

Agenda for AUScA General Committee Meeting – Wed 30 August 2017, 6:10pm
Braggs Meeting Room 313/314

Chair: Declan Price-Brooks

Minutes: Ellen Swan

Attendance: Tobi Threadgold, Emi Schutz, Michael Cappocia, Catherine Douglas-Hill, Karl Asmussen. Phil Grace

Apologies: Maggie Potts, Josh Chey, Domicnick Hentschke, Tamika Burrowes.

OUTLINE

1. Acceptance of minutes from meeting on 23/8/17
2. Discussions as follow-up from last weeks meeting
3. Faculty meeting
4. AUScA Institutional Response to Sexual Harassment and Assault Forum
5. Casual Vacancy Filling – establishing a process
6. Sub-committee reports
 - a. Watson, Crick and Morty Pub-Crawl (Provided by Zane)
 - b. Networking events (to be provided by a person nominated by the Networking subcommittee)
 - c. Quiz night (provided by Emi)
7. Gratuity Letter Nominations
8. Magazine
9. Merchandise
10. BBQ reflection
11. Battle of the Sciences Reflection
12. Questions without notice

THE DOWN-LOW

1. Acceptance of minutes from meeting on 23/8/17

Are we happy to accept Ellen's minutes from the previous meeting? (23/8/2017)

Ellen moved this. Emi seconded, passed by majority. There are a few typos to fix in these minutes.

2. Discussions as follow-up from last weeks meeting

"In interests of time we left a couple of things unresolved last meeting, mainly cancellation of some of our upcoming events and Discussions against Declan/Khalia (mainly Declan considering Khalia's resignation) which I'd like to take further now that Declan will be present. If there was anything else anyone thought was unresolved please bring it up also" – Emi

Emi asked Declan to leave the room.

Declan said he was very well rested from the farm.

Declan left the room.

(Quorum not met, only straw polls conducted)

Regarding Declan's offer of a break from Presidency, it is unclear how much it was an offer/suggestion, or more an expectation.

Don't want to let politics get in the way of having a functional committee.

Tobi – sick of politics, just want to get back to committee stuff.

It was suggested that we still want him to take a break, as a lot of people have been hurt by his actions.

With no VP, Ellen/Phil would be next in line. To act as interim, would just have to chair meetings. If Ellen was interim, Maggie would have to step up to Secretary.

Declan can still have meetings with people etc. but have another committee member with him. Can't speak for the whole club (but shouldn't be anyway). Needs to be held accountable too. Essentially trying to get him to recover from having tunnel vision.

Originally proposed break (until the end of week 9) would still be practical. Anything more would be impractical. Same timeline for writing questions for Declan to answer.

STRAW POLL Do we still want to ask Declan to take some time off?
50/50 split.

Declan returned to the room.

If Declan took time off, it would let those who have been hurt heal, and also give him time to step back, be accountable and relieve some pressure. Also to let him relax for a bit, see things from a different perspective.

Declan – strongly agrees that he has made errors, want to make it very clear. If the committee wants to censure him, he would vote in favour. Hesitant to take the break because:

- He took the time to reflect and step back last week. A week isn't long, but the farm is good for thinking.

- Is hesitant to take the break as he is not exactly sure how it'll work. And also, he has one precious year to make the changes to AUScA that he said he would at the AGM. Doesn't want to give up any more days than necessary to make those changes.

Consultations were made with the Executive on these matters, but that was not sufficient to meet the eyes of the committee.

Emi – you can still hold meetings with other people to get things happening.

These arguments suggest that you want to make changes regardless of the committee's opinion.

DPB – through his recusal, he has already removed the controversy in repairing ties with the faculty.

Karl – you can still do the same things. You can still make the connections with others (take another Committee member). You'd lose the chair. The Committee would feel more comfortable with removing the President part.

Declan – Meetings should be conducted on a President to President level, to show respect. What does this break mean in practical terms? Is it just title? If I just don't chair meetings, there's not really much difference?

Karl - Instead of being a president, you'd be a representative of the committee. It is mostly in the interest of harmony for the Committee. Intends to continue serving in this capacity, with the recusal in place.

Tobi – (to Declan) can you offer an alternative?

Declan – as per his recusal: appoint Michael as our representative to the Faculty to take the powers normally invested in the President, and repair our relationship. Declan would also be understanding and comfortable if it was requested he was censured.

(Censure definition – denouncement of actions. Express severe disapproval publically)

If we could ease the unrest within the committee, that would help immensely.

Declan move that Michael be empowered with all powers that were divested from the presidency upon the presidents recusal, be invested in Michael, should he be willing. Should he be unwilling, said powers would be invested in Emi. Seconded by Emi. Passed by majority vote.

Would be good to see Declan being visibly taking actions to show improvement from his actions. Also, he has requested that the Committee tell him if there's more that he can do to show this - he can't fix problems unless he knows they exist!

3. Faculty meeting

As follow-up from last week's meeting the option of setting up a meeting with the faculty should be discussed

Emi moved that she and Michael schedule a meeting with the Faculty to discuss the magazine publishing and ongoing relationship. Seconded by Ellen. Passed by majority vote.

4. AUScA Institutional Response to Sexual Harassment and Assault Forum

AUScA has successfully submitted an open letter for publication in On Dit in response to the Sexual Harassment and Assault report. This response is attached at the end of this document.

Our letter has had a very good response. We have been approached by other clubs asking to be on board with our ideas (AUES, Chem Eng). We are currently planning a meeting to discuss the way clubs approach sexual assault.

We raised that as a club, we don't really know how to deal with/resolve issues of sexual harassment and assault. Colleen from the Student Life Department of Uni has offered us Recognise and Response training (from Yarra Place), to as much of the Committee is available on a particular date. This training is valued at \$250pp, and is being completely subsidised by the University. Ellen will create a Doodle poll to help decide which date is most suitable for the training session. Once the date has been established, we will ask Colleen if we can invite representatives from other student clubs to fill any remaining spaces.

Declan will be having meeting with Melody, who is the Clubs admin regarding this matter (Thursday 31/8/17).

5. Casual Vacancy Filling – establishing a process

As a number of casual vacancies have opened up it may be necessary to establish a process by which we can select candidates. In the interest of expediency, having 2 representatives interview the candidates and put forward a recommendation to the committee is one possible solution. Selecting who should conduct these interviews for each position may be best.

Given the Nature of the VP position, a separate process may be appropriate.

Emi's suggestion – get the candidates to come to one of our meetings, give them 2 mins to talk. They also become aware of our meeting time and the process is significantly sped up. The position is awarded at that meeting. Gives them experience on the committee and see what AUScA does. This would be applicable to all positions.

Moved by Emi, Seconded by Michael. Passed by majority vote.

6. Sub-committee reports

a. Watson, Crick and Morty Pub-Crawl

Phil and Sarah will be responsible people on the night (Schwifty crew), have bought high-visibility vests = (2 people for 250 max patrons). Catherine will prepare FB post to introduce Phil and Sarah to pubcrawlers (will be published by Friday morning)

Chem Eng – Have an uber deal for their pubcrawl, might be something we should consider for future pubcrawls?

We should also get the food/drink deals confirmed – Tobi and Ellen to coordinate posting this on the FB page

There's about 50 shirts left to pick up. Slight issue with the exact number of the order (2 less larges than ordered, this needs to be double checked). (This fits within the expected margin of error though. We have 4 spare M, 1 spare S, 2 short on L. Have set 2 of the M aside to give to the 2 L people. Can still offer those people a refund if they don't want the M.)

Side note – the shirts are **big** and **thicc**

One box of shirts left, in Josh's office. For any shirts needed to be picked up on Friday, Declan can be there (perhaps in the clubs room).

Catherine will send out a reminder email tonight to those who haven't picked up their shirts. Catherine to do this.

b. Networking events (to be provided a person nominated by the Networking subcommittee)

Past Events:

Careers in Bio

Careers in Physics

Attendance of 30-50 people each.

Future Events:

Careers in ...

Careers in Healthcare (Cancelled, talk to Rhaneela Punitham for future planning or collabs)

Careers in Chemistry

Careers in Ecology/Environmental Policy

Nothing has been planned for the Chemistry or Eco events, but **Michelle McKinnon** from the Careers Service has some people on board to help with that one. (I believe it was a Professor of Environmental Policy who is keen to sort something out, talk to her for more details.)

The approximate dates are set for these events (check the calendar), all that needs to be done is:

- 1) Lock in an approximate date that you know will suit the students in this area (won't clash with major pracs or other events, etc)
- 2) Contact 3-4 speakers with the approximate date, and hope they're all free at the same time. Have backup speakers ready in case they aren't.
- 3) Book the room as soon as possible to make sure you actually get a room. Ira Raymond is perfect for these events, and can be easily booked online (just Google "Ira Raymond room booking")
- 4) Buy wine bags, and get bottles of the wine we have from Emi
- 5) Order pizza from the Australian Pizza House a couple of days before and organise to have to delivered slightly before the talks should finish (allow for people not talking long enough ie. 10 minutes.)
- 6) Getting the speakers little bottles of water is always nice.
- 7) I'm sure the rest is straightforward enough.

Science in the UniBar

Alan Cooper is on board, but still need to find 2-3 more panel participants. Andrew Stapleton was keen to be involved, but hasn't been contacted yet. Michael is supposed to be investigating additional speakers. Also need to work out an exact run sheet for the night, and some incentive for people to ask questions. Basically copy Science in the Pub (which I've never been to).

Biology Meet and Greet

Book a room, order pizza and buy soft drinks. Advertise to academics, postgrads, and undergrads with posters + emails. Easy.

c. Quiz night (provided by Emi)

Haven't had a meeting yet, will do soon. If anyone wants to write questions, please volunteer!
Anyone with ideas for the night should post them in the Slack channel (e.g. a Simpsons round)

Tobi moved that we accepted all subcommittee reports – seconded by phil.
Passed by majority vote.

7. Gratuity Letter Nominations

Madeline Noble (Science Alive! Contact) was very pleased with AUScA's volunteers during the event:

"I had a few that were unable to make it, but they were able to let me know well in advance so there were no issues, and those that did attend were exemplary volunteers. I was very impressed to see that they were all hard-working, autonomous, and enthusiastic about their tasks."

She highlighted one of our volunteers, Imogen Winsborough, who went above and beyond her duties over the three days she volunteered at Science Alive. Ellen has proposed that we consider her for a gratuity letter.

Additionally, we had several exemplary volunteers at the BBQ on Friday, who willingly gave up large parts of their day. These people are: Natasha Bradley (who also helped out with pubcrawl shirt sales), Steph Eglinton, Jacqueline Barsby, Lucy Carpenter and Furdosa Ababor. Declan proposes that we should consider these people for gratuity letters. Meanwhile, are there any other nominations for gratuity letters?

Declan moved that we award the above people gratuity letter. Seconded by Michael. Passed by majority vote.

Michael – gratuity letters are nice, but –
Phil – fireworks!

Recessed meeting 6:42 because there were FIREWORKS.
Meeting resumed at 6:44pm.

Michael said gratuity letters are nice, but it's not ideal for people who are 3rd years/ it is late in the year. Perhaps we could follow Ellen's idea from earlier in the year and have a morning tea/dinner for our volunteers. Declan suggested that we cut out gratuity letters in future. Will resume this topic at a later time.

8. Magazine

The Faculty has asked if AUSca is planning to print another Magazine this year for incoming students. This will be discussed.

Declan moved that we print another mag. Seconded by Tobi. Passed by majority vote.

As we will need a lot of people to help with this, Catherine suggested that we open a file/form on our website to accept submissions. This will likely occur after pubcrawl, to prevent any confusion.

Michael suggested that we should meet with the Faculty to discuss finer details of the magazine (e.g. page sizes).

Declan suggested that we reduce the number of copies from 800 to 600, based on the distribution of the previous magazine.

Tobi said that in a meeting with first year Faculty directors, they expressed how keen they were for us to do it again. From this, Tobi moved that we make an e-book of the mag. Seconded rapidly by Phil. Passed by majority vote.

Declan – we need someone to spearhead/lead the magazine (lead until exams). Emi said she could do this until October.

Declan moved that we form a subcommittee, with Emi as officer until exams. Seconded by Ellen. Passed by majority. Subcommittee will be formed via slack.

Feedback – the condoms from ShineSA were a good idea, and we should include them again.

Not entirely sure how they would be incorporated into the ebook.
(antivirus/antimalware program for dickpics?)

9. Merchandise

We received an enquiry from a member (Corey Fordham) asking if AUScA would consider lines of merchandise, including rugby jumpers, hoodies etc. Traditionally, AUScA does not offer this type of merchandise due to costs and storage logistics (see Declan's response to Corey's enquiry at the end of this document). However, we feel this is something which should be re-addressed – where do we currently stand on the matter, and why?

We need more storage space (even storing the pens was annoying).

Ellen suggested we do an annual order of AUScA jumpers, in a similar manner to how we order pubcrawl shirts. Although storage would be an issue, we manage well enough with pubcrawl shirts.

If this happened, we would need to organise it at the start of the year, ready in time for cold weather.

Emi said that for her pony club, they have ordered rugby jumpers previously (~25), and charged \$50 each successfully.

Perhaps someone could get some quotes early next year. The first round of sales is always risky, second round is a little safer as there has already been exposure.

Tobi: "Whatever happens, someone please send one to Roseworthy."

10. BBQ Reflection

We held our annual Semester 2 BBQ on Friday, August 11. How did it go, what were our thoughts? We did have to order more food halfway through, which is a good sign for outreach to members!

Same BBQ order every semester. We ran out this time, and had to go out and get more food. This makes this BBQ the most successful one for modern day AUScA Phil moved that we applaud. Seconded my Declan. Moved by acclamation.

Further applause followed.

Desperately needed more people to help with setup in the morning

Cloisters was a surprisingly good location - perhaps consider Cloisters for second semester BBQs – is more suited for bad weather.

Faculty gave away some of our memberships as a prize for their scavenger hunt – helps to form a good relationship. This was something we should consider for future events.

11. Battle of the Sciences Reflection

On Wednesday August 16, our long-awaited event, Battle of the Sciences was held. How did it go and what did we learn from this event?

Event itself went very well, the advertising did not. Event was ambitious, and the risk didn't pay off. In future, we should advertise better, listen to Emi more about contacting/reaching out to schools. Had really good online viewing. No schools physically attended the event.

Should've started contacting schools ourselves earlier, not leaving it to the marketing department. In future, we should sit down with the school managers, with an event outline.

We now have a spreadsheet of schools to contact which would help next years Committee. Could maybe combine the event with some lab tours to make the event worthwhile for school attendance.

A lot of the schools said they would've loved to go, but didn't have enough notice. They need at least 6 months notice.

Talk to the domestic recruitment team for the University. Nick V, Eli.

Catherine – the speakers were incredible, excellent choice of speakers.

Emi – not sure how well the format was explained to the speakers.

Declan had phone conversations, changed the format just before the event. Left the order to the day, and perhaps wasn't the best idea.

Judges didn't get a chance to explain thing/give a spiel, it felt very superficial.

Need to write an evaluation for the grant. Declan to write in conjunction with Phil (for financial matters).

The FB announcement of the winner could've been better planned to say more than just "chemistry wins".

We did get two Battle of the Sciences banners with the grant money, but they are replaceable which is handy.

Arts have a banner – saying "Join us! We have pubcrawls, movie nights" etc., we could do something similar saying " We welcome Chem, Phys, Bio, Geo..."

It is up to the future Committee if they would like to hold another Battle of the Sciences.

12. Questions Without Notice

Tobi composed email for shirt pickups and it was confirmed.

Arwa/Sciencenetwork expressed an interest in hosting an event similar to "Science in the Unibar", seeing as we have postponed/cancelled the event for the time being. All present at the meeting were okay with this.

Meeting adjourned 8:03pm.

Appendix :

4. AUScA Institutional Response to Sexual Harassment and Assault Forum

Dear Sciences Association members and the wider university community,

On the 1st of August, the Human Rights Commission released the results of a survey into sexual assault and harassment in university communities. The results are damning, not just for university responses but for campus culture. Sexual harassment and assault is intolerable, but this report shows that we as a community are tolerating it. That ends now. We as student communities must lead the way in solving this pervasive issue.

The HRC report shows a significant portion of sexual harassment at the University of Adelaide happens at social club events of the style that AUScA runs (e.g. pubcrawls). While I and the committee of AUScA are not personally aware of any such instances at our events, another thing the report notes is that university leaders would be the last to know. With that in mind, if you or anyone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted at an AUScA event, we as an association are deeply sorry and I would like to personally apologise.

We will not tolerate acts of sexual harassment or assault, and if you do there is no place for you in AUScA.

Regardless of the prevalence of these issues at our events, this report is a wake-up call and as a social club associated with The University of Adelaide, AUScA intends to take a proactive role in improving campus culture, develop procedures to respond effectively to reports of sexual harassment or assault, and improve how we operate events to minimize the risk of sexual harassment and assault in the future.

We intend to implement the following policies in order to achieve this, and we call on other University clubs and community to do the same.

- Expanding our risk assessment mechanisms to focus on not just personal accident and injury prevention, but also to minimize risk of sexual harassment and assault.
- Seek training for club leadership, to train them how to deal with a report of sexual harassment and/or assault.
- Ensure more information and training for responsible people at events involving alcohol and making said responsible people more visible.
- Lead the way in developing a culture that has no tolerance for sexual harassment or assault.

We cannot do this on our own. We need the help of the community at large. Sexual harassment will only stop when everyone as a society decides it needs to.

Signed,

Declan Price-Brooks

President of the Adelaide University Sciences Association

7. Merchandise – Declan’s response to Corey Fordham’s enquiry

Hi Corey,

We do have a small number of AUScA branded t-shirts left over from a previous run, however at this stage we have no plans to do any new runs.

The reason for this comes down to two factors. First cost, merchandising is expensive and presents a big risk that we misjudge demand leading a lots of club money tied up in merchandise whose value will depreciate the longer they are on shelves. This leaves less money to run what awesome events. The second reason is logistics, sadly AUScA has very little storage space and currently no office space, and in order to buy enough items to make it fiscally viable we would need to order a large number. To put it simply we have nowhere to keep them.

However as you have raised this and we haven't re-examined the matter in awhile I am more than happy to bring it up at our next committee meeting. If you are interested you are welcome to attend , next one is Wednesday the 16th at 6pm on L3 of the Braggs, otherwise I'll let you know by email.

Thanks,
Declan Price-Brooks
President