



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 2018

15 OCTOBER 2018

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Meeting Opened: 18:29pm

Attendees:

- Jacob Rock (JR)
- Rob Barrie (RB)
- Dan Dummer (DD)
- Beth Burns (BB)
- Georgia Chahoud (GC)
- Amelia Taylor (AT)
- Annya Reshty (AR)
- Taris Watson (TW)
- Sascha Solomon (SS)
- Tennyson Brazier (TB)
- Thomas Frankham (TF)
- Ryan Thalari (RT)
- Carl Saunders (CS)
- Liam Holt (LH)
- Udai Kamath (UK)
- Henry Baldwin (HB)
- Rochelle Chand (RC)
- Sam Hurrell (SH)
- Raphael Lam (RL)
- Aria Mccarthy-Lochner (AM) (Non-voting)

Returning Officer: Viran Weerasekera

Standing Orders Procedure

- 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.
- 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).
- Candidates running for general executive committee member positions will be given one-minute speaking time should they wish and two minutes question time.
- Members proposing constitutional amendments will have
 - 3 minutes to introduce their amendment.



- Discussion on the amendment will then be limited to 15 minutes, with
- questions/comments limited to 30 seconds each and
- members limited to a maximum of two comments each.
- 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.
- No one is to speak out of turn and after two warnings may be ejected from the AGM
- 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.

1. Approval of the 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes

RT There is a mistake in last years minutes. In the president's report there was a mix-up with the adj break

UK The minutes are factually accurate of what was said in the AGM, it doesn't matter if what was said was incorrect

GC I move a motion that the minutes as circulated be approved

Seconded: RB

In favour: 18

Abstaining: 1

Motion passes

2. Reports and Questions from Outgoing Office Bearers

2.1 Presidents Report

GC What happened this year:

- We went to Mexico worlds. Ryan broke as an adj, Udai did very well. Jacob and Georgia did not break
- O-week was good. Good turnout, people put in a lot of effort
- Training day was good
- We won Easters, Mac 2 broke, Ryan and Georgia broke as adjs
- We won Australs, Mac 2 broke, Ryan and Udai broke as adjs and Dan was there
- We sent three teams to AWDC, Mac 1 made the grand final and Beth broke as an adj
- We applied and won the AWDC bid

Challenges:

- Relationship with the university was difficult
- External was hard, we had issues estimating the number of teams and adj spots
- Minor exec dramas

Recommendations:

- Retention: carve out new space for new people
- Make connections with other universities, especially the small 4



- Set a clear vision for the executive

Questions from the floor:

- RT What is your recommendation for the future executive in terms of adj retention?
- GC Adjing is difficult to teach and requires a lot of practise. I think making majors attractive for first years is a good idea, possibly setting aside bigger subsidies for adjs
- AT Thank you very much for this year of service. Please accept these flowers
- GC thanked by acclamation*

2.2 Secretary Report

AC Things that have changed this year:

- Members:
 - Macsync: increase of 87 new members, a 56% increase
- Newsletter:
 - 1,166 subscribers
 - Average open rate of 30%
 - 350 people opening our newsletters every time we send them out
- Facebook page:
 - 197 increase in likes over the year
 - Most popular posts during majors, particularly Easters

Recommendations:

- Becoming more active on other social media platforms (snapchat, Instagram)
- Definitely maintain the google drive: big goal of mine this year was to increase efficiency and transparency within the executive: google drive and email saves a lot of time and keeps things organised
- Website could be better: make regular posts or updates when things change

Questions from the floor:

- UK What has been your biggest success?
- AT Google drive
- RT What would you do if you had more time in the role?
- AT Social media and website development
- GC Thank you for your service this year

2.3 Treasurer Report

BB What happened this year:

- This was a financial recovery year as we experienced some financial hardship last year with not filling worlds team spots and the ball
- Sponsorship and funding: We received less sponsorship money and funding from campus engagement, but we did receive more from the SRC



- Internals and externals: we spent more on pizza for internals, externals was expensive because we sent more teams, we had a slight reduction in subsidies
- Socials: socials spent lots of money last year. We spent much less money which was good
- Schools: dates did not align with school term which meant they couldn't run any schools days. They started a new initiative of workshops in schools to recover. Make sure they happen at the start of the year
- Comps: We had more profit. We had a lot more people attending

Recommendations:

- Improve the relationship with the university
- Maintain relationship with the SRC
-

Questions from the floor:

- UK What do you consider to be your biggest achievement?
- BB Making comps more financially successful
- HB Why did you receive less money from campus engagement?
- BB They were restructured this year and received budget cuts which meant they had less money to give. Also, many of our tournaments are overseas and it is difficult to receive funding for that. We also made more money this year, which meant often we have over \$2000 in our account, which was the limit we needed to be below to receive funding
- LH How can you improve subsidies considering they are given to people who don't come back? Surely we should prioritise people who will return?
- BB Not the treasurers decision, it must be passed through the executive committee. We prefer to prioritise funding Easterns novices because we need to engage people at the beginning.
- UK If we can't sell the worlds adj spot, how bad will it hit us?
- BB Not too bad, we have a small buffer, it will only cost us about \$700.
- TF Did the number on the slide mean anything?
- BB No
- RT We currently prioritise subsidising first years over pros. Georgia raised considering funding first year adjs more. Is that financially viable?
- BB All first years are automatically subsidised more than pros, but it may be worthwhile considering increasing for adjs. It depends on the year whether it would be viable. Probably not for 2018, but potentially for 2019.
- CS We currently subsidise majors. Have you considered subsidising minis like ANU spring and UQ minis?
- BB Not many people will opt into those so I would be subsidising the same people every time. The kind of engagement we could get by staying in NSW is sufficient. We have scare resources and we should prioritise majors.
- GC Thank you for your service



3. Constitutional Amendments

3.1 Constitutional Amendment 1

Proposed by Udai Kamath

Edit section:

(b) give written notice to members of the trial date, the date registration closes, the selection procedure and the subsidy amount (if any).

Add:

(c) This notice must be provided via email and the societies website at least 14 days before either:

(i) The date of the trial.

(i) The last day to register to trial.

Whichever occurs first.

(d) The period for which members can register to trial must exceed 7 days.

UK The current wording only considers the date of the trial, not when registration opens and closes. The amendment also gives notice for the registration period and has shortened the period to 14 days.

RT The grammar of the amendment is incorrect. It should be “society’s” not “societies” plural

UK Happy to correct that

CS Your have a lot of free time

UK I move a motion to pass this constitutional amendment

Seconded: RB

In Favour: 16

Abstentions: 3

5. Election of the 2019 Executive

5.1 President

Nomination: Amelia Taylor

AT I want you to hold me accountable for the next year. I think this year we have done well developing our mid-tier debaters, but I am worried that new people will be left behind, so a big focus for me next will year will be making sure this doesn't happen. I will be personally taking novices to minis and encouraging others to do the same. I also care about creating a sustainable executive and maintaining institutional memory through the google drive and handover documents. I am really proud of this society and I want everyone to experience the same joys I get from MUDS.



Questions from the floor:

CS Do you have a mechanism to force pros and executives to take novices?

AT I am really hesitant to do that because people invest a large amount of time and money into debating and deserve autonomy. I think there are culture norms you can set and I aim to reward people who take novices, rather than punish those who don't

RT What are your plans for mid-tier development and adjs?

AT As Georgia said, it is hard developing adjs as they need practise. Would potentially look into an adj training day or increasing subsidies. Georgia has done well this year with everyone, I would look into specialising internals through google forms so we can make sure that people are being taught what they need.

HB Do you have specific strategies for the retention of first years?

AT I think it is difficult for people to break into the society at the start as we are such a tight knit group. I will encourage people to split up and make sure there is room for people in our society e.g. sitting down with everyone and giving a chat to make sure people are welcome. Also keeping regular updates and posts. Keeping MUDS on people's minds.

RT Can we have Viran instead?

AT He goes to USU. That is bad.

UK Do you have a plan to allocate portfolios?

AT I don't know who's on the portfolios.

Result for election 5.1: Amelia Taylor

In favour: 17

Against: 2

Note: Amelia Taylor, is elected as President and therefore signatory on the MUDS NAB bank account for 2019

5.2 Secretary

Nomination: Annya Reshty

AR

- Really passionate re muds – place to make friends and voice opinions
- What is a good secretary: dedication and commitment (I have attended all internals, mini, and lots of majors); organised (always meet deadlines on my portfolios, legal assistant); difficult decisions (good at mediating, calm person, good at listening)
- What I want to do: encourage pros to engage with novices, push schools workshops more; I'm not good at talking about how good I am, let me show you

Questions from the floor:

JR What can you add as secretary that you can't bring to general exec?

AR Secretary has to put in more time and I am willing to do that. I am good at resolving disputes and making people feel included and comfortable

RT What experience do you have with secretarial tasks?



- AR Served in previous leadership positions and have some experience with those things. I am also very willing to ask for help.
- GC Why do you want to run for this position?
- AR General executive is good but I feel I have more to offer to the society.
- RL What will you do if you are having issues communicating with the university?
- AR Happy to go to people's offices and chat to them
- LH What aspect of the role would you like to improve on?
- AR Using different social media platforms.
- TW How will you improve making people aware of events that the MUDS runs?
- AR Need to make executive more transparent and give people updates on decisions and events that are being planned. We can also ask members for feedback on how to improve.

Nomination: Udai Kamath

UK

- Why I want the role: all of my friends are in MUDS. Really proud of our success. I think I can help this to continue.
- Vision: supporting people, keeping deadlines, fixing problems, helping to implement other visions; basic function (minutes, policies, mail merge); increase transparency (giving people notice for meetings and trials); engagement (polls, getting more speakers in, encouraging people who aren't on exec); simplify exec roles (clear roles, greater accountability); prioritise relationship with the university (new head of campus engagement, good op to foster that relationship); novice development (we do a great job, people drop out around austral, we can prioritise adjing and encouraging first years to adj to go to those tournaments), do workshops (maybe teach people how to pro)
- How will I fulfill this: experienced at these tasks (on exec this year, experience with how the exec functions, institutional rep at aida), I am very present in the debating community, specific knowledge of all of the constitutions

Questions from the floor:

- BB What do you mean by simplify the exec roles?
- UK Combining socials and comps into an events portfolio
- DD People on the exec tend to carry personal agendas when creating trial policy. How would you manage this?
- UK We all need to prioritise what is best for the society. I think a good method is to encourage people to propose many policies and choose the best one.
- GC Secretary has a supportive focus, how will you help with that?
- UK Making a calendar with all the deadlines and holding people accountable.
- RT What experience do you have with the basic secretarial roles?



- UK I was the secretary in high school, big on the MUPS exec, and I have experience in event planning.
- AT Secretary is an important culture setter. How will you help this?
- UK Leading by example, making myself open for when people have problems
- LH It is a labour-intensive role, how could you make it more efficient?
- UK Making use of technology more e.g. mail merge system for schools.
- TW We didn't have a schools day this year. How will you fix that?
- UK Having a good relationship with the uni. Explain why it is so important for fundraising. Focus more on workshop alternatives.
- CS Would you risk your licence again in order to get a first year involved?
- UK I wouldn't want to kill the first year
- RL What will you do if communication with the uni is difficult?
- UK I will communicate with them in person
- SS How many first years have you taken to minis?
- UK I have been to 4 tournaments with novices, 2 of those tournaments with novices from MUDS.

Result for election 5.2: Udai Kamath

Votes for Udai: 11

Votes for Annya: 8

2.3 Treasurer

Nomination: Bethany Burns

BB

- Being treasurer is not about the numbers. It is about having an opinion about how the society should be run and our vision for what our numbers should look like. Its having tough conversations with people who haven't paid money. Position of leadership in the society.
- Argued with a lot of people this year. Always been one to take a stand. Leads to more discussion, it is important. Had to do hard things like blacklist people. Had a receptionist job.
- Proactive, make things more efficient. Committed to muds. Eye for detail. Like to be kept up to date.
- Welcoming novices (taking novices for minis, adjing tournaments), learnt skills (communicating with university), best way for me to give back to muds, muds has a lot of potential

Questions from the floor:

- LH Treasurer is time sensitive. How will you balance MULS and AWDC?
- BB Most of the jobs can be done through forward planning. I am well organised.



- GC Why are you running 2 years in a row?
- BB I did a good job this year. I have skills that work well with this role. I want to continue to give back.
- RT Last year you promised to meet deadlines, create new revenue streams and using grassroots funding. You broke all of these promises. How can we trust you will live up to this years promises?
- BB We only missed deadlines when we were unable to pay, which is a result of the 2017 mismanagement. And we didn't miss those deadlines, we communicated our issues to the org com and received new deadlines. I made comps a far stronger revenue stream, so I consider that fulfilling my other two promises.
- TW What is your vision?
- BB To get more money and to grow.
- AT How will you leave a legacy for future treasurers?
- BB Leaving clear and detailed budgets. Will have good handovers. Set-up good and padded accounts. Preserve things we have learnt and keeping funds into next year. Happy to talk to future treasurers.
- SH What future funding sources are you expecting to use?
- BB Comps and SRC. If we can improve our relationship with the university, also campus engagement.
- CS Knowledge can be lost. How can you make sure your knowledge isn't forgotten?
- BB I will continue to improve my handover document. I will hold myself accountable and expect the people around me to do the same.

Nomination: Tom Frankham

TF

- Grateful for all the hard work people have put in for me for the past 2 years. Core to that is having the funding to send people to majors. Community values with muds (room parties).
- I study economics to manage funds, exec experience this year, a good job with socials
- Have more time than Beth to give to this job. They will be busy running AWDC. Good to have people in the exec.
- Its not just about getting people to pay, but it's a character exercise. Dealing with information, need to be sensitive to where people are at. Won't leak to other people.
- Super keen to look for new ways to find that funding. Good relationship with SRC and campus engagement. Socials has run on very low funding this year. This is the kind of cost cutting without experience cutting. I will make sure to consult people.

Questions from the floor:

DD If you are unsuccessful, will you run to general exec?

TF Yes



- RT This is a process specific role. Do you have experience?
- TF I do economics. We don't have incumbencies normally, we survive every other time.
- GC What made you run for treasurer over sec and president.
- TF I can't do minutes or send emails
- LH Your flagged being willing to have tough conversations. Could you give us an example?
- TF When people can't afford to pay for majors. I will try to be as empathetic as possible.
- AT How can we improve revenue raising?
- TF Look at what other societies do and what has been done in the past.
- CS You are dyslexic but fine with numbers?
- TF I can't spell, but I can add.

Results of the election for 5.3: Bethany Burns

In favour of Beth: 12

In favour of Thomas: 7

Note: Bethany Burns, is elected as Treasurer and therefore signatory on the MUDS NAB bank account for 2019

5.4 General Executive

Nomination: Sam Hurrell

Seconded: Jacob

SH I love muds. We are a family. It makes us special. I want to grow and support novices.

Questions from the floor:

GC What skills do you have

SH I have a lot of experience on various executives e.g. SRC and clinsci

CS Aren't you over qualified? Won't you intimate the big 3?

SH Here to help and support

BB You coming to Easters?

SH Yes.

UK How can you help MUDS fundraising?

SH I know what to look for with grant applications. Good connections with campus engagement.

Nomination: Tom Frankham

Seconded: Rob Barrie



TF I want to give back. This is where all of my friends are.

Questions from the floor?

UK What portfolios do you want?

TF Socials, comps and externals

Nomination: Tennyson Brazier

Seconded: Jacob Rock

TB MUDS is my family. Want to give back. Being on general exec gives me that opportunity. Keen on using a social media presence, not everyone can engage through internals every week.

Questions from the floor:

UK If you could chose a portfolio?

TB Marketing and socials

RT What skills and past experiences do you have?

TB I have run a lot of events and school programs.

Nomination: Rochelle Chand

Seconded: Rob Barrie

RC I want to give back. I am organised and I have experience.

Questions from the floor:

UK What portfolio would you like?

RC Schools

BB What will you do the help women in the society?

RC Making them feel comfortable and safe.

GC Why do you want to join the exec?

RC MUDS is good.

Nomination: Liam Holt

Seconded: Jacob Rock

LH I have done well this year on socials and equity. Managed to keep to a budget. Good at cutting costs. I have helped create a community and I have good relationships with different institutions.

Questions from the floor:

UK What portfolios would you like?



LH Equity and socials

AT This year we have only had 2 socials. How will you do more next year?

LH We only had permission for 4. We can do smaller and easy socials like picnics and movie days.

RT What can you bring to the role?

LH Experience as a debating coach. I want people to feel confident enough to ask me for help

RT What will you do for meme culture?

LH I make lots of means.

Ryan: what can you bring to the role?

Liam: experience as a debating coach. Want people to feel confident enough to ask me for help.

Ryan: what about meme culture?

Liam: I make lots of memes.

Nomination: Henry Baldwin

Seconded: Rob Barrie

HB I want to be committed to MUDS. I have suffered specific barriers and I will take this role really seriously.

Questions from the floor:

UK What portfolio would you like?

HB Equity

LH What would you do for novice inclusivity?

HB Break up conversations. Better ice breaker socials.

Nomination: Carl Saunders

Seconded: Jacob Rock

CS I have grown a lot over the past year and want to give back to the community. I have held a big 3 position before and believe I am qualified.

UK What portfolio would you like?

CS Not fixed on anything, but marketing and socials would be good.

RT What relevant experiences have you had?

CS I have held ranger master and planner positions for nsw fencing events. This is a big group and I did a good job.

GC What changes would you make to these portfolios?

CS I would reinforce what has already been established. I am also tech savvy.



Nomination: Annya Reshty

Seconded: Bethany Burns

AR Everything I said before hasn't changed. I will push for novice retention and improving schools. I have very good organisational skills.

Questions from the floor:

BB What is a feature that distinguishes you from other candidates?

AR I have a unique way of interacting with people, listen and do my best to help everyone.

RT You did well with equity and schools. Do you want any different portfolios?

AR Comps

UK Ryan is a scoundrel and a thief

AT Things on exec can get tense. What do you bring?

AR Good at calming people down, helping people work out what their issues are and developing compromises

Nomination: Taris Watson

Seconded: Bethany Burns

TW Debating can be intimidating for new people. I can make people feel comfortable.

Questions from the floor:

UK What role do you want?

TW Schools and marketing

RT What skills and background can you bring?

TW You parliament, relatable and hip with the young people. Have experience with that. Do a lot of service and leadership things in the community. Good at conflict resolution.

BB What distinguishes you from other candidates?

TW can say what I mean without being harsh, can shout like Beth and be kind like Annya.

Nomination: Sascha Solomon

Seconded: Jacob Rock

SS Improve experiences for first years, keeping them engaged between the start, easters and after easters. Make our society more sustainable, can do this through comps and have shown through passion for environmentalism.

Questions from the floor:

RT What portfolio would you like?



- SS Comps and marketing
- GC What past experience do you have?
- SS Chair for environmental council, had to deal with difficult people, had to organise many programs
- LH How would you like to pair work on womens with exec?
- SS I can do both. Portfolio is socials and doing most of the work now, can do over the summer. I am an organised person.

Results for the election for 5.4: Sascha Solomon, Sam Hurrell, Tom Frankham, Henry Baldwin and Taris Watson

- In favour of Sam Hurrell: 16
- In favour of Taris Watson: 11
- In favour of Tom Frankham: 10
- In favour of Henry Baldwin: 9
- In favour of Sascha Solomon: 9
- In favour of Annya Reshty: 8
- In favour of Tennyson Brazier: 8
- In favour of Carl Saunders: 6
- In favour of Liam Holt: 6

6. Other business

- DD I move a motion to make Jacob Rock a life member
- Seconded: BB

DD

- Contribution to culture: Jacob has a lot of integrity and is very academically honest. He is very committed to the society in a very consistent way. Very calm and gives lots of good council. He helped many people at many different majors. Very good dancer.
- His work: convened tournaments. Has tabbed some things. Has been a good CA. Very talented speaker. A mentor for people, especially for people in the middle tier. Plus he won austral which was awesome. He has proven that if you work hard, you can achieve anything you want.

Discussion time:

- RT To add someone to life membership is a constitutional amendment. Notice must be given.
- GC It is an addition to the appendix. We aren't altering the clause, not a formal amendment to the constitution. It has been mixed in the past and is vague in the constitution.



DD I would not have raised it if I had doubts. The decision we make is through the AGM, the constitution must be updated to whatever we decide.

RT I was wrong, it's a schedule and there is no notice requirement for that

RB I have had a long relationship with Jacob. He deserves this recognition.

Motion passes

GC Motion to thank Viran

Seconded: AT

Passes by acclamation

Meeting closed: 9:05pm

AMELIA TAYLOR

MUDS SECRETARY 2018