

Meeting 10/2019

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee**
was held from 10.00am - 12.00pm on Tuesday 29 October, 2019
in the MGA Boardroom, Caulfield campus.

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

MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 10:14pm.

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The MGAEC acknowledged and paid respect to the people of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this unceded land.

1.2 Apologies

Present: Caitlyn Neale (Chair), Pooja Bhageria, Julie Dao, , Jessica Lu, Cammi Murrup-Stewart, Egor Skaletckii, Xinxin Yang, Ash Solanki, Allison Ho.

Apology: Robyn Oxley, Roy Rozario, Roby Vota, Nikhil Kathe, Georgia Dudgeon.

In attendance: Janice Boey, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Fimmel

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No items were added to the agenda.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of MGAEC meeting 09/19 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting 09/2019 be confirmed.

Moved: Jessica Lu

Seconded: Julie Dao

Carried.

2.2 Action sheet

The action sheet was noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's written report was noted. Robyn added that she had attended the Monash Intercultural Lab Advisory Committee on behalf of Cammi. The MGA had been requested to prepare a report to present. However the meeting ran short of time and the MGA was not given time to speak, which was very disappointing. Cammi

suggested requesting that the MGA report be resubmitted and heard at the next meeting.

3.2 Office-bearer reports

All written reports were noted. In addition:

Egor Skaletckii, Coursework Education Officer

Egor presented the results of the survey/questionnaire which he had run during the MGA Festival. Of the 164 respondents, only 72% knew the association's name was now MGA, and only 50% knew Robyn was the President. The committee agreed that this information was insightful and could be used to target messages in future comms. Students who scored less than 5/11 were encouraged to subscribe to the MGA Newsletter. Egor thanked Kristy for her assistance with creating a short survey on the experiences of graduate students in the Faculty of Education. He had received 15 responses so far and was hoping that number would increase after a promotion to be run via social media.

Cammi Murrup-Stewart, Indigenous Students' Officer

Cammi reported that the NATSIPA annual conference supported by the MGA had been successful but had potential for improvement.

Julie Dao, Research Education Officer

Julie noted that the numbers for Clayton campus Shut-up and Write sessions were slowly building up as word spread among HDRs. As well as writing, the group used the break-time to discuss problems they had encountered during their candidature. An idea had been proposed for an "Un-conference" where students were provided with a platform to express their concerns about their experience. This information could then be passed from MGA to MGRO on behalf of the graduate students.

It was proposed that the MGA could host a forum with MGRO staff, to answer any questions that HDRs had about their experience. MGA continued to receive a high number of complaints about the professional development program that was a compulsory part of the PhD for some faculties. A program could be used at the forum that would allow graduate students to post questions anonymously.

Jenny to contact MGRO about participating in such an event.

Julie also suggested committee members should be more active on the MGA twitter account to highlight who they are and what they do. It was suggested that the MGA twitter account could be handed over to individual graduate students and/or committee members to post about their day.

Pooja Bhageria, Caulfield Campus Representative

Pooja mentioned that she was running a survey of students who had attended her events to get feedback about the events and the campus to inform future activities.

Ash Solanki, General Representative

Ash reported that she had attended the mental health standing committee with Jenny. She noted that the Mental Health Workshops which were run by the MGA this year wouldn't be able to be run next year because of our loss of funding to the

undergraduates. Ash also informed members that she had been using MonTrack to raise awareness of the MGA name change to new students.

Jessica Lu, Parkville campus representative

Jess noted that one of the issues raised during the MGAEC retreat, relating to the prohibitive cost of prescription lab glasses, had been resolved. Following the retreat Jess had raised this issue with the faculty and negotiated a subsidy for graduate students wanting to purchase prescription lab glasses. This offer would be made available to all Pharmacy students. This issue would now be raised at GRC at encourage other faculties to follow Pharmacy's example.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted. Janice thanked all the committee who attended and supported the MGA festival events during the name launch week. The MGA received a huge amount of positive feedback from staff and students about the activities set up during this week, especially at the off-campus sites and smaller campuses, with requests for more of these types of activities during the year. Overall it was a very valuable marketing exercise for the MGA.

3.4 Profit and loss report August 2019

The profit and loss report was noted. Jenny informed the committee that the groups were very grateful for the additional funding made available to them by the committee.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

MGAEC were reminded to submit their reports in a timely manner.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 MGA funding dispute

The committee discussed and approved the proposed plan for progressing the SSAF campaign.

The committee discussed the results of the SSAF survey and agreed that it was clear that graduate students were extremely angry about this matter and it was therefore appropriate for the MGA to reflect that position by taking a strong stance.

The application by the university of the ad-hoc dispute resolution process was questioned again, given that there was a well-documented dispute resolution process set out in the MGA's funding agreement with the university, which was not utilised.

The committee agreed that the initial letter received from the DVC (Education) with the outcome of the dispute resolution process was extremely unsatisfactory in that it did not address any of the MGA's points raised in their submission. To this end the MGA President was directed to write to Professor Sue Elliott seeking clarification on a number of issues.

4.1.2 Retreat priorities

Jenny reminded all members that they needed to email her with their top 3 priorities from each section of the action list generated at the MGAEC retreat. This would then inform the work to be taken up the committee next semester.

4.1.3 Feedback on Learning and Teaching Procedures

The committee noted the feedback provided by the MGA on the university's proposed amendments to the Learning and Teaching Procedures.

4.1.4 CAPA ACM agenda and attendance

After all four interested MGAEC members had been accommodated, there were still three funded places left for participation in the CAPA ACM, so these places had been offered to our graduate student representatives on university committees.

4.1.5 MGA feedback to food retailers

The committee noted the feedback from the MGA to BPD in relation to the food retailers on campus. The MGA report emphasised the importance of sustainability, low cost and a range of healthy choices.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Confirmation of Public Officer

The committee was informed that with the change of name for the association, the MGA was required to update its details with the ABR and ATO to confirm the details of our Public Officer.

It was moved:

That Jenny Reeder, MGA Executive Officer be confirmed as the MGA's nominated Public Officer.

Moved: Caitlyn Neale (Chair)

Carried.

4.2.2 SON network

The committee discussed a draft paper outlining the framework for setting up a student organisation network. The MGA had held preliminary discussions with MONSU Caulfield and Peninsula. All agreed that it was critical for each association to retain autonomy but saw advantages in formalising a network that would provide opportunities to share information and resources.

The proposed MOU made it clear that this was a network and not a merger, and that each association would continue to run and control their own affairs. The network was supported in principle.

5. Membership

No business.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Parkville campus in December at a time to be confirmed.

The meeting was declared closed at 11:19am.