

Minutes of the Postgraduate Students' Association Annual General Meeting held on
Monday 2 October 2017 at 12noon in SUB 217/218, Student Union Building

PRESENT: Jordan Anderson Josh Brian
Priyanka Roy Rehan Shaikh
Emerald Nguyen Taylor Cooney
Alyssa Ryan Schyana Sivanantham
Kris Santoso Emma Wollum
Amy Yang

IN ATTENDANCE: 36 other postgrad students

APOLOGIES: None received

MINUTES: Sue Kelly (Executive Assistant)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

JA welcomed everyone present and noted there were no apologies. A total of 11 proxy votes had been received.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

JA passed a motion to accept the minutes from the previous IGM held on 6 March 2017. JA/JB All agreed. Motion 2017/05 was carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JA gave a brief overview of her report which had been tabled and outlined the PGSA objectives:

- act as the voice of postgraduate students at Victoria by representing them on university boards and committees
- promote excellence through the Victorias Awards, Research Excellence Awards, 3 Minute Thesis Competition and Academic Conference Grants
- create a postgraduate community through hosting events such as the Quiz night, Tuesday Chats, First Friday breakfasts and writing workshops.

PGSA membership at 25 September 2017 was 1225. Two membership drives were held each year in March and September/ October with prizes to be won for signing up before 31st October 2017.

The PGSA Academic Conference Grants were made possible by funding from the Vice-Provost (Research) Kate McGrath and provided funding for the conference fees of PGSA members attending an international conference. Students interested in applying for a conference grant, should check out the terms and process on the PGSA website, or email pgsa@vuw.ac.nz for more details. Three applicants had been awarded so far this year:

Huu Trung Truong	Engineering & Computer Studies	\$973.46
Luke Santamaria	Education	\$379.17
Kelsi Hall	Biological Sciences	\$1000

The PGSA represents postgraduate students on key Boards and Committees at Victoria University, at both the Faculty and University level. The PGSA has student reps on 26 university boards and committees, with current vacancies on the Faculty of Education Academic Committee and FoE Learning & Teaching Committee. JA thanked all those reps who had contributed to the postgraduate community through service on a University Board or Committee.

The PGSA submitted on the Maori and Pasifika Interventions Review in August 2017. After wide consultation, the Executive found that there was insufficient information available at the school level for postgraduate services for Maori and Pasifika services. The PGSA commended the Maori Learning Advisor role at Student Learning Service, as well as the Pasifika Postgraduate Network run out of Te Putahi Atawhai, as exemplary programmes helping postgraduate students with their unique needs.

The PGSA submitted on the Accommodation Review in June 2017. Again after wide consultation, the PGSA contributed to a joint submission with VUWSA which outlined the detrimental effects that the disestablishment of Uni Hall would have on postgraduate, and particularly international postgraduate students and their families. Following the submissions and a second proposal from the review committee, any decision on Uni Hall was delayed, and students were no longer faced with the imminent end of their access to university accommodation.

The PGSA held successful events during 2017 which had been outlined and these would continue during 2018. Upcoming events were overviewed.

3 October: Tuesday Chats Pipitea
 6 October: First Fridays Breakfast
 17 October: Committee Reps Morning Tea
 21 November: Interactive Forum
 30 November: Victorias Awards reception

The PGSA Executive Board is the core leadership team of our Association. Below is a list of members and officers of the Executive Board:

President: Jordan Anderson
Co-Vice-Presidents: Josh Brian, Priyanka Roy
Treasurer: Rehan Shaikh (resigned)
Executive Members: Alyssa Ryan, Kris Santoso, Taylor Cooney, Amy Yang (resigned), Emma Wollum, Schyana Sivanantham, Emerald Nguyen (resigned).
Executive Assistant: Sue Kelly (resigned)

JA moved to accept the President's Report dated 2nd October 2017. JA/EW All agreed. Motion 2017/06 was carried.

5. TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was tabled. RS outlined the main income and expenses. **RH moved to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 30th September 2017. RH/SS All agreed. Motion 2017/07 was carried.**

6. PGSA CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The proposed changes to the PGSA Constitution had been tabled and had been made to tidy up the Constitution in terms of consistency in numerals/words. JA spoke to the rationale to amend the substantive changes:

Clause 7.5 – removed “the executive may borrow funds” as this was irrelevant.

Clause 7.6 – removed as it didn’t make sense to only allow policies and procedures that expanded on the rules in the Constitution.

Clause 11.9.2 – removed the clause about executive members vacating their position if they die.

The issue of consistency in numerals/words was raised as some had been missed. This would be rectified during the updating process.

JA moved to accept the Constitution changes. JA/AR All agreed. Motion 2017/08 was carried.

7. ELECTION OF NEW PGSA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Nominations were tabled for the following executive members who introduced themselves:

<u>Nominated</u> Jordan Anderson	<u>Seconded</u> Josh Brian
<u>Nominated</u> Josh Brian	<u>Seconded</u> Tanya Karl
<u>Nominated</u> Priyanka Roy	<u>Seconded</u> Jordan Anderson
<u>Nominated</u> Taylor Cooney	<u>Seconded</u> Tara Officer
<u>Nominated</u> Alyssa Ryan	<u>Seconded</u> Jordan Anderson
<u>Nominated</u> Kris Santoso	<u>Seconded</u> Tara Officer
<u>Nominated</u> Schyana Sivanantham	<u>Seconded</u> Jordan Anderson
<u>Nominated</u> Emma Wollum	<u>Seconded</u> Jordan Anderson
<u>Nominated</u> Will Abbiss	<u>Seconded</u> Alex Beattie
<u>Nominated</u> Faka'iloatonga Taumaefalau	<u>Seconded</u> Jordan Anderson

An election was not needed as the number of vacancies exceeded the number of nominations received.

JA thanked PGSA executive members who were leaving and presented certificates of service to: Rehan Shaikh, Emerald Nguyen and Amy Yang. Sue Kelly had also resigned after 10.5 years of service. JA conveyed sincere thanks and appreciation for her decade of service to the PGSA. JA welcomed Fran Denton who was the new PGSA Executive Administrator.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed 12.33pm.