

Meeting 12/2019

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee**
was held from 12:00pm – 1:00pm, Monday 16 December, 2019
in the MGA Boardroom, Caulfield campus.

Jenny Reeder
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MINUTES

The meeting was opened at 12:09pm.

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 Apologies

Present	Robyn Oxley (Chair), Jessica Lu, Roy Rozario, Egor Skaletckii, Ash Solanki, Xinxin Yang
In attendance	Janice Boey, Jessica Fimmel, Jenny Reeder
Apologies	Cammi Murrup-Stewart, Roby Vota, Allison Ho, Pooja Bhageria, Kim Dao, Caitlyn Neale, Nikhil Kathe.

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No further items were added. As the meeting was inquorate all motions were held over to the next meeting.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of MGAEC meeting 11/19 for confirmation

Held over.

2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Noted.

3.2 Office-bearer reports

Jessica Lu, Parkville campus representative

Jessica noted that the PPA had recently held their annual elections, and had a new committee and new President, Sadia Alvi. Jessica Lu will continue in her role as the MGA representative with the new committee.

3.3 Staff report

Noted. The MGAEC confirmed that they were satisfied with the current format of the staff report, and noted that it helped to provide the committee with an overview of staff activities.

3.4 Profit and loss report November 2019

The November p&l had not yet been prepared so was held over to the next meeting.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Xinxin noted that there was an error in the recording of her attendance at the October meeting. The record would be updated to reflect that she had attended the meeting.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 MGA SSAF campaign

The current concern for the MGA was that the University would continue to take graduate SSAF from the MGA and divert it to the Clayton undergraduates.

The graduate student community had made their feelings clear in the SSAF survey and the MGA would continue to work hard to negotiate a better deal for graduate students.

Robyn and Jenny had attended a number of meetings with senior managers, the majority of whom had expressed concern over the situation. There was particular concern over the effect the budget cuts would have on services to the HDR community which were provided all year round, and HDRs located at off-campus sites who were already disadvantaged.

The MGA had been advised that in taking 15% of the previously allocated Clayton graduate SSAF from the MGA, the university was breaching not only their own funding agreement with the MGA, but also the federal SSAF guidelines. The MGA's funding situation had caught the attention of the TEQSA commissioners, who had requested further details.

It was agreed that should the university hold to their current position in 2020, the MGA would escalate the SSAF campaign both internally and externally.

4.1.2 Retreat priorities

During the retreat discussions in August 2019 a long list of issues had been raised. Committee members had now each submitted their top 3 priorities in the following areas: HDR; GPG; Women; International; Indigenous; campus; DE and off-campus. A list had been compiled of the issues that the MGA would focus on in 2020. While some had already been completed since August, the remainder would be worked on jointly by the MGA staff and committee in semester 1.

4.1.3 CAPA ACM report

In early December, Egor, Jessica and Robyn attended the CAPA 2019 ACM, along with graduate student representative, Sarmi Munuganti, and two MGA

staff members. All agreed the attendance at the event was both informative and useful to their roles on the MGAEC.

Jessica Lu reported on the CAPA ACM and shared photos of the awards night at which the MGA was presented with the NATSIPA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement award - a great achievement for the MGA, and in particular Cammi and Robyn for all their advocacy and support of Indigenous graduate students. It was noted that ex-MGAEC member, Devendra Singh was elected as International Students' Officer of CAPA and that ex-MGAEC President, Natasha Abrahams, had stepped down from her role as CAPA President after a very successful two-year term and completion of her PhD.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 Funding agreement with MONSU Caulfield

It was noted that a 2020-21 funding agreement between MONSU Caulfield and the MGA had been finalised. The negotiations had been very congenial and had contributed to the good working relationship that was being built between the MGA and MONSU, which it was hoped would continue into 2020.

4.2.2 Amendments to PPA funding agreement

Minor amendments to the MGA-PPA funding agreement as submitted jointly by both parties were noted and approved.

4.2.3 Orientation activities 2020

Janice Boey provided the MGAEC with a summary of the events the MGA would be hosting for new graduate students during O Week as well as in the weeks before and after.

5. Membership

Egor and Ash were thanked for all their hard work with the MGA over the past years. The committee encouraged them to keep in touch and hoped to see them excelling in their chosen careers in the years to come.

6. Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Clayton campus in February at a time to be confirmed. The meeting would include the co-option of two vacant positions, with the Disabilities Officer position being highlighted as part of the advertising process.

The meeting was closed at 12:55pm.