

**Student Representative Council**

Student Representative member’s reports – February

The following reports are to be provided by all SRC members

**Members who failed to provide reports**

Anirudh Kathik - Parramatta City Campus Representative

Daniel Bonatti - Vice President Education (Postgraduate)

Erdem Yigiter - Queer Representative

Shayne Miller – First Nations Representative

Sumegha Sehgal – Woman’s Representative

Vageesh Jha - Residential Representative

Vlad Focus – Bankstown Campus Representative

**Matthew Bojanic – President**

INTRODUCTION

I would like to begin my monthly activities report by thanking Daniel Bonatti, Vice President of Postgraduate Education, and Mandii Carr, Vice President of Activities, for their great work in leading the Student Representative Council during my 7 weeks of military leave with the Australian Army over the Summer Break. Their strong teamwork and leadership has enabled the SRC to continue to support the interests of students during an incredibly trying time that has seen both the initial stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as the 2019-20 Bushfire Crisis. I would also like to pay tribute to Mandii’s four years of service to Student Representation at Western, now that she has formally stood down from her role upon my return. Her commitment to the students of Western is phenomenal, and she will be sorely missed from the leadership team.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

My current activities have been limited due to my recent return from service however, have been focused on tackling a number of grievances and administrative issues faced by the council, as well as meeting with SR+P and a number of senior members in order to bring myself back up to speed with the council’s current initiatives which forged ahead during my absence. Furthermore, I have been receiving regular updates from Richard Martino, Acting Director of Student Engagement, regarding the University’s preparations during the COVID-19 outbreak with regard to support a number of international students that are currently left in China due to the ongoing travel ban, both during this trying period, and upon their arrival within Australia.

Furthermore, I have a number of important meetings that are upcoming, with me meeting with the Vice Chancellor on Thursday 20 February to provide an update on the SRC’s activities, as well as with the Respectful Relationships Task Force, which is building off the work of Respect. Now. Always throughout the last couple of years.

**Frederick W. Bekker – General Secretary**

As my primary role as the General Secretary I created/collated the;

- Agenda item list,

- Member reports document,

- Minutes from the previous council meeting

And made these documents available publicly online via the SRC website <http://westernsrc.org/> for public dissemination, transparency, and accountability. I also appreciated really well given feedback given by Grant Murray and shall be implementing the advice that he gave to me regarding minute taking/agenda item formatting.

Following up on the action Items assigned to me, I had an extremely productive meeting with Allan Feng on the 1st of February 2020. This was regarding the combined merchandise order that we shall be doing for 2020, and through delegating through fellow members we completed a stocktake of existing merchandise and re-run the poll for the student chosen items. I spent a long-time sourcing for the most sustainable/cheapest products, and shall be presenting the motion within the upcoming meeting.

I attended both days of the C3 congress where I really enjoyed meeting my fellow student leaders and getting to know better my fellow members. I undertook the training and discussion groups held by the staff and really enjoyed the hard work that Charbel put into everything.

I was on hand for a lot of answering of member and student queries through social media and emails, and helped with a lot of small administrative tasks within SRC matters.

Finally, I attended the Parramatta City Campus for Orientation day on the 19th of February 2020 and represented the SRC to new members. I also met with fellow student leaders and enjoying a thorough discussion regarding the new *WesternLife* platform and how it is anticipated to impact students.

 

Finally I met with one of the full-time SSAF payed NUS National executives to discuss the role of the NUS in relation to Western Sydney, and the lack of historic support received to WSU from the organisation.

**Aditi Sengupta - Campbelltown Campus Representative**

As regular classes and semesters have ended January has been a quieter month compared to other months. This month I have visited campus and restocked the kitchenette and emailed Campus Life officers about the cups and lids which has been resolved. I have been made aware of a recent smell in the fridge and have arranged to clean it this Monday evening. I have submitted all reports til date and Zoomed through to several meetings. After hearing about the RFS donation initiative to set up a clothing basket and advertise it, I visited university to hang up posters which had been created by fellow SRC member Vicky, however I had arrived early and they weren’t ready yet. Upon following up with Vicky, I have found out that the space has been already established at Campbelltown. However, I am working on creating posters for donation of food cans and blankets and setting up this initiative alongside extending the advertising of the clothing drive. I have provided my input towards ‘flying minute’ petitions including the flying minute on campus and equity budgets. I look forward to running more forums and events as the campus gets busier and engaging with students and working towards promoting their interests after receiving feedback that they would like more events especially food-based events at university.

**Clare Da Silva - Parramatta South Representative**

Since the last meeting, I have worked on various different initiatives to engage and assist students.

Events:

I have created some posters for upcoming events to run on campus as well as started to put in booking requests with my campus life officer, Nap. I could not put in the forms on-campus groups as I was not granted officer access until this week. I will fill them in ASAP. These events include seeding friending around the world (aimed at international students) and a general speed friending event. I also have posters for other events but I am currently working out costs available for other events before advertising these events. I attended a meeting with Nap to see what his plans were for the upcoming semester and to get some advice on what works best on campus. I am talking with councillor service to enquire about having therapy dogs on campus during o-week.

Collaborations:

I presented at C3 Congress about the SRC Retreat and the ANZSSA Conference. I attended both days of the C3 Congress. At C3 Congress, it was decided that the SRC, Campus Life and other various student clubs would hold a talent show during the autumn semester. Nap has followed up with security to get it approved and we are working out costs. I have also now joined the Respectful Relationships Taskforce.

Office and emails:

I have been checking up on both donation boxes at Parramatta south campus and Parramatta city campus. I have started an email thread for campus representatives, to share what projects they are running for this semester and to share resources. I completed the form for working in the SRC spaces. I've also tried maintaining the space over the break. I did a stocktake of the merchandise we have at Parramatta South. We have roughly 1325 tote bags and 7840 post-it notes. I will be bringing some of these to the SRC meeting so other campuses can use these resources. I have created promotional posters in general for the src to put up around campus, allowing students to know our contact information and who the reps are on campus. I plan to attend two days of the welcome week at Parramatta South to promote events on campus and to get students to get to know their representative.

**Leahanne Baker - Nirimba Campus representative**

During February, I have worked towards making Nirimba Campus a safe place for all students. After establishing multiple social media groups and private group chats I've been reached out with a lot of concern surrounding the Bush fires and the Coronavirus. I have attended a meeting with the Building and Operations Manager at my campus about the Coronavirus and the Bush fires and asking if we have a set plan if anything does occur. I have also recently attended a meeting with Mr. Matthew Dakin, who is the Director of Campus Safety and Security at Western Sydney University, just to go through any steps and procedures. I plan to keep on working towards my goal but I would like to complete this by the end of March of what the Nirimba students need and want to make them feel more included and supported throughout their journey at the University of Western Sydney The College.

**Natasha Ferrer - Liverpool Campus representative**

General Synopsis and Reflection:

With the new year rolling in, had found myself in a busy position during the month on January. I have attended many official and casual meeting with both staff and SRC alike and through C3 congress I was able to form many connections and gain insightful knowledge.

Experiences:

* Assisted with RFS initiative by setting up location drop-off point in Liverpool and placing posters around the campus.
* Attendance of C3 Congress on both days.
* Creation of Liverpool Campus Discussion page where students are given an opportunity to platform their voice and become aware of Liverpool-base events.
* Meeting with CLO Nick Dionisopoulos and Vlad Focus in regard to Campus activities.

Future Liverpool Campus Initiatives:

* Youth Week collaboration with Liverpool Campus life and Liverpool Youth Council for youth week.
* Combined activities with campus life.
* Social gatherings and opportunities for new and continuing student.
* Arts and crafts sessions (painting, origami, colouring in therapy books) to help destress students.
* Pot-a-plant events (a very successful in 2019).
* Possible animal therapy session (in campus or off-campus).
* More Campus Forums as I was unfamiliar with this concept in 2019.

**Joshua Newton - Hawkesbury Representative**

During this month I attended both days of the C3 conference at Parramatta campus. I have been liaising with the campus counselling team to organise a therapy dog event on orientation day. It has been quite last minute due to some logistical issues however I believe it will still go ahead. The counselling team will be attending and I believe it will be a great way to introduce both new and continuing students to both the SRC, the events we are planning for the year and the counselling team. I have also conducted some polls on the Hawkesbury Facebook group to try and gain an understanding of what students most want. I will be looking at running a speed friending and sporting events during the first couple of months of semester.

**Allan Feng – ethno-cultural Representative**

In the past month I have continued working and will be finishing up my succession planning. To this end, I have completed the SRC Ethno-cultural Representative handover document.

I also attended the C3 congress training.

I have also continued to collaborate with other SRC members on the combined SRC + collective merchandise. I have completed and submitted several designs to the team to use as the logo.

During the final week of this month, I will be convening the Ethno-cultural Collective and the Equity collective working groups for a meeting.

PLANNED INITIATIVES: - I will be working with the collective to develop executive positions for the collective. This will be two executive positions for collective members and will commence in 2020. - I will be re-convening the equity collective working party before the end of January 2020.

- I will be working with my officers to begin planning for Western Fair in autumn session 2020.

- Planned events of the upcoming semester include: Harmony week, Diversity Fest and Refugee week.

**Danielle Wolf – Environment Representative**

February has been a month of planning, organising and networking. We have spent significant time planning for the year ahead for both Uni events and our own DIY workshops, pop-up events and of course the garden. We have also been considering ways in which we can garner engagement and investment by our officers and general members, including new projects, a possible newsletter and competitions. One issue we are still struggling with is emails going to junk mail, which is of course and ongoing issue. We are attempting to get officers to find me on Facebook so we can form a messenger chat instead however even there we are having limited success getting in touch.

We have also been working on expanding our relationships within the Uni and externally, particularly with other University clubs and groups. Fridays for Future is going to be a Uni wide effort this year, involving Chaplaincy, NTEU, Sustainable Futures and various other departments, staff and academics. We plan to try and coordinate and collaborate more effectively than last year, establishing a common goal but different tasks. We have also met with staff from Sustainable Futures to work on ways to incorporate the Youth Challenge initiative by Britt Hardiman and access the cohort who have completed or are enrolled in the online Global Sustainability boot camp.

Our garden vision is expanding to include stronger emphasis on cultural connections, Indigenous land management strategies and talks by visiting experts. We are also hoping to gain permission and support for school visits, knowing the mental health and general wellbeing benefits to be achieved through engagement with Nature.

I have also been in contact with external experts and concerned community members regarding the future of the kangaroo mob on Werrington North campus. We have discussed putting together an environmental impact paper as well as a working paper to form the basis of a campaign to ensure the ongoing wellbeing of the mob.

**Vicky-Rae Renier-Clarke - Disabilities Rep**

I FEEL THAT I HAVE ADEQUATELY UNDERTAKEN THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MY ROLE DURING THIS PERIOD BY:

Undertaking training to fulfil their role

C3 Congress [6th & 7th February] I attended both days of C3 Congress for this semester and learnt a great deal about the new platform that the university has adopted for WesternLife. I personally find this platform to be much more user friendly than the previous OrgSync platform and look forward to using it more to promote the collective, SRCF and my student club to the wider student cohort. I do note however that I do not have representative access to the SRC portal of WesternLife at this stage.

LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee with Choice and Connect Division of Autism Spectrum Australia [3rd February] I personally believe that the training provided to myself and my peers as part of this committee assists myself and others to understand the complexities of navigating the realm of NDIS as a Queer and Disabled individual. As this is not something that the university offers us training in more broadly as Disability Reps and Officers, I believe that such opportunities are prudent for the advancement of community and understanding of the struggles of Queer and Disabled students when navigating the NDIS and requesting support services.

Undertaking tasks assigned to them as per the actions and resolutions of the SRC

I was not allocated any tasks as per action items or resolutions for this period by the SRC. The Disability Collective was however allocated a budget of $9000 to facilitate Disability Awareness Training for the Campbelltown, Parramatta and Bankstown Campuses during the Autumn Semester, however, planning for this has not commenced currently as I have no access to funding via the SRC or Disability Collective portals. Nor so I know if this allocation would be facilitated through the Disability or SRC portals although I hope it will be through Disability as it will be much easier to track our expenditure overall for the year.

Engaging students and student leaders in discussion around relevant issues in the university The Disability Collective has been steadfastly working on several different campaigns within the university in this space, these include but are not limited to our on-going projects in relation to:

Addressing the complaints of Students with Disability in relation to the Flipped Learning Model [Ongoing]

It has been highlighted by several students, primarily on the Milperra and Liverpool campuses, that the flipped learning model adopted by the university is not compatible with the learning styles of some students with various disabilities who fare better with a face to face physical learning environment compared to an online platform. During these conversations, students outlined feelings of isolation from the university and hesitation with being expected to teach themselves the materials in line with their able-bodied peers. Some with AIP accommodations also noted that these accommodations are not taken into consideration within the online platform which is consequently leading to a high failure rate amongst students with disability. I have raised this as an issue at several meetings of the Academic Planning and Course Approvals Committee as an Undergraduate Representative and look forward to our meeting shortly with Kevin Bell of Digital Futures alongside Academic Senate Representative, Hollie Hammond to discuss the issue of Accessibility across the University’s Multimedia Platforms.

Pushing for a more inclusive RNA Policy for all students not just those who are female identifying [Ongoing]

It has been identified again by several students over the last few months that the university needs to adopt a more inclusive voice when dealing with its current RNA policy. Students feel that despite the statistics that were revealed in the Universities Report that Students with Disability are one of the highest minorities with poor reporting rates that the university has not done enough to include those with disability within their advertising and marketing for the taskforce project nor have disabled voices been added to the consultation process regarding the reporting portal as students with varied disabilities may not be able to use the portal to report as it is not supported by such assistive technologies as screen readers. These sentiments were also largely echoed throughout the male and queer cohorts of students that I managed to have conversations with that also feel that their voices are not being adequately represented by the task force and have asked that our campaign also encompass their voices also to create a more inclusive campaign that goes beyond the realms of those that are female identifying. It was pointed out that male victims also receive less support by counselling services both in the university and externally when trying to report an incident. We are investigating various options to resolve this currently.

Fridays for the Future with Jen Dollin (Sustainable Futures) and Daniel Jantos (Chaplaincy) [Ongoing]

These are a number of small talks surrounding current events and the Sustainable Development Goals occurring weekly on the Hawkesbury and Parramatta South Campuses. The Disability Collective has been invited as participants due to their work surrounding SDG 10 – Reducing Inequalities. Our participation in these conversations is ongoing.

Enquired with Larissa Baker on the status of stalls booked for Western Fair

I do remember booking stalls for Disability Collective for Campbelltown, Bankstown and Parramatta , but cannot remember if this was for Orientation or Western Fair. As such, I have enquired with Larissa to ensure these are booked if they have not been already.

Discussions with CLO, Nick Dionisopoulos surrounding plans for Bankstown and Liverpool Campus for 2020

Natasha, Vlad and myself have begun our initial consultations with Nick for the 2020 Academic Year. As Nick is CLO for the Liverpool and Bankstown Campuses he has advised that he will be requesting the assistance of SRC and its collectives to host and collaborate on events this year as he simply does not have the man power to do so. These conversations are continuing in relation to these collaborations and SRC planned events to the Campus Life Calendar we have received. Discussions with Clare DaSilva, Parramatta South Rep, surrounding SRC promotional material for orientation and beyond Clare and I had a number of conversations as to how we can best promote the SRC to students during the orientation period and beyond. Clare mentioned the provision of bright eye-catching posters with a brief rundown of what is the SRC and what do they do. I have also forwarded to the entire SRC the pamphlets that I designed for orientation last year. As I have not heard any objections to these materials from members, I am of the assumption that these will be used for these purposes again this year.

Email Response to Shayne Miller, First Nations Rep, surrounding the proposed presence of elders during our indigenous themed dinners for Closing the Gap Day and Reconciliation Week at Bankstown Soup Kitchen

I suggested this to Shayne as a follow on to his discussion point in his January 2020 report where he stated that he would like to host and organize a night on each campus with the University’s Elders in residence. As these dinners have been added to the proposed menu for the Bankstown Kitchen in collaboration with chaplaincy for the 2020 season; I thought the addition of the elders to these would not only make things easier for Shayne in organization it would also make an excellent addition to out recognition of indigenous people in this space especially during discussions held by Bankstown Provost to change the name of the X Lounge to the Darug Lounge in recognition of the traditional custodians of the land in which the campus resides. I currently have not had return correspondence from Shayne in relation to this.

Presenting Disabled Students Issues at meetings of the SRC and being the voice of the Disabled Student Population at Western Sydney University

Welcome to Wellbeing

The Disability Collective following conversations from Paulin Tan and myself with Natasha and Gay Hardwick of Disability Services, have been invited to attend the Welcome to Wellbeing events on both Campbelltown and Parramatta Campuses to promote the collective to first year students with disability. I along with Robert Reed, Disability Officer for Campbelltown, will be attending the Campbelltown sessions on Monday, 10th whilst Paulin Tan, Disability Officer for Parramatta, will be attending the Parramatta Campus on Wednesday, 12th.

Preparation of 30 min Presentation to Disability Services on 16th March

I was requested by Disability Services as part of our conversations for Welcome to Wellbeing Week to construct and present a 30 minute presentation in relation to what the collective is, what it’s functions are and feedback from students in relation to what the service could be doing better to engage and accommodate students. I have posted about this to the SRC, Disability Collective and BSCC Facebook groups and I am looking forward to utilizing this unprecedented opportunity to Disability Services directly

Chairing various sub-committees of the SRC as per Schedule of Student Representative bodies and the actions resolutions of the SRC

As the Disability Collective was present at C3 Congress we did not find the need for an official meeting this month as we spoke about the issues that we are hearing about at this event, which I believe Paulin has also forwarded to Grant as feedback.

**Cupitt, Sarah - Online Students Representative**

* WSUP article for who bleeds wins
* WSUP article for HEC conference 2019 - may not go to print due to page restriction
* Contacted Larissa since Nap is off for the rest of the year - followed up regarding the postage parcels - she asked Nick to follow up my email and perhaps have a CLA check if they have been delivered at Parramatta (followed up again and am still waiting for a response)
* Chanelle thanked me very much for the articles for this semesters print edition and has added in the blood drive story in the print edition, but unfortunately, couldn't fit the HEC conference. She said she'd upload it online, but I suggested if we could we maybe consider a binder for future publications so that it doesn't look like we have nothing going on at the uni since the editions are so far apart? I know Macquarie's student paper grapeshot has a binder on their publication - and it's quite successful.
* Filled in my availability on the doodle poll for the SRC Messenger Allegations Meeting
* Online Forum 2; No attendees (not surprising due to time of year and semester results being released for the end of the semester and everyone's either working or doing stuff for Christmas holidays). Join.me required a new account to use for pro features from the trial – issues of the conference closing every half an hour due to no-one showing up, so I had to keep resetting it. Still no response from online staff from the first online forum.
* Updated online rants and the love letters page
* Submitted interest in assisting during Welcome Week on behalf of SRC from Tuesday 25 to Saturday 29 February
* Attended natcon 2019
* Report for TEQSA - notes sent to Jenny with receipts and waiting on W'SUP to elect a new director for TEQSA article
* Attended Natcon 2019
* Regular posts on online student FB pages and WOSA blog
* Shared Natasha's nursing society sign-up form to the online cohort (since a large number of online students study nursing)
* Have been working with interested online students to create the first creative writing student club - Modern Ink: <https://forms.gle/jdQZXJHz2gUAm2ccA>
* Responding to email enquires, flying minutes and sending yet another (and final) follow up email regarding the FOMO competition - student winner received their tickets in time!
* Shared my 10 Tips to Stress Less entry with online students
* Suggested some ideas to Grant to buildout training via either a comprehensive resources page on the src website or for the further buildout on the current mandatory online modules
* I'm currently working on a piece for W'SUP for Out and About with - Potentially I could also promote the schedule for students for Autumn 2020?
* Put forward an agenda item with Clare
* asked Chanelle to provide last W'SUP edition pdf that I can distribute to online cohort
* Sent apologies for C3 as I'll be in the last week of my internship, however, will try to zoom in if provided the opportunity
* Attended Jan Budget meeting and SRC meetings

SRC REPORT FEB

* Provided availability for future SRC meeting dates via doodle poll.
* Distributed SRC Video to relevant networks
* Volunteering for the welcome week to represent SRC
* Updating the WOSA blog and relevant FB pages and groups will opportunities for online students to engage in - some of which include the offered mental health training for students, The 21C Project, the Women Deliver Young Leaders Program and the United Nations Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals

Currently working on:

* Communicating with students who signed up for the online care packages last year to see if contact info is still relevant and if addresses need to be updated for shipping purposes or if interested students have graduated etc.
* Planning for the next online student forum and how best to reach out to new online students for autumn 2020 session

Future initiatives:

* Run a student survey for a chance to win a $50 voucher (incentive for less engaged students to provide feedback on learning methods offered to the online cohort)
* Online student speed friending/networking event
* Online mentoring webinar
* Ask the new W'SUP team to create online friendly content - including uploading previous PDF versions of print editions of the paper