



muds
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
DEBATING SOCIETY

Monday 24th October 2016 6.13pm – 9.25pm
Location: Macquarie University Campus (W5C 234)

Agenda:

1. Attendance and Postal Votes
2. Outline of Standing Orders
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from previous General Meetings
4. Reports from and questions to Outgoing Office Bearers
5. Constitutional Amendments
6. Election of 2017 Executive
7. Any Other Business

1) ATTENDANCE AND POSTAL VOTES

- Ryan Thalari – President, Chairing (Financial Member)
- Anneliese Cooper – Secretary, Recording Minutes (Financial Member)
- Sarah McCabe – Treasurer (Financial Member)
- Lachlan McGrath – President Emeritus – **arrived 7.33pm**
- Mathew Duardo – General Executive Member (Financial Member)
- Alexei Feofiloff – General Executive Member (Financial Member)
- Samantha Marshall – General Executive Member (Financial Member)
- Georgia Chahoud (Financial Member)
- Henry Forsaith-Breese (Financial Member)
- Mounisha Mondeddu (Financial Member)
- Jacob Rock (Financial Member)
- Muhammad Ismail Shahushahi
- Daniel Dummer (Financial Member) – **arrived 6.26pm.**
- Mitchell Flitcroft (Financial Member) – **arrived at 6.31pm**

Returning Officer: Robert Barrie, President of the Australasian Intersociety Debating Association 2016-7

No postal votes: attendance is greater than 10 people – quorum is met.

Ryan: The Chair recognises that we have met quorum requirements for this AGM. The Constitution requires 10 financial members to be present and precedent set at a 2013 EGM allows for member to call in to the meeting and be counted as quorum.

2) STANDING ORDERS

1. A speaking list will be used to determine the order of speaking if members wish to pass comment or ask a question. Raise your hand and the chair will add you to the list.
2. 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.
3. 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).
4. Candidates running for general executive committee member positions will be given one minute speaking time should they wish and two minutes question time.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. No one is to speak out of turn and after two warnings may be ejected from the AGM.
8. 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.

3) APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

- AGM 2015 Minutes

<http://muds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/AGM-Minutes-2015.pdf>

Approval Proposed: Ryan

Seconded: Jacob

In favour: 10 votes

Motion passes unanimously

- EGM 2015 Minutes (Ratification of Constitutional Revision)

<http://muds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Dec-2015-EGM-Minutes-.pdf>

Approval Proposed: Ryan

Seconded: Sarah

In favour: 10 votes

Motion passes unanimously

4) OUTGOING REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016 – Ryan Thalari

AGM 2015

After a 5-hour AGM, a new executive committee was elected. But they had no idea what the next 12 months had in store for them...

EGM 2015

It started with a simple email from the University, but the consequences were not, requiring us to restructure our entire Constitution. After a Clinton-load of emails, the executive finally agreed on a date for an EGM to ratify the new format of the Constitution. When the day came, we met quorum after Skyping in our Worlds teams from Italy, and in what would become the fastest EGM in the Society's history, we ratified the reformatted Constitution.

Thessaloniki Worlds (2016)

Later that month we sent 2 teams, 1 Independent Adjudicator and 2 on-sold adjudicators to Worlds in Greece. This suggested an issue with adjudicating culture where only one person was interested in adjudicating, and went as an Independent Adjudicator. Regrettably no one from Macquarie broke, but everyone performed admirably. It was a win for AA though, with 3/4 female-identifying debaters in the contingent.

Melbourne Easters (2016)

Best. Contingent. Ever.

- 6 teams, 4 adjudicators + 1 MUDS alumni as an Independent Adjudicator.
- All teams improved.
- 3/4 adjes chaired by end of tournament, all panellist or higher.
- Daniel Dummer broke as an Independent Adjudicator.
- Macquarie 1 (Anneliese Cooper, Jacob Rock and Georgia Chahoud) broke.
 - Ranked 15th, and broke 13th - didn't even need the cap to break.
 - Highest ranking Macquarie Easters team since 2010 (ranked 7th).
- Georgia ranked as the 5th best novice. In the country.

Perth Australs (WAustrals 2016)

- 3 debaters, 2 adjudicators, and 1 MUDS alumni as an Independent Adjudicator.
- Smallest contingent in institutional memory. The Society needs to look into ways of encouraging more people to go to Australs.
- Didn't meet AA requirements for the contingent. Was operating under the assumption AA requirements were rounded down (which the contingent met), but AIDA Council

in 2016 ruled AA requirements were rounded up. Consequently, the team was deemed ineligible to break.

- *Both institutional adjudicators chaired throughout the tournament.*
- *I was elected to the AIDA Executive as Vice President - Australia.*
- *Anna Kosmynina (Independent Adjudicator) broke to the Open Grand Final - the furthest any adjudicator from Macquarie has progressed in recent memory (possibly in MUDS' history).*

Deakin/Monash Women's (2016)

- *2 teams + 1 adjudicator. Largest Women's contingent since 2011 (3 teams)*
 - *#ThingsThatHappenWhenPeopleAdj*
- *Adjudicator (Anneliese) chaired throughout the preliminary rounds and panelled with members of the Adjudication Core.*
- *Macquarie 1 (Sam Marshall and Georgia Chahoud) broke.*
 - *Ranked 9th, broke 8th - highest rank of any Macquarie Women's team this decade.*
 - *Progressed from Quarter-Finals to Semi-Finals.*
 - *Narrowly missed out on progressing to the Grand Final in a 2-3 split*

Dutch Worlds 2017

- *As of now, we have a contingent of 1 team and 1 adjudicator.*
- *There was competition for a MUDS adjudicator spot for the first time since 2011.*

Gender Analysis

Comparing the average score of all MUDS female-identifying/non-binary debaters to the average score of all MUDS male-identifying debaters at major tournaments since 2011:

- *On average, female-identifying/non-binary debaters always perform better than male-identifying debaters at Easters*
- *On average, female-identifying/non-binary debaters generally perform better than male-identifying debaters at Australs and Worlds.*

Minis

Looking at the performance of MUDS debaters and adjudicators (including life members) at minis between the 2015 AGM and now:

- *Two Chief-Adjudicators across 2 tournaments*
- *Eight Top 10 Speakers across 4 tournaments*
- *Nine debater breaks across 5 tournaments*
- *Twelve adjudicator breaks*

Social Media

Three new social media platforms for the Society were introduced this year:

- *MacSync: The University's new platform for Student groups which has moved administrative processes such as room bookings and change of institutional representatives online.*
- *Instagram: The MUDS account is getting traction, with followers including debating societies from USU, UQ, and Melbourne University, and Mubarrat from IIUM.*
- *Facebook Group: Allows us to connect with members more and feel more of a sense of community. Content shared in the group includes live updates from tournaments and fun things (e.g. baby pandas).*

Culture of the Society

My vision as President was to work with everyone to help them achieve what they wanted to achieve for the Society, and to help everyone experience the Society in the way that's most meaningful for them.

We had great engagement with our O-Week stalls, which reflects on the hard work of the Marketing team, and the Society continues to grow post-Easters:

- *Internals are run by everyone who wants to contribute, not just one or 2 people.*
- *Socials have become more diversified - no longer just The Ranch or Strike #Picnic #Trivia*
- *School's Days: Sorcery from Alex and Anneliese made them even more profitable despite only being able to hold 2 instead of 3 and lower adjudicator numbers.*
- *Competitions: Large turnout, run on time, best-quality food of any tournament in Australia, run to profit.*
- *Externals becoming automated - just need to pay attention to when registration for tournaments open. External Selectors are also being used for Women's Trials and Worlds Adjudicator Trials, which reflects a shifting culture of valuing them with equal importance to other tournaments or trial types.*
- *There's been more interest in adjudicating from Society members, and we've seen experienced members continue to debate with newer members even post-Easters*
- *For the first time this decade, no one from the executive committee has resigned. More importantly, the handovers I received from Alex, Anneliese, Mat and Sarah reflect the passion and long-term vision this executive has had. It's been a pleasure for me to work with everyone on the executive.*

When I ran for President last year, I said "when everyone feels like their views and opinions are being considered, when everyone feels valued and feels like they have a place in the Society, we can do anything."

2016 proved just that.

Questions from the Attendees:

Alex: What advice would you give candidates for President this year?

Ryan: Presidents set the tone for Executive Meetings. Discussion can get heated and up to you to manage that. Keep things in perspective, things that seem big to the Exec are small in reality
Try to acknowledge all other's points of view – acknowledge that there may be some ideas that should be considered in the long run. We're all friends and that should be the priority.

Alex: What do you think is your biggest failure and why?

Ryan: Missing the Worlds registration deadline during Easters. Make sure you don't bite off more than you can chew – we were so engrossed in Easters, we forgot other things.

Dan: Moves a motion to acknowledge the work of Ryan as President this year.

President report approved by acclamation.

SECRETARY REPORT 2016 – Anneliese Cooper

BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE STATS EVERYONE!!!!

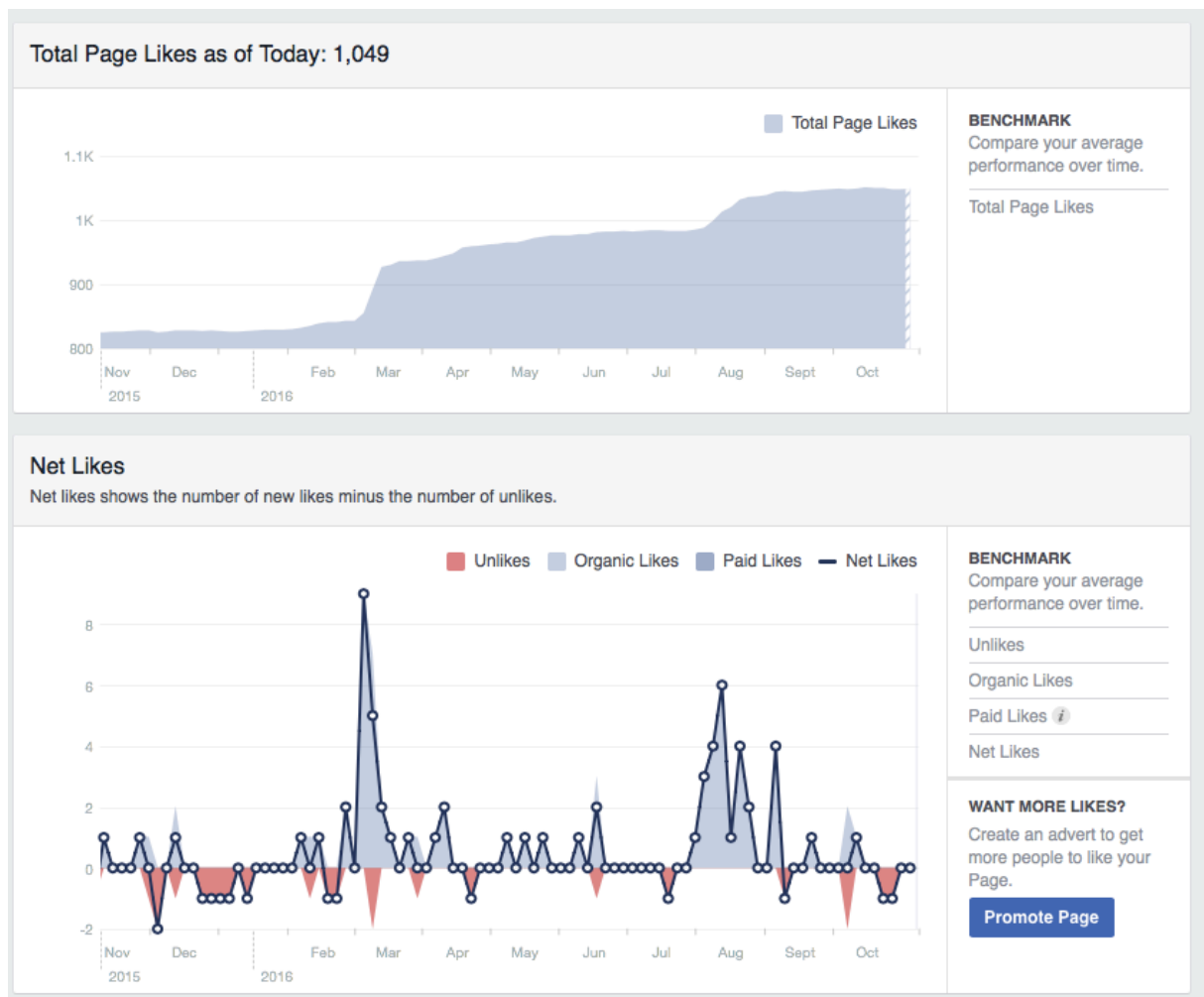
Membership/Newsletters:

- *Total of 14 newsletters sent since the 2015 AGM. This includes 4 campaigns to new O-Week sign ups in Sem 1 and Sem 2 2016 with the remaining 10 campaigns going to general members. Last year 10 campaigns were sent so we are consistent and on target.*
- *The more newsletters sent, the less people opened them. Max. once a month for newsletters is ideal.*
- *Newsletters sent during Sem break had a very low open rate (1.4%) probably because people don't check their university emails during the holidays. If only I had that luxury. Sending newsletters during semester is key.*
- *As of today we have 933 subscribers to our general newsletter campaigns. This is compared to last year's 756 subscribers.*
 - o *This includes 222 unsubscribes and the removal of 225 subscribers for inactive or unresponsive emails. Therefore, we've had an increase of 177 subscribers to our newsletter. That is 3 less than last year (so pretty consistent)*
- *We have a 26.5% (or roughly 248 people) open rate for newsletters sent to general members' newsletters and an average of 77.3% (about 60 people) for new membership emails.*

Social Media Engagement:

- *We reached 1000 likes on our Facebook page this year! As of 3.30pm today, we have 1049 likes with a 5-star rating and 100% response rate.*
 - o *That's 224 additional likes this year*
- *We get significantly more engagement (views, likes, clicks) when we post a photo in comparison to when we post an event or status. E.g. we reach numbers of around 1.1K-1.3K when we post a photo vs 200 for other posts.*
- *We also launched an Instagram page in February.*
 - o *We have 51 followers and have posted 28 times with an engagement rate of around 10 people per post on average.*

Facebook Data:



Executive Admin:

- *We had 7 Executive Committee Meetings and 1 EGM in December 2015.*
- *All of those minutes were accounted for, approved by Exec and published to our website.*
- *The Exec also passed 12 motions via email. All of these motions and relevant discussion have been minuted and published under one document on our website. This document was updated throughout the year.*
- *Executive Committee Meeting attendance varied from 4 to 9 Committee members*

Questions from Attendees:

Alex: What do you think was your biggest failure and why?

Anneliese: Same as Ryan, missing Worlds rego deadline.

Alex: What's your advice to next Secretary?

Anneliese: Realise that it is a big job and that you are solely responsible for a lot of tasks. You need to be committed and organised.

Ryan moves a motion to approve report and thank Anneliese for contribution as Secretary.

Report approved by acclamation.**TREASURER REPORT 2017 – Sarah McCabe**

- Speaking to what the Treasurer role was like:
 - o Incredibly messy and unorganized
 - o We were only affiliated in April
 - o I was still processing payments from 2015, it's hard to find transparency in that e.g. in chasing up receipts. I wanted to make sure we would not be left in the same position for the new Treasurer.
 - o One member still has an outstanding payment for Australs and we also need to confirm that the remaining schools have paid for Schools Day
 - o Absent Exec members made passing financial motions difficult when votes were contentious.
- Net profit: \$9271.91
- This was a good year for us with significant net profit
- Things that were useful was getting in contact with the uni for MUDS transactions (e.g. NAB card)
- Writing up a refund policy: still in basic stages and needs to be enforceable and further developed
 - o We need to explore how we enforce it
 - o It didn't apply to any majors this year because it was written a few days before Australs.
- I said last year that I wanted to be fiscally conservative:
 - o I did maximize our budget.
 - o Lesson: when we are in a tricky financial spot, don't automatically cut subsidies, it didn't impact our profitability.
- Things that make us money:
 - o Without university funding we would have \$6000 less
 - o Without Schools Days we would be in \$10,000's of loss
- Therefore important to have close communications with those portfolios (Schools and Comps mainly)
- Funding can be inconsistent and we can't rely on it
 - o 2 full round funding (\$2000 each)
 - o Plus a \$2000 grant from the SRC

Questions from Attendees:

Jacob: Regarding tournament funding, is that replicable in the future?

Sarah: Timing is awkward with Mac Mini hosted late in the year and is contingent upon a large amount of people attending our tournaments.

Ryan: Can we have the MacPay card for Mac Mini next year?

Sarah: Yes

Alex: What would you recommend for the next Treasurer?

Sarah: See handover document. Stay on top of what you are doing, avoid situations where we are tracking payments from a year ago especially with Schools Days

- Georgia: Tournament subsidies: can we do more fundraising next year?
Sarah: Depends where the funding is from. We have maxed out on money from the uni, biggest source of revenue is Schools Days and we can look into sponsorships which is something other Macquarie societies do.
- Sam: A net gain of \$9000 is interesting considering we are a small society that is not-for-profit. What is the most ideal position to be in financially at this point?
Sarah: At this point in the year we should be at a high point, surplus/deficit patterns are consistent at points ear to year and we need to consider Easters payments and big payments for other majors which are often due close together. We should be directing our profits to subsidies because that is why our society exists.

Ryan moves a motion to accept treasurer report and acknowledge the work Sarah has done as Treasurer.

Report approved by acclamation.

5) CONSITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT ONE:

Existing: Chapter 5, Section 9.4

Except where otherwise specified in this Constitution, every issue will be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast at an Executive committee meeting, but a resolution which is in writing and signed by all management committee is as valid as a resolution passed at a meeting, and for this purpose the resolution may be contained in more than one document and will be treated as passed on the date of the last signature.

Add: Chapter 5, Section 9.4 (b)

The required majority is not a majority of all executive committee members, but of the votes cast (i.e. abstentions do not count towards the number of votes cast).

Ryan proposes
Seconded: Sarah
In favour: 9
Abstentions: 3

Motion passes

AMENDMENT TWO:

Existing: Chapter 4, Section 8.1.2

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, constituting the Executive; and
- (b) **five committee members**; and
- (c) the President Emeritus.

Change to: Chapter 4, Section 8.1.2

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, constituting the Executive; and
- (b) **three committee members**; and
- (c) the President Emeritus.

Existing: Chapter 4, Section 8.2

The Executive committee, when complete, must consist of at least five and **not more than nine individuals**, all of whom must be financial members of the Society and one of whom is elected as Chair of the Society.

Change To: Chapter 4, Section 8.2

The Executive committee, when complete, must consist of at least five and **not more than seven individuals**, all of whom must be financial members of the Society and one of whom is elected as Chair of the Society.

Ryan: The reason for this amendment is that at the moment a majority means that we need 5/9 which is difficult for time sensitive matters (e.g. when the Exec has to approve teams or for rego tournament deadlines).

- E.g. getting from 4th to 5th vote for a motion once took 12 hours
- Quorum is harder to meet at Exec Meetings
- Smaller Exec means that we have greater accountability and that we don't dilute responsibilities

Mat: I was originally in favour of this amendment but now I can see that it holds major problems.

- Regular attendance at exec meetings and responding to emails are problems the Exec faces but reducing the size of the Exec may not be the solution
- A smaller Exec could cause a voting block where people don't change their votes and this leads to a less diverse conversation and contributions

- It's also easier to encourage inactive members to participate

Jacob: I am in favour of this because:

- Our Executive has had stagnant engagement levels year to year
- This is an effective way to increase engagement
- In response to Mat's concerns, a voting block isn't a concern because we elected those people to have those opinions and the Executive doesn't vote on things that are important which means that there is a small scale for harm in bad decisions

Anneliese: I was also originally in favour but am now reconsidering. The workload that the Executive takes on each year is the same and I'm worried that a large burden would fall on fewer members. Engagement could happen in other ways e.g. reviewing action items and providing portfolio updates regularly

Sam: Accountability is a problem but I will vote against this motion. It's important to have diverse perspectives and people willing to take on responsibilities.

- This year we have had an increase in young membership participation and we should give people an opportunity to work as part of the Exec
- This is a good way to engage younger members in entry level spots
- I also note that we shouldn't make amendments based on new situations each year

Sarah: I agree with Mat and Anneliese that there are concerns about workload but we still have the problem of absent Exec members at meetings. We can stress to people at the AGM and promise to be on top of work at the AGM but there is no guarantee that those people will actually be more engaged.

Alex: Echoing what's previously been said, I think we should maintain current levels of Exec the way it exists now.

Jacob: Does it apply to 2016 or 2017? Because amendments are only binding at the conclusion of this meeting and that impacts who we allow to run for Exec.

Ryan: It doesn't count for this year's election

Alex: The same thing happened last year where we advertised 5 Exec positions available and then they no longer were. We had to allow because there was no notice given.

Ryan: There was notice given this year.

Sam: If we pass it, I think it's good and it doesn't matter when we implement it.

Ryan: If this motion was to pass, we can then vote on when it should apply.

Dan: I am of an Exec skeptic view – sometimes the Exec become bogged down in administration and therefore the Exec is where big ideas go to die. Smaller groups can be more efficient and this could be of a large benefit. However, at the AGM, aren't we electing people who are theoretically the most active?

Mat: First year rep position isn't a voting positions but could be appointed in an additional spot, they don't have to be elected as a general exec member.

Ryan: This would be beneficial for a first year rep, it would give them more to do.

Ryan proposes the motion

Seconded: Jacob

In favour: 3

Against: 7

Abstentions: 2

Motion does not pass.

Meeting adjourned 7.25pm-7.35pm for a cupcake break.

6) ELECTIONS

Presidential elections were minuted by Samantha Marshall

President elections:

Candidate 1: Alexei Feofiloff

- We are a social club, debating is a mechanism for our friendships firstly
- We take differences of opinions into consideration and take on the role of arguing
- I want to implement a brownie point system where activities and involvement earns credit towards subsidies at tournaments.
- Experience as the treasurer for MUPS, MUNS and is on the MSO, so has experience with executive roles, and specifically “adding a human element to the executive.”
- We have our own jobs outside of university and debating, and supports effective communication in order to move ideas along and plug holes.
- In regards to the problem with externals and missing AA for Australs, I would push for doing better with these issues, and recognising them as problems for next time.
- Suggests going to AIDA in advance when problems arise, and working ahead of problems before they arise.

Questions:

Sarah: What could you do as president that you can't do as an exec member?

Alex: I have done the most for camps thus far and have done things like run the stalls at O week etc. Can delegate and give other people tasks better

Sam: How would a brownie point system not lock out new members, and less engaged members from higher level engagement such as major tournaments

Alex: first years would be exempt for Easters, as would newer members who couldn't have helped already, and regardless it would incentivise people to help out more.

Georgia: We have problems filling tournament spots – how could you make this better?

Alex: The more people that help out at events etc will be able to access subsidies, thus will give better incentives to participate overall.

Ryan: You have an ambitious vision, what would you prioritise this to make it a reality?

Alex: delegation and accountability, if you give someone a job, follow it up with them and make sure it is done. I refer to the example of the posters for O-week, where I received criticism and many edits to the posters – he would delegate issues better in the future.

Candidate 2: Anneliese Cooper

I have two points in this speech because I'm a debater and can't remember how to do a speech any other way:

1. Vision for MUDS

- We have a huge capacity to increase participation in major tournaments through other societies, greater campus engagement and through subsidies
- Increasing attendance at Internals – huge part of this is retaining membership with such a huge pool of novices that rarely stay. The onus for this is on everyone for this to just engage further with other members.
- Increasing engagement with other societies – promoting events, intersociety debates
- Having a long-term goal orientated executive – all facets including treasury, engagement etc
- Need key annual events – to make this easier for handover and have this as a standard for MUDS.
- This is vague, but the idea is to use this vision to

2. Why am I suited for President?

- Only not been a member of exec for 2 months of my time at university
- Have experience in various roles and almost all portfolios
- Role as secretary meant working very close with Ryan, he has been helpful to show what it takes and as a role model.
- Has the requisite skills
 - o Well equipped to create a good rapport with other external contacts etc
 - o Constantly thinks about MUDS
 - o Understands the inner workings of the university as she works for the uni, and already has a relationship with them
 - o Has experience dealing with student HQ and GLP
 - o Very passionate for MUDS

Questions:

Ryan: You have a good vision, what is your strategy

Anneliese: holding exec accountable – recording action items and imposing them/reminding them of responsibilities. Things like starting meetings with a catch up on past action items.

Ryan: Do you prefer Annie or Anneliese

Anneliese: Anneliese

Sarah: What can you achieve as president that you can't achieve as an exec member?

Anneliese: can't hold people to account, or shape portfolios to the same extent. The other thing is to look at the skills of the exec and give them relevant portfolios, and give people tasks that they would be good at – can only do this if president.

Mat: What do we get from you that we haven't gotten from previous presidents/exec

Anneliese: Delegation is important – this wasn't just a lack of engagement, but often is a result of a lack of time. This can be fixed by being more organised and aware of deadlines.

Lachlan: You are extremely busy, this is a hindrance on your capacity, how will you deal with the time issue?

Annie: I am good at time management; I understand how to prioritise. Will prioritise MUDS as President over other things. Planning the whole year around what is needed for muds as a whole, not just struggling to meet deadlines.

Noted that Jacob's question was rejected at 7:55 pm because there was no more time for questions.

Election called - Rob: President for 2017 is Anneliese

(Note that margins are not announced or recorded according to the 2016 Constitution)

Secretary Elections

Candidate 1: Sarah McCabe

- Secretary is a key role on the Exec with a broad spectrum of roles (helping the President, Exec, university admin, life members etc)
- 3 principles:
 - o diligence: carefully and thoroughly complete tasks
 - o efficiency
 - o communicating well
- My platform:
 - o Newsletter every month in the first week of the month
 - o Updating the website to an appropriate format e.g. SquareSpace
 - o Minutes will be up within in a 24 hr period so that they can be voted on ASAP
 - o Furthering the goals of the Society more generally
- Experience:
 - o I've been on all portfolios: I have a complete and lived idea of how those portfolios should work
 - o 2 years on Externals portfolio – rego, selectors, announcing contingents etc.
 - o As VP, chaired meetings – at my first ever Exec Meeting, I organised the Easters Tshirts and have also taken minutes
 - o Always stuck to procedural guidelines for transactions as Treasurer
 - o Working in permanent, part-time retail – consistent communication and professional emails. I'm competent in putting out professional documents
- I'll always make time for Secretary
- Have attended 90% of Exec Meetings in person
- Even when I don't have time to stay for Internals I have at least made the presentation
- There is no glory in Secretary, it's a lot of hard work behind the scenes

- Treasurer skills are transferable to Secretary (e.g. efficiency and transparency)

Questions

Ryan: What could you do as Secretary that you can't do as a general Exec member?

Sarah: I have autonomy to take steps to implement my platform and am in a better position to do that as Secretary

Mat: Secretary involves communications, would you be able to answer the phone?

Sarah: Yes.

Jacob: Should amendments to a reimbursement policy be included in a newsletter?

Sarah: There isn't a lot of knowledge about what a Treasurer does and if that info is out there, that would help

Anneliese: Time management with your part time job considering often tight deadlines and last minute tasks

Sarah: Part time means that I have consistency in my employment and can plan efficiently

Anneliese: Skills and knowledge that are developed when you are part of Big Three are important in training up a President for the next year, is that something you are potentially looking to pursue in the future

Sarah: It is something I would like to do in the future, I have time at uni and if that is something that I could contribute to this society then it's something I'd look at

Ryan: Thought on streamlining communication in light of expanding social media platforms this year?

Sarah: I have a fear of over saturating members with content – we need to be careful with how we use those platforms and with what content we post on each medium. We also need to be clear about language we can use etc.

Candidate 2: Samantha Marshall

- I have thought about whether I fit into the Secretary role and what that would look like. I want to be able to be 100% committed to the role and I really believe that I can
- I have skills, experience and an obsession with debating
- Skills:
 - o Secretary is the mechanics behind the operation
 - o Delegation and communication and reliability is central to the role
 - Being on Exec I have demonstrated that I have those attributes
 - I am upfront with what I can commit to and communicate well
- Experience:
 - o I have both different and analogous experience
 - o I want to revolutionise the way we connect with our MUDS members e.g. Google calendars and accessible timelines for debaters
 - o Transparency with Exec
 - o Regarding Events, I have been the Centre of Environmental Law event coordinator, comps for CEL and often liaise with important people. This roles

in community organisations mean that I have to work with different personalities e.g. when I umpire and convene netball

- My time with MUDS as a general Exec member I have been reliable
- As Equity Officer I have experience dealing with those issues. People don't know about Equity issues because they were done well
- On the Comps portfolio I have worked with Andrew and Ryan to run events smoothly
- I haven't missed many Internals and like debating a little too much e.g. have been to Melbourne 3 times over the past 2 years for debating
- I am a young member of the society and the skills I will learn as Secretary are ones which I can expand and build on later

Questions:

Lachlan: Time management, you are busy. What if other opportunities come up which would take time away from Secretary? What kind of things would you be willing to sacrifice?

Sam: This was something I decided to apply for so I have already sacrificed other things. I also believe that if you give a busy person something they will get it done and I'm good at juggling lots of commitments. Historically, those who have been on Execs and gotten the most work done are also the busiest.

Jacob: Do you see the role of MUDS social media to inform or entertain?

Sam: Could be both. Different forms of social media have different purposes.

Ryan: You've outlined the relevant skills you have. What would you do differently in comparison to previous Secretaries?

Sam: The most important part of Secretary is to continue consistently what has already been done. Presenting new ideas are important and beneficial. Anneliese has done a good job and the new Secretary needs to continue that and not necessarily present new ideas. Google calendar is important because it is a good way of streamlining communication.

Candidate 3: Alex Feofiloff

- I have previously done Secretary related things e.g. minuted for MUPS when our Secretary was away on holidays. I can also stay on top of a workload.
- I want to learn how the website works and how Mail Chimp works
- I have lots of experience in dealing with university bureaucracy with MUPS and MUNS etc.
- Execs don't happen with one person, you need lots of committed individuals. Secretary is just one cog in the machine
- A lot of this platform is similar to what I said in my President speech

Questions for Attendees:

Georgia: What are the specific changes you are making as Secretary?

Alex: I wouldn't be changing much, there is no point in reinventing the wheel. Hitch-hikers Guide to the Galaxy; prehistoric earth and trying to reinvent societies.

Anneliese: Secretary requires being able to send out a lot of important information via written communication, do you think you are capable of doing that?

Alex: I'm in my third year of university and I pass my subjects and am therefore more than capable of communicating via writing

Mat: The website keeps getting brought up. Do you have any experience with websites?

Alex: I don't have experience with websites from an admin point of view and would like to be able to meet that challenge.

Jacob: Do you see the role of MUDS social media to be to inform or to entertain?

Alex: Social media is there to provide an additional level of info and therefore different forms of media have different purposes. FB is a dual platform, Instagram is social and the newsletter is formal.

Georgia: First point of contact was the website and is very jumbled.

Alex: We need to change that. We should do things like upload Internals presentations. I'm excited to learn something new and therefore would be willing to fix that.

Mounisha: Secretary is a large role, you have other commitments, how would you balance that?

Alex: As I always have. I have always worked, done my degree and been on other Execs and have always met my MUDS responsibilities and commitment

Election was called – Rob: Sarah and Sam are remaining candidates with the two highest votes.

Note that this is pursuant to Section 5.3 of MUDS Constitution which states that the candidate with the lowest amount of votes is eliminated and the remaining candidates are then voted on again.

Election called for remaining candidates – Rob: Secretary for 2017 is Sam.

Ryan: Topple the patriarchy

Lachlan: Long live the patriarchy

Treasurer Election:

Candidate 1: Mathew Duardo

- I've been around long enough that a lot of you already know my flaws
- Budget policy is a substantial part of my platform
 - o Subsidies aren't the only thing we can do with our money e.g. you could give portfolios some small creative budgets for people to spend – we are in a comfortable financial position at the moment and this will probably get better

- Allow some money to go out towards new things e.g. giving a blank cheques of \$200 to Marketing and let them make lolly bags and posters etc.
 - Money towards new members and members generally: subsidise Easters more than Worlds
 - People assume subsidies will keep people coming back which is not true. People who want to go to our tournaments will continue to go to them
 - We've had to reach out to our wider community because we didn't get enough interest in the first place
 - Subsidies discussions at Exec Meetings: subsidies haven't really grown over the last 3 or 4 years
 - Refund policy is good: we should keep those policies and make a pre-payment policy
- If you had asked me 3 years ago I wouldn't have run for Treasurer, now I understand that the numbers aren't the be all and end all and that there is a wider calculus to consider.

Questions:

- Georgia: Anneliese is President and she's mentioned expanding subsidies, you want to reduce them, how does that work?
- Mat: Not necessarily reducing subsidies, it just doesn't have to be the only thing we are spending money on. There's other small projects we can do with that money too.
- Dan: I did not knife my opening
- Sam: Treasurer is a technical and senior position, how have you worked to retain current members?
- Mat: I've been around for 3 years and I've seen most of the people throughout the years. Treasurer is a senior position and am therefore sympathetic to people who need more time for payment and that would need to be dealt with more quietly and privately.
- Jacob: Why does giving budgets to individual portfolios give people more ideas?
- Mat: Experience with my own business – if you give people a free licence to bring their own creative thought to it, they do. It can then be up to the Exec to develop those ideas.
- Sarah: Why treasurer and not general Exec?
- Mat: Morbid curiosity. Interesting role to do and I would be interested in doing and seeing that side of the Society e.g. learning how MacPay works
- Anneliese: You said you wanted to increase subsidies to Easters at the expense of Worlds. How do we foster high skill if we aren't subsidizing majors?
- Mat: Newer members is something that we need. Increasing subsidies to Worlds is not going to attract new members but Easters is.

Candidate 2: Mounisha Mondeddu

- When running for Treasurer I evaluated the skill set needed and considered whether I was actually able to do this
- Vision:
 - o Better transparency in terms of funding and subsidies. Heard that Easters was subsidised but then had to pay \$200 and that was intimidating
 - o Accountability should be a focus of the Treasurer going forward
- Skills:
 - o Ability to work with numbers: I study Law but also have the advantage of a physics degree *general laughter and shock resounds around the room*
 - o I have spent 4 years working in fast food which is not glamorous but I am the only person who was able to count how much money should go in the till and to do those financial tasks
 - o I would be able to plan for when money is going to be needed, proper financial records and a timeline so that people know when money will be needed
- Subsidies
 - o Finding an avenue to increase subsidies provided
 - o Explore the idea of camp and schools day but also look to providing sponsorships. I have experience as a fundraiser and therefore have those skills. I am able to talk to companies and encourage them to invest because of that experience.
 - o This would increase novice participation
- The reason I held off from debating was because I wasn't sure if I could afford it and want to change the way we approach novices about that
- Am I suitable for Exec in general?
 - o I was intimidated by debaters when I began. How do we make new people participate in exec? We need a younger Exec that people can relate to and that will increase transparency

Questions:

- Sam: Despite being a first year debater, you are a consistent member, how does your limited time at MUDS qualify you for such a consistent role?
- Mounisha: I'm not a fantastic debater but have the experience of being a fresh face to the society and this will give me a different mindset in approaching the role with new ideas about transparency and subsidies.
- Jacob: The Society currently has around \$10 000 in our account, what should it be next year?
- Mounisha: I think an increase by a few thousand dollars to increase subsidies although I don't have unrealistic expectations.
- Ryan: You are one of the nicest and most approachable people in the society so how would you chase up outstanding payments?
- Mounisha: I grew up in Blacktown and work in West point and am comfortable with dealing with angry people and am not scared of putting my foot down.
- Alex: You've talk about your own work experience, MUDS is a volunteer job. What volunteer work have you done?

Mounisha: Starlight foundation – a lot of fundraising and raising awareness and finding long term donations

Sarah: You've mentioned transparency, how would you balance university requirements which don't allow us to make everything public?

Mounisha: My main concern was where the money I was paying was going. We need someone to be approachable and explain what's happening to the money.

Dan: The final bank balance is out of your control and you are practically another President, how do you intend to increase participation.

Mounisha: My biggest priority are subsidies and that is ultimately the goal of the Society; getting people to major tournaments.

Rob: Technically these ballots all have my name on them and therefore I have won every election unanimously.

Election is called – Rob: Mounisha is the Treasurer for 2017

Ryan: Consider the patriarchy toppled with an all female big three.

General Executive Committee Positions

Candidate 1: Sarah McCabe

- You have heard my platform before and I still want to be in a position where I can contribute to the Exec
- I have experience and can guide people with new experiences and have served on all of the portfolios meaning that I would be able to contribute meaningfully to the Executive

Ryan: How many attempts did it take to pass the final refund policy?

Sarah: 4.

Candidate 2: Georgia Chahoud

- I hate the 'I'm good at things' spiel, I think it's embarrassing
- I've been to heaps of minis and am on good terms with the debating circuit
- I have been active in promoting the society to other members
- I am reliable; I was perfect for debating in high school
- It doesn't bother me which portfolio I run for, just happy to be an enthusiastic member

Ryan: I often provide food for Exec meetings. Do you have any allergies?

Georgia: Nuts; I'm sadly anti-hummus

Candidate 3: Mathew Duardo

- Everything I've said before
- I enjoy being on exec and made a contribution to meetings and attended meetings

- I would be happy to do it again

Ryan: Are you getting any other tattoos?

Mat: You haven't seen my Ryan design yet.

Sarah: What specific portfolios would you be interested in?

Mat: Interested in Externals and Comps

Candidate 4: Alexei Feofiloff

- What I said before
- I love my use of irony to draw attention to issues; I have run consistently and always come back

Ryan: You now have a smart phone, will you pay back Ryan and Lachlan for Uber trips?

Alex: Please message me the amount again.

Candidate 5: Henry Forsaith-Breese

- I have quickly come to love debating – I blame you all
- Would pass on that love to prospective members
- I have participated consistently in MUDS Exec
- I'll respond to your emails
- I am organised proven by the fact that I am setting up my own business

Ryan: You clearly understand fashion so why is your tie so long?

Candidate 6: Lachlan McGrath

“If I don't win, a violent revolution will not be far behind. Thank you”

Ryan: You graduate at the end of the year. What's your plan?

Lachlan: 2 and a half years of a double masters because I hate myself. Only a pass average is required so it's likely I'll get into the program

Ryan: Do you have an offer?

Lachlan: No, my application goes in this week and I will eventually get a response.

Mat: Will you submit your application on time?

Lachlan: I will think about it, it worked out for the better when I ran for President that I didn't hand it in on time.

Georgia: You are busy, how will you manage your responsibilities?

Lachlan: Have you been to Internals this year? You're welcome.

I can time manage. I plan on quitting my underpaid job and get a different part time job. I am resigning from every Exec other than MUDS to get a position on university council. Therefore next year I am pursuing fewer projects, those which I actually care about.

Election called – Rob: the General Executive Committee for 2017 in no particular order is Lachlan, Henry, Mat, Georgia, Sarah.

7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ryan: Thank you for coming, it was a great and efficient meeting. I propose a motion thank Rob for being our Returning Officer.

Motion passed by acclamation.

Mat: Do we have an update on Mac mini for what numbers are like?

Ryan: 4 rooms, 5 adjudicators minimum.

Anneliese: Can we have a 2017 Exec photo please?

Jacob: I want to note the lack of constitutional amendments.

Meeting closed 9.25pm.