Minutes of the second meeting of the twenty third Postgraduate Representative Council [PRC], held in the Graduate Lounge of University House, on Wednesday, 15th June 2011, at 12.30pm.

Present: Areti Metuamate [Chair], Christian Beardsley, Chris Browne, Kiko De Guzman, Rahul Jacob, Wayne Joseph, Jakub Kielbasa, Ragu Krishnamoorthy, Nikki Mariner, Julie Melrose, Tomas O’Kane, John Robillard, Mike Rogers, Amber Sen, Bhavya Vyas.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Chathuri Dissanayake, Amy Fu, Retna Hanani, Azeeem Haroon, Imogen Mathew, Helen McGowan, Jennifer Saunders, Patio Homban Simamora.

In attendance: Monica Fernandes, Diane Hutchens.

Acknowledgment of Indigenous Australians

The Chair acknowledged and celebrated the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

Membership Matters

The meeting approved the proposal that 2 members from the College of Law swap their representative positions so that Helen McGowan now becomes one of the College of Law representatives, and Jennifer Saunders becomes a General Representative.

De Guzman/Beardsley

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 12th May respectively, having been circulated electronically, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Beardsley/Melrose

Business Arising from the Minutes

Areti reported that there were a number of grant applications in the pipeline and that he would be meeting with the newly appointed Treasurer, Tomas O’Kane, later this week to discuss the processing of these requests, among other financial matters. Areti advised that all applications went to Tomas in the first instance, were then considered by the PARSA Finance Committee and passed to the PRC for requests beyond $500.

Reports from other Executive Officers

Environmental Officer: As PARSA’s recently appointed Environmental Officer, Julie Melrose reported on her activities in this role. Julie had met with the Environmental Collective who, though largely comprised of undergraduate students, were keen to
involve postgraduate students in their activities. The recent Bridge Walk to Parliament House on World Environment Day on 5th June had been very successful.

Julie advised of a Students for Sustainability Conference to be held in Albury from 6-10th July and invited anyone interested in attending this camping conference to be in touch with her.

Julie spoke of her meeting with Richard Denniss, the Executive Director of the Australia Institute and co-author, with Clive Hamilton, of Affluenza. He is interested in coming along to speak to postgraduate students about promoting student research to the wider Australian community and encouraging students to take a more proactive role in public policy debates. He could be a possible speaker for a combined environment social event with ANU Green at the ANU’s organic garden and wood fired pizza oven for some time early next semester.

Associate Professor Janette Lindesay, Associate Director [Education] and Deputy Director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society, had advised Julie that the UN Climate Change Conference had put a cap on the number of observer positions for NGOs so it was unlikely that a delegation from ANU would attend. However, Julie would like to organise an event around the Conference.

2012 was the twenty year anniversary of the Rio de Janeiro Conference and it was planned to have an ANU presence at the Rio + 20 Sustainability Conference scheduled for next year.

Indigenous Advocacy Officer: Nikki Mariner reported that she had met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lawrence Cram, to discuss his idea of holding a competition inviting students across all schools to create an artistic piece of writing, sculpture or other artwork around the theme of reconciliation. Cash prizes would be offered, and Nikki would represent PARSA on the judging panel.

Vice-President [Administration]. Christian Beardsley advised members that he and Areti had met with Sean to discuss a staffing matter, while from a marketing point of view he would be meeting with Monica to discuss the website and plans for the 2012 PARSA Survival Guide.

International Students Officer: Amber spoke of her plans to welcome international students in second semester with a group tour of Canberra and a trip to Parliament House or the various galleries. Amber also wanted to include indigenous students in her functions and create the opportunity for them to meet international students. Nikki agreed to raise this matter when she visited the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre tomorrow.

Amber would also like to attend the meeting of the Council of International Students Australia [CISA] in Melbourne on 12 and 13th July and would speak to Tomas about the funding to cover her attendance.
Areti informed the meeting of Kiko’s help in formulating the role descriptions for the Executive as well as sitting on the panel to choose the first student speaker at an ANU Graduation ceremony, scheduled for this July. PARSA had also been asked to finance a student survey in conjunction with ANU and Areti would report to Chancelry that more prizes of lesser value was the preferred award model, seen as providing more encouragement to enter on the basis of more chances to win a prize.

Areti would also be discussing finance procedures with the Treasurer and the Administrator later in the week.

President’s Report

University House Membership: Members discussed the proposal put forward by the Master of University House, Professor John Richards, to offer free University House membership to 10 postgraduate students, if PARSA would meet this by paying for ten students to become members of University House. It was agreed that these memberships should be available to members of the governing body, which currently numbered 29. The meeting therefore resolved:

That PARSA fund membership of University House for half the PRC
in response to the offer by the Master of University House, provided that the Master will fund the other half. Beardsley/De Guzman

If the Master could not extend the offer to cover half the PRC [14 members], then PARSA would accept the original offer of ten places, and fund a second ten places as part of the agreement.

PARSA Role Descriptions: The meeting considered the attached outline of role descriptions for the President, the Executive and the wider Council. Following an outline by Areti of the positions and their responsibilities, and discussion by members, it was agreed that a short introduction to the paper would be helpful in capturing the sense of what was required of members. The meeting agreed in principle with the role descriptions as outlined. Rogers/Browne

SA4: Areti reported that the fourth of the UniLodge chain would be completed by 2012, providing an additional 450-500 beds. As a result of representations by PARSA and ANUSA for UniLodge to provide more pastoral care for residents, each of the UniLodges will fill a Sub Dean role in the form of a community coordinator. This will be a part-time appointment and ideal for a resident postgraduate student.

Treasurer’s Report

The Committee noted and approved the attached list of cheque expenditure since 5 May 2011. De Guzman/Joseph
Calendar of Events

Monica tabled for the information of members the forward events calendar for the remainder of 2011, which she and Amy had compiled. Members were also asked to take copies of the poster advertising the end of semester drinks at Vivaldi’s which Monica also had available at the meeting.

Plans were under way for a promotional poster for PARSA, with 250 copies to be distributed around campus. Areti also suggested that each College have a poster with photos of its PARSA College and general representatives posted in a prominent place so that all postgraduate students recognised their local student representative.

Reports from College Representatives

*CASS:* Wayne Joseph reported that he and Imogen Mathew had met with the Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences about holding an event for CASS postgraduate students at the beginning of second semester because there was no existing formal orientation program. They planned a social function for new and returning students, which would also provide an opportunity to outline the pitfalls and lack of information in their departments and what needs to be provided in the future. He and Imogen also hoped to hold an event which explained the induction process and orientation necessary for future postgraduate enrolments in the College.

*College of Law:* Julie reported on changes of direction and representation with the College Committees: the College was considering focusing only on graduate law, rather than enrolling undergraduate law students, and transforming the JD/LSS by including a postgraduate representative.

Members also noted Julie’s plan to organise a dinner in second semester, with the College as co-host and co-funder; Tomas would consider the budget proposal in relation to this event.

The meeting closed at 2pm.
Minutes of the first meeting of the twenty third Postgraduate Representative Council [PRC], held in the Graduate Lounge of University House, on Thursday, 12th May 2011, at the conclusion of the AGM.


In attendance: Monica Fernandes, Diane Hutchens.

Appointment of Temporary Chair

Tejminder Sandhu was appointed temporary Chair of the meeting.

Election of President

The Chair called for nominations for the position of President. As Areti Metuamate was the only nomination, he was declared elected to the position. Beardsley/De Guzman

Areti then took the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

Appointment of Officers

Vice-Presidents: Christian Beardsley [nominated by Tejminder Sandhu, seconded by Wayne Joseph], Kiko De Guzman [nominated by Retna Hanani, seconded by Rahul Jacob] and Mohamed Azeem Haroon [nominated by Tomas O’Kane, seconded by Amy Fu] nominated for the 2 Vice-President positions. Following a secret ballot, Christian Beardsley and Kiko De Guzman were declared the 2 PARSA Vice-Presidents for the 2011/12 term.

Treasurer: Tomas O’Kane expressed interest in filling this position and was subsequently nominated by Mohamed Azeem Haroon and seconded by Areti Metuamate. As Tomas O’Kane was the only candidate, he was declared PARSA Treasurer.

Indigenous Advocacy Officer: Nikki Mariner expressed interest in filling this position and was subsequently nominated by Kiki De Guzman and seconded by Amber Sen. As Nikki Mariner was the only candidate, she was declared PARSA Indigenous Advocacy Officer.

Social Officer: Amy Fu [nominated by Tomas O’Kane, seconded Mohamed Azeem Haroon] and Wayne Joseph [nominated by Amber Sen, seconded by Rahul Jacob] nominated for the position of Social Officer. Following a secret ballot, Amy Fu was declared the PARSA Social Officer.
Equity Officer: Wayne Joseph expressed interest in filling this position and was subsequently nominated by Areti Metuamate and seconded by Christian Beardsley. As Wayne Joseph was the only candidate, he was declared PARSA Equity officer.

International Student Officer: Amber Sen expressed interest in filling this position and was subsequently nominated by Kiko De Guzman and seconded by Wayne Joseph. As Amber Sen was the only candidate, she was declared PARSA International Student Officer.

Environmental Officer: Julie Melrose expressed interest in filling this position and was subsequently nominated by Areti Metuamate and seconded by Tomas O’Kane. As Julie Melrose was the only candidate, she was declared PARSA Environmental Officer.

Authorising Signatories

As Tomas O’Kane had now replaced Christian Beardsley as Treasurer, it was necessary to change the signing authority at the Credit Union (Service One Members Banking [SOMB]) for signatures on cheques. It was therefore resolved that Christian’s signature be taken off the record at SOMB and that Tomas O’Kane’s signature be recorded. The three signatories were thus:

Areti Metuamate as President
Tomas O’Kane as Treasurer
Diane Hutchens as Administrator Fu/Sen

Current Grants

It was noted that there were 3 outstanding requests for grants from student groups, and Areti agreed to circulate the relevant information in order to obtain members’ views on these requests.

Website

Monica advised the meeting that there would be special event to launch the updated PARSA website.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

****   ****   ****   ****