

PGSA Board Meeting Agenda
May 1st, 2015 (9a)
Postgraduate Lounge
Chair of Meeting: Mohamed Alansari

Personnel Matters

Attendance: **Mohamed, Jo, Piyush, Camelle, Ankit, Sam, Dharani, Jingjing, Denver, Andrea, Jia, Wendy, Karippa, Amir,**
Apologies: **Chiara, Lucia, Christine, Natalie**
Late arrivals: **Will, Dana, Eryn**
Absent: **Mabingo**

Agenda Items

1. Confirmation of previous minutes.

Minutes from the meeting held on 2nd April were confirmed (1st Camelle, 2nd Amir)
Minutes from the meeting held on 17th April were confirmed (1st Piyush, 2nd Camelle).

2. Vote new members

Three new members were voted in this meeting: Karippa, Wendy, and Dharani.

The board also welcomed new potential members (to be voted in next meeting): Dana and Jia.

3. PGSA Board Positions (board membership list to be updated accordingly)

The following PGSA board positions have been confirmed, and the membership list will be updated accordingly:

- a. Presidents (**voted in**)
 - i. Mohamed Alansari
- b. Vice-president
 - i. Eryn Kwon
- c. Events Head (**voted in**)
 - i. Wendy
- d. Communication Head
 - i. Amir Rastar
- e. Treasurer
 - i. Ankit Aggarwal
- f. Secretary
 - i. Chiara Mannoni
- g. Doctoral Skills Programme (3 positions)
 - i. Christine Liang
 - ii. Piyush Verma
 - iii. Saman Aref
- h. Doctoral Morning Tea (2 positions)
 - i. Chiara Mannoni

- ii. Camelle Pink
- i. Library Committee
 - i. Jingjing Zhao
- j. New Members Officer
 - i. Denver Britto

4. BOGS' Masters Regulations to be reviewed (Mohamed).

A discussion on the new version of the masters' regulations took place during the meeting. The board put forward the following points/matters:

1. A concern around commencing a 120-point thesis or portfolio on the 1st of December (and having the thesis or portfolio sent for examination on December the following year during the summer holiday), and whether students should expect delays in having their theses graded, processed, and returned within the standard time frame of 7-9 weeks.
2. Whether it is necessary to set three starting dates only for research masters' degrees given there are no classes nor timetables attached to their programmes. It might make it easier to have masters' research students starting their projects at the beginning of any month, similar to the regulations of a doctoral programme at the university.
3. Whether it is possible to move the starting date of 1st December to January to align with the summer school programme and hence having staff on-campus during that time for support if needed.

(Further feedback is welcome up until the 8th of May. The chair will send the feedback to the BOGs on the 9th of May).

5. Semester 2 PG Orientation + short note from Campus Life (Jo).

Jo spoke about the need for PGSA representation in orientation events at the faculty level. She will be contacting the board again when the dates are set to ask for volunteers to attend a number of a faculty orientation events to talk about the role of PGSA and how can students sign up.

Jo also read a short note from Campus Life, where they thanked Colleen for her hard work and commitment to PGSA.

Treasurer's Report (Ankit):

- We have \$495.09 in online account and \$4939.73 in Go account as of May 1st, 2015.

Events' Report (Eryn):

- Yoga and WR (April event) was budgeted for \$450 and \$250 each, totalling **\$700**. If these events continue to be popular, then the events team may consider running more or increasing capacity.
- May events planned so far are the pub quiz#1 (**\$580**) and the WR (**\$250**) so within our current budget.

Feedback from Committee Meetings:

- A. Board of Graduate Studies (BOGS) - (Mohamed/Camelle)*
- B. Doctoral Skills Programme (DSP) - (Christine/Piyush/Sam)*
- C. Student Consultative Group - (Mohamed/Camelle/Eryn)*
- D. Doctoral Morning Tea (DMT) - (Chiara/Camelle)*
- E. Research Committee - (Mohamed)*
- F. UoA Ethics Committee - (Natalie)*
- G. Library - (Jingjing)*
- H. Master's Exit Survey - (Mohamed)*
- I. Health and Safety Working Group - (Amir)*

Other Items:

- G. New Members*
- H. Other affiliated PGSA's*
- I. Communications (Facebook/Twitter/Newsletter) - (Amir/Jingjing)*
- K. New Matters Arising*

- Andrea is now back on the board, and the president will re-add her to the mailing list.
- Pride week events are taking place on campus all of next week – everyone is welcome and spread the word.
- Eryn brought up the issue of GTA/TA contracts within the university, and so the president will invite the GTA representative to one of the next meetings for further discussion. At this stage, Amir, with the support of Andrea, will draft a survey to investigate the issue to decide on how to tackle.

Meeting Adjourned

10.05am