

## minutes

Meeting:	Postgraduate Assembly
Date:	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2018
Paper:	Postgraduate Assembly Autumn 18 – 4 (PGAA430)
Author:	Alexandros Efstratiou
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

### Minutes of the Postgraduate Assembly 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018

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**Assembly members present:** Charlotte Hallahan (LDC), Briony Hannell (PPL), Devansh Shah (MTH), James McLean (AMA), Bethany Atkins (AMA), Wiam Milles (AMA), Ghalia Hemrit (CMP), Saket Jalan (NBS), Anurag Bonde (CMP), Saras Mathur (LAW), Hannah Kinsey (PHA), Ben Pinsent (AMA), Mireille Abate (LAW)

**Chair:** Anush Rajagopal (LAW)

**Apologies:** Martin Marko (Postgraduate Education Officer)

**In attendance:** Josh Melling (Postgraduate Engagement Coordinator), Alexandros Efstratiou (Advocacy Assistant)

### **PGAA430 Introduction to assembly**

-The chair introduces themselves and explains the assembly's function and purpose.

-The chair explains their role and states that assembly requires a quorum of at least 20 voting members to be able to vote on issues.

### **PGAA431 Progress and Actions from Previous Assembly**

-AR outlines the events that transpired on the Assembly of October 16<sup>th</sup>, and they explain that a formal apology was requested by them. They proceed to read their apology out to the assembly.

-AR explains that a motion of censure towards the Postgraduate Education Officer was passed at the last Union Council meeting regarding the events of the aforementioned assembly.

-AR describes the work that has been done towards achieving better advertising, and informs members that they can get in touch with any suggestions they have.

### **PGAA432 Discussion on CSED Provision for PGR students**

-HK introduces themselves and explains the importance of, and situation around, CSED courses. They specify that some CSED courses are not available to PGR students at all, while some others incur a cost of £30 per hour, and these are courses that PGR students would like to be able to attend.

-They explain that their own school was willing to cover the costs for their attendance on one course, however they feel that, especially given the fact that some courses had spaces the day prior to running, it would be unfair for schools to have to cover internal costs. They go on to state that they would like these courses to be opened up to PGR students when spaces are available.

-BH concurs and explains the difficulties they have had with accessing CSED courses. They explain that, while the university has high teaching expectations of Associate Tutors, ATs do not get the same provisions of resources as staff do. They state that they would like UCU to be made aware of this, and perhaps join action with the SU to change the situation around CSED.

-An assembly member raises the attempts by the university to transfer DTS to an online module. JM explains that this is the next item on the agenda.

-AR explains that the assembly can use their voice to bring forward a policy and lobby the university to change their course of action.

-JM informs the assembly that there is now a new shared mailbox through which postgraduate students can get in touch with pg(su) – [union.postgrads@uea.ac.uk](mailto:union.postgrads@uea.ac.uk).

### **PGAA433    Developing Teaching Skills**

- AR explains that a motion is being brought forward against the DTS transfer to an online module to the next Union Council by the Postgraduate Education Officer, and asks for the assembly's opinion on the matter.
- BH concurs with the motion and states that the contact hours of DTS are important, as they foster collaboration.
- AR explains that the reasoning behind the move was that DTS is a compulsory course and therefore may be taking significant amounts of study time out of PGRs' schedules.
- An assembly member states that this transfer was not due to the course content, as that is essential, but rather about the people delivering it.
- An assembly member suggests simply having the courses run shorter rather than making them online, as they are very important for meeting new people.
- JML states that there is a PPD course that is shorter, however they state that DTS has credibility outside of the university as well.
- HK agrees with JML and they explain that the first parts of the course are compulsory, while subsequent parts are optional. They state that changes like these have been brought about by feedback received from previous years.
- AR states that this can be brought forward, and specifies the timeframe within which a motion would have to be passed if the assembly would like to take such action on the matter.
- JML explains that the committee's budget includes a campaign fund that could go towards this, if the assembly wishes so.
- HK concurs and states that DTS is the only course that is adequately long and free to attend.

### **PGAA434    Postgraduate(su) Winter Events**

- AR outlines the winter events that have been planned.
- They explain that the winter party can be a great opportunity for PGRs and PGTs to interact together.
- AR explains that all of the events are available on the pg(su) page, and people can get their tickets from there ([www.uea.su/pgevents](http://www.uea.su/pgevents)).
- AR further raises that postgraduate students have access to funding for social events and conferences via pg(su).

### **PGAA435    Any Other Business**

- JML suggests moving the assembly time back to 5:15, so that it does not clash with the pub quiz.
- AR states that the change to 6pm was a result of some people having to rush from their classes to make the assembly, and asks the present members for opinions on the matter.
- The assembly concurs to move the meetings to 5:30pm.

- AR explains that the possibility of creating more sports opportunities for postgraduate students has been discussed, and asks the assembly for input on what they would like to see.
- SJ states that some sessions like badminton should be capped on limited numbers. After a clarification that this is a UEActive drop-in session, AR explains that pg(su) cannot have direct input on the matter, however they can liaise with people within the SU to bring policy on this.
- MA raises that they would like the library to book lockers out to people for longer than a week at a time.
- BH explains that locker bookings can be renewed, however MA responds that a week is too short and can incur costs on people who forget to renew.
- AR explains that this is also not under pg(su) jurisdiction, however they will raise this at the next committee meeting in January.

**Time, date and place of next meeting**

5:30pm, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, Bookable Rooms 7 & 8

## **Appendix**

### *Apology from the Chair of Assembly*

Dear members of Postgraduate Assembly,

Adhering to the request from the previous Assembly held on 30<sup>th</sup> October, I would like to apologise for my part in the event(s) that that occurred during Assembly on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. There was no bye-law violation on my part but there were some questionable decisions on my part which on reflection do not seem to be ideal. I will surely manage Assembly in a much better manner from now onwards.

Yours sincerely,

Anush Rajagopal

Chair of Postgraduate Assembly