



<b>Submission To</b>	Postgraduate Council
<b>Meeting Date</b>	12 April 2021
<b>Category</b>	Select: Confidential or Non-Confidential
<b>Authors</b>	Diana Zhang, Ramanashree Palakshamurthy & Jerry Offor
<b>Item No</b>	[Governance use only]

## Minutes

### PGC Council Emergency Meeting

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:03 – 7:16pm (AEDST)

Zoom online

#### Members in Attendance (on time)

Jerry Offor, Diana Zhang, Simon Xu, Emilia Nwakpa, Swarali Marathe, Kalyani Patil, Christine Castor, Rabia Mobeen, Hugo Su, Cathy Deng, Min Huang, Jing Sun, Chukwuka Madumelu, Vintii Aggarwal, & Saurabh Kaura

#### *Members in attendance (after meeting opened)*

6:07pm – Ramanashree Palakshamurthy, Ngozi Chidi-Egboka, Hang Thanh Bui

6:08pm – Constantine Tsounis

6:11pm – Shivani Mehta

6:16pm – Emmy Lau

After 6:20pm – Michael Odutola

*Ex-Officio Members:* Shruthi Shankar

*Committee Members:* Anita Trinh, Sardor Bakhtiyorov, Thrupthi Manjula, Preetham Shivaraj, Joshua Karras, Henry Liu, Cindy Paskalina Kweesar, Binod Rayamajhee

*Guest:* Mitchell McBurnie (Arc)

*Officers on leave:* Mariam Soomro

*Members absent without apologies:* Dimple Lalwani, Niharika Kodare

*Apologies:* Saltanat Paritova, Liam Cheney (during meeting)

### 1. Meeting Opening

The President (Jerry) welcomed all members who attended via Zoom to an emergency PGC Council Meeting. The meeting was declared open at 6:03pm.

- 1.1 An Acknowledgement of country was made
- 1.2 An apology was received by Women's Officer, Saltanat and during the meeting, an emergency apology from Councillor, Liam.



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- 1.3 No conflict of interest was declared.
- 1.4 No preliminary comments to the previous Council meeting minutes were made.
- 1.5
  - 1.5.1 One item was flagged for immediate discussion. Events' Officer, Emilia raised the issue about the cruise party. She said that based on the last Council meeting, the cruise is highly anticipated. However, a decision for when to hold the cruise is still needed so that plans can be made accordingly. A discussion surrounding a suitable date was raised to the floor.
    - 1.5.1.1 Various options were discussed such as in the month of September (Term 3 Week 2 or 3), as part of Term 3 O-week festivities, or the week following (Term 3 Week 1). It was discussed that the winter season should be avoided due to cold weather. In addition, holding the cruise after O-week would ensure effective marketing and ticket selling to take place during O-week. Vice-President, Ramana raised potential ethical considerations if a cruise should be held in September or October. He explained that holding such a major event before the 2022 PGC Elections would be bad optics and could be misconstrued as an opportunity for election rallying. Therefore, Ramana suggested the cruise to be held after elections. However, President, Jerry clarified that the Arc regulations do not stipulate when PGC events should and shouldn't be held and thus, the present PGC should not let elections disturb the mission of PGC, which is to serve the postgraduate community. Jerry suggested that everyone in PGC should download the Arc regulations.
    - 1.5.1.2 A consensus for when to hold the cruise was held. The majority agreed to Term 3 Week 2 or 3. Ramana objected to this.  
RESOLVED THAT the PGC cruise will be held in Term 3 Week 2.
  - 1.6 Councillor, Saurabh volunteered to be the meeting observer.

## 2. Matters for Discussion

- 2.1 The Vice-President, Diana gave a short spiel about the need to dedicate a week just for postgraduate students similar to how O-week is typically favoured by undergraduates. The idea and zeal for this Postgraduate Week was initiated in 2020 when it was clear during elections that a sense of postgraduate community is lacking. Thus, there is a need to increase engagement and build a sense of community through various events including networking, social and educational. Examples of such events include and not limited to: wine and cheese, pop up cinema, speed networking, Q & A seminar, and industry sessions. Diana also



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reminded everyone about. Preliminary discussions on this topic was raised to the floor

- 2.1.1 A suggestion was made about doing a bridge climb or similar. It was noted that such events would be dependent on budget. No other ideas were brought forward.

RESOLVED THAT an open invitation has been sent by Diana to join a meeting with Arc Director of Marketing, Mitch McBurnie (also in attendance in the meeting) on Wednesday. Anyone who wishes to attend and discuss further should reply to Diana.

- 2.2 Ex-Officio member, Shruthi and newly elected Councillor, Saurabh presented their findings from a recent focus group discussion with UNSW Cultural Mentors with support from Vice-President, Diana and Events' Officer, Swarali. Shruthi shared some of the concerns of postgraduate students concerning academia and career. These included the issue of international students feeling left out of career opportunities (as many are targeted to domestic students). Further, not all schools are represented at Careers Fair (e.g. faculty of arts and social sciences, design). Thus, Shruthi and Saurabh suggested that mentorship programs for international students would be beneficial as well as an international employability week with start-up and mid-tier companies could be held in Term 2. They also noted that these issues have been raised with UNSW Employability services and Careers team. Saurabh also made mention of an upcoming PGC virtual event titled 'Prepare yourself for the future job market' on April 28<sup>th</sup> where a panel discussion with students and industry leaders will be presented. In addition, he shared a new initiative, PGC weekly news podcast, which will begin on May 12<sup>th</sup> that aims to generate awareness among postgraduates on global news and encourage participation and a safe space for people to speak their minds. Saurabh confirmed that the first session will begin with a Professor in International Business. A discussion on this issue was raised to the floor.

- 2.2.1 A suggestion was made for the podcast to only have 1 guest per week to ensure sustainability and sufficient time for discussion. Finally, Shruthi and Saurabh shared that a survey regarding employability will be shared. They encouraged all members to give feedback on the survey and to share amongst their networks.

- 2.3 President, Jerry noted the discussion points raised previously by Saurabh, in particular drawing attention to the upcoming educational series. He asked for anyone interested and able to support the efforts by the Educational committee. A discussion on this issue was raised to the floor.

- 2.3.1 A point was raised to hold faculty specific discussions and to highlight hidden job resources which may be helpful for postgraduates.



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- 2.4 Equity officer, Chuka discussed preliminary planning of sports events to be held in early June and the possibility for integrating sports activities during Postgraduate Week. He also raised the idea of holding a PGC Olympics (indoor and/or outdoor). Though in early discussions, Chuka noted that more discussions and planning will be held with the Sports committee and the VP's Office. A discussion about this issue was brought to the floor.
- 2.4.1 President, Jerry suggested to discuss this further with Arc Marketing and to check with what resources are already in place at Arc.
- 2.5 Vice-President, Diana spoke on behalf of Women's Officer, Saltanat about the current status of the Tell me about your story and culture event. She gave an update about how the submission rate has increased since the last Council meeting (up to 16 submissions) and that all efforts have been made including emailing all course co-ordinators, promoting on TV screens at UNSW as well as UNSW and PGC social media. A call for other ideas was raised to the floor.
- 2.5.1 A suggestion to promote the event before/after lectures was raised.  
RESOLVED THAT everyone will help to promote the event as much as possible.
- 2.6 Vice-President, Diana said that PGC Committee members who attended the leadership workshop with Michael Kelly were officially inducted. She clarified that the Chairs of each Committee will make communications and lead discussions on the various roles and responsibilities.
- 2.7 President, Jerry emphasised that the PGC Ambassador of the Month celebrates outstanding achievements of postgraduate students. He noted that submissions for April Ambassador is still open and that PGC Committee members are eligible to apply. He also noted that all PGC Ambassadors are integral members of PGC and should play an active role in participating and promoting PGC events. Thus, he recommended that the responsibilities of PGC Ambassadors should be updated and clarified accordingly.
- 2.7.1 President, Jerry also gave an update on the PGC Ambassador and Course Co-Ordinator awards. He noted that a proposal document has been officially sent to and approved by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to host the event yearly which will ensure its sustainability. Jerry mentioned that he will give an update in due course and that anyone who would like to contribute to the planning of this event should submit an agenda item for discussion.
- 2.8 President, Jerry noted that as Councillor, Liam is absent in the meeting, this agenda item will be moved to the next Council meeting. Jerry also mentioned that Liam will send a proposal document for pre-reading.
- 2.9 President, Jerry reminded everyone that Vice-President, Diana summarises all office bearer reports for distribution. He encouraged everyone to please read the reports and send any objections about the reporting process as according to the previous Council meeting, previous minutes and reports will soon be made public.



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### 3. Other Business

- 3.1 President, Jerry suggested for the Presentation from Councillors to be moved to the next Council meeting.
- 3.2 President, Jerry shared that discussions with PGC and Arc Board have been ongoing regarding the plans to merge the Art and Design Council (Paddington) with PGC. A discussion about this issue was raised to the floor.
  - 3.2.1 This decision to integrate was well received. Research student's Officer, Constantine raised the need to legislate the roles and responsibilities into policy/charter for sustainability. Jerry also noted that Arc did not mention Canberra campus and recommended a discussion to include integrating PGC with Canberra campus as well. Jerry mentioned that he will be attending a meeting with Arc Executives in the coming days and will bring these issues forward and encouraged everyone to keep sending ideas.

### 4. Question and Answer

- 4.1 President, Jerry strongly suggested for everyone to read the Arc regulations as the responsibilities are clearly laid out and recommended for it to be read prior to the next Council meeting. Anyone with disputes should first consult the charter.
  - 4.1.1 A question about where to find the charter was asked. Jerry clarified that he will discuss with Arc executives for final approval for charter to be disclosed online.
- 4.2 President, Jerry also clarified that as Chairperson of Council meeting, it is his responsibility to control the floor and to keep to time. He recommended that anyone who wishes to raise an item of agenda should in writing, submit an agenda paper and send to the VP's Office
- 4.3 President, Jerry invited guest, Mitch to speak a few words. Mitch expressed his thanks for being invited by Jerry and Vice-President, Diana. He thanked everyone for providing feedback to Arc on how it can help to elevate the engagement amongst the postgraduate community. He shared that he will contact the appropriate people concerning certain ideas raised in the meeting (e.g. podcast, communication channels).
  - 4.3.1 Jerry also mentioned that an online Town Hall meeting is in the pipeline where all postgraduate students will be invited to attend.

### 5. Meeting Finalisation

- 5.1 Councillor, Saurabh gave a summary of the meeting. He also raised that anyone who'd like to contribute to ideas that he had presented should contact him directly.

The President, Jerry thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting. The meeting closed at 7:16pm.