

## Meeting 02/2018

A meeting of the  
**Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee**  
was held on Monday 26 March 2018 from 1.30pm – 3.00pm  
in the MPA Boardroom, Building C, Level C2, Caulfield campus.

Jenny Reeder  
MPA Executive Officer  
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### MINUTES

The meeting opened at 1:43pm.

#### 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), Jeane Freer (via teleconference), Dorothy Mak, Bec O'Connor, Robyn Oxley, Lefteris Patlamazoglou, Athreyi Robbi (From item 3.2), Roy Rozario, Ganesh Vagalla (From item 3.2)

Apologies Poornima Wickramanayake, Peter Hurley, Alastair Pearl, Philip Zheng

In attendance Caroline Barrow, Janice Boey, Tim McGlone, Sarah Murphy, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Van Gent

Observer Rida Tajamal (visitor)

##### 1.3 Consideration of the agenda

Upon consideration of the agenda, the following two items were added:

4.2.6 Library Forum (Natasha Abrahams)

4.2.7 Confederated Student Association (Natasha Abrahams)

#### 2. Minutes and Action sheet

##### 2.1 Minutes of meeting 01/18 for confirmation

Held over.

##### 2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

#### 3. Reports

##### 3.1 President's report

Noted.

##### 3.2 Office-bearer reports

Education Officer (Coursework) report tabled.

All reports noted.

### **3.3 Staff report**

Noted.

### **3.4 Financial report**

The February Profit and Loss was tabled and noted.

### **3.5 Mental health seminars (standing item)**

Natasha updated the committee that she and the MPA Executive Officer had met with David Copolov, Pro Vice-Chancellor, to discuss his support for the MPA's mental health promotion program. Moving forward, Natasha and interested MPAEC will compile a document outlining the plans for the program to be handed to the incoming committee for implementation in Semester 2, 2018.

An MPAEC member expressed concern regarding the quality of the Monash Counselling service since it brought on contracted staff. Given this, a request was made that promotion of counselling services by the MPA should include options outside of Monash University such as: the Medicare 10 week Mental Health Plan via GPs; and external counselling services.

## **4. Business**

### **4.1 Business arising**

#### **4.1.1 MPAEC Conference attendance**

It was noted that Dorothy and Athreyi would be attending the CAPA SCM in April, along with Natasha and Ganesh who would attend in their capacity as CAPA executives.

The next relevant conference was noted as the CISA conference to be held from June 25 – 28, 2018 on the Gold Coast. Expressions of interest in attending would be called for once the incoming committee were elected.

#### **4.1.2 CAPA ACM report**

The report produced by the MPAEC representatives who attended the CAPA ACM was noted.

#### **4.1.3 Election nomination form**

MPAEC members were reminded that this was the last day to nominate for the 2018/19 MPAEC.

#### **4.1.4 Financial agreement between PPA and MPA**

The committee acknowledge that the agreement was written for the protection of the PPA. The main update in the agreement to the current arrangement was that yearly funding would be indexed to inflation. A final version was tabled.

It was moved:

*That the MPA-PPA funding agreement be approved, pending agreement by the PPA.*

Moved: Natasha Abrahams  
Carried.

## 4.2 General business

### 4.2.1 Connection between MPAEC and MPA reps

The current management of the postgraduate representatives on University committees was outlined by Sarah Murphy, MPA Caulfield Advocate. The committee suggested the following points for consideration of the expansion of the MPA's services to these representatives:

- Representative retreat to encourage collaboration
- Ensuring all representatives in similar roles are able to email one another, and their MPAEC counterpart.
- Creation of a unit in Moodle to allow representatives to share ideas in a viewable platform.
- Training for representatives on reading committee papers and speaking at meetings.
- The creation of a recommendation sheet for committee chairs on how to deal with student representatives.

### 4.2.2 Develop regulations for MPA Council

Peter Hurley in collaboration with the MPA Executive Officer will draft regulations for the MPA council. Any MPAEC interested in taking part are to contact Peter or Jenny.

### 4.2.3 MPA Fee–Help submission

The submission was noted by the senate submissions hearing. The amendment is due to be voted on by the Senate prior to the parliamentary break.

### 4.2.4 MPAEC elections

MPAEC elections have now commenced with the opening of the nomination period.

### 4.2.5 Submission to Faculty of Business and Economics

The submission was noted. Poornima Wickramanayake to updated the committee on any action or feedback from the Faculty.

### 4.2.6 Library Forum

The chair introduced the item of the MPAEC's involvement in the upcoming Monash University Library Forum. This bi-annual event provides the opportunity for staff and students to raise any concerns with the library. The next forum will be held on Monday 16 April from 12:30 – 2:00pm on Clayton campus. Any MPAEC interested in attending or with concerns they wanted raised are to contact the MPA Executive Officer.

### 4.2.7 Federated Student Associations

The chair brought to the attention of the committee a number of recent occurrences within the University which were indicative of a move towards a federated student association. Firstly, within the new MPA funding agreement with the University is: *JR insert quoted line of text MPA agree to discuss the potential of a federated student union here*. Secondly, at the recent VC-SPAF meeting attended by the MPA and MSA presidents and the Vice Chancellor, the MSA President announced that the CBMSOs were moving towards a federated union in 2021, and as such, the MSA was hiring a consultant to review the student associations with a view to amalgamation. This review was being co-funded by the University. It was noted that the national body, CAPA,'s view on this issue was that postgraduate students are better off when their representative body is separate to the undergraduate body.

After outlining the background to the item, the MPAEC were in agreement that the MPA and other CBMSOs are very different organisations, and that federation was not in the best interests of postgraduate students. As a result, it was moved:

*We the MPAEC recognise that all postgraduate associations must remain independent from undergraduate student associations in order to effectively represent postgraduates. The MPAEC therefore directs the MPA President to take every reasonable measure to ensure the continued autonomy and independence of the MPA and to oppose any ...JR please finish*

Moved: Bec O'Connor

Second: Roy Rozario

Carried.

In conclusion, the chair highlighted that the MPA would sign in to the University funding agreement only if the statement surrounding discussing federation was removed;

**5. Membership**

No business

**6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in April on Clayton campus at a time and date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 2:34pm.