4-9th July 2016 at Curtin University, Perth. The successful applicants are expected to bring back some of the most promising initiatives that can deliver concrete benefits to the broader university community.
- Approved proposal for funding of student group technological needs
The Committee noted that the former Student Advisory Board approved a proposal for funding of technological equipment, including speakers at its meeting held 5 March 2015. The Committee requested a status update in relation to this proposal and associated action items.

ACTION:

The SRC Secretariat to review and provide a status update on this proposal.

- Alleged student misconduct in examinations at overseas locations
The Committee noted the alleged misconduct of some students at overseas locations, producing fake University student cards and arranging substitutes to sit examinations. The Committee considered this allegation as a serious matter and that the University should take action on the possible breach of the academic honesty policy immediately, considering the Semester 1 2016 final examination period is approaching.

The Chair advised that it would be appropriate to raise this concern with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Registrar) via Ms Guerin.

- National Sorry and Conciliation Day on 26th May
The Committee would like to acknowledge this important day and the traditional custodians of the Aboriginal land upon which the University is situated. The Committee also acknowledged Shantell Bailey's contribution as the Student Representative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students in the past year.

Members were reminded and invited to participate in the Constitutional Reform Forum on 27 May 2016.

6. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.46 pm.

7. NEXT MEETING

Members are reminded that agenda items for the meeting of 27 June 2016 are due by Tuesday 14 June, 5.00pm.

CONFIRMED as a true record.

MS FIONA REED
CHAIR