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SRC President— Mary-Pearl Chung

Throughout September to October, I have continually liaised with the SRC team, SR&P as well as representatives from various NSW student unions. My motion for the proposed Western Sydney Education Action Group had been passed in the September SRC meeting and I am in the process of establishing this chapter, garnering interest from our student and staff community. I have attended numerous external student action events and meetings facilitated by other universities’ student unions as I believe it is important not only to institute collaborative action but also develop understanding of and learn strategies to best execute our own contingents against the Federal Government university funding cuts. I anticipate publishing an official Facebook group and page for the Western Sydney Education Action Group (WSEAG) and organizing meetings and days of action within the next month.

I also wanted to note in my report that there has been some feedback from our student community raising prevalent dissatisfaction towards Western Sydney University’s delayed return to campus plans and degraded quality of education as a result of non-optional online teaching modes. Some student concerns raised include lack of responsiveness and quality feedback from academic staff, poorly designed learning activities and assessment tasks/examinations, and general difficulty in fully engaging with study due to classes online. Though this varies by faculty and individuals, it is important feedback to acknowledge. I have advised those students to complete SFU and SFT evaluations (student feedback surveys in vUWS), and in more extreme circumstances, to directly contact the faculty staff and/or complete a formal complaint form. The SRC can offer students support to take the appropriate courses of action in addressing University and academic faculty-based complaints, however I also recognize that the issue at hand ties in with the staffing cuts and faculty funding cuts. Staff are undeniably overwhelmed with larger volumes of work whilst working remotely— therefore it is more important now than ever to fight the higher education bill.

Of course, the University’s return to campus plans will pivot on COVID-19 developments. Whilst I understand that students’ (including myself) education experiences are negatively impacted by mostly online teaching modes, I also am very mindful of the grave pandemic transmission-associated risks should we fully return to campus. I aim to address this and engage in further discussion regarding strategies and plans with University executive staff.

On another note, we celebrated Diversity Fest from the 19th to 26th October 2020, and it is very inspiring to be a part of a University community with individuals from such different identities, backgrounds, talents and passions. Although I was not able to attend most events due to work clashes, I was able to check-in on and promote some of the team’s projects (Parramatta Music Club Livestream Performance, Environment Collective: The Grove). I especially commend our reps who dedicated their time and effort into hosting events for DivFest.

Meetings I have attended in the past month include:

* Procedures Review #11 (12th October 2020),
* Diversity Fest Working Group Final Meeting (15th October 2020),
* SRC Executive Meeting (20th October 2020).

I look forward to the next quarter and further developments with SRC’s projects.

Vice President Education – Postgraduate — Vageesh Jha

# **Meetings Attended**

* Procedure Review meeting x2
* SRC Executive Meetings

# **Highlights**

I have undertaken training for my role through meetings attended.

The past month has been relatively quiet, as I had academic commitments. But I’m relatively keeping the SRC’s Instagram account active with sharing stories and posting on them.

I have restarted my work on the international student collective alongside manika and adeem. The work is running behind schedule, but I’ll try to bring it up to speed.

In the month to come i will working alongside the president to make a COVID safe plan so that we can have our December meeting face to face.

Vice President Education – Undergraduate – Griffen Burgess

**Meetings, events or conferences I have attended this month in my capacity as a member of the SRC:**

- Diversity Fest 2020: working group meeting #412pm-1pm24th September

- SRC executive meeting with directors3:30pm-4:30pm25th September

- SRC September meeting1pm-3pm29th September

- Catch up meeting with Grant4:30pm-5:30pm7 October

- Diversity Fest12:30-1:308th October

- CISA member catch up4pm-5pm8th October

- Catch up with Nicole Brackenreg3pm-3:30pm13th October

- Academic Senate 9:30am-12:30pm16th October

**^(attended first 30 mins but has to leave due to work commitments)^**

- SRC executive meeting3pm-4pm20th October

- Informal meeting with SRC3pm-5pm22nd October

**Communication and engagement, I have been involved with this month as a member of the SRC:**

Previously I reached out to all campus reps to see how they were progressing in their role. With this, I tried to implement team management strategies such as organising group chats that would divide the campus rep team up and partner them with like-minded reps as well as how close their campus was with others. However, with the increase campus rep resignations other the past month and a half, it made it hard for me to adjust and communicate with them. To adapt to this, I organised 1 massive campus rep chat, so that they can assist, discuss and generate ideas with other. Furthermore, this allowed me to analyse as well as maintain 1 group chat instead of several small ones.

Moreover, I interviewed a few international students for the purpose of developing a potential service/product to assist them settling into University as well as knowing what services are available if they need aid. Still in the development stage of the idea but hopefully to get if off the ground and gain ore data and research from participants.

**Ways I have engaged with the specifics of my role within the SRC this month:**

- I’ve been attending regular meetings with the President, Vice-President Postgraduate and General Secretary of the SRC to ensure the proper functioning of the SRC, in accordance with these procedures.

- Organised meetings with student and providing leadership with certain reps to discuss their progress.

- Responded to students who have raised an issue with their learning and experiences.

**Vice President – Activities – Nikodin Matic**

Since my last report, I have attended 2 x Diversity Festival meeting, 2 x Procedures Review meeting, 3 x Academic Games meetings, 3 x Drop in sessions, 1 x SRC Expenditure meeting, 1 x Student Leaders Covid Taskforce, 1 x SRC September meeting, 1 x Exec meeting, 1 x Swarm Stand up meeting, 1 x Special meeting.

The meetings I have attended above and below highlight the communication and engagement I have been involved in:

* Have begun planning and putting things in motion to host multiple events for the upcoming Diversity 2020 including the Western’s Masterchef, whoever due to the close timetable with exams upcoming, the students have asked to participate in the event next semester.
* Have promoted student club and Campus Life events and posts.
* Continued to work with students to help them form new Students Clubs and over the last month, we have had multiple new clubs which I’m sure will be a great hit with students as the range and variety of clubs is increased. An example of this is the Bossaball Club.
* Have discussed opportunities with fellow SRC members about investments and ensuring best value per $1 dollar spent is the primary focus.
* Followed up and completed many action items from previous meetings.
* Have discussed some ideas with staff from various departments about ways to maximise value for students.
* Have discussed with a wide range of students about what they would like to see, and I have responded to multiple emails regarding issues around the University.
* Have thoroughly planned out on how to best maximise value of the $50k VPA allocation considering the number of campuses and engaging as many students as possible while ensuring best value per student.
* Have shared the above proposition with Grant and some SRC members for feedback and then have re-evaluated the allocation of spending.
* Have identified locations and storage locations for the above purchases.
* Have begun planning events and activities for semester 1 2021.

**General Secretary – Tyler Wilson**

The month of October has been incredibly busy with the conclusion of the Spring teaching period and the finalisation of many events, activities, projects and the beginning of much planning for the coming months and the start of the new year. In the role of General Secretary, there has been little involvement with regard to student engagement and the projects of the other reps, with greater focus being placed on creating efficiencies within the operation of the SRC including policies and procedures concerning meeting attendance, member report submission, the curation of agendas and meeting minutes as well as coordination of the SRC budget.

In the past month, I had a meeting with Grant from SRP to discuss the budget and particularly the budget request function on WesternLife which we are unfortunately still seeking to fix. I raised the concern that budget tracking at this stage is non-existent given that there was little information handed over to me at succession and therefore I am aiming to create a proper procedure for budget tracking that can be implemented permanently for the following Gen Sec. Grant and I also discussed my degree completion and how it would affect my position given that my studies will conclude with exams in November, however, due to the fact that my official graduation is not until April of 2021, I am happy to remain on the SRC until said time and a suitable replacement can be found, with a proper handover being conducted.

I also attended an Executive meeting to informally discuss some issues that will be addressed at the formal meeting. I raised my concerns surrounding member reports, meeting attendance as well as other procedures that I believe need to be strengthened in the future.

I would like to see some growth for the SRC for the remainder of the year as classes and assessments have eased and exams become the priority. I would like to set some goals for the role of Gen Sec to assist me in improving many of the procedures we undertake on the SRC:

* Meet with each rep individually by the end of the year for a formal introduction and discussion of the role and their feedback for the conduct of the SRC
* Construct a visual timeline by the November meeting for the completion of member reports that will remain fixed for the 20/21 SRC term (to be discussed at the October meeting)
* Solidify a process for budget tracking before November meeting

**Nirimba Campus Representative – Crystal R Ram**

Meeting Attendance (NIRIMBA REPRESENTATIVE):

* 09/10/2020 CISA First Members Catch-Up
* Discussion held about the CISA Welfare Campaign
* Recommendations examined:

(1) Reduction of tuition fee for international students by education providers, with subsidies from Federal government;

(2) The provision of federal financial assistance to international students in hardship and the extension to Jobkeeper and Jobseeker to international students;

(3) Review and quality assurance on the part of education regulators to ensure quality of education in public and private universities, VET and ELICOS providers;

(4) visa fee refund and compassionate aid for international students and recent graduates under visa subclass 500 and 485;

(5) a collaborative anti-racism and discrimination effort from the international education sector.

* 12/10/2020 Procedures Review #11
* University experience of students at Sydney Olympic Park

Since being elected I have sustained effort to enhance networks and partnerships with individuals, groups, clubs and offices which are working towards the same otherwise similar objectives such as the Nirimba Provost Committee.

Over the course of the next month, I intend to further my involvement in the SRC meetings as well as campus related meetings which are approaching this month, such as the Procedure Review with Grant and the October SRC monthly meeting.

**Bankstown Campus Representative – Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark**

This month has been particularly busy as I have been assisting SRC Disabilities Representative, Robert Reed, with his portfolio as he awaits surgery. As the previous Disabilities Representative, we thought this the best option rather than postponing all meetings until after his surgery and subsequent recovery period.

Additionally, in my own portfolio as campus representative for Bankstown I have achieved the following:

**Bankstown City Campus – Change and Communications Meeting** –Whilst I missed formally attending this meeting as I had my post-op appointment, however, I have requested the minutes in order to stay abreast of any issues arising from this meeting.

**Bankstown Provost Meeting –**This has been postponed till early next month due to the mandated leave period.

**Meeting with Manika, International Representative, to discuss CISA’s Welfare Campaign**- this meeting was to discuss the proposed CISA Welfare Campaign and the issues surrounding JobSeeker, JobKeeper as well as the International Student Travel Conc3essions Campaign.

**CommunATy Hour** – I attended this session twice this month on the behalf of the SRC Disabilities Representative to inform students of the Disability Collective, it’s role in representation and advocacy and to give a face to the SRC.

**Diversity Fest Working Group**– I attended three meetings of the working group on the behalf of the SRC Disabilities Representative. I also forwarded the Disability Collectives Checklist for Accessible Events to all University members of this group to ensure accessible considerations are made in consideration to virtual and physical events.

**Procedure Review #11**

**Student Leader’s COVID-19 Taskforce**– At this meeting I enquired as to what student supports will be available over summer and during the University shutdown.

**Future of Education Panel this morning with Tanya Plibersek (Shadow Minister for Education and Training), Angelo Gavrielatos (NSW Teachers Federation) and Prue Car MP at the Labor National Conference**.  - At this panel, I reiterated the question asked by Hollie Hammond at Academic Senate earlier in the month whilst making it Labor specific, stating given the humanities have around 67% female students and around 2/3 of the students that will be hit with increased fees as part of the job-ready package will be women, in addition to Labor championing themselves for gender equality. What will Labor be doing to address this, or is there a plan to support female students?

Ms Plibersek was the first to address the question stating that it is evident that the budget put forward by the Morrison government was not compiled with women in mind. Also, she identified that Indigenous Students were disproportionately affected as were students with disability by the Job Ready Package. Labor is currently fighting for amendments to be made to this legislation although this may prove difficult given the support Centre Alliance has given to the bill alongside One Nation, but there is a need for a change in attitude towards transferrable skills and respect for the teaching profession more broadly.

Labor identifies that there has been an increase of 21% in domestic student enrolments since COVID-19, and this is the straw that broke the camel’s back in terms of the Morrison Government attempting to strip away funding unnoticed not only from students but also from universities where a surplus of 21, 000 academics have been forced from their jobs nationwide.

The Labor Party has also welcomed their members to become part of their Educational Policy Committee where they strive to achieve policy going forward that is both equitable and addresses the concerns and issues faced by those currently in the teaching profession, training for the profession and those with members of their family trained by profession.

**Labor Budget Reply Webinar and Q&A session with Senators Tony Sheldon MP and Jennifer McAllister MP to discuss and enquire as to what the Labor Party's response to the Morrison Government's higher costs to Higher education and inequitable access to FEE-HELP. -**Both senators identified that these changes and restrictions are nonsensical as part of the governments recovery plan for higher education and are prepared to fight these changes ongoing as party policy.

Senators Sheldon and McAllister have requested that students send their personal stories of how these changes will affect them to their offices at the below email addresses so that these may add a human face and voice to the situation at hand and fight these changes ongoing.

They can be reached at : Senator.Sheldon@aph.gov.au and Jennifer.McAllister@aph.gov.au

**Executive members of the Disability Collective thank the WSU Labor Club for the opportunity to meet with MP Tanya Plibersek tonight via Zoom to discuss the proposed restrictions to HECS and the fee hikes for students studying the Humanities**.

During these conversations, questions were raised surrounding the consideration of students with mental health considerations and disability in the formulation of these proposed restrictions by the Morrison Government.

Tanya responded to this query with compassion stating that it is in her opinion that the Morrison Government proposed these cuts to HECS and proposed fee hikes to hurt those students with mental health concerns and disabilities as they already have enough to worry about without having to focus on when the census date is rolling around not to incur an academic and/or financial penalty. She empathises that these restrictions are not fair and encourages students to speak up to their government representatives and universities about the financial and personal impacts that these proposed measures are imposing on the student body. In addition, she also added that these restrictions proposed by the Morrison Government are not by accident, as they wish to make universities elitist and intellectually impovished.

The Disability Collective will be in touch with Tanya again in the coming weeks to further discuss the bill and we thank her for her time and passion in assisting students with disability and medical condition to have a voice surrounding this unjust bill proposed by the Morrison Government.

**Christmas Hamper Project for International and residential students -**As per Agenda Item *Christmas Support for International and Residential Students*

**Recognition for Community Groups Supporting Students during COVID-19 –**See agenda item

**Kingswood Campus Representative – Simon Preuss-Kearney**

Over the month of September to mid-October I was involved in the following events:

• Meetings I participated in this month: Multiple Diversity fest meetings (and some events) and further procedures review.

• I continued my involvement in the SRC related meetings such as the Student Rep Procedure Review and the September SRC monthly meeting.

• I worked on the development of events for diversity fest. I ran online Octoberfest for the day of communication, with mild success.

• Delivered more of the female hygiene products to Bankstown.

• Discussed some ideas with Danielle (Environment Rep) to design a number of projects for Kingswood, to invest in the development of its infrastructure. Such as a decent gazebo (permanent or semi-permanent) and a BBQ near the Kingswood veggie garden.

• Finally, the SRC ran a second informal discussion prior to the previous SRC meeting and the approaching meeting. Tyler and I have discussed a consistent method of deciding on the date, which included creating a poll prior to each informal meeting with the options 3-5pm on either Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, and we chose the day of best fit based on numbers. This method was chosen after the SRC monthly meeting poll showed that Tuesday and Thursday were the best, but that all individual availabilities were very divided, and people schedules had small changes each week. Therefore, a poll each time was more flexible to cater for any slight changes that may occur.

Over the course of October through November, I intend to:

• Further develop the Western Sydney University Penrith Facebook group by adding events and acquiring new members. This will improve information accessibility for Kingswood. If I achieve this, I can then foster engagement by encouraging more involvement with WesternLife.

• Continuing my involvement in the SRC related meetings which are approaching this month, such as the Student Rep Procedure Review and the October SRC monthly meeting.

• Lastly, to finalise my Action items which were approved in the September SRC meeting.

**Parramatta City Campus Representative – Adeem Jiwani**

Not submitted

**Parramatta South Campus Representative – Razin Polara**

Not submitted

**Hawkesbury Campus Representative – Veronica Ficarra**

Not submitted

**Campbelltown Campus Representative – Tracey Tran**

Meetings or training sessions I have attended:

12/10/2020- SRC procedures review meeting on the repositioning that could be done to the Small and Regional Campus Rep position and other relevant positions

22/10/2020- SRC informal meeting

Communication and engagement

I updated Pearl on the Kindness campaign projects, so she could relay the feedback at the September monthly meeting. I reached out to Grant to book a phone call to discuss about future Kind campaign initiatives and collecting feedback from Campbelltown students. In terms of engagement, I have created a draft for a survey directly aimed at Campbelltown campus students and will be posting it after getting some more feedback. I have completed the Office guidelines and related quiz in the Student Leaders hub to access office space. I am also continuing to work through Student leadership: Beyond the classroom modules to refine my skills.

Other ways I have engaged with the specifics of my role

I have been brainstorming ideas regarding the Kind campaign to bring forward to the working group and SRC members. Leanne has proposed a pay it forward campaign where we collect names and addresses and each person gets one to send an anonymous gift under $10, which I thought was a great idea. Other events that will possibly be run after further advice include: a Netflix watch party which centres around Kindness, personalised kind emails/letters sent to students near exam week etc.

**Liverpool Campus Representative - Vacant**

Not submitted

**Online Representative - Vacant**

Not submitted

**International Student Representative – Manika Sahni**

Not submitted

**Residential Representative – Sean Vierik**

September – October

I helped with some diversity fest events with the environment rep Danielle by gaining permission to promote these events at WSU villages with event posters.

I have been in contact with SRC members Vicky-Rae and Robert Reed over my last agenda item the SRC branded masks. After feedback from the SRC we pushed our concerns to Delphina Sport, after they replied to our enquiries, together we deemed this retailer did not meet our standards and their price was too steep for what we were getting. I am currently reviewing a quote from another retailer with disability rep Robert Reed, I have yet to put it forward for a flying minute.

SRC member Vicky Rae reached out to International students rep Manika and myself to enquire about an agenda item involving support to residential and international students over Christmas. I provided insight on how to approach this matter and enquired with CLV for their support in the project.

I have made further enquiries into opening the pool facilities at Parramatta and Hawksbury villages. I am awaiting news from CLV after their meeting with the university.

Over the course of October

I plan to finalise my branded masks agenda item.

Continue involvement on a working group for the Parramatta North Campus old café.

Assist Vicky Rae with her agenda item regarding WSU villages where I can.

**Disabilities Representative – Robert Reed**

This month I have been forced by an exuberance of my medical condition to request the assistance of Bankstown Representative, Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark, to assist me with the duties of my role whilst I await surgery. Despite this, I do believe that I have still managed to fulfil many of the tasks assigned to my portfolio.

This month, despite these challenges, I have achieved the following:

* Editing the Disability Collective existing brochure as per the recommendations from research conducted by Ms Sarah Cupitt.
* Collation of the Monthly Disability Collective Newsletter vis Western*Life*
* Collaboration with Head Disability Services, Terri Mears, regarding the NDCO Survey
* Collaboration with Residential Representative, Sean Vierik re: Residential Student Mask Project
* Consultation with VP Activities, Nikoden Matic and Campus Representative for Penrith, Simon Preuss-Kearney re: Accessibility Considerations for PS4 spaces
* Responded to call out re: filming of Liverpool City Campus

Nomination of AT Specialists, Sally Leggo and Natalie McLaughlin for the VC’s Excellence Award

**Women’s Representative – Rosina Armstrong-Mensah**

I attended SRC monthly meeting, mini zoom meeting with Grant upon WoCo event for diversity fest, drop in Q&A session and have been involved with the diversity fest working group. I have also been planning an event which was meant to happen for diversity fest but did not go on as planned. During this period, I spent some time contacting some women personalities in the university for the program. I attended the council of international student Australia (CISA) in representation of the student council.

I am in contact with the Network of Women Student Australia (NOWSA) towards the upcoming conference. For some days I am in the progress of contacting students about how best the collective can be reach the members and make sure their opinions are heard and work towards them. I am still in the process of working on the collective constitution. I believe am in a way of working towards my role as the WoCo representative.

**Queer Representative Clare Da Silva**

Not submitted

**Environmental Representative – Danielle Wolf**

* **Diversity Fest** – We held our first event for the Kingswood campus garden, The Grove, during Diversity Fest, as the first approved on-campus event! We were joined by Aunty Jean and Luke Hodge (First Nations Rep) for a Welcome to Country and Costa Georgiadis (Celebrity Gardener – Gardening Australia, etc). It was ridiculously exciting to have everything finally moving forward, and with the blessing of Aunty Jean and inspiration and encouragement of Costa.
* This has taken up most of our time and energy due to the immense amount of preparation which has needed to be undertaken, including digging out the existing beds for a wicking bed conversion, sourcing all our supplies and products, undertaking extensive promotions, collaborating with various reps, staff and initiatives, etc.
* We also held a watch party and discussion on David Attenborough’s new film, A Life On Our Planet.
* **Hawkesbury Campus Food Garden, ‘The Croft’** – Our collaboration with Farm It Forward and Landcare on the Hawkesbury Campus food garden has continued, with seedlings sprouting and rabbit-proof fencing being installed!
* There will be ongoing weekly / fortnightly working bees at The Grove and The Croft (see rego details below).

**Ethnocultural Representative – Rameez Parkar**

**Meetings, events or conferences I have attended this month in my capacity as a member of the SRC:**

- Procedures Review Meeting 22 September 2020

- Diversity Fest 2020: working group meeting 24th September 2020

- SRC September meeting 29th September 2020

- Diversity Fest 8th October 2020

- Procedures Review Meeting 12 October 2020

- Diversity Fest Working Group 15 October 2020

- Informal meeting with SRC 22nd October

- Consultation with Grant

- Discussions with Nirimba Campus rep

- Discussions with Hawkesbury Campus rep

- Discussions with VPU

I have attended all meetings of the SRC and many meetings of Working groups. I have undertaken the mandatory training required. I have undertaken any tasks given to me under the resolutions of the SRC. I have engaged with students and student leaders around relevant issues at the university. I have representedEthno-cultural students’ issues at meetings of the SRC and being the voice of the Ethno-cultural student population at Western Sydney University. I have liaised with the peak student representative bodies or representative relevant to their portfolio. I have primarily been involved with the organisation of Diversity Fest and the Procedures Review.