



Draft Minutes

PGC MEETING MINUTES
Monday 15 July 2024
Hybrid (Arc Training Rooms/TEAMS)
4:00 pm

Present: Tony Le (PGC President), Ada Choi, Nicole Zhao, Anuvinda Sreenivas, Sidra Sarwat, Daiana Venancio, Salauddin Pathan Akash, Gurpreet Hansra, Nitharsaa Ambalavana

Apologies: Anushka Anchan and Ervan Herkusuma

Attendance: Zehao (Tim) Li – in part

Absent: Yifan (Vicky) Yu

1. MEETING OPENING

The meeting commenced at 4:06 pm.

1.1. Acknowledgment of Country

Was completed by the PGC President.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from A. Anchan and E. Herkusuma.

RESOLUTION

THAT the apologies received from A. Anchan and E. Herkusuma are accepted.

CARRIED

T. Li, a representative from the Coursework Committee, provided a brief overview of his background.

1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure

There were no new conflicts of interest disclosed.

1.4. Previous Minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation: 17 June 2024

RESOLUTION

THAT The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2024 were confirmed as a true and accurate record, subject the following amendment:

- That the third dot point under Item 4.2 is amended to read:
“Students from Canberra were considering attending the workshop on 29 July. With 3-4 weeks' notice, it will be possible to bring approximately 20 students to Sydney events. The PGC Townhall and O-Week were discussed as options for a visit from Canberra students”.

CARRIED

1.4.2. Matters arising/ action list

The action list was noted with the following updates advised:

- Item 1.** Poll on student preferences to be marked as **RESOLVED**.
- Items 2 and 3.** PGC responsibilities and handover documents are to be retained and will be raised for discussion at the next two meetings.
- Item 4.** Postgrad Series - All council members are encouraged to continue to discuss within their networks and Committees. To be retained on the action list.

1.5. Meeting administration

1.5.1. Selection of meeting observer.

Gurpreet Hansra was appointed as a meeting observer.

1.5.2. Items flagged for immediate discussion

The order was suspended with leave from the Council. The minutes reflect the meeting order.

4. OFFICE BEARER REPORTS

4.6.1. Coursework Committee Report – Tim Lee

The report was taken as read.

Tim provided an update on the Committee's activities:

- A networking and a social event were held last month, with positive feedback.
- July's focus is on rebranding feedback and preparing for future events.
- Discussion/feedback forums were raised by Committee presidents and further details were sought about the purpose of the forums.

ACTION:

THAT T.Le follow up with A.Anchan and E.Herkusuma regarding the discussion forum to seek clarification on the matter.

1. MATTERS FOR DECISION

1.1. Petition EN6358 Improve HDR conditions

The motion was taken as read.

Discussions:

- A petition to the House of Representatives is open for signatures to increase Research student stipends in line with the National Minimum Wage.
- The PGC discussed current stipend arrangements, noting student feedback on stipend variances between schools and top-up payments received from some supervisors.
- The PGC considered what information could be gathered and potentially be raised.
- The President clarified the motion being proposed was to confirm support for the petition to the government.

RESOLUTION:

THAT the PGC endorses Petition EN6358 - Improve Higher Degree by Research student conditions.

CARRIED

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

N/A

4. OFFICE BEARER REPORTS

4.1. President

The report was taken as read.

Discussions:

- The PGC leadership training session was attended by executives and Committee members. PGC values were identified, and a supporting motto was developed.
- A hybrid format for future Town Halls is being explored for online participation.
- The President requested Committee representatives to prepare a brief presentation for the upcoming town hall, stating that slides were not mandatory.
- The PGC was requested to distribute the Election notice upon its release and encourage other Committee members to consider running.
- The President stressed the significance of including items in Committee reports to be raised at Board meetings.
- The next Town Hall has been scheduled for Friday August 2 due to Roundhouse availability.

ACTIONS:

- *THAT the PGC prepare presentation points for the upcoming Town Hall.*
- *THAT the PGC shares the Election notice and encourages others to consider running.*
- *THAT the PGC ensures they include in their reports matters to be raised by the President in Board meetings.*
- *THAT the PGC encourages attendance at the upcoming Town Hall on 2 August.*

4.2. General Secretary

The report was taken as read.

Discussions:

- There are low registrations for the upcoming PG Parenting event. The format has been updated to include networking. The PGC was asked to share the event within their networks.
- The General Secretary sought feedback from the PGC on O-week representation. The President noted this would be discussed at the next meeting.
- Social mixers and coffee catchups to resume next month.

ACTION:

THAT the PGC consider further O-Week representation.

4.3. Equity Vice President

The report was taken as read.

Discussions:

- The well-being guide is undergoing marketing review, while the Parenting Guide information is being refined. Both will be circulated for PGC feedback.
- A Lifeline Walk is tentatively scheduled for September 7 in conjunction with Suicide Awareness Month. The PGC is invited to join.

- A cultural diversity event is being planned to tie in with the EDI grant. Students will be invited to submit stories related to cultural diversity. The International Committee was invited to collaborate.
- The upcoming HPU event will no longer be organised by the Equity Committee due to its capacity and has offered to provide administrative support instead.

4.4. International Vice President

The report was taken as read.

Discussions:

- A social soccer event was held with over 40 people in attendance with an interest in planning a similar event in the future with the support of other Committees.
- A meeting is planned with international student university representatives to consider forming an organisation advocating for international students. The outcome will be shared.
- A. Sreenivas attended a meeting with the Office of the Consular General (“Consular office”) of India. The meeting was very productive with discussion including visas.
- The Consular office has offered to collaborate on a stall at O-Week, with the PGC agreeing to refer to the Indian Society. A. Choi offered to introduce the UNSW Culture officer who could assist in contacting the Society directly.
- The International Vice President raised the travel concession issue for international students with the Consular office which may raise it with the transport minister.

ACTION:

THAT A Choi to introduce UNSW Culture Officer to A. Sreenivas to assist with progressing the Consul Generals O-Week collaboration opportunities with the Indian Society.

T.Li left the meeting at 5.01 pm

4.5. Research Vice President

N/A

4.6. Coursework Vice President

N/A

4.7. Canberra Officer

The report was taken as read.

Discussions:

- Canberra student National Art Gallery visit is planned for 27 July.
- Arc Canberra have requested attendance at the August 3MT to support Canberra finalists.
- The Canberra officer will be on leave in September.
- UNSW employability invited PGC to collaborate on a potential HDR symposium, a full-day event in October. Details are to be shared by T. Le following the meeting. The symposium was suggested as an alternative trip for Canberra students.

ACTION:

THAT T. Le share the details of the offer to collaborate on the HDR symposium, with the PGC.

4.8. Paddington Officer

N/A

5. MATTERS FOR NOTING [discussed only on an exception ba

5.1 Resignation of CAPA National President.

The report was taken as read.

Discussions:

- CAPA is seeking expressions of interest following the resignation of the National President.

6. Q&A (if any)

N/A

7. MEETING FINALISATION

7.1. Meeting evaluation

The meeting, attended by 10 members and Tim Lee from the Coursework Committee, concluded within a two-hour timeframe, with all reports except Research and Paddington discussed and apologies given.

7.2. Next meeting date: 19 August 2024

7.3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 5.16pm.



PGC President Signature – Tony Le
20 August 2024