

Meeting 01/2018

A meeting of the **Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee** was held on Friday 23 February 2018 from 11.00am – 12.30pm in the MPA Meeting room, MPA Clayton offices, Campus Centre, Clayton campus.

Jenny Reeder
MPA Executive Officer
Email: jenny.reeder@monash.edu

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 11:17am.

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 and prior leave requests

Present	Natasha Abrahams (Chair), Peter Hurley, Bec O'Connor, Alastair Pearl (from item 4.1), Ganesh Vagalla, Philip Zheng
In attendance	Jenny Reeder, Jessica Van Gent
Cooptees	Jocelyn (Jung-Ching) Lee, Athreyi Robbi, Han NiLwin, Robyn Oxley
Apologies	Roy Rozario, Poornima Wickramanayake, Lefteris Patlaazoglou, Dorothy Tsz Mak, Amit Saxena, Jeane Freer

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 4.1.5 Querelle magazine funding
- 4.1.6 January Profit and Loss

As the meeting was inquorate it was agreed that all motions would be emailed to members for voting.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting 11/17 for confirmation

To be voted on by email motion.

2.2 Action sheet

The action sheet was noted. The item on the MPA Council was discussed and it was agreed that Jenny, Jessica and Peter would meet to progress this long-standing action item. Peter reported that he had investigated the issue of loss of contact with members and recommended that it be dealt with through the honorarium regulations rather than via a constitutional change.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Natasha reminded members that last year she had met with GRC who were looking into amending the written policies so all PhDs had domestic violence leave, preferably paid. Natasha had been trying to follow up on this issue with GRC but not had yet received a response. There was a possibility that the issue may be taken up at a national level, which would supersede any negotiations the MPA have with the university.

3.2 Office-bearer reports

Bec provided a verbal report noting that she participated in the MPA orientation event and would be attending the meeting with the graduates visiting from Singapore next week.

3.3 Staff report

MPAEC members were reminded that they should contact Rhian if they had any event ideas for Semester 1, 2018.

3.4 Financial report

The January 2018 profit and loss report was noted.

4. **Business**

4.1 **Business arising**

4.1.1 Amended 2018 budget & PPA funding agreement

Jenny spoke to the circulated amended budget and noted that it included an increased budget to PPA of \$1000, but did not include any payments to the undergraduates. The only agreement that had been reached with the undergraduate student associations this year was with MONSU Peninsula. Any further agreements signed in to this year would be funded from the 2017 surplus, with additional funds if necessary, taken from the term deposit when it matured in July 2018. Any funds removed from the term deposit would be replaced by the end of 2019.

The committee agreed in principle with the budget amendments to be voted on by email motion.

Alastair spoke to the PPA allocated funding proposal. It was agreed that the MPA staff would draft a funding agreement between PPA and the MPA.

4.1.2 MPAEC Conference attendance (budget, CISA, CAPA)

Natasha noted that it was difficult to make decisions on conference allocations when it was uncertain as to whether or not some of the conferences would go ahead. The NOWSA conference was unlikely to run this year.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not the MPA should send a representative to CISA given the poor feedback from previous attendees. Ganesh informed members that it was not certain that CISA would receive government funding in 2019, as the committee appeared to be somewhat dysfunctional. Natasha announced that if anyone on the committee wanted to run for a CISA position they should attend.

Natasha informed members that she and Ganesh would attend the CAPA SCM, to be held in Sydney from April 11 to 13, with the trip being funded by CAPA. Expressions of interest were invited from other MPAEC members. Bec and Philip expressed interest. It was agreed that the MPA would send two reps.

A motion was to be sent by email to move \$1,200 from the conference attendance budget line to the CAPA budget line.

4.1.3 Library response to MPAEC feedback on computer use
Noted.

4.1.4 CAPA ACM report
Held over.

4.1.5 Queerelle magazine
Lefteris had prepared a statement that was tabled. He requested that the MPA support a contribution \$400 to go towards the Queerelle magazine. The magazine editorial was being run this year by the undergraduate student association on Calyton campus, MSA. However the magazine was intended to represent the wider Victorian universities queer population. There was general agreement but some concern about the MPA's lack of editorial power. Lefteris was asked to ensure that there was a disclaimer in the magazine that made it clear that the content was not necessarily endorsed by all sponsors.

4.1.6 January P&L
The January profit and loss report was noted.

4.2 General business

4.2.1 Insurance disclosure requirement

It was explained that the MPA took out annual insurance cover to insure the contents of the two offices against damage, and this year the insurance required that members of the governing board disclose any history that may affect the insurance risk. An email motion would be sent to approve the amendment, of including the insurance disclosure form, to the General regulations.

4.2.2 MPA contracts

This item was dealt with in camera.

4.2.3 Election regulation amendments

There was a brief discussion about the amended election regulations. It was explained that the main change had been to delete the sections pertaining to a mail-out election and hard-copy ballot papers. The proposal to include photographs of candidates with the nomination forms was discussed and rejected.

4.2.4 Constitutional changes for AGM

Jenny called for interest in a subcommittee to review the constitution prior to the AGM. Peter expressed interest.

4.2.5 Affiliation fees for CAPA and CISA

It was agreed that the affiliation fees for both CAPA and CISA be paid.

4.2.6 Mental health seminars

Natasha had proposed a series of activities and seminars for semester one this year, focussing on mental health. Suggestions included self-care photo competition, art therapy, seminars on resilience and sessions to de-stigmatise counselling.

Bec offered to assist with the self-care photo competition and provide materials from a similar event she had run earlier.

5. Membership

5.1 Cooption to general representative positions

As Robyn Oxley was the only candidate running for the Indigenous Students' Officer, the committee gave their in-principle support to her cooption, subject to an email vote by the full committee.

The three candidates present were invited to speak briefly to the committee. The members present voted. It was agreed that a cooption by email vote of the full committee would be conducted.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 26, 27 or 28 March on Caulfield campus at a time and date to be confirmed.