

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 5.30 pm on Thursday 5 April 2018 in the Meeting Room 4, Level 4, MUSE Building, 18 Wally's Walk.

PRESENT:

Fiona Reed (Chair)	Sam Hurrell	Anthony Ryan
Dmytro Bondarenko	Maddison O'Grady-Lee	Zwe Paing Sett
James Cummins	Samuel Palmer	Cissy Shen
Amanda Fotheringham	Mahyar Pourzand	Aditya Srivastava
Aidan Galea	Caitlin Rhodes	Dee Zegarac
Alexander Hablutzel	Paul Russell	

APOLOGIES:

Alex Cullen	Sarah McCabe
Kimberly La	Suren Missaghi
Milind Lokhande	Tamara Paulin

IN ATTENDANCE: Gail White, Executive Director, Student Engagement and Registrar
Angus Dalton, Editor of Grapeshot
Lachlan McGrath, Past Treasurer of the SRC
Heather Lockwood, Postgraduate Coursework Student Member, Academic Senate
Nicole Saunders, Manager, Campus Engagement

SECRETARIAT: Megan Kemmis, Manager of Secretariat

1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The meeting started at 5:40 pm. James Cummins provided an Acknowledgement of Country on behalf of the SRC.

ACTION:

Anthony Ryan will provide the Acknowledgement of Country at the next SRC meeting, 30 April 2018.

2. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Assistant Chair welcomed members and noted the apologies outlined above.

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

- Gail White - Executive Director, Student Engagement and Registrar
- Angus Dalton - Editor of Grapeshot
- Lachlan McGrath - Past Treasurer of the SRC
- Nicole Saunders – Manager, Campus Engagement
- Heather Lockwood – postgraduate Coursework student member, Academic Senate

and confirmed that a quorum was achieved.

3. **ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA**

3.1 Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Mr Aditya Srivastava declared a conflict of interest regarding agenda item 11.4.1 having participated in the UNIT challenge.

3.2 Adoption of unstarred items

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

4. **PRESENTATIONS BY INVITED GUESTS**

4.1 Grapeshot

Presented by Angus Dalton, Editor of Grapeshot.

Members noted a verbal presentation from Mr Dalton, who provided an overview of Grapeshot's coverage of the SRC, and the roles performed at the University by both organisations. He outlined the agreement signed by editorial staff of Grapeshot, which is based on the MEAA code of ethics, which ensures fair and honest reporting, and the process for providing a right of reply. Additionally he pointed out that the meetings of equivalent student bodies in Australia are open to the public and expressed the hope that both organisations to work together on issues of concern to students at the University.

Members asked Mr Dalton a range of questions, including whether Grapeshot is advocating for an independent student union, and whether Grapeshot would provide the SRC with a dedicated column in future issues. Concerns were raised regarding a perception of bias against the SRC in recent Grapeshot articles and a lack of promotion of the SRC's activities and achievements, and the process for responding to draft articles (right of reply). In response Mr Dalton advised that Grapeshot was committed to fair and honest reporting, but also included articles of a satirical nature. He pointed out that it is standard industry practice for journalists to provide relevant sections of a draft article for a right of reply but not the full article.

Members thanked Mr Dalton for his presentation.

Mr Angus Dalton departed the meeting at 6:07 pm. Ms Cissy Shen joined the meeting at 6:10 pm

4.2 Past Negotiations with Grapeshot

Presented by Lachlan McGrath, Past Treasurer of the SRC.

Mr McGrath advised members that in early 2017 he had proposed inviting Grapeshot to attend SRC meetings, noting that background information on this proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting. At that time Angela Heathcote was the Editor-in-Chief of Grapeshot, and she had not supported the terms of the draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the SRC and Grapeshot so the matter was not pursued. He explained that he had promoted the use of an MoU to help underpin any agreement between the organisations rather than relying on specific relationships between representatives of both groups. Members discussed continuing negotiations with Grapeshot and considering holding open meetings or streaming meetings on Facebook. The Chair pointed out that negotiations with Grapeshot will be difficult while there is a lack of trust between the two organisations.

Members thanked Mr McGrath for attending.

Mr Lachlan McGrath departed the meeting at 6:26 pm

5. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

5.1 Minutes of the Meeting held 5 March 2018

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held 5 March 2018 as a true and accurate record.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

6.1 Summary of Outstanding Action Items

The Committee noted updates on the following items:

- The University's Parking Strategy: Any concerns are to be submitted to the SRC secretariat or directly to the Campus Security Manager by July before the communication package is released;
- Improved Dialogue with Student Body: Mr Cummins to propose a set of parameters and protocols between Grapeshot and the SRC for the Committee's approval – members noted this has been circulated;
- Improved Dialogue with Student Body: Invitation to Grapeshot representative to attend and present at the next SRC meeting – members noted this has been done;
- 2018 Re:Conception: The SRC to finalise its contribution by the end of April – Mr Pourzand added that the first Re:Conception Steering Committee meeting will be held next week;
- Update from SRC Treasurer: A clearer set of instructions to be established and given to all grant applicants – Ms Saunders advised that work is continuing on this item;
- Updating the SRC Website and Facebook Page to Contain the SRC Grant Application Form: Members who need access to update the SRC webpages to liaise with Ms Saunders from Campus Engagement – Mr Hurrell advised that the form is available from the SRC website, and Ms Saunders added that her team will update the website.

7. **UPDATE FROM SRC TREASURER**

Ms Zegarac advised members that the expenses for O-Week are not in the current expenditure report as a new University account is being established for the Committee, leading to some processing delays. She asked whether the travel insurance costs for Ms O'Grady-Lee's visit to the UN would be transferred to

Campus Engagement, but members agreed to leave the item with the SRC given the small amount (\$145) involved.

- 7.1 February 2018 Expenditure Report
The February 2018 Expenditure Report was noted.

8. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Ms Chen advised the Committee that the University Council had met that afternoon but she was unable to attend. She will be meeting with the University Secretary (Emma Lawler) and will provide an update to the next Committee meeting.

9. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)

The Committee noted that the first SEC 2018 meeting scheduled for 27 March 2018 was cancelled.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 10.1 Name Change of Macquarie's Buildings
Paper submitted by Mr James Cummins, Undergraduate Student Representative.

Mr Cummins pointed out that students have been highly critical of the building names changes on social media, and that this issue highlights communication difficulties at the University and problems with collaborating and consulting with students. He recommended that SRC represent the concerns and frustrations of students on this issue and ensure it doesn't happen again. Members discussed the level of communication on this issue, and agreed that staff need to be encouraged to be consistent with their use of the new building codes. Ms Saunders added that the University is aware that the communication of the changes was deficient.

Mr Ryan seconded the motion with 15 voting in favour and 1 against.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved to strongly recommend that Macquarie notes the confusion, negativity and hostility that the building name change has generated. Further, Macquarie should note that the SRC condemns the lack of student consultation in this change and the existing culture of poor communication and collaboration. Lastly, the SRC resolved to recommend that there is some review of how systemic issues and changes are implemented at Macquarie.

- 10.2 ATMs Installation
Paper submitted by Mr James Cummins, Undergraduate Student Representative.

Mr Cummins presented this proposal pointing out that the lack of an ATM on campus is a major complaint from students, and that students need to know the SRC is negotiating with the University on their behalf on this issue. Mr Russell added that it also affects BBQs and other on-campus events run by student groups which rely on cash transactions. Ms Saunders advised that she is continuing to liaise with Property on this issue, but advised that the major banks have expressed no interest in providing replacement machines on the campus. Property is continuing to negotiate with various banks to have a machine installed in the Library.

The motion was seconded by Mr Pourzand with all members in favour.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC unanimously resolved to strongly recommend that Macquarie notes the significant cost of time and frustration that the lack of ATM facilities has generated in the broad Macquarie community. Likewise, the SRC resolved to recommend the immediate and urgent negotiation with financial institutions towards the installation of an ATM.

ACTION:

Property to provide an update and timeline for the installation of ATMs on the campus

- 10.3 Charge Bars
Paper submitted by Alex Hablutzel, Undergraduate Student Member from Faculty of Engineering and Science.

Members expressed support for this proposal and noted that advice will be sought from Property regarding the location of the SRC-branded Charge Bars in the Campus Common area.

The motion was seconded by Ms Zegarac with all members in favour.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC unanimously resolved to support the purchase of up to 5 Charging Stations to be placed in the Campus Common Area at a cost of up to \$5000.

10.4 MAZE Conference Room Booking Fees

Paper submitted by Sam Hurrell, Undergraduate Representative for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, James Cummins, Undergraduate Student Representative, Kimberly La, Undergraduate Student Representative, and Aidan Galea, Major student organisation representative.

Mr Hurrell advised that there has been further action on this matter since he submitted this paper, with Ms Saunders advising that an email has gone out today advising student groups, the SRC and Grapeshot that Campus Engagement has negotiated the use of one conference room on a weekly basis for the use of student groups. Members warmly applauded this development, but expressed concern that the hiring fee from the room was coming from the Campus Engagement budget. Ms White assured members that the room hire fees were not coming from the University's portion of the SSAF funding. Ms Saunders advised that the use of the conference room would be on a first-come-first-served basis.

11. UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

11.1 Infrastructure Sub-Committee

Mr Ryan advised that the sub-committee had met but was inquorate, and that there have been further expressions of interest from SRC members to join this sub-committee. He expressed concern that some sub-committee members are not responding to meeting notices and not attending, but there is no explicit process for removing non-attending members from sub-committees. The Chair suggested using a similar process as exists for SRC members who do not attend meetings. After some discussion it was agreed that the current membership of each sub-committee would be circulated to the relevant sub-committee chairs who would advise on which members should be removed for regular non-attendance at sub-committee meetings.

ACTION: SRC Secretariat to provide chairs of sub-committees with membership lists for their comment.

11.2 Marketing and Communication Sub-Committee

Mr Pourzand advised that there was some confusion regarding the timing of this sub-committee which resulted in an inquorate meeting. Members who did attend expressed concern that social media training should be completed before members post to the SRC Facebook page. Mr Hurrell advised that official posts to all social media channels should be approved by an SRC spokesperson or member of the Marketing and Communication Sub-Committee. Ms Saunders added that Group Marketing is developing social media training and she will seek further advice from them.

Secretary's Note: Ms Sarah McCabe has advised she wishes to join this sub-committee.

11.3 Student Elections Sub-Committee

Mr Galea advised the sub-committee had met but was inquorate (only 4 members attended). The issues discussed included: club executives electing the MSO representatives on the SRC, periodic elections for SRC members and the election of office bearers. These will be circulated to members of the sub-committee for support, and a paper will be provided to SRC.

11.4 Student Services And Amenities Fee (SSAF), SRC Budget And Finance Sub-Committee

11.4.1 March 2018 Funding Application Recommendation

Paper submitted by Ms Dee Zegarac, Undergraduate Representative for Arts and SRC Treasurer.

Members noted that this grant was being approved retrospectively due to the specific circumstances of this application with the Treasurer advising that this is not best practice as it could not be assumed a grant will be approved by the Committee. Members also discussed the timeline for payment of approved grants with Ms Saunders advising the processing time was a minimum of two weeks.

The motion was seconded by Mr Paul Russell. 14 members voted in favour, 2 abstained.

RESOLUTION:

The SRC resolved to approve a funding application from UNIT for \$1,500.

12. QUESTION TIME

The following issues were raised during question time:

- Ms Zegarac advised that she is currently managing the SRC's email account (src@mq.edu.au) and proposed a correspondence log for major issues raised by students. Members supported this idea;
- Mr Srivastava reminded members he had proposed rotating the terms of the Committee's executive officers. Ms Kemmis advised that this matter should be referred to the Election Sub-Committee for inclusion in its report to the Committee;
- Mr Hurrell asked for an update on bank cards for student societies, with Ms Saunders advising that her unit is working with the Financial Services Office to move the student societies' banking accounts from U@MQ to the University's finance system;
- Mr Pourzand reminded members that the first Re:Conception Steering Committee meeting will be held at 1 pm next Tuesday in Room 407 of MUSE;
- Ms Fotheringham advised that students have today reported not receiving payments of HDR stipends and scholarships, with at least one student in major financial difficulties as a result. Ms Saunders advised that she was not aware of this and asked for further information to be sent to her. She undertook to speak with HDRO, but noted that stipends are paid via Human Resources which can make emergency payments, and that Campus Wellbeing can also provide assistance;
- Mr Russell asked if Campus Engagement could post information on their website updating student groups on when funding will be made available, and Ms Saunders agreed to provide this advice.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Microwave Facilities for Students on Weekends

Ms Zegarac advised that a student has complained of a lack of microwave facilities in the Library available on weekends, adding that the student could not access MUSE on weekends. Ms Saunders advised that students can access MUSE (including Bassline) from 10 am to 6 pm on weekends. Mr Hurrell added that there are microwaves available on Levels 2 and 3 of the Library.

Ms Zegarac added that another email had been received complaining about the lack of lockers available for hire. Ms Saunders advised that a response has been sent to this student.

13.2 SRC Office: After Hours Access and Use of Office Space

Mr Russell asked if members could be given after-hours access to the SRC Office on Level 3 of MUSE, with Ms Saunders advising this would need to be discussed further with Security. Members also discussed the use of the SRC office by other groups, with most agreeing it should not be used for meetings but the SRC could agree to store some items for student groups. The Chair suggested developing some parameters for the use of the office with Mr Ryan agreeing that the Infrastructure Sub-Committee would undertake this work.

14. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:27 pm.

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee will be held on Monday 30 April 2018.

CONFIRMED as a true record.

MS FIONA REED
CHAIR

Notes:

- Mr Tim Matthew needs to be contacted about his non-attendance