



Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes (2014)

Monday 27 October, 2014, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.,

Location: Room W5C 335, Macquarie University, North Ryde

Present: Nandini Bajaj (President), Ryan Thalari (Secretary), Jacob Rock (Treasurer), Lachlan McGrath (Vice-President), Stephanie Fehon, Dhanya Mani, Alex Feofiloff, Mathew Duardo, Jarrod Mitchell, Sarah McCabe, Angelene Norman, Sarah van der Meer, Nigel Khine, William Gailey (left 9:35 p.m.), David Burke, Rochelle Amys (arrived 6:36 p.m., left 7:15 p.m.), Himmi Cheruvu (arrived 7:30 p.m.).

Life Members: Daniel Dummer (arrived 6:57 p.m.)

Postal Votes: Anna Kosmynina (for all Constitutional Amendments) and Lachlan Umbers (for Constitutional Amendment 5)

Non-Voting: Lingyi Lu (left 7:30 p.m.)

Returning Officer: Max Turner

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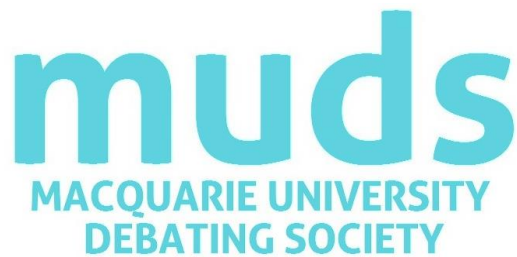
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Standing Orders

Nandini: Standing Orders for the Meeting are as follows:

- ❖ Speaking lists will determine the order in which members may make comments or ask questions. Raise your hand and you will be added to the speaking list.
- ❖ The outgoing President, Secretary and Treasurer will have 5 minutes each to deliver their reports. There will be 4 minutes of question time per office bearer. Each member may ask a maximum of two questions per office bearer.
- ❖ Candidates running for President, Secretary and Treasurer will each have 5 minutes speaking time. There will be 5 minutes question time, with the above limits on questions in place.
- ❖ Candidates running as General Officers will have 1 minute each to speak (should they wish) and will have 2 minutes of question time each.
- ❖ Members proposing constitutional amendments will have 3 minutes to introduce each amendment. Discussion on each amendment will be limited to 12 minutes. Questions and comments will be limited to 30 seconds each and member is limited to a maximum of 2 comments per amendment.
- ❖ No one is to speak out of turn and may be ejected from the AGM after two warnings.

Vote on Inclusion of Late Nomination

Nandini: We need to amend the Agenda slightly. We need to vote on whether to allow Lachlan McGrath to run for election, as he submitted his nomination late.

Steph: In the past when we've had similar situations, this hasn't been contentious because having more people running is better for democracy.

Nandini: It's also important that rules are followed, so we'll put it to a vote.

Nandini: I'd like to propose the motion that Lachlan McGrath's nomination for President be accepted and considered valid for the purposes of this Meeting.

Steph seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Vote on Clarification of Membership Status

Nandini: There's ambiguity as to whether or not Nigel Khine is a Financial Member. Our Treasurer Jacob doesn't have him recorded as a Financial Member, but our Secretary Ryan does.

Nandini: I'd like to propose the motion that Nigel Khine be considered a Financial Member and eligible to vote at this AGM.

Lachlan seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Vote on Acceptance of Postal Votes

Nandini: We have received 2 postal votes from Anna Kosmynina (President Emeritus) and Lachlan Umbers (Honorary Life member). According to the Constitution, for those votes to be considered valid they need to be checked by the Returning Officer. However, this was not done. In order for those votes to be considered valid, we need to vote on whether or not to accept those postal votes.

Jacob: To clarify, postal votes allow Financial and Honorary Life Members to vote for constitutional amendments in absentia. Verification was necessary to ensure they weren't solicited so that anyone running for election couldn't stack the Meeting with postal votes, however postal votes no longer count towards elections.

Nandini: I'd like to propose the motion that the postal votes submitted by Anna Kosmynina and Lachlan Umbers be accepted and considered valid for the purposes of this Meeting.

Steph seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Rochelle arrives (6:36 p.m.).

Approval of Meeting Minutes from Previous General Meetings

2013 Annual General Meeting: <http://muds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/MUDS-AGM.docx>

Nandini: Here are the Minutes from last year's AGM. This appears to follow what the Meeting looked like.

Nandini: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept the Minutes from the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Ryan seconds.

15 votes in favour.

2 abstentions (Alex and David).

Motion passes.

Meeting to Elect an Honorary Executive Member (2014): <http://muds.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Election-for-Honorary-Executive-Position-Minutes-2014-05-052.pdf>

Nandini: The second set of Minutes we need to approve are from the election of an Honorary Executive Member this year.

Ryan: To clarify, this was technically not a General Meeting, but I felt it useful to include those Minutes for broader Society approval to ensure transparency and so there was no ambiguity.

Nandini: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept the Minutes from the election of the Honorary Executive Member this year.

Nigel seconds.

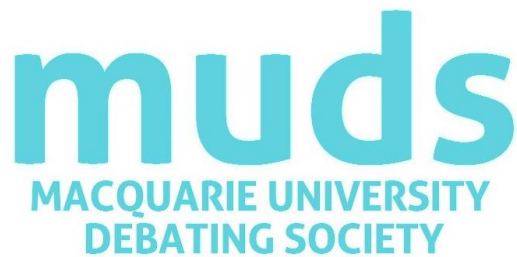
Motion passes unanimously.

Reports from Outgoing Office Bearers

President (Nandini Bajaj)

I'd like to thank the Executive for 2014, as this was a good year with a lot of fun and success. I feel we've grown as a society. We sent 1 team and 1 adjudicator to Chennai Worlds (2014) and are ranked 50th in the world according to WUDC (the World Universities Debating Council) and 39th in the world according to IDEA/IDEBATE.

We sent 8 teams to Easters this year, 6 with mentors. We had 1 adjudicator, Anna Kosmylnina, break to the Grand Final which was an amazing achievement. We've seen good retention rates with members since Easters. We sent 3 teams and 1 adjudicator to Otago Australs. Macquarie 2 ranked in the top 32 teams in Australasia. We had to on-sell our 2nd



adjudicator spot to another institution because our 2nd adjudicator had difficulties organising a visa on time and we were unable to find another adjudicator internally. We sent 1 team, 1 cross-institutional team and 1 adjudicator to Women's. The cross-institutional team was formed after the Executive decided to break up Macquarie B in order to fulfil our N/2 adjudicator requirements, with one of the members of that team ultimately adjudicating while the second team member debated with someone from another institution. We are sending 1 team and 1 adjudicator to Malaysia Worlds (2015). Only 1 person was interested in adjudicating. Overall, this suggests a problem with how the Society views adjudicating.

I'd recommend reviewing how the Society runs School's Days. There were logistical problems with the running of Intermediate School's Days, and a clash of university exam timetables with school timetables meant that the only time that could be arranged to hold Junior School's Day is during school holidays, which means there will be lower attendance and ultimately less revenue. We've received \$3500 in University funding this year: \$1000 for Easters registration subsidies, \$1500 for Camp and \$1000 for Mac Mini.

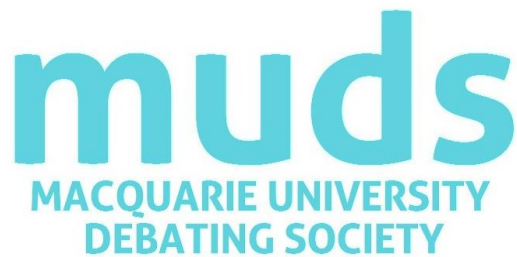
Ryan: To clarify, we only received \$1000 in funding for Camp. Also, I'd like to mention Daniel Dummer, an Honorary Life Member, who broke as an adjudicator to the Semi-Finals of Australs (both in the ESL and Open break).

Steph: What advice would you give to the next President?

Nandini: Know how to trust your Executive, and try to understand people's strengths and weaknesses.

Steph: I'd like to propose that we accept Nandini's report and thank her for her excellent role as President.

Motion approved by acclamation.



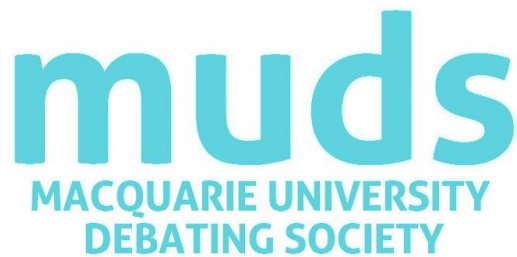
Lachlan: I'd also like to note that we had 2 Executive Members resign this year, and Nandini handled this with grace and dignity.

Secretary (Ryan Thalari)

My roles as Secretary this year included keeping track of our membership, managing the Society's social media platforms, sending out newsletters and recording and publishing Executive Meeting Minutes.

The Society's membership increased from 562 members at the 2013 AGM to 736 (30.96% increase). Most of those signups were during O-Week and MacFest (mostly O-Week). Those are good numbers despite the relatively bad location of the Stall, and is also a reflection on the quality of our Marketing Team. In future, we should try and work with the University to get a stall in a better location, and we need to pay attention to marketing. Attendance rates at Internals have been good, the best in years, and post-Internals socials are likely a contributing factor to that. I'd recommend maybe going to a different venue once in a while to help capture a broad range of interests.

The Society's Facebook page had 401 likes at the last AGM. It now has 576 likes (43.64% increase). Event pages for Internals are likely a contributing factor to good attendance at Internals. We should continue that. The number of Twitter followers has risen from 225 followers at the last AGM by 122, resulting in a total of 347 followers (54.22% increase). High number of favourited Tweets (39 – up from 10) and retweets (137). Mostly tweeted topics from tournaments. I'd recommend continuing that, as it helps extend the Society's reach and engagement.



10 newsletters were emailed during my time as Secretary. I keep getting asked questions which are already answered in the newsletter – I’m not sure why that is. There may be a need to reconsider the format and/or structure of the newsletters in future. Regular Executive Meetings have been held (10 in total), and Meeting Minutes were recorded and published on the MUDS website. Adding a Table of Contents to the Minutes makes them easier to edit and for Members to navigate through. The times and locations of Meetings were posted on Facebook and a couple of first-years attended – I would advise continuing that, with a recommendation to include Meeting Agendas in announcements (e.g. announcing discussions of trial policies).

Steph: What would be the most important piece of advice for next year’s Secretary?

Ryan: The most important advice for all Secretaries (not just next year’s) is to stay organised. Keep adding registrations to the mailing list as they come, try to have things like newsletters and notices prepared in advance, and communicate regularly with the Executive.

Angelene: What other venues can we go to besides The Ranch?

Ryan: Macquarie Centre – Strike, Max Brenner, TGIFridays, or movie nights. The Ranch is good, but it’s good to change things up once in a while.

Mathew: If you had more time, what would you have liked to have worked on?

Ryan: I would have liked to try and experiment more with the newsletters. Previous templates were easy to use and had no major issues, but I could have tried to find ways to improve readability given that people had questions even though they were answered in the newsletters.



Angelene: Do you think there should be more frequency of newsletters, or a different platform for sharing information? Or do you think the current system works?

Ryan: Newsletters are usually posted on the Society's Facebook page a web link so there are ways people can access information besides emails. We don't want to send newsletters too frequently because we don't people to feel as though they're being "spammed" by the Society.

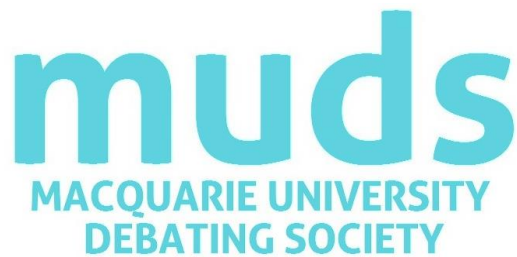
Steph: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept Ryan's statement, and thank him for his excellent year as Secretary.

Motion approved by acclamation.

Treasurer (Jacob Rock)

In terms of MUDS' financial position in the 12 months, the Society had an income of \$12,136.03 and \$11,980.32 in costs, resulting in a profit of \$155.71. I think it's true to say this year was successful in financial terms and went reasonably well. Looking to the future, some things to take note of:

- 1) The importance of University funding to our success. Without the \$3000 in total funding we received from the University, we'd more than likely be reporting a deficit. It's important for the Society to retain close links with the University.
- 2) It's important to diversify the Society's income sources rather than just relying on School's Days for revenue.
- 3) The Society needs to increase its cash base. Executive members have had to provide personal loans at times to help the Society meet payment deadlines, which is was an imposition on those members. We should hold more fundraising events and maybe



consider providing a smaller Easters subsidy. This was mostly an issue because tournaments were demanding payments be made early in the year while the Society's revenue was distributed throughout the year.

- 4) Explanation of the Treasurer report: The reason for Worlds being listed as a cost and not as a source of revenue is because that's how it was recorded last year. We will receive more money when the members of our Worlds contingent pay their registration fees. Because last year was it was listed a loss, we shouldn't include it as a profit this year (basic accounting principles). Next year however, we should include it as revenue.

Steph: What advice would you give to future Treasurers?

Jacob: Keep on top of your workload.

Nandini: What advice do you have for a Treasurer working with the President and Finance Officers to diversify sources of revenue?

Jacob: Look to hold more events than just School's Days.

Ryan: What specifically besides School's Days could you do to increase revenue?

Jacob: I would look to things such as fundraising BBQ's.

Will: What's your expectation with University funding in the long term? Do you expect the amount of funding is likely to increase or decrease in the future?

Jacob: We built good will with the University this year partly through our representation on the Student Advisory Board. If the Society can continue that, there could be potential for funding to increase – we only applied for \$1000 of funding each round, even though the Society can apply for up to \$2000 of funding per round.



It's an unreliable source though. Funding allocations could be partly allocated based on how the University perceives societies to be performing. Sometimes we may receive complaints from schools, so we can't rely on University funding as a guaranteed source of revenue for the Society.

Ryan: What methods have you used for chasing up people for payments they've owed the Society, and have they been successful?

Jacob: The more personal you can make requests for people to pay, the more effective that can be.

Lachlan: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept Jacob's report and thank him for his term as Treasurer.

Motion approved by acclamation.

Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1 – Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Ryan: Currently the Constitution requires that at least 56 days' notice be provided for the AGM. For the Secretary to serve at least 56 days' notice of the AGM, the Executive needs to agree on a date at least 56 days before the proposed date. This can be difficult to keep track of as decisions like this are made during Executive Meetings, and if there isn't a Meeting just before that 56-day period, then a date can only be agreed upon by email, which becomes difficult to organise. Therefore we (Jacob and I) propose to reduce the amount of notice that must be provided for the AGM to ensure a constitutionally valid AGM can be held (we

barely made the cut-off this year). 30 days seems like a reasonable amount, plus people tend to forget about it if you announce it too early.

Jacob: The Constitution currently means that the Executive may need to decide on a date more than 2 months before the AGM. The Executive will have a much clearer idea of upcoming events that could clash with the AGM if they can decide on the date slightly later than it is currently required to.

Nigel: I'm concerned about clarity – last year there was an issue of whether the date notice is provided is included or excluded from the amount of notice required.

Ryan: It's included (Chapter 1, Section 5.4 of the Constitution).

Ryan: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept Constitutional Amendment 1 so that only 30 days' notice be required for the AGM.

Steph seconds.

17 votes in favour.

I vote against (Anna).

Motion passes.

Constitution now reads:

“32.2 The Secretary must serve at least 30 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting on the Society's membership by:

(a) providing written notice, notifying members of the date, time, and location of the General Meeting; and

(b) publishing the date, time, and location of the General Meeting on the Society's website.”

Amendment 2 – Definitional Clarification

Jacob: The Constitution currently talks about MUSRA, but they haven't really existed for a while. I propose we get rid of the reference to them.

Ryan: The Society's Affiliation Agreement with the University makes reference to MUSRA, which suggests that it does exist in some capacity. I'd recommend we include both definitions until the Affiliation Agreement no longer makes reference to MUSRA.

Angelene: Doesn't the Society need to sign the affiliation agreement every year to be recognised by the University?

Jacob: It's not a well-maintained document.

Lachlan: We could justify removing MUSRA by arguing that they'd be included in Section 4.2 e) iii) of the Constitution ("*Any other organisation that the University has charged with regulating and organising the affairs of clubs and societies on campus.*").

Angelene: Who does "U@MQ" refer to?

Nigel: U@MQ handles non-academic aspects of the University, e.g. Student Groups, the gym. They're a commercial body.

Jacob: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept Constitutional Amendment 2 and recognise U@MQ in the Constitution.

Jarrold seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Constitution now reads:

“4.2 The following words and expressions shall mean:

(e) the ‘Clubs and Societies managing organization’ means the organ of Macquarie University charged with regulating and organising the affairs of clubs and societies on campus. This may include:

i. Macquarie University, as a statutory corporation;

ii. U@MQ Limited;

iii. Any other organisation that the University has charged with regulating and organising the affairs of clubs and societies on campus.”

Daniel arrives (6:57 p.m.)

Amendment 3 – Notice of Rescheduling Intersarsity Trial Dates

Ryan: The Constitution requires that 21 days’ notice be provided for both debater and adjudicator trials for intersarsity tournaments. If trials need to be rescheduled (e.g. realising later that trials are scheduled on a Public Holiday) then we need to give 21 days’ notice before the rescheduled date. That’s an issue if realisation of the incompatible trial date happens within 3 weeks of a compatible date because the next constitutionally valid date is 3 weeks later. This could result in a situation where you have a 3-week difference between debater trials and adjudicator trials. This amendment proposes that notice for rescheduled trial dates be only 14 days to minimise delays, as time can be important when people need to book international flights for tournaments such as Australs and Worlds.

Steph: I'm not entirely in favour of this amendment because it doesn't give enough of a clear idea of what reasons to reschedule dates are. That's problematic because you can't guarantee that an Executive would reschedule at trial date for good reasons. A better solution to the issue this amendment is trying to address would be more organisation when picking trial dates. Currently an incentive exists to vet a date early, and an Executive's more likely to take the time to set a good date in the first place if there's no fall-back option to safeguard against mistakes. This amendment suffers from a lack of clarity.

Nandini: I echo Steph's sentiments because it's not clear what the reasons for rescheduling a date would be.

Jacob: I'm in favour of this amendment. Even without this amendment, it's still possible for the Executive to reschedule trial dates. Given that, it's not inappropriate to have an amendment which recognises this. Executives are fallible, and it's good to take steps to minimise the effects of mistakes that could be made.

Steph: I agree we shouldn't be too hard on Executives if they make mistakes, but when mistakes are made, future Executives will be more cognisant of factors which led to those mistakes being made so they can try and avoid making them themselves. The amendment doesn't clarify the reasons for rescheduling a trial date.

Nandini: The vagueness of the amendment means that there's potential for abuse.

Lachlan: Changing the notice of trial dates from 21 days to 14 days seems like an arbitrary amount of time.

Jacob: We need to ensure we can trust Executives not to abuse their power. If we can't, then there are bigger issues than this amendment.

Steph: If trials need to be rescheduled, it'll be easier to make arrangements to attend trials if they have 21 days' notice rather than just 14 days'.

Ryan: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept Constitutional Amendment 3 so that the Executive is only required to provide 14 days' notice of rescheduled trial dates if there is a need to reschedule trial dates.

Jacob seconds.

5 votes in favour (Ryan, Jacob, Will, Angelene, Anna).

10 votes against.

3 abstentions (Alex, Rochelle, Daniel).

Motion falls.

Amendment 4 – Addition to the Revocation of Membership of Clause

Ryan: There's a clause in the Constitution which allows for someone's membership to be revoked (under certain conditions – usually gross misconduct beyond violations of equity). The context behind the introduction of that clause was for instances where if there was a serious incident at a tournament and the hosts wanted us to show that we took that incident seriously, that this clause would allow us to do that. This was the logic which resulted in that clause.

I propose an addition to that section of the Constitution, whereby in cases of gross misconduct, the Executive has another option rather than banning them from the Society completely – to ban them from being able to attend intervarsity tournaments.



This amendment will provide that same symbolism to the host university, but is a less extreme option which allows for further investigation and means that the discussion the Executive has is more objective because of the strong connotations associated with the idea of revoking someone's membership entirely. There'll still be a high burden of proof required.

Nigel: In cases of gross misconduct such as violations of the law by Society members, the Executive has obligations under the affiliation agreement to inform the University.

Ryan: That would still happen – this amendment wouldn't change that, nor does it seek to.

Lachlan: I'd like to speak against motion on the grounds that the intention of this amendment is so there's an option that isn't as extreme as permanently revoking membership given that this would be a permanent ban. I'd recommend adding a proviso to review the incident after a period of time and to determine later on if the ban should still be upheld.

Steph: I disagree with motion because if the Executive has historically been reasonable in areas such as this, then they already have the capacity to evaluate seriousness of this claim objectively. If a person has committed an equity violation so serious that the Executive feels they can't trust that individual to represent the Society, then presumably the same threshold of seriousness has been met to justify considering permanently revoking that individual's membership. If the problem is so severe that the Executive has to decide quickly because it's a time-pressing issue (e.g. the misconduct occurs during a tournament), then the decision to ban them may be rushed.

Mathew: I agree with Steph that Equity is serious, but there can be a spectrum of different scenarios and experiences. Perhaps instead of a decision between no action and extreme action, there should be an intermediary option with a restorative justice element where the perpetrator has to correct their actions and attempt to remedy their misconduct.

Daniel: I agree with having a high threshold before action is considered, and the point of that threshold is to reinforce this this is intended as a last resort, and as such only happens if the Executive is confident in the outcome. In that context, adding more choice can be bad because it can fracture consensus in the decision to take action that could otherwise be easier to achieve. Value judgements should be made about whether the perpetrator could be “rehabilitated” or could learn from their actions, and that process could be made more difficult by this option.

Rochelle leaves (7:15 p.m.)

Alex: This would just be an additional option. It wouldn't replace the first option, it would just add an alternate path.

Nigel: I'd like to reinforce the fact that this could happen at the whim of overarching bodies, and we don't want to sweep anything under the carpet. It could easily go the other way.

Sarah: I agree with Steph in that if the misconduct is that extreme and action needs to be taken, then temporary removal may not be plausible.

Lachlan: In response to the idea about restorative action – we already have these mechanisms. The Executive can do that. That's good because you don't have long-term impacts. We need time limits rather than permanent bans to incentivise

perpetrators trying to repair relationships. That's less likely to occur with this amendment because a permanent ban can lead to perpetrators resenting victims because they see the victim as the reason they're banned. This is bad for victims because perpetrators can still engage with them outside of tournaments such as during Internals.

Dhanya: This can lead to victim-blaming, and also puts the Executive in an awkward position of trying to adjudicate whether or not they care about the victim enough to ban the perpetrator from being able to attend tournaments.

Ryan: I'd like to propose the motion that we accept Constitutional Amendment 4 so that a Society member can be banned from representing the Society at intervarsity tournaments if they have engaged in gross misconduct.

Will seconds.

3 votes in favour (Ryan, Will, Anna)

14 votes against.

Motion falls.

Lingyi leaves (7:30 p.m.).

Himmi arrives (7:30 p.m.).

Amendment 5 – Life Membership

Stephanie Fehon. Motion proposed by Ryan Thalari and seconded by Daniel Dummer.

Ryan: Also known as “the woman”, Steph has contributed a lot to MUDS. Steph has:

- ❖ Helped the Society's reputation as a competitive institution to be taken seriously by the broader debating community through her success at tournaments including



breaking at minis such as MAD Mini, UOW Mini-Gong and the Commonwealth Debating Championships, as a winner of Mac Micro, and breaking at major intervarsities including Easters and reaching the semi-finals of the Australasian Women's Championships. She has also consistently been the highest-scoring Macquarie person at debating tournaments.

- ❖ Facilitated the development of Society members. She organised 2 Training Days this year (the second one which she almost ran entirely on her own), co-ran Internals this year, and single-handedly ran Internals last year. She has also mentored other Society members, both at tournaments and at Internals.
- ❖ Single-handedly catered MUDS tournaments and events like Training Days. Her food is amazing, including the best brownies to ever be served at a debating tournament.
- ❖ Been a dedicated Executive Member:
 - Helped set the standard for Equity Officers.
 - Highly effective as a Marketing Officer for the last 2 years. We're seeing our highest membership retention rates since 2011, and high retention rates are only possible if there are high interest rates. She also regularly works at the MUDS Stall during O-Weeks and MacFests, often for hours at a time.
- ❖ Engaged in active service on the Executive extending outside her own portfolios:
 - Helping with School's Days (adjudicating, getting food, co-ordinating adjudicators) and mentoring at Camp.
 - Has been active in policy discussions which can affect all members.

Few people are capable of doing as much for a Society as Steph has. Fewer still are capable of doing as much for a Society as Steph has without expecting anything in return. I propose

that we at least give her recognition of her contributions to the Society by granting her life membership.

Nandini: I'd like to add that Steph has really helped shape the culture of the Society.

Jarrold: Steph has been a great role-model for the first-years as well.

Ryan: I would like to propose that we amend Section 56.1 of the Constitution to include

Stephanie Fehon as an Honorary Life Member.

Daniel seconds.

18 votes in favour (including 2 postal votes).

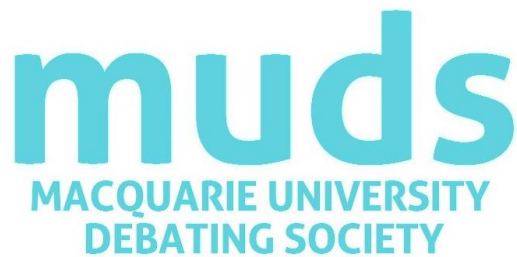
1 abstention (Stephanie).

Motion passes.

Mark Slaven. Motion proposed by Ryan Thalari and seconded by Daniel Dummer.

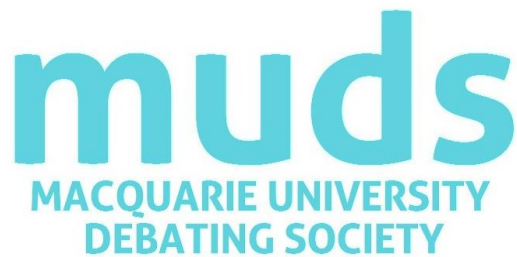
Ryan: I could say a lot about Mark, but he'd probably prefer tales of his legacy to be passed down over drinks somewhere, so I'll skip straight to what he's done. In his time with MUDS (it's unclear how long he's been with MUDS – at least 5 years), Mark has:

- ❖ Helped the Society's reputation as a competitive institution, breaking at various tournaments including MAD Mini, the Commonwealth Debating Championships, breaking at 2 consecutive UOW Mini-Gongs (the first time he broke 2nd while iron-manning the entire tournament), and was a Mac Micro champion.
- ❖ Boosted the Society's reputation as one capable of delivering high-quality adjudicators. He was a co-Chief Adjudicator (alongside a Worlds Grand Finalist and Best Speaker) of the inaugural UWS Open in 2013, and in doing so was the first



Macquarie person to be on the adjudication panel for a tournament run by another institution. He also broke to the Semi-Finals of the Australian British Parliamentary Debating Championships held by the University of Sydney #SydneyMini.

- ❖ Helped with training the Society's members – not just by mentoring at Training Days, Camp, and tournaments, but also by adjudicating. Mark would often give up opportunities to debate just so he could provide good feedback to help members develop their debating skills. This was most evident when in 2012, Mark gave up his spot as a debater for Australs so someone else who wanted to debate could have that opportunity, so the Society could meet its N-1 obligations (which it wouldn't have without him), and so he could help the debaters in that Australs contingent improve by giving them feedback when our only other good adjudicators were debating.
- ❖ Been instrumental to Executive functioning:
 - Drastically reformed how the Society ran School's Days so they ran more efficiently.
 - Ensured the continuation of the Externals Portfolio by passing down the skills and knowledge necessary to execute the duties of that portfolio – including one year when he was just co-opted onto the Executive to fill that role.
 - Responsible for important Treasury reforms, including setting a precedent for maintaining clear financial records, and also served as a liaison on the Student Advisory Board which ultimately led to the Society's own bank account and the new banking system.
 - Running Trials: Worlds adjudicator trials (2012, 2013), Women's trials (2013, 2014) and Easters adjudicator trials (2014).



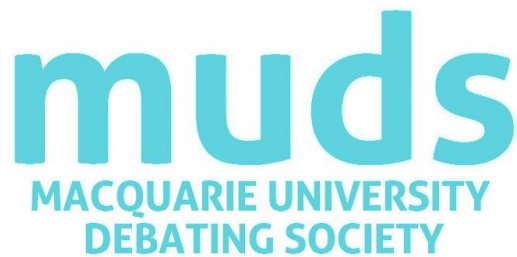
- Been active in creating policies used by the Society.
- Responsible for large portions of the Constitution itself.

Mark has always gone out of his way to make people feel included and welcome in the Society. I propose that we include him in the list of life members.

Daniel: At Mac Mini last weekend, Mark was the guy in the suit. And that's really funny because if he came years ago, he'd be in "tie-died glimmer". Mark's come a long way over the years and grown with the Society. He was always "the eagle's brain trust of MUDS". His passions are more nerdy than sport – he enjoyed working with numbers and analysing tab data from tournaments (even when he was adjudicating), even if it required calculating numbers and drawing charts on the back of napkins.

Mark always found new things to do, including re-writing the Constitution and ordering the clauses so it made sense. No one else thought the way Mark did when it came to finding areas for improvement, and he was usually always right. He was also responsible for a lot of wins for MUDS, including helping to establish our own banking system through his position on the SAB board. Even if he wasn't in charge of School's Days, Mark would make sure things were done and picked up the slack if others missed anything, as well as reformatting the entire mailout process to make it more efficient. He believed strongly in empowering new members to get involved passing down knowledge to them.

Mark was "the MUDS every-man". He advocated fair trial systems, picked fights with noted debaters, helped others, and mentored others. Mark has a practical approach to things – if he thought something should be done a particular way, he'd translate into Policy. "Mark was outrageous fun". He had a practical approach to Equity Briefings where he



wouldn't just explain the rules of Equity, but would also give examples of how equity had been violated in the past.

He was a fantastic team mate at both my first and last Australs. During my first Australs (#MonashSwineFluAustrals) we would get lemons from Queen Victoria Market and he carried a shot glass in his pencil case. Lemon juice kept us alive. In Australs 2014 our team decided on a counter-model during prep for a debate. I spoke 1st Negative in that debate and somehow forgot to clearly outline CM. The 2nd Affirmative speaker blasted us for not having a clear stance. Mark didn't listen too closely to my speech but was aware of the counter-model we decided on during prep and nonetheless defended me as having presented the counter-model anyway. I've never seen anyone go to bat for me that hard for me before. I naturally support him as a life member and thank MUDS for introducing me to him.

Steph: I support Mark's outcomes for the Society. He was lots of fun and kept the Society fun at tournaments.

Nandini: I was mentored by Mark at my 1st ANU Spring. I learned from him that it was OK to drink at debating tournaments. He taught me the meaning of "just coke" and helped me learn to have fun at tournaments.

Dhanya: I didn't realise debating was about having fun when I first started. Mark helped me become a normal person in that I was really shy and nervous when I first started. Mark facilitated me having a Trial for my first Easters when I couldn't attend Trials and talked to me on the phone when I was nervous about going to a debating tournament. He was a great Equity Officer who made sure shy first-years like me were OK. He mentored me as a debater and introduced me to everyone else. Based on the level of his contributions to the Society, he deserves to be a life member.

Angelene: My first interaction with Mark was as a legend. I was hanging out with law hacks who told me cool stories about Mark. If someone has a legacy that extends to a first-year University student who's not even in the Society, they deserve to be a Life Member.

Jacob: Mark was also my mentor at my first Easters. He cared for the first-years and stayed up with us until the sunrise. I also want to appreciate the insanity of him hand-tapping Mc Mini last year – it shows a stunning level of commitment.

Ryan: I would like to propose that we amend Section 56.1 of the Constitution to include Mark Slaven as an Honorary Life Member.

Daniel seconds.

18 votes in favour (including 2 postal votes)

I vote against.

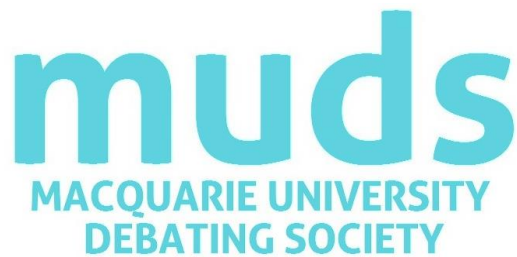
Motion passes.

Election of 2015 Executive

President

Lachlan McGrath

If we could go back 11 and a half years ago, we would see a poorly dressed little boy watching a movie on public speaking. Since then I have consistently been involved in public speaking which turned into an awkward time line. I have since travelled to many states constantly travelled from Eastlakes and back. So what have we seen since then: BBQ's, bowling, romantic dates, multiple socials at a lower cost and Camp run at a profit. On profit, we embodied drinking and debauchery.



I will make reasonable and rational decisions by financial freedom and accountability.

My dream for this freedom has been in the works for the past year, and my goal is focus on an increase on a sponsorship. I want to increase accountability. I want to increase drinking and debauchery, continue hosting Mac Mini, and hold a new conference.

Steph: Being President is about managing people – how would you capitalise their talents and make them accountable?

Lachlan: I have no issues in being upfront and telling someone they have a commitment which they should live up to. I have a history of commanding people due to past experience such as being on the Executive previously, and being School Captain before that.

David: How would you manage the Society?

Lachlan: By continuing the model established and identifying the things that work as well as the things that didn't.

Nandini: You were talking about sponsorship – how do you propose to achieve that?

Lachlan: We should start off by trying. I think we have seen the Finance portfolio no longer being taken as seriously as it could be.

David: How would you address the accountability issues you raised earlier?

Lachlan: Releasing the Minutes doesn't work – we need to release the Agenda and have discussions minuted.

Himmi: How would you make debating more ESL friendly?

Lachlan: I don't think debating is an apt tool for ESL students.



Jacob Rock

I feel that I have gained experience and exposure. I have been School's Officer, Competitions Officer and published POI independently.

What my presidency would look like: I have seen speaker tabs have increased. I feel we need to integrate with the university more highly. I think integration would fix many of the problems we as a society would face. Funding would be more likely to be ensured, and problems in general would be easier to address.

I feel that I am the best person to make this evolution, I am experienced with Macquarie. I feel I know the systems and what MUDS needs. I have dealt very well with the University to try and resolve issues such as those experienced on the School's Training Day, and the University have responded positively.

I understand that the Executive are volunteers, and motivation should be something of a soft touch. I would do this by creating soft pressure via personal presentation and updates, and demonstrating efforts by the Executive. I really hope you guys trust me with this

Nandini: A soft touch didn't work during my term as President. What else could you do?

Jacob: I would make the updates more frequent, and could use a Google Doc for more gratification.

Mathew: Could you expand more on how you could increase integration?

Jacob: University administration has a great deal of influence of the success of events like School's Days. I want to connect with Future Students and get support for events.

Jarrold: What sort of dynamics do you have with other debating societies?

Jacob: Friendly dynamics.



Nandini: With Camp often running at a loss and given that Junior School's day tends to be inconvenient, which would you cut?

Jacob: I would try and make Camp run at a profit, but would otherwise cut Camp.

Daniel: How can we grow and recruit more people?

Jacob: By making the Society more accessible and inclusive, and focus on post-Easters events.

Angelne: Where you do stand on debauchery and drinking?

Jacob: In the middle. I may not always partake, but encourage it as long as it doesn't breach equity.

Ryan Thalari

Here is what I am going to offer: Focusing on the culture of the Society, as the President influences the culture of things such as an approachable Executive. I would aim for more diverse, inclusive events such as socials separate to Internals. I would work with other societies to help raise our profile.

I would work to improve the financial standing of the Society so Executive Members aren't out of pocket to cover the Society's expenses. I will review spending to find ways to cut costs, maximise opportunities for University funding, and pursue sponsorship by sending out the Prospectus. I would push for more subsidies for socials and for tournaments such as Women's.

I'm studying organisational psychology which has taught me management skills. I have experience and familiarity with most roles on the Executive – I have kept members informed as Secretary, organised Camps, run selection trials, helped with recruitment, helped

with School's Days, mentored, and managed Equity. I have strong ties with the University from working with Campus Engagement and being on the planning committees for the Jubilee and Conception Day.

Steph: How would you manage people to capitalise on their talents and handle any inaction?

Ryan: I have experience in allocating roles and am good at reading people and recognising experience and skills. I also know what is required for each role. I would follow up inaction actively and have honest conversations with people.

Nandini: This past year you struggled with management of time as a Masters student and as Secretary. Being President is a big commitment. How will you manage this?

Ryan: I wouldn't say I struggled – I've always met my deadlines, have achieved everything I was meant to do, and also managed to help with things outside of my roles. I have also cut my work load and do not have full-time employment.

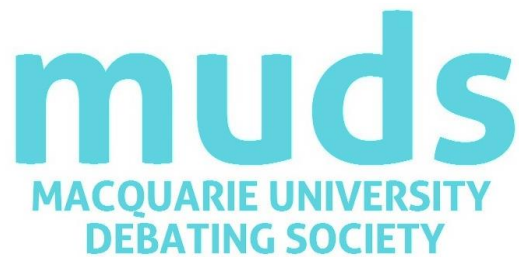
David: How would you increase retention and involvement rate?

Ryan: Interacting with members and encouraging other members to do the same. Managing the Marketing team to make sure there are multiple people at stalls so people can sign up to the Society and get information easily. By increasing our financial standing we can also hold more events – diverse events allow people to engage.

Nandini: How is your policy for finance different from mine?

Ryan: I would discuss cost reduction, send out the prospectus, and maximise funding opportunities, which I have experience with in preparing.

Sarah V: What do you view as the best way to motivate the Executive?



Ryan: Pointing out the benefits of what we do.

Votes (1st Voting Round)

Votes required for appointment: 50% of attendance + 1 vote = 9 votes

- ❖ Lachlan McGrath: 6 votes
 - ❖ Jacob Rock: 6 votes
 - ❖ Ryan Thalari: 5 votes
- Ryan eliminated

Votes (2nd Voting Round)

- ❖ Lachlan McGrath: 12 votes
- ❖ Jacob Rock: 5 votes

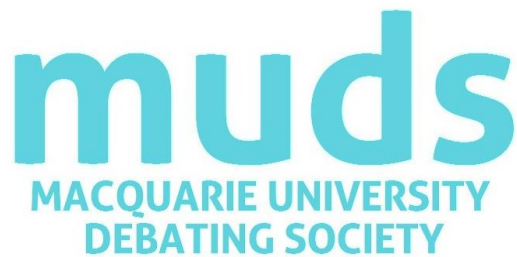
Lachlan McGrath elected as President of the Macquarie University Debating Society for 2015, to replace Nandini Bajaj as President and authorised representative of the Society, and to be an authorised MacPay bank signatory.

Secretary

Mathew Duardo

I'm running for Secretary because I love the MUDS community – the social aspect, and intellectual discussions about things like social justice.

What can I offer? I may be pictured as just a social person, I may not be the best debater and I may not have much Executive experience, but I do have experience from my work and as a law student. I've had reception and office roles where I deal with high-profile



environments, working with people and meeting people. A lot of what I do involves negotiating with people in high schools around the area, and Secretary is a communicative role. I can offer myself fully – I'm not too deep into my degree, and I always attend Internals and go to as many tournaments as I can. I know most of you personally, and that's important when organising dates and timing for events.

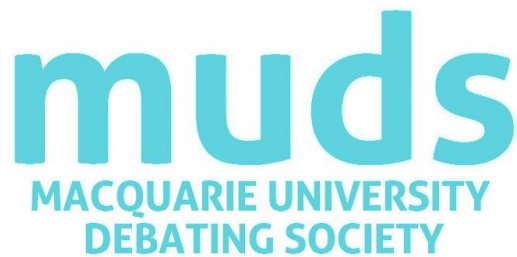
What will I bring as Secretary? With social media I'll make small tweaks, like integrating Facebook and Twitter. I would have weekly updates – not a weekly newsletter, but announcements during weekly Internals before topic release. I get along well with other universities which is important because we interact with each other. I would look for ways to boost engagement and interaction, maybe by sending one person on the Executive to another society's Internals once a semester. I have good dialogue with non-Executive members, and would try to encourage people to be more involved by getting more people to come to meetings and to breed a better culture.

Jarrod: You talked about your attendance – how has that helped you build relationships with members and other universities?

Mathew: Small conversation and interpersonal dialogue, even outside of debating. Small things like asking someone how their day's been – that's been a pull-factor for me which I'd continue.

Angelene: Can you balance working with others in a professional role without sacrificing your social side?

Mathew: I can be blunt, but that's because I give my honest opinion. I'm able to apologise and withdraw comments if necessary – I can be sensitive to serious issues.



Steph: Being Secretary involves fastidiously following rules in Constitution and being organised? How can you do this?

Mathew: I'm reading through Constitution, and it's something you can only be fully familiarised with after having some experience with it. I learn quickly.

Nandini: Being Secretary involves upkeep of the MUDS website. What do you know about HTML coding?

Mathew: I know what my strengths and weaknesses are. I can reach out and outsource for help.

Ryan: Dhanya's been a member of the Society much longer than you have and has experience on the Executive. The Secretary serves important roles in helping the President to manage the Executive and keeping the Executive accountable. Why are you in a better position to do this?

Mathew: I can commit fully to the role, I'm not over-extended.

Dhanya Mani

MUDS has given me a lot, and I've given the most time I have to this Society. I've been to a large number of major tournaments and minis. My limited income goes mostly into debating. I'm invested in MUDS and am invested in sharing what MUDS can offer. I wouldn't run for this position if I wasn't sure I'd be able to commit to it. I have experience on the Executive as a General Member. I've worked as co-Finance Officer and got to know people as co-Equity Officer. I have good relationships with Executive members from other societies in my role as co-Externals Officer in working to resolve adjudicator issues and engaging with host institutions. Being Secretary will allow me to develop that further.



I have the skills for this role. I would endeavour to attend more events and give a bigger time commitment. I want to give more to this Society because of what it gives me. As Secretary I would engage more with new members to make them feel welcome in the Society and capitalise on our relationships with other societies, like the way we saw our relationship with ANU with Camp. I would love to give back to Society.

Steph: Being Secretary requires a presence at Executive Meetings. Will your timetable allow flexibility?

Dhanya: I will make myself more available and be active in organising Executive Meetings. I can bring something unique to the role.

Nigel: What would you have done differently in the Finance portfolio?

Dhanya: A lot of what we tried to achieve in holding fundraising events relied on dates which conflicted with events. I would have a clearer calendar of available dates.

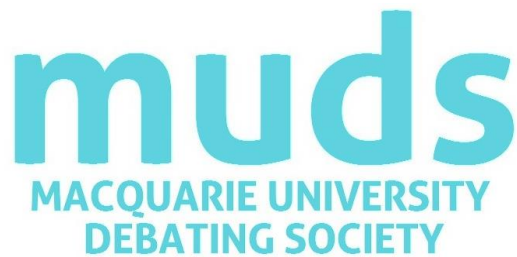
Daniel: What percentage of your availability can you dedicate to MUDS?

Dhanya: I've streamlined haphazard commitments that involved erratic times and no longer have roles without clear times. I've also dropped some commitments to other societies, so I can give a larger portion of my time to MUDS.

Angelene: A lot of us have multiple responsibilities. How can we trust that you can make a commitment to connecting with members when balancing your other responsibilities?

Dhanya: I've streamlined my commitments so I have more time to give for MUDS and fulfilling the responsibilities of Secretary.

Ryan: I support a lot of the things you've talked about in your platform like building relationships with Society members and with other universities. I also support all



Executive members doing that. What can you do as Secretary that you can't do as a general Executive member?

Dhanya: As Secretary I'll have a greater role in helping to shape the Society and organise the Executive.

Votes

Votes required for appointment: 50% of attendance + 1 vote = 9 votes

- ❖ Dhanya Mani: 6 votes
- ❖ Mathew Duardo: 11 votes

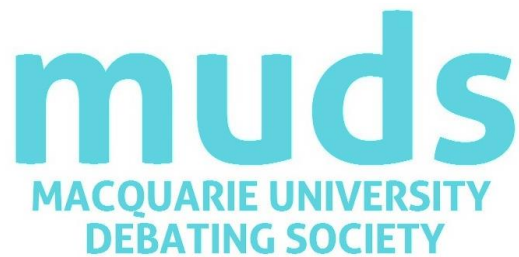
Mathew Duardo elected as Secretary of the Macquarie University Debating Society for 2015 and to replace Ryan Thalari as Secretary and authorised representative of the Society.

Treasurer

William Gailey

I want to be Treasurer. I see this as the best way I can give back to Society. I will switch into accounting, and there's a small chance I may transfer to the University of Sydney next year, but even then I would be here until the end of Semester 1. My aims as Treasurer are to raise more money by pursuing sponsorship and doing more fundraising. In the long-term I'd like the Society to be financially independent given that we can't guarantee that we'll always receive University funding. I would like to increase our membership and be able to provide subsidies for people to attend tournaments.

Angelene: What is your experience with accounting?



William: I've studied accounting (ACC 106) and am involved in my family business where I'm being trained in how to be an accountant and bookkeeper. Last year I was involved in rolling over superannuation from one firm to another. I have experience in this area.

Jacob: Being Treasurer involves chasing people for money. How would you do that?

William: I'm happy to be firm and chase people up for outstanding payments.

Nandini: A lot of Treasurers talk about finance and sponsorship. How would you go about actually getting funding?

William: By talking to small community organisations and clubs, to groups who sponsor local sports teams, and to people within the Society who have connections. I'd also look into organising more fundraising events.

Ryan: Do you have any policies in mind regarding subsidies?

William: I would encourage people to attend tournaments, especially for first-years. We will need to raise money to be able to provide more subsidies which I will aim to do.

Daniel: Very serious question: Can you please not go to Sydney Uni?

William: It's only a small chance.

Angelene: What are your motivations for considering a transfer?

William: The specific course structure offered may be more suited to my interests.

Nandini: Being Treasurer won't involve dealing with amounts as large those you say you have experience with. How will you deal with small amounts?

William: Working with small amounts involve similar skills to working with large amounts. I can do both.



Votes

Votes required for confirmation of appointment: 50% of attendance + 1 vote = 9 votes

- ❖ 17 votes of confirmation

William Gailey elected as Treasurer of the Macquarie University Debating Society for 2015, to replace Jacob Rock as Treasurer and authorised representative of the Society, and to be an authorised MacPay bank signatory.

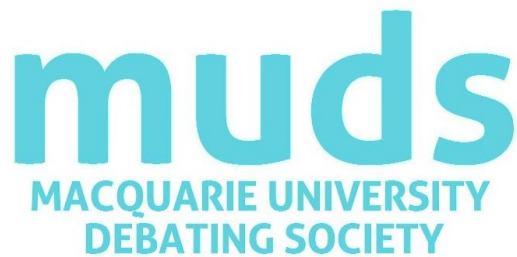
General Executive Committee Members

Candidates

- ❖ Alex Feofiloff (nominated by Lachlan)
- ❖ Angelene Norman (nominated by Ryan)
- ❖ David Burke (nominated by Sarah McCabe)
- ❖ Dhanya Mani (nominated by Steph)
- ❖ Himmi Cheruvu (nominated by Will)
- ❖ Jacob Rock (nominated by Steph)
- ❖ Jarrod Mitchell (nominated by Mathew)
- ❖ Ryan Thalari (nominated by Steph)
- ❖ Sarah McCabe (nominated by Angelene)

Himmi Cheruvu

My difficulties with the Executive this year was with not having a vote, which meant that my availabilities weren't a priority when Executive Meetings were scheduled, so I had limited opportunities to contribute to Meetings. I hope to change that. I do work a lot, but



part of that also involves working for a multi-million dollar business who I've talked to about sponsorship. "Money is everything to me."

Dhanya: "WILL YOU GET FACEBOOK! It's actually important."

Room shows signs of agreement.

Himmi: I'll figure it out. I'll use Angie's porn account.

Angelene: Can I explain the context for that? It's not what it sounds like.

Nandini: No.

Lachlan: I want a guarantee you'll get Facebook.

Himmi: "I'll make Facebook".

Sarah van der Meer

While new, I'm also dedicated. I like the community in the Society and want to give back to that. I'm very competent and capable – I have experience in being on the Executive of other societies, like the Faculty of Business and Economics Base and have organised FairTrade fundraisers. I also have positive relationships with Campus Life and U&MQ and have insight in communicating with others and relationships with some of the people who work in Campus Life. I'm fantastic with deadlines and communication.

Nandini: Will your relationship with Jacob affect your ability to work on the Executive?

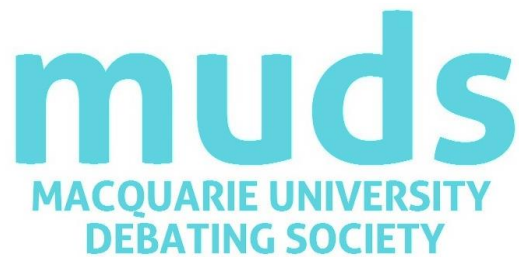
Sarah V: No, we can both be professional.

Angelene: Will you stay in the Society no matter what happens in your relationship?

Sarah V: Yes, we can separate issues.

Mathew: What can you offer uniquely to the Executive?

Sarah: I have knowledge and experience in information systems and communication.



William leaves (9:35 p.m.)

Jarrold Mitchell

The Society has given a lot to me, and so I want to give back. I've adjudicated at School's Day and have attended a lot of tournaments which shows I'm keen to get involved. I'm easy to talk to, and I have good relationships with others.

Mathew: Would you take the moral stance?

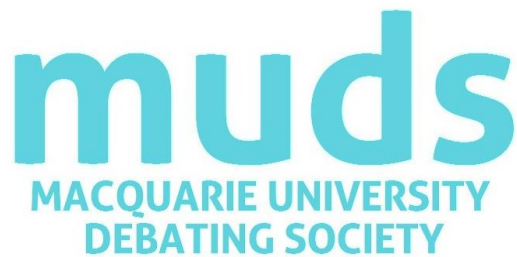
Jarrold: "Yeah, sure."

Angelene Norman

You all know me as a social person, but I also have Executive experience in other areas. I've been involved in helping with the WANG Society, the Conception Day Breakfast for 2 years, and the Queer Collective. I also have strong connections with a lot of people, especially first-years.

Nandini: Being on the Executive requires attending Executive Meetings and being available for discussions. How will you balance your timetable with this given that you are often busy with work?

Angelene: I don't hold as many positions now as I used to. Even then, I've still shown my dedication to the Society – I've attended tournaments and been to all but 2 Internals.



Alex Feofiloff

My name is actually Alex Feofiloff, not Alex Rex as many people seem to think. I've helped organise a camp last year for a Russian community which I ran almost entirely on my own. I have been involved with the Society in attending Camp and helping with School's Day and Rotary.

David Burke

I've been active in this Society since the beginning of year, and have been active in multiple societies. I have skills and experiences I can bring, especially from my roles as an Executive Member of the Model UN Society. I want to give back to MUDS, as my time with the Society has allowed me to develop my profile.

Nigel: Congratulations on being elected as Vice-President of the Model United Nations Society. What would you do if there was a scheduling conflict with both societies?

David: I would assess this on a case-by-case basis. I have strong attendance at Internals and tournaments which shows my commitment to the Society.

Nandini: I believe Lachlan had a question. Lachlan, you have 3 seconds.

Lachlan: **exhales for 3 seconds** I want that "3-second exhale of breath" minuted.

Sarah McCabe

MUDS has given me a lot, and I want to give back to the Society. I have a proven record of dedication such as changing my work schedule so I was free to attend Internals, have attended multiple tournaments and have friendships with other societies. I'm also involved in post-Internals socials which I'd be happy to continue.

Ryan Thalari

I just wanted to add that I have skills I can contribute to the Executive beyond those roles explicitly defined in roles. I'm a great impromptu travel agent, whether it's providing accommodation for people who've arrived in another country for a tournament on the wrong dates, or helping a group organise accommodation when their last-minute plans got cancelled at the last minute because of a snowstorm. I also help in other ways, like travelling an hour out of Canberra at 2 a.m. to help pick up people who've been left stranded after their car crashed into a kangaroo.

Votes

- ❖ Alex Feofiloff: 2 votes
- ❖ Angelene Norman: 3 votes
- ❖ David Burke: 2 votes
- ❖ Dhanya Mani: 6 votes
- ❖ Himmi Cheruvu: 6 votes
- ❖ Jacob Rock: 8 votes
- ❖ Jarrod Mitchell: 9 votes
- ❖ Ryan Thalari: 9 votes
- ❖ Sarah McCabe: 11 votes
- ❖ Sarah van der Meer: 9 votes

→ 3 votes invalid (name of candidates voted for unclear)

General Executive Committee Members Elected

- ❖ Sarah McCabe
- ❖ Jarrod Mitchell
- ❖ Ryan Thalari
- ❖ Sarah van der Meer
- ❖ Jacob Rock
- ❖ Nandini Bajaj (to serve on the Executive Committee of the Macquarie University Debating Society for 2015 as President Emeritus).

Any Other Business

Nigel: Tonight wouldn't be possible without a Returning Officer, so I just wanted to say thank you to Max Turner on behalf of the Society for volunteering to be our Returning Officer.

Room thanks Max.

2014 Annual General Meeting concludes (10:00 p.m.)