

Date: 29th May 2024

Location: N76_1.01 & Microsoft Teams

Chair: Iqira Saeed

Minute Taker: Cory Everdell

Attendees:

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

Observers

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Cory Everdell | Student Associations Manager |
| - Jenna Corby | Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator |
| - Chantelle Hollenbach | Student Associations Officer |

Apologies

- Apologies received from Tracy Meehan

Meeting Commenced at 10.01am

Acknowledgment of Country

- Iqira gave acknowledgement of country.

Agenda Item 1: Previous Minutes

- Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes from 24th April 2024 as being true and correct.
 - o Moved: Charlie Tran
 - o Seconded: Kate Kingston
 - o Carried

Agenda Item 2: Concession Fares Update

- Charlie updated the board on the newly announced QLD public transport fares - QLD State Government will be introducing 50 cent public transport fares across QLD for 6 months starting from August 5th.
- Discussion was held around GUPSA supporting the Fares Fair campaign. While this announcement from the Government is a step in the right direction, it doesn't solve the underlying issues that students face when accessing public transport. This news may slow momentum with the campaign during the 6-month trial period, but the campaign needs to be pushed continually.
- Action: GUPSA to share 50c public transport fares news with postgrad community on GUPSA website & socials.

Agenda Item 3: 485 Visa Update

- Charlie updated the board on recent changes to the 485 VISA. Starting from July 1st, the age limit to obtain a post-graduate student VISA will be reduced to 35 years. This means that post-graduate students over 35-years old will no longer be eligible to obtain a postgraduate VISA except for:
 - o Post-Graduate Masters (Research) Candidates: Students enrolled in a Masters (Research) will be exempt from the 35-year age limit. They will still be eligible to apply for the Post-Study Work Stream VISA if they are under 50 years old.
 - o HDR Candidates will still be eligible for the Post-Study Work Stream VISA if they are under 50 years old.
 - o Students holding a Hong Kong and British National Overseas passport will still be eligible if they are under 50 years of age.
- These exemptions do not apply to coursework students. Coursework-students above 35 years old should book an appointment with an International Student Advisor regarding VISA options.
- Discussion was held around the changes. Board agreed that these are good changes to a bad policy and while progress is being made, the board will continue to advocate for change on behalf of postgraduate students.
- Action: GUPSA to share 485 VISA changes with postgrad community on GUPSA website & socials.

Agenda Item 4: Welfare Update

- Jenna updated the board on Welfare programs moving forward.
 - o Student Pantry has been set up at the Queensland Conservatorium. Mt Gravatt to be developed in Trimester 2.
 - o Met with Foodbank regarding a one-off Trimester 2 food support event targeted at International Students. There will be no restrictions in place so any and all students can attend, but proportionally a large amount of international students access our regular food supports anyway.
 - o Jenna is meeting with Foodbank to discuss more ongoing supports/donations. Charlie asked what the cost of Foodbank is – varied depending on types of food – discounted compared to supermarkets.

General Business

- Michael away until the end of July
- Charlie asked about GUPSA social functions and if anything is planned for the end of Trimester 1. Chantelle explained that GUPSA usually holds a social event at the start of each trimester, then a large end of year function based on engagement numbers from previous years.

Next Meeting

- Thursday 27th June – time TBC via teams.

Meeting closed at 10.36am

Signed



Date: