



Arc @ UNSW limited
PGC MEETING MINUTES
Monday 22 January 2024
Hybrid (Arc Training Rooms/TEAMS)
4:00 pm

Present: Tony Le (PGC President), Salauddin Pathan Akash, Anuvinda Sreenivas, Daiana Venancio, Gurpreet Hansra, Ada Choi, Ervan Herkusuma

Apologies: Sidra Sarwat, Nicole Zhao, Nitharsaa Ambalavanar, Anushka Anchan

Attendance: N/A

Absent: N/A

1. MEETING OPENING

The meeting opened at 4:09pm.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Completed by the PGC President.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from S. Sarwat, N. Zhao, N. Ambalavanar, and A. Anchan.

RESOLUTION

THAT the apologies received from S. Sarwat, N. Zhao, N. Ambalavanar, and A. Anchan are accepted.

CARRIED

1.3. Conflicts of interest disclosure

N/A

1.4. Previous Minutes

1.4.1. Confirmation: 18 December 2023

RESOLUTION

THAT the minutes from the PGC meeting held on 18 December 2023 are noted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

1.4.2. Matters arising/ action list

The action list was noted.

1.5. Meeting administration

1.5.1. Selection of meeting observer

D. Venancio was appointed as the meeting observer.

1.5.2. Items flagged for immediate discussion

N/A

2. MATTERS FOR DECISION

2.1. The PGC International Committee supports the joint letters and open letter from CAPA and SUPRA regarding the proposed visa changes for the Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485)

The paper was taken as read.

There was a general consensus of support for the motion from PGC. The International Vice President will share an ePetition regarding the visa change with the PGC.

RESOLUTION

THAT the PGC International Committee supports the joint letters and open letter from CAPA and SUPRA regarding the proposed visa changes for the Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485).

CARRIED

ACTION

THAT the International Vice President shares the ePetition regarding the graduate Visa change with the PGC.

2.2. That the PGC supports the USYD SRC and SUPRA ePetition to Parliament on making public transport concessions available to all students in NSW

The paper was taken as read.

Discussions:

- Whilst the matter of public transport concession is not as urgent as item 2.1, the ePetition ends in March and needs a certain number of signatures. Only NSW residents can sign the petition.
- Public transport concession has been an issue debated for a long time, and especially so as costs of living have been rising.
- Some scholarships and programs for international students provide international students with transport concessions, however, transport concessions should be advocated for all international students.
- Although most states have some form of concession transport for international students, NSW does not.

One abstention was received.

RESOLUTION

THAT the PGC supports the USYD SRC and SUPRA ePetition to Parliament on making public transport concessions available to all students in NSW.

CARRIED

3. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

N/A

4. OFFICE BEARER REPORTS

4.1. President

The report was taken as read.

There is an additional Funner Summer bowling event. While capacity is limited, it is also important to ensure that a variety of postgraduate students get a chance to attend. PGC members should also attend these Funner Summer events for opportunities to engage with students.

4.2. General Secretary

N/A

4.3. Equity Vice President

The report was taken as read.

The Equity Office will meet with the International Office to discuss potential collaboration for Harmony Day.

4.4. International Vice President

The report was taken as read.

The Coursework Office is also planning to hold regular sports events each term and could potentially collaborate with the International Office.

4.5. Research Vice President

The report was taken as read.

4.6. Coursework Vice President

The report was taken as read.

4.7. Canberra Officer

The report was taken as read.

Updates:

- The Canberra Officer will work on plans for the Canberra Sydney trip during the Postgraduate Festival.
- The Gender Violence awareness event will involve various panelists, including the Gender Violence Network, who will be introducing students to the topic and provide relevant tools and information. The Canberra Officer requested other Offices to also help promote the event.

4.8. Paddington Officer

N/A

4.9. Media & Communications

N/A

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

N/A

6. Q&A (if any)

Budget & accrual process:

- There is no budget to accrue in January.
- PGC Officers need to submit accruals before the end of the month.
- Reasons are required for accruals.
- The President may question the expenditure submission if the expense does not relate to student engagement.
- Invoices should be sought in advance, so payments can be organised in time.

Subcommittee recruitment:

- Points around Subcommittee recruitment can be considered to be added to the PGC Charter, as currently the Charter does not reference the process.
- The PGC should check the interests of previous year volunteers to increase the number of potential continuing volunteers.
- The PGC should seek to recruit Subcommittee members who represent the student cohort diversity as best as possible.
- The Canberra Officer may not plan a formal interview process for Canberra recruitment as it was very time consuming and yielded poor results in 2023. The Canberra Officer may alternatively seek members at student events, especially at the Orientation Day where

many postgraduate students attend. Students can also reach out to the Canberra Officer directly via the PGC website if interested.

- PGC Officers are expected to manage, lead and encourage participation of the Subcommittee volunteers recruited.
- Subcommittee recruitment is centralised. The President will provide PGC Officers with direct access to the expression of interest form results.
- The PGC could potentially distribute the recruitment notice in the newsletter and share it amongst UNSW and personal networks.

UNSW courses:

- Many students may be unaware of how to check if a course is available. Although there is the Student Handbook, certain courses in it may also be unavailable. The Coursework Committee Liaison was advised to seek more student feedback on the matter and check whether there are other methods of resolving the issue. If not, the President will raise in a relevant UNSW meeting.

ACTION

THAT the Coursework Officers seek student feedback on the UNSW courses availability issue and investigate whether there are potential methods of resolving it.

7. MEETING FINALISATION

7.1. Meeting evaluation

The meeting was organised, and the Chair followed the agenda well. While there may have been many things to talk about, the meeting was concise.

7.2. Next meeting date: 19 February 2024

7.3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 5:24pm.



PGC President Signature – Tony Le
Date: 04/03/2024