



Submission To	Postgraduate Council
Meeting Date	12 July 2021
Category	Select: Confidential or Non-Confidential
Authors	Diana Zhang & Jerry Offor
Item No	[Governance use only]

Minutes

PGC Council Meeting

July 12th, 2021, 7:02 – 8:47pm (AEST)

Zoom online

Members in Attendance (on time)

Jerry Offor, Diana Zhang, Saltanat Paritova, Shruthi Kumar, Min Huang, Saurabh Kaura, Liam Cheney, Simon Xu, Jing Sun, Chukwuka Madumelu, Hugo Su, Mariam Soomro, Constantine Tsounis, Emilia Nwakpa, Rabia Mobeen, Swarali Marathe

Committee Members: Sardor Bakhtiyorov

Members in attendance (after meeting opened)

7:03 – Emmy Lau, Azadeh Tavakoli

7:04 – Gideon George Jebarajan

7:06 – Michael Odutola

7:10 – Kalyani Patil

7:11 – Yiwen Li

7:26 – Ngozi Chidi-Egboka

Guests in attendance (after meeting opened)

7:03 – Andrea Tsui

Members absent without apologies: Cathy Deng, Christine Castor

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 7:02pm.

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 Two items were flagged for immediate discussion.

1.4.1.1 Coursework Officer, Saurabh requested PGC members who attended the flagship Opportunities Australia Mentorship Conclave during



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Postgraduate Week to kindly consider giving a review for the event on the Opportunities Australia Facebook event. This will help strengthen the relationship between PGC and Opportunities Australia where future events hosted by the two parties can strongly benefit the postgraduate community. RESOLVED THAT PGC members will consider giving a review.

1.4.1.2 President, Jerry began by thanking those PGC members who have submitted their suggestions to the Charter Review Committee. These suggestions have been duly noted. Research Officer and Chair of Charter Review Committee, Constantine presented on what the Committee has come up with regarding proposed PGC structural changes. First, a clear PGC mission statement has been outlined, which are the guiding principles that shape PGC, namely advocacy, engagement (e.g. building community and Professional Development activities), and support (e.g. promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and addressing student queries). This mission has therefore guided a new PGC structure which will reflect these 3 guiding principles. As such, the proposed structure is aimed to address and include the following: accountability, greater synergy in terms of PGC function, sustainability, detailed roles and responsibilities, supportive roles. The proposed structure also takes inspiration from the current 11 PGC Committees which have greatly increased grassroots relationships between PGC and the postgraduate community. The new PGC Committees will also consist of members from diverse backgrounds (e.g. gender, faculties, Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander). Therefore, the proposed structure consists of: President, General Secretary, and 4 main Office positions (Research, Coursework, Equity, International) and 2 external Offices (Paddington, Canberra). Underneath each primary Office position are elected representatives which will serve a quasi deputy chair role that will support the work of the respective Office. Each primary Office will also spearhead its own Committee which will consist of 5-10 members of various backgrounds. The General Secretary will also lead a Marketing, Editorial and Media Committee. Constantine also highlighted several outstanding issues which still needs to be addressed including honorarium, level of Arc support, recruitment drive for PGC Committees, and probationary period for primary Office positions. Constantine strongly encouraged all PGC members to slowly digest the information provided and send through any questions and opinions so that they can be addressed. RESOLVED THAT the slides will be sent across and an emergency PGC Council meeting will be set for July 19th to debate this proposal so that the Arc deadline can be met.

1.4.2 Councillor, Liam volunteered to be the meeting observer



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2. Matters for Decision

2.1 Coursework Officer, Saurabh gave a summary of the Arc PGC Ambassador and Course Co-Ordinator of the Year Awards. He referred everyone to the document assets found in Teams and requested everyone to send through any comments or feedback. In particular, suggestions for how to judge applicants and the marking rubric is desired.

2.1.1 A question on the number of 'Top' or Outstanding awardees was raised.
RESOLVED THAT an alternative option (such as setting a percentage of applications) will be considered.

2.1.2 PGC Committee member, Sardor gave a summary about the experience of current PGC Committee structure on behalf of other Committee members present. Sardor recommended that to improve effectiveness and efficiency, Committee members should have greater responsibility within each Committee and that the current number of Committee members can be increased.

2.2 Elections were held for the position of Vice President (shared) and Councillor A.

2.2.1 Nominations for Vice President were received from:

Constantine A Tsounis
Andrea Tsui

2.2.1.1 Presentations were made from all candidates

2.2.2 Nominations for Councillor A were received from:

Gideon George Jebarajan
Andrea Tsui
Sardorjon Zafar ugli Bakhtiyorov

2.2.2.1 Presentations were made from both candidates

2.2.3 All PGC members casted their votes electronically via the Zoom poll function. Research Officer, Constantine abstained from voting for the position of Vice-President as he is one of the candidates.

Results were downloaded and viewable by President and Vice-President. However, Research Officer, Mariam, raised a concern about the lack of anonymity with the election process, noting the difference with the previous in-house election. President, Jerry acknowledged that the voting method is different to the last in-person election. However, he insisted that as the Chair of the PGC, this method is the most suitable for an online election and to maintain election integrity (as only PGC members with voting rights are allowed to vote) and avoid surplus of votes counted. Jerry also recommended that any suggestions for future virtual elections should be sent to the President's Office so that it can be reviewed by the Charter Review Committee and included in legislation. Vice-President, Diana also noted that in the Arc Regulations, it states that PGC motions should be voted by a show of hands and the clause for in-house voting on vacant positions is unclear as to whether anonymity



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should take place. A vote to keep the election results or to re-do the election at another time was done by show of hands.

Keep the election: 10 votes

Re-do the election: 2 votes

Research Officer, Constantine abstained as he is one of the candidates

2.2.4 The results for the elections were as follows:

Vice-President

Constantine – 11

Andrea - 1

Research Officer, Constantine abstained from the Vice-President election vote as he is one of the candidates.

Councillor A

Gideon – 10

Sardor – 9

Andrea – 7

Constantine was elected as Vice President (shared), while Gideon and Sardor were elected into Councillor A position to represent their electorate.

3. Other Business

3.1 N/A

4. Meeting Finalisation

4.1 Councillor, Liam gave a summary of the meeting. He noted the open dialogue concerning the election process and recommended a discussion on the matter in future meetings. Nevertheless, the election was successful despite running severely overtime.

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

The meeting closed at 8:47pm.