



2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes

12pm, Friday 5 May, 2017

Lecture Theatre HB 13, Callaghan Campus

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- 1.1. James Pinkerton extends welcome to members
- 1.2. Acknowledgement of Country

James Pinkerton calls upon any members who wish to give a Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country. No members elect to do so.

James Pinkerton: 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.

1.3. APOLOGIES

Member, Kathryn Jeanes
Member, Soheil Tahmasbi
Member, Kerry Plunkett
Attendance as per sign in sheets: 56

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

- 2.1. Albina Gayoso: The NUPSA Constitution requires that the President of the Association be chairperson of Annual General Meeting, I therefore call upon the 2017 NUPSA President, James Pinkerton, to chair the meeting.

Motion to call upon the 2017 NUPSA President, James Pinkerton, to chair the meeting.

Moved: Albina Gayoso; Seconded: Barrie Shannon; Adopted and Carried

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion that the agenda, as given, be adopted.

Moved: James Pinkerton; Seconded: Barrie Shannon; Adopted and Carried

4. RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2016 AGM MINUTES

The members were referred to 2016 AGM Minutes and asked if there were any questions or amendments. No questions.

Motion that the 2016 AGM Minutes be accepted.

Moved: James Pinkerton; Seconded: Anish Saini; Adopted and Carried

5. 2017 AGM REPORT

The members were referred to 2017 AGM Report.

James Pinkerton summarises 2017 AGM report and runs through introductory presentation on NUPSA and its activities.

Members are asked if there are any questions or amendments. No questions.

Motion that the 2017 AGM Report be accepted.

Moved: James Pinkerton; Seconded: Albina Gayoso; Adopted and Carried

6. ACCEPTANCE OF STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016

The members were referred to the Financial Accounts for Period Ending 31 December.

James Pinkerton explains process and period of audit for the 2016 full year. Comparative 2015 financials are also included.

Members are asked if there are any questions.

Susan Grimes asks about audit fees listed on page 9, and why they don't match the 2016 line item. James Pinkerton explains the page 9 amount refers to the 2017 audit fee, listed as a comparison to the quotes received for 2018 audit fees. This is to be discussed in the next agenda item.

Susan Grimes also asks about 2016 Annual Dinner payments and where the ticket fee appears on the Profit and Loss report.

James Pinkerton explains fees received are accounted for as SSAF not AD line item; NUPSA will be checking with auditors to ensure correct reporting as majority of 2016 ticket fees are only being received recently.

Susan Grimes asks whether members should accept financial reports given Annual Dinner income is missing.

Muhammad Khal asks how much income was generated from Annual Dinner ticket sales.

James Pinkerton explains UON faculties bought tickets at \$750 a table which, minus SSAF funding subsidies, generated around \$6000 for NUPSA. James Pinkerton also notes these financial reports need not be final, and NUPSA can go back to auditors for adjustments.

Andrew Deane notes auditors, PFK, have been slow to respond and we can hold a SGM meeting to approve final reports.

Muhammad Khal asks when dinners was. James Pinkerton answers the Annual Dinner is a social function held at the end of the year in December. Faculties have been invoiced, and NUPSA are still waiting for some payments.

Ali Papzan asks about salaries and wages, and what these relate to.

Andrew Deane says they relate to staff members.

Ali Papzan asks how the salaries increase.

James Pinkerton explains NUPSA is guided by award rates and the Executive meet to vote to match the UON/Higher Ed standards.

Ali Papzan asks where funds come from for salaries and wages.

James Pinkerton responds salaries and wages come from SSAF funding.

Ali Papzan asks about the difference in superannuation from 2015 to 2016.

James Pinkerton explains super was original set at the 9.5% minimum industry standard. The NUPSA Executive decided to match the UON rate of 17% to remain competitive when recruiting. The difference also pertains to honoraria, applied in line with Australian laws.

Ali Papzan asks about NUPSA staff and how they are recruited and selected.

James Pinkerton explains they are external to UON staff.

Andrew Deane explains the staff positions are full time (for the sake of consistency); most postgraduate students are unable to take on this kind of time commitment.

James Pinkerton notes NUPSA is always looking at making casual positions available for current students.

No further questions.

Motion to give PKF auditors a month to respond to changes and hold an AGM to accept the 2016 financial reports.

Moved: James Pinkerton; Seconded: Albina Gayoso; Adopted and Carried

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2018

James Pinkerton notes PKF have been used for many years which is not necessarily good business practice. The NUPSA Executive have reviewed quotes from three alternative service providers and are favouring local business, WSC Group, who have quoted the 2018 audit at \$3000-\$4500.

Motion to accept the Executive recommendation and adopt WSC as auditors in 2018

Moved: James Pinkerton; Seconded: Anish Saini; Adopted and Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1. 2017 NUPSA Executive Roles and Responsibilities

James Pinkerton asks Executive members to introduce themselves and explain their roles at NUPSA.

Vice President, Albina Gayoso: Studying a PHD in politics in PR on how Presidents influence the public. Has been involved as member and on the Executive in past years as the International Representative (from Russia); has had great experiences with NUPSA through workshops and events, which really helped as a new incoming student. The Vice President role gives support to President and ensures Executive members deliver their portfolios. If members have any questions don't hesitate to ask.

Research Representative, Ash McIntyre: Currently doing a PHD in English Lit, looking at trauma theory and violence in climate change in contemporary American fiction. Represents and supports research students, attends meetings with Graduate Research and the DVCR, puts concerns and issues to high level UON staff; attends the Safety and Security Committee meetings and the Psychological Health Working Group to ensure postgraduate voices are being heard. Runs Shut Up and Write sessions every Monday as well as the monthly postgrad inductions. Members are welcome to get in contact with questions about research.

Coursework Representative, Faria Quoreshi: Absent. James Pinkerton notes she is a Bangladeshi student doing Masters Coursework in Law; the role advocates for Coursework students and will meet with the new DVCA and other working groups relating to Coursework.

GLBTI Representative, Barrie Shannon: Doing a PHD in sociology and anthropology with regards to gender binaries in the school curriculum. Provides peer support for GLBTI identifying students with studies and work, but also in their family and personal lives; aims to be a source of information and support. Also works with NUSA Queer Collective to promote a sense of community support and making sure postgraduate students are welcome in NUSA Queer Space. Concerned with equity and diversity at UON, spoke at a recent gender diversity forum in UON teaching practices; future plans to ensure Pride Week is a success, planning a repeat of the 2016 queer research evening. Happy to take on any student issues and be a friend on campus.

Equity Representative, Pam Connell: Represents any/all equity groups. Extends thanks to members for attending and notes the importance of student engagement. Introduces granddaughter, Annabel. Has a long history with UON having studied a Bachelor of Commerce here; worked an accountant then moved into education and worked as teacher. Currently doing

a doctorate on entrepreneurship in education; has experience internationally, including education reforms in Rwanda. Equity is about fairness, representing and advocating for postgraduate students to ensure UON and other bodies are making decisions that are equitable and fair. Role is to direct students to the correct place or person, or just provide an ear to listen. Notes it is an honour to be involved in the NUPSA Executive; also sits on the Faculty Board for FEDUA as the postgraduate representative, and is involved with the Centre for 21st Century Humanities.

International Representative, Anish Saini: From India, is the 2017 NUPSA Treasurer, the postgraduate representative on the FSCIT Faculty Board, and also sits on the SSAF Consultative Committee. Asks members how many of them have done SSAF survey; requests members to do this as the results relates to how SSAF is distributed across the university. Also the Eastern Branch President of CAPA, the peak body for all postgraduate student associations. Has been working on increasing engagement between domestic and international students, and is glad to see so many international student attending AGM. Notes the major event involved in this year was Harmony Day in March. If an international students have issues you can email and drop by.

8.2. Student Issues

8.2.1. Postgraduate student accommodation (Referred to UON accommodation services)

8.2.2. Cleaning and maintenance in ES building (Request logged with IFS, now complete)

8.2.3. Parking fees at HMRI (Ongoing)

8.2.4. Sydney library opening hours (Ongoing)

8.2.5. Online student engagement (New software launched, further workshops planned throughout the year)

8.2.6. Workshops and events at Ourimbah (Plans for further engagement in semester break)

8.2.7. Identifying student representatives in schools and faculties

All logged issues have been addressed or are ongoing.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

1.12pm

GUEST SPEAKER: DEAN OF STUDENTS, JENNY ALLEN