



PARSA Postgraduate Representative Council (PRC)

Executive meeting

Date: 24.10.22

Time: 12:30pm

Location: Online and in the PARSA office

1.0 Meeting Open

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Attendance and apologies

Attending: Eleanor Cooper (General Secretary), Tristan Yip (Coursework Officer),
Apologies: Gurisha Gupta (Social Officer), Gunjan Dixit (HDR Officer), Sharrada Segeran (Equity Officer),
Observing: incoming Vice President – Neil Pollock, incoming HDR Officer – Irina Samsonova, incoming Social Officer – Yalan Chen, Jane Brownbill (General Manager)

1.3 Call for other business

1.4 Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Motion: To accept the minutes of the previous Executive Meeting as an accurate and true statement of events

Proposed: Tristan

Seconded: Yalan

Unanimously passed

2. Reports

2.1 HDR Officer's Report

Presented by Irina:



Had been talking to a lot of students about their issues with programs – many students brought up course cuts and the short notice for all of these cuts. Also brought up how ANIP had changed and the application process was now more difficult.

Regarding anthropology students, there are issues with access to career options, networking and events as the program is split between colleges and buildings with no central point of communications.

Several students also brought up the rumour that emeritus professors will be forbidden from being primary supervisors for PHD and other research students – this will affect a lot of students and prospective students.

Continued feedback on HDR students who are also casual sessional academics: underpayment, uncertain hours and job security, and hours allocated that are far less than the actual work.

Research students have expressed concern about the form of feedback they receive, which for many students has been very unconstructive and even rude, discouraging young researchers.

2.2 Coursework Officer's Report

Attended a meeting of governance and accountability working group, part of TEQSA reaccreditation process

Attended a meeting with the Student First group, who are holding consultations with several cohorts of students

Attended Academic Board 5, nothing huge to report

Met with the Secretary of TLDC along with Irina and Gunjan to discuss the upcoming issues for the next year

Attended the Student Service Council – not much we could contribute as non SSAF recipients but some of the reserve has been set aside to 'enable postgraduate programs'

There have been a significant amount of nominations for appointed positions – almost more than the nominations for elections. We will have a near full PRC.

2.3 General Secretary's Report

Has held several handover meetings with Jacob, and passed on relevant documents and policies.

Attended the student services council along with Tristan – we will definitely be moving to a 3 year SSAF system from mid next year, and there will be ongoing discussions about how postgraduate receive funding until then.

2.4 Equity Officer's Report

2.5 Social Officer's Report

Promoted the monthly meeting on social media, and now wants to develop a framework for publicising events in future

Will be meeting with portfolio officers over the summer holidays to coordinate events for the coming year.

Heard feedback from HDR students that they felt a lack of belonging, and is currently developing a social program to bring people together

3.0 Items for discussion

3.1 ANU Medical Centre – PARSA stance

Eleanor: Now that we have the outline of a united PRC opinion on the privatisation of ANU health, it's a good time to think about how we draft a letter or position statement of the PRC, as well as who to send it to.

Tristan: The options presented by Sharrada are:

Plan A

Send an official statement to James on behalf of PG/HDR students, outlining our concerns and demands. I can come up with the draft

Plan B

Make a statement regarding the privatisation through woroni/anu observer and open for more student consultations (then go back to Plan A)

Yalan: Would like to have more meetings with the ANU before preparing a written statement. We could definitely point out the benefits of providing bulk billing to students and their families.

Eleanor: There is still merit in publicising a document, the ANU can say anything they like behind closed doors and then go back on it but if we have something public then that is at least a signal that postgraduates are in agreement in wanting bulk billing.

Akrti: It could be worth consulting students before preparing anything

Tristan: The timeline is unknown though, this could be something we want to be finalised.



Jane: There also seems to be concern that staff are no longer being bulk billed

Eleanor: Worth including in the statement, especially as the HDR-staff pipeline is so strong

3.2 Coordinating leave of Exec members

Tristan: Given that many of us have exams and assessments at a similar time, this item is just on the agenda to give the team some time to coordinate monitoring inboxes, taking over duties etc while people are on leave.

Tristan: 28/10 to 10/11

Sharrada: 31/10- 16/11

Yalan: May need some leave but unsure of dates

Akrti: 3rd, 4th and 9th of November she has exams, and 27/10-29/10

Eleanor: 9th of November

Tristan: This could impact availability to interview people for appointments – could you all confirm your availabilities via Brie.

4.0 Other Business

5.0 Meeting close and next meeting

Closed at 1:22