



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 5.30 pm on the 4 April 2016 in the Academic Senate Room, C8A Building, Macquarie University.

PRESENT:	Kieren Ash Shantell Bailey Alistair Booth Andrew Brennan Elizabeth Carter	Anna Glen Jinji Kong Chui-Ann Lee Lachlan McGrath Sherry Shi	Ryan Thalari Julia Yang David Yao Freya Wadlow Yi Wong
APOLOGIES:	Harry Dang Tung Dinh Jeremy Gunter	Gabrielle Hardy Janson Lim Jacqueline Olling	Simon Populin Alisha Sial Cheryl Ware
IN ATTENDANCE:	Kim Guerin, Director, Campus Life Yehuda Aaron, Features Editor on the Editorial Team for Grapeshot Zoe Williams, Head of Governance Services		
ABSENT:	Lachlan Greenberg	Eleanor Sanderson	Timothy Zhang
SECRETARIAT:	Air Sinthawalai, Governance Officer		

1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 WELCOME, QUORUM AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and noted that apologies had been received from Harry Dang, Tung Dinh, Jeremy Gunter, Gabrielle Hardy, Janson Lim, Jacqueline Olling, Simon Populin, Alisha Sial and Cheryl Ware.

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

- Kim Guerin – Director, Campus Life
- Yehuda Aaron - Features Editor on the Editorial Team for Grapeshot
- Zoe Williams - Head of Governance Services.

The Chair confirmed that a quorum was achieved.

The Chair informed the Committee that following advice received, it had been confirmed that according to the Student Representative Committee (SRC) Constitution, Academic Senate Student Representatives are classified as invited guests (not members) and therefore cannot vote on SRC resolutions. As a consequence, those resolutions passed at the meeting of 15 February 2016, which had been voted on by Academic Senate Student Representatives required ratification by the member of the SRC.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Committee ratified that all resolutions voted by SRC members and Academic Senate Student Representatives at the meeting held on 15 February 2016 remain unchanged. All in favour, except one abstention.

RESOLVED:

The SRC resolved to ratify the resolutions passed at the meeting of 15 February 2016.

The minutes of the meeting of 30 November 2015 were adopted as a true and accurate record.

1.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Updates on the action items from the meeting of 28 September 2015:

- Item 3.6 Marriage Equality – completed.

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

- Item 3.8 Fridges for student groups – an appropriate location is still being sought. Natalie Dainer is following up.

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

- Item 3.5 Legal Service Centre at Macquarie University - for discussion with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Registrar) (DVC S&R)
- Item 3.6 SRC support for ending the Immigration Detention of Children – completed.

Updates on the action items from the meeting of 15 February 2016:

- Item 3.3 SRC Meeting dates in 2016 – completed.
- Item 3.5 Fight for a Fair Price Campaign – completed.

2. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)

From the SEC meeting on 24 March 2016, the Committee was advised that the 2016 projects reports were discussed in detail. Members of the SEC congratulated the SRC on the re-branding, the introduction of the new logo and were unanimous in their acknowledgement of the achievements the SRC had made to date. The 2016 projects were supported with members of SEC speaking strongly in favour of the direction that the SRC is taking.

3. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 REVISED ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS TO SRC CONSTITUTION

The paper submitted by Zoe Williams, Head of Governance Services, was noted.

The Committee was advised that the SRC Procedures, Student Election Rules, Election Code of Conduct and SRC Charter had been updated to reflect the new organisational name.

Ms Williams advised that the DVC (S&R) had approved the Student Election Rules and Code of Conduct. The Committee was advised that the SEC had considered the SRC Procedures and had resolved to recommend to Council that SEC be delegated to approve the SRC Procedures.

RESOLVED:

The SRC noted the revised SRC Procedures, Student Election Rules and Election Code of Conduct.

The SRC resolved to adopt the revised SRC Charter. All in favour.

ACTION:

All SRC and Major Student Organisation (MSO) members are required to sign and return the consent to become SRC/MSO member form to the Committee Secretary.

Jinji Kong left the meeting at 5.50pm.

3.6 SRC REVIEW PROCESS OF CONTENT CENSORED FROM GRAPESHOT MAGAZINE

The paper submitted by Anna Glen, Undergraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Arts, was noted.

Shantell Bailey arrived and joined the meeting at 6.08pm.

Ms Glen outlined the challenges resulting from the last minute removal of content from Grapeshot by the publisher, resulting in gaps in content and layout prior to publication. It was established that Campus Life is the publisher of Grapeshot and there are instances when articles are pulled from publication for a range of reasons, which are often unknown to contributors. Members discussed the challenges faced by Grapeshot, being an independent student publication that is not independently funded or published. While members acknowledged that in the foreseeable future this arrangement will not change, it was noted that a process is required to address the way in which articles are being removed which is then causing problems with design and publication. The Committee members discussed the reason why papers are removed at short notice, and noted the liability placed on the publisher, Campus Life. The Committee was advised that the articles being removed were not related to risk e.g. defamation, but more University-related matters and that these were removed at the point when the edition was reviewed by the Director of Campus Life.

There was also discussion as to why the SRC could not fund the publication of Grapeshot rather than it be funded by Campus Life, to improve independence. Suggestions on ways to mitigate the impact of late editorial changes to the publication were discussed, including the Director of Campus Life sitting on the Editorial Board, or the SRC endorsing publication. Anna Glenn proposed the motion, which was seconded by Lachlan McGrath. All in favour, except 1 abstention.

RESOLVED:

The Student Representative Committee resolved that the publisher of Grapeshot (Director, U@MQ) more closely monitor the content of Grapeshot and in instances where content will be removed provide a written rationale 5 working days prior to the publication deadline.

3.5 PERMANENT OBSERVER FROM GRAPESHOT AT THE SRC MEETINGS

The paper submitted by Anna Glen, Undergraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Arts, was noted.

The Committee was advised of the need to better promote the activities of the SRC and that Grapeshot was well positioned to achieve this. A concern is the ongoing efforts to re-brand the SRC amongst the student population. There is a risk that having a Grapeshot observer, who is not subject to any control of the SRC, present could potentially undermine the reputation building process.

There was acknowledgement amongst members that the SRC was still in a developing phase, with many issues to overcome and whether uncontrolled reporting on this could pose challenges to building confidence with the student body. Certain SRC members spoke to the improvement in transparency and accountability that the proposal would deliver. The Committee members actively discussed whether the refusal to allow a representative from Grapeshot meant that the SRC was controlling and manipulating its image and the ethics of allowing the SRC to shape its own reputation amongst the student body at its current stage of development. The Committee members, together with the Grapeshot representative also noted that while there was an expectation that the media would report in an objective manner, it would be inevitable for personal bias not to emerge.

The Chair stated that the minutes are the record of a meeting and would typically be referenced as the relevant source and record for reporting in the media or elsewhere. The Chair also noted that while the SRC was not a corporate board, there were identified concerns with confidentiality, the need for members to feel that they could speak openly, the application of Chattam House Rules and the potential for reprisal should members be identified for their views.

The Grapeshot representative spoke to the parallel between the SRC and the Government versus a corporate board, and spoke to the intention of Grapeshot to assist promote the profile and activities of the SRC and not to undermine what it is trying to achieve, which was applauded by the SRC. Members noted that whilst there

was not a lack of trust with Grapeshot, there is a concern that reporting on the SRC, directly from observing meetings, when the SRC is still in a development phase, could indirectly undermine the profile of the SRC with the student body and not appropriately reflect the SRC's position and view on certain student matters. After lengthy discussion, the Board resolved to vote for the resolution proposed in the paper.

The motion of giving permission for a permanent observer from Grapeshot, Macquarie University's student magazine, to sit in on SRC meetings for the purpose of reporting was put to the vote. Two votes in favour, six votes against and four abstentions.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved not to support the inclusion of an independent Grapeshot observer at SRC meetings.

Kiren Ash and Yehuda Aaron left the meeting at 6.55pm.

5.2 PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF EQUITY AND DIVERSITY GRANTS

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

The Committee discussed the processes for establishing the maximum funding limits for Equity and Diversity (E+D) Grants, reviewing and awarding grants and the oversight of the Treasurer in decision-making. Discussions focussed on who is the most appropriate decision maker around the award of the E+D grants: the E+D representatives or the Treasurer. There was general agreement on the need for guiding principles relating to the award of funding, or a rationale for awarding funding and good record keeping. A member raised the issue that students who are funded through E+D Grants to attend conferences and similar events should be representing the University.

RESOLVED:

The SRC resolved to adopt the following procedure for the allocation of Equity and Diversity (E+D) grants based on the allocation of an E+D grant pool in the annual budget from which these grants will be drawn:

1. The SRC will take applications via email from any student regardless of any determining factors.
2. All E+D Reps from the SRC will collectively decide by a majority vote to be reported to the next SRC meeting, on the amount of funding to be allocated both to events overall and the dispersion amongst individuals if applicable. Eg \$750 worth of grants to a particular workshop AND which individuals would get the grants.
3. Students who are provided with E+D funding to participate in conference attendance are required to formally represent the University.
4. The SRC will action those grants in a timely manner.
5. Casual Vacancies: If an E+D position is vacant, expressions of interest will be taken from current SRC members and a standing vote taken by members of the SRC to fill the vacancy.

All in favour.

Lachlan McGrath left the meeting at 7.17pm.

3.2 MSO RE-ELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

The paper submitted by Chui-Ann Lee, Representative from the Major Student Organisations Standing Committee, was noted.

Due to the changes of MSO representatives every year, it was suggested that the MSO representatives on SRC should be elected annually as it is only fair that the new representatives also have an opportunity to nominate themselves for the SRC representative positions.

A suggestion that the term of MSO representatives on SRC should remain 2 years in alignment with the SRC representatives' term of office was made. The motion was put to the vote. Nine votes in favour with one abstention.

RESOLVED:

The SRC resolved that MSO sub-committee must re-elect 2 MSO representatives to the SRC every one year and the existing MSO representatives on the SRC can be re-elected for the position on the second year.

3.3 FAME SUBCOMMITTEE

The paper submitted by Chui-Ann Lee, Representative from the Major Student Organisations Standing Committee, was noted.

The Committee was informed that a working group that includes both SRC members and students would provide better ideas to improve the FAME events in the future.

RESOLVED:

The SRC endorsed the creation of a FAME subcommittee comprised of 12 members with a minimum of 50% of members coming from students who are NOT from the Student Representative Committee (SRC). All in favour.

3.4 DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

The paper submitted by Chui-Ann Lee, Representative from the Major Student Organisations Standing Committee, was noted.

The Committee was informed that students with physical disabilities were trying to enrol into subjects and found it difficult to get into classrooms that are disabled access friendly.

This working group will propose a system whereby students with physical disabilities must register with Campus Wellbeing, be granted early access and have orientation programs specifically for students with similar disabilities.

This proposed change will assist Student Advocacy to identify students with disabilities on campus for support and also for the Property department to identify the classrooms access issue.

RESOLVED:

The SRC resolved to support the redesign and working group to consider the issues for disabled students on campus. Moved by Chui-Ann Lee, seconded by Yi Wong. All in favour.

4. UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

4.1 MAJOR STUDENT ORGANISATION (MSO) SUB-COMMITTEE

Consideration of applications for Student Group Funding. One challenge is to communicate to students how they submit applications.

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

The sub-committee has not met since the previous SRC meeting and therefore there is no report.

4.3 SRC BUDGET AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee has not met since the previous SRC meeting and therefore there is no report.

4.4 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee was advised that SRC received great feedback on its Facebook page. The sub-committee would like to acknowledge Alistair Booth and Freya Wadlow for their contribution.

The Committee noted that most Student Group funding applications are considered by Campus Engagement. However, in the future all applications will be submitted directly to the MSO for consideration.

4.5 PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE

No report was provided at this meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- Welcome to Country
This item is deferred to the next meeting.
- Changing the frequency of the SRC meeting schedule to a monthly basis
It was suggested that SRC meetings should be held on a monthly basis in order to assist progress SRC projects that need approval from the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The SRC resolved to meet on a monthly basis where typically meetings are held every four weeks. Moved by Alistair Booth, seconded by Chui-Ann Lee. All in favour.

ACTION:

The Secretary to the SRC to circulate revised meeting dates for 2016. Those dates which suit the majority of respondents will be adopted.

6. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.41 pm.

7. NEXT MEETING

Members are reminded that agenda items for the meeting of 31 May 2016 are due by Monday 16 May, 5.00pm.

CONFIRMED as a true record

MS FIONA REED
CHAIR