

MINUTES and ACTION ITEMS – OCTOBER 2016 NUPSA EXECUTIVE MEETING

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| President & Chair: | Andrew Deane | Meeting Date: | October 31, 2016 |
| Meeting Attendees: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Deane (President) James Pinkerton (Vice President) Marina Ilicic (Equity Representative) Barrie Shannon (GLBTI Representative) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anish Saini (International Representative) Ashleigh McIntyre (Research Representative) Faria Quoreshi (Coursework Representative) | |
| Apologies from: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason Woods (Senate Ex-Officio) | | |
| Absent: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Haynes (Satellite Representative) | | |
| Minutes taken by: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hugh Milligan (Project Officer) | | |
| Next Meeting Date: | November 28, 2016 | | |
| Agenda Items By: | November 21, 2016 | | |

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1. Acknowledgment 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 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.

However, we must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

1.2. Apologies

Jason Woods (Senate Ex-Officio)

1.3. Absences

Jennifer Haynes (Satellite Representative)

1.4. Resignations

Nil

1.5. Elections

Faria Quoreshi (Coursework Representative)

2. Confirmation of the Minutes

Motion - That Minutes for September be accepted with the following edits:

- ANZSSA – incorrect acronym was used (check correct acronym)

Moved – President

2nd – Equity Representative

Accepted and approved with edits

3. Business Arising from the Minutes (Action Items)

4. Enquiries summary

The President described a number of unusual enquiries from students we've received. He specifically mentioned a student who came to our office on Friday (28/10/16) in tears; helping these students, he said, is exactly what we're here for.

5. Reports

5.1. President Report

The Equity Representative inquired about OGS; she expressed concern at our relationship with them, and at the fact they appear to be treating us with hostility. The President explained that they are going through a significant transition, and are currently overworked and understaffed. With time, he said, their stability – and, hopefully, our professional relationship with them – should improve. The President described the Dead of Graduate Research's formal response to his most recent newsletter article, regarding the exploitation of postgraduate

5.2. Vice President Report

No questions

5.3. Research Report

No questions

5.4. Coursework Report

Position just filled

5.5. International Report

No questions

5.6. Equity Report

No questions

5.7. GLBTI Report

No questions. The President congratulated the GLBTI Rep on their facilitation of Pride Week.

5.8. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Representative

Vacant

5.9. Satellite Report

No report

5.10. Project Officer Report

No questions

5.11. Senate Report

No report

The Vice President joined the meeting via phone.

Motion – to accept reports.

Moved – President

2nd – Equity Representative

Abstained – Vice President (not present during the early part of the discussion)

6. Financial Statements

The President clarified an apparently large expense on conferences – these are payments of our CAPA fees for another year.

Motion – That financial statement for this month be deferred to next month.

Moved – President

2nd – International Representative

Accepted and approved

7. General Business

7.1 Tax Problems

When the Executive Officer left, she took with her all knowledge of NUPSA's taxation details (tax file number). The President explained that this number takes anywhere up to sixteen working weeks to retrieve, during which we are unable to pay our taxes. As such, we will incur a fine of \$100.

7.2 NUPSA Annual Dinner

7.2.1 Nominations

No one has yet been nominated for TOYA or OTOYA; it was suggested that the new Coursework Rep could speak to other Coursework students and encourage them to nominate. The GLBTI Rep has another engagement on the night of the dinner and cannot attend; his ticket will be made available for sale. The President outlined the role of Executive members in conducting the event.

7.2.2 Menu Choices

Entrees: Roast Pumpkin & Goats Chees Tart, Ceviche of Yellow Fin Tuna
Mains: Roast Breast of Cornfed Chicken, Char Grilled Grass Fed Eye Fillet
Dessert: Vanilla Crème Brulée, Sticky Date Pudding

7.3 NUPSA Job Description

The Equity Representative urged the inclusion of computer/software knowledge as a requirement – Microsoft Office and Outlook, for example. The Project Officer suggested including InDesign knowledge as an optional skill.

Action Item: adjust job description to include these criteria.

The President explained that he'd like to get the job advertised quickly, with a closing period of two weeks, on Ethical Jobs and potentially SEEK.

7.4 SSAF funding application update

Director of Regional Campuses will potentially cut our SSAF funding by as much as 50% next year, and change the way the money is accessed; there will, for example, potentially be a pool of workshop funding that must be negotiated and shared between several groups at the University.

7.5 ANZSSA and ISANA Conferences

The Vice President was unsure of whether he'd have the availability to attend the ISANA

and ANZSSA conferences. The President suggested that the International Representative have first priority, and that it would be quite beneficial for the Project Officer to attend; he himself would like to attend also.

NUPSA is paid to send two students to the conferences. The Executive agreed to send the International Rep and Project Officer, and deferred their decision regarding the President and Vice President until the end of the week.

7.6 CAPA affiliation fees and conference

This year, CAPA has been noticeably less engaged with us than they have been previously. The President sent them an email, in fact, threatening to propose a motion to disaffiliate NUPSA from CAPA unless they responded to his earlier requests for information. They failed to do so.

Action Item: Send an email to CAPA expressing our anger and disappointment that they haven't been bothered to respond to any of our enquiries or requests, or to supply us with information on their activities.

The President is considering running for CAPA's Presidency next year. He described the upcoming CAPA AGM to the Executive; it is important, he explained, that the Executive attend, and perhaps that one of its members run for a position on the CAPA Executive.

7.7 Communications from Working parties

The President related comments he has received about NUPSA's non-attendance at some recent working group meetings. NUPSA was also left out of this year's Stress Less festivities. Meeting attendance is something NUPSA should monitor more carefully moving forward, the Executive noted.

7.8 Work rights campaign

Since the President's article on post-doc exploitation was published in the most recent newsletter, no students have come forward, but the Dean of Graduate Research has made a formal statement on the matter. The President explained that this campaign is one that NUPSA will continue to advance into 2017.

7.9 Watt review outcome

The President explained the nature and purpose of the Watt Review to the Executive. He outlined the suggestions from students that the review considered, and its subsequent suggestions to the government. The review proposed a Research Training Program, determined that International Students do have the right to study part-time; new legislation, therefore, should soon take effect. International Students will also be able to have their scholarships extended from three to four years, and should receive greater funding than they have previously.

Current student scholarships are approximately \$26,000 – more than a thousand dollars below the poverty line. This should form the foundation of NUPSA's campaign in 2017.

Scholarship money, under the new legislation, should be standardized, and be able to cover a wider range of expenses.

The Watt Review comes into effect on January 1, having been passed two weeks ago. The University has applied for an exemption, as they are not equipped to enact all the necessary changes by that date.

7.10 Elections

The President urged all Executive members to push their colleagues to vote in the General Election.

7.11 Promotional material for O-Week

NUPSA now has a new logo; new promotional material is required for next year's orientations and stall events. The President proposed the formation of a working group to brainstorm promotional items, and proposed expanding our promotional materials budget to approximately [REDACTED]

Motion proposed to expand promotional materials budget to approximately [REDACTED]

Moved – President

2nd – Coursework Representative

Accepted and approved

7.12 World Sexual Health Day debrief

The President expressed concern with the festivities at World Sexual Health Day; the attendance was poor, several of the workshops and activities were cancelled, and the stalls seemed to be only loosely related to issues of sexual health.

He was more concerned by the fact that the Health Promotion team, quite to the contrary, considered the event a success.

7.13 Website content update

The website launch party was a success; the President was impressed with student attendance at the event. The Vice President reminded the Executive and Project Officer that NUPSA's new logo should now appear on all student-facing correspondence, such as its Facebook page. He also noted that the old website and domain are still online; the Project Officer is in talks with the web designer to have the old link redirected to the new one.

The President suggested a [REDACTED] budget for Facebook post promotion, in order to expand the impact of particularly important posts.

7.14 Upcoming meetings

The Executive discussed the list of upcoming meetings, and allocated members to attend each of them.

November 15:

10:00am - Sexual Health Program Planning – GLBTI Representative

12:30pm - Mental Health Program Planning – President

2:30pm - AOD Program Planning – Coursework Representative

7.15 Superannuation

The President passed chair of the meeting to the Vice President due to a conflict of interest.

The Vice President proposed increasing super contributions for staff salaries and honoraria to 17%, the University's current rate.

The President clarified the details of the Vice President's proposal, as it affects the payment of honoraria. Staff members at the University have made comments suggesting that NUPSA's salary structures are not competitive with the University, and that they would be hesitant to apply for a job with NUPSA as a result.

Motion proposed for NUPSA to adopt a super remuneration rate equal to the University.

Moved – President

2nd – GLBTI Representative

Accepted and approved

Motion proposed that NUPSA matches the University's super payment structure with regard to the payment of the President's honorarium in 2017.

Moved – GLBTI Representative

2nd – International Representative
Accepted and approved

7.16 Any other orders of business

The Equity Representative suggested that in our upcoming writing circles, we break students into groups based on faculty, since the required writing styles between disciplines may have significant differences. The Research Representative suggested inviting guest speakers to the group on occasion.

Motion proposed to run ten Yoga sessions at HMRI over the next two to three months.

Moved – President

2nd – Research Representative

Accepted and approved

The International Rep requested an update regarding NUPSA's campaign to have Forum costs reduced for SSAF-paying students.

Action Item: President to investigate how much Res Life get in funding.

Action Item: President to investigate Res Life's \$100 application fee for students, new or returning.

Action Item: President to investigate Res Life's \$250 per semester (\$500 per year) community levy for students.

Action Item: President to investigate changes to Resident Mentor/Academic Mentor roles to make them voluntary positions (no longer paid).

Meeting closed: 3:42 pm

Next Meeting: 28th November 2016. Report due 21st November 2016.