

Meeting 12/2022

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 1pm-3pm Thursday 15 December 2022, by zoom.

MINUTES

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The MGAEC acknowledged and paid respect to the people of the Kulin nations as the original and ongoing owners and custodians of this unceded land.

1.2 Attendance

Present: Radhik Rammohan (Chair), Saham Hettiarachchi, Annie Roys Anumanth Senthilkumar, Sarah May, Phil Cairns, Maria Lammerding, Maggie Gendy.

Apologies: Ken Chiu, Sonia Daga, Rose Huang, Michael Lin, Lily Wen, Jenny Reeder, Jessica Fimmel,

In attendance: Zuzana Quinn, Janice Boey.

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

Items added:

- 4.2.3 MGA social media report; and
- 4.2.4 A year in review

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meetings 11/2022 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting 11/2022 be confirmed.

Moved: Saham Hettiarachchi

Seconded: Anumanth Senthilkumar

Carried.

2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Noted.

3.2 Members' reports

Noted.

3.3 Staff report

Noted.

3.4 November 2022 profit and loss report

Noted.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 MGA childcare grant outcome

The Childcare Grant was a very successful program with 197 applications being approved, distributing over \$80,000 to postgraduate parents in financial need.

4.1.2 CAPA election outcome

Radhik announced that he had been elected to the CAPA Board, and Anumanth elected as the CAPA Vice President. Members were encouraged to contact Radhik or Anumanth with any issues which needed to be brought to CAPA.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Breakfast with the MGA

Sarah explained that the idea of having a breakfast or brunch, was an event which would initially be piloted in 2023 at Clayton. Depending on demand, it may be rolled out to other campuses.

Sarah spoke to this item and explained that MGA events involving food were always very popular with graduate students. Events such as these gave graduates an opportunity to meet each other and fostered a sense of belonging. Sarah encouraged all members to be involved in these activities as they provided a friendly setting for conversations and students sometimes used these events to raise issues of concern

4.2.2 RED platform proposal

It was reported that the MGA had employed a new staff member who was fluent in Mandarin, as the social media coordinator. As such the MGA was now in a position to contribute content and also monitor interactions on a solely Chinese platform called RED. RED was the newest and fastest rising Chinese social media platform. Presence on RED would broaden MGA's profile with Chinese students allowing for much needed engagement with that cohort. The platform was very popular with Chinese students.

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were not permitted in China. RED was approved by the Chinese Government and posting to this site would make it much easier for new Chinese students to be aware of the MGA's role and function and how they could become involved. It was explained that Monash University already had a presence on Chinese government-sanctioned social media platforms.

It was agreed that the MGA would trial using RED, and would curate the content to advocacy and branding. This project was most welcomed by the MGA advocacy team.

4.2.3 MGA Social Media Report 2022

Jan tabled the attached report to provide an overview for MGAEC members on how many students engaged with the MGA through social media. She explained students preferred stories and reels as a way of receiving information as opposed to purely textual content. Current enrolments in the MGA Newsletter were at 4810 which was very positive. However, there was certainly room to grow this number. Part of the challenge was being forced to work with a newsletter that used an “opt-in” system.

4.2.4 Year in Review

Radhik took the opportunity in this last meeting of the year, to thank all members and staff for their participation, commitment and contributions throughout 2022. Radhik provided a summary of the projects undertaken by members and staff and encouraged all to continue on this path with more involvement in 2023. Radhik then gave each member an opportunity to review their experience on the MGAEC with rewards and challenges. Each member present took up this opportunity. On the whole everyone enjoyed their participation and found it rewarding. They mentioned staff were most accommodating, supportive and encouraging of ideas presented by members. It was suggested that more volunteers were needed for events. It was also noted that attending events was the best opportunity for committee members to connect with students.

The challenges reported were that members sometimes found it difficult to understand the processes by which ideas and initiatives could be actioned. Clear goals needed to be set and events needed to be of good quality rather than quantity.

Members agreed that more social events needed to be organised for the MGAEC as a way of engaging in less formal settings than meetings. It was felt that this would encourage more open conversation leading to better sharing of ideas. Radhik said he was planning a dinner in 2023 when all the members were back in Australia.

5. Membership matters

No business.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in February at Parkville or Clayton on a date and time to be confirmed by committee members.

The meeting closed at 2.32pm.