

Student Representative Council - Board Meeting	
Meeting time and date:	Wednesday 18 February, 1:30pm
Meeting venue:	N16_-1.10A & Online
Attendees 1. Archie Howgate (AW) 2. Connor Widdowson (CW) 3. Daniel Connor (DC) 4. Lana Browne (LB) 5. Kyle Low (KL) 6. Mariska Simpson (MS) 7. Holly Hawkins - SRC Staff / Board Secretary (HH) 8. Jenna Corby – Student Associations Manager	
Apologies 1. Kore Opie 2. Olivia Walden	

	Meeting open Time: 1:36pm - In Spencer's absence, Kyle Low agreed to chair the meeting.
1.	Acknowledgement of Country - KL Delivered the Acknowledgement of Country
2.	Apologies & Proxies • Kore Opie – Proxy to Kyle Low 'at their discretion for any motion' • Olivia Walden – Proxy to Archie Howgate 'at their discretion for any motion'
3.	Previous minutes & matters arising - No matters arising

	Motion: Motion to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. Moved: AH Seconded: KL Motion: Carried, unanimously
4.	Standing Agenda Items for noting - MS requested feedback on the pantry changes. - HH confirmed that there was not yet any data due to the pantries being closed. We will be able to report back to the board once we have some data. - JC noted that there is a 2025 review coming, waiting on this being condensed from its current length. - LB asked about ‘spruiking’ the pantry during campus tours. - HH agreed that it’s a great idea and will provide a blurb to speak to. ACTION: HH to provide LB with speaking points about the pantry.
5.	NUS President’s Summit Reflections - DC provided a limited summary, nothing extraordinary to note.
6.	Budget Confirmation – Events & Programs - Reviewed and no comments
7.	The SRC endorses the National Student Strike for Palestine - KL: Gave an overview of the situation continuing to unfold in Gaza. KL spoke to the way in which the Prime Minister handled the visit of the Israeli President. As a result of this tour, the NSW premier announced a protest ban and the police brutality that resulted in this was abhorrent. A violent and extreme reaction to a rightful protest. - KL: Continued that the SRC should endorse the National Student Strike, that the NUS organising. - KL: Added an addition to the proposed motion, that the SRC opposes QLD’s proposed hate speech laws

- **KL:** The Queensland LNP has introduced a bill to state parliament which will criminalise the use of pro-Palestine phrases such as “from the river to the sea”. These phrases are being characterised as hate speech as a part of a federal crackdown on free speech targeting the pro-Palestine movement. The use of these, and other banned phrases and symbols, will carry a maximum sentence of two years in jail. The SRC should oppose the “Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026” in order to defend freedom of political expression, and specifically to protect Griffith students who wish to exercise their right in standing up against the Genocide in Gaza and the annexation of the West Bank.
- **KL:** asked for comment.
- **AH:** *[speaking on behalf of revitalise]* stated that they are supportive of a social media post about the strike. ‘Encouraging rather than endorsing, the language should be softer.’
- **CW:** agreed that the SRC should not be taking a political stance and would prefer to remain neutral regarding political comment.
- **KL:** ‘I think that we should be taking a political stance, this is a QLD law, it’s not just defending a ‘pro Palestine’ agenda, it’s an attack on free speech.’
- **LB:** Suggested that if a statement is issued, it should remain neutral, for example stating that the SRC does not support limitations on free speech. Emphasised the importance of working for *all* students and making a neutral statement.
- **MS:** Raised concerns regarding the legal and financial implications of offering legal support to students. Advised that it would not be viable and may be misconstrued or taken advantage of.
- **JC:** Noted that there are existing avenues of support available to students, such as the advocacy service.
- **AH:** Added that legal aid services already exist for this purpose.
- **KL:** Reiterated that the key element of the motion is to communicate that the SRC is standing with students.
- **CW:** Stated support for assisting students directly affected by the law but expressed concern that formally standing against the bill may be perceived as overly political.
- **KL:** Acknowledged concerns about politicisation but noted that supporting free speech is inherently political. Suggested that the organisation should

not be afraid of that position, particularly if members agree on supporting free speech.

- **AH:** Stated that the SRC can support political matters, but in a way that represents all students.
- **CW:** Emphasised the importance of recognising that taking a public position may alienate some students.
- **KL:** Noted that social media posts relating to Palestine receive high levels of positive engagement. Highlighted that as the legislation is Queensland-based, there is a direct opportunity for the SRC to respond. Expressed concern that the legislation covers a broad range of words and symbols and emphasised that the issue extends beyond simply taking a stand that 'may' upset some people.
- **CW:** Expressed the view that it may not be the SRC's role to take a formal stand. Acknowledged that while some may view the legislation as wrong, other students - including Jewish students - may feel targeted or attacked by a public position.
- **KL:** Stated that the legislation will directly affect students and referenced personal experience organising protests. Questioned the value of remaining neutral out of concern about upsetting more right-leaning students.
- **LB:** Emphasised the importance of focusing on our students and representing all students, regardless of their position on Palestine. Suggested the organisation should prioritise matters that directly impact students locally.
- **AH:** Indicated support for sharing information and resources with students but expressed concern that strongly endorsing a particular position may not be inclusive.
- **LB:** Noted that not all students are politically engaged and that many primarily seek a positive campus experience. Suggested that the SRC's role is not to focus on one political issue and that attention should not be limited to a single cause.

Motion: The SRC will post about the national strike on Instagram, informing students and encouraging students to attend the protest.

Moved: KL

	Seconded: AH Result: Carried, unanimously Motion: If the bill is passed, the SRC will offer advocacy services to students targeted by the bill. Action: Informing students about the changes and how to best protect themselves. Moved: KL Seconded: CW Result: Carried, unanimously
8.	SRC EOY Event Proposal - Tabled.
9.	Any other Business - LB: proposed that the SRC supports national awareness days like Worlds Greatest Shave, Daffodil Day etc. - MS: Asked about market day/Oweek participation. - JC: Will share a sign up spreadsheet.
10.	Scheduling of next meeting - Via teams chat
11.	Meeting close - Meeting Closed 2:24pm by KL.

Summary of Motions

Motion	For	Against	Abstained
Motion to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.	All		
The SRC will post about the national strike on Instagram,	All		



informing students and encouraging students to attend the protest.			
If the bill is passed, the SRC will offer advocacy services to students targeted by the bill. Action: Informing students about the changes and how to best protect themselves.	All		