

Meeting 05/2024

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, Tuesday 25 June 2024, at the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton campus and by zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 3:00pm.

1. Formal matters

1.1 Acknowledgement of country

The MGAEC President 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 & Apologies

Present: Saham Hettiarachchi, Jonathan Robberts, Ummatul Siddique, Rachel Lee, Phil Cairns, Arathy Kurup, Aakash Saraf, Kritika Arora, Calvin Chow, Ying-Xian Evelyn Lai, Harshita Rathi, Mahima Chowdhury

Apologies: Runali Patil and Jenny Reeder.

Incoming MGAEC members: Dhanya Menoth Mohan, Neharika Shah, Beauty Nalwendo, Vu Hiep Dang (Oliver), Mohammed Zeehan Saleheen

In attendance: Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager
Janice Boey, Acting Executive Officer
Ying Xu, Advocate
Leilani Hatfield, Student Engagement Officer
Ashley Finn, Graduate Policy and Liaison Officer

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

Item 4.2.5 Updates about MIISON TOR was added

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting 4/2024 May for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting May 04/2024 be confirmed.

Moved: Rachel Lee
Seconded: Calvin Chow
Carried.

2.2 Action sheet

Jonathan asked if Aakash needed support with the sponsorship proposal, Aakash explained it was in progress and will reach out when ready.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

The President's report was noted.

3.2 Members' reports

Members' reports were noted.

3.3 Staff report

The staff report was noted.

Jonathon inquired if an increase in event attendance has been seen. Leilani noted that there was no decrease, and that there has been increased capacity in events. 121 out of 130 registered students attended the latest After Exams Party event. There has been steady engagement and less dropout rates.

3.4 May 2024 profit and loss reports

The May P&L was noted.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

The MGAEC meeting attendance records were noted as true and accurate.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Update on Migration Strategy

The update and the exclusion of HDR students from the proposed changes to the TGV were discussed. The committee noted that the MGA had contributed to representing the student perspective and that while this change is a success, there is still more work to be done. Coursework students are currently still affected by the changes. Umma, Calvin, Ash, Grace and Ryan were thanked for putting together and collating the report submitted by the MGA

4.1.2 2024 Election Report

The Committee noted the report and the recommendations provided.

The Committee discussed the recommendations. It was explained that the strict campaigning regulations exist as a recognition of the graduate student community who do not wish to be overwhelmed by campaign communications. The decision to not release raw data is also affected by considerations that those with the highest vote count are not immediately elected to the MGAEC due to balance considerations written into the Election Regulations.

The Committee agreed to discuss the recommendations as an agenda item in a meeting after August.

4.1.3 Student Visa Flowchart & Visa Process Impacts

Ying Xu, MGA Advocate, spoke to the visa flowchart and process impact documents, created at the request of Committee members. The documents outline processes around the student visa, as well as common impacts on students.

The Committee made inquiries regarding the planned scope of MGA Advocacy Migration services. It was explained that the details are still in discussion, but recognised that services will be limited by the resources available to the MGA. The current consideration is to be able to support as wide a number of students as practicable with the available resources. Services delivered are expected to be paid in order to manage demand and to filter out non-genuine inquiries. It was discussed that provision of support for the TGV (485 visa) may be offered in the future after assessing student demand.

4.1.4 MGA Values and Mission Statement

Jonathan spoke to his project to introduce an MGA values and mission statement. Jonathan welcomed outgoing and incoming committee members to participate in the project.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 ISE Welcome Day for O-Week

Saham and Calvin explained the opportunity to participate in the International Student Welcome Day events on Caulfield and Clayton on 15 July. The option to set up a booth and participate in a panel in collaboration with ISE and other MSOs was discussed by the Committee. Participation and suggestions were welcomed.

Leilani was asked to explain any existing commitments the MGA had to the Welcome Day. Leilani explained that the MGA has already committed to a booth and will be encouraging students to sign up to the MGA Red account and the other MGA social media platforms. Volunteers will also be engaged.

Calvin expressed interest in representing the MGA at Clayton. Kritika expressed interest in representing the MGA at Caulfield.

4.2.2 MGA Sem 2 Orientation Program

The committee noted the orientation program. Saham encouraged committee members to engage with the orientation program and that committee members can contact Leilani to participate in MGA orientation events.

4.2.3 May MGA Newsletters & Social Media Report

The committee noted the Newsletters and Social Media Report.

4.2.4 MGAEC Email handover

Saham highlighted that after end-of-day on 26 June 2024, outgoing committee members will lose access to their role email accounts. These accounts will be handed over to incoming committee members and new office-bearers.

4.2.5 Update about MIISON TORS

Saham explained the purpose of MIISON, as well as the efforts to update its Terms of Reference (TORs) which is currently in consultation period.

It was agreed to close the meeting and allow the incoming committee to run their own meeting to elect the office-bearer positions. The President thanked the outgoing committee members for their work and efforts on the MGAEC in the past year.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Meeting 06/2024

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Tuesday 25 June 2024, at the MGA Meeting Room, Clayton campus and by zoom.

MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 4:05 pm

1. Formal matters

1.1 Attendance & Apologies

Present: Saham Hettiarachchi, Jonathan Robberts, Ummatul Siddique, Aakash Saraf, Kritika Arora, Calvin Chow, Mahima Chowdhury, Dhanya Menoth Mohan, Neharika Shah, Beauty Nalwendo, Vu Hiep Dang (Oliver), Mohammed Zeehan Saleheen

Apologies: Troy Lau and Isabel Kiryu

Observers: Rachel Lee and Ying-Xian Evelyn Lai

In attendance: Charlie Li, HR & Finance Manager
Janice Boey, Acting Executive Officer
Ying Xu, Advocate
Leilani Hatfield, Student Engagement Officer
Ashley Finn, Graduate Policy and Liaison Officer

2. Membership Matters

2.1 Withdrawal of MGAEC Member

It was noted that one new incoming MGAEC members has withdrawn from the MGAEC, and that a candidate will be co-opted for the position. The co-option will be advertised as soon as possible.

2.2 Elections of office-bearer positions for MGAEC 2023/24

It was announced that the elections for the office-bearers (OB) on the MGAEC 2024/25 term of office would commence

The Acting Executive Officer acted as the Returning Officer and was assisted by staff members Ying Xu and Charlie Li. It was explained that the voting for the OB elections would be conducted anonymously as per the OB election rules (Clause 31) of the MGA Constitution), where a voting round would be conducted and the lowest scoring candidate would be eliminated, with voting rounds being repeated until one candidate achieved an absolute majority.

President

The Chair called for nominations for the position of President.

- Saham Hettiarachchi nominated Jonathan Robberts and was seconded by Ummatul Siddique.
- Mohammed Zeehan Saleheen nominated himself and was seconded by Beauty Nalwendo.

Each candidate was given three minutes to speak to the committee and answer questions. An anonymous vote was conducted and Jonathan Robberts was declared elected to the President's position.

Vice-President

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice-President.

- Ummatul Siddique nominated Calvin Chow and was seconded by Saham Hettiarachchi.

There were no further nominations. Calvin Chow was declared elected to the Vice-President's position.

Research Education Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Research Education Officer.

- Beauty Nalwendo nominated Ummatul Siddique and was seconded by Aakash Saraf.

There were no further nominations. Ummatul Siddique was declared elected to the Research Education Officer's position.

Coursework Education Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Coursework Education Officer.

- Mahima Choudhary nominated herself and was seconded by Calvin Chow.
- Dhanya Mohan nominated Kritika Arora, and was seconded by Ummatul Siddique.

Each candidate was given three minutes to speak to the committee and answer questions. An anonymous vote was conducted and Kritika Arora was declared elected to the Coursework Education Officer.

Women's Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Women's Officer.

- Isabel nominated herself, seconded by Ummatul Siddique.

The Chair read a statement prepared by Isabel who was unable to attend the meeting. There were no other nominations. Isabel was declared elected to the Women's Officer position.

Queer Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Queer Officer.

There were no eligible nominations. The committee agreed that given the MGAEC is currently short a member due to the withdrawal, the advertisement for the co-option should specifically request for interest to fill the Queer Officer position.

International Students' Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of International Students' Officer.

- Ummatul Siddique nominated Saham Hettiarachchi, seconded by Aakash Saraf.

There were no other nominations. Saham Hettiarachchi was declared elected to the International Students' Officer position.

Indigenous Students' Officer

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Indigenous Students' Officer. There were no eligible nominees. It was decided that the advertisement for the co-option would also request for interest to fill the Indigenous Students's Officer position.

The MGAEC elections were declared closed and elected members congratulated.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held in July 2024 at a time and place to be confirmed by incoming member's availability.

The meeting closed at 5pm.