



## 2016-17 PRC Meeting #5

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 5.30PM

PARSA Boardroom

**Attendance:** Arjun Mathilakath Madathil, Alyssa Shaw, Ceridwen Suiter (Wendy), Riley Berry, Darcy Jackman, Stella Kusumawarshani, Ryan Ridden-Harper, Dane Lyons, Zhang Guangfong (Simon), Bethany Ellis, Emma Davies, Avish Amin, Sahar Latheef, Tanbeen Hasan, Kim-Marie Spence, Hansika Chopra

**Administrator (Minute-taker):** Hansika (General Secretary) took minutes as Administrator had given apologies

**Chair:** Alyssa Shaw (President)

### 1. Meeting open

- **Welcome & Acknowledgement of Indigenous Australians**
- **Welcome to the newly elected PRC members from by-election 2017**
- **Conflict of interest**
- **Minutes**
  - **Motion:** Minutes of Meeting #3 and #4 to be approved by PRC.
    - Moved: Alyssa, Seconded: Hansika
    - Motion passes; 8 in favour, 8 abstentions

### 2. Governance

- Negotiation of MOU in progress with ANUSA
- **Honoraria**
  - For tracking of honoraria hours, a briefing note, with a new template, has been instituted for the month of March onwards, noting that Officers are expected to report monthly given the honoraria pay cycle.
  - The President will track time commitment by month and activities and will report on this in semester 2.
  - Regular officer meetings every 2 – 3 weeks have also commenced for the remainder of semester 1.
  - Officers to record key events and activities, restructuring current system.

### 3. Reports

- **General Manager's Report**
  - Alyssa: Staffing update: Wayne Joseph- Student Assistant Officer- finished his last working day two weeks ago. His replacement, Kate, has extensive experience in counselling and casework- starting May 9
  - Appointment of Advocacy and Engagement Officer- a position approved by PRC in previous meeting- interviews tomorrow (April 20)
  - External legal advice (confidential)

- **President's report**
  - Alyssa: Thanks to Kim for taking charge while Alyssa was away
  - Thanks to Hansika for by-elections 2017
  - Congratulations to the by-election winners
  - Commenced student partnership agreements with ANU. Discussions to be formalised around what we want for the membership from the university- through Academic Board and the Council
  - Sexual Assault and Sexual harassment – ANU reporting reforms and positioning ANU for the release of the survey- discussed the conducting of survey with Nathalie
  - CAPA meeting and delegation discussions are on at the moment
    - Alyssa taken on the role of Women's Officer at CAPA
  - Everyone including new officers really stepping up into their roles
  
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - Avish: Looking at sponsorship along with SSAF budget for our events
  - Aim is to try and get funding from outside of university sources- to give us more flexibility to use our funds and in conducting events
  - The SSAF funds surplus (money that we don't utilize) goes back to the university and PARSA doesn't get to keep them for future use
  - Following options to utilize surplus reserves from SSAF (surplus from before, this option is not available anymore)
    - Reinvest in short low return and get better yield- SSAF legislation not clear on investment- for better returns- should be medium risk not high
    - Revenue- 1.5 million from SSAF
    - Need advice on how and where we can invest it, if legislation allows it
  
- **Motion: Approve Reports**
  - Alyssa moves, Tanbeen seconds
  - Reports pass unanimously

#### 4. Key Business

- **By-Election update**
  - **Official welcome to new members**
    - Treasurer: Avish Amin
    - Environmental Officer: Emma Davies
    - Indigenous Australian Officer: Darcy Jackman
    - Communications Officer: Arjun Mathilakath Madathil
    - College of Law Rep: Riley Berry
    - College of Asia and the Pacific Rep: Stella Kusumawardhani
    - College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences: Ryan Ridden-Harper
  
  - **Motion:** Thanks to Dr Stephen Milne as Returning Officer for all his work, and his flexibility with stepping into this role; Mike Heffron and Hansika Chopra for their co-ordination efforts; Michael Curtotti for his legal advice and guidance. Shikha Sud for handling all communications, website and MSL support
    - Alyssa moves, Kim seconded
    - Motion passes with one abstention

- **AGM**
  - Noting the need to ensure quorum and not clash with peak assessment period, and the aims to bring potential constitutional changes to members ahead of the AGM, the President suggests the tentative date for AGM be pushed to around May 22-23.
  - Dates to be formalised by next PRC meeting.
- **Wellness Week**
  - Update: All organisation and everything is in place, to be publicised soon (within a day or two).
- **Proxy Votes**
  - To be formulated by governance committee
  - Possible suggestions/platforms: Facebook poll or doodle polls
  - For next time- please respond to polls for easier administration
- **Planning Day**
  - PARSA staff and Officers met in early February to lay out a plan of work for the year.
  - **Motion:** PRC endorse February 2017 Planning Day draft report timeline endorsed for August election
    - Alyssa moves, Hansika seconded
    - Motion passes with one abstention

## 5. Annual Elections in August 2017

- Alyssa: Annual Elections in August- 6-week handover period to be instituted this time
  - 6-week period decided and passed in previous PRC meeting
  - September 29 would be the current PRC's last day
- Plan is to start nominations in Bush Week (Week 1 of Semester 2). This will also give a chance to engage new students
- Wendy: *Agenda (3.3) needs to reflect the motion that handover period is 6 weeks and not 2 months*
- Motion to be raised in the next meeting

## 6. Constitutional Changes

- Amendments proposed by Alyssa, Michael and Hansi distributed to PRC.
- Whoever wants to add or suggest changes- send them to above by Monday (April 24).

## 7. Disputes Committee

- Noting that a minimum of 3 members are needed for the Disputes Committee, with one being external. Professor Peter Kanowski, Master of University House, has agreed to take up this role as the external member on the committee.
- Disputes Committee is essential in ensuring accountability and it was used by members last year.
  - **Motion:** PRC appoint Professor Peter Kanowski as the external member for the Disputes Committee.
    - Alyssa moves, Wendy seconds
    - Motion passes unanimously

## 8. Audit

- Alyssa and Avish: Audited financial statement is provided to the PRC and will be discussed during the meeting. Key aspects of the audit include:
  - Accrued wages
  - Depreciation from student hub furniture: getting good use out of it, good value
  - Fixed assets- removed obsolete fixed assets that weren't in use anymore
  - Grant Revenue- rectified
  - GST- rectified
  - Income from interest
- Thanks to Paul (Financial Controller)- got everything under control and got the books back in order
  - **Motion:** To accept audit report
    - Alyssa moves, Avish seconded
    - Motion passes unanimously

## 9. Union Court redevelopment

- Project managers will be coming in from Sydney- May 2, Tuesday
- Gods Café been in Woroni a couple of times as it is not coming to the Pop-Up Village. Now looking at external providers. Kim has spoken to the owner of Gods Café.
  - ANU had unsuccessful negotiations with Gods to incentivize them to come to the Pop Up Village without success
- Boost juice franchise at union court: Women harassed and vilified. Will raise this concern with Tenancy Selection Committee and aim to bring another provider with a similar service to the pop up, but not Boost given this behavior.
- Following sexist and racist remarks from the Green Room (supplier to ANU Bar) an internal decision has been made to no longer use them as a supplier.
- ANU Bar has not been selected as the Bar provider for Union Court following a merit based process that ANUSA and PARSAs representatives were included in the selection panel for.
- To know more new marketing of the union court, visit the website:  
[www.reunioncourt.com.au](http://www.reunioncourt.com.au)
- Oversight for Union Court
  - Kim sitting on the redevelopment's project management group - the group meets every four weeks
  - Alyssa on the tenancy selection committee for the union- suggestions, comments etc for redevelopment to be sent to them

## 10. Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer

- Concerns about lack of HDR representation on PRC
- Supervisory issues are at the fore at ANU
- However, adding a new member to the PRC would mean a 32-member board.
  - Currently there are issues with 31-member board
  - Constitution review being conducted by Geoff Carter from Strategic Governance Group
- To be presented at OGM in July/August to the membership
- Collaborative learning building in new Union Court discussed. A building at Barry drive to replace MCC was discussed at PARSAs Education sub-committee and representations will be made by PARSAs

## **11. PARSA advocacy and policy direction**

- Background: High-profile incidents internationally affect the postgrad representation here. There have been several political and ANU decision lately that raise the question of PARSA's advocacy and policy direction. Examples include:
  - President Trump's Executive Order
  - Fair Work Commission's decision to cut penalty rates on Sunday
  - ANU proposal regarding exams on Sundays
  - Penalty rates on Sunday.
  - Changes to the 457 visas.
- PARSA stayed open for Australia Day to advocate for a change of day
- Alyssa to check with CISA and CAPA: What does PARSA think about certain global issues that impact the student population at ANU
- Establish PARSA's lead role in advocacy among universities, to respond quickly to the external environment, but also accurately reflect PARSA's role.
- Recruitment discussions are ongoing at moment whether to institute a Policy Officer.
- PARSA needs to more clearly establish how to take a position on issues, although there was general consensus from the PRC that PARSA was advocating the correct positions.

## **12. Meeting close**

- **8:30 pm**