



PARSA Postgraduate Representative Council (PRC)

Education Committee

Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2022

Time: 1pm

Location: PARSA Boardroom and on Zoom

Part 1 Procedural Items

1 Attendance and apologies

Attending: Gunjan Dixit (Chair), Tristan Yip, Akrti Tyagi, Siddharth Mittal, Jiayi Shen, Zhangcheng Qiang, Upasana Pathak, Ruonan Chen

Apologies: Shukla Promite (CoS HDR Officer)

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Committee objectives and committee member expectations – for noting

Gunjan went through the objectives and governing policy for the Committee and noted that it presented an opportunity for the Education portfolio and Executive Committee to hear from the various College representatives.

2.2 Call for other business

No other business was added.

Part 2 Reports

3 Reports – for information and discussion

3.1 HDR Officer's Report

Gunjan attended the Library Advisory Committee. The opening hours for Menzies Library was discussed, with the possibility of transitioning to operating at all hours (like Chifley and the Law Library).

Also attended University Research Committee this morning. A report was received from the Higher Degree Research Committee (sub-committee under URC), with discussion of overhauling the framework for HDR degrees at ANU.



3.2 Coursework Officer's Report

Tristan attended the TELRG/ADE Forum, which discussed ways to improve staff development and support systems for technology enhanced learning infrastructure. Also noted that he and Sonia have been working with the ANUSA President on the latest iteration of the Student Partnership Agreement, which includes a provision to set up a joint TLDC meeting which would involve more PRC representatives.

3.3 Reports and Issues Raised by College Representatives

College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) – Ruonan attended the CEC meeting for CASS on 4th April. The meeting mostly addressed restructures to the undergraduate program. The College is looking to increase the proportion of postgraduate coursework students as a proportion of the College's demographic. Also noted issues with advertising for the previous CASS HDR Induction and suggested this should be promoted within the College.

College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) – Akrti attended the CEC meeting for CAP. The ADE for the College (**Matthew Davies** 😊) is looking to set up a Design Committee to sit underneath the CEC, which would be renamed to the Curriculum Committee. Akrti has had issues with getting the CAP Student Administration to respond to her emails. Tristan suggested that she should try and locate a specific staff member from the Administration to interact with and direct correspondence to. It was noted that in the absence of a CAP HDR representative, Akrti was also meant to attend the HDR equivalent to the CEC meetings. As this meeting was held at the same time as the CEC meeting, she was unable to attend.

Action item: Akrti and Gunjan to arrange for an alternate to attend the next CAP HDR meeting if it again conflicts with the CEC meeting

College of Business and Economics (CBE) – Siddharth noted that he had obtained access to the CBE functional email. He attended the CEC meeting, where changes to Special Considerations and Exams policy was highlighted. The College is looking to put increased emphasis on entrepreneurial- and technology-focussed courses, in line with an overhaul of how entrepreneurial courses are conducted.

College of Engineering and Computer Sciences (CECS) – Zhangcheng and Jiayi attended the HDR induction for CECS. Too short a notice (one month) was provided to properly prepare the event, with issues arising with booking rooms, completing the relevant WHS forms, and complying with strict food preparation rules. Gunjan and Tristan noted that events could be arranged through Laurie (Events manager), who was always available to provide advice. Both representatives said that they planned to prepare events earlier in the future and



proposed sending out a survey in advance. Jiayi also provided a written update, which is appended.

College of Health and Medicine (CHM) – Upasana has been unable to attend College meetings due to timing and conflicts with her clinical placement but has been reading minutes. The last CEC meeting discussed the timing of mid-semester assessments and concluded that no assessments should be scheduled to fall during the mid-semester teaching break. Upasana noted that a mooted campaign on SWOTVAC in collaboration with the Medical Students Society was on hold as there had been no follow-up from the Society President.

College of Law (CoL) – Tristan a meeting with the College Student Administration team, and brought the existence of the Class Representative procedure to the team's attention. Also attended the CEC meeting for the College, where much-needed changes to the word count policy and new Work Integrated Learning courses were highlighted.

College of Science (CoS) – Shukla was not present to give her report.

Part 3 Items for Discussion/Noting

4.1 Portfolio-wide event(s) for next semester – for noting and discussion

Gunjan opened discussion on this item. The Committee discussed various events planned by the individual College representatives, including careers networking fairs, and brunch and evening meet-up events.

Action item: Jiayi to reach out to the CECS Student Administration to explore options for holding a careers fair later this year

More broadly, the Committee discussed the possibility of setting up College study groups which would act as facilitated study sessions, like Shut Up and Write. Upasana suggested that these study groups might eventually move outside each College to become interdisciplinary. It was noted that there were various obstacles to arranging effective study groups, especially over the medium to long-term. It was agreed that a Working Group would be established to further explore the viability of the idea, with Akrti, Siddharth, Upasana and Gunjan volunteering their services.

Action item: Tristan to arrange volunteers for the Study Groups Working Group to meet at some point to explore feasibility and begin planning

The Committee also discussed setting up a mini-student conference. Gunjan suggested a networking or careers event where HDR students were given an opportunity to present their research. This would be an in-person event and would be open to students from a



wide range of disciplines, with the opportunity for interdisciplinary networking. The conference could also apply for SEEF funding.

Action item: Gunjan to look at logistics necessary to set-up and advertise a conference-style HDR event.

4.2 Establishment of HDR and Coursework sub-committees – for noting

Action item: Gunjan and Tristan to arrange a recurring date for both Committees which broadly suits everyone

It was agreed that Gunjan and Tristan would discuss this after the meeting with the respective portfolio representatives.

The Coursework sub-committee currently meets every second Thursday afternoon.

4.3 Forward planning of future meeting dates – for discussion and decision

It was agreed that a DoodlePoll would be sent out for members to complete, to determine the most convenient time to hold the next meeting.

Action item: Tristan to send out a DoodlePoll for next meeting

Any Other Issues/Forward Agenda Items

Akrti and Ruonan expressed a preference for verbal reporting rather than submitting written updates.

Tristan clarified that reports do not need to include attending the Education Committee, as this is already reflected in the minutes for the meeting through attendance.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, 12 May 2022**

TGLY



Reporter: Jiayi Shen
Position: College of Engineering & Computer Science (CECS) Officer (Coursework)

Events: CECS HDR orientation day
Time: 7th April, Thursday, 11 – 3pm
Location: Innovation Space, Birch Building
Attendance: Zhangcheng Qiang (CECS HDR Officer), 70 candidates, CECS officers
Role: Assistant

Feedback:

In this event, I facilitate Zhangcheng with the events, mainly for introducing PARSA and leading candidates to ANU Sports. We also discussed activities for team building of a small group. This is the first time I attended an event held by CECS as a holder not a candidate, which made me understand more about how to prepare for an event and what considerations should be included. Thanks to Zhangcheng's help, I have a brief idea of event planning.

Training: Planning Weekend
Time: 25 - 27 March
Location: Batemans Bay Marina Resort
Role: Participant

Feedback:

Through the 3-day training, I understood deeper and knew more about PARSA and my responsibility as a college officer. At the same time, I got to know most of the PRC members, who are very talented and kind. I have talked with other college officers about the events we are going to hold.