



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Advisory Board (SAB) held at 5.30 pm on the 28 September 2015 in the Academic Senate Room, C8A Building, Macquarie University.

PRESENT:

Fiona Reed (Chair)	Anna Glen	Sherry Shi
Kieren Ash	Lachlan Greenberg	Alisha Sial
Shantell Bailey	Gabrielle Hardy	Ryan Thalari
Alistair Booth	Chui-Ann Lee	Freya Wadlow
Andrew Brennan	Janson Lim	Cheryl Ware
Elizabeth Carter	Lachlan McGrath	Yi Wong
Harry Dang	Jacqueline Olling	David Yao
Tung Dinh	Eleanor Sanderson	Timothy Zhang

APOLOGIES:

Jeremy Gunter	Simon Populin	Julia Yang
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ABSENT: Jinji Kong

IN ATTENDANCE: Deidre Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Registrar)
Professor Dominic Verity, Chair of Academic Senate
Julie Doherty, Career and Employment Service Manager
Belinda Bean, Sustainability Officer

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 Jeremy Gunter, Simon Populin and Julia Yang. The Chair also noted that Jacqueline Olling would be a late arrival.

The Chair noted that in addition to the members Deidre Anderson, DVC, Students and Registrar, Professor Dominic Verity, Chair of Academic Senate, Julie Doherty, Career and Employment Service Manager and Belinda Bean, Sustainability Officer were in attendance.

The Chair confirmed that a quorum was achieved.

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 19 August 2015 were accepted with minor amendment reflecting Elizabeth Carter's attendance record at the meeting.

1.3.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

2. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (SEC)

SAB Representatives on SEC reported to the Board on the items discussed at the previous Student Experience Committee meeting in early September, which included:

- The improvement of student engagement by Student Lifecycle.
- A reconciliation of funding allocation for SAB from Campus Engagement should be included as part of any budget discussion. A suggestion was made to include this item for discussion at the next SAB budget sub-committee meeting.
- SEC noted the level of investment in the SAB induction process which should distinguish the SAB from the previous model.

3. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE MUPRA AGREEMENT/CHANGES

Presented by Deidre Anderson, DVC (S&R). The Board was informed that Macquarie University and MUPRA had reached a settlement at mediation. The current MUPRA is to be dissolved, the funds have been returned to the University and the terms of reference have been reconstituted to avoid duplication of SAB and MUPRA institutions. The new MUPRA institution will have to apply through the same channel as other university clubs and meet the requirements. However the returned funds must be allocated to postgraduate expenditure only.

The new terms of reference covers arrangement of functions and social networking events for postgraduate students. The funds will be exclusive for postgraduate students. SAB is yet to get involved until the new MUPRA association is established.

Deidre Anderson departed the meeting after discussion of this item. Alistair Booth joined the meeting.

3.2 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROJECT

Presented by Professor Dominic Verity, Chair of Academic Senate. The Board was informed that there were discussions about MyMaster and what services they provided. This scandal has changed the attitude of people towards the University. People from different countries have different expectations and norms of academic integrity. The common explanation from these people who were found responsible for purchasing assessments was they felt pressure to pass the final examinations which lead to irrational actions occurring.

Academic Integrity values are honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility which are the responsibility to all students, researchers and staff. On 19th and 20th November, MQ will be joined by Dr Tracey Bretag, President of the Executive Board of the International Center for Academic Integrity, and Dr Teddi Fishman, International Center for Academic Integrity Director, who will work with a wide range of stakeholders. SAB members will be invited and take part in any sessions. Professor Verity encouraged all members to participate in this workshop.

Professor Verity was suggested that spoon-feeding teaching styles in classes and unbalanced weight of assessments in some units could be contributing reasons for academic dishonesty acts. Verbal skills at presentation instead of writing assessment could be another option to look at while evaluating assessment practice and curriculum design.

Professor Dominic Verity departed the meeting after discussion of this item. Timothy Zhang joined the meeting.

3.3 CAREERS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The paper submitted by Julie Doherty, Career and Employment Service Manager, was noted. The Board was informed that compared with other Universities, such as Wollongong University or UTS, hiring cost of career advisors are partially funded by SAB. MQ only has 3.5 staff providing employment and career advice. As such, the Career and Employment Service team is currently unable to fulfil all student needs. The particular issue is the low employment outcomes for international students which would affect future international student enrolment at MQ as student expectations are to find good jobs after graduating. The Board was informed that PACE works mainly within curriculum while Career and Employment service works with external agencies and builds profile for MQ students and alumnus. Career and Employment service works with PACE but are separate entities. The Board was informed that each student only receives 30 minutes with MUSE consultants which is insufficient for students to ask questions and few students are unaware of their workshops.

The majority of SAB members agreed that more support for employment and careers is needed and that SAB should support the University providing additional funds for hiring additional Career Development/Industry Engagement Consultants.

The Board also suggested Ms Doherty considers more industry nights and events, support for student work experience and internships outside of the Sydney metropolitan area where expenses are covered. Ms Doherty was asked to advise the University on the success of the international students career fair so that MQ can see the importance and provide more support to this proposal.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to support the University funding two Career Advisor positions as proposed in order to improve the employment outcomes of Macquarie University students. Moved by Janson Lim and seconded by Lachlan McGrath. 19 in favour. 1 abstain.

3.4 ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

The paper submitted by Belinda Bean, Sustainability Officer, was noted. The Board was informed that increased communication is required to change behaviours and social norms. The Sustainability team would like to seek SAB input to advise on how to engage with students about sustainability as well as SAB support of an online platform. The Board was advised that Sustainability team is not permitted to submit articles for inclusion in "Grapeshot".

The following suggestions were made at the meeting:

- Sustainability team to work with SAB marketing sub-committee which could be another avenue for a broader engagement.
- Sustainability team to integrate and create sustainability with student groups or in particular study units, instead of one approach for all students. MSO representatives on SAB offer assistance to Ms Bean in liaising with MSO.
- Sustainability team to approach each Faculty for departmental level of communication with students.

RESOLVED:

SAB Secretariat to provide details of marketing sub-committee members to the Sustainability Office.

Jacqueline Olling joined the meeting. Eleanor Sanderson and Belinda Bean departed the meeting.

3.5 SAB SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The paper submitted by Timothy Zhang was noted. The Board was informed that it has been a heated discussion for legalising same sex marriage. This paper is put forward for the support of SAB.

The Board noted the proposed statement represents 'all' Macquarie students and expressed concern of a possible political issue. The Board discussed that proper discussions and consultations with other parties beyond this Board is crucial if the proposed statement is to be presented to an external body. The Board suggested conducting surveys by other student groups for their support.

The Board noted that surveying students was not really feasible. The Board was advised that if this proposal was approved, the SAB logo would be displayed on the Australian Marriage Equality website, under the corporate webpage, not the actual letter.

The Board was recommended to vote on the form of the proposed statement. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the Board determined to conduct secret voting ballots for item 3.5.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to conduct secret voting for determining the form of the content on the proposed statement. 13 votes in favour, 4 votes against the proposal and 1 member who abstained.

The Board resolved to remove 'all' (Macquarie students) from the first paragraph of the proposed statement. 21 votes in favour and 1 vote against the proposal.

The Board resolved to issue the SAB approved form of statement to Australian Marriage Equality Organisation in support of marriage equality. A secret ballot was conducted and the majority of members voted in favour with 1 against.

ACTION:

The secretariat to amend the statement agreed by the Board and provide to the Chair for signature.

3.6 MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The paper submitted by Timothy Zhang was noted. The Board was informed that Macquarie University was approached to advise their position on marriage equality. Whilst no previous official discussion was made at the Executive level, this proposal is put forward to the SAB for recommendation to Macquarie University.

Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the Board was suggested to conduct a secret ballot for item 3.6.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to recommend Macquarie University join 5 Australian Universities in support of Marriage Equality by issuing a public statement in favour of same-sex marriage and GLBTIQ civil rights at AustralianMarriageEquality.Org. A secret ballot was conducted and the majority of members voted in favour of the proposal with 1 against.

Elizabeth Carter and Yi Wong departed the meeting.

4. UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEES

4.1 MAJOR STUDENT ORGANISATION (MSO) SUB-COMMITTEE

David Yao provided a verbal MSO update. The Board noted that an MSO meeting was held at 3 pm earlier today. The Board was informed that the following items were discussed: FAME, student group affiliation, student group awards will be held on 6 November and all student groups are nominated, student group funding allocation, discretionary funding for MSO, Fridge/freezers for student groups, student groups with over \$5000 barred from University funding, clarification on status of MSO members once they are no longer a club/society executive and constitutional change to appoint SEC member as future MSO chair.

Chui-Ann Lee sought SAB approval for \$20,000 for the creation of MSO emergency fund from SAB through the Budget sub-committee. The Chair recommended that due to the significant amount requested that Ms Lee submit this funding proposal in writing for consideration.

ACTION:

Chui-Ann Lee to submit a funding proposal in writing for consideration.

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

The sub-committee has not met.

4.3 SAB 2016 BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

A concern of who would take over Craig Oliver's role was raised. The Chair advised that initially in Craig's absence to raise any issues directly with Deidre Anderson, DVC (Students and Registrar).

4.4 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Discussion of student services such as Grapeshot was made.

4.5 MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee has not met.

4.6 GENDER INCLUSIVE BATHROOM SUB-COMMITTEE

The project is pending with Deidre Anderson, DVC (Students and Registrar) and the infrastructure office. No update at this stage. It was agreed by SAB that this does not need to be a formal sub-committee. Timothy Zhang will continue to manage process.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- SAB workshop
All members are reminded to check and participate in the current SAB workshop.

- Proposal to SAB in writing
A discussion was raised of what proposal can be brought up at SAB verbally. In relation to funding requests, the Board considered that a written proposal should be submitted. All members involved must have the opportunity to review and prepare for any proposal to be considered with financial implications before each meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved that any proposal with financial implications must be submitted to the Board in writing by using the SAB agenda item template.

- Proposal to schedule 3 hours for each SAB meeting

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to keep the duration of SAB meeting at 2 hours and to establish a maximum number of two 10 minute presentations from external presenters at each meeting.

- Sub-committee memberships

ACTION:

The secretariat to circulate the list of members of each sub-committee to all SAB members.

6. MEETING CLOSE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.06 pm.

7. NEXT MEETING

Members are reminded that agenda items for 27 October 2015 meeting are due by Friday 16 October, 5.00pm.

CONFIRMED as a true record

**MS FIONA REED
CHAIR**