

Meeting 11/2019

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee**
was held from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, Thursday 21 November, 2019
in the MGA Meeting room, Clayton campus.

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MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 3:10pm.

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: Robyn Oxley (chair), Georgia Dudgeon (left at item 4.1.3), Allison Ho, Nikhil Kathe, Cammi Murrup-Stewart, Roy Rozario (via teleconference), Egor Skaletckii.

In attendance: Janice Boey, Yen Chau, Ryan Edwards, Jessica Fimmel, Jenny Reeder.

Apologies: Pooja Bhageria, Jessica Lu, Ash Solanki, Roby Vota, Xinxin Yang.

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

The following item was added:

4.2.3 MGA Advisory groups (Cammi)

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of MGAEC meeting 10/19 for confirmation

The following amendments to the October MGAEC minutes were requested:

- Item 3.1: Amend to “Robyn attended the Monash Intercultural Lab Advisory Committee on behalf of Cammi”.

It is moved:

That the minutes of November MGAEC meeting 10/2019 be confirmed.

Moved: Cammi

Seconded: Nikhil

As the meeting was inquorate, it was agreed that all motions would be distributed via email to the full committee membership for voting.

2.2 Action sheet

The following items were for noting:

- 02/2018 4.2.2 – The MGA Council regulations required drafting.
- 09/2019 4.1.3 – The committee were reminded to work on their top 3 priorities for each area, coming from the action list prepared at the Retreat.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Robyn's report was noted.

3.2 Office-bearer reports

Egor Skaletckii, Coursework Education Officer

Egor presented the results of his recent survey of Faculty of Education students undertaking a masters by coursework. Fifteen students had participated in the survey, with the main outcome showing that a majority of students were unhappy with the low contact hours for their units. Egor would pass his results along to the MGA Research Advocate to consider when designing the 2020 coursework survey.

Egor also presented a proposal for an MGAEC alumni network. While the idea was positively received by the committee, it was decided that a full brief of the proposal would be required to understand the full scope and administration of such a group before it could be launched. Egor and Roy agreed to form a subcommittee to work on the idea with the assistance of Jenny.

3.3 Staff report

3.4 Profit and loss reports September and October 2019

The profit and loss reports were noted by the committee. Members' questions were answered by Jessica. The committee was satisfied with the financial reports.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 MGA SSAF campaign

The committee were encouraged to attend the MGA's SSAF Campaign BBQ rally to be held on Tuesday 26 November at 12pm at Clayton campus. The event was open to all graduate students, and was planned as a peaceful protest of the University's decision to redirect 15% of the MGA's Clayton funding to the MSA. A new campaign Instagram story would be launched in time for the rally. Members noted that as the majority of Clayton coursework graduates were no longer on campus, the rally would attract a small number HDRs. However it was seen as a good "warm-up promotion" of the issue for the 2020 campaign.

Robyn and Jenny had scheduled meetings with a number of senior University staff to discuss the funding and SSAF survey results. It was noted that in 2020 the MGA would be undergoing negotiations with the University regarding the 2021 – 2023 funding agreement and that this would present another opportunity to discuss the matter with senior management.

4.1.2 Retreat priorities

This item was held over to allow the committee more time to consider the retreat outcomes.

4.1.3 CAPA AGM

It was noted that the MGA was sending four students to the CAPA ACM: one student representative on a University committee (Sarmi); and three MGAEC members (Robyn, Jessica and Egor). It was explained that as the MGA was a member of CAPA, the student attendees would have the right to vote on any items raised. As such, attendees were required to be formally credentialed by their parent organisation.

It was moved:

That Robyn Oxley, Jessica Lu, Egor Skaletkii and Sarmi Manuganti are authorised to vote on behalf of the MGA at the 2019 CAPA ACM.

Moved: Robyn

4.1.4 Support for CAPA nomination

Ex-MGAEC member Devendra Singh had requested that the committee support his nominations for International Students' Officer and Vice-President in the CAPA elections.

It was moved:

That MGAEC supports Devendra Singh's nomination for the CAPA positions of International Students' Officer and Vice-President for 2020.

Moved: Robyn

4.1.5 Questions to DVC (Education)

It was noted that the MGA's letter to the DVC (Education) requesting clarification on the decision-making process in the SSAF funding dispute had been sent.

4.1.6 Results of SSAF survey

Previously discussed in item 4.1.1. No further comments were made.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 2019 budget adjustments

A number of line items in the 2019 budget required more funds. The committee discussed the proposed budgetary changes.

It was moved:

That the nominated adjustments be made to the 2019 budget.

Moved: Robyn

4.2.2 Draft 2020 budget for approval

The committee discussed the proposed budget. It was requested that MGA events in 2020 provided better non-alcoholic drink options, equivalent to the variety of alcohol available to students.

It was moved:

That the draft 2020 budget be approved.

Moved: Robyn

4.2.3 MGAEC advisory groups

While several office-bearers had received a good response to the call for graduate students to form advisory groups to support the office-bearers, Cammi noted that she had not received any interest in either the Indigenous or Disability advisory groups. It was agreed that another call for student interest would go out in the MGA Newsletter and social media channels in early 2020.

5. Membership

It was noted that both Ash and Egor complete their courses this semester so December would be their last meeting. Due to the vacancies arising, a call for cooption for the two vacant MGAEC positions would go out in January 2020. The two cooptions would give the committee the opportunity to encourage graduate students who would be interested in taking up the Disability Officer role.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 16 December at 12pm followed by the MGAEC end-of-year lunch.

The meeting was closed at 4:22pm.