Griffith University Postgraduate Students Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 20 March 2025
Location: N79_3.07N & Microsoft Teams
Chair: Cassidy Winter

Attendees:

- Cassidy Winter — LGBTIQ+ Officer
- Nilay Sarker — Sustainability Officer
- Susan Teather — Disability Officer

Observers

- Cory Everdell — GUPSA Secretary
- Michael Carden — Support and Events Coordinator
- Chantelle Hollenbach — Student Associations Officer

Apologies/Proxies

- Tracy Meehan (proxy assigned to Cassidy Winter)
- Drishti Madaan (proxy assigned to Nilay Sarker)
- Irene Leshore
- Adel Abdelfattah
- Wajiha Sarfraz

Meeting Commenced at 1.05pm

Acknowledgment of Country

- Cassidy gave acknowledgement of country.

Previous Minutes

- Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes from 20 February 2025 as being true and correct.
    - Moved: Susan
    - Seconded: Cassidy
    - Carried

Agenda Item 1: Griffith University Accommodation Feedback

- Discussion was held regarding the SRC's feedback form asking for students to share their experiences from students living on campus at Nathan. The board discussed communicating this on GUPSA social channels for any postgraduate students who live on campus to complete.
- Motion: To approve sharing the SRC Griffith Accommodation social media post on GUPSA social channels.

- Moved: Cassidy
- Seconded: Nilay
- Carried

Agenda Item 2: Incentivizing Ph.D. Students for Publishing in Q1 Journals

- Michael presented a proposal on behalf of Wajiha to incentivize Ph.D. students for publishing in Q1 journals.
- Discussion was held regarding if this proposal only applies to research students or also to masters students. Concerns were raised regarding equity, as this could favor sciences and engineering students, as arts and business students have fewer publishing opportunities, and that this type of setup encourages quantity over quality and might not be a wise expenditure during a cost-of-living crisis, given the already high volume of journal articles being published.
- Susan warned that the proposal could lead to elitism and encourage a push toward open access publishing. Board members noted that they currently don't have the budget for this initiative and suggested that students could advocate for it through their schools or the GGRS or explore open access options for publication.
- Motion: To approve the Incentivizing Ph.D. Students for Publishing in Q1 Journals
    - Motion failed.

General Business

- Restructuring in sessional roles
    - Cassidy raised concerns regarding a change of process for sessional roles. Previously, this was up to course convenors and roles were able to continue, but the introduction of sessional contracts has stopped this and students have had to apply through the school for a new contract.
- 2025 Nathan Careers Fair
    - Not many options for PhD students – encouraged to give feedback

Next Meeting

- Thursday 1st May, 1pm.

Meeting closed at 1:38pm

Signed _____ Date: 10/05/2025