

## NUPSA Executive Meeting Minutes – June 2017

A meeting (2017/06) of the Newcastle University Postgraduate Students' Association Executive, will be held at 11am on Thurs 29 June in CH210.

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>▪ Ashleigh McIntyre (Research Representative)</li> </ul>	

**Meeting opens: 11.05am**

### 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

Apologies should be conveyed to Ellie Clay ext. 18894 or email [nupsa@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nupsa@newcastle.edu.au)

Apologies to date: Samarth Ullal

#### 1.3. ABSENCES

#### 1.4. RESIGNATIONS

#### 1.5. ELECTIONS

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

**Equity Rep entered meeting at 11.09am**

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

*Moved: President, Seconded: Vice President, Passed: Unanimously*

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ITEM	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	STATUS
	Request a break-down of ResLife community levy spending	SRSO, Intl. Rep	Ongoing; International Rep and SRSO met with ResLife
	Chase faculties for 2016 Annual Dinner ticket payments	SRSO	Ongoing; <b>waiting for FEBE and FEDUA POs to go through Finance</b>
	First Aid training	All	Done
	Motion to dispose of records prior to 2010	SRSO; passed by Pres, VP and Intl. Rep	Ongoing;
	New NUPSA office / post grad space	President/Intl. Rep/PO	Ongoing; proposal submitted to EAMAG/IFS End of May via PVCLT
	2016 audit	SRSO/President/Bookkeeper	Ongoing; President to

			supply management response to PKF; Bookkeeper completed journal entries
	Online forum	PO	Done
	Policy Working Group	All	Ongoing; Coursework Rep to provide edits of Newsletter Editorial Policy
	New student FAQs/guidebook	SRSO/PO	Ongoing; hopefully in by trimester 3
	Faculty/school student Representatives	SRSO	Done; second meeting set for September.
	Yourimbah discussion	All	Ongoing; Pres met with their presidents
	Peer review workshop	SRSO/President/Research Rep.	Ongoing; <b>to discuss with DVCR for appropriate facilitators</b>
	Full banking access for PO	President/PO/Treasurer	Done
	HMRI parking fee increase	President	Ongoing; proposal submitted to HMRI management; <b>currently working through considerations for Aug or Sept implementation, awaiting response</b>
	CAPA SCM (21-22 June)/Jobs After Graduation	SRSO/President and Research Rep	Done
	Green Week / environment initiatives	Research Rep	Done
	Sexual Assault Strategy for NSW with Pru Goward – 7 June	President & Equity Rep	Done; <b>President/Equity Rep. to meet with DOS to discuss findings. Emphasis on best practice.</b>
	NUPSA SGM	All	Ongoing; journal changes made, members to pass at meeting on 29 June
	ALLY training	GLBTI Rep/SRSO	Ongoing; <b>looking into, waiting for numbers</b>
	Semester 2 Orientations	All	Ongoing; <b>smaller sessions at city hub also. Please, all available contact the office</b>
	Business Cards	SRSO	Done
	Student Advisory Council email to DVC-A	President	Done; feedback given
	Flying minute to approve Purchasing Policy	Senior Exec	Done
	Flying minute to approve club funding for Research Roundup	Senior Exec	Done
	Flying minute to approve April financial Reports	Senior Exec	Done
	Office cover for July	President/SRSO	Done- Equity Rep Tuesdays, and International Rep Thursdays

## 4. STUDENT ENQUIRIES LIST

### 4.1. Student Enquiries Report as at 20 June 2017

Expecting lower concerns this month during break. LGBTQI Representative pointed out that 'Other' was listed twice. **To be remedied.**

## 5. REPORTS

- 5.1. President -change 'physical health working group' to 'psychological health working group'.
- 5.2. Vice-President -Wollotuka event did not appear on Report. President requested amendment. Equity questioned the length of Report and Vice Pres engagement.
- 5.3. Coursework -no questions
- 5.4. Equity -no questions
- 5.5. GLBTI -International Rep asked about the resigned Queer officer's involvement in Pride week organisation. LGBTQI responded he is involved for continuity, and the continuity from previously organised activities.
- 5.6. International -no questions
- 5.7. Research -CAPA Report, **International Rep amend not VPNOG, change INDIGENOUS officer to NATSIPA liaison, and it's not the INT Rep, but the South-Eastern Branch Officer.**
- 5.8. Satellite -no Report provided. Induction is still pending.
- 5.9. Project Officer -no questions
- 5.10. SR Support Officer-International Rep amended to change all names into initials.

*Motion to accept Reports for June with amendments recommended by Executive  
Moved: President; Seconded; Anish; Passed: Unanimous*

## 6. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 6.1. Balance Sheet – May

Most issues arising from the transition to MYOB, which is where journal entries are being changed. These are currently being remedied.

### 6.2. Profit and Loss

#### 6.2.1. May

#### 6.2.2. Jan-May

*Motion to accept financials*

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

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 7.1. Conduct of Executive

Raised by Vice President. VP expressed the need to follow procedure, and apologised for submitting expression of interest. VP said no lines were crossed as no meetings occurred between the time when the SPA position was attained and the warning issued, and so there was no opportunity to declare conflicts of interest. VP is happy to proceed from here with all conflicts declared.

President discussed NUPSA's position on SPA positions and how the nature of the position is something that we may dispute. A warning was sent regarding conflict of interest as NUPSA's existing concerns about SPA means a significant conflict had occurred. Concern was around VP involving staff and exec, and in this context, the official warning was necessary and warranted. The VP's presence at meeting and apology is appreciated.

LGBTQI Rep pointed out that the President is constitutionally able to issue a warning and was within his rights.

Equity Rep raised that it was unusual that the VP had got the full Executive and staff involved, as it was not something they need to be privy to, and it appeared unprofessional. Equity Rep expressed that it is important that there are times where there is information that the whole Executive does not need to know. VP expressed that there was no reason the whole Executive shouldn't be aware, and it is democratic to share the information of the warning.

Research Rep raised the fact that the inclusion of staff to the email was inappropriate. VP said it was a mistake as the Executive had been encouraged to share everything with the office.

President said this is specifically in regards to their duties, but not disciplinary matters; that is inappropriate.

International Rep commented on the conflict, asking how much this undermines NUPSA's position on SPA position- this may appear as a double stance.

VP suggested that her involvement is individual- her role on the Executive means she will abstain from any vote regarding the SPA positions, especially as the position of NUPSA regarding SPA's is still evolving.

The International Rep asked whether the warning is still an official warning, or is it retracted. The President said that if the warning were retracted it would undermine the authority of the President, and the warning remains as it was appropriate given the circumstances. The warning stands. President expressed that our ultimate goal is to Represent and support postgrads, and so our unity and voice is important. The President wishes to enforce that the unity of the Executive is paramount for NUPSA to perform its duties.

*Motion to accept that the matter of the conduct of Executive stands as is and no further discussion shall be had on this topic.*

*Moved; International Rep; Second: Equity Rep; Abstained: President and VP. Motion passed.*

## **7.2. NUPSA Position on Federal Budget**

CAPA's position is against federal budget. President detailed the negative effects of the budget shown in the Research Rep's CAPA report, highlighting the tunnel effect of the budget and how it will likely decrease postgraduate candidates. Emphasis also on the fact that enabling courses are no longer free, which affects low SES and Indigenous students. NZ students also have no access to commonwealth assistance, from his own view this really affects NZ students unfairly. Some positives include that students can change their institutions, and the security that low SES students will have access to universities. Negatives outweigh the positives however. President said that it may be worth writing to local members to convey NUPSA's position on the budget, something discussed at the CAPA conference. The Equity Rep expressed opposition to the budget, with emphasis on the impact that it will have on international students, as 30% of our postgraduate intake is from China alone, which could lead to the ultimate total collapse of universities in the long term. Equity Rep asked about CISA's position. Vice President expressed CISA's concerns, especially around citizenship, and expressed difficulty of engaging the right people to advocate against the budget. Equity Rep responded with the importance of working alongside CAPA and strengthening our affiliation, and how CAPA needs to step into this space to foster a united voice. International Rep commented that the current International Officer of CAPA is less than efficient, and despite the CAPA President's strong stance, CISA will be important here to engage with the International perspective and concerns. Equity Rep continued, saying that for NUPSA it comes down to writing to local members and making our perspective known, and lobbying is important, "we have to get it right". International Rep expresses concern with lobbying and its effectiveness. President deems it important to at least come to a formal position so we can reach out to other bodies, and the University. This is a good opportunity to work collectively and build a united voice, and spread the word wider. President will write in the upcoming newsletter. LGBTQI Rep said we should reach out to the NTEU to discuss the impact budget will have on academia- there will be less work and less jobs after graduation also. Equity Rep suggested should we reach out to our local member face to face. Research Rep expressed the importance of being active, not passive. It is important to see students fighting back (in a professional matter), and to establish the specific postgraduate perspective.

*Motion to propose a formal position on the budget. NUPSA will actively opposes the 2017 Federal Budget as it stands.*

*Moved: Equity Rep; Seconded- Vice President. Passed; Unanimously*

## **7.3. SSAF preliminary survey Report 2018**

### **IN CAMERA ITEM**

**7.4. Yourimbah Discussion paper update  
IN CAMERA ITEM**

**7.5. Club affiliation request – Redeemed Christian Fellowship  
IN CAMERA ITEM**

**7.6. Club funding request – Yoga Club**

*Motion to propose we accept the funding request for \$500.00.  
Moved- President; Seconder- Vice President; Passed- Unanimously*

**7.7. New bookkeeper /accountant**

As the current teaching load of the NUPSA bookkeeper has increased, the bookkeeper is unable to fulfil their duties to the best of his ability. Bookkeeper recommends his son in law, a qualified accountant. President says to ensure a smooth transition, this is optimal, and bookkeeper is entitled to make a qualified recommendation.

International Rep asked should we look into another?

President said we should certainly discuss this later, but for now a smooth transition is important as this is rather urgent, and we need a qualified bookkeeper.

Equity Rep would like to see the CV to ensure skill and qualification, and not rely only on recommendation.

President suggests that, as the matter is quite urgent, we can request those details ASAP, and can pass flying minutes via senior Executive regarding his ability to fill the position, at least in a temporary way.

*Motion to propose that we accept the recommendation of the new bookkeeper pending clarification of receiving his CV and the relationship with former bookkeeper.*

*Moved- Equity Rep; Seconder- International Rep; Passed; unanimously*

**8. UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS LIST**

**8.1. Determined which Executive members will attend meetings and events in July 2017**

President to educate Equity Rep on evolution of the scrum.

International Rep raised a question regarding upcoming CISA conference: is anyone in our Exec going for a role in CISA? Vice President is stepping down there. International Rep is nominating himself for Postgrad Representative for CISA. We wish him the best of luck!

**9. NEXT MEETING**

Proposed: Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> July, 11.00am – 1.00pm.

**10. MEETING CLOSED 12.52pm.**