

Meeting:	Postgraduate Committee
Date:	2nd February 2021
Author:	Josh Melling
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making
Attendees:	Ayane Hida (Postgraduate Education Officer), Em Anderson (Welfare, Community, and Diversity Officer), Elizabeth Payne (Activities and Opportunities Officer), Ramsha Ashraf, Moe Suzuki, Bradley Foster, Alex Lambert
Apologies:	Sophie Atherton, Hamish Williams

577 Statements from the Chair [s]

R Ashraf noted apologies from the last meeting, and noted why they are chairing.

578 Minutes & Actions of the Last Meeting [s]

A Hida update on extensions, funding extension needs to be applied by 10th February. Isn't necessarily applicable for self-funded students.

579 Update from Assembly [s]

No update from assembly.

580 Budget 20/21 [s]

Discussion on anonymised applications for the PGC fund.

M Suzuki noted how difficult it can be for PGR to apply for the hardship fund and the criteria itself sets the bar very high and hasn't changed since the pandemic. Also, students put off by staff knowing them potentially. So students knowing people on the committee might not be comfortable applying to the fund.

B Foster noted only on applications over £200 do we need to consider this. Were more permissive than hardship funds. If someone puts a request in for something that the hardship fund can't deal with then if we know more about the student or someone can vouch for them then it could help. Thinks it's easier to decline based on anonymity rather than being empathetic when there is a name. Voting process should help with safeguarding.

1st vote, whether it should be anonymous – 5 votes in favour of anonymity.

2nd vote, how to make the anonymity. Partial or total. 4 votes in favour for total.

3rd vote opt-in or opt-out. Unanimous votes in favour for opt-in.

Action: update application and information on the website.

581 Postgrad Care Packages

E Anderson questioned the logistics. Union house not being in use makes it difficult.

M Suzuki nice idea outside of a pandemic, we should be minimising going out and doing things.

Chair noted they like the idea too but also their fear. Want to do this but pause this and take it up later in the year.

Action: add this to an agenda when we know more about restrictions.

582 HUM AT Working Group

A Hida noted it was a good meeting. Discussed how to select ATs and suggested taking issue to HUM GSSF for support ideas. Noted they will have more details following the next WG meeting. Noted would be good to have this working group in other faculties.

Action: A Hida to bring further information during the next meeting.

583 Mental Health Survey

Chair noted the circulation of survey.

B Foster noted some resistance when choosing between scale options that are too close together. Use a scale with two items at either end and choose between them. Scale of 1 to 10 might be too granular.

E Anderson noted remote learning survey, is there anything in that we could use?

Chair asked if data could be shared.

M Suzuki can we include a question about what the UEA can do.

Action: update and circulate amended survey.

584 External Speakers

E Anderson noted there hasn't been anything since last time as the paper is being presented at SEC tomorrow (3rd February). Noted recommendations include reviewing the code of practice relating to freedom of speech in accordance with the inclusive education policy and UEA values documents.

M Suzuki questioned if there will be any events held.

E Anderson noted there is a working group where this is being discussed, it has also been taken to Union Council, and wants to discuss this with the VC directly.

585 Engaging students from different backgrounds

E Anderson how are we defining this?

A Hida noted we need to be representative of the pg population.

M Suzuki noted we don't have any PGCE representation.

E Anderson questioned how many PGCE students engage with PG assembly and understands they have specific concerns and how do we represent those on the committee?

M Suzuki noted they didn't know about committee until A Hida highlighted the opportunity. How do we get the being on committee is valuable and not much time

commitment out to students? How do we ensure we're not asking the same people to engage who are also volunteering for everything relating to liberation groups?

A Hida noted we could ask PG convenors to feed into committee.

E Anderson noted there are some longer-term communications with academics and signposting to committee that we could do. Noted there could be a video made about getting involved in SU democracy etc.

A Lambert noted publicising what the committee is achieving.

B Foster noted mature students and their experiences in higher education.

E Anderson noted speaking with Chair about making the link between SOC and PGC stronger.

586 Any other Business

M Suzuki raised a point regarding PGRs in HUM applying to the hardship fund and noted they will share details when this has been collated. Raised another point regarding how to vote during committee.

E Anderson noted the report sounds useful and is happy to get in contact with said student. Noted Chair need to weigh in on the voting process.

E Anderson noted they received a response regarding funding options available from UEA, which didn't include anything specific for postgraduates.

E Payne noted UEAsport have agreed to run 5 hours of pg sport per week. 2 yoga sessions, 1 football session, and 2 badminton sessions a week along with 400 swim cards per year and PGRunners, along with funding PG activators.

587 Time Date and Place of the Next Meeting

Action: Send a vote out for time and date of next meeting.