

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) held at 6:00pm on Monday 20 June 2022 in the VC Boardroom and via Zoom.

PRESENT: <i>*Attended in Person</i>	Udai Kamath (Alternate Chairperson) (Chair) Jarrod Currey Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich Sadra Yousefi
<i>* Attended via Zoom</i>	Allastassia Carter Amanda O'Neill Claire Wescombe Curtis Micallef Elizabeth Christie Fatima Khan Leila Maruca
APOLOGIES:	Kaitlin York Peshala Denagamage Pavel Pfitzner
ABSENT:	Saliha Rehanaz Jaeseong Han
IN ATTENDANCE:	Dr Lise Barry – Dean of the Law School Melinda Chadwick – Head of Engagement, Inclusion and Belonging

SECRETARIAT: Bella Galea – Governance (SRC) and Education Officer

MINUTES

1. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair commenced meeting at 6:11 pm. Elizabeth Christie 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: (SRC to nominate individual to provide address at August meeting) to provide the Acknowledgement of Country at the next meeting of the SRC, to be held on Monday, 8 August 2022.

1.2. Chair’s Welcome, Quorum, and Apologies

The Chair declared the meeting quorate and opened the meeting at 6:11pm, welcoming all attendees – both those in the room and those joining the meeting remotely.

The Chair issued a reminder to all to attend meetings. The Chair noted that several SRC members have now become ineligible for the positions currently holding and this needs to be rectified.

The Chair noted that apologies were received from Kaitlin York, Peshala Denagamage and Pavel Pfizer and acknowledged the University staff in attendance.

1.3. Disclosure of conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

2. PRESENTATIONS BY INVITED GUESTS

2.1. The Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition

Lise Barry presented a proposal for individual student funding to enable two students to attend the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition in Geneva. The last time Macquarie students attended this event they placed second to postgraduate law students from Oxford University.

There will also be the opportunity for the SRC to provide branded merchandise for the students to wear at the competition that will reflect the SRC contribution to this initiative.

The Law School is seeking \$5000 from the SRC to support travel and attendance expenses.

Vote: 9 in favour passed.

In person: Sadra Yousefi, Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich and Jarrod Currey

Online: Elizabeth Christie, Curtis Micallef, Allastassia Carter, Fatima Khan, Amanda O'Neill and Leila Maruca.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

**3.1. The Minutes of the previous meeting held 19 May 2022 enclosed
(For approval and review)**

The Student Representative Committee resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. REPORT FROM SRC TREASURER

4.1. SRC April 2021 Expenditure Report

Sadra Yousefi: The SRC Treasurer noted that there have been no updates since the 1st of May as this is the most recent report from the finance team. SRC to expect multiple grants to come through for consideration and approval.

4.2. Postgraduate Fund (MUPRA) April 2021 Expenditure Report

Sadra Yousefi: The reports have not been amended since May 1, 2022.

5. REPORT FROM SRC SPOKESPERSON/S

Udai Kamath: Neither Peshala Denagamage nor Eryna Azmarin are in attendance at the current meeting. Eryna has resigned from the SRC, therefore the SRC will need to appoint an additional SRC spokesperson prior to the next meeting in August.

Action item: Appoint an additional SRC Spokesperson prior to next meeting (Bella to action).

6. REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich: The University Council has been exploring the possibility of delivering micro credential courses to take advantages of skill shortages and upskill individuals already in the workforce. Council believes Macquarie University could be a leader in this area. The University will be seeking government support for this initiative.

Reconciliation initiative: In recognition of the Aboriginal country on which Macquarie University is located, the North Ryde Macquarie University campus will now also be known as The Wallumattagal campus at North Ryde. It is the view of the University Council that this initiative balances Macquarie University's existing history with the rich indigenous history.

Student Code of Conduct: There have been some legal issues raised in relation to the application of the code of conduct in some extreme instances. These concerns are reflective of SRC discussions about how the code is enforced, and what is appropriate enforcement of behaviour by the University. The SRC may wish to review the Student Code of Conduct, as it is designed to function alongside the Student Charter.

There may be the possibility of an SRC working group to facilitate this review and feedback (Jayden nominated to be a representative for this group – SRC representatives can nominate by reaching out to Udai if interested).

7. REPORT FROM STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE

Sandra attended the Student Experience Committee (SEC) meeting on behalf of the SRC. The SEC discussed the newly adopted SRC Terms of Reference (ToR) under which the SRC now operates. Several of the terms in the new ToR will be phased in at the end of the current term.

Udai met with Linda Breen after the SEC meeting to discuss current SRC vacancies. The decision was made to keep elected positions vacant until the end of the current term. The new time frame for elections will give the SRC appropriate time to transition to the new way of operating rather than fill spots for the 1 year period remaining.

The SEC also covered the implementation of micro-credentials, a report was provided by the Library and the PACE team.

8. REPORT FROM THE STUDENT JOURNEY & EXPERIENCE TASKFORCE

No meetings/updates since the previous meeting.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

**9.1. National Leadership Foun
(for discussion)**

The National Leadership Forum will be held from the 15th -18th September 2022. Macquarie University can nominate 2 students to attend the forum at a cost of \$2000 to register (accommodation will be covered as part of registration). Nominations are open to both internal and distance students.

If fully funded by the SRC total cost: \$5,060 approximately.

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich: Proposed that one of the spaces be reserved for a member of the SRC as a gesture of good will in exchange for SRC funding.

Votes: 9 in favour passed.

In person: Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich, Jarrod Currey, Sadra Yousefi.

Online: Amanda O'Neill, Fatima Khan, Elizabeth Christie, Curtis Micallef, Allastassia Carter, Leila Maruca.

9.2. Terms of Reference (for discussion)

Chairman reminded the SRC to review the Terms of Reference carefully to understand the new requirements including attendance requirements. SRC Representatives need to ensure apologies are sent to the Chair in a reasonable timeframe before the meeting with a reason included as to why they are unable to attend.

Apologies must be sent via official channels; direct to the Chairman via email, copying in the SRC secretariat to notify of your absence.

Non-attendance at 3 meetings automatically vacates your role.

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich: Recommended an amendment to the ToR to implement a cap on the time duration the University has to replace members of the SRC.

Election of the Chairs of sub-committees need to be addressed in a timely manner in future. The new chair of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), Budget and Finance Subcommittee will be Sadra Yousefi.

Vote on amendment to SRC ToR Clause 68. Did not pass on favourable votes. Clarity sought from Linda Breen the Director of Governance at Macquarie University.

Votes: 4 votes in favour unclear as to whether the motion passes or fails.

In person: Udai Kamath, Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich, Sadra Yousefi, Jarrod Currey

Abstained (online): Curtis Micallef, Fatima Khan, Elizabeth Christie, Leila Maruca, Amanda O'Neill, and Allastassia Carter.

10. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

10.1. Marketing and Communications Subcommittee

No chair of the sub-committee.

An action item has been created to determine which members of the SRC are members of this sub-committee and appoint a new Chair prior to the next meeting.

10.2. Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF), Budget and Finance Subcommittee

New Chair elected: Sadra Yousefi.

No updates from this committee.

10.3. Mental Health Subcommittee

No updates from the subcommittee, which last convened in 2021.

Chairman recommended the members of the subcommittee convene and present feedback for discussion at the next meeting in August.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Student Societies and Groups Update

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich: Notified the SRC that Student Groups have been asked to reaffiliate for 2022. It is a requirement for these groups and societies to reaffiliate annually.

Melinda Chadwick: Confirmed this is already a requirement which is completed annually to review Constitutions and provide fair representation to student members of these groups. As a result of the Professional Staff Transformation the process of reaffiliation has been delayed in 2022. The Student Engagement team is currently in the process of updating procedures to ensure Student Group executive members meet updated criteria.

Jayden Whaites-Fruitrich:

1. It is the second time the club Jayden is a part of has been asked to reaffiliate in the last 2 months.
2. The deadline was scheduled during the examination period, putting pressure on students during a stressful period of the academic year.

Melinda Chadwick: The team is working to establish a new and more effective rolling system to review which groups are currently active.

Jarrold Currey: Recommends a year-round affiliation period as the current reaffiliation process has required a lot of coordination for students during the examinations period.

SRC Representatives sought clarification about late affiliation requests.

Melinda Chadwick to discuss with the Student Engagement team to confirm communications.

11.2 Focus Groups – Mailouts to Students

Amanda O'Neill: Student invitations to participate in focus groups. Amanda raised concerns that the on-campus modality for engagement in these focus groups was prohibitive to distance/external student engagement. Amanda reached out to these teams and requested these focus groups be offered online to allow distance/external students to participate in these groups. Key issues raised are that on-campus focus groups are not inclusive of external students and learning and teaching may need to be reminded to provide online sessions in the future.

Recommendation could be raised with the DVCA-Students to improve this process in future.

Action Item: communicate with the DVCA-Students for consideration to be given to students within consultation so that they can participate and engage in future focus groups.

11.3 SRC Physical Office

Udai Kamath: The Chairman has liaised with Property about where the new SRC Office will be located. However, Udai has not received an update.

Melinda Chadwick: Will raise this issue with Property about this request. The SRC Office should remain within the same physical space it was in prior to the MUSE renovations.

The SRC will have swipe access to this room. SRC members have been asked to send their CDX numbers (on the back of Student ID cards) to Melinda Chadwick for processing.

11.4 Housekeeping

Discussion between SRC representatives of the record keeping related to SRC attendance, the revision of the SRC meeting schedule (meetings to be held every 2 months, rather than monthly meetings).

Motions and agenda items will need to be created prior to meetings and sent through to the secretariat for publication in the agenda. If you require support constructing motions please reach out to the secretariat for support.

Udai Kamath: The Chairman has proposed a motion that was to be delivered at the June meeting but will be presented at the August meeting.

Action items from this meeting will be added to the agenda of the next meeting in August.

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Student Representative Committee (SRC) will be held Monday, August 9, 2022. Agenda items are due by 25 July 2022 via e-mail to SRCSecretariat@mq.edu.au.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by the Chair at 7:44pm.