



Griffith University Student Representative Council

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 13 November 2024

Location: N53_0.57 / Microsoft Teams

Chair: Sara Cunningham

Attendees

- Sara Cunningham
- Kore Opie
- V Morgan
- Anna Brandon
- Kyle Low
- Simarjot Kaur
- Mariska Simpson
- Evelyn Erdenebat
- Spencer Holzheimer (from 12.38pm)

Observers

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Cory Everdell | SRC Board Secretary |
| - Jenna Corby | Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator |

Meeting Commenced 12.03pm

Acknowledgement of Country

- Sara gave acknowledgement of country.

Attendance/Apologies/Proxies

- No apologies or proxies received.

Previous Minutes

- Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes from 28 October 2024 as being true and correct.
 - o Moved: Mariska
 - o Seconded: Anna
 - o Carried

Agenda Item 1: SRC Board Chairperson Appointment

- Mariska Simpson (seconded by Anna) and Sara Cunningham (seconded by Evelyn) nominated for the SRC Board Chairperson role for the 2025 board term.
- Board voted anonymously
- Vote 6 to 2 in favour of Sara

Agenda Item 2: Opposing Griffith's Restructuring, Staff Cuts, and Course Cuts

- Kyle introduced proposed motions regarding recent Griffith University change proposals - Griffith University has implemented restructuring measures, including departmental changes, course and staff cuts, due to a budget deficit and declining student enrolments, while also planning a new CBD campus to expand its offerings. The focus on growth and competition with other institutions has led to concerns that staff and student conditions are being sacrificed to protect the university's financial interests.
- Discussion held regarding fixed term contracts likely to not be renewed and the view that the actions taken by the university are to protect profits, and that the SRC needs to stand with staff who oversee student's education.
- Motions
 - o The SRC opposes the restructuring, and the lack of communication concerning its effects on staff and students.
 - Moved: Kore
 - Seconded: Sara
 - Caried
 - o The SRC opposes any cuts to courses that are to the detriment of the students' education.
 - Moved: Kyle
 - Seconded: Anna
 - Carried
 - o The SRC stands in solidarity with the NTEU to oppose all redundancies and demands job security for all Griffith University employees.
 - Moved: Kyle
 - Seconded: V
 - Carried
- Actions
 - o Cory to forward DVCE meeting invite for November 14 to Sara as newly appointed SRC board chairperson.
 - o Cory to request scope of DVCE meetings
 - o Sara to discuss SRC's stance at meeting with DVC Education on Thursday 14 November
 - o Motions to be posted on SRC social media channels & email to students
 - o Letter to University Executive to be drafted for sign-off by SRC board
 - o Engage with NTEU staff to obtain information on any upcoming campaigns

Agenda Item 3: Griffith SRC defends the right to abortion access

- Kore introduced proposed motions on defending abortion rights - Robbie Katter, leader of Katter's Australian Party, has pledged to introduce a private member's bill to repeal abortion laws in Queensland, despite the LNP leadership, including David Crisafulli and Fiona Simpson, opposing decriminalisation in the past. In response, large rallies have been organised by the National Union of Students to defend abortion rights, and the SRC is urged to take a stand in support of reproductive healthcare for students, especially given that over 60% of Griffith University students and staff are women.
- A discussion followed on whether the SRC should support student clubs addressing such topics, rather than directly engaging in the issue. Kyle emphasised that student issues are inherently political and that the SRC should support students in all aspects of their lives. Kore noted that students had shown support for this topic during the annual SRC campaign and were interested in the SRC taking a stance on issues impacting students, such as human rights. V suggested the SRC should back this initiative through student clubs and raised the question of whether there is enough student support to make an informed decision, and discussed being mindful of accessibility when encouraging students to attend rallies and similar activities. Spencer pointed out a shift in the SRC's approach, from focusing on hosting events to potentially taking a more controversial or political stance. Kore raised that the SRC should stand firm on important issues, regardless of how it might be perceived, especially when defending student rights. Evelyn expressed support for Kore's position. Spencer concluded by stressing the need for the SRC to also focus on a broad range of issues, not just political topics, so that students see the SRC as a well-rounded organisation.
- Motions
 - 1. Griffith SRC affirms its support for abortion access and reproductive healthcare and opposes any attacks on these rights.
 - Moved: Kore
 - Seconded: Sara
 - Carried
 - 2. When the next rally to defend abortion rights is called, Griffith SRC will promote the action to students and encourage them join
 - Moved: Kore
 - Seconded: V
 - Votes in favor: 8
 - Votes against: 0
 - Abstained: 1
 - Carried
- Actions
 - Cory to obtain National Union of Students affiliation fee quote
 - Cory to obtain information regarding students who attend protests/rallies in their role as a board member/Griffith student
 - Share NUS Abortion Rights rally on 28th November on SRC socials

Agenda Item 4: Acknowledgement of Country

- Sara introduced motions regarding strengthening the Griffith SRC's cultural competency - The SRC is encouraged to strengthen its commitment to reconciliation by implementing cultural competency training and developing a meaningful

Acknowledgement of Country that honours Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A recent workshop with the DVCI team emphasised the importance of courageous and explicit language in crafting such an acknowledgment, though the speaker recognises that as a non-Indigenous person, they should not speak on behalf of Indigenous perspectives. The board discussed the importance to have a firm commitment to reconciliation as student organisation.

- Motions:
 - 1. The SRC board affirms a united commitment to reconciliation.
 - Moved: Sara
 - Seconded: V
 - Carried
 - 2. Following, the SRC board engages the DVCI team to facilitate a workshop for SRC board, staff and Club executives on unpacking Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country, to educate about best practice, to foster cultural competency.
 - Moved: Sara
 - Seconded: Sim
 - Carried
 - 3. The SRC board develops an Acknowledgement of Country that is from the heart and clearly communicates our commitment to reconciliation.
 - Moved: Sara
 - Seconded: Kyle
 - Carried
 - 4. The SRC commits to establishing relationships and engaging with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders: Identified students and associations, Gumurrii, local Elders.
 - Moved: Sara
 - Seconded: Anna
 - Carried
 - 5. To empower board members, it is proposed that each member of the board is given an opportunity to deliver an Acknowledgement of Country.
 - Moved: Sara
 - Seconded: Evelyn
 - Carried
 - 6. Board members commit to building cultural confidence by completing the AIATSIS Core Cultural Course, as part of their role on the board (pending access to the training)
 - Moved: Sara
 - Seconded: V
 - Carried
 - Actions
 - Contact Tina O’Keefe to organise training session for SRC Board
 - Table subcommittees at future board meeting

Other Business

- 2024 Event Costs

- Cory summarised 2024 event costs and invited comments from the board. V requested more information, including registration, campus breakdown, postgraduate student breakdown and what students paid for each event.
- Actions
 - Cory to organise budgeting & activities workshop to be held 26th November from 11am – 2pm.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday 3rd December, 1pm

Meeting Closed 1.35pm

Meeting Chair: _____



Date: 16/12/2024