



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 6:00pm on Monday 18th March 2024 via Zoom link.

<p>PRESENT: <i>*Attended via Zoom</i></p>	<p>Coco Chen –Macquarie Business School Undergraduate Representative Aaron Douglas – Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Representative Anna Smith – Official University Sport Representative Rhys Collyer – Postgraduate Representative Will Glen – Faculty of Arts Representative Annelise Pollard – LGBTQIA+ Representative Reece Nuttall – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative Ria Prasad – Women’s Representative Sharon Kells – Manager of Operations, Dean of Students Mariella Herberstein – Dean of Students Bella Galea – Governance (SRC) & Education Officer</p>
<p>APOLOGIES:</p>	<p>Kathy Htun –Faculty of Science and Engineering Undergraduate Representative Aaryan Shah – Disability Representative Manasbi Poudel – Council Member</p>
<p>ABSENT:</p>	<p>Wanjing Xiao – International Student Representative</p>

SECRETARY: Bella Galea – Governance (SRC) and Education Officer
CHAIR: Coco Chen –Macquarie Business School Undergraduate Representative

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair commenced meeting at 6:12 PM. The Representative for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students provided a Welcome to Country to all members of the SRC present.

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

The Chair declared a conflict of interest in relation to the Jessica Sewell Debating grant. The Secretary advised the Chair to refrain from voting on the grant.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1.** The Student Representative Committee resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Member sent apologies, update to be provided at next meeting.

4. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 SRC Postgraduate Grant – Hannah Zhu Viruses of Microbes Conference 2024) (For discussion and vote)

- The SRC discussed the grant and noted the grant appeared reasonable for approval.

Resolution:

- All votes in favour, decision is unanimous. The motion passes, funding is granted.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

4.2 SRC Postgraduate Grant – Chathuranga Dharmarathne International Society for Behavioural Ecology (ISBE) Congress 2024 (For discussion and vote)

- The Sports Representative queried whether a partial grant could be approved. The Chair confirmed.
- The SRC discussed the breakdown of costs associated with the grant and raised concerns about the amount requested.
- The Women's Representative proposed partial approval of the grant to include the accommodation, registration fee and round-trip airfare.
- Request to amend the grant for partial approval is endorsed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative and the Postgraduate Representative.
- The Chair clarified the rejection of the initial application.
- The Chair proposed a secondary motion to approve expenses associated with accommodation, registration fee and round-trip airfare with a cost of \$1,712.47 to be considered and voted on by the SRC.
- The Secretary clarified that the initial grant will be rejected, but secondary motion which would include accommodation, fee registration and round-trip airfare could be proposed for a vote.

Resolution:

- Grant not approved.
- Secondary motion to cover the cost of accommodation, registration fee and round-trip airfare totalling \$1,712.47 proposed.
- All votes in favour, decision is unanimous. The motion passes, funding is granted.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

**4.3 SRC Student & Society Grant – Shatabi Paul International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE) Congress 2024
(For discussion and vote)**

- The Chair queried differences between the round-trip costs cited in applications for attendance at the same conference.
- The SRC discussed the grant and noted the grant appeared reasonable for approval.
- Postgraduate recommends that for uniformity the same approach applied in the previous grant is applied to this grant. It is proposed that the cost of accommodation, registration fee and round-trip airfares are considered by the SRC.

Resolution:

- Grant not approved.
- Secondary motion to cover the cost of accommodation, registration fee and round-trip airfare totalling \$1,330 proposed.
- All votes in favour, decision is unanimous. The motion passes, funding is granted.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

**4.4 SRC Postgraduate Grant – Hansani Sathsara Sandukalani Daluwatta Galapaththige International Society for Behavioral Ecology (ISBE) Congress 2024
(For discussion and vote)**

- The SRC discussed the grant and noted the lack of information provided with the grant and queried the difference in registration fee for this grant when compared to grants for the same conference.

Resolution:

- Three in favour of voting, and four requesting additional information.
- Additional information to be requested from the applicant.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to request more information from the applicant to support their grant application.

4.5 SRC Student & Society Grant (2024) Anushka Ravalji International Women's Day Event

(For discussion and vote)

- The Postgraduate Representative noted the dates of the event for which the group seeks support passed. The Representative queried whether funding can be applied retrospectively.
- The Secretary confirmed that retrospective is funding, although grant applicants are advised to apply at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of their scheduled event to compensate for SRC meeting schedules.
- The Chair raised that Student Groups often use sponsorship arrangements to fund events.
- The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Representative acknowledged that is difficult for Student Groups to determine when the next SRC meeting will be held and therefore, the group should not be prevented from accessing funding based on delayed application.
- The Postgraduate Representative queried where the funding would be directed if approved.
- The Secretary clarified that while not desirable, on occasion Student Groups may self-fund events in lieu of approved grant funding.
- The Secretary confirmed that the money would be directed to a Student Group bank account (not an individual bank account).

Resolution:

- Six votes in favour and one vote against. The motion passes, funding is granted.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

4.6 SRC Student & Society Grant (2024) Nikkita Singh Birthing Kit Night

(For discussion and vote)

- The SRC discussed the grant and noted the grant appeared reasonable for approval.

Resolution:

- All votes in favour, decision is unanimous. The motion passes, funding is granted.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

4.7 SRC Student & Society Grant (2024) Jess Sewell Australasian Debating Championships

(For discussion and vote)

- The SRC discussed the grant and raised concerns about the size of the amount requested, the sufficiency of the cost breakdown and amount of information provided in support of the grant.
- The SRC considered the benefits of competing in this competition for the University holistically.

Resolution:

- The SRC requested more information on this grant from the applicant including a detailed cost breakdown and the potential benefits to the University from participation in the competition.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

4.8 SRC Student & Society Grant (2024) Troy James Prowse ENACTUS Grant (For discussion and vote)

- The SRC discussed the grant and considered the economic pressures experienced by students within the University to examine whether this was the best use of SRC funding.
- The Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences Representative raised concerns over the ethics and actions of the key sponsor of the event.
- The Chair noted concerns about the amount of funding requested in contrast with the amount of information provided to the SRC in consideration of the grant.
- The Sports Representative noted discrepancies between the amount requested \$12,000 and the amount outlined in the cost break-down which totaled \$11,400.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative recommended voting only in favour or against the motion, rather than requesting additional information.
- The Secretary noted that voting in this manner is preferable and explained that students are able to review meeting minutes for specific information about the discussion of their grant.

Resolution:

- All votes against, decision is unanimous. The motion does not pass, funding is not granted.

Action Items:

- The Secretary to inform the applicant of the outcome.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Legal Panel Discussion (May)

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative will be delivering a panel discussion in May in conjunction with the Law Society of NSW and the Law School at the University. However, the Law School is unable to fund the event, but will promote the event to students.

The discussion will be based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the justice system in Australia from the perspective of judicial officers. In attendance will be a Supreme Court Justice, a District Court Judge and a Magistrate from each level of jurisdiction. The discussion will be centered around incarceration rates and what they're doing to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

One of the recent developments is the Bail Act amendments in NSW which are a further barrier to 'closing the gap' and may lead to increased incarceration rates of Indigenous Australians.

The member will put in a motion to request funding from the SRC to fund equipment for the event and provide a detailed cost breakdown.

Action Item:

- The Secretary to liaise with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Representative to provide information on how to submit a motion for consideration at the next SRC meeting.

6 QUESTION TIME

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6.1 Student Groups Funding Enquiry

- The Postgraduate Representative requested a status updated on the consultation questions provided to the Secretary for review and dissemination.
- The Secretary confirmed questions have been received and are under review and will be disseminated to the SRC for feedback within the next fortnight.

6.2 Lucy Mentoring Program

- The Chair spoke with a representative from the program who noted SRC involvement is no longer required.
- The representative is happy to work with the SRC on future projects.

6.3 Motions Training

- The Postgraduate Representative queried whether previously discussed training on motions would be made available to the SRC.
- The Secretary confirmed additional training on motions can be provided.

6.4 SRC Social Media Posts

- The Secretary discussed potential options for social media posts, other than those which include photographs of SRC members.

6.5 SRC Mandatory Training

- The Secretary also noted that the SRC are required to complete mandatory training. The Secretary to circulate times and dates of availability to be passed on to the relevant teams within the University to coordinate training.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be TBD, 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 7:42 PM.