

NUPSA Executive Meeting Minutes – September 2017

A meeting (2017/09) of the Newcastle University Postgraduate Students’ Association Executive, will be held at 10am on Friday 6 October in HA 158.

Distribution list:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ James Pinkerton (President) ▪ Albina Gayoso (Vice President) ▪ Ashleigh McIntyre (Research Representative) ▪ Anish Saini (International Representative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barrie Shannon (GLBTI Representative) ▪ Faria Quoreshi (Coursework Representative) ▪ Pam Connell (Equity Representative) ▪ Samarth Ullal (Satellite Representative)
Minute Taker:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ellie Clay (SRSO) 	

Meeting opens: 10.06am

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal people and pay my respects to the elders both past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.

I would like to acknowledge the loss of lands, cultures and treasures, acknowledge the consequences of this loss for the people, communities and nations.

We meet today, believing we can walk together to a better future.

1.2. APOLOGIES

Coursework Rep, Satellite Rep, Vice President

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS NUPSA MEETING

Motion to accept minutes for previous meeting, held on 25 August 2017

Moved: Equity Rep; Seconded: Research Rep; Passed; International Rep abstained

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
Motion to dispose of records prior to 2010	SRSO; passed by Pres, VP and Intl. Rep	Ongoing; SRSO to complete before end of the year.
New NUPSA office / post grad space	President/Intl. Rep/PO	Ongoing; awaiting feedback from UON in November.
Policy Working Group	All	Ongoing;
New student FAQs/guidebook	SRSO/PO	Ongoing; SRSO will distribute to Exec to review
Peer review workshop	SRSO/President/Research Rep.	Ongoing; waiting for meeting with DVCR, something GR could possibly take on
HMRI parking fee increase	President	Ongoing; awaiting feedback once parking fees change in August, no feedback as yet

ALLY training	GLBTI Rep, Research Rep, Equity Rep, SRSO	Done
Student Electoral Processes at UON	President	Ongoing; met with UON Secretariat & VC
NUPSA Role descriptions	President/SRSO	Done
NUPSA response and action for UON bars after-hours costs	President	Ongoing; waiting for response from DVCA
batyr partnership	SRSO/President	Ongoing; waiting for response from batyr; GLBTI Rep notes HPWG compared batyr to Student Minds
NUPSA position of supervisor load	President	Ongoing; discussed with DOS & DVCR
Edits to Constitution and Regulations	SRSO/President	Ongoing; President, GLBTI Rep & worked on initial draft; SRSO to check status of Regulations
YTD SSAF Report	SRSO/President	Done; Review of entities commissioned by DVC-A
2018 SSAF Delivery Plan	SRSO/President	Done
CAPA ACM	SRSO	Ongoing; travel and accommodation booked
ANZZSA/ISANA Conference	SRSO	Ongoing; travel and accommodation booked
Flying minute to approve MYOB Training for SRSO	Senior Exec	Ongoing; SRSO to complete training available on 24 Oct
Flying minute to accept new Drug and Alcohol policy	Senior Exec	Done
Flying minute to accept Big Ideas Club affiliation	Senior Exec	Done
Flying minute to accept Research Roundup club funding request	Senior Exec	Done
Flying minute to accept Balance Sheet for August	Senior Exec	Done

4. STUDENT ENQUIRIES LIST

4.1. Student Enquiries Report as of 29 Sept 2017.

5. REPORTS

5.1. President – no questions

5.2. Vice-President – Equity Rep asks about CISA references, President responds this was related to DVCI meeting and discussion of all-male CISA Exec; International Rep asks about report structure i.e. meeting notes in action items, **VP to re-submit with amendment.**

5.3. Coursework – no questions

5.4. Equity – no questions

5.5. GLBTI – no questions

5.6. International – International Rep notes two meetings are missing, **International Rep to re-submit with amendment.**

5.7. Research – Research Rep notes they need to add meetings and dates, **Research Rep to re-submit with amendment.**

5.8. Satellite – no questions

5.9. Project Officer – no questions

5.10. SR Support Officer – no questions

*Motion to conditionally approve reports for September, following amendments
Moved: International Rep; Seconded: Research Rep; Passed unanimously*

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 6.1.1. Balance Sheet as of 30/09/2017
- 6.1.2. Balance Sheet as of 31/08/2017 (passed by Senior Exec)
- 6.1.3. Profit and Loss August 2017
- 6.1.4. Profit and Loss for September 2017

*Motion to approve Profit and Loss August 2017
Moved: International Rep; Seconded: President; Passed unanimously*

September reports to be reviewed at next meeting.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1. Exec handover, yearly goals/achievements report

President asks Exec members to reflect on their yearly goals and the year's achievements; talk about your role, some of the key meetings, highlights of the year, evaluate progress, and what you would like to see continue in 2018.

SRSO to send yearly goal examples to Equity Rep; All Exec members to prepare to prepare reflection statements and handover documents by election results announcement on 16 November.

7.2. 2018 Executive nominations

NUPSA elections for 2018 now open, President will not be running (time to get a job!). Nomination forms are now available, to be seconded by two postgraduate students and submitted by 19 Oct. President asks current Exec thinking of running again to keep in mind that Exec positions are about student representation, rather than personal gain; personal statements should focus on how you can contribute to, and improve, the student experience.

Also, congrats to Research Rep who is the new Academic Senate Rep!

7.3. Students of UON Disability and Access Symposium , funding for catering

Mental health-themed conference event, a collaboration between NUSA, NUPSA and Health Promotions. Organisers have requested \$400 (of \$600) from NUPSA to contribute to catering. President notes concerns that there was no competitive tendering; also unsure of expected attendees and how many of these will be postgraduate students; assuming that one-quarter of attendees are postgraduates, costs would be closer to \$200-\$250. Research and Equity Reps echo concerns about level of postgraduate student attendance. Research Rep also notes concerns about organisation of event and expected outcomes. GLBTI Rep notes \$400 is possibly an inappropriate use of SSAF for NUPSA. President notes the event concept is sound, but executive is lacking; NUPSA can provide some funding in support of the event, with some constructive feedback to organisers to help develop future events.

*Motion to fund event at \$200, outlining rationale for amount
Moved: President; Seconded: Equity Rep; Passed unanimously*

7.4. Sydney visa/immigration workshop

The visa/immigration workshop run at Callaghan was hugely successful and very well attended; plans to run a comparable event in Sydney. The Callaghan version was conducted by Northern Settlement Services free of charge, which was much appreciated. An equivalent agency in Sydney has quoted \$1800 for a similar workshop plus free initial consultations for students. Currently only \$500 of the Sydney-specific budget has been spent;

even bearing the cost of the workshop, there is still scope to run a second end-of-exams party, plus wiggle room to dip into the Category 19 overseas student budget. Also noted that nearly all Sydney students are postgraduates.

*Motion to approve \$1800 of funding for Sydney visa/immigration workshop
Moved: President; Seconded: Research Rep; Passed unanimously*

7.5. Cuts to HASS

A student has reached out to NUPSA to ask what the Association's position is on the planned cuts to HASS. GLBTI Rep attended the HASS briefing, where the PVC was in attendance; they were told the changes are due to funds not being disbursed efficiently and are being made to better facilitate connections to industry; the School's offerings will be geared towards careers, rather than academia/research. Research Rep talked to staff members of the School of Philosophy, who were not consulted until final decision; it was suggested to one of the teaching staff to reach out to student associations and gather quantitative responses from students; NUPSA could help promote and facilitate. GLBTI Rep notes that at the HASS meeting they were told students and casual academics were not required to be consulted. Research Rep notes concerns about the potential drop in quality of UON degrees and the firing of staff (4 out of 5 staff are planned to be cut). GLBTI Rep notes there seems to be a shift away from learning and knowledge for the sake of it, to a neo-liberal view that knowledge is only worth something if it can be monetised. President notes Exec members within HASS can lead feedback from students, as we need more information from the source. GLBTI Rep will forward meeting emails. President notes concerns about lack of consultation and the potential flow-on effects to HASS students; there may be a lack of opportunity to get involved in teaching, reducing supervisory capacity. Equity Rep notes changes were made over the heads of even the School's senior staff. President proposes working group to compose letter of response to appropriate heads outlining major concerns.

SRSO to set up meeting on Monday before 2pm, and report back to the original student enquirer.

7.6. CAPA Awards

International Rep notes NUPSA have the opportunity to nominate for CAPA awards in four categories: Education Initiative of the Year; Welfare Initiative of the Year; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Initiative of the Year; and CAPA Citizen of the Year.

NUPSA could put in a bid for Education or Welfare initiative.

Exec to brainstorm list of initiative examples and see which category suits best; submit nomination by Friday 3 November.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS LIST

8.1. Determine which Executive members will attend meetings and events in October 2017

9. NEXT MEETING

Proposed: 10am-12pm, Fri 27 Oct.

10. MEETING CLOSED

Closed: 11.27am