Macquarie University Debating Society (MUDS) – 2019 Annual General Meeting:

# Administration:

**Location:** 04WR Room 234

**Commencement:** 1815

## Attendance:

**Financial Members:** Tomas Frankham, Udai Kamath, Amelia Taylor, Annya Reshty, Raphael Lam, Georgia Chahoud, Robert Barrie, Trideep Lal Das, Jonah Soewandito, Henry Baldwin, Reiley Frankham, Sascha Solomon, Daniel Dummer.

Bethany Burns and Anneliese Cooper arrived at 1830

**Returning Officer:** Tamana Abdi

**Non-Financial Members:** Jayda Watson, Taris Watson

## Standing Orders:

1. The outgoing President, Secretary and Treasurer, when delivering their reports, will be limited to 5 minutes speaking time and 4 minutes of question time (not including the time taken by the questioner to ask their question). During question time, members asking questions will have 15 seconds, and candidates have 1 minute to respond. Each member may ask a maximum of two questions.
2. Candidates running for the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer, when delivering their speeches, will be limited to 5 minutes speaking time and 5 minutes of question time (and the above limits on questions and responses apply).
3. Candidates running for general executive committee member positions will be given one-minute speaking time should they wish and two minutes question time.
4. Members proposing constitutional amendments will have 3 minutes to introduce their amendment:
   1. Discussion on the amendment will then be limited to 15 minutes, with
   2. Questions/comments limited to 30 seconds each and
   3. Members limited to a maximum of two comments each.
5. The Returning Officer will be responsible for timing of speeches and will give a warning clap one minute before time elapses and two claps once time has elapsed.
6. No one is to speak out of turn and after two warnings may be ejected from the AGM
7. The Returning Officer will be responsible for upholding and, where necessary enforcing appropriate standards of propriety and behaviour amongst individuals in attendance. Failure to conform may result in ejection from the AGM after two warnings.

# Reports:

## Presidents Report:

**Amelia Taylor:** I am going to discuss our results over the past year, how the executive functioned this year and then my recommendations for next year.

Cape Town WUDC: Mac B broke and should have won their Octo-Final.

UNSW Easters: Mac 1 broke and made quarters. 2 pros were in the top ten. 2 novices were in the top 20.

Bali Australs: Georgia was the best Australian judge at the tournament. Dan was 5th best judge and panelled the Open GF. Rob 10th best judge and panelled the Open Grand-Final.

Macquarie AWDC: We ran it. Mac 1 missed the break on speaks. Georgia was Chief Adjudicator. Amelia broke as an adjudicator.

Executive stuff: We hosted a major – an insane amount of work but everyone stepped up. Running majors often breaks smaller societies – we made it though. We created a novice development portfolio and had strong semester two retention.

Recommendations: Retention is important – could be better this year. Explain to executive their obligation to take novices to minis. Exec people should keep an eye on all portfolios. Marketing – ups and downs – could do more. Setting up specific obligations within portfolios is important:

**Georgia Chahoud**: Accept these flowers.

**Udai Kamath:** I would like to pass a motion to thank Amelia for her work and move her report.

Motion passes by affirmation.

## Secretaries Report:

**Udai Kamath:**  We have had a significant boost in engagement over the past year – adding 300 people to our mailing list and MacSync. We have also more than doubled our open rate on emails.

Retention could have been better – perhaps this was a result of condensed O weeks this year.

I have set up templates for mail chimp that should vastly simplify and uatomate this process into the future.

The website and drive are all up to date and looking great thanks to our new logo designed for us by Rob.

**Georgia Chahoud:** What should the secretary focus on for next year.

**Udai Kamath:** Continuing to manage and make use of the google drive – make sure it is organised, up to date and centralised repository for information.

Driving up the attendance of executive members at executive committee meetings.

Making sure to remain flexible and adapt to what the society is doing – a large part of the role is supporting the President and the rest of the executive.

**Tom Frankham:** Any regrets?

**Udai Kamath:** No.

**Georgia Chahoud:** I move to thank Udai for his work and pass the report.

Motion passes by affirmation.

## Treasurer’s Report:

**The treasurers report was delayed since the Treasurer was not in attendance at this time.**

# Elections:

**Tamana Abdi**: Standing orders are 5 minutes for speeches, 3 minutes of question time.

## Presidential Election:

**Nominations:** Tom Frankham

**Tom Frankham:** I Really enjoy the society. Georgia and Annelieise really helped me to feel welcome when I was a first year. This is about accountability. I want to deliver my vision and hope you will hold me accountable to these things throughout the year

Transparency: Within the exec – We should continue biweekly check-ups between portfolios. Reform the exec with a more hierarchical systems for portfolios that allows for better communication. To the rest of the society – Everyone should know what portfolios are doing – so any executive member can tell the society.

Exec reforms: Hierarchical system of portfolios.

Personal leadership: I have significant major participation and would like toe ncourage others to do so too. I would also personally like to focus on novice development and fostering an inclusive culture.

**Georgia** **Chahoud**: what do you want to do as President?

**Tom Frankham:** Improve retention. Avoid peaks and troughs we’ve seen in past years.

**Robert Barrie:** How will you achieve these goals?

**Tom Frankham:** The president creates culture – I will lead by example. I want to normalise attending Australs as an adjudicator for example.

**Sascha Solomon:** Your hierarchy idea - will the president allocate the leader of each portfolio.

**Tom Frankham:** Yes. This is a trial and perhaps controversial. I will happily revert things if it doesn’t work.

**Bethany Burns:** How will you hold exec accountable if it doesn’t do shit?

**Tom Frankham:** It is my job. People joined with the expectation of helping. I will ask them why they are not. I can discuss the issue with them etc.

**Amelia Taylor:** You’ve talked about leading by example. Could you give some examples of where you have displayed leadership over the past two years you have spent on the executive.

**Tom Frankham:** I think I took a main role in leading the socials portfolio while on executive.

**Tom is elected President:** 13 in favour | 2 No confidence | 0 abstentions

## Treasurer’s Election:

**Nominations:** Udai Kamath

I have been a member for three years, an exec member for 2 years and have been to 80 tournaments across 10 countries. I am very committed and love MUDS.

What I would like to do with the role: Creating budgets, tracking deadlines, making sure we meet payments. Not going to promise grand plans to making money – it is easy to suggest things, hard to implement – work with what we already have. Not really in charge, there to help the president

Why I will be competent: Involved with externals before, on comps I have handled making people pay and processing fee waivers, and I’ve been the treasurer of another society.

**Georgia Chahoud:** Do you have any plans? What you’ve presented seems unambitious.

**Udai Kamath:** It’s not that I do not have plans – rather that I do not want to make promises without first knowing our financial situation and will or will not be viable for us to do next year. I agree what I am proposing is less ambitious than usual – but these ae things that can actually be done. Often, we hear a lot of ambitious proposals that do not come to fruition. I don’t want to promise something that cannot be delivered.

**Georgia Chahoud:** DO you have any examples of plans?

**Udai Kamath:** I would like to change our trial policy to require a deposit to trial to combat people dropping out and collapsing contingents.

**Beth Burns:** What kind of re-allocations of funds are you talking about?

**Udai Kamath:** One area I would be looking to spend more is on subsidies. In particular we need to get first years to go to Australs to help with retention – we should prioritise spending our money here.

**Udai is elected Treasurer:** 15 in favour | 0 no confidence | 0 abstentions

## Secretarial Election:

**Nominations:** No nominations were submitted by the deadline. Nominations were hence opened up to the floor. Jonah Soewandito nominated.

**Jonah Soewandito:** Background – I am a new member of the society. I think I am well placed to make people feel like a part of the society and getting people to rock up to tournaments and feel engaged with older members of the community. Secretary is pretty low level. It is about facilitation of long-term stuff. I am a constant attender of internals and minis. I can help get people to tournaments.

**Georgia Chahoud:** what has been effective from your view in making people feel accepted?

**Jonah Soewandito:** Majors was the big gateway. Easters was great and the first time I really felt part of the society

**Tom Frankham:** Portfolio preferences?

**Jonah Soewandito:** Not super sure. Novice development?

**Henry Baldwin:** What would you do to keep people in Semester two?

**Jonah Soewandito**: Semester two represents a big change in the format and tone and is more scary. We should focus around community.

**Sascha Solomon:** New ideas for increasing society-exec communication?

**Jonah:** Bi-weekly check-ups are good. We should see why people aren’t meeting objectives.

**Taris Watson:** Being friendly and open is important to feeling welcome. How would you improve this?

**Jonah:** Hard to do, but I can be a voice for these people.

**Jonah is elected Secretary:** 15 in favour | 0 no confidence | 0 abstentions

## Election of the General Executive:

**Nominations:** Sascha Solomon**,** Reilley Frankham

**Reilley Frankham:** I helped out at AWDC and want to do more. It sounds fun. Tom will get aggro if I don’t get my shit done. Would like to help build the society up.

**Henry Baldwin:** What portfolios? Any preferences?

**Reilley Frankham:** Socials. Will do anything.

**Robert Barrie:** Will you hold tom to account?

**Reilley Frankham:** If needed.

**Sascha Solomon:** Less people on exec means more responsibility. I have a large commitment to family, since my sister has mental health problems. I also have full time work. Happy to do work behind the scenes. I hope I did a good job in the last year. I really care about the community.

**Georgia Chahoud:** Any strategies to balance commitments?

**Sascha Solomon:** Not really.

**Tom Frankham:** Portfolio Preferences

**Sascha Solomon:** Externals, comps, marketing. Nov development.

**Taris Watson:** Marketing etc requires a weekly commitment – how will you ensure that gets done?

**Sascha Solomon:** It’s about prioritization.

**Reilley Frankham is elected to Executive Committee:** 15 votes

**Sascha Solomon is elected to Executive Committee:** 13 votes

# Other Business:

## Treasurers Report:

**Bethany Burns:** Sorry I was late. The Society is financially fine. Funding has flipped. This year more money from the uni and less from the SRC – has flipped from last year. We can now request a bulk sum of money which is more useful than the $300 cap per event. No sponsorships. We have paid for half of Easters and WUDC.

**Udai Kamath:** I move a motion to thank Beth for her work and accept her report.

**Motion passed by affirmation**

## Life Membership:

**Georgia Chahoud moves a motion to grant** **Anneliese Cooper life membership. Amelia Taylor seconds.**

**Amelia Taylor moves a motion to grant Sam Marshall Life Membership. Georgia Chahoud seconds.**

**Georgia Chahoud:** Sam missed semester one of MUDS. Her first tournament was in Melbourne which is crazy. Anneliese looked after a drunk president at first Easters. Anneliese had a huge impact on the culture of MUDS. In terms of commitment to the executive - Anneliese was president three times – her year, my year and the year before. She was always welcoming people. And ran MUDS ball on her own. Sam was a great secretary running schools days and minis and so on. She was the first person to take people to a mini and knows everyone from every society. She was also twice my wom\*ns partner. She made huge contributions to running AWDC this year – Sam’s dream was to run a major so it was great for it to finally happen.

**Sam Marshall is granted life membership:** 15 votes for | 0 against | 0 abstentions

**Anneliese Cooper is granted life membership:** 15 votes for | 0 against | 0 abstentions