GUPSA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 6th September 2024

Location: N53_0.65 & Microsoft Teams

Chair: Iqira Saeed

Minute Taker: Cory Everdell

Attendees:

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

Observers

- Michael Carden	Support and Events Coordinator
- Cory Everdell	GUPSA Secretary

Apologies

- Apologies received from Tracy Meehan, Sanika Pujari, Jenna Corby & Chantelle Hollenbach.

Meeting Commenced at 1.06pm

Acknowledgment of Country

- Iqira gave acknowledgement of country.

Previous Minutes

- Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes from 31st July 2024 as being true and correct.
    - Moved: Cassidy
    - Seconded: Kate
    - Carried

Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

- Queensland Annual chemistry Symposium Prizes
  - Michael has received invoice to pay to sponsor student prizes at the symposium.
    - Motion: To approve $200 from GUPSA funds to sponsor a student prize at the 2024 QACS conference.
      - Moved: Kanchana
      - Seconded: Iqira
      - Carried
- National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) training courses
  - Jushal has requested that this pushed back to the next GUPSA board meeting.
- 2025 GUPSA Merch
  - Quotes have been requested – Cory to email GUPSA board once they have been received.

Agenda Item 1: International Student Cap

- Charlie shared draft wording on behalf of GUPSA outlining concerns regarding the proposed international student cap imposed by the Federal Government and calls for consultation with student organisations and international student leaders on this topic.
- Motion: To approve the wording drafted by Charlie to be sent to postgraduate students on the GUPSA website and social media channels
  - Moved: Charlie
  - Seconded: Cassidy
  - Carried
- Actions: Michael to collate any responses that come to the GUPSA inbox to share with GUPSA board. Michael to coordinate this message being posted on GUPSA website & socials.

Agenda Item 2: Casual Staff Closing Loophole Legislation

- Charlie raised concerns regarding proposed changes to Griffith's employment policies which will reduce job security for sessional staff members and will limit employment commitments to a maximum of 2 weeks. The main impacts raised were:
  - Increase in financial instability for HDR students relying on sessional work
  - Negative impact on the research output and academic progress of affected HDR students forced to take external employment
  - Added pressure on all concessional staff on course planning and delivery, resulting in potential decline in the quality of undergraduate education.
- The board acknowledged the NTEU is also pushing this issue and how GUPSA can help amplify the message to postgraduate students.
- Actions: Charlie to re-write the messaging to edit concessional to sessional and email to the board for a decision.

General Business

- GUPSA nominations

- Nominations for the 2025 GUPSA board are open from Mon 9th September – Friday 13th September.

- Hidden Disability Proposal
    - Cory asked the board if they needed any further information regarding the Hidden Disability Proposal which was emailed to the board for approval. Kate wanted more understanding of the background.
    - Actions: Cory to put Kate in touch with Holly to discuss further.
- GUPSA Editor Lunch
    - Discussion was held around appropriate spend for retiring GUPSA editor Maureen who has been with GUPSA for over 10 years.
    - Actions: Michael to provide updated options to the board for approval.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday 9th October, time TBD on Teams.

Meeting closed at 1.57pm

Signed ____________________________ Date: