



USQ
AUSTRALIA

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

Student representation - you can build it but they won't come

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fulfilling lives



Student representation in universities

- University strategy to include students into decision-making environment
- Student voice
- Via Guilds, Unions, SRCs, 'independents'
- Positions on institutional, faculty and school committees
- Neglected area of research

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Benefits of SR



- Student benefit
 - professional development
 - CVs
 - advocacy
- University benefits
 - quality decision making
 - accountability
 - participative leadership

The USQ experience



- Student Guild
- SRCs
- Democratically elected students
- Centralised SR process

Still getting it wrong

Challenges



- Varying levels of success across the higher education sector
- The 'new' student cohort
- 'Quality' of the student's participation
- Tokenism
- Democratically elected?
- Representativeness

More challenges...



- Timing of committee meetings
- Hours spent on campus
- Intimidation
- Meeting protocols
- Role ambiguity
- Print costs
- **STUDY + life → LIFE + study**

Vision for the future



- Change is needed
- Options:
 - 'Mining' technological data
 - Support (Lizzio & Wilson, 2009)
 - Student Forum
 - One commitment, many voices
 - Partnership
 - BUT...different challenges