

## Meeting 03/2019

A meeting of the **Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) Executive Committee and MPA Council** was held from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Thursday 18 April 2019 in Video conferencing room B01, basement, 24 Sports Walk, Clayton 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 unceded land.

#### 1.2 Attendance

Present Robyn Oxley (chair), Claire Nicholls, Jeane Freer, Karan Mehta, Cammi Murrup-Stewart, , Devendra Singh, Egor Skaletckii, Ash Solanki, Avinash Dahre Roby Vota, Belle Lim and Emily Xue  
In attendance Janice Boey, Jenny Reeder, Leanne Vosper  
Apologies Roy Rozario, Sameer More, Chloe Yahui Tang  
Observers Dimaz Wijaya, Anastasia Umerova, Julie Dao, Melissa Preissner, Patrick Marple, Marion Bichot, Serena Teo, Kate Wang, Jessica Lu, Ben Lyall.

It was moved:

*That the application from Jeane Freer for prior leave for the May MPAEC meeting be approved.*

Moved: Robyn Oxley  
Seconded: Karan Mehta  
Carried.

#### 1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The following item was added: 4.2.10 MET concession rally.

### 2. Minutes and Action sheet

#### 2.1 Minutes of MPAEC March meeting 03/19 for confirmation

It was moved:

*That the minutes of the March MPAEC meeting 03/2019 be confirmed.*

Moved: Robyn Oxley  
Seconded: Karan Mehta  
Carried.

#### 2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

The Chair invited observers to introduce themselves to MPAEC members, and speak about the university committees on which they were representatives. The following issues were raised and discussed: the success of the Athena SWANN program; the fact that no SEAS entry scheme currently exists for postgraduates; concerns about the move by some faculties to replace permanent desks with hotdesks; the irrelevance and poor quality of some professional development courses; the compulsory nature of the professional development component of the PhD; the difficulty for postgraduates based at Parkville campus to achieve the requisite 120 hours of professional development; introducing the opportunity to zoom into professional development courses; and the desire for a cross-campus city-based function.

Kate Wang, PPA President, announced that Jessica Lu would be applying via cooption to replace Belle as the PPA representative on the MPAEC.

### **3. Reports**

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

Robyn spoke to her tabled report noting that the MSA President had failed to attend a second meeting with the MPA to discuss the transfer of postgraduate funding to the MSA, so no agreement could be reached.

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

Karan spoke to his report explaining that the MPA had been working closely with the university to put in place opportunities for postgraduates to practice using the new e-exam system, prior to attending an actual exam. Karan had also attended a subcommittee meeting chaired by Roy to consider the introduction and development of awards for university staff who had been particularly supportive of the MPA.

Belle informed members of the activities being run by the PPA including: HDR symposium with invited speakers; movie nights; ice-skating; and free lunches. The idea of a cross-discipline symposium was briefly discussed.

Emily proposed that the MPA set up a WeChat account and offered to run it for the association. It was noted that while the MPAEC were free to make their own decision, the university had a policy against publishing information to current students in any language other than English. Concerns were raised about the ability to provide continuity and maintain quality control over the account given it would be reliant on being run by a student proficient in mandarin. It was requested that before the committee made a decision, the staff communications team discuss the work implications of setting up and maintaining a fifth channel of communication.

#### **3.3 Staff report**

Noted.

#### **3.4 Profit and loss report March 2019**

The p&l report was not available in time for the meeting and would be sent out by email to all members as soon as possible.

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

Noted.

#### **4. Business**

##### **4.1 Business arising**

###### **4.1.1 Space agreement with BPD**

Noted.

###### **4.1.2 Constitutional changes and the AGM**

Members were reminded that the AGM would be held at 1pm on Wednesday 8 May on Clayton campus. All office-bearers and general representatives would be required to submit a separate report for the AGM. An email with examples of last year's reports would be circulated along with details as to when the 2019 AGM reports were due.

###### **4.1.3 MPA name change**

A brief discussion was held and it was decided that the Chair would put a motion to the AGM to change the MPA's name to the Monash Graduate Association.

##### **4.2 General Business**

###### **4.2.1 MPA response to Education policies**

Noted.

###### **4.2.2 MPA response to BusEco discipline panels**

Noted.

###### **4.2.3 Draft MPA regulations on Child Safety Standards**

It was moved:

*That the draft MPA regulations on Child Safety Standards be accepted.*

Moved: Robyn Oxley

Seconded: Belle Lim

Carried.

###### **4.2.4 MPA discussion paper on representation**

Noted.

###### **4.2.5 Updated conference travel allowance**

A proposal to slightly increase the travel allowances for members on MPA business was discussed. The aim was to bring the amounts into line with 2019 costs. It was agreed that the rates should cover a standard café-style meal so that members are not out-of-pocket.

It was moved:

*That the draft travel allowance amendments be accepted.*

Moved: Robyn Oxley

Seconded: Devendra Singh

Carried.

#### **4.2.6 Debit card approval for new staff member**

Members were introduced to Leanne Vosper who had been appointed to the role of Off-campus Coordinator and would be based on Caulfield campus with regular visits to the off-campus sites and smaller campuses. It was recommended that an MPA debit card be issued to Leanne who would be required to regularly make purchases. It was noted that spending on debit cards could occur only in line with the relevant budget line items previously approved by the MPAEC and under the supervision of staff supervisors.

It was moved:

*That the MPAEC approve the issuing of a debit card operating from the MPA account BSB 033 181 A/C 345 569 to Leanne Vosper, Off-campus Coordinator.*

Moved: Roby Vota

Seconded: Ash Solanki

Carried.

#### **4.2.7 MPAEC retreat dates**

Members were informed that the 2019 MPAEC retreat would be held from Saturday 10 August to Sunday 11 August. The August MPAEC meeting would be held during the retreat, along with professional development sessions and planning sessions for MPA operations. A detailed agenda would be provided closer to the date.

#### **4.2.8 Hosting NATSIPA conference**

The Chair informed members that the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Postgraduate Association (NATSIPA) was calling for expressions of interest from Postgraduate Associations to host the 2019 NATSIPA conference. This year, the conference would be held 24-25<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The committee discussed the proposal that the MPA submit a bid to host the conference.

It was moved:

*That the MPAEC approve the submission of a bid to host the 2019 NATSIPA conference at Monash University and agree to cover the associated costs should the bid be successful.*

Moved: Robyn Oxley

Seconded: Devendra Singh

Carried.

#### **4.2.9 Request from MUISS re Indigenous stall**

It was noted that MUISS, the undergraduate international student society on Clayton campus, had approached the MPA requesting that MPA ran an Indigenous stall at the MUISS One World festival. Cammi directed MUISS to the undergraduate Indigenous student group as the appropriate body to whom MUISS should put this request.

#### **4.2.10 MET concession rally**

The committee considered a request that had been received from a Monash postgraduate, asking the MPA to endorse a petition and a rally he was organising to protest about the MET concession issue. The committee agreed that this was an important issue to support but felt that it would be more effective to coordinate any additional activities with the current campaign being run by the MPA with CAPA. As such the committee decided not to endorse the student's activities but instead to encourage the student concerned to work with CAPA rather than set-up competing petitions.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.