

**Student Representative Council  
Meeting #1 Minutes  
February 2021**

A meeting of the University of Newcastle Students' Association (UNSA) Student Representative Council (SRC) was held at 5:30pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 in room SC-408 on Callaghan Campus and linked via Zoom: <https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/85660334090?pwd=OXNPQlpFbzQ4RnBRM0tibG5FQk5YQT09> Password: 318278

Distribution list:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President- Luka Harrison</li> <li>• Vice-President Education (VPED)- Chloe Jones</li> <li>• Vice President Experience &amp; Engagement (VPEX)- Georgie Cooper</li> <li>• Vice-President Welfare &amp; Wellbeing (VPW)- Jessica Philbrook (apology)</li> <li>• Postgraduate Students' Senate Convenor (PSSC) - Brian Hill</li> <li>• International Students' Senate Convenor (ISSC)- Shuang Zhang</li> <li>• Newcastle Campuses Convenor (NCC)– Harry O'Brien Smith</li> <li>• Central Coast Campus Convenor (CCCC)– Melissa McConnell</li> <li>• Cloud Campus Convenor (CLCC)- VACANT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney Campus Convenor (SCC)- Benjamin Goy</li> <li>• Port Macquarie Campus Convenor (PMCC)- Stephen Bennett (apology)</li> <li>• Equity Collective Convenor (DCC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Indigenous Collective Convenor (INCC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Queer Collective Convenor (QCC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Women's Collective Convenor (WCC)- VACANT</li> <li>• Student Accommodation Representative (SAR)- Miram Woof</li> <li>• University Council Student Representative (UCSR)- Lucas Dowling</li> <li>• Academic Senate Student Representative (ASSR)- VACANT</li> </ul>
Minute Taker:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNSA Student Representative Support Officer (SRSO)- Jen Hanson</li> </ul>	
By Invitation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNSA General Manager (GM)- Georgia Killick</li> </ul>	

**Meeting opens: 5:32pm**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

**1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people, on whose traditional land this Callaghan Campus of the University of Newcastle is situated.

**1.2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from PMCC and VPW (SRSO to read out notes on her behalf).

**1.3. QUORUM**

The chair confirms that quorum is established.

**1.4. RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE AND DEBATE**

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

At this point in the meeting the chair calls on the Student Representative Council (SRC) to declare any previously undisclosed conflicts of interest relevant to today's agenda.

None declared.

**3. REPORTS**

**3.1. President** (located in Dropbox folder 3)

- 3.2. VP Education**
- 3.3. VP Experience and Engagement**
- 3.4. VP Welfare and Wellbeing** (located in Dropbox folder 3)
- 3.5. Postgraduate Students' Senate Convenor**
- 3.6. International Students' Senate Convenor**
- 3.7. Newcastle Campuses Convenor**
- 3.8. Central Coast Campus Convenor**
- 3.9. Port Macquarie Campus Convenor**
- 3.10. Sydney Campus Convenor**
- 3.11. Cloud Campus Convenor**
- 3.12. Equity Collective Convenor**
- 3.13. Indigenous Collective Convenor**
- 3.14. Queer Collective Convenor**
- 3.15. Women's Collective Convenor**
- 3.16. Student Accommodation Representative**
- 3.17. University Council Student Representative**
- 3.18. Academic Senate Student Representative**

President asks if anyone would like to give a verbal update on what they have been up to. VPEX gives an update on the formation of her committee. She is currently reaching out to UNSA affiliated clubs and Student Central clubs for expressions of interest.

5:35pm SCC enters meeting.

Motion: To accept SRC reports.

Moved by: PSSC

Seconded by: NCC

In favour: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstained: none

#### **4. GENERAL BUSINESS & FUNDING REQUESTS**

##### **4.1. STUDENT SPACES ON CAMPUS**

Lack of student spaces on campus has been identified as a top priority for the UNSA SRC to address this year. SRC discusses the need for the development of a comprehensive framework the university can utilize to ensure there is adequate and thorough student consultation done regarding student spaces.

GM gives an overview of student spaces on campus; at present the student consultation process on spaces and places seems inadequate and haphazard. It would be beneficial if the SRC could work on developing a framework to present to the university that could be used going forward for all new university buildings, spaces and places. The SRC could form a working party to address this, drawing on the expertise of the university equity and diversity coordinator to establish a framework. The framework would likely include: accessibility requirements, survival stations, prayer rooms, and room to hold events. VPW states that any panel or working group needs to have clear input from members of different communities and cohorts. For example, the Disability Collective, Cultural/international Senate, also working with University Accessibility could be a good idea also.

President states that in a lot of the newer university spaces (e.g., Gosford/Central Coast and NUspace) the university may have missed some vital items that students require. Going forward it is important for UNSA to show the university what we expect as students. It may be too late for the Honeysuckle precinct in the Newcastle CBD but could be applied for new developments. PSSC states he is happy to offer assistance on a student housing committee, as he has experience working with housing/homelessness policy and government housing agencies. PSSC suggests architecture students could be utilised to look at residential spaces.

GM gives an overview of the situation at the new Gosford hospital/campus. There will be 700 student placements at Gosford, yet there is no fridge or kitchen for students to use, only for staff. This is especially concerning for low SES students, as their only option is then to buy food at the hospital. Additionally, there is no private common room, which would be vital for medical students on placement. These are the types of things UNSA would discuss in this working group.

5:44 SAR arrives.

Motion: To establish a working group regarding student spaces on campus as soon as possible; aiming to have a sound proposal to present to the university finished by the end of first semester.

Moved by: President

Seconded by: PSSC

In favour: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried

#### **4.1.1. Glasshouse Virtual Reality Lounge**

Recently the Glasshouse (within Bar On The Hill at Callaghan campus) has been undergoing a transformation to become a virtual reality lounge.

GM: gives an overview of the Glasshouse space. It began as a SSAF funded student space predominantly booked by clubs. In 2020, the Postgraduate Students' Senate was approached for feedback on a proposal to remodel the space. The feedback given by the PSS was not great, and PSS opposed the proposal. Student Central also advised that the room was heavily used by students, as one of few spaces available to student clubs. Currently the space is being converted to a for-profit gaming lounge. There are some interesting questions that could be asked for as to why students were not consulted further.

Prospective costs for the space are \$5 for gaming and \$25 per 30 mins of VR. GM enquired if there were any provisions for addictive gaming to be put in place, those running the space answered that they did not think of this. GM explains that there has been a huge spike in students in financial hardship from online gaming and gambling since the beginning of the pandemic. This pay-to-play model could present significant risk to these students. Additionally, the space will be employing a full-time staff member that is not a student.

SRC discusses concerns regarding the matter. President asks for clarification on whether the Glasshouse was constructed as a SSAF funded student space? The GM answers yes, it was. President states that there isn't much of a market here or any consultation as to whether students wanted this. PSSC asks that given the investment sunk to date, how could the facility be recovered as a SSAF space?

GM answers likely the best way to move forward is to hold IFS accountable. IFS must give us an adequate equal space to replace both the Glasshouse and the NUPSA office (previously located in the Hunter building, which has since been decommissioned) which was going to be used for clubs storage. Student Central will also be pushing against the Glasshouse VR lounge.

Motion: President to draft email to DVC-A regarding student spaces on each campus, and to circulate for UNSA review.

Moved by: President

Seconded by: CCCC

In favour: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried

#### **4.2. UNSA ELECTION REVIEW REPORT**

In 2020 the Manager, Student Representation conducted an UNSA election review (supporting documents located in Dropbox folder 4.2). SRC to discuss the prepared paper: *SRC Elections: Preferential vs. Simple Majority Voting*.

GM gives background on the topic and states that the SRC needs to decide on a voting system first, and then the SRC can move onto the other recommendations raised by Manager, Student Representation.

President states that during the review sessions the overwhelming consensus was for simple majority voting (e.g., whomever receives the most votes is declared the winner). NCC states he does not see why it needs to be a more complicated system than simple majority voting; it's a student association election and not a political election. VPW states that she supports simple majority system as it is the overwhelmingly popular choice for election review participants both times and in general, students reacted positively to this style. It is more than acceptable. We have also seen students manipulate and abuse the preferential system. Both the SCC and CCCC state they are in favour of simple majority voting.

Motion: For the SRC to recommend to the Board of Directors the use of simple majority voting for UNSA elections

Moved by: President

Seconded by: NCC

In favour: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

#### **4.3. AMENDMENTS TO THE UNSA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SENATE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

SRC to discuss the proposed amendments to the ISS TOR prepared by the 2020 ISS (Both original and revised ISS TOR located in Dropbox folder 4.3).

GM states that the ISS TOR are adequate as is and would suggest that if the SRC are to do any amendments to any TORs, we do them all at once. GM has a number of suggestions regarding the proposed amendments to the ISS TOR. First the changes are a bit odd and seem to be driven by how NUSA operated, which is not aligned to our new organisation. Second, there are controls in place over our social media accounts, and it wouldn't be wise to handover social media to student groups.

President suggests amendments be held off for now. GM states that the TOR were published in mid-July 2020, and if we want to review, mid-July 2021 would be the right time.

Motion: To conduct an annual review of SRC TORs to take place mid-July.

Moved by: PSSC

Seconded by: President

In favour: 6

Opposed:

Abstain:

Motion carried

#### **4.4. OURIMBAH HOUSING PROPOSAL**

GM gives context around the Ourimbah Housing Proposal and extra documents added to the Dropbox. A group of developers reached out to the UNSA Office earlier today to let UNSA know that some local community members have expressed opposition to their housing proposal over antisocial behaviour concerns. GM states that in her experience, this has never been the case at Ourimbah. Currently there is a housing crisis at the Central Coast; as a result of the pandemic, many Sydney commuters have moved back to the area leading to very limited rental availability for students. All environmental concerns have been addressed by the developers, and the only remaining concern is from the community regarding anti-social behaviour. Submissions are due to Central Coast Council 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

President states that this matter needs UNSA attention, as housing is a student welfare issue. Families have a much higher chance of getting rentals, leaving many students with little options for housing. Rental vacancy rate is currently at .7% so it is almost impossible to find somewhere to live, not only on the Central Coast but in Newcastle too. SAR agrees that UNSA must show our concern for present lack of student accommodation.

CCCC states that currently the university's off-campus housing webpage lists only 4 properties available this afternoon for Ourimbah Campus. GM spoke to the GM of Student Living regarding this matter; Student Living has called every single rental property manager in the Ourimbah vicinity to see if there are any rentals available, and there is almost nothing. SRC agrees that UNSA should prepare a submission; CCCC and PSSC volunteer to draft a submission to be approved by the President and submitted to Central Coast Council by the UNSA Office.

Motion: SRC to draft a submission to Central Coast Council in support of the Ourimbah Housing Proposal, advocating on behalf of student needs and not the developer's interests.

Moved by: President

Seconded by: SAR

In favour: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

## **5. MATTERS FOR NOTING & GENERAL QUESTIONS**

### **5.1. PROPOSED DATE FOR TEAM BONDING SESSION (SRC AND UNSA STAFF)**

SRC to discuss suitable date and time. Agreed upon tentative date of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, to take place after the AGM. SRC agreed that an escape room would be their preference for activity.

### **5.2. EXPECTATIONS OF THE SRC**

#### **5.2.1. SRC REPORTING DOCUMENTS**

GM explains that the previous SRC reporting template was too vague, so she has put together a new template and sample report to show the SRC what report writing should be like.

Motion: To accept the reporting template prepared by the GM.

Moved by: President

Second: SAR

In favour: 6

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried.

#### **5.2.2. SRC CONTRACTS**

GM explains that UNSA is working out some key performance indicators (KPIs) in each of the contracts. This is so UNSA has concrete metrics to demonstrate to the university that each SRC member is performing in their role and has demonstrated that they have adequately participated enough to be paid. GM asks that when each member receives their contract to please fill it out and return it back to the GM as soon as possible. This will ensure that UNSA can pay the SRC in a timely manner for the work being done.

#### **5.2.3. SRC COMMITTEES**

SRSO to assist VPs with the formation of their respective committees, e.g., providing sample documents and tips for recruiting students to committees.

#### **5.2.4. UNSA SRC BIOS AND MERCHANDISE**

SRSO asks that SRC members submit bios and merchandise sizes as soon as possible.

**5.2.5. SEMESTER BBQS**

SRSO asks that each member volunteers for a minimum of 4 BBQs per semester (in addition to O-Week BBQs) via the signup sheet which will be sent out via email.

**5.2.6. BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SRC GOALS**

GM states it would be useful to schedule a goal setting workshop with Careers on campus. SRC roles will give all representatives significant transferrable skills, one of which is goal setting!

**5.3. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

**5.3.1. HEALTH PROMOTIONS WORKING GROUP**

VPW already volunteered. CCCC volunteers as an alternate.

**5.3.2. PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP**

These meetings are typically held on Tuesday afternoons. NCC and SAR volunteer to attend.

**5.4. STUDENT CENTRAL**

The external consultant has requested a group of approximately 5 students to meet with her sometime next week to provide student perspective on Student Central.

NCC, SAR, ISSC, President, VPED, and CCCC volunteer to attend.

**5.5. SSAF OFFICER**

As stated previously, the university SSAF officer is the person who allocates SSAF funding to different entities on each campus. She communicated to the GM that she is very keen to work with the UNSA SRC and would like the SRC to reach out to her at any point. She is also happy to come present to the SRC again in the future (either as a group or individually).

President asks if there are any remaining questions or comments from the SRC.

UCSR asks if the university has let UNSA know who the Student Academic Senate Representative will be. SRSO states we do not know at this stage, but we will enquire with the Secretary of Academic Senate to find out how this is progressing.

**6. MEETING FINALISATION**

**6.1. Review actions to be taken**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Draft email to DVC-A regarding student spaces on each campus, and to circulate to the SRC for review.	President, VPW	In progress
Invite interested members of the SRC to form a working group for Student Spaces on campus.	SRSO	Complete
Coordinate the formation of the working group, organise meetings, and invite university stakeholders to be involved.	SRSO	In progress.
Put forth recommendation to the UNSA Board from the SRC in favour of simple majority voting to be used in UNSA elections.	SRSO	
Submit bios and sizing requests to SRSO.	SRC	In progress
Send out link to sign up sheet for semester BBQs.	SRSO	Complete
Sign up for minimum 4 BBQ shifts throughout the semester.	SRC	In progress
Send out meeting minutes template and other resources to assist with the SRC with the formation of committees.	SRSO	
Schedule a review of SRC TORs for mid-July 2021.	SRSO	
Organise an SRC/staff bonding event for the afternoon of Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2021.	SRSO	
Complete and return contracts to GM.	SRC	
Forward invites to external committees to relevant volunteers.	SRSO	

Coordinate goal setting workshop with university Careers Service.	SRSO	
Coordinate volunteers for an external review session of Student Central.	SRSO	Complete
Draft and circulate a submission to Central Coast Council in support of the Ourimbah Housing Proposal.	PSSC, CCCC, President,	Complete
Send submission to Central Coast Council.	SRSO	Complete
Contact secretary of Academic Senate to enquire about Student Academic Senate Representative position.	SRSO	

**6.2. Next SRC meeting to be held 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 from 5:30-7:30pm.**

**Meeting closes: 6:40pm**