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**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL**

**2020 Meeting 10 - October**

Friday, 30th October – 2-4pm

Meeting ID: 860 9780 9586

**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 Representation & Participation
   3. Report from Collectives
   4. Report on SRC Budget
   5. Reports and Recommendations from SRC Committees
      1. SRC Clubs & Activities Committee
3. **New Business of the Council**
   1. Job Ready Graduate Package and Inequitable Access to FEE/HECS-HELP Response
   2. SRC Campus Specific Student Feedback Survey
   3. Guest Speaker Pete Maggs (Director of Library Services WSU)
   4. Christmas Support for International & Residential Students
   5. Recognition of Community Groups Supporting Students During COVID-19
   6. Late Assessment Penalty
   7. Funding Request for Diversity Fest Events
   8. Environment Collective Funding Request for Professional Workshops and Garden Improvements
4. **Other Business**
5. **Next Meeting and Close**
6. **Procedural Matters**

**1.1. Welcome, Introduction, and Apologies**

The Chair officially opens the meeting, acknowledging Country, and welcomed members and guests. The following members have provided their apologies for this meeting;

**1.2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians of the Land**

The cultural protocol of the acknowledgment of the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting is held on.

**1.3. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair invites the committee to declare any new conflict of interests in relation to any matters on the agenda or their role on the committee more generally.

**1.4. Starring of Items**

The Starring of items is to take place for agenda items requiring additional discussion.

**1.5. Order of Business**

Discussion whether a change to the order of business is required.

**1.6. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

September minutes to be reviewed and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**1.7. Confirmation of Member Reports**

October member reports submitted and disseminated with meeting paperwork to be confirmed as a true and accurate record of activities.

**1.8. Action Sheet from Previous Meeting**

See ‘Additional Documents’ for list of action items from the September meeting.

1. **General Business of the Council**
   1. **Report from the Chair**

SRC President to provide her report at each monthly meeting of the SRC.

* 1. **Report from Student Representation & Participation**

Staff report and update provided by SR&P at each monthly meeting of the SRC.

* 1. **Report from Collectives**

Report from the Collectives to be provided at each monthly meeting of the SRC.

* 1. **Report on SRC Budget**

Report on SRC Budget to be provided by the General Secretary at each monthly meeting of the SRC.

* 1. **Reports from SRC Committees**
     1. SRC Clubs & Activities Committee

Report and recommendations from Vice President Activities following the SRC Clubs & Activities Committee meeting.

1. **New Business of the Council**

**3.1 Job Ready Graduate Package and Inequitable Access to FEE/HECS-HELP Response**

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | Job Ready Graduate Package and Inequitable Access to FEE/HECS-HELP Response |
| **Date** | 21/10/2020 |
| **Mover** | Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark |
| **Seconder** |  |

*Issue Description:*

As many members of the SRC may already know, I have attended three meetings with the Shadow Minister for Education, Tanya Plibersek, and other representatives from the Labor Party to discuss the implications of the Morrison Government’s Job Ready Graduate Package in addition to the inequitable reforms to students’ access to FEE/HECS-HELP.

These conversations have been fruitful in the way of advocacy, but there is still a significant amount of work to be done in this space to amend, or even repeal, the proposed legislation before it becomes law. I note additionally since the bill was passed via the House of Representatives and the Senate that the NUS has not continued their campaign to ensure equitable access to education for all students. Also, this SRC, who agreed to form an Education Action Working Group last month, has not sent out the formal EOIs for this group to be formed. As a result, I have been campaigning for these issues at these meetings with the MPs.  Based on feedback from the university cohort and forwarding issues that have not received an adequate response by the University by other representatives, to see if there is any scope for movement in this space on a national level or if there is even some particular national policy which is preventing action being taken at present. 

In order to give a timeline of events, issues raised, and outcomes so far, please see below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Met with** | **Issue Raised** | **Outcome** |
| 1st September 2020 | Tanya Plibersek (Shadow Minister for Education and Training) | Questions were raised surrounding the consideration of students with mental health issues and disability in the formulation of these proposed restrictions to FEE/HECS-HELP 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 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. Also, she added that these restrictions proposed by the Morrison Government are not by accident, as they wish to make universities elitist and intellectually impoverished. * 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. |
| 8th October 2020 | Senators Tony Sheldon & Jennifer McAllister | enquiries 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. * Students that wish to contact them can do so  at :   Senator.Sheldon@aph.gov.au  Jennifer.McAllister@aph.gov.au |
| 17th October 2020 | Tanya Plibersek ( Shadow Minister for Education and Training), Angelo Gavrielatos MP and Prue Car MP | Equity issues raised by Hollie Hammond at Academic Senate which stated that women are disproportionately affected by the Morrison Governments fee hikes, this question was asked in close to the same terms used by Hollie to seek clarity and consistency of messaging by federal govt | * 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. |

*Portfolios/Students Impacted:*All portfolios

*Recommendation:*

1. The SRC formally establishes its Education Action Group, as per the recommendations of the September meeting and additionally follows up with NUS concerning what they are doing in order to get the bill repealed.
2. The SRC releases a statement condemning the inequity created by the Morrison Government, One Nation and Centre Alliance through their creation and public support concerning the inequities that the Job Ready Graduate Package creates for women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as those with a disability or medical condition.
3. The SRC formally encourages students to reach out to Senators Tony Sheldon and Jennifer McAllister to raise their concerns relating to the Job Ready Graduate Package
4. The SRC continues to collectively engage with members of parliament to raise the issues surrounding the changes to tertiary education.
5. The SRC meets with the Simon Bedford ( PVC  Learning Futures), Angelo Kourtis  ( VP People and Advancement), Michael Burgess ( Chief Student Experience Officer) to discuss the effect that these changes would have on students and how these issues may be mitigated at a university level.

*Justification/Reason for Recommendation:*

This is an issue that affects all students and needs to be addressed at Federal, State and University level dutifully.

*Budget Impact:*Not applicable

**Proposed Action:**

See Recommendations

**3.2 SRC campus specific student feedback survey**

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | SRC to offer 1 prize to students who complete a Campbelltown campus specific student feedback survey |
| **Date** | 23/08/2020 |
| **Mover** | Tracey Tran |
| **Seconder** |  |

*Issue Description:*

Although there was a feedback survey done earlier this year, it was not specific to each campus. This survey will help me better understand the needs and opinions of Campbelltown students, and use this information to conduct forums. It has been briefly discussed with a few representatives at the SRC informal meeting on 22/10/2020. 1 email address will be randomly drawn from the pool of students who complete the survey.

The survey will ask for positives and negatives in the following areas (taken from the Leaders resource guide:

* Academics
* Changes expected when returning back to campus
* Capital works and maintenance related matters
* Sporting infrastructure
* Shuttle Buses and Security
* Student Central
* Counselling/Disability/Welfare & Legal Services
* Psych-Podiatry- and other clinics
* Hairdressers
* Public Amenities
* Waste removal & cleaning
* Food and beverages
* Retail Stationary/misc goods
* Visitors such as High School students and other community members
* Librarians
* Gyms/outdoor gym
* Student Kitchens/Kitchenettes
* Lockers
* Prayer rooms/multifaith spaces
* Equity spaces/Safer Spaces (e.g Queer rooms & Women’s rooms)
* Parking
* Lifts/escalators
* Signage and campus communication
* Printing/Copying

*Portfolios/Students Impacted:*All

*Recommendation:*The SRC approves the prizes for survey completion

*Justification/Reason for Recommendation:*

This survey will help me better understand the needs and opinions of Campbelltown students, and use this information to conduct forums. It will encourage engagement with the student body. In order to maximise the number of survey respondents, I believe we should include an incentive.

*Budget Impact:* $100

**Proposed Action:**

Western SRC agrees to allocate $100 for one prize for the random draw of study survey respondents.

**3.3 Guest Speaker: Pete Maggs (Director of Library Services WSU)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | Western Sydney University Library Services |
| **Date** | 30thOctober 2020 |
| **Mover** | *N/A* |
| **Seconder** | *N/A* |

*Issue Description:*

WSU Director of Library Services Pete Maggs to speak to SRC and meeting attendees about the services that the Library offer, and how the Library can work more with students to tailor to their needs particularly during the pandemic.

Opportunity for students (and staff) to share their experiences, feedback, recommendations, concerns and Q&A for Pete / Library Services.

**3.4 Christmas Support for International and Residential Students during Shutdown**

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| **Issue** | Christmas Support for International and Residential Students during Shutdown |
| **Date** | 22/10/2020 |
| **Mover** | Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark |
| **Seconder** | Manika Sahni |

*Issue Description:*

Members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) are currently working towards **WSU Assistance Plans for Students during Xmas/New Year Closedown.**

It was asked at the Student Leaders Covid-19 Taskforce Meeting last Monday, what is happening strategically at WSU and within CLV to support domestic and international residential students during the break between Spring and Autumn and into university shutdown over Christmas and New Year.

This support is crucial for international students as well as those domestic students on residence who are isolated or cannot get home to their families for the holidays. I have had conversations with our international rep, Manika as well as our Residential rep, Sean as well as Civic Engagement Officer, Grant Murray and Daniel Jantos from Chaplaincy who have supported the idea concerning the SRC possibly providing Christmas hampers for those students during the shutdown.   
   
It was advised that I also get in contact with Tanya Cook about exploring if it would be feasible to expand this project also to include those international students currently residing in our community. We have asked her if she perhaps had a list of students that have required the most assistance during these times, possibly deriving this from the list of students that have accessed the $280 gift vouchers from Student Support services and based on the frequency they were accessing this support.

The process is to bring the hampers to a central location, Parramatta, Bankstown or Campbelltown ( I have not confirmed yet) and we will require assistance in making the last mile run to make sure it reaches all the residents and international students in the community.

In order to make sure we can reach as many students as possible I have also emailed Karina Neilson at CLV yesterday requesting the following details:

* The number of students expected to be residing on each campus post 14th December
* Number of students who have family domestically they cannot return to for the holidays
* Number of students who are international and will be residing on residence over the holidays
* Details of any potential shutdowns of the CLV offices for correspondence purposes

I have notified all parties that I am putting forward this agenda item and budget request to the SRC at our meeting next week to help assist in costings for this project. However, we are still awaiting these details from Tanya Cook and Seon Kim in relation to International students in the community at this stage. We are currently considering a budget of $100 per student until we get an idea of the sheer number of students that may require assistance.  

*Portfolios/Students Impacted:*

International and Residential

*Recommendation:*   
I recommend that the SRC considers this agenda item in its current form, numbers regarding international students in the community may be fewer than estimated.

*Justification/Reason for Recommendation:*   
Access to support during the Christmas shut down period for international students and those on residence at this time will be limited via the university as well as community organisations that will already be stretched. I also believe it would be compassionate and considerate to think and support those students that cannot be with family during this time

*Budget Impact:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Items** | **Quotes/Cost** |
| Christmas Hampers for Nirimba (13 x $100) | $ 1,300 |
| Christmas Hampers for Parramatta (107 x $100) | $ 10,700 |
| Christmas Hampers for Bankstown (50 x $100) | $ 5,000 |
| Christmas Hampers for Campbelltown (110 x $100) | $11,000 |
| Christmas Hampers for Hawkesbury (70 x $100) | $7,000 |
| Christmas Hampers for Penrith (50x $100) | $ 5,000 |
| Christmas Hampers for International Students in Community (50 x $100) ESTIMATED | $5.000 |
| **Total** | **$45,000** |

**Proposed Action:**

I move a motion that the SRC allocates $45,000 of its existing budget for the compilation and delivery of Christmas hampers or gift cards to non-residential international students and residential students for Christmas during the University shutdown period.

**3.5 Recognition of Community Groups Supporting Students During COVID-19**

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| **Issue** | Recognition of Community Groups Supporting Students During COVID-19 |
| **Date** | 22/10/2020 |
| **Mover** | Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark |
| **Seconder** |  |

*Issue Description:*   
This suggestion was raised by Daniel Jantos of Chaplaincy who suggested that I raise this at SRC.   
His email excerpt is below:   
*I wonder if I could float another suggestion. Over the past year we have had about 12-15 organizations who have done incredible work in supporting our students. They have done it voluntarily and out of their own funds. Several of them have done it on a weekly basis and gone looking for grants and funds in order to make that happen. It would be so beautiful for the SRP to recognize those orgs. before the end of the year. That could be in the form of a certificate or in the form of some kind of gift.  It includes some religious orgs (all across the spectrum), it includes the Rotary club in Parramatta, Blacktown and Ingleburn. It also includes some cultural orgs like Hindu Council of Australia. Coming from the student representatives would mean more to them, I am sure, than anything we might create.  I wonder whether the SRC might consider it. It would be a powerful statement on which we might need to build next year if this crisis takes an unwelcome turn.* 

Marissa Waddington, Chaplaincy Administrative Officer, has forwarded me the list of organisations and they are as follows:   
   
**St Merkorious**    
Jackie Malak [jackiem@stmerkorious.com.au](mailto:jackiem@stmerkorious.com.au) <https://www.stmerkorious.org/>

**St. Raphaels**    
Isabel Antoun [isabelantoun@hotmail.com](mailto:isabelantoun@hotmail.com)

**Basic Community**   
Steve Hodgson [stevehodgson1983@gmail.com](mailto:stevehodgson1983@gmail.com) <https://www.basiccommunity.org/>

**Hindu Council**    
Bhupinder [bhupinderchab@gmail.com](mailto:bhupinderchab@gmail.com) <https://hinducouncil.com.au/>

**Rotary Clubs in Ingleburn, Parramatta and Blacktown (Richmond?)**   
Keith Henning from Rotary Parramatta [k.henning@optusnet.com.au](mailto:k.henning@optusnet.com.au)     
Melvin Gray from Rotary Blacktown [melvindgray@bigpond.com](mailto:melvindgray@bigpond.com) <http://rotaryaustralia.org.au/>

**Faith in Christ Macarthur**   
Leah Calica [ljcalica@gmail.com](mailto:ljcalica@gmail.com)  <https://www.faithinchrist.org.au/>

**Parramatta Adventists**   
Rose Miranda [RoseMiranda@adventist.org.au](mailto:RoseMiranda@adventist.org.au)

**Hope Point Church**    
Melissa and Dave Semeri [melissa.semeri@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.semeri@gmail.com) <https://www.hopepointchurch.org.au/>

**Campion college students**   
Fthr Peter Kruk [P.Kruk@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:P.Kruk@westernsydney.edu.au)

**Rock Church**    
Tony Y. [otto\_3110@hotmail.com](mailto:otto_3110@hotmail.com)  <http://rwci.org.au/>

**C3 church, Camden**    
Tanya Behr [artanyab@gmail.com](mailto:artanyab@gmail.com) <https://www.c3wc.com/camden/>

**Jackie's church in Liverpool**   
[jackiegibbon@gmail.com](mailto:jackiegibbon@gmail.com)

**St Vincent De Paul Harris Park Hub** <https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/General_support/Harris_Park_Hub/>

**South West Multicultural and Community Centre**   
Mal and Charlie Fruean [http://www.swmacc.org.au](http://www.semacc.org.au/)  [swmacc2@bigpond.com.au](mailto:swmacc2@bigpond.com.au)

*Portfolios/Students Impacted:*   
All Portfolios

*Recommendation:*   
I recommend that the SRC creates short video thanking these organisations for their contributions our students over the past year. Additionally, I believe that it would be nice to provide these organisations with a framed certificate to acknowledge a job well done.

*Justification/Reason for Recommendation:*

I believe that it's incredibly important that the SRC recognises the work that our community partners are doing to support our student cohort during these times and even in pre-COVID times also.   
   
I am additionally happy to take on this project to ensure its delivery.

*Budget Impact:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Items** | **Quotes/Cost** |
| Kmart Norway Certificate Frame (16 x $2) | $ 32.00 |
| Officeworks Christna Re 120gsm paper Vanilla Crème 10 pack (2 x $8.98) | $ 17.96 |
| Postage (16 x $2) | $ 32.00 |
| **Total** | **$81.96** |

**Proposed Action:**

 I move that the SRC allocates $81.96 from the Bankstown Incidentals Budget For the creation of certificates as well as frames and postage to recognize community groups that have assisted students during COVID-19. I also move that the SRC creates a short video of thanks and gratitude for these organisations.

**3.6 Late Assessment Penalty**

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| --- | --- |
| Issue | Late Penalty |
| Date | 24/10/2020 |
| Mover | Nikodin Matic – Vice President Activities |
| Seconder |  |

**Portfolios Impacted:**

* NA

**Issue:**

* WSU late penalty currently stands at 10% per day while other universities have a late penalty of 2% per day.
* We are competing against students from other Universities for jobs upon graduation and employers just compare GPA’s and don’t take into consideration that students from other Universities may take a 5 day late penalty to submit an assignment or assessment with the same penalty as a WSU student taking a one day late penalty. This is unfair and puts WSU students at a disadvantage.

**Recommendation:**

* To propose to the Academic Senate a recommendation that the late penalty is reviewed taking into consideration the late penalty of other universities.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

* To make us compete against the other Universities on a more equal footing.

**Budget Impact:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | NA |

**Proposed Action**

I move that the Western Sydney University SRC proposes that the late penalty is reviewed by the Academic Senate with comparison to the late penalty of other Universities to ensure WSU students have an equal footing and are not disadvantaged.

**3.6 Funding request for Diversity Fest events**

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | We would like to seek funding for our Diversity Fest events which include the Garden groundbreaking, attendance by Costa Georgiadis and additional labour |
| **Date** | 24th October, 2020 |
| **Mover** | Danielle Wolf (Environment Rep) |
| **Seconder** | Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark |

*Issue Description:*

This Diversity Fest we were approved to hold on-campus events for the Kingswood garden project (The Grove).

*Portfolios/Students Impacted:*

All students (and staff)

*Recommendation:*

I recommend that the SRC supports the Collective for Diversity Fest in holding our events to engage students and staff in on-campus activities

*Justification/Reason for Recommendation:*

To facilitate the groundbreaking events at The Grove for Diversity Fest

*Budget Impact:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Items** | **Quotes/Cost** |
| Running of events (inc. promos and guest attendance) | $580 |
| Labour and carpentry (inc. supplies) | $420 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Total: | $1000 |

**Proposed Action:**

*I move that the SRC allocates a budget of up to $1,000 to the Environment Collective to facilitate the successful execution of the groundbreaking events at The Grove for Diversity Fest*

**3.6 Funding request for Diversity Fest events**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | The Environment Collective is seeking funding in order to be able to hold workshops with industry experts and for continued garden improvements and maintenance |
| **Date** | 24th October, 2020 |
| **Mover** | Danielle Wolf (Environment Rep) |
| **Seconder** |  |

*Issue Description:*

With The Grove officially open we are now planning upcoming workshops with industry professionals, i.e., celebrity gardener Costa Georgiadis, Lyttleton Gardens, and Muru Mittigar, on all things garden, ecological health, sustainability, etc. These workshops will be opportunities to learn new skills, facilitate community, improve mental and physical health and wellbeing, and positively impact the environment. Exact dates are TBC, however we are planning on 4 workshops between now and the EOY, including Composting 101, Permaculture Principles and Bush Tucker.

Further, there are expenses associated with the ongoing improvements and expansion planned for The Grove, including the gradual establishment of a Food Forest Canopy system.

Workshop expenses will depend on number of participants, dates, etc., and improvement costs will vary depending on what work and supplies are required. Consequently, we are requesting a budget ***up to*** $5,000 as with our first allocation. Workshops and work on the garden will continue throughout November and December.

*Portfolios/Students Impacted:*

All students (and staff)

*Recommendation:*

I recommend that the SRC supports the Collective in continuing our events to engage students and staff in on-campus activities

*Justification/Reason for Recommendation:*

To ensure the Grove continues to flourish and becomes a hub for the student community to gather, share culture and connections, and positively impact people and planet, in our own backyard.

*Budget Impact:*

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| --- | --- |
| **Items** | **Quotes/Cost** |
| Workshops, labour, supplies | $5,000 |
|  |  |
| Total: | $5,000 |

**Proposed Action:**

*I move that the SRC allocates a budget of up to $5,000 to the Environment Collective to facilitate the ongoing improvements to and workshops at the Kingswood campus garden, ‘The Grove’.*

1. **Other Business**
2. **Next Meeting and Close**