



Melbourne University
Law Students' Society

Meeting Agenda

Date	Thursday 21 September
Time	1:00PM
Location	GM16
Facilitator	Henry Dow

Meeting Type	Annual General Meeting 2017
Attendees	MULSS Members

Present

Karan Desai, Callum Fitzpatrick, Alexander Meredith, Edison Ponari, Alisha D'Souza, Amy Rich, Britt Baker, Arabella Close, Ben Stern, Nick Bernardo, Andrew Bouhalis, Amanda Atkins, Andrew Tole, Xu Zhang, Ellen Roberts, Hannah Gordan, Julian Donahue, Aviva Kidd, Alex Callahan, Oliver Deane, Tess McIntyre, Augustus Viola, Nick Montgomery, Margaret Gusah, Patrick O'Bryan, Ayman Shash, Nico Kunz, Erin Kanygin, Tess Roussel, Lekha Prasad, Prathyush Natarajan, Dana Perez, Anna Tupicoff, Matthew Munro, Claire Neo, Jason Ye, Sara Ejtemai, Lachlan Johnson, Jessie Layman, Alli Berry, Michael Gu, Zak McMurray, Ayu Astrid Maylinda, Annika McInerney, Alana Mia Perna, Sarah Strangio, Rose Wilson, Jasmine Holmes, Jusleen Singh, Burnet Wang, Alexander Hasiotis, Tom Diaz, Will Connolly, Camilla Doyle, Jessia Cumbaluk, Lauren Miller, Max Wilkins, Ben Henry, Tilly Houghton, Michael Botha, Arj Wijegunaratne, Henry Dow, Ruveena Kaliannan

Proxy votes

- Nico Kunz for Prathyush Natarajan; Chloe Fabbro; Adrian Lo Monaco; Shirlene Perera; Nikhil Sachter; Zoe Brown; Nissa Burns; Grace Bilham; William Kilbride; Timothy Agius; Casey Haining; Tim Tabalujan; Ishan Lall; Mihika Upadhyaya; Henry Ho; Shafinas Bin Muhammad Djanda; Shannon Reynolds
- Gabrielle Verhagen for Matthew John Bradford
- Arj Wijegunaratne for Nicholas Walker; Anna Liu; James Hogan; Rucha Sohani; Rachel Walters; Bethany Kleverlaan;

Matthew Acciarito; Mariah Carlsidimas; Lily Xiao; Daniel Conti

- Henry Dow for Stuart Watson; Tim Gracie
- Ruveena Kaliannan for Ayman Shash

I. Meeting Open – 1PM

II. Ratify AGM 2016 Minutes

All in favour, no abstentions. Passed

III. Ratify SGM 2017 Minutes

All in favour, no abstentions. Passed.

IV. Reports from the Executive

a. Women's Portfolio – AM, GV

AM: This year we've been supported by our really great co-opts. We started with our workshop series, we've done 5 instead of 6. We got the outreach program up and running which took 8 months to do. Now that it's set up will be easier to expand. We did the Facebook page which has 300 members and we did the breaking the glass ceiling panel. We have just recently decided to subsidise the Baker McKenzie Women's moot as well. We hope this will stop students from self-excluding for money purposes. Equali-party is also coming up on south lawn.

GV: We added more events, focused on Women's skills and intersectionality. Also focused on student support through faculty, engagement through the outreach program.

GV: Our tips for next year would to don't ever have an event near clerkship season. Explore better options for students aggrieved and explore options on how we can work with faculty in these areas – where Women have been affected by sexism at MLS. We want to expand the Women's moot and explore alternative options and work with other portfolios more where we can.

b. Activities – CD, JM

JM: We implemented the existing events successfully. We also implemented the new discount sober tickets for spring social and have taken over snow camp which is the new things we have done.

CD: These are the events we ran. We could have run a running club – would be helpful for those living close to the law school and maybe another event for the sports portfolio.

JM: Recommendation is to not add too many events as you're pretty much going full stop. Diversification of events and building relationships is important. Faculty is the number one priority as they oversee and give permission for many things and keeping those external relationships strong is so vital. To be assertive when you need to be, stand your ground as well.

JM: Book food well in advance and book reliable venues, those that want to make a profit will do a better job.

CD: With venues disability access is another thing we think could be improved upon for the future.

c. Competitions – LH, AP

AMP: Getting feedback back to competitors was something we focused on. We gave more chances to build skills, we did that through info sessions on open and first year mooting. We also implemented better problems, we removed stuff that wasn't close to class content. For example we took out the mistake problem in round 1. We wanted to expand the Women's moot, we now have a Women's moot with 3 round robins and sponsored by Allens. Also, we wanted to engage with the Indigenous portfolio and ensure consistency across the portfolio.

LH: Challenges are teams dropping out, making the competition nights not clash, but trying to have no comps when Law Ball and Consti assessment weeks are on. It's hard to get judges and clients sometimes as well.

Sponsor responsiveness is something we can work on so again this year using a uniform timeline and then having a process in place to have that work. Budget, we were able to save a lot by doing things in bulk. Saving on security in the law school as we don't have security now and need to be getting that. Look at spending money in ways that benefit more students. This year we cut after party tabs and we're putting that for an event at the end of semester instead.

In the future, expand negotiations competitions, and be careful how many places there were in comps, so if you want to expand have a bit of longevity in mind. Formal process in an appeals policy. Inviting other universities for Women's moot, particularly the smaller universities. We really should build the place of women in the profession, and not close that off for other unis. Also reapply for Gibbs and keep in mind the travel budget. We need other grants increased funding for externals.

AMP: Plan ahead as much as possible, centralise as many processes as you can, engage with the new faculty liaison and work with the best person possible.

d. Careers – MC, VW

MC: We had a lot of goals, aligning our events with the times of applications and making sure you were aware of more than corporate opportunities. We introduced the Quick Careers Guide. We did 3 more seasonal clerkship seminars, White & Case were an add on there. It would maybe be better to stick to about 7 as first semester gets busy.

Talk to the construction legal team about when to run that panel as it's a popular area.

Mock interviews worked better this year. Our recommendation with guidebooks is creating a new Seek type system for those. UN internship workshop was really great work from our corporate co-opts, as they did this without any sponsorship support. Government co-opt Sophia killed it

and had to find all those people on her own, so making sure we keep those connections going. We need to promote it to first year students as well.

Recommendations are to make sure to keep working with MLS Careers, as its better than nothing as the resources they provide re alumni networking are so worth it. The only thing to change is skills development as we need to target pre-penultimate students better there.

e. Education – AA, TD

AA: We had a skills session in first semester that was really good. We got sponsorship on board and so we could give a pay rise to the STS tutors which was much needed. We introduced a feedback form and we have the new night sessions now as well to give this chance to a wider audience.

TD: Improvements, our mandates were to fix Stepping Stones.

Attendance rates were much higher this year and we procured various costs savings as well.

AA: Recommendations are regarding the night STS Program – as this was quite last minute for us, with forward planning the timing can be fixed up. Skills session needed to be a little bit earlier, orientation video we're just not sure, it's quite top heavy for Edu but that might be up to the new Edu directors as to whether they want to continue that.

f. Equality & Social Justice – TH, AM

AM: We changed the way book fair was run as we categorised a tiered system and managed to reimburse everyone that applied this year.

TH: The blood drive, not that many people showed up, and as work does go into this this may not be worthwhile if the numbers aren't there.

TH: The bulk of our work was in increasing new initiatives and advocacy work. We ran a few panels and did the donation drives which I recommend continuing going as it engages students.

AM: We looked at wellbeing issues structurally and tried to work with faculty as much as possible and have had some outcomes and I'm still doing wellbeing work with careers for international students.

g. Environment – OD, MB

OD: This year was more about consolidation. The Ride to Uni breakfast we collaborated with sustainable campus on and that was great. The speaker this year was fantastic and we really improved attendance at our annual environment event as well. The environment careers panel was run the same as last year. The hoodies and t-shirts we worked hard on that. We have more recommendations on making the timing for that process better.

MB: We have keeppups coming and we changed our payment method to QPay for hoodies. Paper in the LSS is now sourced sustainably as well. We'd recommend working more with USMU and GSA next year.

h. Indigenous Student Representative – KW presented by MC

MC: Karri couldn't be here. This was the first year having an Indigenous representative. Karri achieved a huge amount. Acknowledgement to country in each lecture theatre and in readers was through her work. She held the initial lecture with Uncle Wayne and has just received funding to run a new program being an on country walk focusing on Indigenous culture. IT's an incredible and new exciting portfolio

i. International Student Representative – XZ

XZ: I have organised the international student mentoring program, this year we have a huge increase in the number of international student we have 57 compared to 20-30 in the previous year. Also worked closely with other student organisations to explore opportunities for international students. We want to explore more career opportunities for international students as many firms have a misunderstanding with international students. We need to be working on this, Ayu has also been working on this.

For next year there are some initiatives – we need to organise at least 4 careers seminars for international students next year. We wish our new international student rep be more friendly and open as well.

j. Queer – AC, AK

AK: We hosted the transgender panel which was a new event with PILI this year. We did the queer networking night with Monash for the first time this year, we also consulted with corporate firms on in house programs – for example KWM is including an in house program going forward. We also worked with faculty on removing mandatory questions on sexuality and gender on clerkship applications.

We recommend fewer events in second semester. Due to issues with scheduling, we ended up with three events in a month and it was hard to have people coming back. Holding our sponsor panel earlier in the year before clerkship apps and more regular queer social events is our key recommendations for next year.

k. First Year Representatives – BB, EP, AR

EP: As first year representatives we helped environments with the hoodies, and we also supported activities in running and contributing to the EOX party in semester one

AR: We advocated for the student body by communicating with faculty when the Semester 1 exam timetable was released. We unfortunately

got shut down by faculty in this case. We also created and ran the first ever JD fair to show students what they can do with their JD.

I. Second Year Representative – AV

GV: Second year rep is mainly focused on the lockers and working with sports co-opts on netball and on the textbook exchange which works well on its own. I didn't run locker exchange this year because I had people contact me to sell and buy instead. I'll talk to whoever is the next second year rep about that. The main new initiatives is the drop-in sessions. \$60 for sessions where students can come in to chat. The recommendations are really technical but feel free to contact me with questions!

m. Third Year Representative – MW

MW: Other than the welcome back drinks, nothing has actually happened yet in my portfolio. We are excited to have Sean McCallif speak at Valedictory though.

n. Communications – RF, SK

SK: Consistently communicating all the events we have happening. Making sure the pinned post and calendar are up to date. We've added an extra marketing co-opt this year given the demand of publications. We do the newsletter every fortnight, I think it should be cut. It was a bit

late to cut it at that point we decided too, but I think that can go next year. Instagram and twitter can be used better next year. We need more notice when it comes to publishing events.

For marketing and publications they have been able to do things more quickly than they have in the past. Next year working on communications to know when and who to contact.

IT Officer James has done a good job, he has been working on written instructions to tell you how to do things from the basics upwards.

With purely dicta, it is both online and there is the hard copy There's been lots of submissions. There could be further information about what it is and deciding how it is different to equilibrium and other publications.

Should have an extra photographer next year so they can get to more events.

V. Leadership Team Reports

a. Sponsorship Director – DC presented by AW

AW: This year Dan did a lot of work over the summer, and increased sponsorship by 25%. The total is \$160,000. We brought on Amiga Montessori which is 17,000 extra which allowed us to fully fund the STS program and partly fund some of the new night tutorials. Improvements

as stated are to increase sponsorship funding and improve rapport between sponsors and the LSS. Recommendations. Dan wanted to solidify relations with sponsors who are not corporate in particular. Important to note is that corporate sponsorship goes to fund other things. So the Careers budget is 30,000 but they make 80,000 which goes to things like Book Fairy and STS Tutorials etc. Dan also recommends improving access for smaller sponsors next year i.e. through alternate pricing.

b. Vice-Presidents – MC, DL

MC: VP's don't do a lot of stuff you see outside of the committee. We provide assistance and support to the committee and president and we facilitate initiatives of the LSS portfolios. We were also involved in sponsorship and attended faculty and external meetings where necessary.

DL: Our recommendation is to be more agile and split the portfolio's differently. For example I should have done Women's and the other representative portfolio's could have been allocated differently.

Communication is key.

c. Secretary – RK

RK: This year I was responsible for the internal functioning and administrative of the LSS as well as primarily the elections for both first year and general and co-opting that happened twice a year. We had

fantastic nomination numbers for coopt and a very contested LT in the general elections, but I'd like to see more people run for elected positions generally. I also did some reform of the Constitution to amend errors, which was passed at the recent SGM. One thing that has been great was increasing communication with faculty and getting access to their calendar to reduce events clashes there.

A big recommendation is a reform of the online voting system. This is something we tried to do this year but couldn't get faculty approval in time. We'd hope next year to work on this with more time in order to move to a more secure and efficient system for vote collecting and counting.

d. President – HD

HD: President is about being the chief advocate for students, It's important to encourage the committee to be as open as possible and to encourage that we've made the office as open as possible. I've also re-emphasised committee wellbeing, as that's a difficult thing to do. We've had two sessions at lunchtime for the elected committee in order to do this.

Also empowering portfolios to grow, as we sometimes get constrained. For example, Women's this year has been amazing. Also the Indigenous portfolio has had absolute free reign and has achieved so much through

that. Understanding that we have previously done amazing things and can continue to build and grow that.

Further to increase cooperation with external student bodies. With ALSA we need to decide how involved we are going to be with them in the future. With the GSA we've worked closely with them this year and it's been really beneficial, LLSN as well. Working closely with Laura and knowing people on that committee led to the night time STS, and being open to those ideas is exactly what we want.

Regarding faculty relationships there is a line that everything we do is for MLS students, so we need to consider everything we do with how is this helping our students?

We need to continue to advocate for individual students and under-represented students and continue to give our time and energy as I hope I have. Need to meet first years, be patient with second years, learn from third years!

VI. Financial Report – AW

AW: The financial year isn't reflective of the term of each committee, so there is a differential in the figures but most of it has come from the increase in sponsorship and the additional 12K from faculty and an extra

6K from the GSA. The balance sheet shows our rainy day fund which doesn't change much as it is retained for emergencies.

This year we did a lot of stuff working with the Leadership Team to clean up our financials. Four to five years ago there was mismanagement and subsequently since we've been trying to clean up. Laura last year did a lot of the ground work, a key thing we have done in this regard is introducing a mandatory annual audit this makes it easier to submit our reports to Consumer Affairs Victoria. But, by the end of this year these will be done, as we're doing 3 audits in one go.

One good thing to recommend to the new treasurer is to keep the new initiatives budget going. A lot of the rest of the role is internal financial processes, in the past it was just each director and there was no central budget, but now we can see that which is helpful to everyone. Students have to often fork out their own money to pay for stuff, we tried to do weekly reimbursements and also started using the credit card for more things to reduce the financial burden on students.

We got handballed the tax stuff as it has been passed on for a while.

There are some issues on what our tax status was, we've been working with HSF through Anna and Karri who works there, helping us submit an

application for charity status. This is something we'll continue and hopefully resolve by the end of the year. I'd also recommend setting up a credit card request form. Expand on new initiatives budget, whoever the new treasurer is spend as much as once this is all cleared up there isn't a need to keep as much saved away and it should be spent.

VII. Election Results – 2017/18 Committee

HD:

Careers & Development Directors - Alisha D'Souza & Sophie Isabella-Chalet

Communications Director - Tara Malishev

Education Directors - Brittany Baker & Amy Rich

Environment Directors - Erin Kanygin & Lauren Miller

Equality & Social Justice Directors - Peggy Gusah & Ayman Shash

Indigenous Student Representative - Kassie McAlear

Queer Directors - Julian Donahue & Andrew Tolé

Women's Directors - Arabella Close & Hannah Gordon

Activities Director(s) - Jas Holmes & Edison Ponari

International Student Representative - Tess Roussel

Internal Competitions Directors - Karan Desai & Ken Kiat

Second Year Representative - Jessie Layman

Third Year Representative - Tess McIntyre

Treasurer - Lachlan Johnson

Secretary - Ben Henry

Director of Sponsorship - Michael Botha

Vice Presidents - Jimi Muirhead and Alana Mia Perna

President - Gus Viola

VIII. External Competitions Director Position

HD: Paper vote for the external competitions director position, to be announced later tonight. Nominees are Nico Kunz and Xu Zhang.

IX. Motion to Change MULSS Bank Signatories

DL: Motion to change the bank signatories from Henry Dow and Arj Wijegunaratne to Augustus Viola and Lachlan Johnson.

All in favour, no abstentions. Motion passed.

X. Meeting Close.