

## minutes

Meeting:	Postgraduate Assembly
Date:	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2018
Paper:	Postgraduate Assembly Autumn 18 – 1 (PGAA100)
Author:	Alexandros Efstratiou
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

uea|su

### Minutes of the Postgraduate Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

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**Assembly members present:** Martin Marko (Postgraduate Education Officer), Bryony Porter (PGR Mental Health Coordinator), +23 voting members

**Chair:** Martin Marko (interim)

**Apologies:**

**In attendance:** Josh Melling (Postgraduate Engagement Coordinator), Alexandros Efstratiou (Advocacy Assistant), Michael Kyriacou (PPL/Guest speaker)

**PGAA101 Introduction to the assembly**

- MM introduces themselves as the new Postgraduate Education Officer, and they explain the nomination and voting process, as well as the available positions for PG elections.
- There are no objections to the electoral procedure.

**PGAA102 Election of the Chair of Postgraduate Assembly**

- One nomination is in place through the online platform for the position of Chair of the Postgraduate Assembly.
- There are no further nominations from those in attendance.
- As the election process dictates that voting will be open beyond the end of the assembly meeting, the chair cannot be elected at the meeting.
- MM continues to act as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**PGAA103 Election of the Postgraduate Trustee**

- There are two nominations for the position of Postgraduate Trustee in place through the online platform.
- There are no further nominations from those in attendance.

**PGAA104 Election of the Postgraduate Committee**

- There are seven nominations for the position of Postgraduate Committee member in place through the online platform.
- There are no further nominations from those in attendance.

**PGAA105 Pizza and Drinks**

- As nominations are finalised, JM informs everyone that voting is open until the next day at 2:30pm, and calls for a pizza and drinks break.

**PGAA106 Open Discussion**

**a. Courage Wellbeing Project**

- BP Provides some information on the Courage Wellbeing Project, and the SU's involvement in it.
- They expand on what the project could mean for Associate Tutors, and explain the various strands of the CWP.
- BP further mentions the mental health impact assessment aspect of the project, which aims to address UEA policies around these issues.
- BP asks for any comments or questions from the assembly.

- An assembly member asks how PG students can express their support towards initiatives that are being run as part of the project.
- BP explains that there are plans for reliable and standardized evaluations in place.
- There is a question from the assembly about how PG students can be directly involved in the project.
- BP explains that there will be openings for positions to work on the project, and urges any assembly members who are interested to apply. They further mention some events that postgraduate(su) will be running over the next few weeks, for any interested attendees.

### **b. Future postgraduate(su) ideas**

- MM explains that the elected chair will be overlooking proceedings in the assembly once voting is finalized.
- MM mentions that the assembly occurs once every two weeks, and asks the assembly for any future event ideas.
- There is a question from the assembly as to what the PG Officer has been doing since they assumed their role.
- MM outlines the projects they have been undertaking, as well as their future plans. They further explain some of the structures within the union, university, and wider Higher Education, and how they are involved in them.
- MM expresses their desire for the assembly to maintain quorum so that the PG representation can function with consistent input from PG students.
- MM mentions that they have plans to make all of their progress public so that PG students can stay updated on issues affecting them.
- There is a question from the assembly about the possibility of PG-specific sports initiatives from the university, as the ziggurat challenge is heavily represented by UGs.
- MM states that they will examine the possibility, and JM expresses their desire to liaise with UEASport to find an appropriate solution.
- MM brings the weekly PG-specific yoga sessions to the attendees' attention.

### **c. Committee structure & function – guest speech**

- MK introduces themselves as a former committee member, and explains how the committee functions: the issues they lead on, and the nature of the decisions they are responsible for.
- MK explains that the committee also reviews social grant applications, and they are responsible for the postgraduate(su) budget allocation. They go on to mention all the available sections that budget can be allocated to.
- MK mentions that committee members can sit on Union Council, and can therefore formulate Union Policy. Further, they state who sits on the Postgraduate committee.

- MK explains that the committee has the power to act on issues raised at assembly.
- There is a question from the assembly about the procedure of how social grant applications are reviewed.
- MM explains that it is up to the committee to review and either accept or reject applications, and that committee will be elected on the day after the assembly (see Appendix A for election results).

**PGAA107 Any other business**

- Nothing to declare.

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

6pm, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Place TBC

## Appendix



# Postgraduate Elections 2018

## Results Report

### Democratic structure – how it works

uea(su) elections work via a preference selection system. Each voting member states their preferred candidates in order. If, and when, a voting member's number one preference is eliminated at any stage, then that member's vote is cast towards their number two preference at the next stage and so on. If a voting member's number one selection is elected, then their subsequent preference votes are not cast further.

Each election has a quota. This is the **minimum** number of votes required for a majority preference of that candidate. For example, if there is only one available place in the given election, then the quota (the majority vote) for that election will be 50%, meaning half the number of total votes. If there are two available places, then the quota will be one third of the number of total votes, three available places means the quota will be one fourth, and so on.

If, at any stage in the election, a candidate reaches quota (majority vote), then they are automatically elected. If no quota is reached, then candidates are elected based on who has the largest number of votes in the final stage.

### Postgraduate SU – Chair of Postgraduate Assembly

Valid votes: 43

Available places: 1

Quota: 21.5

Candidate votes:

Candidate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Total	Result
Re-open Nominations	2	0	2	Eliminated at Stage 1
<b>Anush Rajagopal</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 1</b>

Explanation of Voting:

In stage one of votes AR was elected as the Chair of Assembly. No votes were transferred in this election.

## **Postgraduate Trustee**

Valid votes: 35

Available places: 1

Quota: 17.5

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Candidate votes:

Candidate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Total	Result
Re-open Nominations	1	0	1	Eliminated at Stage 1
<b>Ruth Flaherty</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 1</b>
Anmol Arora	15	0	15	Eliminated at Stage 1

Explanation of voting:

1 candidate needs over 17 votes to be elected automatically. In stage one RF had 19 votes to AA's 15 and therefore was elected. No votes were transferred in this election.

## **Postgraduate Committee member**

For postgraduate committee, the election process occurred in the following order:

1. Women+ place
2. PGR place
3. Open place

### **a. Women+ place**

Valid votes: 28

Available places: 2

Quota: 9.34

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Candidate votes:

Candidate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Total	Result
Re-open Nominations	4	0	4	Eliminated at Stage 1
<b>Charlotte Hallahan</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 1</b>
<b>Andrea James</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 1</b>

Explanation of voting:

This count took place first.

Given that: RON only received four votes, there are two women+ places on Committee, and only two candidates standing who apply to this category both were elected in the first stage as they both received enough votes to exceed the quota.

### **b. PGR place**

Valid votes: 35

Available places: 1

Quota: 17.5

Candidate votes:

Candidate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Result
Re-open Nominations	3	0	-	3	Eliminated at Stage 2
Anush Rajagopal	15	1	0	16	Transferred to Open place elections
<b>James McClean</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 2</b>

Explanation of voting:

This count took place second.

Given the two women+ candidates were also PGR students they were excluded from this count as they had already been elected.

In stage one of this election RON was excluded with one vote transferring to AR. In stage two JM's initial vote count of 17 meant they were elected by one vote.

### c. Open place

Valid votes: 43

Available places: 2

Quota: 14.34

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Candidate votes:

Candidate	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Total	Result
Re-open Nominations	1	0	-	-	-	1	Eliminated at Stage 2
Daniel box	10	0	0	0	-	10	Eliminated at Stage 4
<b>Anush Rajagopal</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 4</b>
<b>Saket Jalan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Elected at Stage 1</b>
Anmol Arora	2	0	0	-	-	2	Eliminated at Stage 3

Explanation of voting:

This count took place last, meaning those elected in both previous counts were excluded.

In stage one SJ exceeded the quote of votes therefore was elected. In stage two RON was excluded and their one vote was transferred to AR. In stage three AA was excluded and one of their votes had been transferred to AR. In stage four DB was excluded with a difference of two votes from AR, and AR was elected.