



## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

### 2021 Meeting 4 - April

Wednesday April 28th – 5:00-7:00pm

Meeting ID: 876 6325 3361

## Agenda

### 1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1. Welcome, Introduction, and Apologies  
Apologies from Maria, Razin, Tracey
- 1.2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians of the Land
- 1.3. Declarations of Interest
- 1.4. Starring of Items
- 1.5. Order of Business
- 1.6. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
- 1.7. Confirmation of Member Reports
- 1.8. Action Sheet from Previous Meeting

### 2. General Business of the Council

- 2.1. Report from the Chair
- 2.2. Report from Student Representation & Participation
- 2.3. Report from Collectives
- 2.4. Report on SRC Budget
- 2.5. Reports and Recommendations from SRC Committees

### 3. New Business of the Council

#### 3.1. Pursuing the Overdue Procedures

<b>Issue</b>	The Procedures update timeline has stalled and must be followed up
<b>Date</b>	17/04/2021
<b>Mover</b>	Simon Preuss-Kearney
<b>Second</b>	

#### ***Issue Description:***

The SRC completed their procedures review in collaboration with Grant by December 2020. Since this time has passed (well over 4 months), we have yet to receive a finalisation for this procedure, and not even a rough progression timeline.

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

Specifically - all student leaders, but this extends to all students: As outdated or unclear procedures can facilitate inefficient student reps who lack the updated procedures to act as guidance.

**Recommendation:**

We send an email from the SRC requesting an updated progression timeline and encourage that the project have a clear completion month set (at the minimum) as a target to ensure accountability (This target empowers the SRC to follow up on possible completion delays, such as the deadline month lapsing without the procedures becoming available). Of course, there are difficulties since we have a legal consultant reviewing it, and this slows the process down, but that is even more reason to set targets with ourselves, Richard, and the legal consultant – to ensure we get this finalised.

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

We as an SRC should have access to timely updates on the procedures which govern us. We spend considerable time discussing issues with the procedures and it is only fair now, after many months of patience, that we act to follow this up: To ensure we get the resolution we deserve for our time.

**Proposed Action:**

I propose that the SRC create an email which requests Richard present the following details:

- 1) Updated the SRC with the procedure’s progression timeline, and if none exists – create one which has clear progression targets.
- 2) Update the SRC on the current expected completion month, and if none exists - create one which has a clear completion target for the SRC to follow up on.

3.2. Women’s Room Maintenance

<b>Issue</b>	Cleaning material and cushions
<b>Date</b>	April 17, 2021
<b>Mover</b>	Rosina Armstrong-M
<b>Secunder</b>	

**Issue Description:**

Upon my visit to campuses women’s room, I notice there are lack of cleaning items available like wipes, sanitizer, board cleaner and other mini things. Also, some campuses tablecloth and cushions are not in good shape for the rooms.

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

I believe this will make the women’s room more welcoming and safer for students who use it.

**Recommendation:**

Requested amount will support the collective in taking steps towards students need and satisfaction.

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

Students will appreciate the input of their representatives and make use of the spaces provided for them on campus.

**Budget Impact:**

Items	Quotes/Cost
Cleaning items	\$100
Cushions	\$120
Mini items (Basket...)	\$80

**Proposed Action:**

I propose the SRC to allocate \$300 for the women's room maintenance.

### 3.3. Women's Collective Engagement

<b>Issue</b>	Engaging and supporting students
<b>Date</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>Mover</b>	Rosina Armstrong-M
<b>Seconder</b>	

**Issue Description:**

The women's collective is trying to develop great connection with students. Therefore, hoping to host mini online activities which students will have the chance to get some prizes. Example will be an activity to include mothers studying as they seem to be somehow left out sometimes especially as Mother's Day approach.

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

Students who are willing to get involve will get the benefits.

**Recommendation:**

I recommend that the SRC will assist in this activity and the amount proposed will support the collective activeness in the university as well as helping some women students in need.

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

To bring inclusive and do what students will benefit.

**Budget Impact:**

Items	Quotes/Cost
Prizes	\$200
	\$
	\$

**Proposed Action:**

I propose that the SRC fund \$200 for women's collective engagement and activities.

### 3.4. Reaffiliation with CAPA

<b>Issue</b>	Reaffiliation Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA)
<b>Date</b>	19 -04-2021
<b>Mover</b>	Daniel Bonatti Vice President Postgraduate Education
<b>Seconder</b>	Manika Sahni International Student Representative

**Issue Description:** Reaffiliation Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA). Postgraduate students have different needs the value proposition is different,

*domestic or international, and by coursework or HDR. These sectors need to be represented. CAPA has access to experts to help.*

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

POSTGRADUATES: Founded in 1979, The Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) is a membership based non-profit organization. CAPA's main role is in protecting and promoting the interests and needs of Australia's 455,000+ postgraduate students. CAPA represents the interests of postgraduate students to all levels of government (including the opposition and minor parties) to peak bodies in the tertiary sector, as well as to the press. CAPA also provides support to individual postgraduate associations as required. Postgraduate students includes equity groups: women students, international students, indigenous students, disability students, queer students and research students.

**Recommendation:** *Reaffiliate WSU SRC with CAPA*

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

Western Sydney University reaffiliated in 2018 after some absence, this meant WSU had a voice and other universities noticed us. In 2019 WSU for the first time got a representative elected media officer, Anushka Kapoor she is still currently representing us. Western Sydney University reaffiliation for CAPA's membership joins us with over 28 university or campus-based postgraduate representative bodies. My recommendation is SRC joins as a postgraduate representative body member organization of CAPA. WSU has about 7800 postgraduate students we are joining another 450000 obviously giving us a greater voice. Together we can fight government cut-backs sure to come due to consequences of COVID -19. CAPA organizes campaigns many of these campaigns are in WSU interest. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Association (NATSIPA) is also a member of CAPA. As WSU resides on many nations we need to join CAPA for our indigenous students. Therefore CAPA represents a different value proposition many students are already professionals or and in the workforce, or are university staffers or even academics. Postgraduate studies are to further student careers or professional development.

CAPA uses best practice it has ties to Department of education, Universities Australia, TAFE and University staff. CAPA works with our member organizations to ensure that postgraduate students have strong representation and the opportunity to contribute to the discourse in matters that affect them. Being able to outsource lobbying efforts at a federal level, rather than doing this our selves

- Ensuring that there is a strong, united postgraduate voice in the sector and in the media.
- Being a part of research and lobbying on a national level
- Being able to work with a national organization with extensive, high level networks.
- Having the ability to raise issues affecting your constituents at a national level, with direct links to the Department of Education, TEQSA, Universities Australia, and political parties.
- Being able to access support when your organization is facing difficult challenges.
- Having networking opportunities with other postgraduate student leader.
- Being able to draw on CAPA resources, national campaigns and submissions when undertaking lobbying through your individual postgraduate associations. Examples
- National campaigning, research, and lobbying on mental health and wellbeing of postgraduate students
- Campaigning on the financial realities of postgraduate life, particularly considering international student finances

- Advocacy on student homelessness
- Assist postgraduate associations with SSAF matters, and defend against Voluntary Student Unionism legislation
- Austudy for local domestic& international postgraduate students.

**Budget Impact:**

Items	Quotes/Cost
Reaffiliation fees	\$13655.68

**Proposed Action:** Motion to in principle reaffiliate with CAPA

3.5. Reaffiliation with CISA

<b>Issue</b>	The SRC to in principle reaffiliate with CISA.
<b>Date</b>	19-4-2021
<b>Mover</b>	Daniel Bonatti Vice President Postgraduate education
<b>Seconder</b>	Manika Sahni International Student Representative

**Issue Description:**

International students problems are beyond the WSU SRC to go it alone. We need better contacts to resolve problems caused by COVID/CIVIL UNREST. Therefore WSU needs to reaffiliate with The Council of International Student Australia. (CISA) is the national peak student representative organization for international students studying at the postgraduate, undergraduate, private college, TAFE, ELICOS and foundation level. CISA was inaugurated on Wednesday July 7, 2010 at the University of Tasmania, Hobart through the joint efforts of the National Union of Students (NUS), Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) and the Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS) to form a unified voice for all international students. We are not aligned with any particular political party which allows us the freedom to openly and freely advance our position on issues for the betterment all international students.

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:** INTERNATIONAL students at WSU

**Recommendation:** Reaffiliate with CISA (by doing so WSU SRC shows its commitment to its international students).

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

The reason to join is to have support of other universities rather than doing everything alone. The objects of the association are to:

- Advocate for the interests and needs of international students;
- Advocate for high quality education for international students;
- Facilitate network building among stakeholders with an interest in supporting international students;
- Host an annual national forum for international students;
- Provide a means of consulting and engaging with international students;
- Host future international student roundtable events in partnership with various government entities;
- Promote cross-cultural awareness and interactions in Australia;
- Advocate for non-racist, non-discriminatory law reform concerning international students.

*Budget Impact:*

Items	Quotes/Cost
Reaffiliation Fee	\$ 600

**Proposed Action:** To in principle reaffiliate with CISA

3.6. Postgraduate Committee

<b>Issue</b>	In principle have a Postgraduate SRC
<b>Date</b>	28-4-2021
<b>Mover</b>	Daniel Bonatti Vice President Postgraduate Education
<b>Secunder</b>	

**Issue Description:** Most universities have a body representing Postgraduate students, some universities and private providers which have postgraduate students, but do not have a representative body for these students. Western Sydney University is one such University without a body representing 7800 students, there is only Vice President Postgraduate Education myself Daniel Bonatti representing this vast group.

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

Postgraduate Students

**Recommendation:**

In principle have a Postgraduate SRC

- **WORKING GROUP:** This could start as a working group about 5 to 8 postgraduate members, to gauge interest. Monthly meeting in between SRC Full meetings, reporting back to SRC at there full monthly meeting. Gauge of interest be it in positions, petitions and or surveys etc yet to be determined.
- **POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE:** Then a full committee comprising if they exist of representatives for equity groups indigenous, women, queer, ethno-cultural, international, disability, research HDR PhD, coursework, and welfare. Including SAC, academic senate and Board members, small amount of funding \$5000.
- **POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION** New postgraduate SRC completely broken away from SRC. With an allocation of funding \$20000. For stipends and events.

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

- Different value proposition domestic, international, coursework and HDR.
- Add voice to postgraduate student. Benefits to the university is getting volunteers already graduated from undergraduate degrees and or Professionals to support like students in there career goals.
- The overriding object of the Postgrad SRC shall be to promote the interests of the University's postgraduate students.
- The Postgrad SRC shall seek to reflect the views of postgraduate students of the University, and to that end shall consult their opinions regularly on matters of concern.
- The Postgrad SRC shall represent the postgraduate students of the University and make appropriate representations on their behalf. It shall seek to defend their needs and uphold their aspirations at all times.
  - The Postgrad SRC shall provide independent representation, advocacy and advice to postgraduate students of the WSU.
  - The Postgrad SRC will strive for improvement of student issues and rights within the University and in society at large.

- Postgrad SRC works to achieve this on individual levels by giving independent and professional advocacy and advice to postgraduate students on a range of issues including migration; supervisory problems; academic appeals; matters relating to coursework; special consideration, regarding, independent remarks, harassment, discrimination and bullying; accommodation and tenancy; and fees: basically anything that may impact on your academic and general welfare.
- Postgrad SRC also works to address the systemic nature of some of these issues by consulting with areas of the University's governance and addressing gaps in their policies that adversely affect students.
- Postgrad SRC also work to represent students more broadly, such as in matters where individual representation might be difficult due to concerns of reprisal, or to ensure that there is an equal playing field against larger institutions.
- Postgrad SRC provides an independent critical voice, urging the University and Australian Governments towards best practices for students.
- Postgrad SRC also recognizes that part of the support necessary for completing higher education is social. So Postgrad SRC seeks to provide social networks, events and publications to help postgraduate students remain connected to the University and their fellow postgraduate students.

***Budget Impact:***

<b>Items</b>	<b>Quotes/Cost</b>
Postgraduate Working Group	\$1000
Postgraduate Committee	\$5000
Postgraduate Association	\$20000

**Proposed Action: In principle have Postgraduate working group to become eventually its on association.**

3.7. Clean Up Our Campus SRC & Student Spaces

<b>Issue</b>	Most SRC and Student Rooms Across Campuses Have Old and Expired Stock in them and require Substantial Clean & Revamp
<b>Date</b>	17/04/2021
<b>Mover</b>	Simon Preuss-Kearney
<b>Seconder</b>	

***Issue Description:***

After tidying up some of the Kingswood campus SRC room and then recently tidying a small part of the Campbelltown SRC room, it has become clear that many SRC rooms are in need of a significant clean and refresh. This includes disposing of old handouts with outdated information, out of date food, rooms full of items – that have no order to them or it is unclear of what needs to be done with the remaining items which just appear to be rubbish.

***Portfolios/Students Impacted:***

All SRC and student rooms on Campus.

***Recommendation:***

I suggest that the SRC organises days to go to each campus representatives' offices and tidy the room and amenities in them (throw out out-of-date stock & unnecessary old documents, etc). If we choose, we could additionally provide prizes (to the value of) to students for

helping tidy the common areas and even offices. Furthermore, creating a list for each campus of items to be repaired and replaced, such as items that should be provided in those spaces (particularly if there is a need for them), and replacing things items as we disposed of currently unusable versions of them (like off milk).

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

There are a few clear benefits to doing tidying up these rooms and encouraging students to assist in this through incentives. Firstly, the main reason we should assist each other in the cleaning process is that all SRC rooms and student rooms require a small to large clean up in them – so getting more people on board will speed up the job of cleaning everything. Additionally, it is our responsibilities as reps to take care of our spaces, so we might as well make it more enjoyable and quicker to complete while we get it up to a decent standard. Lastly, we could offer student prizes to help make our lives easier, while paying them for their contribution to the cause. This interaction will likely offer an additional benefit of a unique opportunity to improve the SRC’s visibility and create new ideas to be organised in the future (by the SRC), while cleaning up to a decent standard that we should expect of ourselves to achieve.

**Budget Impact: For helping student (all e-vouchers)**

Items	Quotes/Cost
Vouchers for helping (divided into \$10-\$25 vouchers covering all campuses)	\$400
Lucky door prize	\$400
	\$800 Total

**Proposed Action:**

I proposed the SRC organises a time to clean up all student spaces across all campus (one campus at a time).

Furthermore, we could potentially offer prizes for student contribution (can act as a “meet the SRC and get paid”). If we do choose to include this, we can additionally provide prizes (to the value 10-25 per voucher alongside 1 lucky door prize per campus - \$75 per campus) to students for helping tidy the common areas and even offices.

3.8. Disconnect Between Students and Their Schools

<b>Issue</b>	Disconnect Between Students and their Schools
<b>Date</b>	17/04/2021
<b>Mover</b>	Simon Preuss-Kearney
<b>Secunder</b>	

**Issue Description:**

There are many current student clubs that focus on side interests such as sporting games like soccer and writing - but many clubs don’t relate to what people study.

Relatedly, there is a current disconnect between many students and their schools due to the poor communication channels. They are often hard to find and feel distant from any real influence even once students do find them. This suggests a need for better, more structured and officially recognised connection between students and their schools. The current gold standard at Western is the Law school and their student club. Additionally, there are some smaller, school focused clubs (such as the psychology society), who do their best to encourage student engagement in school decisions.



Given the small to large success that many of these clubs have achieved for student voice representation in their schools over their time, it suggests that many more schools could benefit from a similar platform.

***Portfolios/Students Impacted:***

Potentially all academic schools.

***Recommendation:***

Consequently, I suggest the creation of new student clubs supported by their schools (For example: sociology club backed by the school of sociology, but not influenced by the school).

This would entail the SRC to commit to support and champion this project, to as many interested schools as possible. A working group could be created to develop this idea, or an individual can elect to follow this up – backed by the SRC in whatever way possible. They would contact the school via email and give an overview of this initiative and invite the interested schools to a zoom meeting to discuss their interest and what they hope to achieve out of this.

***Justification/Reason for Recommendation:***

I believe it is incredibly important to improve communication channels between schools and their students, and I believe this makes a clearer direction for future events to be naturally formulated by creating clubs that share a common interest and purpose. This also streamlines the process of making complaints to us (the SRC) as it can be picked up by the clubs and they can pass on the important details to us (who many students don't even know exists).

Additionally, the schools will not have a say or control over what the students' clubs wish to organise and plan – the clubs will have their own autonomy. But the schools will commit to supporting these clubs and rewarding the work that they do as best as they can.

***Budget Impact:***

None at the current time. Monetary backing from the SRC could be explored with the individual schools through the negotiation phase.

***Proposed Action:***

I propose that the SRC commits to support and champion this project to as many interested schools as possible. Furthermore, a working group or individual shall be chosen to enact this and ensure it progresses as far as possible.

#### **4. Other Business**

#### **5. Next Meeting and Close**

## 6. Additional Documents

### 6.1. March Action Sheet

<b>March Action Sheet</b>		
<b>Agenda Item/Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Completion</b>
3.1 Tyler and Simon to organise informal meeting to discuss the policy details.	<b>Simon/Tyler</b>	<b>Completed</b>
3.2 Simon to create budget request for chess board.	<b>Simon</b>	
3.7 Rameez to coordinate working party	<b>Rameez</b>	
3.9 Order devices and organised time with Marissa to secure their locations.	<b>Pearl (or acting President)</b>	
3.10 Tyler to note budget allocation for incidentals.	<b>Tyler</b>	
3.11 Submit plan of action for funding for SRC to review.	<b>Nikodin</b>	