



Arc @ UNSW limited
PGC MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, 07 June 2022
TEAMS
4:30 pm

Present: Joshua Karras (PGC President), Suhyun Kweon, Anthony Sunjaya, Reem Almasri, Dana Tribbia, Andrea Tsui in-part, Sardorjon Bakhtiyorov in-part, Ece Egilmezer, Hang Bui, Olivera Nesevski, Mst Umme Laila Urmi

Attendance: Tony Le in-part, Xin Wen

Apologies: None

Absent: None

1. MEETING OPENING

The meeting opened at 4:35pm.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Completed by the PGC President. The PGC President noted the absence of Indigenous voices within the PGC and asked members of PGC to engage and refer any Indigenous postgraduate students to himself.

1.2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure

The PGC President noted a conflict of interest that he is the Postgraduate Representative in the UNSW Council.

1.4. Previous minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation of previous minutes: 17 May 2022

RESOLVED

THAT the minutes from the PGC meeting held on 17 May 2022 are accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

1.4.2. Matters arising/ action list

The action list was noted.

The PGC President raised that it is a good idea to invite all postgraduates including Canberra postgraduates to act as observers at one of the PGC meetings.

ACTION

THAT postgraduate students are invited for the upcoming PGC meeting.

1.5. Meeting administration

1.5.1. Items flagged for immediate discussion

There were no items flagged for immediate discussion.

1.5.2. Selection of meeting observer

D. Tribbia was appointed as the meeting observer.

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

There were no matters for decision.

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no matters for discussion.

4. OFFICE BEARER REPORTS

4.1. President

The report was taken as read.

The PGC was invited to the Research Strategy Session, which involved all senior research members of UNSW and where the concerns of the Research Training Program (RTP) were raised at the session. A discussion around RTP was made:

- Concern of whether the increase in RTP will be accompanied by an increase in UIPA if the UIPA is benchmarked against RTP.
- 10% of RTP go to international students, however, that does not represent the portion of UIPA. There are more international students than the 10% who receive the UIPA.
- The RTP is for domestic students, which is funded by governments, while UIPA is funded fully by UNSW and is usually linked to profits from grants and coursework. They are benchmarked against each other and follow similar rates.
- Question of whether the allocation for UIPA may also be changed whilst the allocation for RTP may be changed.
- The PGC President will be advocating for the increase of funds, which will be a long process.

Further notices:

- The Arc Board Retreat went well and a clearer understanding of Arc's relationship with PGC was gained.
- Work is underway with a number of organisations including HKABA, Hong Kong of Australia Business Association and Medical, Health & Wellbeing ambassadors.
- At a meeting in relation to student information and communications, it was raised that welcome packs for new students also include Arc and PGC information to increase student involvement.
- The PGC President has been advocating for students experiencing distress, with substandard online engagements in particular subjects.
- Reminder about SDGs and to contact the PGC President for any help.
- Congratulations to the Research Vice President for his successful pitch and being an excellent communicator and entrepreneur.
- The PGC meeting with the Vice Chancellor went well. The PGC President shared the 6 priorities to members of PGC.
- Encouragement of council members to attend the Big Day Out, which is at half capacity and will be further promoted on social media.
- Encouragement for council members to attend the Postgraduate Festival.
- Whilst there is no central place for promotion of PGC events, events are shared on Facebook.

ACTION

THAT all PGC portfolios review the priorities from the Vice Chancellor and suggest ways the PGC can work on them in the last half of the year.

THAT the PGC President will clarify the allocation of RTP to students and whether increasing RTP amounts would lower the number of students receiving the scholarships.

4.2. General Secretary

The report was taken as read.

The General Secretary provided further points:

- More than 400 tickets were sold for the PG Week
- The 3-minutes thesis has been cancelled and changed to networking night.
- The PG Party will be changed to the cruise.
- Contact the PGC President or General Secretary for interests in the HDR medicine partnership.
- Appreciation was given to T. Le, who is in the marketing team, for managing the website.
- The General Secretary raised for herself to be contacted for any food orders.

In regards to the PGC Cruise, capacity in previous years was roughly 700, with invitations extended to alumni and undergraduates too. Numbers may be lower in 2022 due to COVID concerns. Prices may vary across promotions, such as early bird, potential student concession, international and other equitable prices.

4.3. Equity Vice President

Points raised:

- Coordinating the Postgraduate Festival events in progress.
- There have been questions written for panels for mental health & parenting.
- The 3-minutes thesis did not entice people's participation, as it can be hard to mix research/work-based event with a social event.
- The date for 'movie night' has been determined and is on track with an aim of 20 people.
- An UNSW EDI representative, recommended by Arc, can help with funding for the sexual assault and harassment talk, which has been quoted at \$3000+.
- There have been regular coffee catchups, with too many attendees to accommodate considering the size of the postgrad lounge.
- The coffee machine needs an upgrade as it there have been slow waits for coffee.
- A student was unsure of PGC events and schedules, which raises the issue that there is no central place for events.
- Appreciation to M. Urmi for her work and contribution.

The PGC President noted the sadness of the International Vice President's resignation. S. Bakhtiyorov was applauded for his dedication and work in the PGC, as well as being an excellent team player. PGC will look forward to working with S. Bakhtiyorov in the future if there are opportunities.

S. Bakhtiyorov left the meeting at 5:31pm.

ACTION

THAT the General Secretary find funding for a new coffee machine.

THAT the General Secretary works with Marketing and Communications Committee to create a place on social media platforms to centralise PGC events.

4.4. International Vice President

The report was taken as read.

Some committee members are participating in the Hong Kong Association event and the Postgraduate Pub event scheduled for July. There was also a call out for members to participate in International Food Festival in Postgraduate Week.

4.5. Research Vice President

The report was taken as read.

Dates and location have been determined for the Awards night, with the UNSW Vice Chancellor and Dean and Deputy Dean of GRS most likely attending. The Roundhouse has been provided to PGC by Arc for the awards to be held. The event is expecting around 258 people, involving mostly old Council and committee members, nominees, awardees, schools, faculties, and the Council.

Postgraduate week dates have been resolved.

4.6. Coursework Vice President

The report was taken as read.

3 events that are being worked on:

- Collaboration event with Opportunity Australia. There has been additional help. At the same time, Coursework is reviewing last year's feedback and screening speakers to make sure they align with what the students need, rather than agenda of speaker. Location and details will be confirmed.
- Careers event in collaboration with the International Portfolio, which is still in progress.
- Marketing materials workshop, with the Coursework Vice President to follow up with Arc to organise between Term 2 & 3.

Feedback from committee members from O-Week and Welcome Week show that there are issues with identifying meeting points. It was suggested that for the Postgraduate Festival, information can be provided to volunteers upfront.

The Coursework Vice President attended the Sextember meeting and survey results showed that people wanted to learn more about body image and male sexual health. The Equity Vice President noted her interest in helping with Sextember.

4.7. Canberra Officer

Canberra campus students will be joining Postgraduate Festival next week. The Canberra Officer extended her appreciation to the PGC President for volunteering to show the Sydney Campus. Members of PGC were welcomed to join the events.

The Canberra Officer is also organising the Food Hub in UNSW Canberra. There have been difficulties engaging with Food Bank; it may be possible to contact bakeries for leftover food.

4.8. Paddington Officer

N/A

4.9. Media & Communications Report

N/A

5. MATTERS FOR NOTING [discussed only on exception basis]

N/A

6. Q&A (if any)

The Coursework Committee Liaison offered to help the General Secretary with marketing.

7. MEETING FINALISATION

7.1. Meeting evaluation

The meeting was very productive, it went well. It had an unstructured flow, which can be productive in terms of brainstorming, but as a minor concern, it may be better to adhere to the structure of meeting for the future.

7.2. Next meeting date: 2 August 2022

The PGC requested that the next meeting occur on 7 July 2022.

ACTION

THAT the next PGC Meeting be moved to 7 July 2022.

7.3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 5:55 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK', is written over a solid horizontal line.

PGC President Signature – Joshua Karras
Date: 19/07/2022