

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 6:00 pm on Thursday 2 July 2020, via Zoom.

PRESENT:	Susannah Lynch (Chair) Shlomie Bension Alex Cullen Jarod Cunningham Max Gale Neenah Gray Ibrahim A Ibrahim	Jade Quisumbing Ateka Rajabi Hannah Reeve Daniel Roberts Emily Ward Georgia Weeden Jayden Whaites
APOLOGY:	Shubham Agrawal Anna Cheng Alexander Hablutzel	Maria Koutsouklakis Jane (Thi Minh Tam) Tran Liz Vrazas
ABSENT:	Marlene Khouzam	Laura Middleton
IN ATTENDANCE:	Kylie Ebert, Director, Student Life Linda Breen, Head of Corporate Secretariat and Governance Services Melinda Chadwick, Acting Manager of Office of Executive Director Betty Opacic, new SSAF co-ordinator for EDSER Kimberly La, SRC Project Officer	
SECRETARIAT:	Air Sinthawalai	

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate and opened the meeting by inviting Ms Neenah Gray to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land.

ACTION:

Mr Max Gale to provide the Acknowledgement of Country at the following SRC meeting on 3 August 2020.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the following staff members:

- Ms Kylie Ebert, Director, Student Life;
- Ms Melinda Chadwick, Acting Manager of Office of Executive Director, and Ms Betty Opacic, new SSAF co-ordinator for EDSER, for item 3.1;
- Ms Linda Breen, Head of Corporate Secretariat and Governance Services;
- Ms Kimberly La, SRC Project Officer.

Apologies were noted from Mr Shubham Agrawal, Ms Anna Cheng, Ms Alexander Hablutzel, Ms Maria Koutsouklakis, Ms Jane Tran, and Ms Liz Vrazas.

3. PRESENTATIONS BY INVITED GUESTS

3.1 Meeting SSAF coordinator from the office of EDSER

The Chair invited Ms Melinda Chadwick, Acting Manager of Office of Executive Director, and Ms Betty Opacic, new SSAF co-ordinator for EDSER to present.

Ms Chadwick introduced Ms Opacic who has recently been appointed as the new SSAF co-ordinator for EDSER. Ms Opacic will provide support to the SRC on Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) matters as well as ensuring that the use of SSAF budget is in line with the priority lists from the SSAF survey conducted in October 2019.

The Committee noted that along with other Australian universities, Macquarie is examining its financial position and the impact of Covid-19. The Director of Student Life recommended that Ms Opacic be invited to the next SRC meeting to provide updates on the SSAF budget.

ACTION:

SRC Secretariat to invite Ms Betty Opacic to the next meeting on 3 August 2020.

Ms Chadwick and Ms Opacic departed the meeting at 6:15 pm.

4. ARRANGEMENT OF AGENDA

4.1 Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Mr Alex Cullen declared a perceived conflict of interest on item 14.1.

4.2 Adoption of unstarred items

Resolution SRC 20/16:

The Student Representation Committee resolved that the item not starred for discussion (item 7.1) be noted, and where appropriate, adopted as recommended.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held 11 May 2020 were provided.

Resolution SRC 20/17:

The minutes of the SRC meeting held 11 May 2020 were confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Summary of Outstanding Action Items

The Committee noted updates on the following items:

Actions from previous meetings	Comments/Status
<u><i>Student elections</i></u> The incoming SRC members to discuss alternative selection processes for the SRC representative on the Selection Panel.	In progress
<u><i>Accessible Exchange Programs</i></u> The Equity and Diversity (E&D) Subcommittee to engage in further consultation with University stakeholders including the Accessibility Services and bring back to the SRC further information and recommendation at the future meetings.	In progress
<u><i>SRC Financial Support for Tayla King</i></u> Ms Neenah Gray to submit a further motion to pay the remainder from PG grants; for approval at the first meeting of 2020.	Completed, further motion will be submitted when overseas travel restrictions are lifted.
<u><i>Student Consultation on Changes to the SRC Constitution</i></u> 1. Mr Alex Cullen to engage with Governance and other stakeholders to review change and consultation processes to identify areas for improvement relating to SRC consultation; and 2. Mr Alex Hablutzel to actively follow up and continue engagement with the office of the Vice-Chancellor on this matter after the release of the Formal Change Paper.	In progress
<u><i>SRC Spokesperson vacancy</i></u> As Mr Francisco Gutierrez has graduated, an expression of interest to fill one SRC Spokesperson position will be circulated by the SRC Secretariat.	Completed, refer to item 11.1
<u><i>Update from Subcommittees</i></u> Due to members graduating at the end of 2019, the following subcommittees are to appoint their new Chairs and report back at the next SRC meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equity and Diversity Subcommittee; and• Marketing and Communication Subcommittee.	Completed, refer to item 11.1

Actions from previous meetings	Comments/Status
<u>Incubator Program</u> Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee to seek further discussion with the MQU Incubator before the next SRC meeting.	Completed, refer to item 6.2
<u>SRC Students and Societies Grant Approval Process</u> The SSAF, SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee to review additional criteria regarding compliance with the SSAF legislation aspect and provide updates at the next SRC meeting.	In progress, the SRC Office Bearers will meet with Ms Opacic. Provision to review at the next SSAF subcommittee meeting.

6.2 Matter considered by circular resolution: Incubator Student Program 2020

Paper submitted by Mr Max Gale, Undergraduate Student Representative and the SRC Assistant Chairperson, and Mr Jayden Whaites, Undergraduate Student Representative from the Faculty of Science and Engineering and the SRC Treasurer.

Following the SRC meeting on 11 May 2020, Student Life and SRC Office Bearers had further discussion with the Incubator regarding the financial contribution the SRC can make towards the programs. Based on the fact that this is the first year and that the development costs drive the overall budget, the Executive Director, Student Engagement and Registrar, has approved that these be funded by the University. As a result, the SRC focused its contribution towards supporting those costs directly related to engaging and recognising students.

As a matter of urgency, the SRC members voted on the following recommendation via circular resolution:

That the Student Representative Committee (SRC) partner with the Macquarie University Incubator to deliver and fund \$24,500 towards supporting those costs directly related to engaging and recognising students for the Design Thinking Program (Proposal A) and the MQ Pitch Program (Proposal B).

Fourteen (14) SRC members responded and voted in favour of the recommendation. The matter was approved by quorum on 2 June 2020.

Resolution SRC 20/18:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to ratify the circular resolution to fund \$24,500 towards supporting those costs directly related to engaging and recognising students for the Design Thinking Program (Proposal A) and the MQ Pitch Program (Proposal B).

Proposed by Mr Jayden Whaites and seconded by Mr Max Gale. All in favour.

7. UPDATE FROM SRC TREASURER

7.1 April - May 2020 SRC and PG Grant Expenditure Reports

Resolution SRC 20/19:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to note the April – May 2020 SRC and PG Grant Expenditure Reports as outlined.

8. UPDATE FROM SRC SPOKESPERSON

The Committee noted the following updates from the SRC Spokesperson:

- Two external requests were received seeking SRC comments in relation to COVID-19;
- Responses to the SRC Overseas Students Representative on CISA matters;
- Enquiry from the Network of Women Students Australia Conference (NOWSA) in regards to their 33rd conference, which has been forwarded to the relevant SRC student representative;
- Contacts from vendors selling products;
- Ms Kimberly La has been circulating weekly updates to all SRC members which is very helpful; and
- Congratulations to Mr Daniel Roberts on his appointment as one of the three SRC Spokespersons.

9. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

As Mr Alexander Hablutzel is an apology for this meeting, Ms Linda Breen provided the report on his behalf.

The University Council met on 25 June 2020 with members invited to tour the New Arts Precinct. The primary discussions at this meeting included:

- Amendments to the Faculty Rules;

- Amendments to the Emeritus Professor Policy;
- Discussion on the impact of COVID-19 and the University's financial position;
- Operating Plan;
- Approval of Honorary awards. The outcomes will be communicated by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor;
- Health and Safety and Discipline Committee reports; and
- Academic Integrity report by the Chair of Academic Senate, on behalf of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

10. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)

The SEC met on 2 June 2020, with discussion items including the University's response to COVID-19 including a wide range of accessible options to support student engagement, wellbeing and online learning through COVID-19 changes in delivery. The SEC Committee noted the MQ Student Success Support Package (SSSP) and the proposed Return to Campus Plan in the context of maintaining everyone's safety.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

11.1 SRC Membership Matters

Paper submitted by Corporate Secretariat and Governance Services.

Casual vacancy of one SRC Spokesperson

One SRC Spokesperson position was vacant due to the member graduating from the University. The Expression of Interest was called on 12 February 2020. However, no nominations were received at that time.

Following the SRC 11 May 2020 meeting, an Expression of Interest was received from Mr Daniel Roberts. As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of vacant positions, a ballot was not required and Mr Roberts was declared elected unopposed to this position.

New Chairpersons of SRC Subcommittees

Following the SRC 11 May 2020 meeting, the following subcommittees have met and appointed the following new Chairpersons:

Subcommittee	New Chair	Date appointed
Equity and Diversity Subcommittee	Neenah Gray	21 May 2020
Marketing and Communication Subcommittee	Daniel Roberts	23 May 2020
Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee	Jarod Cunningham	28 May 2020

Resolution SRC 20/20:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to:

- 1. ratify the appointment of Mr Daniel Roberts as one of the three SRC Spokespersons, for the term of office from 25 May 2020 until 13 May 2021; and**
- 2. note the new Chairpersons of the three (3) subcommittees, as outlined.**

Proposed by Mr Jayden Whaites and seconded by Mr Max Gale. All in favour.

11.2 Council of International Students Australia (CISA) Membership

Paper submitted by Ms Jane (Thi Minh Tam) Tran, Overseas Students Representative. As Ms Tran was an apology for this meeting, Mr Alex Cullen and Mr Max Gale were invited to speak on this matter.

The Committee noted that CISA is a national student association that strongly advocates for international students both at state and national level. Its main role is to effectively lobby for policy changes that impact international students. Following the consideration of its mission and performance at the time, the SRC voted to affiliate with CISA in July 2018 given that the cost of this membership is covered by Campus Engagement. Since then, there is no record of regular engagement between the SRC and CISA.

On 12 June 2020, the SRC was reminded to renew its membership by the end of June 2020. However, it was noted that CISA held a meeting to discuss removal of the CISA President based on a number of serious misconduct allegations. Ms Tran attended two CISA meetings as a representative from the Macquarie University SRC. At those meetings CISA members had raised issues about the lack of transparency and unprofessional approach in the decision-making process. It was observed that CISA did not have a representative attending a number of the Global Reputation Taskforce (GRT) meetings, possibly due to internal interpersonal issues. Although the SRC acknowledged CISA's activities to support the international student community, the SRC members recalled that it had previously discussed concerns about CISA's performance and level of service earlier this year.

The Director of Student Life, Ms Kylie Ebert, advised that the NSW Vice-Chancellors Committee has also established a subcommittee (chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Ms Nicole Brigg) to address recruitment and policy issues impacting on international students. This Subcommittee has established a supporting group (chaired by Ms Ebert), to work on plans for state government approval on international students' safe return to Australia; and that it is likely that CISA will be heavily involved with this activity.

Ms Ebert proposed that should the SRC choose to discontinue its affiliation with CISA, SRC should also consider alternative avenues to engage with nationwide international students issues, and strongly suggested that the SRC seek further consultation with a broader group of MQ international students before making the decision.

Resolution SRC 20/21:

The Student Representation Committee deferred this motion to the next SRC meeting, pending further consultation with a broader group of International students and feedback from the other CISA associated members.

ACTION:

Equity and Diversity Subcommittee, with support of the SRC Project Officer, Ms Kimberly La, to:

- conduct further consultation with a broader group of MQ international students via an online survey; and
- collect feedback from the other [CISA associated members](#).

11.3 SRC Contribution to Session 2 2020 O-Week

Paper submitted by Ms Kimberly La, SRC Project Officer, and Mr Jayden Whaites, SRC Treasurer.

It was noted that the SRC has historically contributed to O-Week by having a stall as well as financially contributing to activations such as UBAR Parties, breakfast bars and other events/activities. Although Session 2 2020 O-Week will be conducted virtually, the activities still require financial assistance to engage students and to provide incentives. The Committee noted the breakdown budget as outlined on the paper.

Resolution SRC 20/22:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to contribute \$9,000 to Session 2 2020 O-Week to promote engagement with new and existing students via activities run by student groups and Student Engagement.

Proposed by Mr Jayden Whaites and seconded by Mr Alex Cullen. All in favour.

12. UPDATE FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

The Chair reminded subcommittees to submit their meeting minutes to the SRC Secretariat.

12.1 Equity and Diversity (E&D) Subcommittee

The E&D Subcommittee met on 21 May 2020. Key matters from that meeting included:

- Ms Neenah Gray has been appointed as the new Chair of the E&D Subcommittee;
- Election process for E&D positions;
- Report on CISA matters by the Overseas Students Representative;
- SSSP distribution; and
- Updates on Walanga Muru.

Resolution SRC 20/23:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to note:

- ***the minutes from the E&D subcommittee meeting held on 21 May 2020; and***
- ***that Ms Neenah Gray has been appointed as the Chair of E&D subcommittee, from 21 May 2020.***

12.2 Infrastructure Subcommittee

Mr Whaites and Mr Cullen met with Property regarding the Return to Campus Plan and MUSE broken furniture. Property Services is looking at purchasing new furniture and considering an effective process for students to report broken furniture issues upon their return to campus.

12.3 Marketing and Communication Subcommittee

The Marketing and Communication Subcommittee met on 23 May 2020. Key matters included:

- Mr Daniel Roberts has been appointed as the new Chair of the Marketing and Communication Subcommittee;

- SRC social media presence and support from the SRC Project Officer; and
- How to better communicate about the SSSP and SSAF for transparency.

The SRC Chair and members acknowledged Ms Kimberly La's support on the improved SRC social media presence in the past months.

Resolution SRC 20/24:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to note:

- **the minutes from the Marketing and Communication subcommittee meeting held on 23 May 2020; and**
- **that Mr Daniel Roberts has been appointed as the Chair of Marketing and Communication subcommittee, from 23 May 2020.**

Mr Angus Webber joined the meeting at 7:25 pm.

12.4 O-Week Subcommittee

The Subcommittee submitted a proposal requesting for SRC financial contribution towards the Session 2 2020 O-Week virtual activities (item 11.3).

12.5 Student Elections Subcommittee

The Student Elections Subcommittee met on 26 May 2020 and noted the discussion at the E&D Subcommittee on E&D positions being elected. Members agreed that any final decision should be put to the SRC however identification of required steps to progress to constitutional review should be discussed with Governance Services.

Resolution SRC 20/25:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to note the minutes from the Student Elections Subcommittee meeting held on 26 May 2020.

12.6 Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee

The Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee met on 28 May 2020 and appointed Mr Jarod Cunningham as the new Chair. The Subcommittee also met on 8 June 2020 and reviewed the Student Society and PG grant applications for recommendation to the SRC.

Resolution SRC 20/26:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to note that Mr Jarod Cunningham has been appointed as the Chair of Marketing and Communication subcommittee, from 28 May 2020.

12.6.1 April – June 2020 Grant Applications

Paper submitted by Mr Jayden Whaites, SRC Treasurer, and Mr Jarod Cunningham, Student Services and Amenities fee (SSAF), SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee Chair.

The SSAF, SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee reviewed the eight (8) Student Society and PG grant applications and made the following recommendations to the SRC for approval.

	Application Type	Name	Requested Amount	Recommendation by the SSAF, SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee
1	PG Conference Grant	Xuan Ha for Japanese Association of Language Teaching Annual Conference – Online Conference	Not provided	Not endorse. Action: Advise Xuan to get back to us with the actual price so we can reconsider.
2	PG Conference Grant	Armin Kavehei for International Conference on Environment Pollution and Prevention – Online Conference	\$786	Endorse for \$750.
3	PG Conference Grant	Michael Eze for American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) 2020 Annual Convention and Exhibition	\$731.70	Not endorse. Action: Michael to get back to us with the date that the event has been postponed to so we can reconsider.
4	PG Conference Grant	Hossein Eslahi for International Symposium of Circuits and Systems	\$1,500	Not endorse. Action: Advise Hossein to get back to us once overseas travel has opened (or if the event moves online) so we can reconsider.

	Application Type	Name	Requested Amount	Recommendation by the SSAF, SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee
5	PG Conference Grant	Mohsen Bafandekhar for International Conference on Stress & Mental Health	\$1,700	Not endorse. Action: Advise Mohsen to get back to us once travel to WA has opened so we can reconsider, also remind them of limit.
6	PG Conference Grant	Sharlynn Wu for Genome Engineering: CRISPR Frontiers – Online Conference	\$252	Endorse for \$252.
7	PG Conference Grant	David Fraile Navarro for 2020 Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics – Online Conference	USD \$100	Not endorse. Action: Due to error with supporting documents, advise David to resubmit their supporting documents so that we can reconsider.
8	PG Conference Grant	Pauline Agyeman for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society Conference	\$2,700	Not endorse. Action: Advise Pauline to get back to us once overseas travel has opened (or if the event moves online) so we can reconsider, also remind of limit.
9	PG Conference Grant	Yuanyuan Deng for 50th Annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience	\$900	Not endorse. Action: Advise Yuanyuan to get back to us once overseas travel has opened (or if the event moves online) so we can reconsider, also remind of limit.
10	Club Grant	Garden Club for Video on Community Garden	\$2,000	Not endorse. Action: Advise Garden Club to resubmit their supporting documents ensuring that we can actually access them, also ask them to provide actual prices instead of just estimated figures, remind them to use university resources where appropriate.

Resolution SRC 20/27:

The Student Representation Committee resolved to review and approve the SSAF, SRC Budget and Finance Subcommittee's Student Society and PG Grant recommendations.

Proposer by Mr Jarod Cunningham and seconded by Mr Jayden Whaites. All in favour.

13. QUESTION TIME

13.1 "Get Involved Panel" for O-Week

Session 2 O-Week will commence on 20 July 2020. The SRC members are invited to participate in one of the three sessions to answer questions and promote different societies, volunteering programs or ways for students to get involved during their time at the University. More details will be circulated to the SRC members after this meeting.

13.2 Macquarie University Open Day

The Open Day will mainly be conducted virtually, with small and targeted events on campus.

13.3 Three support officers for the SRC

Mr Gale and the Director of Student Life will begin the appointment process for three operational support officers for the SRC.

13.4 Updates from the Director of Student Life

A number of projects have been launched, including the following:

- Student care and reporting network for students who need support or want to report inappropriate behaviours or incidents that happen on campus;
- Support for students with disabilities;
- Student web project to gather students' input and feedback on the University website. Fifty students have been recruited for this project;
- MQ Scoop where student bloggers are paid for their work on content writing and animation; and
- Job rescue program via Macquarie Student Employment to reduce long-term financial burden.

The Committee noted that more than 7,000 applications were received for the Student Success Support package scheme. As at the end of June 2020, the University has distributed almost \$11 million through emergency support, vouchers, grants and loans. There has been a discussion at the University Council forum of how best to extend the Student Success Support package scheme into Session 2. The University is also

reviewing the fee deferment and extended payment plans and streamlining access to accommodation support. It is noted that a number of students are not applying for support due to personal or cultural reasons and the SRC can help in reaching out to this group of students.

Three community organisations also hand out hampers and care packages on campus. The Committee noted the additional support from Macquarie University Village and other accommodation partners towards returning students.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Condemnation of University Fee Increases

Paper submitted by Ms Georgia Weeden, Major Student Organisation Representative, and Mr Max Gale, Undergraduate Representative.

The Committee noted key points arising from the paper included:

“The Australian Government recently announced the ‘Job-ready Graduates Package’. The changes proposed in the package aim to affect student contributions and incentivises participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses and ‘job ready’ industries. Students beginning a new undergraduate or postgraduate course in humanities and social sciences from next year will be subject to fee increases of between 28-113%. Whilst there is an imperative to promote STEM participation, this should not be at the detriment of students wishing to undertake humanities, arts, and social science (HASS) courses, nor should students be obligated to compensate for degrees other than those they are undertaking. Whilst the HECS-HELP scheme does assist in providing access to tertiary education, Australians and international students alike will be further deterred to undertake tertiary education in areas of interest due to the ongoing financial burden of paying disproportionate fees for the education they receive.”

The Committee acknowledged the quality of education for all MQ students regardless of their courses and noted that it is unclear whether the University is putting forward alternative proposals in relation to this matter.

The SRC members had a robust discussion with a diversity of opinions expressed on this policy. The Chair reminded members of their governance responsibilities to advocate for the best interest of all current and prospective students and separate their responsibilities from their personal political views.

The SRC members discussed whether it would be more appropriate to properly consult with the MQ student community by alternative options such as student surveys and engaging with the Government in the form that the SRC has done for the NSW transport concessions proposal. Following further consultation with the student community, the SRC may resume this discussion together with a draft statement for the SRC consideration.

Resolution SRC 20/28:

The Student Representation Committee noted a proposal to support student advocacy regarding the mandated fee increases and prepare a written statement denouncing the Commonwealth Government’s ‘Job-ready Graduates Package’.

Proposed by Ms Georgia Weeden and seconded by Mr Max Gale. Six (6) votes in favour, six (6) votes against, and two (2) abstention. This motion did not pass.

ACTION:

Ms Georgia Weeden and Mr Max Gale, with support of the SRC Project Officer, to engage with the student community for further consultation.

14.2 MQ Career and Employment Service

Mr Cullen engaged with the MQ Career and Employment Service to discuss how to better engage students with the Career Services. There is an improvement on iLearn where all first year students have access to CareerWISE, and related tools and resources. Mr Cullen will work with the SRC Project Officer to promote this service on the SRC social media channels.

14.3 Awareness Posts on SRC Social Media Channels

Ms Gray thanked the SRC Project Officer for her work on improving the SRC social media presence including raising awareness on several public interest issues, such as the Adam Goodes documentary. Ms Gray will propose more content related to cultural awareness and social advocacy matters for SRC consideration and consensus agreement.

15. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:31 pm.

16. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee will be held on Monday 3 August 2020. Agenda items are due by Monday 20 July 2020.

CONFIRMED as a true record.

MS SUSANNAH LYNCH

SRC CHAIRPERSON