

Date: 9th February 2024

Location: N53_0.57 & Microsoft Teams

Chair: Iqira Saeed

Minute Taker: Cory Everdell

Attendees:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| - Cassidy Winter | LGBTIQ+ Officer |
| - Minh Anh Huynh | Sustainability Officer |
| - Kate Kingston | Disability Officer |
| - Charlie Tran | Communications Officer |
| - Iqira Saeed | Research Officer |
| - Kanchana Wijesekera | Carers Officer |

Observers

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Cory Everdell | Student Associations Manager |
| - Jenna Corby (from 11.35am) | Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator |

Apologies

- Apologies received from Jessica Gundolf (proxy assigned to Charlie Tran), Brendan Elliot, Sanika Pujari, & Jushal Saini

Meeting Commenced at 11.06am

Acknowledgment of Country

- Iqira gave acknowledgement of country.

Agenda Item 1: Previous Minutes

- Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes from 27th November 2023 as being true and correct
 - o Moved: K. Kingston
 - o Seconded: C. Winter
 - o Carried

Agenda Item 2: GRIDD Funding Request

- C. Everdell presented a student-initiated funding request from the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery for catering for their symposium to be held on 14th & 15th March. Requesting \$600 from GUPSA for catering for the event.
- Board members noted that this event is the main research event that brings all HDR students together to share research and socialise at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and that they wanted to continue to support student-initiated events through what will likely be a tough 2024.
- Motion: To approve \$600 for the GRIDD funding request for the 2024 symposium
 - o Moved: K. Kingston
 - o Seconded: C. Winter
 - o In favour: 4
 - o Against: 0
 - o Abstained: 2
 - o Carried

Agenda Item 3: GUPSA Budget

- C. Everdell presented the latest version of the GUPSA budget and requested any questions/changes from the board.
- The board discussed the fruit and vegetable program as well as the food pantry program for 2024 and were supportive of the amounts budgeted for postgraduate students, noting that there was a strong attendance by postgraduate students in 2023.
- Motion: To approve the 2024 GUPSA budget as presented.
 - o Moved: C. Winter
 - o Seconded: C. Tran
 - o Carried

Kanchana Wijesekera joined at 11.25am

Agenda Item 4: International Student Visas

- C. Tran updated the board on the situation with international student VISA's. The test score for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) has now been increased, meaning that this can have a financial burden on students if they need to re-sit the test. Postgraduate student bodies around the country have taken exception to this and have written an open letter to the government calling for change.
- Charlie thanked the GUPSA board for supporting this letter and signing on behalf of GUPSA.

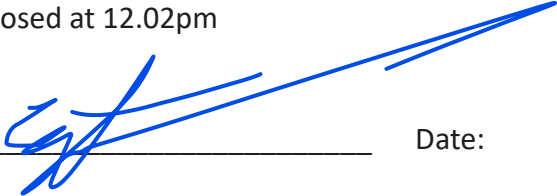
General Business

- Welfare Subcommittee
 - J. Corby addressed the board regarding forming a welfare subcommittee together with the SRC;
 - Expecting to see an increase in the amount of students who will access welfare related supports in 2024 due to the cost of living. Currently looking how to structure eligibility requirements for programs so that budgets and student expectations can be managed. Charlie mentioned he is hearing from international students who are starting at Griffith in 2024 and are shocked at the cost of living when they arrive.
 - Subcommittee to be formed from SRC/GUPSA representatives – Jenna to contact GUPSA representatives with further information.
- O-Week & Week 1 events
 - Schedule has been sent – GUPSA representatives to outline what days they are able to assist.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday 13th March, 11am

Meeting closed at 12.02pm

Signed  Date: