

Meeting 04/2018

A meeting of the **Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee** was held on Friday 25 May 2018 from 12.30pm – 2.00pm in the MPA Boardroom, C2, Caulfield campus.

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

AGENDA

The meeting was opened at 12:50pm.

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

Attachment1.

Present	Natasha Abrahams (Chair), Jeane Freer (teleconference from item 3.2), Peter Hurley, Dorothy Mak, Bec O'Connor, Alastair Pearl, Roy Rozario, Poornima Wickramanayake
Observers	Avinash Dahre, Belle Lim
Apologies	Robyn Oxley, Lefteris Patlamazoglou, Athreyi Robbi, Amit Saxena, Ganesh Vagalla, Philip Zheng
In attendance	Caroline Barrow, James Breheny, Sarah Murphy, Zuzana Quinn, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Van Gent, Ying Xu

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The following five items were added to the agenda:

- 4.2.4 Students of Sustainability conference (Natasha Abrahams)
- 4.2.5 NOWSA conference (Natasha Abrahams)
- 4.2.6 Alumni mentoring program (Caroline Barrow)
- 4.2.7 Job hunting seminar (Poornima Wickramanayake)
- 4.2.8 Update on coursework exams (Natasha Abrahams)

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting 03/18 for confirmation

Held over.

2.2 Minutes of 2018 AGM for noting

Noted.

2.3 Action sheet

Noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Noted.

3.2 Office-bearer reports

Poornima's report was tabled. All reports noted.

3.3 Staff report

Noted.

3.4 Financial report

Both the March and April p&l were noted.

3.5 MPAEC meeting attendance records

Noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Mental health programs

Natasha informed the committee that she would be meeting with head of counselling the following week to discuss the development of a mental health program for postgraduates.

4.1.2 Proposed MPA Constitutional changes

Attachment 4.1.2

It was noted that all proposed constitutional changes were passed at the recent MPA AGM.

4.1.3 Circulation of additional papers from April MPAEC

Noted.

4.1.4 Inaugural MPA Council meeting

Attachment 4.1.4

It was agreed that the inaugural MPA Council meeting would be held on the same day as the September MPAEC meeting. This would provide the MPAEC and the MPA University committee representatives the opportunity to discuss current postgraduate issues and areas for future lobbying. MPA staff to draft a set of MPA Council regulations to reflect this arrangement.

4.1.5 MPA Postgraduate Ball details

Attachment 4.1.5

Caroline Barrow noted that 150 ball tickets had been sold over the past three weeks. The success of ticket sales was due to a targeted marketing approach. Any committee members interested in promoting the ball by distributing marketing material, such as email banners and posters should contact caroline.barrow@monash.edu. The MPA's target figure was set at 300 tickets, with a maximum capacity of 400.

4.1.6 MPA response to MSA paper re p/g funding

Attachment 4.1.6

A copy of the MPA's response to the MSA paper on the transfer of postgraduate SSAF to the undergraduate student associations was circulated to the committee. It was noted that the MPA had already negotiated an agreement with MONSU Peninsula, had come to an agreement with Parkville and were about to start negotiations with MONSU Caulfield.

To date, the MSA President had refused to meet with the MPA. Instead, the MSA were attempting to appeal directly to senior management to avoid any negotiations. We will continue to attempt to get them to the table for a discussion.

It was noted that the MPA had clearly stated it did not want to take part in any federated student union that may be formed. University senior managers have acknowledged and accepted the MPA's position on this matter so discussions will now proceed between the undergraduate student associations only.

4.2 General business

4.2.1 Volunteering and mentoring programs

Attachment 4.2.1

Caroline Barrow gave a presentation highlighting the success of the MPA's volunteering and mentoring program. Caroline informed members that the volunteer program provided a range of activities including community outreach as well as on and off-campus activities and trips. The volunteer program included peer-to-peer mentoring, online programs, HDR-specific programs and a recent alumni mentoring opportunity.

4.2.2 2018 induction program and booklet

Attachment 4.2.2

A draft version of the 2018 MPAEC induction program and booklet was circulated to the committee. Any MPAEC members with suggested inclusions or changes should contact Jenny directly.

4.2.3 Potential sponsorship

Attachment 4.2.3

Natasha was approached by a Unibank representative who wished to provide the MPA with sponsorship. The MPAEC were invited to provide feedback on the MPA receiving sponsorship from external companies. There was a general consensus that minor event-based sponsorship was acceptable. Natasha agreed to contact Unibank to determine the kind of sponsorship they were offering and would report back to the committee.

4.2.4 Students of sustainability conference

The committee was informed that the 2018 Students of Sustainability conference would be held in Melbourne. Given the low cost of \$180 registration for the week (including meals), MPAEC members were invited to express their interest in attending. Bec, Dorothy and Roy were interested. MPA would cover the conference registration cost of any MPAEC attendees.

4.2.5 NOWSA conference

The Network of Women Students (NOWSA) conference had been scheduled for 16 – 20 July 2018 at the University of Newcastle. Any MPAEC interested in attending the annual conference were requested to contact Jessica Van Gent. The MPAEC 2018/19 Women's Officer, once elected, would be encouraged to attend.

4.2.6 Mentor alumni program

It was noted that the MPA's inaugural Alumni Mentor program was underway. It involved a very complex selection process designed by the Alumni unit and only a small group of students would be selected as this was a trial.

4.2.7 Job-Hunting Seminar

Poornima had worked with Silvia Wei, a Monash alumnus and part of the company Hoodic, to create a job-hunting seminar for postgraduates. The seminar aimed to help students feel empowered to progress their professional life by increasing their

motivation. The seminar would cover areas such as professional networking, gaining experience for jobs, and identifying and developing skills. Poornima would hand-over the running of the seminar to the incoming Coursework Education Officer in late June.

4.2.8 Update on Coursework exams

Natasha and Jenny met with DVC (Education) Sue Elliot who explained that the University were beginning to move coursework exams to a digital platform, i.e. exams would be undertaken on personal computers rather than paper. No further information was available at this stage, but the committee would be kept informed of any developments or working groups on this issue.

5. Membership

No business.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in June on Clayton campus at a time and date to be confirmed with both the incoming and outgoing committee members.

The meeting closed at 1:36pm.