Student Representative
Council Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2025

Student Representative Council - Board Meeting	
Meeting time and date:	6 August 12pm – 2pm
Meeting venue:	**N54 0.02 & Microsoft Teams**
Attendees 1. Spencer Holzheimer (SH) 2. Kore Opie (KO) 3. Kyle Low (KL) 4. Mariska Simpson (MS) 5. Kiara Harley-Craig (KHC)	
Observers 1. Jenna Corby (JC) Student Associations Manager & Board Secretary 2. Holly Hawkins – Student Communities Coordinator	

	Meeting open Meeting opened at 12:04pm by SH
1.	**Acknowledgement of Country** - SH Delivered the Acknowledgement of Country
2.	**Apologies & Proxies** - Apologies received from Chloe Forbes and Simarjot Kaur - Proxy Received by Chloe nominating Spencer as proxy, Chloe has included directions to SH on their preferences on motions. - Proxy Received by Simarjot nominating Kore as proxy.
3.	**Previous minutes & matters arising**

	Motion: Motion to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. **Moved: KO** **Seconded: KL** **The motion was carried unanimously** **KO Moved a procedural motion to discuss agenda item 9 earlier in the meeting.** **Seconded: KL** **No vote- the chair SH agreed to move the agenda item**
4.	**Palestine Solidarity** - KO spoke to the genocide in Gaza and the pressing issue and that the SRC should have a position on it and not be neutral. It's an important and pertinent issue; the organisers have called a Brisbane rally on Aug 24. Students for Palestine are pushing for a national student referendum. - KO noted that SRC has a duty to address this. KO proposes that the SRC calls a meeting to inform students about the upcoming rally and publishes a statement calling on the Government (outlined in motion below). - SH offered full support, with a few reservations. including that the reps should consider having statements prepped before these sorts of votes. - KO clarified that the first part of the motion is essentially the statement. There will be some additional wording required. - There was some confusion around 2 student meeting dates, KO confirmed that there is now only one date the 24th Aug 2025. - KL spoke to the National Day of Action; general student meeting should also be something that the SRC is promoting as a priority. This is a moment to take a clear stand. It's a key point in time for student unions etc. The SRC can get actively involved in getting students to take a stand – 'who else is going to do it, our politicians won't'.

- SH states that ‘we are at a turning point; the government will be forced to act.’ In terms of a student general meeting, it does worry them that there may be objections and negative attention from a support perspective (students attending). Suggests running it online.
- JC spoke to not being concerned with attendance and it being something operationally that can be mitigated by staff, it’s not a reason not to do it.
- KO agrees with JC’s point, it’s in conjunction with other student groups, it should be promoted as an in-person event. If students request online, a link can be provided.
- SH ‘What would be the point of not advertising it as an online meeting?’
- KL expressed that promoting it as an in-person event, is more impactful and gives more weight to it, friends can come together to support it etc. People are appalled by the governments approach to it; it’s something that student will make time for.
- SH spoke to potential safety concerns.
- JC explains that an issue like that would be operational and managed by staff.

Motion outlined below in two parts

1. The SRC expresses solidarity with the people of Gaza experiencing a devastating man-made starvation crisis. We condemn the inaction of the Australian government and call upon the university join us in this condemnation.

2. The SRC share the August 24th Justice for Palestine rally on social media.

Moved - KO

Seconded – SH

The motion was carried unanimously

ACTION PLAN – Room bookings Wednesday 20th 2pm. N76_1.05

5.	**Chairs report**
	
	SH spoke to the following in the Chair's Report.
	
	• **Student experience sub-committee**
	  ○ SRC representative spot still available.
	  ○ A working group is being established to explore digital student representation on the committee.
	• **Guild meeting**
	  ○ SH can circulate the meeting minutes.
	  ○ Topics discussed included student representatives stepping down due to cost-of-living pressures and the need for compensation.
	  ○ SH also raised ongoing issues with TransLink/bus and train services
	- JC noted the impact of recent TransLink changes and encouraged the collection of student feedback.
	- SH added that there was support for students lobbying the government on transport concerns. On unpaid student roles, the University's response aligns with national messaging through Student Voice Australia.
	• **Enrolment & Safety Concerns**
	  ○ SH reported a decline in domestic student enrolments.
	  ○ Safety issues raised at Gold Coast campus were acknowledged as also being relevant at Nathan campus.
	• **AI & Academic Integrity**
	  ○ SH shared that the Academic Committee is investigating AI use, including drafting and feedback tools. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.
	• **Academic committee**
	  ○ The university is looking into adjusting the English language proficiency requirements/ and thresholds. SH is sitting on the working group around this decision. Waiting for the final report.
	
	- JC asked if the board supports professional staff seeking student feedback on transport issues.
	- The board was supportive.
	- KO requested written reports be included for updates like these in the future.
	- SH agreed and committed to providing additional information going forward.

6.	**Digital Collective Proposal** - JC outlined the proposal submitted on behalf of the digital student collective; they have requested that there are grocery vouchers provided to digital students. - JC informed the board that current usage of food support services is disproportionately by postgraduate students - The food support budget is is intended to serve both undergraduate and postgraduate students. JC proposed that the Undergraduates portion of the vouchers are covered by the joint budget but that the postgraduate portion support funded through the GUPSA budget, rather than drawing from the shared food support pool. - SH agreed this approach made sense and requested that Material Aid Coordinator provide the SRC Board with a plan to ensure more equitable access to food support. - JC responded that the plan involves improving both data collection and the access strategy. - SH asked whether the new approach would disadvantage postgraduate students. - JC clarified that while there may be some discomfort during the transition, it will not disadvantage postgraduates. - SH noted that this presents an opportunity for GUPSA to further support its members. **Motion: to approve the proposal** **Moved: SH** **Seconded: MS** **The motion was carried unanimously**

7.	**Plant Based Treaty** - **KHC** raised the idea of promoting the treaty and encouraging the University to sign it. She acknowledged that, operationally, the University may not have control over all its affiliated businesses and proposed that the **SRC** could consider adopting the treaty independently. - **MS** expressed uncertainty about how the SRC could support the treaty. - **KHC** clarified that support would involve committing to plant-based catering at all SRC-hosted events. - **MS** questioned whether the SRC would be able to support such a commitment. - **SH** raised concerns about how signing the treaty might impact clubs, particularly in terms of their autonomy to make decisions about their own events and catering. - **JC** suggested that the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** might be a more effective framework for advocacy, offering a way to hold the University accountable while also achieving tangible outcomes for the SRC. **ACTION -** Explore how the SRC can align with and leverage the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to strengthen advocacy efforts and hold the University accountable.
8.	**2026 Merch** - **JC** highlighted that merchandise is a valuable opportunity to reflect and promote sustainable values. - **Chloe** had previously noted that the use of plastic cups should be reconsidered. - **MS** expressed support for the cups but was not in favour of the keychains. - **KHC** supported aligning the merchandise with Griffith's sustainability initiatives, particularly focusing on reusable items. - **SH** suggested that while metal coffee cups may have a higher upfront cost, they could offer better long-term value, as students are more likely to use them regularly. - **JC** summarised the discussion and asked whether they should research and present alternative sustainable merchandise options to the board. - **SH** confirmed that the goal is to distribute 2,000 bags and noted that the

	board is open to spending more for higher-quality, sustainable items. **ACTION-** Staff to explore and present merchandise options, with costings, with a focus on reusable items, for board consideration by the next meeting.
9.	**SRC Logo & Branding** - **JC** revisited the proposed rebrand discussed earlier in the year, noting its relevance with upcoming merchandise orders. - **MS** expressed ongoing concerns and stated they are still not in favour of the proposed logo. - **SH** acknowledged there may be value in keeping the current logo as it is. - **JC** raised previously identified issues with the existing logo, highlighting accessibility issues and inability to print the current logo properly. - **KL** proposed moving straight to a vote on the matter. - **SH** also referenced **Chloe's** point that the logo should be student designed. **Motion: That the SRC supports updating the logo, with the exception that the previously proposed redesign is not adopted.** **For – MS, SH, KHC, CF** **Against – 0** **Abstain – KL, KO, SK** **Motion carried.** **ACTION -** Begin a new design process to develop an updated SRC logo, excluding the previously proposed design, and bring alternative options back to the board for consideration, either student led or wholly student designed (liveworm).
10.	**Griffith Accommodation** - **KL** expressed support for taking a clear stand, noting that it's positive that action is happening but emphasising that the University is not supporting students in finding alternative accommodation.

	- KL stated the SRC should advocate for student compensation, suggesting a minimum of six weeks' rent. - KL also stressed that the SRC should be firm about opposing rent increases when the new build is complete. - **SH** observed that demolishing the building indicates the University cannot bring the current conditions up to standard. While supportive of new accommodation, SH urged vigilance in holding the University accountable to its commitments and raised concerns around potential building plan changes. - SH recommended increasing the SRC's emergency funding budget to meet rising demand and called for questions about the University's capacity to provide solutions. - **KO** agreed that improvements to on-campus accommodation are positive and reiterated that students should receive compensation. KO also noted the importance of clearly communicating the SRC's emergency support options to students. - **JC** clarified that while some accommodation support exists, the SRC's resources are limited and cannot meaningfully cover alternative housing costs for all affected students. JC suggested the University should employ dedicated staff to assist students in finding alternative accommodation. - **SH** concurred that the University should secure alternative accommodation for students at comparable costs. - **KL** emphasised that the SRC should demand compensation rather than merely advise students to find alternative accommodation, as this is a more practical and relevant demand. - **SH** agreed and proposed a group discussion to develop a formal statement. - **JC** offered to draft a statement to expedite the process. **Motion: To publish a statement regarding the Griffith Accommodation changes (to be drafted).** **Moved- KL** **Seconded- SH**

	The motion was carried unanimously **ACTION -** JC to draft statement, submit to the board for approval and then publish on behalf of the board.
11.	**Campus Poster Board** - KO raised that they would like the SRC to organise and provide easily accessible poster boards with no locks etc. - SH suggested asking Facilities to obtain quotes for the poster boards. - KL emphasised the importance of this, noting that Griffith is one of the few universities without accessible public posting spaces and stressed that the boards should remain open and publicly available. **Motion: For the SRC to request poster boards on all campuses.** **Moved- KO** **Seconded – SH** **The motion was carried unanimously.** **ACTION - Staff to obtain quotes and identify locations for boards on all campuses, and submit to the board at the next meeting.**
12.	**Evelyn Resignation** - **JC spoke to Evelyn's resignation, and opened it to the board for any further discussion.** - SH noted that the board may potentially appoint students who participated in the most recent election, effectively promoting the next nominee who received the highest votes. - KO responded that as per the constitution, positions are filled in a way that is decided by the board. I think we just keep that approach for next year and determine as needed.
13.	**Proposed standing agenda items** - SH proposed adding a Chair's Report as a standing agenda item to provide regular updates on other committees and relevant matters for the board.

	- JC has included some suggestions (outlined below). noting the importance of staying well-informed. JC suggested implementing standing agenda items as a tool to hold the staff team accountable for providing timely updates to the board.
	
	JC proposes to add the following as standing agenda items:
	• Student Associations Manager Update
	  o General updates for noting
	• Budget Update
	• Events and Services update
	  o Summary of feedback received
	  o Number of events hosted
	  o Number of students participating
	  o Advocacy cases
	  o Food support engagement
	  o Clubs activities etc
	• University Student Voice and Partnerships Update
	  o To improve SRC knowledge and understanding of student consultations occurring across the University, Sara Ardern (Practice Lead, Authentic Student Partnerships) has stated she would be happy to provide a monthly summary of current or upcoming student consultation projects.
	  o The SRC Board can then identify areas of interest and Sara would be happy to provide more detail on specific projects.
	
	- SH noted that this could also include a 'documents for noting' section.
	
	Motion: That the proposed standing agenda items are included in meeting agendas moving forward.
	
	Moved - SH
	
	Seconded - KO
	
	The motion was carried unanimously.
	
	ACTION - Board Secretary to include the above standing agenda items in

	upcoming meeting agendas and ensure relevant staff are informed and provide information to the board in a timely manner.
14.	**Budget update** - **MS** noted that the student pantry budget has been exceeded. - **JC** confirmed the budget is still on track and "in the green." - **SH** asked if the $40K overage was due to the new staff member. - **JC** clarified that the increase is due to the high rate of pantry usage. - **SH** pointed out that the $87K of unspent allocation will not be returned and emphasized that, while spending has been conservative, there are several projects that could benefit the community. - **KO** asked if suggestions for spending could be prepared for the next meeting. - **SH** requested that everyone come to the next meeting with ideas on how to allocate the funds, such as a professional development fund for board members or a non-curricular creative arts fund. - **MS** cautioned that money cannot simply be set aside without proper planning. - **SH** responded that both short-term and long-term funding goals should be considered, with ongoing monitoring and proposals to be presented at the next meeting. **ACTION -** Board members to come prepared to the next meeting with proposals for allocating unspent funds, considering both short-term and long-term community benefits. Secretary to add as an agenda item.
15.	**Student Feedback & SRC Forums Preliminary Summary** - **SH** shared that only one student attended until the food arrived at QCGU. - **KO** emphasised that these interactions should not be undervalued, calling them invaluable. - **SH** suggested that events structured around food are more effective than those where food is provided afterwards, recommending a more informal, food-focused approach. - **MS** asked if there was any feedback regarding South Bank events. - **JC** replied that no immediate feedback is available but will provide information to the board when received.

	- **SH** raised the question of how to operationally support students who cannot access services during typical 9–5 hours. - **SH** noted that funds are available to host more events and proposed hiring QCGU students to provide musical entertainment. - **SH** also suggested promoting a social media campaign to request student input on preferred uses of SRC funds. **Motion: The board should consider student feedback to improve services and gather new ideas.** **Moved: SH** **Seconded: MS** **The motion was carried unanimously.** **ACTION-** Jenna to provide the attendance numbers at QCAD/QCGU and summarise feedback data received to provide to the board for consideration.
16.	**General Business** **Nil**
17.	**Scheduling of next meeting** First week of September, week 7 (week 1st sep) - KO proposes a poll in the chat. **ACTION -** Staff to poll the SRC board chat to determine a date and time that works best for all.
18.	**Q&A Session** No observers/questions.
19.	**Meeting close** 1.58pm

Motion	For	Against	Abstained

Motion to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.	All	-	-
1.The SRC expresses solidarity with the people of Gaza experiencing a devastating man-made starvation crisis. We condemn the inaction of the Australian government and call upon the university join us in this condemnation. 2. The SRC share the August 24th Justice for Palestine rally on social media	All	-	-
To approve the digital Student grocery voucher proposal	All	-	-
That the SRC supports updating the logo, with the exception that the previously proposed redesign is not adopted.	MS, SH, KHC, CF	-	KL, KO, SK
To publish a statement regarding the Griffith Accommodation changes (to be drafted).	All	-	-
For the SRC to request poster boards on all campuses.	All		
That the proposed standing agenda items are included in meeting agendas moving forward.	All		
The board should consider student feedback to improve services and gather new ideas.	All		