Griffith University Student Representative Council

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 3 December 2024
Location: N76_0.57 / Microsoft Teams
Chair: Sara Cunningham

Attendees

- Sara Cunningham
- Kore Opie
- Kyle Low
- Simarjot Kaur
- Mariska Simpson
- Spencer Holzheimer

Observers

- Jenna Corby — SRC Board Secretary (delegated by Cory Everdell)
- Holly Hawkins — Student Communities Coordinator

Meeting Commenced 1.06pm

Acknowledgement of Country

- Mariska gave acknowledgement of country.

Attendance/Apologies/Proxies

- V Morgan (proxy SC)
- Anna Brandon (proxy MS)
- Evelyn Erdenebat (proxy KL)

Previous Minutes

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

Agenda Item 1: Register of Actions and Matters Arising

- Sara provided update from meeting with DVCE.

    - Sara had requested broader audience for SRC Board members, DVCE and Registrar requested preference for keeping membership small for efficiency. DVCE also said was open to attending SRC Board meetings.
    - Sara provided feedback re DVCE position on communicating restructure to students. DVCE indicated that they would prefer this come from SRC as students are less likely to open emails from University.
    - Sara also received an email from the VC just prior to today's meeting, will share directly with SRC Board after meeting.
- SRC support for access to abortion rights
    - Posts on social media had higher engagement than general posts
    - Kore and Kyle attended NUS rally, it was well attended and other Griffith students were in attendance
    - Cory followed up regarding University position on protests and rallies, Deputy Registrar said providing that University is not brought into disrepute students are free to participate. Protests on campus need to seek appropriate approvals around safety / security etc.
- First Nations training and acknowledgement of country
    - Cory working with Tina O'Keefe to arrange training for early 2025
    - Sim confirmed that non-staff can access AIATSIS training

Agenda Item 2: Draft Budget

- Sara shared comments from V regarding joint clubs initiative funding that it might not be possible to spend most of this until T2 as clubs take time to find feet in T1
- Motion: to approve budget in current form, no changes required.
    - Moved: Kore
    - Seconded: Sim
    - Carried

Agenda Item 3: Subcommittees

- Spencer spoke about:
    - A sub-committee focused on developing internal SRC policies and procedures.
    - One example Spencer suggested would be a policy that requires students engaged in various leadership positions / committees across university to provide updates to SRC Board. The policy would outline expectations and limitations of this relationship. This would improve communications and Boards understanding of decisions being made across the University that might be impacting on students.
- Mariska provided feedback from Anna
    - Highlighted that this discussion stems from loss of Indigenous Officer position on SRC Board and importance of First Nations voice in decision-making
    - Suggested committees representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, LGBTQIA+ students, and Online campus students
    - Meetings advertised to students
    - SRC engaging more with Clubs so they can also act as informal sub-committees
- Mariska provided feedback from 2024 SRC Board meeting
    - Concerns / challenges identified were how do we get students involved
- Sara highlighted that the 2024 Digital Campus reps were very vocal about need for Digital sub-committee

- Sara suggested that first step is working out what sub-committees we need, then at the beginning of the year we advertise nomination process from students. A staff member would be required to act as secretary for each sub-committee to support administration and operational aspects of sub-committee business.
- Spencer asked for clarity whether sub-committees are walk-in meetings or elected small groups. Confirmed that constitution allows for SRC Board to determine how sub-committees are formed.
- Suggestion for starting with existing clubs for some sub-committees
- The Board discussed whether other consultation tools might be more appropriate for some cohorts or issues
- Spencer highlighted that sub-committees for time-limited specific projects might also be beneficial
- Mariska suggested Board put together list of possible sub-committees for further discussion and decisions, Kore and Kyle spoke in support of this decision.
- All Board members reached consensus on holding over decisions re sub-committees until further discussion has occurred.

Action:

- Jenna to create shared document for Board members to contribute sub-committee suggestions for Board to vote on at a future meeting

Agenda Item 4: HECS / HELP legislation has been passed by Federal Government

- Sara shared that while this is good, there is probably an ongoing need to improve student literacy about HELP and indexation
- Mariska shared feedback from Anna – Anna supports social media post, Anna also suggested a webpage on SRC website breaking down in plain English about HELP
- Sara reported that she has a lot of conversations in her mentoring work welcoming students who have no understanding of HELP and what they are committing to
- Spencer stated he agrees with social media post particularly due to the benefits of students hearing from peers about issues that impact them – this can be more meaningful
- Mariska suggested adding a highlight to Instagram as a strategy to get HELP related information to students

Actions

- Staff team to draft social media post and website information for approval by SRC Board

Other Business

- NUS Conference
    - Kore will be attending in personal capacity as SRC not currently affiliated. Kore proposed that they write a report back to SRC Board about what NUS is planning for 2025.
    - Sara requested Kore to also share observations / reflections around benefits or limitations of NUS membership, and whether other QLD universities are present.
    - Discussion around clarification about what membership would involve – Cory is following up to gather more information about this.
    - Spencer posed question as to whether this is an opportunity to build connections with other universities so that opportunities for future collaboration might possible.

- Action – SRC Board members to forward any specific questions for Conference to Cory and Cory to share collated questions with Kore.

- University Change Proposal
  - Sara provided update that the Change Proposal has been approved by University executive with some minor changes following consultation process and will be discussed at VC Town Hall on Thursday 5 December
  - Kore proposed drafting a petition regarding University restructure
  - Spencer suggested including petition with briefing information as discussed in Agenda Item 1
  - Discussion around using petition as an engagement tool – sharing in multiple ways
  - Discussion around timing of commencing campaign and lower engagement of students at this time of year. Kore suggested that it will likely be a long campaign, implementation of change will be ongoing.
  - Spencer asked whether we need to get a sense of how staff actually feel about changes. Kore has spoken to some staff and the NTEU.
  - Spencer asked if possible for SRC Board to meet with NTEU – aiming to make it a unified issue (staff and students).
  - Spencer asked if the Gold Coast Guild had a position on the changes. Sara reported that the Guild Chair was new to position and didn't have anything to add during meeting with DVCE.
  - Kyle highlighted that students aren't well informed so it is important that messaging comes from students to students.
  - Action
    - Sara will share link to Town Hall with Board
    - Sara to draft email to send to Guild and GUPSA to invite collaboration
    - Kore to draft petition

Next Meeting

- 1.00pm, Tuesday January 14

Meeting Closed 2.28pm

Meeting Chair: ______________________ **Date:** 14/01/2025