

Meeting 03 /2018

A meeting of the **Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee** was held on Thursday 26 April 2018 from 12.30pm – 2.00pm in the MPA Meeting room, Campus Centre, Clayton campus.

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MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 12:45pm.

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

We the MPAEC would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the people of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this land.

1.2 Apologies

In attendance: Natasha Abrahams (Chair), Dorothy Mak (arrived item 3.6), Bec O'Connor, Robyn Oxley, Alastair Pearl, Athreyi Robbi, Ganesh Vagalla, Philip Zheng

In attendance: Janice Boey, Zuzana Quinn, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Van Gent

Apologies: Poornima Wickramanayake, Amit Saxena, Lefteris Patlamazolou, Jeane Freer.

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No items were added.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting 01/18 and 02/18 for confirmation

[Item was considered after item 3.6, once meeting was quorate]

It was moved:

That the minutes of the February MPAEC meeting 01/2018 and the March MPAEC meeting 02/2018 be confirmed.

Moved: Ganesh Vagalla

Seconded: Bec O'Connor

Carried.

2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Natasha added to her report that MONSU Caulfield had elected a new president, and that she would meet with him next week. Items that would be discussed included the Funding agreement covering the postgraduate funding being transferred to MONSU and the push towards a federated student union.

3.2 Office-bearer reports

Noted.

3.3 Staff report

It was noted that the MPA Clayton Advocate Benoit Tasse resigned unexpectedly on Monday due to family reasons. Two new Assistant Advocates had been hired to start in May.

3.4 Financial report

The March profit and loss report would be circulated by email once completed.

3.5 MPAEC meeting attendance records

Noted. It was agreed that attendance records would be provided at each meeting and included in future AGM reports.

3.6 Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

Robyn provided the committee with a brief introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and talked about some of the issues facing these postgraduates at Monash University.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Mental health programs

Natasha reported that she had organised a meeting with the head of Monash Counselling for the end of May. She noted that other student associations were doing their own mental health campaigns including activities such as creating dream boards and art therapy. Natasha announced that prior to the expiration of her term in office, she would develop a mental health program which she hoped would be implemented by the incoming committee in Semester 2.

4.1.2 Develop regulations for MPA Council

Held over.

4.1.3 Email motions and Women's Officer election

The following business, conducted by email between the February and March meetings, was noted:

The following motions were passed by an email vote of the MPAEC.

1. That Poornima be granted prior leave for all meetings held during business hours, except Tuesdays, until 11 May due to her taking up an internship.

2. That the minutes of the December MPAEC meeting 11/2017 be confirmed.

3. That the amendments as per the presented budget document be accepted.

4. That \$1200 be moved from the budget line item "MPAEC attendance at Australian conferences" to "CAPA ACM and SGM".

5. That the General Regulations as amended be accepted.

6. That the Election Regulations as amended be accepted.

7. That Robin Oxley be elected to the position of Indigenous Officer for the remainder of the 2017/18 MPAEC term of office.

On 28 February an election for the OB position of Women's Officer was held and Athreyi Robbi was elected to the position via an email vote.

4.1.4 Response paper received from the MSA

The response paper was noted by the MPAEC. There were a number of factual errors and false assumptions made by the author of the paper which it was agreed, should be corrected with a written response. A response to the letter would be drafted and sent to MSA, along with an invitation for MPA to meet with the MSA President.

4.2 General business

4.2.1 Office-bearer induction booklets proposed inclusions

A draft version of the induction booklet would be presented at the May MPAEC meeting. In brief, the booklet would include:

- Intro
- Postgrad statistics (generic and cohort specific)
- Duties from constitution
- Reports from past OBs who have held that position (MPAEC and AGM)
- Info on relevant people and committees
- Infor on relevant publications
- Activities and campaigns
- How to plan and fund activities and campaigns
- How to organise an event

A copy of the early draft of the booklet was circulated at the meeting for MPAEC comment. Any further feedback on inclusions could be directly emailed to Jenny.

4.2.2 MPA submission to Education Faculty review

The MPA submission to the Faculty of Education HDR program review was noted.

4.2.3 Proposed MPA Honoraria regulations

It was noted that there had been minor changes to the wording surrounding withholding honorarium payments. It was moved:

That the changes are accepted as outlined in the amended honoraria regulations.

Moved: Natasha Abrahams

Carried.

4.2.4 Proposed MPA Constitutional changes

The tracked changes were noted and would be put to the AGM to be held in May.

4.2.5 MPA space agreement

The MPA was required to sign in to a space agreement with the university, which ensured that the MPA would not be charged rent for used for offices and postgraduate lounges.

5. Membership

No business.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in May on Caulfield campus at a time and date to be confirmed.

Members were advised of the following events:

- The MPA ball will be held in August, and MPAEC members are entitled to attend free of charge but must pay for partners.
- The MPA AGM will be held on 9 May on Clayton campus. Reports from members on the previous year's work will be due by 7 May. MPAEC members were encouraged to attend and bring their postgraduate colleagues.

The meeting was closed at 1:12pm.