

AGENDA – Education Council (EDC) 5 2023

Wednesday, 9 August 2023

Zoom – 6:15pm

Item 1: Meeting Open and Apologies

1. Acknowledgement of Country
2. Apologies
3. Passing of previous meetings minutes ([CRC 4 2023](#))

Procedural on notice to lift standing orders.

Item 2: Executive Reports

2.1 President’s Report (B. Yates) [Reference A]

2.2 Vice President’s Report (G. King) [Reference B]

2.3 General Secretary’s Report (P. O’Neill) [Reference C]

2.4 Education Officer’s Report (B. Tucker) [Reference D]

Item 3: College Representative Reports

3.1 College of Engineering, Computing, and Cybernetics [Reference E]

3.2 College of Arts and Social Sciences [Reference F]

3.3 College of Law [Reference G]

3.4 College of Sciences, Health and Medicine [Reference H]

3.5 College of Business and Economics [Reference I]

3.6 College of Asia Pacific [Reference J]

Item 4: Discussion Items

4.1 In-person examinations

Item: 5: Other Business

Item 6: Meeting Close

Expected close of meeting 7:30pm

Reference A

Reference B

Reference C

General Secretary Report - SRC5 2023

Phoenix O'Neill

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1. Introduction
2. Meetings
3. Governance reform
4. Representatives
5. Postgraduate work
6. Meeting reform
7. Committees
8. Interpretations
9. Activist work
 - a. Housing
10. General ANUSA executive
11. Timesheet
12. Project register

1. Introduction

Hi everyone, welcome to semester 2! For anyone who doesn't know me, I'm Phoenix O'Neill (they/them), the General Secretary of ANUSA. I work on all things governance and constitutions. There's been a lot happening since the last SRC, some of which I will definitely miss as it was a while ago. Please always feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about my work or if you have any feedback!

2. Meetings

Over the break meeting work was quite light. All upcoming ANUSA meetings have their notices posted on the ANUSA website and have facebook events, so you can check there for the meeting schedule at any point.

Otherwise, there was a lot of work in Week 2 for the Extra SRC and the OGM. Confirming the enrolment details of Postgraduate students and eligibility for roles in particular took up a lot of time. A massive congratulations to Luke Harrison for being elected for welfare officer, and for the postgraduate representatives that I mention later in my report.

As always, I'm always looking for more members of the SRC to help me with minuting so please let me know if you are free at any upcoming meetings.

3. Governance reform

I assisted Ben with drafting and seeking legal advice for regulation changes for OGM2 to include Postgraduates in our regulations. I will be continuing work to ensure that all regulations are up to date.

As usual, if you have any governance reform that you wish to see happen, please feel free to reach out.

4. Representatives

Ben and Grace are currently working on filling the casual vacancies on the SRC.

I am currently beginning to work on reaching out to reps who have been less engaged with ANUSA meetings without apologies.

5. Postgraduate work

I've done a lot of work to integrate Postgraduates into our union over the break. As mentioned above, I've been working on Governance changes. I also did a lot of work on advertising the positions that we voted on at OGM2. This included coordinating poster runs across campus and I reached out to HDR/Postgraduate Coursework convenors in every college on campus to advertise the positions. We received over 40 applications for these positions, with many roles being highly contested - it was amazing seeing this level of engagement with our first round of Postgraduate elections, and I am keen to keep this work up so that we can truly represent all students at the ANU.

Congratulations to the following Postgraduates who were elected:

Postgraduate Coursework Officer - Yalan Chen

HDR Officer - Edan Habel

Parents and Carers - Anastacia Jackowski

CASS Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Hejia Zheng

CAP Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Sanskruti Borikar

CBE Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Sejal Bijlani

CECC Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Jiawei Ye

CECC HDR Representative - Anjalie Edirisooriya

CoL Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Putri Riska Answendy

CoS Postgraduate Coursework Representative - Manreet Kaur

I am still awaiting confirmation of enrolment from a few candidates, but on the whole I am currently working on getting the candidates onto the Slack and enrolled, as well as putting them in contact with their Undergraduate equivalents where relevant.

For the positions that weren't filled at the meeting, we are seeking to fill the casual vacancies. This will be through an application process rather than an election. This form will be open until Saturday the 20th of August, and successful candidates would hold office until the 30th of November 2023. You can fill out the nomination form here: <https://forms.gle/FDFVAn6YjPRD1iNa9>

6. Meeting reform

Over the break I was working a lot on meeting reform.

At the end of last semester, I created a feedback form. I also held a meeting in the break with SRC members to discuss meetings, which had a small turnout so I am planning on doing it again sometime soon.

Here are common responses on the form, and what I am doing to address them/why some things won't be able to change. Basically, there are a lot of updates about the format of meetings below!

Feedback	Response
Speaking lists too long/people repeating the same thing/shorter speaking times/meetings are too long	At the end of last semester, I started to move from recording every hand on a speaking list to doing it about three at a time. There has also been an increase of motions to close the speaking list when people are only speaking in favour of a motion. I am hoping to continue this into Semester 2 to discourage people from repeating what has already been said but without cutting off discussion at a democratic meeting.
Motions are irrelevant to ANUSA - i.e. world politics motions	I have a rule of putting all motions submitted on time on a meeting's agenda, and I am generally very flexible on all other topics that aren't financial or constitutional amendments. I will be sticking to this policy because there is no governance reason to deny these motions. SRC is a place of political discourse and if you disagree with motions about world politics, I would encourage you to speak on it. However I do not think it would be appropriate for a General Secretary to control the discourse at ANUSA meetings by denying motions based on their topic.
Graneek room is too small	<p>Completely agree!! I have spent time during the break booking new rooms for ANUSA meetings! Working with Kambri is quite difficult but most SRCs and OGMs should now be in Marie Reay moving forward. EDC (previously CRC) will be remaining in the Graneek room given that it is a much smaller meeting.</p> <p>At the moment, we will just be using the inbuilt technology to communicate via zoom, but I am investigating other options and very keen to hear feedback on how that goes. It's worth noting that we were in the Graneek room primarily because of its great hybrid abilities, so it may be a bit of a bumpy road for hybrid from here but I am committed to making it work!</p>

Don't like masks	We wear masks at ANUSA meetings because we passed a motion to do so based on the health merits. I cannot change this unless there is a motion to do otherwise - which should have wide consultation before proceeding.
People are aggressive/not nice at ANUSA meetings	This is really disheartening feedback to receive and is unfortunately the reputation that ANUSA meetings sometimes get. This is also the hardest to solve. I started having discussions about the culture of ANUSA meetings with the SRC during the break, and I am keen to continue them. I have also started working with Michael, ANUSA's lawyer, to begin the work of writing a code of conduct that specifically covers student spaces in ANUSA, including our meetings. This isn't something that is easily fixed but we can work towards. Of course, cultural change requires more than governance fixes, and I want to keep the conversation going to begin to fix these cultural issues. Please feel free to reach out to myself or to any other member of the executive if you ever need to talk about SRCs or if you have any ideas on this.
Difficulty engaging/setting a culture of asking more questions	This is an issue much like the cultural issue discussed directly above. I am working on having talks with the SRC to improve the culture of engagement at SRC from all, and I don't have a good solution at the moment but we will hopefully be working towards it!
More advertisement on last minute changes	I generally try to make sure that any changes made after midday on the day that an agenda is released are listed as friendly amendments. This hasn't always been the case though - so I will make sure that this is the case going forward, or that last minute changes are flagged by a speaker (or myself) where relevant. I also don't allow for substantive motions to be added to the agenda late for this purpose.
Enjoying the longer breaks/wanting shorter breaks	This is something that people often disagree on - if we should power through meetings or if we should have longer or more frequent breaks. Ultimately, breaks are voted on by the SRC and can be moved by anyone. I understand that it may not always feel comfortable voting against a break once it's moved or asking to make it shorter, but this would be the main avenue to get it done. Breaks are longer this year as a request for accessibility and to allow people to get food during breaks if needed. It's not always possible for everyone to "power through" the meeting, so please keep this in mind.
Meetings start too late	This is sadly another difficult one. As classes end at 6pm, we can't really begin meetings before 6:15 or we risk making it so that people can't come. Although it could be possible to encourage SRC members to try to not schedule classes at that time, mandatory classes are outside of everyone's control. It is also the duty of the executive to ensure that meetings are accessible to all of our members, meaning that moving the meeting time could prevent regular students from attending meetings, which we already struggle with. Sadly I cannot see any clear solution to this issue even though I also don't love the 6.15 start time, but I am happy to continue discussions about options.
Any specific feedback about particular positions	For any feedback that applies to people in specific positions, I will talk to them about it. If you submitted feedback or have any concerns of this nature and want updates, please reach out to me personally and I will see what I can do.

I am still working on many of these issues, so please send me any feedback that you have about changes or about SRC in general. I will be organising another chat with the SRC soon as well, so look out for that.

7. Committees

AQAC

I sit on AQAC, which is Academic Quality and Assurance Committee. The most relevant update to report is that the nuclear major and minors were passed at the last meeting of the committee. I asked a lot of questions about the connections to AUKUS and the goals of this major, and the convenor has reached out to me with the offer to discuss further. This is something that I've brought to Beatrice, our Education Officer, and the executive. Feel free to reach out if you are interested in more detail on the topic.

SSC

I attended the Student Services Council (SSC) with Ben, who will report on it.

8. Interpretations

I have done two small interpretations in the break to ensure that online ballots could take place at OGM2 and on the anonymity of votes to the Returning Officer at meeting elections. If you are interested in more detail on any interpretations, feel free to reach out.

9. Activist work

As you all know, last semester I was convening the Housing Action Collective. While Luke was interim officer, I asked if he would look over HAC for the break - and now that they have been elected as Welfare Officer, they will be officially taking over convening. I am still extremely passionate about the housing crisis and will be attending meetings (and taking minutes!), but to be completely frank the work burned me out last semester and impacted the quality of my work as General Secretary. I am excited to take a step back to focus on the rest of my work, while still being involved with it.

10. General ANUSA executive

I have done a number of things in my general capacity as an ANUSA executive member over the break, including helping out with Bush Week and other activities.

11. Timesheet

From December 1 to date, I have done 518 hours of work. That is 155 hours since my last report. Including leave, this averages out to 15.5 hours a week. If you are curious about how I spend my time or want a more detailed breakdown, feel free to reach out to me.

12. Project register

Project	Content	Update
Election Regulation Reform	Reforming parts of ANUSA's election regulations, with a particular focus on exclusion zones and spending caps.	Completed at the SGM
Meeting safety and accessibility	Increasing the safety and accessibility of ANUSA meetings.	Big updates - see section on Meeting reform.
Code of Conduct rewrite	Making a new Code of Conduct for conduct at ANUSA meetings, as well as looking into ones for club spaces with Charlotte and student spaces with Grace.	I have begun conversations with ANUSA's lawyer - see the section on Meeting reform.
Buddy system reform & representative support	I will be working with Grace King (Vice President) on making an alternative system to the buddy system for representative support.	No updates.
Policy register reform	Create different registers for ANUSA's political stances, policy requirements, and staff related policy.	No updates.
Representative governance reform	Create a representative structure for ANUSA that guarantees representation of postgraduate students	Completed at the SGM.
Housing Action Collective	Organising the Collective to facilitate action for housing reform	See the Housing section.

Reference D

Reference E

CECC Undergraduate Representatives Report, EDC 5.

Punit Deshwal and Harrison Oates.

As we start the second semester, it's great to see new and returning students on-campus. We attended the CECC welcome event out the front of Birch with the student assistance team to let people know that ANUSA exists as the union for all students.

There's been a few developments, primarily on the Engineering side of things.

Course Cuts

In the last SOEN CDC, one of the main agenda of discussion was finding out the best strategy to cut down courses because there has been a 5% decrease in the college funding from last year. The college will be putting its best case forward to the university to prevent this from happening. However, given our already tight budget, these decisions have been framed as necessary. There has been a lot of back and forth among the academics to find a balanced solution in choosing the courses that will be affected by these cuts. One degree most likely to be impacted will be the Master of Applied Data Analytics (MADAN) due to very low enrolments and high cost of blended mode of learning.

Accreditation and feedback from students

College is also in their ongoing effort to acquire accreditation for the Bachelor of Engineering (Software Engineering) program. Turning to feedback from students, the

overall SELT scores for all engineering courses are at 76% which is 3% decrease from last year, but college is still happy with the results.

PARSA Handover

We were involved in the handover process with the PARSA CECC rep before its disestablishment. We have documented the valuable work done by Vidhu and would be glad to handover the information to the new postgraduate representatives.

Reference F

Reference G

Reference H

Reference I

CBE College Report

Prepared for EDC 5

Will Burfoot & Tanya Babbar

CBE Education Committee Meeting 6

- I (Will) attended the recent meeting, here are some notes from it
- The college is finding it difficult to catch students who they believe are using chatgpt
- There was a incident where some students were able to access past exams and assessments on wattle, no students to my knowledge have been contacted regarding this but keeping an eye out
- It was raised that the providing transcripts for lectures is becoming too much work for lecturers, an attendee raised that the cost to get it done by a private company is about \$5000 - \$6000 per course. The services that ANU provides are limiting how accessible the courses can be.
- The formal mid-sem exam period is gone, mid sem exams cant be called mid sem exams, this means students can't defer these mid sem tests, clashes have a higher possibility of occurring. Still unsure what exactly this means for things like special consideration. Would be interested to see what's happening with other colleges.
- The previous Education Committee was fairly uneventful, most involving course codes and what not.

Wattle information

- Our information was put on the wattle info blocks, especially during sem 2 start we have received a lot of emails about timetabling which unfortunately we cant help with much, been referring people where we can

Other requests/student concerns

- We have said a few issues with hybrid learning and recording of lectures, we have been able to sort out most of them but unfortunately the return to in person uni seems to be limiting options for a lot of people to engage with their classes how they want to.

- Really happy to be getting more emails, hope to see them continue so we can keep providing help.

Reference J