

## NUPSA Executive Meeting Minutes – October 2017

A meeting (2017/10) of the Newcastle University Postgraduate Students' Association Executive, will be held at 10am on Friday 27 October in CH 204.

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

**Meeting opens:** 10.03am

### 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

### 2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS NUPSA MEETING

*Motion to accept minutes for previous meeting, held on 6 October 2017*

*Moved: Vice President; Seconded: GLBTI Rep; Passed unanimously*

### 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; President has reviewed, looking to also provide a Sydney specific version
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
Student Electoral Processes at UON	President	Ongoing; met with UON Secretariat & VC
NUPSA response and action for UON bars after-hours costs	President	Ongoing; waiting for response from DVCA
batyr partnership	SRSO/President	Ongoing; one-off workshop quoted at ~\$3000, NUPSA's recommendation is that UON develop a full-time partnership with batyr by employing a support person.
NUPSA position of supervisor load	President	Ongoing; discussed with DOS & DVCR
Edits to Constitution and Regulations	SRSO/President	Ongoing; draft submitted to Director of Regional Campuses
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	Done
Exec handover, yearly goals report	All Exec	Ongoing; <b>Exec to submit by November meeting; SRSO to send originals to Exec</b>
SUNDAS Symposium	PO/President	Done
CAPA Awards	All Exec	Done; submitted nomination for Queer Research Evening as Welfare Initiative
2018 Nominations	SRSO/President	Done; 7 out of 9 positions filled unopposed
Cuts to HASS	President/Research Rep/GLBTI Rep	Done; letter submitted to Head of HASS
Flying minute to approve amended September Exec reports	Senior Exec	Done

#### 4. STUDENT ENQUIRIES LIST

##### 4.1. Student Enquiries Report as of 23/10/2017

#### 5. REPORTS

- 5.1. President – no questions
- 5.2. Vice-President – no questions
- 5.3. Coursework – no questions
- 5.4. Equity – no questions
- 5.5. GLBTI – no questions
- 5.6. International – no questions
- 5.7. Research – no questions
- 5.8. Satellite – no questions
- 5.9. Project Officer – no questions
- 5.10. SR Support Officer – no questions

*Motion to accept reports*

*Moved: Vice President; Seconded: Research Rep; Passed unanimously*

## **6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **6.1.1. Balance Sheet as of 30/09/2017**

Equity Rep asks about the negative value on the Visa Debit Card and Sundry Debtors item.

**President and SRSO to talk to bank about cancelling and removing card; SRSO to check Sundry Debtor item with bookkeeper**

### **6.1.2. Profit and Loss for September**

*Motion to approve financial statements for September*

*Moved: Equity Rep; Seconded: International Rep; Passed unanimously*

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1. Cuts to HASS**

Equity Rep attended meeting hosted by FEDUA's PVC and HASS Head of School; HASS staff were in attendance, as well as representatives from HR. Knowledge of the meeting came about via the FEDUA Undergrad Faculty Board Rep who has been in contact with Head of School; there otherwise would have been no student representation. The reasons given for cuts to HASS were related to a reported five year decline and 1/3 drop in enrolments, resulting in declining revenue. HASS are looking at the redelivery of programs; other universities have also dropped courses in similar areas, and are moving towards building a stronger online presence in line with increasing student demand in this area. Transparency of consultation had involved meeting with HASS staff, where a member reported that the Head of School was recorded as saying 'it is too soon to be telling students'; which was then picked up and reported on by local media, and how the member was informed of the restructure. The Head of School denies explicitly saying 'do not tell students'; GLBTI Rep counters that they were at the original meeting and heard this first hand. Equity Rep has provided course organisational charts (**SRSO to add to meeting documents**). NUPSA has submitted letter to the Head of School outlining concerns from a postgraduate perspective; the Head of School responded stating the consultation period is over. Head of School noted as saying "only eight" HDR candidates will be directly affected (i.e. their supervisors will be let go) and alternative arrangements will be made with these students. President thanks Equity Rep for their report, and echoes concerns about supervisory changes; notes next steps could involve talking to the Dean of Students, as the knock-on impact will affect more than eight students. VC will make final decision soon, possibly 2 Nov? Equity Rep notes same process has happened before with Fine Arts, notes concerns about where this process ends, FEDUA may just be the beginning. GLBTI notes concerns about monetising the arts and social sciences and the University's shift to a neo-liberal focus by preferencing industry over knowledge.

**Exec Members who are also HASS/FEDUA students to attend the meeting/forum on 31 Oct.**

### **7.2. FSCIT Funding freeze**

International Rep and Psychology students got in touch with NUPSA; students were told there would be no opportunity to apply for a second round of funding, fuelling concerns that reimbursements would not be made. After these concerns were raised, NUPSA received communication from FSCIT that there would be a temporary pause on the funding freeze for all students except those in the School of Psychology. President reached out to the Head of School for more information; waiting for a response. The issue has also been raised with the Academic Senate.

**President to report back.**

### **7.3. UON Sydney equity of access**

The issue of equity of access for Sydney students is related to the visa/immigration workshop which was planned to take place on 20 October. SRSO had worked with UON Global team in Sydney, and the campus

Operations Manager, no concerns were raised in the planning phase. Satellite Rep spread the word on the event closer to the date, again no concerns were raised at this time. The day before the event, the Dean of Sydney Campus left a voicemail left with the office, stating that UON couldn't be seen to be providing visa advice to students and the event must be cancelled. The Operations Manager also contacted the President on a personal number early in the morning and feels this was a breach of privacy. NUPSA's MOU with the University, and SSAF Category 18 (Providing advice to international students), outline NUPSA's remit to offer services of this nature; the same event held at Callaghan was one of NUPSA's most popular workshops. President raises concerns that Sydney students do not have same level of access to space and events, and that they are not getting the same experience as other postgrads. President proposes writing letter to VC raising concerns. Equity Rep notes Satellite Rep position could meet regularly with the Sydney Dean to develop a relationship between senior staff and students; SRSO can provide a workshop schedule/proposal for the Satellite Rep to take to the meeting, as well as provide more information about who NUPSA is and what we do; can also include data from the postgrad feedback survey.

**President to draft letter to the VC; SRSO to organise a meeting for the Dean and Satellite Rep, and provide supporting documents/plans.**

#### **7.4. Online recordings for faculty-run events**

Equity Rep has raised the issue about equity of access regarding extra-curricular faculty-run events that only take place in person. When asked about whether they could be recorded for an online version, FEDUA's response was that the presenters must give consent to be recorded (with the implication that they are currently refusing). Off-campus students therefore have limited access, which is not equitable. Equity Rep asks the other Executive Members what happens within their Schools. International Rep notes there are no off-campus FSCIT students, due to lab requirements. President notes FHEAM also doesn't have much online activity. Vice President notes FBL has moved to blended learning, students should have access to full online content, blogs recordings etc. Research Rep notes the disparity between the University saying that want to move further into the online space, but don't provide the avenues; will follow up with HASS students. President can also raise with DVCA.

**President to add to DVCA agenda; SRSO to add to Student Rep Meeting agenda.**

#### **7.5. Club funding request: African Postgraduate Students Association**

APSA have previously been funded for \$500 for Africa Day; they have a large membership or mostly postgrads. President believes another \$500 would be appropriate; with 50 attendees, catering works out to \$10 a head. International Rep argues whether going over the annual funding amount is fair to other clubs. President notes \$750 per annum is a guideline based on having 12 fully funded clubs, which has not been the case in 2017. Research Rep notes end of year spending is on track; considering the time of year and the nature of the club, \$500 is appropriate. Equity Rep also notes it is important to spend allocated funds in 2017.

*Motion to approve funding for \$500*

*Moved: President; Seconded: Research Rep; International Rep abstains; Passed.*

**SRSO to inform club.**

#### **7.6. Club affiliation request: Postgraduate Video Gaming Club**

Equity Rep asks about difference between what NUPSA's Project Officer runs, and what the club will do. President responds that the two can complement each other in a collaborative relationship. GLBTI Rep asks about hardware; once purchased, who will it belong to? President responds that any purchases will still belong to NUPSA; hypothetically, if the club dissolves, items would return to NUPSA.

*Motion to approve Postgraduate Video Gaming Club affiliation*

*Moved: President; Seconded: Equity; Abstained: GLBTI Rep, International Rep; Passed.*

**SRSO to inform club.**

## **7.7. Funding for extra HMRI yoga sessions (7 x sessions @ \$90 = \$630)**

Monday sessions are currently funded by HMRI; anything NUPSA runs at HMRI needs to be open to both staff and students. Equity Rep asks whether the request should come directly from students; there are also other yoga sessions currently available at Callaghan. Research Rep agrees if students approach NUPSA directly they could reconsider.

*Motion to decline funding request*

*Moved: President; Seconded; Vice President; Passed unanimously*

## **7.8. 2018 NUPSA Executive**

All nominees ran unopposed – congrats to the new President, Vice President and GLBTI Rep!

President notes personal congratulations to the 2018 Exec; even though they will no longer be a student next year, they will always be on hand to help and give advice.

## **7.9. Banking handover**

With an incoming Executive, NUPSA's banking access will need to be transferred to the new President.

*Motion to approve 2018 NUPSA President Elect, Ashleigh McIntyre, full access to NUPSA bank accounts and update as point of contact on the NUPSA credit card.*

*Moved: President; Seconded: International Rep; President Elect abstains; Passed*

*SRSO to add bank account details to minutes.*

## **7.10. FSCIT Lab Space**

International Rep notes space for students is still an issue within FSCIT.

*President to raise with DVCR.*

## **8. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS LIST**

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

*SRSO to clarify PHWG date; look into subsidised student tickets for Newcastle 500 Super Cars; look at quotes for Annual Dinner photographer/check with UON Volunteers.*

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

Proposed: 10am-12pm, Fri 24 Nov

## **10. MEETING CLOSED**

Closed: 11.28am