

## Meeting 05 /2018

A meeting of the **Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee**  
was held on 26 June 2018 from 12.30pm – 2.00pm  
in the MPA Meeting room, Room 1-51, Campus Centre, Clayton campus.

Jenny Reeder  
MPA Executive Officer  
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### MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 12:51pm.

#### 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

Present	Natasha Abrahams (Chair), Jeane Freer, Peter Hurley, Bec O'Connor, Robyn Oxley, Alastair Pearl, Roy Rozario, Poornima Wickramanayake, Philip Zheng
In-coming MPAEC	Avinash Dahre, Roham Hosseini, Eniola Ibraheem, Belle Lim, Karan Mehta, Devendra Singh, Aishwarya Solanki, Chloe Tang, Emily Xue
In attendance	Janice Boey, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Van Gent
Apologies	Lefteris Patlamazoglou, Athreyi Robbi, Amit Kumar Saxena

##### 1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No items were added.

Dorothy Mak's request for leave was held over to the July MPAEC meeting.

#### 2. Minutes and Action sheet

##### 2.1 Minutes of meetings 03/18 and 04/18 for confirmation

*That the minutes of the April 03/2018 and May 04/2018 MPAEC meetings, be confirmed.*

Moved: Natasha Abrahams

Second: Bec O'Connor

Carried.

##### 2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

#### 3. Reports

##### 3.1 President's report

The President's report was tabled. Natasha noted that she had attended several meetings with University staff to make them aware that the MPA was not planning to participate in discussions that were being driven by the Clayton undergraduate student association, MSA, who were pushing for a federated student union. It was well understood within the Australian postgraduate community that when postgraduate associations were amalgamated, federated or merged with undergraduate student associations, postgraduate interests were

marginalised. Natasha emphasised that the MPA was already a cross-campus body with an excellent track record, and believed that the current structure was the most effective way to continue to support the postgraduate community. Natasha also informed members that she has attended the “Respect. Now. Always.” meeting which she noted was very productive.

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

Noted.

### **3.3 Staff report**

Noted.

### **3.4 Financial report**

Noted.

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

Noted.

## **4. Business**

### **4.1 Business arising**

#### **4.1.1 Mental health programs (standing item)**

Natasha stated that she hoped the incoming committee would keep up the momentum on the MPA’s mental health programs initiative. She noted that a key component would be to identify project funding sources from within the University.

#### **4.1.2 MPA Council meeting**

Jenny requested expressions of interest from the incoming MPAEC to be involved in a subcommittee regarding the MPA Council meeting, scheduled to form part of the September MPAEC meeting. The subcommittee would be involved in the drafting of the terms of reference for the committee.

#### **4.1.3 Email motion on MPA term deposit**

It was noted that the following motion, moved by Natasha Abrahams, was issued via email and carried by the committee. Natasha reminded members that this investment was required by law to be held by the association, in the event of the MPA being wound up, and was not available for expenditure.

*That \$1,208,000 be invested in an MPA term deposit for 12 months at the best available rate.*

#### **4.1.4 MPA Funding Agreement with the university**

It was noted that the MPA’s funding agreement with the University had been signed on 20 June 2018 and covered the period from January 2018 to December 2020. The MPA had successfully lobbied over the one year negotiations to have several sections removed from the funding agreement before signing, in order to protect the association’s independence. It was noted that with each subsequent funding agreement, the university was attempting, and in some cases succeeding, to place more restrictions on the MPA. The MPA considers it of utmost importance that the association is unfettered in its ability to represent postgraduates.

## **4.2 General business**

### **4.2.1 MPAEC retreat dates**

The MPAEC retreat was confirmed for the weekend of Saturday 11 August to Sunday 12 August. Jessica would contact the committee with further details over the coming weeks.

### **4.2.2 Social Media regulations**

The committee considered the proposed regulations. It was noted that the MPA does not currently have a LinkedIn administrator. It was moved:

*That the proposed Social Media regulations are accepted and endorsed.*

Moved: Natatsha Abrahams

Second: Poornima Wickramanayake

Carried.

## **5. Office-bearer elections**

The office-bearer elections for the incoming MPAEC were conducted with the Executive Officer acting as Returning Officer. Each candidate was allocated a maximum of 3 minutes to speak to the committee and respond to questions while opposing candidates waited outside the room. Only members of the incoming committee voted. Voting was carried out as per the MPA General Regulations, where in each round the lowest ranking candidate was eliminated and voting continued until one candidate obtained an absolute majority.

### **President**

Nominations were invited for the position of President. Phillip nominated himself and was seconded by Emily. David nominated himself and was seconded by Rebecca. Devendra nominated himself and was seconded by Robyn. Roy was nominated by Jeane but declined the nomination. An election was conducted and Eniola David Ibraheem was declared elected to the position of President.

### **Vice-President**

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice-President. Rebecca nominated herself and was seconded by Robyn. Phillip nominated himself and was seconded by Emily. Roy nominated himself and was seconded by Rebecca. Devendra nominated himself and was seconded by Karan. An election was conducted and Roy Rozario was declared elected to the position of Vice-President.

### **Education Officer (Research)**

Nominations were invited for the position of Education Officer (Research). Chloe nominated herself and was seconded by Roy. Jeane was nominated by Roy but declined the nomination. There being no further nominations Chloe Yahui Tang was declared elected unopposed to the position of Education Officer (Research).

### **Education Officer (Coursework)**

Nominations were invited for the position of Education Officer (Coursework). Karan nominated himself and was seconded by Robyn. Rebecca was nominated by Karan but declined the nomination. There being no further nominations Karan Mehta was declared elected unopposed to the position of Education Officer (Coursework).

### **Women's Officer**

Nominations were invited for the position of Women's Officer. Emily nominated herself and was seconded by Robyn. Ash nominated herself and was seconded by Karan. An election was conducted and Aishwarya Raju Solanki was declared elected to the position of Women's Officer.

### **Queer Officer**

Nominations were invited for the position of Queer Officer. There were no nominations. It was agreed that cooptions would be sought to fill this position.

### **International Students' Officer**

Nominations were invited for the position of International Students' Officer. Phillip nominated himself and was seconded by David. Emily was nominated by Roy but declined. Devendra nominated himself and was seconded by Karan. Roham was nominated by Jeane and accepted the nomination. An election was conducted and Phillip Xiangji Zheng was declared elected to the position of International Students' Officer.

### **Indigenous Officer**

Nominations were invited for the position of Indigenous Officer. Robyn was nominated by Roy and accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations Robyn Oxley was declared elected unopposed to the position of Indigenous Officer.

### **Access and Equity Officer**

Nominations were invited for the position of Access and Equity Officer. Devendra was nominated by Karan but declined. Avinash was nominated by Devendra and accepted the nomination. Belle nominated herself and was seconded by Robyn. Belle withdrew her nomination. An election was conducted and Avinash Dahre was declared elected to the position of Access and Equity Officer.

The office-bearer elections were concluded and all new office-bearers were congratulated by the outgoing committee members. The chairing of the meeting was handed back to Natasha.

### **Summary of Office-bearer elections for 2018/2019 MPAEC**

President – Eniola David Ibraheem

Vice-President – Roy Rozario

## **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in July on Caulfield campus at a time and date to be confirmed by the incoming committee members.

The meeting was closed at 2:44pm.