

Meeting 06/2023

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 2.30pm – 4.30pm, Thursday 27 July 2023, in the CCD meeting room, 1-1167, first floor, Campus Centre, Clayton and 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: Saham Hettiarachchi, Maria Lammerding, Ummatul Siddique, Calvin Chow, Arathy Kurup, Ying-Xian Lai, Runali Patil, Harshita Rathi, Jonathan Robberts, Rachel Lee, Mahima Choudhary, Phil Kairns, Grace Bennetts (left at 3pm), Mahima Choudhary (joined 3.03pm), Saral Gupta (joined 3.08pm), Prashansa Chadha (joined 4.23pm).

Apologies: Saral Gupta, joining late
Mahima Choudhary, joining late
Jenny Reeder

In attendance: Zuzana Quinn, Senior Advocate
Janice Boey, Student Engagement Manager
Ryan Edwards, Research Officer
Ash Finn, Graduate Policy and Liaison Officer
James Breheny, Advocate
Casey Chen, Graduate Groups Coordinator

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No items were added.

The Senior Advocate was asked by the Chair to remind members that while the MGAEC minutes were a matter for public record, the MGA Agenda was not. Members were reminded about the requirement of confidentiality of the MGAEC Agendas (among other documents) in accordance with the MGA Constitution.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meeting 05/2023 and 06/2023 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meetings June 05/2023 and June 06/2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Calvin Chow

Seconded: Jonathan Robberts

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 June 2023 profit and loss report

Noted.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Returning Officer Report

Noted.

4.1.2 AIS Report

It was noted that the Annual Information Statement had been lodged.

4.1.3 CAV Change of rules submission

It was noted the CAV submission to confirm the constitutional changes from the 2023 AGM had been lodged.

4.1.4 Allegations of Election breaches

Saham reminded members of their obligations to declare a conflict of interest. No conflicts of interest were declared.

In accordance with Clause 20.11 of the MGA Constitution, the MGAEC resolved unanimously that item 4.1.4 and item 5 would proceed in camera.

The committee were provided details of the situation. After a lengthy and considered discussion, it was agreed that the complaints made to the University by Anumanth Senthilkumar regarding election irregularities and other matters were vexatious.

The committee concluded the evidence showed that the complaints that had been lodged by Anumanth about the MGAEC elections were most likely in response to his being excluded from the election process by the MGA Returning Officer, due to Anumanth having committed a serious breach of the election regulations. Other complaints lodged by Anumanth had no basis in

fact, and Anumanth's subsequent behaviour also indicated that there was no merit to the allegations.

The committee expressed disappointment at the University's response to the allegations, where university senior management had given a platform to a single student making unsubstantiated and vexatious allegations, and had not provided details of the allegations to the MGA, nor any evidence to support the claims. The MGAEC pointed out that the correct response from the university would have been to refer those allegations to the appropriate university and MGA processes.

The committee therefore decided they had a responsibility to their constituents to ensure that MGA operations and services continued as normal, and as such, agreed to continue with the internal office-bearer elections.

4.1.5 PTV campaign

Held over.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Financial Regulations

Held over.

4.2.2 How to run an event

Held over.

4.2.3 Flip the Script program

Held over.

4.2.4 Anti-racism committee

Held over.

5. Membership matters

With the President's position having been filled at the June meeting, the remaining MGAEC office-bearer elections were conducted in accordance with Clause 31 of the MGA Constitution, with the Student Experience Manager acting as Returning Officer (RO). The RO explained how the elections would be conducted.

Vice-President

The RO called for nominations for the position of Vice-President. Saral Gupta was nominated by Harshita Rathi and seconded by Calvin Chow. Mahima Choudhary nominated herself and was seconded by Ummatul Siddique. Jonathan Robberts nominated himself and was seconded by Rachel Lee. There were no further nominations. A secret ballot was conducted. Jonathan Robberts was declared elected to the Vice-President's position.

Research Education Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Research Education Officer. Runali Patil nominated herself and was seconded by Maria Lammerding. There were no further

nominations. Runali Patil was declared elected to the Research Education Officer's position.

Coursework Education Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Coursework Education Officer. Maria Lammerding nominated herself and was seconded by Phil Cairns. There were no further nominations. Maria Lammerding was declared elected to the Coursework Education Officer's position.

Women's Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Women's Officer. Mahima Choudhary was nominated by Runali Patil and seconded by Ummatul Siddique. Harshita Rathi nominated herself and was seconded by Maria Lammerding. There were no further nominations. A secret ballot was conducted. Harshita Rathi was declared elected to the Women's Officer position.

Queer Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Queer Officer. Phil Cairns was nominated by Maria Lammerding and was seconded by Ummatul Siddique. Phil accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Phil Cairns was declared elected to the Queer Officer's position.

International Students' Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of International Students' Officer. Calvin Chow nominated himself and was seconded by Jonathan Robberts. Saral Gupta nominated himself and was seconded by Rachel Lee. There were no further nominations. A secret ballot was conducted. Calvin Chow was declared elected to the International Students' Officer position.

Indigenous Students' Officer

The RO called for nominations for the position of Indigenous Students' Officer. There were no eligible nominees. It was determined to advertise to fill this position as soon as possible as the regulations allowed this position to be filled even in circumstances where doing so would take the membership over 15.

The MGAEC elections were declared closed and elected members congratulated.

The meeting closed at 4.47pm.