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**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

**DATE: 10 December 2021**

**TIME: 3:30 PM – 5 PM**

**December Agenda**

1. **Procedural Matters**
   1. Welcome, Introduction, and Apologies
   2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians of the Land
   3. Declarations of Interest
   4. Starring of Items
   5. Order of Business
   6. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
   7. Confirmation of Member Reports
   8. Action Sheet from Previous Meeting
2. **General Business of the Council**
   1. Report from the Chair
   2. Report from Student Community
   3. Report from Collectives
   4. Report on SRC Budget
   5. Reports and Recommendations from SRC Committees
3. **New Business of the Council**

**3.1. Pride Football Australia Tournament Team Working Group**

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| **Issue** | More inclusive sports engagement for 2022 |
| **Date** | 23/11/2021 |
| **Mover** | Simon Preuss-Kearney |
| **Seconder** | Rannie Rannie Singh |

**Issue Description:**

Last year the SRC successfully put a team together to participate in the inclusive Pride Football Australia tournament for Mardi Gras 2021. The event was quite successful, and the team commented how fun it was. We received feedback post the event that future events could be enhanced by highlighting the diversity present in these tournaments. One theme identified that could be explored was queerness and sport, and how that can interact with a person’s view of themselves. This is particularly topical to address, as the first current professional male soccer player (Josh Cavallo) has recently openly stated that they are gay. This is a world first in men’s sport (women’s sport has had a better culture in this regard for many years now).

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

All interested student’s and possibly staff

**Recommendation:**

For Pride Football 2022, I believe we should also form another WSU team for the Mardi Gras tournament. This should also be organised in partnership with the Queer Collective, as I feel they are well placed to facilitate inclusive involvement; and WSUP - to investigate the theme of queerness in sport and how that interacts with an individual’s experience (as well as covering the history of the event, and the overall activities and results of the day). I believe this will be best achieved through a working group which is made up of the SRC and WSUP interested in organising and running events like this.

The first course of action after forming a working group, would be to start by contacting Sydney Rangers and Pride Football Australia to commence planning for our official involvement. Another thing to consider is the possibility of making a WSU student and staff (or mixed between both) teams. Additionally, due to limited advertising and interest (we had 3 students contact us, but we needed 6 minimum), we should explore the possibility of having a female team compete (given my understanding that the teams are separate). Once we have located some interest from both parties, we will follow up with some agenda items regarding funding these events, such as a budget for putting the article together, covering the tournament participation fees and maybe even organising a custom rainbow Western Jersey to be made.

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

This event would offer a decent group of students an excellent opportunity to get involved in a fun active environment, in an inclusive way. This event offers any student who participates in it the chance to exercise in a safe, exciting and active way. The working group would seek to ensure this event would be as inclusive as it intends in practice, and organise how to best to fund each aspect of this event.

Importantly, one significant goal of these initiative is to help encourage future students who identify in the LGBT+ community, to consider participating in the tournament in the future, and maybe even more sport overall.

**Budget Impact:** None currently

**Proposed Action:**

I move that the SRC commits to form a working group to organise future events with Pride Football Australia and SRC related soccer events for 2022.

**Additional Links:**  
Pride Football Australia Website - <https://www.pridefootballaustralia.com.au/>

Previous Tournament Highlights - https://youtu.be/Qpd\_pWSwOrA

**3.2. School Wide Campaign with regards to Errors in Question Papers**

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| **Issue** | Errors in question papers |
| **Date** | 29/11/2021 |
| **Mover** | Sharmin Islam Saba |
| **Seconder** | Simon Preuss-Kearney |

**Issue Description:**

I have taken a notice that the question papers of some of the units are not standardized. The questions consist of grammatical errors, formatting errors as well as westernized concepts that potentially create barriers of understanding among International students. For example, this has been an issue for one of the units of Bachelors of Psychology - BEHV2005 (Spring 2021) Human Learning – and could potentially be an issue with other units from other course.

**Portfolios/Students Impacted:**

All students of Western Sydney University – specifically students studying Bachelors of Psychology

**Recommendation:**

I move that the SRC dedicate energy and resources to the Vice President – Undergrad to follow-up with students from various cohorts, in conjunction with the campus representatives from their forums, to ascertain if spelling, and/or grammar based errors are prevalent, and what the perception of heavily westernised concepts that creates barriers of understanding for International students.

I also move that a budget of $2000 be allocated to this campaign in order for the Vice President to use as incentive for survey participation by the students, should he/she require it, and that the campaign should start with the School of Psychology.

For the council’s acknowledgement, I will be compelling the Vice President – Undergrad to take on board a campaign related to academic excellence in 2022. This will involve ascertaining the understanding of whether both domestic and international students are experiencing high levels of spelling and grammar errors in exams and whether the International students are experiencing heavily westernised concepts.

**Justification/Reason for Recommendation:**

Question papers are not up to standards since they consist of spelling, grammar and formatting errors, making it difficult for students to understand the questions and choosing the correct answers. It also causes students to use more time to select the correct answers than they would have if the questions did not have any errors.

The reason to start investigating this issue with the School of Psychology is because I am aware that it is a significant issue in this particular field, and that other students have had the same experience. Therefore, this particular school is a good place to the start the investigation with. I am certain that any positive findings from this investigation would be useful to understand whether other schools are facing the same issue.

**Budget Impact:**

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| **Items** | **Quotes/Cost** |
| Campaign Incentive | $2000 |
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**Proposed Action:**

I propose the SRC commits to a Vice President – Undergrad led working group to determine the prevalence of this issue and plan a campaign to address it. This working group will have a budget of $2000 allocated as incentive for student participation in the survey/feedback. Campus Representatives will work in conjunction with this working group in order to best gather data on this issue.

Lastly, I propose we start the campaign with the School of Psychology and then expand this investigation to highlighting the prevalence of this issue in other school and courses.

1. **Other Business**

4.1. Student Community and Parents Union Discussion

1. **Next Meeting and Close**
2. **Additional Documents**
   1. July Action Sheet

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| **July Action Sheet** | | |
| **Action** | **Responsibility** | **Completion** |
| Razin to follow up on Intersession Day Out after COVID-19 and get more info from Rameez. | **Razin** | **Planning for post COVID** |
| Crystal to initiate a plan to advocate for Nirimba and Bankstown Campuses. | **Crystal** | **Ongoing** |
| Start an action group to enquire about residential student issues. | **Alannah** | **Ongoing** |
| Alannah to start a working group with all reps for the 'Happy Hour' initiative | **Alannah** | **Ongoing** |

* 1. August Action Sheet

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| **August Action Sheet** | | |
| **Action** | **Responsibility** | **Completion** |
| Collective Officer Honorariums - Danielle to send a blanket email and organise a zoom meeting to discuss further. | **Danielle, Richard, Simon, Sarah** | **Ongoing (readdress at Dec meeting)** |

* 1. September Action Sheet

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| **September Action Sheet** | | |
| **Action** | **Responsibility** | **Completion** |
| International Student Collective – working group and meeting | **Loore** | **Ongoing** |

* 1. October Action Sheet

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| **October Action Sheet** | | |
| **Action** | **Responsibility** | **Completion** |
| SRC newsletter – Alannah to discuss with Grant and Sarah | **Alannah** | **Ongoing** |
| Muhammad is happy to pick up Anushka's action items. (Have not heard from Anushka so is working with Grant on this matter) | **Muhammad** | **Ongoing** |
| Dash to provide feedback of the first study event next meeting – 55 check-ins, great feedback and productive session, looking into a volunteer committee for more consistent sessions on different days | **Dash** | **Completed** |
| SRC team to collaborate on strategy building in sessions with Michael – no more sessions for 2021 | **Sarah, Alannah & Vic** | **Completed** |
| Host ongoing discussions with international students and SRC reps. First meeting 25th Oct – brief updates on data packs for 2022 and SRC working group discussions | **Loore** | **Ongoing** |

* 1. November Action Sheet

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| **November Action Sheet** | | |
| **Action** | **Responsibility** | **Completion** |
| Sarah to email Grant asking about the collective officer payments to work out leftover budget from that flying minute and cc'ing exec and collectives | **Sarah** | **Completed (during the meeting)** |