

Minutes of the Postgraduate Students' Association
Initial General Meeting held on
Monday 12 March 2018 at 12 noon in SU217/218, Student Union Building

PRESENT: Jordan Anderson Josh Brian
Priyanka Roy Schyana Sivanantham
Taylor Cooney Kris Santoso
Pascarn Dickenson Will Abbiss
Alan King Hunt
Jasmine Chan-Hyams

IN ATTENDANCE: 19 postgraduate students

APOLOGIES: Faka'iloatonga Taumoefolau

MINUTES: Fran Denton (Executive Administrator)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

JA welcomed everyone present and introduced Executive. Explained that the PGSA goal is to build community, represent students, and celebrate excellence. JA briefly introduced upcoming events such as the Research Roundtable.

JA mentioned that the PGSA office and computer space in SU211 would be available again after repair work was completed on the space, there is no timeline for this work yet.

PGSA Executive Board introduced themselves, their positions and length of service to the PGSA, and their disciplines.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

JA passed a motion to accept the minutes from the previous AGM held on 2 October 2017. Seconded by PR. All agreed. Motion 2018/02 was carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JA thanked Emma Wollum for her service, and in her absence, described her enthusiasm and dedication to the PGSA. All members wish Emma well for the future.

JA gave a brief overview of her written report which was tabled. The main points were:

- Review of grants.
- Submissions to University Library Change Proposal.
- Thank you to Executive members and the postgraduate student body.
- PGSA have been successful in organising and running planned events.
- Advocacy agenda for the coming year and gathering feedback.
- Feedback from students about library to be directed to the Executive to collect.

JA opened the floor for questions. No questions.

JA moved to accept the Presidents Report. WA Seconded. All agreed. Motion 2018/03 carried.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report and PGSA Annual Report were tabled. SS stated her confidence in the accounts and outlined upcoming expenses and budget.

2018 income from University is shown in report. The PGSA had been successful in obtaining the full amount of funding requested for 2018.

SS moved to accept the Treasurer's Report 2018. Seconded by PR. All agreed. Motion 2018/04 was carried.

6. ELECTION OF NEW PGSA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

JA called for nominations from the floor. There were no spontaneous nominations.

JA nominated Roya Jabarouti to fill one vacancy on the Executive. JA explained Executive Board membership and the terms of service of the Executive Board. Roya introduced herself.

Roya Jabarouti was elected unopposed. Motion 2018/05 was carried.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JA opened up the floor for any other business.

Hassan Tariq raised the issue about student welfare, scholarships and rent. HT asked why has the PGSA not raised this issue. HT asked why the PGSA prioritised spending money on food for events when students are suffering from financial hardship.

JA responded to HT that the PGSA's mandate from the University (our funder) only permits the PGSA to spend money on student/membership activities. This is due to restrictions on the spending of the Student Services Levy. JA stated that the PGSA had limited resources for advocacy and any advocacy activities are carried out entirely by volunteers. JA also responded to HT's statement that the PGSA has not raised issues of scholarships and stated that this year the PGSA was currently building a case for advocacy about this issue, following on from our successful advocacy around accommodation in 2017.

PR stated that the PGSA has taken the student voice to the University Council. The result being that the Council will include student representation on student fees on the University Council going forward.

HT stated that the PGSA is not visible enough on these issues.

JA explained that the PGSA mandate was to build a community for Postgraduates. JA stated that advocacy work done by the PGSA was a voluntary activity, and we choose to do lots of this at our own cost.

Mpaphi Tsholofelo stated that the PGSA has done a lot for students with regard to accommodation issues recently. MT stated that looking after the welfare of the postgraduate students is what brings students to the PGSA.

MT also raised concerns that scholarships only last 3 years but courses often last 4 years. MT would like the PGSA to address this issue. MT stated that the focus of the association should be on advocacy for students rather than community building. MT would like to see a more obvious network between other student associations.

TC acknowledged concerned raised by MT and HT. TC stated that the PGSA is working to build a case regarding student stipends and remains committed to advocacy.

JA thanked those in attendance for coming, and welcomed them to continue discussion of any issues with the PGSA going forward.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed 12.45pm.