

**Meeting Opened:** 6:28 pm

**Attendees:**

- Anneliese Cooper (AC)
- Samantha Marshall (SM)
- Mounisha Mondeddu (MM)
- Georgia Chahoud (GC)
- Jacob Rock (JR)
- Bethany Leise (BL)
- Alex Feofiloff (AF)
- Liam Holt (LH)
- Isham Sanjiv (ISh)
- Ryan Thalari (RT)
- Amelia Taylor (AT)
- Udai Kamath (UK)
- Henry Forsaith-Breese (HFB)
- Isobel Sands (ISo)
- Lachlan McGrath (LM)
- Daniel Dummer (DD)
- Sam Hurrell (SH)
- Daniel Schofield (DS)
- Despina Bouletos (DB)
- Annya Reshty (AR)
- Raphael Lam
- Carlos Saunders
- Tom Frankham

**Returning Officer:** Robert Barrie

**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.

AC Jacob has pointed out that the constitution is inconsistent as to whether or not the chair has the casting vote.  
AC **I move a motion that the chair does not have a casting vote**  
Seconded: SM  
*Motion passes unanimously*

## 1. Approval of 2016 Minutes

*Minutes are tabled by the President as appears [here](#).*

AC **I move a motion that the minutes as circulated be approved**  
Seconded: SM  
In favour: 11  
Abstained: 6  
*Motion Passes*

## 2. Reports and Questions from Outgoing Office Bearers

### 2.1 Presidents Report

- AC
- Since last year:
    - We went to Dutch worlds
    - Had massive attendance in the first few weeks of internals
    - Had the first adjudicator training day
    - Had massive trials for Easters, with 37 people trialling
    - Sent the largest Easters contingent in institutional memory
    - Mac 2 broke to the octo finals of Easters
    - Ryan and Ash broke to octo finals
    - Daniel was a DCA
    - Sent the biggest Australs contingent in institutional memory, with 2 teams and 5 adjudicators
    - Mac A broke to octo finals
    - Dan broke to octo finals
    - Dan chaired quarters
    - We ran the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MUDS Ball
    - Sent the biggest contingent in institutional memory to Womens 2017
    - We made great clipboards

Recommendations going forwards:

- Our biggest problem going forwards is finances - we say this every year - but this has never been truer
  - We have expanded 4 fold, we have less money per person
  - We have new funding application system with the university - we have to apply in various amounts (not with blanket sums that are distributed in rounds)
  - Schools days are getting smaller
  - Now, approaching sponsors has to happen
  - We continue to have the same competitions next year, however have 3 international tournaments (rather than most/all being hosted in Australia)
- What worked well - smaller number on executive, smaller portfolios as we were only allocated a few each
- Moving forwards, please keep up relationships with other institutions and other members
- Get big dreams achieved before semester 1 next year - you will struggle otherwise

- Celebrate the small victories
- Be quick to reward people, and quick to forgive mistakes.
- Annie has been rewarded in this job, and has done something every day for muds, and it is very well worth investing in. We have momentum, please jump on that - dream big, and invest in our newer members.

Questions from the floor:

- GC Will you accept these flowers from MUDS  
*Emphatically accepts flowers*  
*AC thanked via acclamation*
- BL What else did you want to say?
- AC Just that we spend a lot of time refining policy and that's not to say that we as a society are petty, but just to be conscious of that, and that we all do care a lot.
- AF What happened this year with schools days?
- AC We had the wrong dates as they clashed with their exams, so we ran into some issues.  
We managed this situation in a way that kept the rapport with the schools.  
There is a schools day booked in for November 30, and the recommendation is to hold one in February
- LH Would you reach out to schools from Western Sydney
- AC We usually get schools from places that are closer, and usually private schools, but all schools are welcome
- ISh What was your hardest moment as President?
- AC The second half of the year is hard because you get bogged down and have lots of admin. It is hard to keep up the motivation with a group of elected volunteers.

2.2 Secretary Report

- SM My report is brief as Anneliese said much of the happy things but here is a bunch of statistics:
- We currently have 155 macsync members, which is abysmal
  - We have had 365 genuinely new additions to the mailing list, accounting for those that have unsubscribed.
  - The executive has met 7 times
  - The website has been set up by Lachlan and is now up and running, where minutes and secretarial information will become available in 2018.
  - Our facebook page currently has 1179 likes, which is approximately 130 more than last year.
  - The best engagement on all our platforms is via videos, and then photos, rather than text posts
  - On Instagram we have approximately 100 likes, with about 22-24 likes as an average on each post.
  - The goals coming in to this role was to set up a calendar for MUDS, however it has become apparent that the Australian Debating Calendar is adequate and needs to instead be better utilised.

Questions from the floor:

- LH With an increase in memeable content, do you think we could better use memes for engagement, say like we do with instagram
- SM Yes, memes are engaging, and where they were used they were received well.  
Recommendation made for further meme use
- AF Do you think that the email mailing list for members is appropriate and functions well?
- SM It is the lesser of many evils. Macsync is horrible as a platform and no one uses it, we use the information we get from sign ups at the stall anyway, and it is the easiest way to contact engaged members.
- ISh Do you have other media accounts?
- SM I forgot – we also got snapchat this year!  
Twitter exists however is rarely used, and with little engagement, and Anneliese and I don't really know how it works
- RT We have twitter and it was used previously
- SM Yes, I like that we have twitter.  
Recommendation might be to make more use of this platform next year.
- AC **I move a motion to thank Samantha for her service as secretary**  
*Motion approved by acclamation*

2.3 Treasurer's Report

MM This role was quite challenging, particularly at the start of the year because:

- The university didn't process our handover until May
- The process for payments was entirely new
- We ended up spending a lot of time at NAB
- We could not make payments via direct debit cards
- Reimbursements were however processed straight away
- It was very difficult for us to pay international accounts, this process had to be completed at a branch

This year we also had a new cost in the MUDDS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, this was a new cost and the budget was very tight for a period of time.

We are not currently owing anyone any money.

We also will have paid off Easters 2018.

The biggest costs for this year was subsidies, we spent more than normal - \$3,100 on Australs for example.

Unfortunately individuals copped higher registration fees, because we had larger contingents this year, except for Womens which wasn't substantially more expensive.

We also elected to subsidise Ryan's IA spot for Australs.

The Ball was another financial issue, particularly because many people didn't buy tickets until three days before the ball.

We faced losing a sunk cost of \$2,500.

We budgeted to spend \$1,500, however spend \$1,300 in the end.

There were changes in the university funding, which meant that we had difficulty getting immediate funding for things.

We cannot also apply for funding if we have \$2,000 in the bank, and this is not practical for how our accounts and costs work.

We didn't have a May schools day this year, one in February which brought in \$2,100 – we were looking to get \$1,200.

We received \$3,000 from the SRC in funding and \$4,000 from the university, however we cannot rely on this year to year.

Questions from the floor:

JR What is our net change in assets?

MM It is difficult to assess as we have paid for things that are usually paid in February, so our position looks really different.

JR But those payments are considered assets

MM We currently have \$1,300 in the bank currently, however our net position is comparable factoring in the pre payments, we just need to pay for worlds and to receive income from the schools day in November.

AF Recommendations for budgeting for majors next year?

MM We have had such a high participation rate this year, so account for an increase.

Also accounting for about \$300 extra per major is a good rule, and to put deadlines for payments a few weeks before the actual deadlines.

RT Last year we paid for worlds teams and sent them, what if we don't send teams in 2018?

MM We have enough to cop that loss at worst case, but it'd be about \$800

UK What was your biggest success and biggest failure?

MM We didn't miss a single payment deadline, however didn't account for the stress of the ball.

BL Did you make attempts at sponsorship?

MM We looked into it to some extent, and had some sponsorship with the T shirts for Easters, however we were relying on using our own prospectus, and this was not completed until after all our 2017 payments were due.

RT How does this experience compare to paying for competitions in cash?

MM *Appreciates difficulty of past years*

AC **I move a motion to thank Mounisha for her services as Treasurer**

*Motion approved by acclamation*

### 3. Constitutional Amendments

AC Campus engagement did not raise any issues with the proposed amendments as they were emailed.

*Clarification: majority for constitutional amendments is 2/3*

### 3.1 Constitutional Amendment 1 and 2 – Henry

#### **1) Mandatory Equity Policy**

Proposed by Henry Forsaith-Breese.

##### Add Section:

1. The Executive Committee must pass an Equity Policy which will govern the conduct of all members throughout the year

(a) This Policy must be passed prior to the commencement of Session One of the new academic year

(b) This Policy must contain terms regarding:

(i) A Code of Conduct

(ii) The appointment, duties and powers of Equity Officers at all MUDES Events

(iii) Any additional terms at the discretion of the Executive Committee

#### **2) Mandatory Equity Training for Executive**

Proposed by Henry Forsaith-Breese.

##### Add Section:

2. All Executive members must undertake mandatory training to equip them to deal with complaints of sexual harassment, sexual assault, indecent assault or otherwise sexually inappropriate behaviour.

(a) This training must be undertaken prior to the commencement of Session One of the new academic year, or upon appointment to the Executive should this occur after this date.

(b) The specifics of this training should be dictated by resources provided by the Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia, NSW Department, or by resources chosen at the discretion of the Executive Committee should these resources become irrelevant or unavailable.

HFB This amendment stems from watching the [redacted] society burn in flames because the society couldn't deal with an incident.

It looks like giving executive members mandatory training for sexual assault training. This isn't giving you a special power, it acts to protect the victims of sexual assault as well as the people responding having a mechanism of how to respond.

The amendment says that we have an equity policy at the start of the year (mandatory) and that training must be undertaken by the executive team

Discussion as to amendment 1:

GC Given that all major tournaments and even the university has their own equity policies, why do we have to have one additional to this?

HFB These policies operate to a different level, and it is not intended that the new one replaces these.

ISo With these policies, is it built into it what happens if you breach that policy?

HFB Its all the stuff you have seen in our policy this year, as well as at tournaments, it is the same thing that happens at majors and minis – if it is severe enough it goes straight to the university anyway

RT When people don't know what to do this would be useful – is this for the purposes of tournaments or for generally assault?

HFB This is a matter of going beyond tournaments

AC We had an equity policy this year and we do this every year, all this does is make it mandatory to do so.

JR If an executive want to pass policy, they will pass policy, or there is a good reason to not do so

HFB There is already a university policy and it is insufficient.

JR Forcing people to pass a policy is not useful -

- HFB This policy would be reviewed every year, and it should not be an optional thing, I can't imagine why you wouldn't want to pass an equity policy
- LH If there was satisfaction with the policy, could it be simply retained year to year?
- HFB Yes
- AC If the university says we cannot do it, then we can't do it and it overrides our constitution anyway. Also, writing policy into the constitution is bad because it is not responsive to changing needs.
- RT I know the materials include services to talk to – perhaps we could also include on campus services
- HFB Yes that is a good idea, definitely something for next year's executive
- GC Do we have a mandatory trial policy in the constitution?
- AC Yes it would operate like a trial policy – which is compulsory, but can be reviewed.
- HFB **I move a motion to approve amendment 1**  
Seconded: Liam  
Against: 1  
*Motion passes*

Discussion as to amendment 2:

- ISh Will this training be facilitated by the equity officers?
- HFB It can be changed, at the moment the training is just a sheet and other resources  
It will be a collaborative idea not just what is on the sheet.
- SM I am emphatically against this idea – no one is qualified for the expectations that will be placed on someone with training. This is not a burden that is acceptable for an elected equity officer – either that or it will be incomplete.
- ISo This is a bizarre scope for the executive, can it at least emphasise the importance for a referral
- HFB We do have the place to give it to the executive to decide the actual information, and to equip them regardless – if we can do something we should
- JR I am hesitant about the way this is framed – this means that you are going to the executive members as friends, and has the idea that you are more trained than others, which is unfairly burdensome
- LM I agree with Sam and Jacob, and am hesitant about section B as it stipulates examples to use
- HFB This should be part of the equity policy
- AC I am hesitant about this being constitutional reform, however perhaps it can go in any equity policy?
- SM This would be a burden on people regardless, who are approached as friends, and shouldn't replace direction towards more legitimate avenues for help
- RT It is definitely true that the reporting of the executive isn't the best, and the executive aren't necessarily the best people to deal with every complaint, however its better than no reporting
- ISo I am expressing concern with what to put in the document, certain people might not want to go to the police or actually take action?
- MM Really dangerous to open this up to the executive, we appoint executive officers as it is, and there is no accountability if you misdirect someone
- GC It is bizarre for this to be something that is a constitutional amendment
- AF Talking to women's collective – they undertook training by the rape and domestic violence services – I urge everyone to abstain
- UK Putting this forwards is an unreasonable burden for executive members – maybe that this should occur only for equity officers
- HFB It is a matter of time that someone will approach an executive officer, wouldn't you rather have some resource as opposed to no resource?
- HFB **I move a motion to approve the amendment as is**  
Seconded: Ryan  
In favour: 1  
*Motion Fails*

3.2 Constitutional Amendment 3 – Bethany

**3) Membership Requirements**

Proposed by Bethany Leise

Existing:

5.1 Ordinary Membership of the Society shall be open to any individual who:

- a. Is over 18 years of age
- b. Is interested in promoting the Society's purposes
- c. Subscribes to the aims and objective of the Society
- d. Agrees to be bound to the provisions, policies, and ethical guidelines either by this Constitution or by the Executive Committee
- e. Is enrolled as a student at the University
- f. Is otherwise approved by U@MQ as a Club Member and who is approved by the Executive committee

Amend to:

5.1 Ordinary Membership of the Society shall be open to any individual who:

- a. Is interested in promoting the Society's purposes
- b. Subscribes to the aims and objective of the Society
- c. Agrees to be bound to the provisions, policies, and ethical guidelines either by this Constitution or by the Executive Committee
- d. Is enrolled as a student at the University
- e. Is otherwise approved by U@MQ as a Club Member and who is approved by the Executive committee

- BL If you are in your first year of university you are potentially turning 18  
This seems mean to exclude
- RT To clarify – MUDS isn't ageist, this is imposed by the university not the society - we just have to tell the university when you turn 18.
- BL Campus engagement didn't raise any issues with this amendment when it was sent to them
- AC We just have to tell the university when we take U18's to any events
- AT I love Bethany Marie Burns
- DD Do we have to care about executive members being 18, for insurance purposes?
- JR It doesn't matter for insurance purposes – you are still liable as an executive officer if you are under 22
- UK Considering section e [of the amendment], what is the benefit
- BL Why have restrictions? It seems unnecessary
- MM It is awesome that we have a proactive executive now, but what happens if we don't tell the university in the future?
- BL If a 17 year old wants to go to easters, they will go anyway, there is no change
- LH New members won't read the constitution, it is purely symbolic
- BL I am in favour of making this simple
- SM Even if there is no benefit on paper, these people are technically unable to be members, so we can mitigate the harm of excluding people.
- AC We told the university when 18 year olds went to easters, but not that they were a member specifically
- JR You might actually want to vote as a member, and they can't technically
- RT Where we have an U18 proposing this they clearly are capable of knowing the requirements, what is the harm? It makes executive more cognisant of U18s when they sign up and make events.
- AC When you attend an event, we have to tell the university with the event risk forms, they will send you an email and ask regardless of this amendment.
- BL **I move a motion to approve amendment 3 as it reads**  
Seconded: Amelia  
Abstention: 1  
*Motion passes unanimously*

3.3 Constitutional Amendment 4 – Bethany

**4) General Meeting Quorum Requirements**

Proposed by Bethany Leise

Existing:

7.3.1 There is a quorum at a General Meeting if the number of financial members of the Society physically present is at least 10 people or at least 1/3 of the Society's financial membership, whichever is less, which must consist of at least:  
a. Greater than 50% of the Executive Committee members; and

- b. 2 members of the Executive; and
- c. At least 10 physically present financial members

Amend to:

There is quorum at a General Meeting if there are at least 10 financial members or 1/3 of the Society's financial membership (whichever is less) present. They must consist of:

- a. Greater than 50% of the Executive Committee members; and
- b. 2 members of the Executive; and

- BL This is the same thing but written better  
RT The university gave us this template, it is not our fault  
BL **I move a motion to approve amendment 4**  
Seconded: Ryan  
*Motion passes unanimously*

3.4 Constitutional Amendment 5 – Bethany

**5) Section 13.1(d) Amendment**

Proposed by Bethany Leise

Existing:

No amendment may be made to the Society's purposes, or this clause, without the prior written approval of U@MQ

Amend to:

The amendment is not made to the Society's purposes, or this clause, without prior written approval of U@MQ

- LM The irony  
LH There seems to be an inherent tension here  
BL **I move a motion to approve amendment 5**  
Seconded: Georgia  
Against: 3  
Abstentions: 2  
*Motion passes*

3.5 Constitutional Amendment 8 – Liam, Sarah and Alex

**8) Appendix 6 - Elections**

Proposed by Alex Feofiloff, Liam Holt and Sarah McCabe

5.1 After the Chair has transferred to the Returning Officer, the Returning Officer must:

a)\*\*\*

b)\*\*\*

Add:

c) add a single additional tally to count as one vote to any candidate who runs for President, Secretary, Treasurer, or general officer, who is unable to attend, to represent the single vote the candidate would have placed for themselves, if they had been able to attend.

These two constitutional amendments are justified as candidates are probably self-interested and would vote for themselves if they were able to attend. They should not be disadvantaged for circumstances that outside of their control, that prevent them from attending. Candidates would not willing miss an AGM as not turning up is already disadvantages as they are unable to answer questions or give a speech (if they are unable to attend at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances.) Elections may be decided by a small margin and could be decided by one vote.

This is not vote stacking or rigging as the one tally is not transferable. Anyone else who is unable attend is still unable vote for anyone else.

Additionally I call for a second vote if this amendment is passed to allow it to apply to this AGM in a retrospective fashion. My reasoning for this is that the required 30 days notice has not been provided and has prevents some



candidates from attending. Also this is a good idea, makes little disruption to proceeding of the AGM and good ideas should be put into practice as soon as possible.

The AGM has this power as set out in the constitution under:  
Appendix 3 – General Meetings.

Purpose of General Meetings.

General Meetings shall be the paramount decision making institution of the Society.

- AF This amendment is put in for the purposes of people to run for executive. Candidates are prohibited from voting for themselves if they are not present - you can still do that under this amendment if you are not present this is for assessments as well
- UK Would you add a clause requiring this?
- LM I don't believe in artificial votes, or votes counted previously – it also adds in votes assuming self interest, which might not be the case
- AF You might not be able to make it for a variety of reasons, this is not a vote its technically a tally
- HFB I genuinely do not see how this helps anyone, if you win off one vote, there is literally a zero to one tally, what is the difference between a vote and a tally?
- AF What if you have a take home exam?
- JR This is bad because other non-attendees might want to vote and cannot  
You harm the vote by not showing up – the society is hurt when you can't ask questions of someone who is running
- GC We need to set a high bar for people to attend these things
- AC We might run into issues of quorum – you can't run for general exec when you are at home, we should have the same rules for big three
- LM If you have a take home exam – sit in the next room and do it, why should I trust you and why is a tally not a vote?
- AF You skip the vote stage and go straight to a tally
- SM No that is an arbitrary distinction, they are totally the same thing  
We don't care about people not being able to attend for other reasons and for other things, I agree with Jacob
- RT Maybe this should be just for the big three, and all nominees should abstain from voting?
- AF This is not an amendment that is proposed
- ISh Self interest is real – this could be used in a strategic way  
Also you can't assume someone's vote when they're not there
- UK Can we amend this amendment
- AF We should have been able to ask questions beforehand and we could have changed it
- HFB I feel like giving reasons for not showing up is bad – you can't make people show up to these things
- GC You'd just lie and the executive wouldn't chase up
- AF **I move a motion to approve amendment 8**  
Seconded: Liam  
Abstentions: 5  
*Motion fails unanimously*

*Intermission from 7:55 to 8:10*

3.6 Constitutional Amendment 6 – Liam and Alex

**6) Amendment to Appendix 6 - Elections**

Proposed by Alex Feofiloff and Liam Holt

Existing:

2.2 A nomination will be valid if:

a)\*\*\*

b)\*\*\*

Add:

c)

i. They are present during the election or have stayed for the duration of a normal internal at the EGM OR AGM. (E.g 150 minutes or two and a half hours).

- ii. This time should be declared at the beginning of the AGM by the President. i.e “In order to eligible to run for general officer you must stay until 8:30pm”
- iii. When it is deemed that the regular time of internals has pasted those that are likely to leave early from the AGM and wish to stand for general officer are given their one minute of speaking time and a maximum of four questions. No voting will take place at this stage.
- iv. When the time comes to vote for General Executive Officer those eligible to vote will recall the previous speeches and candidates, take them into account, along with those that have managed to stay and vote.

This amendment is justified as many times our AGM run for a really long time and it is unfair for those who live really far away or have assessments or jobs or other commitments that prevent them from staying. The AGM is held late in term when there are assessments for uni. :( We can't move up the voting of general executive as it needs to go after the voting for the big three and people unsuccessful for those positions generally run for general executive. Additionally I call for a second vote if this amendment is passed, to allow it to apply to this AGM in a retrospective fashion. My reasoning for this is that this is a good idea and good ideas should be implemented as soon as possible.

The AGM has this power as set out in the constitution under:  
Appendix 3 – General Meetings.

Purpose of General Meetings.

1.1 General Meetings shall be the paramount decision making institution of the Society.

- AF People have really far to go to come to university and this is unfair
- UK Running for executive means that you put yourself up for commitments, such as being on campus really late
- BL It would be used in perverse ways and it can't be policed
- JR Agrees with Beth, also adds that meetings happen late at night for executive so if you can't come to one meeting to be elected, how could you commit?
- AC This is general, not about Liam, its not concerning meetings during the year, it could just change the meeting procedure for AGM
- LM Just make time for the meeting, the birth lottery is unfair
- SM I think this is a very legitimate concern about the appropriate length of meetings, and making this accessible, but this is not the amendment that does that
- RT This speaks to extenuating circumstances, not just the birth lottery
- AF **I move a motion to approve amendment 6**  
Seconded: Liam  
In favour: 2  
*Motion fails*

3.5 Constitutional Amendment 7 – Alex

**7) Appendix 3 - General Meetings**

Proposed by Alex Feofiloff

6.4 Postal votes will not count for the purposes of elections pursuant to Appendix 6 of this Constitution.

Add the words so that 6.4 reads as such: “6.4 Postal votes will not count for the purposes of elections pursuant to Appendix 6 of this Constitution, if they are indicate of a vote for a candidate who is standing for election, who is different from the person casting the Postal vote.”

This constitutional amendment is devised to ensure that the “tally add on” (See constitutional amendment 8) system cannot be used to stack elections. Also to ensure that even if the tally on system is interpreted as a postal vote then it can still go ahead. This is not vote stacking or rigging as the one tally is not transferable. Anyone else who is unable attend is still unable vote for anyone else.

- AF This amendment cleans up postal votes in the constitution, and says that it can only be used for constitutional votes
- BL Isn't this irrelevant because we didn't pass the last one?
- GC Do we not have a definition of a postal vote?
- AF We do

JR The way it is worded it implies that you can vote for yourself, and we just voted against that  
AF **I withdraw the motion**

### 3.6 Constitutional Amendment 8 – Alex, Sarah and Liam

#### **8) Chapter 5 - Executive Committee Meetings**

Proposed by Alex Feofiloff, Liam Holt and Sarah McCabe

10.1 The Executive committee have the following powers in the administration of the Society:

- (a) to delegate any of their functions to sub-committees consisting of two or more Society members appointed by them (but at least one member of every sub-committee must be an Executive committee member and all proceedings of sub-committees must be reported promptly to the Executive committee)
- (b) to make means consistent with this Constitution (and its associated Appendices) to govern proceedings at General Meetings.
- (c) to make rules consistent with this Constitution (and its associated Appendices) about the meetings and procedures of the Executive committee and sub-committees.
- (d) to make means consistent with this Constitution (and its associated Appendices) about the running of the Club.
- (e) to resolve or establish procedures to assist the resolution of, disputes within the Club.

Add:

- (f) The 2017 AGM asserts its right as the paramount decision making institution of the Society and binds future Executive to the creation of a research Sub- Committees. The Sub- Committees will have the task of creating feasibility studies in hosting a major debating tournament, debating camp and any other activity that is too large for the Executive to deal with normally. This clause/policy (remove word as needed) needs to be revoked back in, at all other AGMs, in the future

AF Building on our momentum, creating a committee would have the effect of making a think tank for new activities such as camp or hosting a major  
This doesn't have to be a constitutional amendment but just a good idea

SM What is the practical difference between this any just the exec roping people in?

AF Creates a provision that creates a binding precedent

RT It is a bad idea to bind the executive to do things – and circumstances change

AF Consider it more like a feasibility study

BL This looks bad, if you want a sub committees, there is probably a good reason, the executive is probably representative or has the capacity to create a committee without this amendment

UK Do we not look to feasibility without these committees?

AF You need a subcommittee because there is no paper trail at present, or reasons for decisions at present – you have an ad hoc system

GC This randomly elevates random things as really important – the 2016 executive was basically the society anyway, and this makes it redundant for some of the time.

AC It prevents the executive from being able to shape the society as they would like

SM Meetings are open at status quo, there is no red tape, extensive discussions are published in minutes on top of informal consultation – what is wrong with this process?

AF **I move a motion to approve amendment 9**  
Seconded: Liam  
In favor: 2  
*Motion fails*

### 3.7 Constitutional Amendment 10 – Ryan

#### **9) Constitutional Revision**

Proposed by Ryan Thalari

The proposed changes can be viewed here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ifRU7\\_YQUyWFT-Ka9te7LMWqylus89mSDdUzxZDX4rY/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ifRU7_YQUyWFT-Ka9te7LMWqylus89mSDdUzxZDX4rY/edit)

- JR Can we vote on every sub amendment here as one except for 19.7  
AC Speak to the first amendment first  
UK Will there be issues with this amendment considering there were new things passed this evening?  
RT Yes that is possible, but can be revised to incorporate  
LM Are there any parts that are specifically new?  
RT No, this is the constitution that we have had before, but just edited for typos, rearranged for clarity etc  
AC I also spoke to Melroy and they said that the appendices only last each year and we should put things into out constitution  
JR [re: s 7.8.2] We should not allow the their to have the casting vote, and we discussed and agreed to this before  
AF It goes against the constitution to do so, which is why we agreed before  
JR I am saying that we should not allow the chair to have a casting vote, so that is why we are voting on this part separately  
RT **I move a motion to amend s 7.8.2**  
Seconded: Ryan  
*Motion fails*
- RT **I move a motion to approve the remainder of amendment 10**  
Seconded: Samantha  
*Motion passes unanimously*
- AC Big thank you to Ryan for going through all this for us  
*Acclantion*

### 3.8 Constitutional Amendment 11 – Alex

#### **11) Nominations for Life Membership**

Proposed by Alex Feofiloff  
Seconded by Anneliese Cooper

“I would like to propose that we amend Section 56.1 of the Constitution to include Ryan Thalari as an Honorary Life Member.”

NB: Motion must pass with 2/3rds majority

- AF I am moving a motion to pass Ryan’s life membership  
AC This is very much seconded: a life member is someone who contributes to the society, as well as hanging around and providing advice etc, and demonstrated this with constitutional revision  
LM Because of Ryan I was not homeless in Kuala Lumpur  
ISh Hear Hear – but what is a Life Member?  
AF If he goes to Easters he gets \$5 off registration  
AC Being a life member is an incredibly high bar, Ryan absolutely meets this criteria  
LH As a mentor and as a friend it has been incredibly daunting to meet all the standards of good debaters – Ryan has helped to alleviate this, and is selflessly invested in development  
SM Ryan is a top bloke  
DD Ryan has been a paragon figure in this society. He puts the society’s values into his approach, and has become a contact point of the society. MUDS has been a project he has taken up in so many ways, such as in camp, constitutional reform and trial policies
- AF **I move a motion to nominate Ryan Thalari for life membership**  
*Motion passes via acclamation*

### 4. Note on Inclusion of Late Election Nomination

AC **I move a motion to accept Mounisha's late nomination**

Seconded: Samantha

*Motion passes unanimously*

5. Election of 2018 Executive

5.1 President

Nomination: Georgia Chahoud

GC I wish to lead a society that involves everyone with training and moving forwards.  
I am excited and inspired, and revitalised by the MUDS enthusiasm this year

Questions from the floor:

SM How do we know that you are not going to be a smooth criminal?

GC *Shudders*

UK What does novice development look like?

GC Pitching internals higher, but the focus will still be to get the medium of where everyone is at – involving other pros from friendly universities

RT On the chance that we get more members, how do you plan to sustain novice development after first year – that is to have mid tier development?

GC It is important to retain our novices, we can't walk away from others, this means not pushing pros into mentor roles too easily

SH How do we help you?

GC We have done cool things, keep doing the things

ISh One of the things raised tonight was about approaching sponsors etc, what are your plans?

GC The prospectus is very important for this, and we need to approach all schools, speaking schools, law firms etc

*Result for election 5.1: Georgia Chahoud*

5.2 Secretary

Nomination: Henry Forsaith-Breese

HFB Why I will be good:

- I love muds
- this was my entire platform last year and it worked
- I get benefit out of this, I try ridiculously hard at doing things that I really enjoy
- I have experience with the role, and did many things that look like secretarial roles
- I have a small business which I have had to run
- I am doing marketing, HR and media
- secretary is in control of the marketing etc
- we are all capable of doing this job, but what is important is leadership
- I believe in good feedback mechanisms
- I am really passionate about muds so my heart is racing
- very excited to work in a strong team
- we need to have better policies to create better policies
- I want to make ball annual
- 

Questions from the floor:

AC Secretary means that you help to shape the society, how do you make controversial decisions?

HFB The most important thing is that you keep an open dialogue beyond the parties, you have an intrinsic role in the society

SM Secretary is a proactive role that exists a lot behind closed doors, how will you manage deadlines and timing?

HFB I feel confident that I will be able to manage this well

RT What would you be doing as secretary that you couldn't be doing as an executive member?

HFB You have a better capacity to implement the teaching plans and marketing

UK MUDS ball was a financial loss and yet something you'd push?

- HFB MUDS ball was ultimately a success, and we didn't have a clue, but recovered it  
LH The executive is a team, how can you ensure a collaborative approach?  
HFB The best way to be a good team is to support each other  
UK You mentioned a formalised feedback mechanism – how would this work?  
HFB The way to have a good organisation is with good feedback, and this is hard when people don't have the confidence to do that.

Nomination: Amelia Taylor

- AT
- Secretary firstly needs to be competent about deadlines - I am very organised and I do things very far in advance, including assignments
  - I am a competent writer as I took 4 units of english and got E4
  - The second part is about having vision, I am committed to having things like the executive meeting agendas public
  - Internals is a big thing that we can improve on – it would be cool if we could have an internals poll, and figure out what people want internals to be on
  - Having guest speakers would be cool
  - Having regular socials would be something that would be really awesome outside of strike, things like trivia nights etc
- UK You are the least experienced candidate here, what can you bring to the team uniquely?  
AT I was the debating captain at my school, and I was the prefect that typed minutes, and I am happy to talk to previous secretaries for their advice.  
BL How do you make novices stay with the society?  
AT This looks like putting in a lot of effort to having good circles around novice debaters  
SM Currently, there is a perception for many debaters that the only way to be successful and fit in to the circuit is by being a kid from the North Shore who went to a private school and has extensive debating experience and coaching in this environment. How can you circumvent this?  
AT I don't really think debating is like that  
You just have to engage with all the members of the society  
UK I like your ideas, but it sounds like you would be better suited to an internals role?  
AT Secretary is about communication between members and the executive. Things like the poll would be an example of something the secretary could run  
RT Being organised is ideal, and one part of being secretary is responding to things last minute and being really stressed  
AT I have been stressed many times. I go to the gym and walk my dog and have learnt what I need to do in times of stress  
LH At the point where you would like the executive to be focused on collaboration, how will you facilitate this?  
AT It is important to not vote in blocks, and to have communication between teams, and to feel equally valid on the executive team

Nomination: Alex Feofiloff

- AF
- I love muds, and work tirelessly for muds
  - If elected to this position, I bring a proven track record and experience with MUDS and other places such as at law firms, Model united nations club and womens collective
  - Organised and run school camps for high school
  - Good at negotiation with the university bureaucracy
  - Many of you have muds t-shirts and that when I advocated for the additional funding stream to afford t shirts
  - Schools days are something I have run and find are important and run them successfully
  - The posters that you created for O week last year were templates from me, and they had a typo
  - I advocate for a safe and inclusive environment
- I have no qualms about making tough decisions  
UK You are very experienced, how will you advance MUDS?  
AF I have very ambitious constitutional amendments to propose  
ISh How will you dedicate time to this role?  
AF I have less roles than previously, and because of how my degree is set up I have lots of time  
SM Given that secretary is about stability and culture of the society, and it is about building up the work of others, how

will you work with others to understand the vibe of the society, noting that not one of your various constitutional amendments passed this evening?

- AF I want to provide transparency, such as providing minutes and improving the constitution  
RT What contributions that you can make to the society that you can't make as an executive officer?  
AF I know the constitution back to front, and have proposed things that I thought were better  
SH Was there any discussion with anyone as to the proposals you put forward today?  
AF Yes I brought it up with a lot of people and people don't want to be bothered with constitutional amendments, and are very busy  
DS You are talking about procedure – its about both culture and procedure – what are your ideas here?  
AF I am not the happiest or nicest person, and can be depressing and boring, but I socialize and talk to people and can engage with novices

Nomination: Mounisha Mondeddu

- MM My big focus is transparency - I could have not nominated at a all, or I could have acknowledged my mistake. Muds is important in my life, and despite the workload I prioritise this commitment  
MUDS has given me a lot over the last few years, and I want to give back to the society  
To not prioritise novice development risks losing these people, especially in and around Easters  
Interactions with socials is something I also want to push, we don't engage with socials as much as we should - socials portfolio has a massive workload

Questions from the floor:

- BL Big three positions are very visible, how do you see yourself welcoming novices?  
MM Its about welcoming everyone at internals and attending them all, introducing yourself  
AC Lots of things have been said about transparency, and this is all stuff you could have done in your externals portfolio and as treasurer – why didn't you do this this year?  
MM This is something I saw over the year, and something that I wanted to change from now  
UK Other candidates have ambitious plans for the society, what is your plan?  
MM I think a clear plan is better than an ambitious one  
LM Have you ever worked with websites?  
MM Yes  
RT What is your experience with secretary roles?  
MM I have taken minutes for executive before, and I work in admin  
SM What is your O week strategy?  
MM You can't have a social media strategy before the event, but you need to engage with them  
LH The right hand of MUDS is the secretary, do you embody MUDS?  
MM I would like to think so, the time I have been in MUDS shows that I have been able to see this  
GC Everyone running is competent. What else do you bring?  
MM I am reliable with deadlines as you can see from my Treasurer experience  
ISh How will you manage deadlines?  
MM I set them before the actual deadline so that they're never missed, and can compromise with my work situation  
RT How are you with memes?  
MM I make memes with the cloudy apple juice appreciation society

*Result for election 5.2: Amelia Taylor*

5.3 Treasurer

Nomination: Bethany Leise

- BL There are two main things I can bring to the job:
1. General financial management - Udai and I can both do that
  2. Being a voice of reason on the exec - the treasurer has a super important role, you have one member on the exec who has to say no
- How do I fulfil that?
- basic financial planning
  - keeping on top of deadlines
  - being ready to drop things and go to NAB

- also things like chasing people up
- I am unpersuaded by reputation
- you have to pay for australs, you have to pay for easters
- but can also deal with issues with empathy
- make this approachable
- wants to avoid a griffith scenario, and apply this kind of risk averse thinking for everything
- vote will never be automatic

Strong advocate for servant leadership

- being a visible member
- I have been to every internals

Increase revenue streams

- my plan is to build off the success of your predecessors
- flood the market - apply to relevant places such as sydney speaking school, banks, other institutions, etc

Grass roots things:

- bake sales - we have a lot of enthusiastic members in our first years
- not just to help out, but to our pressure on the executive to do this
- MUDS camp, but would do it if it was financially viable

Questions from the floor:

- ISh Sometimes you won't be able to make payments, how will you manage tough financial situations?
- BL You always need to have a back up plan, and to be on top of things  
Wants to have a diplomatic relationship with the university, and wouldn't unduly pressure the university
- AT Treasurer goes beyond just spread sheets, what else can you bring to the role?
- BL I bring a huge amount of vision, for example with grass roots funding
- GC We have a large amount on international tournaments, how do you build trust in the community?
- BL Transparency is really important here
- LH How would you pitch debating to a non-debater?
- BL It is an intellectual exercise and we are a wholesome society, it is about community development opportunities
- SM You're also on MULS, this is a lot of work, treasurer is a lot of work – how have you managed similar workloads before?
- BL I managed this during the HSC

Nomination: Udai Kamath

UK I want to build revenue and increase subsidies as treasurer. To do this, increasing revenue is important

Experience:

- finance major, treasurer of societies in high school
- in my work I chase up companies for monies
- I have a deep knowledge of the society reading all minutes from Nandinis presidency
- committed to the broader debating - going to internals at other universities

Ideas:

2. to have standardised costs
3. My mum works at NAB
4. I would approach the university for more funding, we should do this anyway
5. we deserve money from the university
6. to have revenue positive events
7. to have schools days that are profitable that are run
8. run camp if profitable

AT How will you exclusively bring in funding?

UK We need to make the case that we are different

LM Who are you planning on asking for money?

UK U@MQ?



- AC It is great you have a good relationship with the University and NAB, but the university can't give us any more money, who else would you approach?
- UK Go to other community groups and business
- GC Would you prioritise worlds or easters subsidies?
- UK We have a lot of inertia for worlds, but this year we need to focus on competitiveness
- SH Both candidates are competent, why are you different to Beth?
- UK I think running different events such as trivia nights would be ideal, different sources of revenue that haven't been done before?
- SH MUDS isn't a business, how do you reconcile the revenue raising and having university students with university student budgets?
- UK People are willing to contribute to the cost of registration, and with more funding this year it will be less of a problem
- RT [redacted: question re specific potential sponsors]
- UK We can pick lots of sponsors and get them to sponsor us for different things

*Result for election 5.3: Bethany Leise*

5.4 General Executive

Nomination: Liam Holt

Seconded: Ryan

- LH I am quite fresh to the society, which means I have the more incentive to be a part of the new change  
I have been trying to make a name for myself as a face for MUDS  
I find muds to be like my family, and try to impress my parents and impress my siblings  
I have a lot of the skills, such as for socials, and I can combine memes with competency

Questions from the floor:

- GC What's an ideal social?
- LH Not expensive, and with lots of space accessible, and easy to opt in to cost and participation. Picnics are cool
- AT If you don't get socials, will you put yourself wholeheartedly into things?
- LH I don't really care what I am doing, I helped set up the room for my first internals, and I would put myself 100% in to any task
- RT Is geography an issue for you?
- LH I am here at 10:40 at night and am willing to do anything
- SM This is competitive, what is your experience?
- LH I ran poetry society, and was a crisis manager for other leaders at school

Nomination: Henry Forsaith-Breese

Seconded: Sam Hurrell

- HFB See most of my secretary platform, I must stress that the advantage for having experience for running a schools day on the exec is really important. I have a lot of spare time, so I will be ridiculously available. Passionate about MUDS

Questions from the floor:

- SM What have you done this year in your term on executive?
- HFB O week, MUDS ball, being at internals and meeting first years
- BL How much of your platform from secretary would you implement as general executive?
- HFB Things like reporting procedures, the socials, a happier society is generally something that I will strive for
- LH How will your next stint be different from your current one?
- HFB It would be exactly the same which is a good thing
- AC Why did the schools day fail this year?
- HFB The schools were unavailable, there was a big math exam, but we will try again
- GC What portfolios are you angling for?
- HFB Schools, marketing

Nomination: Isham Sanjiv

Seconded: Mounisha Mondeddu

- ISh I found a home in MUDS

I have had experience in WSU executive, made an equity policy and went above and beyond  
I want to make this a second home for everyone else

Questions from the floor:

BL Beth: how much time can you commit outside of exec meetings and internals?

ISh I have to work Saturdays and Sundays, so I can't go to minis, but otherwise I am very committed to taking novices to other internals

GC What portfolios do you want?

ISh Any, but maybe preference externals

Nomination: Mounisha Mondeddu

Seconded: Bethany Leise

MM See previous spiel

Something I can bring as ex treasurer is understanding the processes that exist with the university and our realistic restrictions.

Questions from the floor:

GC What portfolio do you want?

MM Any, but schools preference

AT MUDS is stressful at MUDS, how will you cope?

MM I dealt with NAB....

SH What do you uniquely bring as ex treasurer?

MM Knowing how everything runs, working budgets across all portfolios

Nomination: Isobel Sands

Seconded: Anneliese Cooper

ISo I work on Saturdays and I can't get out of that, but I can next year

I am competent, I was on the formal committee, had the position of languages club, which is relevant experience and I am a good writer.

Questions from the floor:

GC What portfolios do you want?

ISo Any, but preference socials

AT Tell me about your writing skills

ISo I did all of the English in HSC

SH How would you sell MUDS at O week?

ISo I think that you should join debating everyone is really nice.

MM How would you make decisions as such a nice person?

ISo I am good at writing pros and cons lists, and can trust my gut and advice from other people

Nomination: Despina Bouletos

Seconded: Anneliese Cooper

DB I am passionate about the society, and look forward to coming to internals

I have been to every major and have broken to Australs in my first year

I am competent and experienced because I have a lot of experience in uni executive environment and working in an office

Have fundamental skills such as good communication

LH You are elected to MULS, will you be busy?

DB I have always been busy, so I am used to juggling a lot, and I am big on forward planning. If you are passionate about something, you will put time in to it

RT What portfolios don't you want?

DB None, I am interested in schools and externals

BL What are your plans for novice retention and engagement?

DB It is important to be a friendly place - I have been lucky to have pros taking me to tournaments and I would do the same for novices

Nomination: Annya Reshty

Seconded: Amelia Taylor

- AR I love the community that exists, and have been to every internal and every major this year  
Skills: time management, attention to detail, self driven, and independent  
I think it is important to mention that there are menial tasks that people discard but I think is really important
- AT You have compassion, can you make tough decisions?
- AR I can make hard choices, I was school captain of my high school
- GC What portfolio?
- AR More than happy to do anything, probably less socials though
- BL Executive is scary, how do you deal with conflict?
- AR Reasoning out contentious decisions is important
- AT How much time do you have to commit to the society?
- AR I am very good at managing time, and have had demonstrated experience
- ISh If someone makes a mistake, can you give them feedback
- AR I am very comfortable doing this, I would do this in a way that takes people to the side

Nomination: Udai Kamath

Seconded: Liam Holt

- UK You have already heard a lot from me, see above  
I would preference externals  
I have been to almost all the competitions and lots of other societies internal and events  
Have run camps before, as well as being on the formal committee

Questions from the floor:

- SM How are you at taking direction
- UK I take directions well, and have experience doing this in other roles
- ISh How do you take feedback
- UK Well, I appreciate constructive criticism
- AT You are ambitious, what if you get a menial role?
- UK I'll be fine
- RT Sometimes on exec you can blur the lines between friendship and professional relationships, how do you deal with this?
- UK You need to step back and reevaluate and attempt to compromise
- RT Noone mentioned Adj development tonight, how would you go about this?
- UK I went to austral as an adj and the training day and would love to organise more

Nomination: Alex Feofiloff

Seconded: Daniel Schofield

- AF I am never going to get back into that marketing O week stall  
The most senior members of muds were at Australs and I organised o week myself  
I only had help on two days

Questions from the floor:

- AT What if Georgia asked you to do that?
- AF Only would do it if really necessary
- BL You have been on the executive for many years now, and have many ideas, why haven't you implemented any of these?
- AF I wasn't on executive for the past year
- LH What can you bring to schools?
- AF I would bring in a camp – I'd be happy to do anything
- GC Executive can be volatile at times, how can you connect to the younger members of the community
- AF I have been sick and working a lot this year and haven't been able to do this as much this year

*Result for election 5.4 in no particular order: Liam Holt, Henry Forsaith-Breese, Mounisha Mondeddu, Despina Bouletos, Anya Reshty*

6. Other Business

- AC **I move a motion to thank Robert Barrie for his service as the returning officer**  
*Motion approved via acclamation*
- DD **I move a motion to thank Anneliese Cooper for her service as the chair**  
*Motion approved via acclamation*
- AC **I move a motion to thank Samantha Marshall for her service taking minutes**  
*Motion approved via acclamation*

Meeting closed 11:28

SAMANTHA MARSHALL  
MUDS SECRETARY 2017