

Minutes of the Postgraduate Students' Association Annual General Meeting held on  
Monday 1 October 2018 at 12noon in SUB 217/218, Student Union Building

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PRESENT: Jordan Anderson, Priyanka Roy, Andrew Lensen, Will Abbiss, Elizabeth Olsen, Roya Jarabouti, Taylor Cooney, Leo Mercer, Faka'iloatonga Taumoefolau, Pascarn Dickenson, Schyana Sivanantham.

IN ATTENDANCE: 32 other postgrad students

APOLOGIES: Marlon Drake

MINUTES: Fran Denton (Executive Administrator)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

JA welcomed everyone and noted apologies. A total of 14 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 12 March 2018. JA/PR All agreed. Motion 2018/05 was carried.**

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JA asked the Members of the PGSA Executive to introduce themselves and describe their length of service, responsibilities including service on committees and boards, and what they are studying. The room applauded Pascarn Dickson for handing in his thesis.

JA explained the function of the Executive and the variable lengths of service and that several members would be changing today.

JA introduced the presidents report, which was included in the papers for the meeting, and let the room know that there would be questions afterwards. JA spoke on an allowance for questions, including a limit on time and follow up questions.

JA spoke about the Presidents report and summarized it for the room.  
JA spoke about 2018 events run by the PGSA.

- The Quiz night was successful in raising funds for the Kingdom of Tonga. JA acknowledged FT for his help in selecting a charity.
- JA spoke about the 3MT competition and the work done by the PGSA.
- JA spoke about the Research Roundtable events and described the purpose of these.

- JA talked about the opportunity these provided to workshop your research in a format that you can decide.
- JA spoke about the Kickstart Your Thesis which was a new event in 2018. JA described the event as a communal writing event. JA believed that the structure of these events tailored for Postgraduates have made the events highly successful.
- JA thanked the volunteer exec for running these events and their work.
- JA spoke about First Friday and Tuesday Chats events as fairly successful, and that the time of the events at Pipitea could be reconsidered to attract more students.
- JA spoke about upcoming Victoria Awards. JA let the room know that there would be no cost this year for student tickets this year to remove barriers for attendance.

JA spoke about the advocacy work, and submissions on consultation done by the PGSA

- University has created a tutors policy for the first time. The PGSA wrote and submitted a comprehensive submission. JA spoke about the challenges faced by tutors, including issues of pastoral care and pay. The PGSA received a formal reply and there is an ongoing conversation at this time.
- The PGSA submitted on Master's Thesis Regulations. JA spoke about an issue raised in the submission on Architecture and Design. The PGSA is asking for better protections for portfolio submissions and collaborating with staff who support this. The PGSA is also asking for rules and regulations to be communicated using more easily understood language to make them clear for students.
- The PGSA made a submission regarding students with families. Previous discussions between the PGSA and an individual student raised the need for representation of issues faced by students with families and a submission was made to Student Academic Services. Requests included space issues at the University, change tables in bathrooms, targeted information on the website that help students from overseas who may not be familiar with New Zealand find resources for families that are provided by the University, government and other organizations.

JA spoke about the advocacy work done regarding scholarships

- Issues concerning scholarships came to the attention of the PGSA through the work done advocating for accommodation.
- Victoria Doctoral Scholarship has not been increased in 7 years while living costs have increased. This means that the livability of the fund has gone down. JA noted that any deviation from the needs of a single/able student makes the VDS impossible to live on without an alternate income stream. The result being that students are working 20-30 hours a week to support their living costs. JA stated that this ran contrary to the University needs of carrying out research and can delay finishing a PhD (for which the University receives funding). VDS does not cover the Student Services Levy which is also an expensive one off payment.
- The PGSA is asking for two items. These are for the VDS to cover the Student Services Levy, and for an increase in the stipend to reflect the cost of living.
- In meetings between the PGSA and the Scholarships Office JA noted that the University was reluctant to put more money into the total scholarship fund, one solution proposed by the University was to increase the individual stipend but to reduce the number of scholarships in order to do so.
- The PGSA will continue to advocate on this issue.

Comment from the floor, Angela – Has heard that Massey is increasing stipends.

JA – If this is the case this might be a good point to use in discussions with the University.

EO – Suggested that arguing to the University that a larger stipend would support higher quality research. EO spoke about if the PGSA agreed to the plan to reduce the number of stipends in order to better fund the stipends that are available they might see the quality of research increase.

Comment from the floor – Does the pool of funding increase with the number of enrolments?

JA described the funding model of the University

Comment for the floor – Does the University provide funds to travel and collect data

JA responded with information about applying for fund that are made available to carry out research available through the University.

**JA moved to accept the President's Report dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. JA/WA All agreed. Motion 2018/06 was carried.**

## 5. TREASURERS REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was tabled. SS outlined the main income and expenses. **JA moved to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018. JA/EO All agreed. Motion 2018/07 was carried.**

## 6. ELECTION OF NEW PGSA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

JA opened up the floor to all nominations. Nominations were tabled for the following executive members who introduced themselves:

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Priyanka Roy	Jordan Anderson

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Will Abbiss	Priyanka Roy

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Taylor Cooney	Priyanka Roy

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Leo Mercer	Jordan Anderson

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Roya Jarabouti	Jordan Anderson

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Schyana Sivanantham	Priyanka Roy

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Andrew Lensen	Jordan Anderson

**Amended 04/10/2019:**

<u>Nominated</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Elizabeth Olsen	Not recorded

As there were no extra nominations everyone on the sheet is automatically elected.  
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. These were: Pascarn Dickenson, Faka'iloatonga Taumoefolau.  
JA spoke about that this would be the last event she attended as the President of the PGSA and acknowledged the help and support from the people in the room through consultations and submissions and spoke about how her voice was held up by the voices of everyone in the PGSA and postgraduate student community.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PR acknowledged the work done by Jordan Anderson and invited the PGSA Executive to say a few words. The Executive thanked Jordan for her enthusiasm, commitment, and sincerity as well as the numerous volunteer hours put into the role of the PGSA President by Jordan Anderson.

Tamatha Paul – Thanked Jordan on behalf of undergraduates for her guidance and knowledge.

PR invited anyone who would like to consider being on the PGSA Executive at a later date to get in contact and sign themselves up to the PGSA. PR reiterated the valuable experience of working to help increase equality, diversity and inclusiveness at the University undertaken by the PGSA as a group.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed 12.44pm.