

Meeting 11/2022

A meeting of the **Monash Graduate Association (MGA) Executive Committee** was held from 1pm-3pm Friday 25 November 2022, in-person in Room H801, Building H, Caulfield Campus 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: Radhik Rammohan (Chair), Saham Hettiarachchi, Anumanth Senthilkumar, Ken Chiu, Sonia Daga, Michael Lin, Phil Kairns, Maria Lammerding, Lily Wen, Rose Huang.

Apologies: Sarah May, Maggie Gendy, Annie Roys, Jenny Reeder
In attendance: Zuzana Quinn, Jessica Fimmel, Janice Boey.

1.3 Consideration of the agenda

No new items were added.

2. Minutes and Action sheet

2.1 Minutes of meetings 09/2022 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting 09/2022 be confirmed.

Moved: Ken Chiu

Seconded: Anumanth Senthilkumar

Carried.

Minutes of meetings 10/2022 for confirmation

It was moved:

That the minutes of MGAEC meeting 10/2022 be confirmed.

Moved: Ken Chiu

Seconded: Anumanth Senthilkumar

Carried.

2.2 Action sheet

Noted.

3. Reports

3.1 President's report

Noted. Radhik encouraged all members to get more involved in MGA activities, events, policy matters and to consider joining other committees as a way of raising the MGA's profile. Congratulations were extended to Anumanth Senthilkumar for his recent election to Radhik of MIISON.

3.2 Members' reports

Noted.

3.3 Staff report

Noted.

3.4 October 2022 profit and loss report

Noted.

3.5 MGAEC meeting attendance records

Noted.

3.6 Sustainability Report

Noted.

4. Business

4.1 Business arising

4.1.1 Education Committee TOR

DVC (Education) Sharon Pickering agreed to change the wording of the Education Committee terms of reference to allow for the MGA membership to read "MGA President or student nominee".

4.1.2 PTV concession campaign update

The State election was due to be held on 26 November. Transport Matters party leader Rob Barton had proposed that if he were re-elected he would continue pushing the issue by requesting an audit be conducted into the cost of providing graduate student concession. The official MGA campaign would end, but MGA staff and committee members would continue raising the issue where appropriate. Members were informed of an edited video now on-line. Maria noted it was important to continue to raise graduate student concerns at every possible opportunity.

4.1.3 HDR stipend campaign update

The university had announced that the stipend would be increased to \$33,000p.a in 2023. This amount, though short of the desired target, was a considerable victory for research students. Radhik said he had spoken with Vice Chancellor who identified significant challenges faced by Monash University and explained this increase was the best the University could manage. The committee thanked Emily Pryor, Saham Hettiarachchi, Sarah May and Amy Barwick in particular for their contribution to the rally and campaign. Saham Hettiarachchi said that if he were successful in being appointed as the MGA representative to the GRC he would continue to lobby the University for the stipend rate to match that of Melbourne University.

4.1.4 New OB positions

The MGAEC approved 2 new positions: Sustainability Officer; and Carers' Officer.

It was moved:

That the Sustainability Officer be created on the MGAEC.

Moved: Ken Chiu

Seconded: Anumanth Senthilkumar

Carried.

Radhik called for interest from members in taking up the Sustainability Officer's position. There were no nominations and it was determined that future cooptions should favourably consider applicants with an interest in taking up this position.

It was moved:

That the Carer's Officer be created on the MGAEC.

Moved: Ken Chiu

Seconded: Anumanth Senthilkumar

Carried.

Radhik called for interest from members in taking up the Carer's Officer position. Rose nominated herself and was seconded by Radhik. There were no further nominations. Rose Huang was elected into the Carer's position at the meeting as follows.

It was moved that Rose Huang be appointed as Carer's Officer

Moved: Rose Huang

Seconded: Radhik Rammohan

Carried.

4.1.5 CAPA payment

The Committee agree to pay a quarter of the fee sought by CAPA in 2023 at the end of March, and continue to monitor CAPA's performance before paying any further funds. Radhik announced that he had applied for election to the CAPA Board and Anumanth to be the CAPA Vice-President.

It was moved:

That the MGAEC resume payment to CAPA in 2023, with the annual payment to be made in quarterly payments with each payment being made only when CAPA has fulfilled that quarter's performance requirements, as identified to CAPA by the MGAEC.

Moved: Maria Lammerding

Seconded: Rose Huang

Carried.

4.2 General Business

4.2.1 MGA 2022 budget adjustments

The budget adjustments were discussed. It was explained that \$15,000 was required for the MSL annual software fee for the new website, along with an additional \$2000 to cover the licence fee.

It was moved:

That the 2022 budget be adjusted by increasing the OHS line item by \$2000, the Peninsula line, the minor purchases item by \$8000, and the software line item by \$17,000.

Moved: Anumanth Senthilkumar

Seconded: Sonia Daga

Carried.

4.2.2 MGA 2023 budget

It was moved:

That the 2023 budget as attached be accepted with an adjustment increasing the software budget from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Moved: Saham Hettiarachchi

Seconded: Ken Chiu

Carried.

4.2.3 Expenditure on Parkville campus

Noted.

4.2.4 Orientation plan for semester 1, 2023

The orientation program had now been set. Radhik asked for members to volunteer at the various events.

4.2.5 MGA mentoring program

Jan Boey explained how the mentoring program worked, and how participants were selected.

4.2.6 Advocacy service on international campuses

Radhik explained he and Jenny Reeder had spoken with Professor Elliott and other global campus directors explaining it would be beneficial for advocacy services to be offered to all Monash graduate students regardless of campus. This service should be accessible and would ensure uniformity and consistency of advice. The MGA had the resources to offer this to overseas campuses but the logistics including delivery and costs were yet to be agreed upon.

4.2.7 MGA awards for university staff

Radhik announced he would form a sub-committee in 2023 subject to expressions of interest from members. The rationale for this award was recognition of University staff who went above and beyond their job descriptions to help graduate students. Eligible staff would be professional staff as well as academic.

5. Membership matters

No business.

6. Next meeting

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

The meeting closed at 2.35pm.