

## Meeting 08/2018

A meeting of the **Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee** was held from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Monday, 10 September 2018 at the MPA meeting room 1-51, Campus Centre, Clayton campus.

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## MINUTES

### 1. Formal matters

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The MPAEC acknowledged and paid 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, Roham Hosseini, Dorothy Mak, Karan Mehta, Bec O'Connor, Robyn Oxley (via video), Roy Rozario, Devandra Singh, Ash Solanki, Chloe Tang, Roby Vota, Emily Xue.

Apologies: Belle Lim, Philip Zheng, Jeane Freer.

MPA Reps: Melissa Preissner, Samantha Munn, Levi Durbidge, Dhaneesh Gopalakrishnan, Bessie Campbell, Tami Castello, Moritz Huebner.

In attendance: Jenny Reeder, Janice Boey, Sandra Azavedo, Sarah Murphy.

#### 1.3 Consideration of the agenda

An update on the Supervisor of the Year (SOTY) competition was added as item 5.1.6.

### 2. Minutes and Action sheet

#### 2.1 Minutes of MPAEC August meeting 07/18 for confirmation

It was moved:

*That the minutes of the August MPAEC meeting 07/2018 be confirmed.*

Moved: Bec O'Connor  
Seconded: Devendra Singh  
Carried.

#### 2.2 Action sheet

Noted. The Chair informed members that he would be meeting with the Director of Student Services to pursue the matter of the charges levied for completion letters.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 President's report

Noted.

#### 3.2 Office-bearer reports

Noted. In addition to the written reports submitted: Bec encouraged members to attend the Clayton campus wine and nibbles event to be held at 4pm on Friday 21 September in the

MPA postgraduate lounge; Karan announced that he was planning a small survey of coursework postgraduates to collect data on two or three specific issues; and Avi informed members that the university would be including a new 24/7 breastfeeding room in Building H as part of future renovations.

### **3.3 Staff report**

Noted.

### **3.4 Financial report**

Noted.

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

Noted.

## **4. University committee postgraduate representatives discussion.**

The Chair explained that it had been decided by the MPAEC that the inaugural MPA Council meeting would be held as part of the regular September meeting of the MPAEC. The aim of the MPA Council meeting was to enable postgraduate representatives sitting on university committees to formally connect with the MPAEC (in addition to their regular contact with MPA staff) in order to raise issues of concern coming through from the various university committees. The postgraduate representatives were invited to speak to the committee about: issues that had been raised on their respective committees; their general experiences on their respective committees; and any feedback they could provide to the MPA to improve the representative structure and communications. A general discussion followed and a number of suggestions were made to exploit the full potential of the MPA representative structure.

## **5. Business**

### **5.1 Business arising**

#### **5.1.1 Fares Fair campaign**

Devendra reported on his work to date on the Fares Fair campaign (lobbying for public transport concessions for postgraduates) and invited interested members to join the weekly planning meetings of the subcommittee comprising volunteers and committee members who were supporting the campaign.

Sandra gave a presentation on a proposed marketing campaign with an emphasis on engaging the postgraduate population with oncampus events and using video and photos from the campus events to extend the campaign to the general public. The aim was to run the campaign up until the state elections. This campaign would run alongside Devendra's work with GSA, University of Melbourne and CAPA, which was focussing on boosting signatures on the Fares Fair petition and contacting state politicians from all parties. There was discussion among members as to the importance of this issue to the broader postgraduate population, and it was agreed that the MPA should contribute a substantial amount of funds in order to play a major role in lobbying for this change.

It was moved:

*That \$28,000 be allocated from the office-bearer budget for the 2018 Fares Fair campaign.*

Moved: Devendra Singh  
Seconded: Avinash Dahre  
Abstentions: Bec O'Connor  
Carried.

#### **5.1.2 CISA Finances**

Held over.

#### **5.1.3 Off-campus OB position**

Held over. As this item required a substantial amount of time to be properly discussed, it was agreed to hold it over and to ensure it was allocated adequate time at the October meeting.

#### **5.1.4 Retreat sessions notes**

Noted. The Chair explained that Janice was working with each MPAEC member to ensure that the top priorities identified in each portfolio during the retreat discussions and workshops were translated into actions such as events, surveys and campaigns.

#### **5.1.5 Report from Leaders forum**

The written report received from Devendra on the Study Melbourne International Leaders Forum was noted.

#### **5.1.6 SOTY update**

Janice informed members that the SOTY competition had recently closed. A record number of 40 applications had been received. A panel of HDR postgraduates drawn from the MPAEC would decide on the winner, and an award ceremony would be held later in the year.

### **5.2 General Business**

#### **5.2.1 Staff contract renewal**

The Executive Officer explained that the two year employment contract for the Marketing and Communication Officer's appointment was due to expire on 10 October 2018. It was recommended that a 0.8 fraction continuing appointment be offered. The reduced fraction was in response to a request from the incumbent staff member.

It was moved:

*That the MPAEC approves the offer of a permanent position in the role of Marketing and Communications Officer to Sandra Azavedo at 0.8 fraction.*

Moved: Devendra Singh  
Seconded: Ash Solanki  
Carried unanimously.

## **6. Membership**

It was noted that the positions of President and International Students' Officer would become vacant in December due to members completing their courses. The remaining committee members were asked to consider taking up the President or International Students' Officer positions as these positions would be filled internally. It was proposed that the elections for the President's position be held during the October meeting to provide for a substantial hand-over period.

The Clayton campus representative position along with two general representative positions would also become vacant due to course completions. These three positions would be advertised to the wider postgraduate community and filled via cooption.

**7. Next meeting**

The next meeting would be held in October at a time and date to be determined by member availability.

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.