

PRC Meeting #8 Minutes

Monday 15th February 2016 6pm
Mills Room, Chancellery

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Acknowledgement of Indigenous Australians

2. Confirmation of Minutes

- Some disagreement about the previous minutes from certain members aggrieved about the content contained therein, in particular the naming of certain members.
- The contents of the minutes will be reviewed by the aggrieved member, who will present redacted minutes to the PRC.
- A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the minutes should not name a member in the course of debate about matters pertaining to the organisation (PARSA), however it was agreed that where members are bringing matters to the PRC which may pertain to the member in a capacity only as it related to the PRC and where identification is necessary for the purposes of context, the person shall be named. However, as a rule, all interaction at the PRC should be anonymous in the minutes. No vote taken, general consensus seems to have been met.
- Agreed that the minutes are a work in progress, many views on how they should look.
- Confirmation of minutes held over to the next PRC meeting.
- Currently the General Secretary takes and produces the minutes, including this set.

3. Status of Vice President.

- Vice President officially stays her position, nominates interim (acting VP, Alyssa Shaw).
- New VP elected unanimously.
- Also two new members of the executive added, this is also agreed to, Dominic Nadvillaveetil (International Officer) and Bishal Chalise (Education Officer) in order to ensure representation within the Executive.

4. President's Report

- University Update
 - i. Meetings
 1. Library – Discussing fees for overdue items. In progress alongside Gen Sec and Women's Officer
 - a. Agreed that PARSA will continue to speak to the Library, all find the fees unacceptable.
 2. CHL – Forum 16 Feb. Education Officer has lead
 3. DVC Academic Hughes-Warrington – Focuses for 2016
 4. PVC Research Corbett – Reviews in 2016

- ii. Signature changes for PARSA accounts, this to go ahead to allow Mike to be added as a signatory, as well as taking off the former VP (currently in absentia) and to add the temporary VP to the list.
 - January Update (Attached)
 - O Week
 - i. Been massive! Attendance as follows:
 1. Afternoon sunset tea: 200
 2. Bus tour: 22
 3. Walking tour: 70
 4. Cocktail party: 300
 5. College Meet and greet: 120
 6. Tjabal Music on the Meadow: 100
 - ii. 2 biggest events still to come! International Student Welcome and Big day
 - Admin Assistants
 - i. Hiring complete! Gwen, Dana, and Caroline
 - ii. Have been inducted by PARSA General Manager and President.
 - Review into funding for ACOLA (Aust Council of Learned Academies)
 - i. One pager attached
 - External Update
 - i. Melb Uni (GSA) Australia needs a brighter future campaign
 - ii. Questions from some about the PARSA response, although no vote taken, PRC agrees to allow two weeks (from the 15th of February) for a response from CAPA and the Brighter Futures campaign, before issuing an official response.
- 5. Vice Chancellor of ANU arrives, addresses the PRC and takes questions for a period of time.**
- 6. Treasurer's Report (attached below)**
- Tabling of Expenses
 - Treasurer's Update
 - i. New spending requests
 - Budget update
 - Treasurer encourages all officers and others to follow the new payment protocol, the details of which the Treasurer provided.
- 7. Tabling of Executive Reports**
- Vice President
 - i. New to the role, much of the content attached below.
 - ii. NB Women's Officer role also included.
 - General Secretary
 - i. Constitution and election regs update
 1. PRC formerly acceded at the previous PRC meeting to hold the next PARSA Annual Election on the 15th of August, 2016. In line with PARSA election regulations allowing a shift of three months (to shorten or

lengthen) terms of the PRC. Notes this and confirms another vote will occur this evening to again confirm, as a safety measure, the agreeance of the PRC to change the election date, pursuant to the previous minutes.

- ii. Discusses the handover book, being completed as an almanac and instruction manual for all incoming PRC members. Requests other members of the PRC get involved to add to the document and to make suggestions.
 - iii. Discusses O-Week activities, including suggestions from PARSA members.
 - iv. Discusses the need to pass new constitutional amendments to fix issues with the current constitution, mostly administrative in nature, to be made available on the PARSA website.
 - v. Likewise election regulation changes are required to align the regulations with the constitution.
 - vi. Changes to the constitution must be plotted over the next few months.
 - vii. Election regulations may be amended by the PRC alone.
 - viii. Disputes Committee
 1. Still being worked out. Some members recommend the formation of a committee to establish the disputes committee. No volunteers yet
 - ix. Public Officer, General Manager to become.
 - x. Student consultation, including the request the General Secretary bring to the PRC a proposal to consider a potential addition to the PRC of one extra College Representative each to specifically represent online students.
 1. Some members questioned this proposal.
 2. The General Secretary also mentioned that the LSS had appropriated money in the SSAF bid to put towards supporting online JD student in the future.
 3. A member questioned this proposal, and expressed information as to the process for determining why the money was to be spent on College of Law students, and who was administering this money. A conversation ensued regarding the nature of SSAF and the funds appropriated. The member agreed to be further informed at a later date, pending information from the General Secretary and the Executive.
- Education Officer (no report provided)
 - International Officer (no report provided)
 - Social Officer (no report provided)
 - Equity Officer (no report provided)
 - Communications Officer (no report provided)
 - Environmental Officer (no report provided)
 - Indigenous Australian Officer (no report provided)

- Women's Officer (as in report)
- Indigenous Australian Officer (no report provided)

8. Election date

- Further discussion pursuant to the instructions from the previous minutes, that further confirmation should be made by the PRC.
- Discussion ensues reiterating the main points and arguments for/against change.
- Secret ballot taken asking the question: when should the 2016 PARSA Annual Election be held, May 15 or August 15?
 - i. 6 votes for May, 8 votes for August.

9. Quorum broken as several members leave (the exact final attendee list TBC by General Secretary in the next minutes)

- All remaining present PRC member express displeasure at low PRC turnout.

10. Other Business (held over to next PRC as quorum failed following vote on the election date being set)

- Advocacy Issues
- General Manager's Report
- Budget requests
 - i. Staff parking
 - ii. CSSA (Crawford) Events
 - iii. ANU Chinese Mentoring Program
- Filling vacancy of Environment Officer

January Update

New Staff

We have a few new staff around the place so drop in and get to know them.

General Manager

We have hired Mike Heffron as our General Manager to do all things management and HR for us as well as bringing some expertise from the Scottish student union movement.

O Week Directors

I'd like to welcome Alanna Esslemont-Clow and Rushikesh Nivalkar as our inaugural Orientation Week Directors. Both bring a world of experience and are fun to boot! *Be on the look out for requests for assistance from these two to help fill all of our O Week requirements.*

Women's Week

I'd also like to welcome Krithika Gururaj as our inaugural Women's Week director. She'll be working closely with Alyssa and the Women's steering committee to deliver an awesome week for postgrads.

Admin Assistants

Last but not least, I'd like to announce the 3 successful applicants for our Admin Assistant roles. After interviewing more than 10 people in 3 countries, we have appointed Gwen Goon, Danna Chilcon, and Caroline Turner. They will be inducted over the coming weeks and look to begin in Orientation week. Thank you to everyone who suggested or recommended a candidate. Of the 10 that we interviewed, all were employable and we have encouraged all of them to apply for casual vacancies as they become available.

College Inductions

As Bishal asked on the facey group (and a photo attached), there are college inductions happening during O Week. For College reps, please respond to Bishal to confirm your availability. For gen reps who want to be involved, great!, let him know that you're free and want to help.

Conducting work for PARSA

For those that have tried to understand the remuneration system at PARSA, you'll know how confusing it is. To assist with this, and to increase accountability to both the PRC and our members, a log book will be instituted from Monday next week (25 January 2016) for all work (it's attached as well). For anyone doing anything for PARSA, please fill it in and follow the instructions. This will strengthen our position in negotiations for our 2017 funding and will help us learn what people are doing for PARSA, especially when it's behind the scenes. Please let me know if you find any issues or suggest some improvements. The system will be reviewed according to the timeline so some issues may arise but they will be worth working through.

Vacancies on the PRC

We have received 3 notices of resignation from Lilli Castellon, Shipei Qu, and Wenqing Duan. I'd like to thank them for their time and the hard work they put in to try to grow our Association. As an Officer, Lilli's vacancies will be filled from within the PRC at our next PRC meeting on February 15. Please stand by for information on the two General Rep vacancies, the Executive are still discussing the best way forward.

Kim-Marie leave and Executive increase

For those unaware, Kim-Marie will be unfortunately away for much of the time until May conducting some vital study. Her absence leaves an unfillable hole in PARSA but to try to deliver the best for our members, the Executive have invited Alyssa Shaw (Women's), Bishal Chalise (Education), and Dominic Nadvillaveetil (International) on to a temporarily extended Executive. They will have the same powers as any other member of the Executive and will help us structurally and portfolio-based to minimise the loss of Kim. Stay tuned for other announcements in this space.

Professional Development

We've arranged for conflict resolution training to be conducted on February 1. This is really useful training and will be helpful for not only your PARSA work but your careers after uni. Please let me know if you'd like to attend, I'd really recommend it!

Next PRC Meeting and special guest

Our first PRC Meeting of the year has been booked for Monday 15 February at 5.30pm in the Mills Room at chancellery. In attendance to give us their thoughts on Postgrad study will be not only Pro-Vice Chancellor of Student Experience, Prof Richard Baker, but also our illustrious new Vice-Chancellor, Prof Brian Schmidt! I'm very excited to kick the year off with a bang so please try your best to be available.

O-Week

Last and certainly not least is Orientation Week. I've attached a schedule for PARSA events so again please do your best to meet new people and spread the PARSA message. It'll be an effort but as we've seen over the last 2 years, the more successful our Orientation efforts have been, the better year we've had.

Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements (the Watt review)

You will have seen in the press that the Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements (the Watt Review) has just reported. It was tasked with recommending options to strengthen Australia's research system. The review recommended the simplification of the Research Block Grants (RBG) - one of the means by which the Australian Government provides direct funding to universities for research, and greater encouragement for engagement and innovation in research and research training. The Watt review is available [here](#).

These changes to research funding are not as important to current higher degree research (HDR) students as recommendations in other areas. One focus of the review was on improving research collaboration in industry. The review proposed establishment of a PhD business scheme to improve connections between innovation-active businesses and universities. This incorporation of business placements in PhD training would also help students understand the value of business relevant research as well as building skills for future employment in business settings.

HDR students will be placed with business with the proposed funding allowing for six months placements. There are 350 places available in 2017, which the ANU will share in (with 700 places to be made available from 2018).

The more recent announcement of the government's National Innovation strategy (the National Innovation and Science Agenda, 7 December 2015, available [here](#)) also highlights the importance being placed by government on greater [research-industry collaboration](#) (amongst a range of other measures).

The Government expects that changing research funding incentives to support partnerships with industry will mean that HDR students will have better opportunities to both undertake research and develop broader appreciation of career opportunities in both the public and private sectors. The Government's MYEFO statement makes it clear that these improvements to Australia's research system will be funded from savings in other areas, not from existing research funding.

These changes should give universities more flexibility in the way we manage funds to support our HDR students. We will need careful thought about what changes we make, and how we implement them, and these will be discussed over the coming year.

Parking Proposal

Attn: PARSA Exec

RE: PARSA staff parking policy proposal

Date: January 27, 2016

Upon commencing my employment at PARSA, the issue of staff parking was raised by PARSA staff members who do not have their parking paid for, but are working alongside those that do.

Chris Wilson asked me to draw together a new policy related to staff parking, as he was concerned about the arbitrary nature of who does and does not get their parking paid for, and the effect this has on staff safety, finances, productivity and morale, measured against the cost of providing parking to all staff regardless of reasonable need.

After consulting with staff and Chris, I believe the proposed policy strikes a good balance of not financially penalising current staff and maintaining a safe, productive and parent-friendly workplace while ensuring that PARSA has a consistent policy going forward that will reduce costs to the organisation and encourage more environmentally friendly travel options.

Please note that this proposal only applies to permanent, PARSA-funded staff. ANUSA currently pays for a mix of surface and parking station permits for all ANUSA and PARSA-shared staff (that they fund), and do not wish to alter this arrangement.

Proposed change to current staff parking arrangement

Until Dec 31, 2018, PARSA will:

- continue the current parking arrangements for Monica Fernandes and Mike Heffron;
- provide surface parking permits for Radium Mardia and Cat Martin. PARSA will reimburse Radium and Cat their surface parking permit costs from January 1, 2016 until the passage of this policy.

Wayne Joseph has not requested a parking permit at this time.

As of January 1, 2019, the following policy will apply to all current PARSA staff.

Proposed PARSA staff parking policy:

Following the passage of this policy, all current and newly hired, permanent PARSA staff will qualify for PARSA-funded parking permits based on the following policy.

(Note 1):

- PARSA will pay the cost of a *parking station permit* if (Note 2):
 - a) the staff member's job duties require regular car trips to and from the office; or
 - b) the staff member is responsible for regular childcare/school pickups and/or drop-offs which impact on their normal work hours
- PARSA will pay for a *surface parking permit* if the staff member lives further than 5km from the office.
- ANU provides free disability parking to those with a valid state or disability parking permit or an ANU (mobility) disability permit; free ANU mobility permits are also available for staff or students who have a short or long term illness. Should qualifying staff be denied such permits, PARSA will alter this policy to ensure staff with disabilities are provided with an appropriate parking permit.
- Staff who qualify for a parking permit but choose to cycle to work will receive up to \$150 reimbursed annually for bike repairs.
- Qualification for a *parking station permit* will be reviewed by the supervisor of the relevant staff member prior to renewal.
- Staff with either type of parking permit are required to immediately bring to the attention of their supervisor any changes to their personal circumstances that would alter or end their eligibility for a parking permit. Staff who fail to do so may be liable for reimbursing the permit costs for the period they maintained a parking permit but were not eligible to do so.
- If ANU does not have parking permits available upon commencement of new employment, or upon a current staff member newly qualifying or applying for a parking permit, then staff will be placed on the relevant waiting lists, but PARSA will not cover parking or other transportation costs in the interim.

Notes

- 1) Parking station permits are reserved spots located at three areas on campus. Surface parking is first-come first-serve, in locations scattered around campus. It is reportedly very difficult to find a surface space after 8:45am when classes are in session.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mike Heffron, General Manager, PARSA