

Meeting 05/2021

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee**
was held from 4.00pm – 5.30pm, Thursday 10 June 2021,
by zoom.

AGENDA

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	Caitlyn Neale (Chair), Stacey Coe, Julie Dao, Emily Pryor, Suhag Arun, Ailsa Webb, Aman Madaan, Sam Miles, Jessica Lu, Preeti Mehta
Apologies	No apologies received
In attendance	Janice Boey, Jenny Reeder, Zuzana Quinn

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No items were added.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes 04/2021 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting May 04/2021 be confirmed.

Moved: Ailsa Webb

Seconded: Aman Madaan

Carried.

2.2 Action sheet

The action sheet was noted. Caitlyn reported that there had been no response to date from the university regarding the six month gap between mid-year completion and graduation.

Stacey volunteered to complete the letter requesting MET concessions for graduate students so this could be sent off to the relevant ministers.

Julie committed to completing the roster for media contributions from MGAEC members before her of term, and placing it on the shared drive.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Noted.

3.2 Members' reports

Noted.

3.3 Staff report

Noted.

3.4 April and May 2021 profit and loss reports

Noted.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Funding agreement with the university

Caitlyn explained that she had requested a meeting to finalise the Funding Agreement (FA). The initial response by email from the university didn't address MGA's concerns and it was felt that the MGA's position had been misrepresented. In response to the MGA's request, a more senior staff member was appointed to meet with MGA to sort out the remaining points of difference.

4.1.2 CISA membership

CISA had provided financial documents and notification of recent policy changes in response to MGA's concerns about the state of the organisation. The MGAEC agreed to rejoin on the condition that the MGA was able to have an observer on the CISA committee.

It was moved:

That the MGA become a member of CISA.

Mover: Suhag Arun

Seconder: Stacey Coe

Carried.

4.1.3 CAPA membership

Caitlyn had written to the CAPA President and offered a capped amount for affiliation fees, as determined by the MGAEC. This was substantially lower than the invoice provided to the MGA by CAPA for the 2021 annual affiliation fees. No response had been received to date.

4.1.4 MGAEC 2021/2022 election report

The Returning Officer's report for the MGAEC 2021/2022 election was noted. The participation rate was lower than last year, mainly due to the low number of students on campus as well as the MGA's inability to run on campus promotions during the election period because of lockdown.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 MGA 2020 Audited Financial report

The MGA 2020 audited financial report was presented.

It was moved:

That the audited MGA Financial statements for 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Stacey Coe

Seconder: Preeti Mehta

Carried.

4.2.2 MGAEC member stipends

While the MGA had not yet had its 2021 income confirmed, it was likely that there would be a 10% reduction in income from the 2019 income, as opposed to the 33% reduction experienced in 2020. The MGAEC stipends were decreased in 2020 due to financial constraints. It was proposed that stipends revert to the pre-Covid amounts, with the exception of the Vice-President's stipend which would be brought into line with the general members' stipend.

It was moved:

That the MGA President's annual stipend revert to the equivalent of half the minimum RTP amount, and all remaining member stipends to \$2000 per annum, as at July 2021.

Moved: Aman Madaan

Seconder: Suhag Arun

Carried.

4.2.3 Laptop loans

Aman inquired about the laptop loan scheme. It was explained that the MGA held laptops on all campuses and made them available for short term loans to graduate students at no charge.

With all exams now being held online, it was noted that the university had informed the MGA that 1000 laptops would be available onsite during the exam period should any student require one.

4.2.4 RSA training

Emily proposed that RSA training offered to incoming committee members, and this was supported by the committee.

5. Membership

No business.

6. Next meeting

The June meeting was the final meeting for the 2020/2021 committee. The next meeting would be held in July, with the time and date to be determined by the incoming members' availability.