

## Meeting 06 /2018

A meeting of the Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee was held on 30 July 2018 from 1.30pm – 3.00pm in the MPA Boardroom, C2, Caulfield campus.

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### MINUTES

#### 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 Attendance

**Present** Eniola Ibraheem (Chair), Avinash Dahre, Jeane Freer (via teleconference), Roham Hosseini, Belle Lim, Karan Mehta, Bec O'Connor, Robyn Oxley, Roy Rozario, Devendra Singh, Aishwarya Solanki, Chloe Tang  
**In attendance** Rhian Adlam, Sandra Azavedo, Janice Boey, Sarah Murphy, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Van Gent  
**Observers** Tushar Bist, Alex Nguyen (via teleconference), Roby Vota  
**Apologies** Philip Zheng, Dorothy Mak

It was moved:

*That Dorothy Tsz Yan Mak be granted leave from the MPAEC from 4 June 2018 to 7 September 2018.*

Moved: Robyn Oxley  
Seconded: Bec O'Connor  
Carried.

##### 1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:  
4.1.5 MPA Orientation (Janice Boey)

#### 2. Minutes and Action sheet

##### 2.1 Minutes of MPAEC June meeting 05/18 for confirmation

It was moved:

*That the minutes of the June MPAEC meeting 05/2018 be confirmed.*

Moved: Karan Mehta  
Seconded: Roy Rozario  
Carried.

##### 2.2 Action sheet

An update was provided on the following items:

Item (05/2017) 4.2.5: Bec stated she would discuss the issue of University charging for completion letters with Zuzana Quinn to work out a plan of action to raise the issue with either David Copolov or Margaret Gardener.

Item (01/2018) 3.1: Lobbying on domestic violence leave for PhD students was handed over to the MPA's GRC representatives.

Item (02/2018) 3.5: Jeane stated she would work with MPA staff to keep this project going. Ash also offered her assistance.

### **3. Reports**

#### **3.1 President's report**

Noted.

#### **3.2 Office-bearer reports**

All reports were noted, the following additions were made.

Bec thanked Ash for attending the Clayton Meet and Greet event and providing assistance. She encouraged more MPAEC members to attend these events in the future.

Jeane raised a concern about the Safe Spaces document being produced by CAPA, inquiring whether the MPA would see the draft before it was made public. Jenny noted that CAPA had invited feedback on the issue but that MPA didn't have the right to view and impose changes on the draft prior to release. Jeane was directed to contact Natasha (CAPA President) to request input prior to the report's release.

#### **3.3 Staff report**

Noted.

#### **3.4 Financial report**

Noted.

#### **3.5 MPAEC meeting attendance records**

Noted. Members were reminded that if they missed two consecutive meetings without apology and failed to respond to two attempts to contact them, they would be automatically excluded from the MPAEC.

### **4. Business**

#### **4.1 Business arising**

##### **4.1.1 Respect, Now, Always campaign**

Eniola, Jenny and Philip had met with the external consultant hired by the university to review the University's responses to the AHRC report on sexual harassment and assault in Australian universities. It was also noted that the MPA's concerns with the R&R module and consent video had been addressed by the University and no further lobbying would be required.

##### **4.1.2 Funding discussions with the undergraduates**

Eniola advised the committee that negotiations with Parkville and Peninsula had been satisfactorily concluded last year. However both MONSU Caulfield and MSA had been reluctant to meet, thus holding up negotiations for over six months. They had eventually agreed to do so and separate preliminary meetings had been held with each president to discuss the flow of postgraduate funds to MONSU Caulfield and MSA. It was expected that the negotiations would require several meetings. The

undergraduates had been asked to provide some approximate figures of the cost and usage numbers for the services they claim are being utilised by postgraduates. The postgraduate community has made it clear that fewer postgraduate funds should flow to the undergraduates, and also that for those funds transferred, the undergraduates should be held accountable. The MPA is now waiting for this information from MONSU and MSA before setting the second round of meetings.

#### **4.1.3 Fares Fair campaign**

The CAPA President, Natasha Abrahams, has requested MPA support to obtain case studies from postgraduate students for the Fares Fair campaign. The MPAEC agreed that the campaign should be supported on MPA digital platforms and promotional activities. It was noted that although the campaign had been running for a couple of years, there had not been much progression on the issue. However the forthcoming elections offered another opportunity to progress this issue. Roy suggested that Monash should have a PTV hub located on the Clayton campus.

#### **4.1.4 Mental health program**

Noted. It was agreed that this issue would be explored in more detail at the retreat.

#### **4.1.5 MPA Orientation**

Janice tabled an infographic outlining the MPA's orientation activities and postgraduate participation numbers for semester two. The majority of mid-year enrolments across the university were coursework postgraduates. The MPA had participated and run events across all campuses. Janice thanked those MPAEC members who had volunteered their time to assist during the enrolment and orientation periods.

## **4.2 General business**

### **4.2.1 CISA affiliation**

Serious concerns had previously been raised about the quality of the representation being provided by CISA, the competency of the administration of CISA operations, the quality of the last three annual conferences and most importantly, the lack of transparency around one source of funding for CISA. Devendra, who attended the 2018 CISA AGM agreed with these concerns noting that the CISA committee:

- Disallowed a member to present themselves for election
- At the AGM, frequently conducted meetings late into the night and early hours of the morning.
- Refused to disclose one of the sources of their funding
- Had no staff to assist the organisation despite having a committee which changed annually.

It was requested that Belle, an MPAEC member elected to the CISA board, request that information on the CISA funding sources be fully disclosed to the MPA. The committee agreed to consider whether or not the MPA should remain affiliated with CISA once this information had been received.

### **4.2.2 Informal change to OB titles**

It was proposed that the MPA change two office-bearer position titles, and formally ratify this at the next AGM. It was agreed that the changed titles would be used in

MPA communications effective immediately as they reflected more accurately the positions' roles. The Education Officer (Research) would now be referred to as the Research Education Officer. The Education Officer (Coursework) would now be referred to as the Coursework Education Officer.

#### **4.2.3 MPA submission on APC conditions**

Noted.

#### **4.2.4 Student representation**

The student representation guide was created by the MPA to provide clear information to Monash staff on the student representation structure across the Monash campus. Staff were often confused about which organisation to contact for feedback and it is hoped this will help alleviate that problem.

### **5. Membership**

The vacant position of Queer Officer was advertised via the MPA newsletter and social media channels. Four cooption applications were received. Three applicants, Alex Nguyen, Roby Vota and Tushar Bist attended the meeting, thus fulfilling the cooption prerequisite of observing a meeting prior to cooption. The fourth application was deemed ineligible due to failure to comply with the prerequisite conditions for cooption. All three applicants were given the opportunity to speak to the committee and answer any questions. An election was conducted and Roby Vota was declared elected to the position of Queer Officer for the remainder of the 2018/2019 term of office.

### **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled to be held during the MPAEC retreat at Peppers Moonah Links Resort, Mornington Peninsula on 11/12 August 2018.