



Submission To	Postgraduate Council
Meeting Date	11 August 2021
Category	Select: Confidential or Non-Confidential
Authors	Diana Zhang, Constantine Tsounis & Jerry Ofor
Item No	[Governance use only]

Minutes

PGC Council Meeting

August 11th, 2021, 6:04 – 6:29pm (AEST)

Zoom online

Members in Attendance (on time)

Jerry Ofor, Diana Zhang, Constantine Tsounis, Sardor Bakhtiyorov, Chukwuka Madumelu, Liam Cheney, Jing Sun, Min Huang, Saurabh Kaura, Simon Xu, Mariam Soomro, Gideon George Jebarajan, Hugo Su, Saltanat Paritova, Cathy Deng

Members in attendance (after meeting opened):

6:06 pm - Emilia Nwakpa, Rabia Mobeen

6:20 pm – Joshua Karras

6:22 pm - Melve Varghese

Apologies: Shruthi Kumar, Kalyani Patil

Members absent without apologies: Christine Castor, Emmy Lau, Swarali Marathe

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 6:04pm.

1.1 An Acknowledgement of country was made

1.2 No apologies were received.

1.3 No conflict of interest was declared.

1.4

1.4.1 One item was flagged for discussion

1.4.1.1 President, Jerry raised a discussion point about the PGC Achievement Report. He noted that all PGC Office Bearers will need to revise their previously submitted report to include the activities and achievements during the period of June and July. This will support Vice-President, Constantine in generating the first PGC Annual Report to be published in the coming months.



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RESOLVED THAT Jerry will send an official notification via email concerning the Achievement Report.

1.4.2 Women's' Officer, Saltanat volunteered to be the meeting observer

2. Matters for Decision

2.1 Vice-President Constantine gave an update on the latest proposed restructure of the PGC Charter and relevant Regulations. Constantine noted that the Charter Review Committee has been working hard to implement and consolidate all the feedback received from PGC members over the past meetings and workshop sessions, as well as taking on feedback received from Arc. However, there are a couple of additional changes which needs to be reviewed before sending to Arc Board next week. Firstly, Constantine provided a summary of one of the main motivations behind the new PGC Charter changes, which is to ensure greater diversity and equity in PGC. This would necessitate the need for gender parity which has partially been succeeded in the Terms of Reference for PGC Committees. However, he noted that due to the merge of the current Women's and Equity Office, the new PGC changes does not guarantee the representation of women. Thus, new changes are needed to ensure sufficient female representation and voting power on PGC.

2.1.1 A proposed change is as follows: If there is no female elected into the position of President, General Secretary of any of the Vice-President positions, then 2 Committee Liaison positions will be reserved for female-identifying candidates. This means that out of the 10 PGC positions, at least 2 positions will be reserved for female-identifying candidates. Constantine reinforced that this proposed change is in consultation with current practice held at Arc and Boards across UNSW. In addition, it is recommended that PGC will further work with Arc to ensure greater female engagement.

2.1.2 A second change concerns the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office. In consultation with existing Arc practices, it should be noted that the EDI Office exists to provide representation of underrepresented groups As such, a proposed change is to only allow candidates who identify with an under-represented group (e.g. female-identifying, LGBTIQ+, disability, low socioeconomic) to run for the Office. Candidates must declare that they identify with an underrepresented group with no further scrutiny or verification.

2.1.3 President, Jerry added that the first proposed change regarding female representation is aligned with current election processes for the Councillor positions, where at least one female-identifying candidate is reserved for each electorate.



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2.1.4 Women's Officer, Saltanat commended the Committee on the new proposed changes, noting that it had addressed previous points that were raised. However, it wasn't clear who would oversee the voting process.

2.1.4.1 Constantine clarified that the Returning Officer will oversee the elections with these new changes to be implemented into the Arc election regulations.

2.1.5 Councillor, Sardor commended the changes to the EDI Office. However, he questioned whether it would be right to elect a candidate based on the clause who, by natural selection process, may not have been the right candidate for that position.

2.1.5.1 Constantine stated that while there may be loopholes with every election process, we should acknowledge that all elections are a subjective political process. It would be a better outcome for the community to have greater female representation. Jerry noted that this clause will also apply to election tickets and for those in the ticket to think more carefully about their gender composition.

2.1.6 Events Officer, Emilia asked for clarification about which Officer will oversee PGC Finances

2.1.6.1 Jerry clarified that the General Secretary will oversee Finances according to the new proposed PGC structure.

2.1.7 A motion to approve the new PGC changes was raised. The decision was unanimous.

RESOLVED THAT the paper be **recommended to Arc Board**.

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1 Vice-President, Diana noted that Term 3 O-week is rapidly approaching and given the latest restrictions, it would more than likely that all events will be held virtually. To allow for more time to come up with ideas for O-week, Diana requested all PGC members to send through any ideas by August 13th so that a working O-week planning meeting can commence the following week.

RESOLVED THAT ideas will be submitted by August 13th and a planning meeting will be scheduled the following week.

4. Other Business

4.1 Research Officer, Liam reminded everyone about the upcoming social extravaganza which will be held on August 27th for all UNSW students. In the 'Apart but Together' event, 10 breakout rooms will be opened. Liam requested everyone to share the event with their network.



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5. Meeting Finalisation

- 5.1 Women's Office, Saltanat gave a summary of the meeting. She thanked the Charter Review Committee for their efforts and commended the well-timed meeting which allowed members to share their opinions for further discussion.

The President, Jerry thanked everyone for attending the Emergency PGC Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 6:29pm.