



## MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

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Minutes of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) meeting held on Thursday July 8 2021 via Zoom video/teleconference.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Udai Kamath (Assistant Chairperson – appointed Interim Chairperson)
<i>All SRC representatives attended virtually</i>	Amy Lamont Peshala Denagamage Claire Wescombe Fatima Khan Zarah Sully Kaitlin York Sadra Yousefi Curtis Micallef Harry Stone Aakansha Jadhav Sheel Bhansali Ziyan Tejani Saliha Rehanaz Allastassia Carter Amanda O'Neill Eryna Tasha Jeremiah Dixon Jarrod Currey Pavel Pfitzner Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	None
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Professor Mariella Herberstein – Interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Lilia Draganov – Senior Manager, Student Life and SRC Secretary Linda Breen – Director, Governance Services Jodie Ramodien – Grapeshot
<b>SECRETARIAT:</b>	Kimberly La – SRC Secretariat Officer, Student Life

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### 1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

#### 1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson (Chair) opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. Zarah Sully provided the Acknowledgment of Country as per the text provided by the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy):

*“I respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Macquarie University land, the Wallumattagal clan of the Dharug Nation. May we pay respects to the Elders, and knowledge holders who have, and continue to, pass on their knowledge and wisdom for the sustainability of our environments, our cultures, our education and our communities. May the ancestors spirits watch over us today to ensure that we have a successful and productive meeting and may we remember to tread lightly on our countries and to thoughtfully carry on the legacy of those that walked before us on this land.”*

**ACTION:** Eryna Tasha to provide the Acknowledgement of Country at the next meeting of the SRC, to be held on 2 August 2021.

## **1.2. Chair's Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies**

The Chair declared the meeting quorate and welcomed all attendees.

The Chair noted that no apologies were received from SRC members and acknowledged the University staff in attendance.

The Undergraduate Student Representative - Amy Lamont interjected, noting that there are a few students who have applied to be observers at the SRC meeting and insisted they be allowed into the meeting. The Chair suggested it be appropriate to speak about item 10.1 (External Student Observers) now, in response to Amy's concerns.

The Chair made reference to Schedule 4 (1.13) of the SRC Constitution which states that SRC has closed meetings; nobody may attend a meeting of a Relevant Body without the consent of the Chairperson. He justified his position by making reference to the Constitution and informing the SRC that he consulted with members from previous bodies of the SRC to come to his decision.

The Chair advised that as the Constitution Schedule 4 (1.13) does not allow observers to speak or vote at an SRC meeting unless invited to, he concluded that in future meetings SRC precedence will be followed. The Chair advised that attendees will only be allowed to attend an SRC meeting if they are invited to fulfill a specific purpose, such as providing SRC with information on any given matter. The Chair further suggested for students to engage with SRC via relevant student representatives, who have been elected to represent student interests.

## **1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

The Chair called on Sadra Yousefi (Treasurer) to speak briefly about conflict of interest, as it is the first meeting with motions for the SRC cohort of 2021-2023.

The Treasurer noted that conflict of interest is an important matter for the SRC and invited the SRC members to familiarise themselves with the Conflict of Interest section in SRC Constitution along with University's Conflict of Interest policy.

No conflict of interests were declared.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS BY INVITED GUESTS**

None.

## **3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **3.1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 17 May 2021**

The Chair called for any comments or amendments to the minutes of the SRC meeting held on 17 May 2021.

Sadra Yousefi noted that his attendance was not recorded in the minutes. The Chair noted this and the SRC Secretariat will amend the previous meeting minutes to record Sadra Yousefi's attendance.

### ***Resolution SRC 21/01***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2021 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.***

### **3.2. Summary of outstanding action items**

The Treasurer, Sadra Yousefi noted that he consulted with Walanga Muru to discuss how the Postgraduate Indigenous Award Program can be modified to allow for greater flexibility, and thus greater applicants.

#### ***Resolution SRC 21/02***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to confirm the amendments to the Postgraduate Indigenous Award Program.***

## **4. REPORT FROM SRC TREASURER**

### **4.1. SRC May 2021 and Postgraduate Fund (MUPRA) May 2021 Expenditure Report**

The Treasurer informed the SRC that there has been no expenditure from the SRC account since the last meeting as there have been no motions passed since the last meeting. In regard to the MUPRA funds, the Treasurer made the SRC aware that there were minor discrepancies with the numbers provided to him by the previous Treasurer, including:

- an administrative error found in the previous MUPRA report, where the numbers from the University financial statement report were not properly translated into the MUPRA statement presented to SRC. The Treasurer identified the issue and alerted the Student Engagement team of the error, which has been rectified and the correct report has been presented to SRC for noting.

The Treasurer confirmed that there is \$61,550.15 remaining in the SRC budget and \$246,981.95 remaining in the MUPRA fund (not including the money set aside for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Extra-Curricular Award Program 2021).

## **5. REPORT FROM SRC SPOKESPERSON/S**

One of the SRC Spokespersons (Peshala Denagamage) provided a verbal report, noting correspondence from student societies regarding the status of their grant applications, AIESEC (a student group at Macquarie) enquiring about how their events can be promoted via SRC social media channels and students enquiring about academic advice which have since been referred to AskMQ.

The Committee noted the report.

## **6. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

The student elected member of the University Council (Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich) provided a verbal report on the 24 June 2021 Council meeting, noting that the University is reviewing its methods for coping with the ongoing COVID crisis. He noted that a positive outcome was that our University's ranking has improved internationally.

The Committee noted the report.

## **7. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

The Treasurer (Sadra Yousefi) provided a verbal update on the 10 June 2021 Student Experience Committee (SEC) meeting. He noted that the University is discussing approaches to Semester 2 learning in consideration of the impact of COVID restrictions.

The Committee noted the report.

## **8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **8.1. Arcade Game Installation in Central Courtyard**

Sadra Yousefi spoke on his motion to purchase arcade games for the central courtyard. Saliha Rehanaz questioned the background of this motion and how the SRC can be sure that students want arcade games. Additionally, questions were raised by Jeremiah Dixon and Pavel Pfitzner as to which games would be ordered. Peshala Denagamage questioned whether there would be students on campus to experience the purchase.

Sadra clarified that there is no timeline for this project and in responding to queries by SRC members, he will do further research and provide more specific information to a future SRC meeting.

#### ***Resolution SRC 21/03***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to defer the motion to a future meeting on the basis that Sadra conducts further research to address the questions that were raised by members.***

### **8.2. Indigenous Nationals 2021**

Allastassia Carter clarified that the Indigenous Nationals occurred during 20 June – 24 June 2021 and that the uniforms worn by athletes had the Macquarie University SRC logo on it.

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich asked whether the uniforms are one-off or recycled. Allastassia clarified that a new design is created each year, thus the uniforms are one-off. Additionally, Jeremiah Dixon and Pavel Pfitzner asked whether the uniforms are Australian made; Allastassia confirmed that they are.

#### ***Resolution SRC 21/04***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to reimburse Walanga Muru \$4,500 for the purchase of their uniforms used in the Indigenous Nationals 2021.***

### **8.3. Renewal of Postgraduate Conference Grants**

Sadra Yousefi and Kimberly La spoke to this motion. They informed the SRC that this postgraduate conference grant was an initiative of the previous SRC. and that although it was successful, the grant scheme was unable to continue because the previous SRC had only passed a project plan that ended in 2020.

Jeremiah Dixon and Pavel Pfitzner sought clarification of what the MUPRA fund is. Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich, Lilia Draganov and Sadra Yousefi provided the explanation that MUPRA funds are specifically for postgraduates and noted that this is a pool of funds administered on the advice of the SRC that is separate to the SRC budget.

#### ***Resolution SRC 21/05***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to pass the motion of \$10,000 from the MUPRA funds to contribute towards the Postgraduate Conference Grants 2021.***

### **8.6 SRC Should Oppose Academic Staff Redundancies**

Amy Lamont presented the motion, and the Chair invited the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Mariella Herberstein, to speak on this matter. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) advised that she was unable to confirm or deny the statistics provided by Amy Lamont but noted that the University is prioritising students and that she is happy to bring more information to the next SRC meeting. Amy Lamont voiced her dissatisfaction with this response.

Saliha Rehanaz asked why Amy believed the motion should be published on the SRC Facebook page. Amy clarified that it is to increase exposure and raise awareness to other students that the SRC opposes academic staff redundancies.

Peshala Denagamage asked Amy how the partnership with NTEU will help. Amy replied, by connecting with a staff union such as NTEU, they can share our statements and defend staff.

Amanda O'Neill asked whether there would be a potential privacy breach if we are sharing information about staff members who are no longer employed. Amy said there is no breach of privacy, as these staff members are publicly campaigning against the University regarding their redundancy.

Sadra Yousefi questioned whether there was conflict of interest with Amy raising the motions. Linda Breen clarified that any member of the SRC may raise an item for consideration by the SRC, however if the SRC member, or an associate of the SRC member, will directly benefit from a decision to the matter – they must abstain for taking part in the vote.

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich suggested that the SRC write an open letter to the University Council, the Academic Senate, and the Vice-Chancellor This proposed amendment to the motion was noted by the Chair.

Similarly, Jarrod Currey advised that with his 13 years of disability advocacy, he would suggest contacting senior management and working with them to find a solution. Amy Lamont did not accept this advice and stated that she refused to negotiate with management and that past experience consulting with them was not effective. Amy confirmed her preference of protesting over working with management.

Zarah Sully questioned the student to staff ratio that Amy provided. Amy confirmed that she was confident in this statistic.

Claire Wescombe suggested voting on each individual action point rather than the motion as a whole. Amy opposed this and reiterated her preference for the motion to be voted on in its entirety, with the inclusion of the amendment proposed by Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich. To resolve this, the Chair proposed a vote to determine how SRC members wished to vote on this motion (by voting on the individual action points or the motion as a whole). Amy voiced her dissatisfaction with this approach. As a majority of SRC members agreed to vote on the separate action points of the motion, the Chair adopted the approach. The SRC voted on each action point as included in the motion, resulting in the following resolution and agreed action points being passed.

#### ***Resolution SRC 21/06***

##### ***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to:***

- ***publish the agreed motion on its Facebook page;***
- ***share the agreed motion with the student body and student activist groups;***
- ***write an open letter to the University Council, the Academic Senate, and the Vice-Chancellor outlining its opposition to redundancies of teaching staff.***

Amy proposed that she write the open letter on behalf of the SRC. The SRC agreed that Amy would draft the open letter to the University Council, the Academic Senate, and the Vice-Chancellor and submit this to the next meeting of the SRC for amendment/approval.

**ACTION:** Amy Lamont to submit draft open letter from the SRC to the University Council, the Academic Senate, and the Vice-Chancellor to the next meeting of the SRC for amendment/approval.

The SRC further agreed to invite the Vice-Chancellor or a representative to the next meeting of the SRC to provide more information on staff cuts.

**ACTION:** SRC Chairperson to write to the Vice-Chancellor separately or incorporate into the open letter an invitation for him (or his representative) to attend the next meeting of the SRC to provide more information on the staff cuts.

**Chair Note**     **Agenda items 8.4, 8.5 and 8.7 were not considered within the scope of the function of the SRC and as such did not proceed**

The Chair informed the SRC members that agenda items 8.4, 8.5 and 8.7 are unable to proceed as the nature of these items did not fall within the scope of the purpose and function of the SRC as stated in the SRC constitution, Part 2 (2.2).

Amy Lamont did not agree with this and mentioned that the 'staff cuts' motion does not differentiate to the other three motions.

The Chair invited Director Governance Services, Linda Breen to address the SRC.

Linda Breen mentioned that SRC's purpose is to represent the interests of students at Macquarie University and matters that relate to their experience at the University, for example, if the motion is regarding a Bill that affects LGBTIQ citizens of Australia, there needs to be evidence of consultation with LGBTIQ students at Macquarie University to inform any decision of the SRC in representing the interests of the LGBTIQ student community as a whole.

**8.5 Society Grant: Macquarie Dance Academy**

Sadra Yousefi (Treasurer) spoke to the grant application that was received by the Macquarie Dance Academy for their annual show case due to occur mid-July 2021.

Kaitlin York and Jarrod Currey questioned whether the event would occur due to COVID restrictions. Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich advised that the motion can be passed based on the condition that the funding is only given if the event happens. Jarrod suggested that the SRC allows Sadra to use his Treasury delegation and discretion to provide the grant if the event happens in the future.

Sadra noted that he will follow up with the Macquarie Dance Academy before making the decision.

***Resolution SRC 21/07***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED to allow the Treasurer to determine the success of this grant at a future time if it remains relevant.***

**9. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

**9.1. Formation of Subcommittees**

The Chair noted that this motion was proposed by the Secretariat Officer to allow the formation of subcommittees at the 8 July meeting and suggested in consideration of time, that the call for expressions of interest from SRC members to be appointed to the membership of SRC subcommittees would be best facilitated through an online process.

***Resolution SRC 21/08***

***The Student Representative Committee RESOLVED that:***

- 1) an online process be conducted by the SRC secretariat to allow SRC members to submit their expressions of interest in being appointed to a subcommittee of the SRC; and***
- 2) an online poll would be used to vote for the chairs of the subcommittees once these were formed.***

**10. Other Business**

### **10.1 External Student observers**

Addressed by the Chair at the start of the meeting; please refer to item 1.2.

### **11. QUESTION TIME**

No questions asked due to time constraints. Lilia Draganov welcomed any questions from SRC members via email to [srcsecretariat@mq.edu.au](mailto:srcsecretariat@mq.edu.au).

### **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the SRC will be held on 2 August 2021. Agenda items are due by 22 July 2021 via e-mail to [srcsecretariat@mq.edu.au](mailto:srcsecretariat@mq.edu.au).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8:03 pm.

**CONFIRMED** as a true and accurate record of the meeting and its proceedings:

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**Udai Kamath**

SRC Assistant Chairperson

Date:

Approved by Chairperson