



PARSA Postgraduate Representative Council (PRC)

Education Committee 6

Date: Wednesday, 14 September 2022

Time: 11:30am

Location: PARSA Boardroom and on Zoom

Part 1 Procedural Items

1 Attendance and apologies

Apologies: Akrti Tyagi, Siddharth Mittal, Moon Lajawn, Zhangcheng Qiang, Ruonan Chen

2 Minutes and Matters Arising

2.1 Minutes

The Committee accepted the Minutes of the Education Committee held on 12 August as a true and accurate record.

Attachment: EC 5/2022 Minutes

2.2 Call for other business

2.3 Update on action items

- Jiayi to explore options for cooperating on academic integrity with CECS Sub-Dean – *CECS Sub-Dean is currently focusing on CECS only and is reluctant to expand too much at the moment.*
- Oass to fix a date for Shukla's legacy event, the CoS painting session – *wanted to clarify what Shukla had planned and whether this was a Paint and Sip session. Gunjan clarified that this was a Paint by Numbers event, but could potentially be turned into a Paint and Sip session due to lack of details left by Shukla.*

Part 2 Reports

3 Reports – for information and discussion

3.1 HDR Officer's Report

Zhangcheng attended the HDRC meeting on Gunjan's behalf. The major issue discussed was the oral examinations pilot, which received mixed reviews and which HDRC has asked PARSA to provide feedback on.



Is also running a number of events in the next few weeks, including the self-enrichment courses (eg. Seven Habits of Highly Effective People) and HDR Paint and Sip. Held a presentation at HDR Inductions and a successful HDR mixer after this.

Attended Academic Board 4. Discussion of Exams Working Group report, and approval of some recommendations – others will be returned to the Working Group for consideration later this year.

3.2 Coursework Officer's Report

See PRC 9 report.

3.3 Reports and Issues Raised by College Representatives

Committee to receive a report from College Representatives:

College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) – Yalan conducted a successful trip to the Science Museum in collaboration with the CoS Representative and is planning a trip to the National Gallery in collaboration with the CoL Representative. The planned Time Management course in collaboration with the ANU Library will be on 21st September – has asked if this could now be advertised on the PARSA website and social media and reiterated that other College Representatives should promote this course via College list emails. Met with the CASS International Student Dean to discuss trialling a buddy system which pairs international and domestic students together, with a potential pilot to run next year. Ruonan was not available to give her report.

College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) – Akrti was not available to give her report.

College of Business and Economics (CBE) – Siddharth was not available to give his report.

College of Engineering and Computer Sciences (CECS) – Jiayi has had a number of College meetings cancelled, including the CEC meeting and . Put up a number of Coursework Shut Up and Write posters around her College. Has been in contact with the Sub Dean Academic Integrity for the College with regards to potential collaboration and is waiting for the Dean to discuss approval with his colleagues and ANU administration to post on CECS Wattle pages. Zhangcheng was not available to give his report.

College of Health and Medicine (CHM) [including report missed at last meeting] – Upasana is preparing for the CHM Ice Skating event this weekend – there have been promising sign-up numbers. Just received approval to run a CHM Brunch Is planning a Games Night at Kingpin and considering whether other Colleges would be interested in collaborating on the event. Has not been able to attend the CHM Education Committee meetings but says she has been reading the minutes and agenda. The College is looking to partner with other Universities on programs.

College of Law (CoL) – Moon was not available to give her report.



College of Science (CoS) [including report missed at last meeting] – Oass attended the TELRG meeting yesterday on Tristan's behalf, where the Committee talked about the Student First program, the Moodle upgrade, a new benchmarking index and the undergraduate student experience. Contacted the College of Science administration a while ago to ask about extra meetings she should be attending but has not had a response back. Is planning a guided tour of the Botanical Gardens with Moon.

Part 3 Items for Discussion/Noting

4.1 Coursework Shut Up and Write – for discussion and decision

To discuss progress for the current Coursework Shut Up and Write program, and to decide on the frequency, format and strategy of sessions for the rest of the term.

The Committee agreed that the program would be run twice a week, for the time being, and noted the update on the progress of the program and Ben's request to extend the pilot period.

Attachments: Proposal report

4.2 Coverage of Duties during Election Voting period – for noting

To note that several representatives will be locked out from PARSA work from 26 September to 30 September and should nominate and brief alternates to complete any work arising during this period.

Both Jiayi and Yalan are standing in the upcoming elections and were asked to ensure they had an alternate available to take care of their work during the election period. Both affirmed they had made appropriate arrangements.

4.3 PhD Plagiarism Detection Software Project – for noting

To note a new project, iThenticate, for coordinating plagiarism checking within the PhD supervision process.

Research Development Team has been testing the iThenticate software with a view to implementing it in the future. PhD students submit their thesis into the software portal, which then provides a plagiarism report to their supervisor, with manual follow-up as required. The Committee noted the update.

4.4 Oral Exam Pilot – for discussion

To discuss the outcomes from the PhD oral exams pilot, and to discuss oral exams more generally.



The Committee noted that these oral exams would be held as a final seminar towards the end of the HDR degree – with presentation to external examiners and period of question time.

The Committee discussed issues with oral exams – some students felt writing the thesis was enough and there should not be an expectation and stress to present the thesis orally. Other students agreed with oral exams and believed they were a good way of learning to present the thesis in an engaging manner.

4.5 Revised Joint TLDC Meeting date – for noting

To note the revised date for the joint TLDC meeting, which has been moved to Wednesday, 23 September, 1 to 3pm.

The revised date was noted. Representatives were again encouraged to attend.

Any Other Issues/Forward Agenda Items

Next meeting: TBC by DoodlePoll