

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEMBER REPORTS

FEBRUARY 2021

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**PRESIDENT**: MARY-PEARL CHUNG

This month, I have met with SRC executives, the Student Community team, the Student Experience Office and some CLV students to discuss SRC plans and strategies for 2021.

The SRC Executive team had our monthly catchup with support staff from Student Community, formerly known before the unit restructure as Student Representation and Participation. On the 9th of February we also met with Michael Burgess, the Chief Student Experience Officer and Natalie Bradbury, SEO Strategy and Performance Manager to gauge the University’s proposal for 2021 Graduations and the potential for postponed ‘proper’ 2020 Graduations, and addressed the 2020-2021 SSAF mess.

Disappointingly, Mr. Burgess is unable to make a commitment for the April graduation ceremonies being held despite the executive team’s admonishing. I raised a few questions for both Mr. Burgess and Ms. Bradbury surrounding the University’s efforts to involve students in the decision-making process, to which Mr. Burgess responded that it would be “inappropriate” to have students in the Graduation working party because it “is very much an operational manner” in which “engaging our constituents and clients (in this case our students)” needs to be separated from “getting the task at hand done”. The SEO reaffirms that the University is doing its best to consult students through focus groups and surveys, to which I requested the survey findings to be shared with SRC. I will continue to share developments on this issue, as we are still pushing for commitments to 2020 and 2021 graduation ceremonies.

Regarding the lack of student consultation and transparency for 2020-2021 SSAF (bids, review and allocations) process, the Mr. Burgess and Ms. Bradbury acknowledged that University management could have done better with the timeline and with ensuring students have better knowledge about SSAF information and legislation. The SRC team will continue to advocate for students’ needs and rights with SSAF.

On the 15th of February, I visited Kingswood (Penrith) Campus Living Village and attended the Penrith Community Dinner Hosted by Campus Living and Chaplaincy. I loved the opportunity to meet and speak to some students and hear about their university experience on campus. There was so much value in meeting people in person after so long of “online” and “remote” uni as there were numerous issues brought to my attention that I had no idea about, such as difficulty accessing lockers and laptops at Kingswood. Some students also questioned the University’s fee hikes and spending since most of the previous academic year had been off-campuses and believed that fees and SSAF contributions should be lowered and/or subsidized. I will try to find these answers and hopefully some positive outcomes/solutions.

I plan to attend the Parramatta Community Dinner on the 17th to get to know more of our WSU community and see what else SRC can do to advocate and support our students. Michael Burgess will also be attending, so I will continue to update should there be any developments.

In the next month, SRC will be having our Welcome Week (Orientation) webinars and drop-in sessions, so keep an eye out on WesternLife and our social media pages for details on how you can get involved. I am also collaborating with Chaplaincy to get Soup-Kitchens and the Campbelltown pizza oven started so we can have more on-campus social events with students soon!

**VICE-PRESIDENT EDUCATION (UNDERGRADUATE)**: GRIFFEN BURGESS

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

- SRC Meeting 4pm-6pm 28th January

- Rescheduled SRC executive meeting 4pm-5pm 29th January

- Meeting with Michael Burgess 4pm-5pm 9th February

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

During February, the executive team and I have been following up the issue around 2021 graduations, to see whether it would be feasible this year and to offer our assistance to the graduations team. I got in contact with Michael Burgess to organise a meeting with him and the executive team to continue our conversation from our last meeting back in December. We were able to examine the current situation and how the graduations team are dealing with COVID-19 restrictions. What we discussed is confidential, but we’ll be working with the graduations team to not only communicate to the students on how the event will be organised but to show transparency of the situation.

Furthermore, I have enrolled into Summer school 2020/2021 and have been studying for my final exam. This has affected the work I have as Vice President, but now that it’s finished, I’ll be resuming back to my role to continue with the work I had left over. This includes the learning guides issue that a lot of students have been concerned with, as well as developing ideas for potential business careers events. I’ve been following up the issue with learning guides being released past the due date which is 2 weeks prior to the start of the new semester. I’ve been made aware that the topic of the learning guide was discussed in the last Academic Senate meeting and that all schools have been advised to release them at the supposed due date. To make sure this has been promised, I’ll be following it up with all the deans to reassure them, so that student’s do not face this issue again.

## VICE-PRESIDENT EDUCATION (POST-GRADUATE): DANIEL BONATTI

I write a report greater than 200 words as I am in the Executive of the SRC. I am the Vice President Postgraduate Education.  I am a student doing a Master in Building Surveying. I am also doing Bachelor of Construction Management, (Honours) majoring in Building Surveying, sub-major Sustainability in the Faculty of Built Environment and BALCT Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical thinking, in Academy I am following my role as described in Student Representation Procedures Clause 14 & 15. I easily achieved the required 42 mandatory hours per month.

I thank SRC to make this position available before elections in April. I saw the announcement for positions on Western Life I checked if there was a role which fits me and immediately saw VPP. I made an EOI I had no idea who I may be competing with. I know now with a total of 6 votes, I was appointed to the position of VPP winning with 3 votes. Anushka Kapoor received 1 vote and Stephanie Albadawi received 2 votes.

I wrote to both my rivals after I won. I am looking forward of the opportunity to invite Anushka and Stephanie to give me any agenda or demands and further agenda for the remainder of the SRC term. We could do with more PG student involvement as stated by Grant Murray. I will help the SRC as I have my old contacts plus new ones in Golden Key, EWB and CIB covering Postgraduates. I am not surprised only 6 voted and in fact was hoping on a Steven Bradbury moment to get the position and rather not compete with my friend Anushka or new friend Stephanie.

I have many roles outside the university. I am currently involved with WSU in the following roles:

* Academy Citizen Scholar Award finishing, Level 3.
* ICE Internship and Community Engagement with EWB and I am NSW Region Secretary
* CIB- Council of Building WSU chapter Undergraduate representative, 2020-2021
* SAC - School Academic Committee - School of the Built Environment, WSU- undergraduate student April 2020 to April 2022
* STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Cluster Board WSU
* GK- Golden Key International Honour Society – Elected President WSU chapter May 2020-2021
* EWB - Western Sydney University Chapter- Advisory Panel
* EWB Engineers Without Borders, President WSU Chapter, 2020-2021
* CAPS- Construction Architecture Planning Society Vice President & Treasurer.
* Leaders Meeting Western Life.
* WSU Student COVID-19 Taskforce Committee.

What or where I have been? I usually write a list of events I am involved in, as I am just commencing. I only found out today its due. I will add this to my quarterly report when required.

## VICE-PRESIDENT ACTIVITIES: NIKODIN MATIC

*Not submitted*

## GENERAL SECRETARY: TYLER WILSON

As we have gotten back into the swing of things for 2021 the Gen Sec role has gotten back on track with the regularity of its tasks. Over the past month I have had a couple meetings with Grant Murray in regards to preparation for the formation of the budget committee and its first quarterly meeting for 2021 and its first since I was elected. It is with intention that this meeting will be held in the days prior to the February meeting in order to discuss the proposed agenda items as well as a budget overview and plan for 2021. The budget committee currently consists of Manika Sahni, Nikodin Matic, Simon Preuss-Kearney, Vicky-Rae Renier-Clarke and Rosina Armstrong-Mensah. We welcome all reps to attend the meetings when they are scheduled in order to discuss purely the fiscal component to their agenda items.

I have also discussed with Grant the use of a matrix similar to that used in the SSAF Bid meetings to determine the value of proposals for the student body which I believe can be applied in a similar fashion to SRC agenda items with some modifications to the matrix so that it is more applicable to the scale of budget requests we receive. I believe this would help reps to weigh the value of proposed items and to make a fair judgement in voting. I will be looking at introducing this in the March meeting.

I unfortunately was not able to attend the second Executive committee meeting with Michael Burgess which was to discuss graduations however upon reading the reports of my fellow executive members I trust they advocated on our behalf.

As many are aware, I completed my Bachelor’s degree in November of 2020 and was planning to vacate from the position of General Secretary upon my graduation in April 2021. I since however, have enrolled in a postgraduate course and will continue my role up until the end of term. Reps will be able to continue to contact me in the Gen Sec capacity up until that time.

## RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE*:* CURRENTLY VACANT

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS RE[RESENTATIVE: MANIKA SAHNI

*Not submitted*

**WOMEN’S REPRESENTATIVE**: ROSINA ARMSTRONG-MENSAH

From my last report I attended January SRC meeting and the strategic planning.

I have been in contact with chaplaincy about the collective post card meant to get more students sign up for women’s collective (picture below).

Again, is been a period of contact several student women leaders in the university and planning for our two events coming up in first week of march that’s international women’s day and the meet and greet session. Including designing posters and publishing them.

The links are below:

<https://life.westernsydney.edu.au/WomensCollective/rsvp_boot?id=15955>

<https://life.westernsydney.edu.au/feeds?type=event&type_id=16601>

Western life page: <https://life.westernsydney.edu.au/student_community?club_id=571>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wsuwoco>



QUEER REPRESENTATIVE: *CURRENTLY VACANT*

FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE: *CURRENTLY VACANT*

DISABILITY REPRESENTATIVE: ROBERT REED

During the February period, I have been required to assist Campus Representative for Bankstown, Vicky-Rae Renier-Clark, with our household duties and parenting of our children due to an exuberance of her medical condition as well as three hospital admissions and two procedures undertaken in addition to her post-surgery recovery as recommended by her surgeon for the period of 6th – 16th February respectively. Despite the challenge of undertaking these duties and responsibilities in addition to my portfolio during this time I do believe that I have still managed to fulfill many of the tasks assigned to my portfolio.

During the February period, I have achieved the following:

*[COMMUNICATIONS] Collation of the Monthly Disability Collective Newsletter via Western Life – 15th February 2021*

The Monthly Disability Collective newsletter was sent out to registered members on WesternLife detailing the USEP program with Dragana Koncar. This edition also included the CommunATy vUWS and Connect services with AT Specialists, Natalie McLaughlin and Sally Leggo.

*[TRAINING] Fundamentals of Culturally Responsive practice in the Disability Context facilitated by CultureReady Australia – 16th February 2021, 10am – 12pm*

*Workshop Outline:*

1. A framework for understanding culturally responsive practice
2. The importance of self-reflection in identifying the impact of our own cultural values, assumptions and unconscious bias
3. The role of intersectionality in person-centered practice
4. Understanding explanatory models of disability

*[LIASON] Continued collaboration with Equity and Diversity, Disability Services and the AT Team surrounding implementation and Academic attitudes surrounding Academic Integration Plans (AIP)*

This came about as a result of conversations and concerns raised by students at the Student Leaders Taskforce in conjunction to feedback gathered through the SRC Student Services Satisfaction Survey in addition to the Disability Collective Satisfaction Survey late last year that  undeniably stated that students do not believe that their AIP accommodations are taken into consideration adequately by the university and secondly where the schools are responsive the responses from academics when students negotiate their accommodations has been incredibly poor to say the least. This is going to be an ongoing conversation with the above-mentioned parties at present to seek a resolution, although webinars have been proposed for staff during the Orientation period to better explain this.

*[FORUM PLANNING] Planning of Disability Collective Forum in collaboration with Disability Services, Assistive Technology and Welfare.*

Negotiations ongoing

ETHNO-CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE: RAMEEZ PARKAR

Since the start of the year I have attended the SRC strategic planning session. I have engaged in planning for the ethnocultural collective.  I am currently running an EOI process to engage Collective Equity Officers. In collaboration with Chaplaincy I have held meetings with members of the ethnocultural collective regarding increasing student engagement with the SRC, Student Clubs, Campus Life, Chaplaincy and the Ethnocultural Collective. I am also a member of the uni-wide Respectful Relationships Taskforce and have been working on scoping a potential collaboration by the SRC. I have also held numerous meetings with other members of the SRC.

ENVIRONMENT REPRESENTATIVE: DANIELLE WOLF

*Not submitted – extenuating circumstances (submitted to Executive)*

ONLINE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: *CURRENTLY VACANT*

PARRAMATTA CITY CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE: ADEEM JIWANI

*Not submitted*

PARAMMATTA SOUTH REPRESENTATIVE: RAZIN POLARA

*Not submitted*

**NIRIMBA CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE**: CRYSTAL RAM

*Meeting Attendance (NIRIMBA REPRESENTATIVE):*

29th January 2021 SRC Strategic Planning Meeting

25th February 2021 SRC Meeting #2 February

* The development of a plan to conduct strategic campaigns, events, and communications to help promote student voice at Western Sydney University, across various campuses.

As the Nirimba representative, I will continue in my efforts to partake and report the needs of students across all fields on campus. As the Nirimba representative I believe it is anticipated that I strengthen student voice and increase participation in activities which are currently online. I plan to organise regular zoom trivia/ kahoot meetings for students that allow a chance for the students of the Nirimba community to grow and develop.

Since being elected I have sustained effort to support and advance networks as well as partnerships with individuals, groups, clubs and offices which are working towards the same otherwise similar objectives such as the Nirimba Provost Committee where we will be working along side with the CEO of UWS Nirimba Campus. This will assist to leverage our capacities and resources, as well as to avoid duplication of activities and meetings, especially with University staff.

**KINGSWOOD CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE**: SIMON PREUSS-KEARNEY

Over late January and early February, I attended to the following events/activities:

• Firstly, I emailed Pride Football Australia and organised booking a team with them. This was following up my January agenda item, action item. The team is now registered and formed for the tournament (7 other players have confirmed their interest for the tournament). I am currently in the process of finalising team shirts (I will need to get them from Campbelltown), a team name and updating details with the PFA organisers.

• Secondly, I continued my involvement in the SRC related meetings this month, such as the January SRC monthly meeting. I also attended the SRC Planning day and the SRC clubs and activities committee meeting.

• Finally, I have not actioned the chess board acquisition yet. I have focused on forming the team but will focus on working on this post-tournament.

Over the month of February, I will attend to the following events/activities:

• Firstly, continuing my involvement in the SRC related meetings which are approaching this month, such as the February SRC monthly meeting. I will also attend the budget committee meeting, SRC Webinar, and to organise and/or conduct my campus forum.

• Secondly, to encourage more engagement in our WesternLife SRC page, I will suggest the formation of a few badges that we could create for members to obtain. It might not produce much, but it is nice to recognise active members of our SRC community, and this would be at least a small acknowledgement of that.

• Thirdly, the SRC PFA tournament team received a decent amount of interest from the Facebook page and it suggested to me that there is potential to utilise this interest in the student body. The agenda item I will present will explore the possibility of the SRC hosting our own mixed soccer tournament. We could call it the SRC cup and enter our own team to beat, or simply run it and think of creative prizes (A trophy of our mascot, or the SRC image, or something funnier?). An idea to explore.

 •  Fourthly, 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.

• Fifthly, developing posters and pamphlets on the location of the SRC room at Kingswood campus, and the time I will be available on campus in 2021.

• Finally, I am developing my Action item pertaining to the “Developments to the Decommissioned Parramatta North Café” which was approved in the September SRC meeting. I need to create a progression timeline for this agenda item to ensure it is pursued early in 2021 with the formation of a working group of village students to decide what they would like to see available at their campus. The first step is to engage with the next resident representative to action this with them.

**BANKSTOWN REPRESENTATIVE**: VICKY-RAE RENIER-CLARK

During the February period, I have unfortunately experienced health issues from the 6th to the 16th of February respectively related to my kidneys requiring laser lithotripsy as well as a stent to be placed and subsequently removed. This has resulted in hospital admission on three occasions in addition to two procedures needing to be undertaken at this time in addition to recovery time as recommended by my treating surgeon. Despite this disruption to my portfolio during this time, I do believe that I have still managed to fulfill many of the tasks and responsibilities assigned to my role.

During the February period, I have achieved the following:

*[TRAINING] Fundamentals of culturally responsive practice in the Disability Context facilitated by CultureReady Australia – 16th February 10-12pm*

*Workshop Outline:*

1. A framework for understanding culturally responsive practice
2. The importance of self-reflection in identifying the impact of our own cultural values, assumptions and unconscious bias
3. The role of intersectionality in person-centered practice
4. Understanding explanatory models of disability

*[FORUM PLANNING] Bankstown SRC Forum – 16thMarch at 2pm via Zoom*

A forum has been planned for mid-March to address the issues raised by Bankstown Students during the Student Services Satisfaction Survey and negotiate with students as to what they believe a favorable outcome for these concerns would be given that the Bankstown (Milperra) Campus is slated for closure in a few short years leading to restrictions related to infrastructure.

*[MEETING] SRC Strategic Planning Meeting- 29th January*

This meeting whilst supposed to outline what the SRC is due to achieve for the next six months of their tenure highlighted that the current SRC is burnt out through no fault of their own and are experiencing a number of profound issues due to university policy during COVID-19. This includes the restriction on members of the executive being able to sufficiently uphold the tasks and values of their role as events are consistently denied whilst events of the same stature and caliber facilitated by Campus Life are being approved at this time. Concerns additionally were raised that SRC members do not feel that the University takes them seriously in their advocacy actions.

*[LIASON] Women in Leadership Forum with the SRC Equity Representative for Women, Rosina Armstrong-Mensah*

Rosina contacted me with the proposal of getting several student women leaders in the university together for events coming up in first week of March in alignment with International Women’s Day and the additional Meet and Greet session. I have graciously accepted this invitation and look forward to more information on the event to be forthcoming shortly.

*[AGENDA ITEM PLANNING] Creation of Inclusion Calendar for implementation by SRC on Social Media and WesternLife*

The purpose of this calendar is to celebrate and raise awareness and understanding of significant events for people who may identify with different diversity groups.

Developing an effective Diversity and Inclusion culture is an important part of being a world leading university. Diversity adds value to our problem solving, decision making and creativity. Inclusion fosters collaboration, trust and respect and supports psychosocial safety and wellbeing.

I believe that the implementation of an inclusion calendar would assist both SRC and Equity Representatives to more effectively represent their associated cohorts within the University community and engage them through our social media as well as workshops, webinars and events in alignment with these days of observance.

Please note: I have attempted to ensure dates and information are accurate and that most major events are included, however mistakes or omissions may occur. I strive to have an example of this ready in time for the next SRC Meeting at the end of February.

**CAMPBELLTOWN CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE**: TRACEY TRAN

Meetings or training sessions I have attended:

28/01/2021- SRC meeting January

29/01/2021- SRC strategic planning. We talked about developing a draft plan to conduct strategic campaigns, events, and communications to help promote student voice at Western Sydney university.

Communication and engagement

I set up an event on Westernlife for an online Campbelltown campus forum for 30/03/2021, with help from Nikodin. I will begin advertising for the event through social media closer to the date. Additionally, I assisted a student via email who responded to the SRC campus survey about the littering of potholes in the carpark. I ensured to maintain communication with Rosina and ask questions to ensure I am prepared to speak at her upcoming event ‘Meet and Greet with your women representatives’.

**HAWKESBURY CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE**: *CURRENTLY VACANT*

**LIVERPOOL CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE**: *CURRENTLY VACANT*