



## NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Newcastle University Postgraduate Students' Association (NUPSA) Annual General Meeting held on Thursday April 28, 2016 at 1.00 pm at The Glasshouse; The University of Newcastle.

### MINUTES

**The Vice President (James Pinkerton) attended to items 1 and 2, then chairperson (Andrew Deane)**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Welcome extended to Members

Sharlene Leroy-Dyer was called upon to give an Acknowledgement of Country

Attendance as per attendance sheets – 42 members

Apologies as per apology sheets – 4 members

#### **2. Election of Chairperson**

James Pinkerton: The NUPSA Constitution requires that the President of the Association be chairperson of Annual General Meeting, I therefore call upon the 2016 NUPSA President, Andrew Deane to chair the meeting.

Andrew Deane - I would like to also welcome you to the 2016 NUPSA AGM I am glad you could come along and join us for the meeting today. I would like to remind you that this is a formal meeting and minutes of discussion will be made as well as responses to motions etc. Because of that I ask if you are moving an item or seconding that item to raise your hand and when acknowledged by the floor give your full name and spell it for the record.

I would also like to say a thank you to Julie our Executive officer and to Hugh Milligan who organises all our projects. They answer all your emails and organise stuff for you.

#### **3. Adoption of Agenda [page 2]**

Motion 1 – that the agenda, as given, be adopted

Moved – Dianne Rayson

2<sup>nd</sup> – Sharlene Leroy-Dyer

Adopted and carried.

#### **4. Receipt and acceptance of 2015 AGM Minutes [page 3]**

The Members were referred to the 2015 AGM Minutes and were asked if there are any amendments or corrections

Andi - If there are no amendments or corrections, could I ask for someone to move acceptance of the 2015 AGM minutes?"

Motion 2 – "That the minutes for the 2015 AGM be accepted."

Moved – James Pinkerton

2<sup>nd</sup> – Esmaeel Bayet

Accepted and carried

## **5. NUPSA Report for 2015 [booklet]**

The Members were referred to the 2015 NUPSA Report and are asked if there were any questions

No questions

Andi- If there are no questions, could I ask for someone to move acceptance of the 2015 NUPSA Report

Motion 3 – That the Report be moved

Moved –James Pinkerton

2<sup>nd</sup> – Esmaeel Bayet

Accepted and carried

## **6. Acceptance of Statement of Financial Accounts for period ended December 31 2015 [page 8]**

The Members were referred to the Financial Accounts for period ended December 31 2015 and are asked if there are any questions.

Andi noted that on page 10 the figures indicated that NUPSA had made a profit of \$51,000. This amount was rolled over and occurred as the Project officer was not employed in 2015. This roll over was approved by the University.

Andi - If there are no questions, could I ask for someone to move acceptance of the Financial Accounts for period ended December 31 2015

No questions

Motion 4 – That the financial accounts for the period ended December 31 2015 are accepted

Moved – Barrie Shannon

2<sup>nd</sup> – Sharlene Leroy-Dyer

Accepted and carried

## **7. Appointment of Auditor**

Forsyths, now PKF Lawler, has been the NUPSA auditor since inception.

They are familiar with NUPSA history, University procedures, and requirements for indemnity of Executive committee members. Last year there was some concerns raise by the Executive about things missed by the Auditors – this has been resolved. The level of professionalism shown and their willingness to answer questions has given NUPSA the confidence to recommend them again.

The members were asked if there were any objections regarding the proposal and if they agreed to the proposal.

Andi - Could I ask someone to move that PKF Lawler Audit & Assurance be appointed NUPSA auditors for the year ended December 31 2016 if there are no objections?

No objections

Motion 5 – That PKF Lawler Audit & Assurance be appointed NUPSA auditors for the year ended December 31 2016

Moved – Barrie Shannon

2<sup>nd</sup> – Marina Ilicic

Approved and carried

Andi further noted that copies of the Executive Meeting minutes could be found on the NUPSA website.

## **8. Other Business**

### **8.1. Introduction of the 2016 NUPSA Executive**

Andi Deane took the opportunity to introduce the 2016 NUPSA Executive. He also asked each of them in attendance to come up and introduce themselves to the members:

President

Andi Deane

Vice President

James Pinkerton

<i>Research Representative</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Coursework Representative	Georgia Nichols (not in attendance)
International Representative	Albina Kartavtseva (not in attendance)
Equity Representative	Marina Ilicic
GLBTI Representative	Barrie Shannon
<i>Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Representative</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Satellite Representative</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

Each Executive member in attendance was invited to speak briefly about themselves, their portfolio and their plans.

James Pinkerton – Vice President

- I am the Vice President
- I act as Chair /head if anything happens to Andi
- I have helped out a O-Week events
- I have attended many meetings – such as with the DVC A& R (Academic and Research & Innovation)
- In the future I see us as a good organisation
- We work with the University
- We are an Independent Voice

Barrie Shannon – GLBTI Representative

- I am the GLBTI Rep
- I take care of issue with students that identify as Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender and Intersex
- I work with the health and welfare unit at the University
- I have been working on Gender Affirmation for transgender students to allow them to use their preferred name. Currently they are referred to by their previous name
- I am looking at establishing more gender neutral spaces
- I am working to establish the ALLY network
- I am also the Treasurer and I have nothing to report on this.

Marina Ilicic –Equity Representative

- My role as equity means I am here to help anyone with a disability or women or International Students.
- In the Secretary role I took the minutes last month because Julie was away.
- I have been attending the Expos
- I worked on Sexual Health Awareness Week
- I am always available to help.

As no other Executive Members were in attendance there were no further introductions

## **8.2. Guest Speaker Associate Professor / Dean of Students Jenny Allan**

Andi – We had a guest speaker, the Dean of Students Jenny Allan lined up to come and speak with you and talk to you about her role. Unfortunately she has not yet turned up. I will take this opportunity to tell you a bit about Jenny and what she does.

- Jenny has been working on Advocacy and has developed the Office of Student Advocacy
- She has also been working with NUSA and NUPSA to help us with our governance
- She has helped students with issues regarding candidature
- She will tell you the truth

## **8.3. General Questions**

Di Rayson- Why is there a difference in the audit fees from 2014 to 2015? They have doubled in 2015.

Andi – I have spoken with the Auditors and this is in part because of the NUPSA books – they require extra work but we have now employed a bookkeeper to help with that.

Julie – This is also as we became Incorporated and as such additional auditing processes needed to occur.

Sharlene Leroy-Dyer – Are we required to be audited? If a company earns under \$250,000 they do not need to be audited by law.

Andi – we are close to that figure so we do still get externally audited

Hasintha Wijesekarra – There is a problem with Accommodation, with International Students finding accommodation. The accommodation is so expensive and we do not know about this until we get here.

Can NUPSA do something that we can get the onsite accommodation at a reasonable price. Can you take any opportunity to talk to the University about this?

Thank you

Andi – NUPSA has regular meetings with Student living. We have spoken to them in the past and arranged emergency accommodation for students. Sorry we can't make them change the price but we will keep talking.

There were no further questions from the floor.

Andi Deane then thanked the members for attending and wished them all the best

#### **9. Close of meeting: 1.20pm**

There was general mingling of students and Executive members after the meeting.

A light lunch was provided for students before the meeting.