

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Advocacy & Legal Student Advisory Group**

Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 2 of Semester 1 2014 – May 14, 2014

1. Welcome and Procedural Matters

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, with a special welcome to new members.

1.1. Apologies

Declan McGonigle, Justin Baré

1.2. Members Present

Phoebe Churches (Chair), Ashley, Steve, Hana Dalton, Nadia Di Battista (Minutes), Aviya Bavati, Donna Markwell, Laura Trujillo, Greta Haywood and Paul Hornsby.

1.3. Confirmation of minutes from last meeting

Last meeting minutes were confirmed without amendment.

2. A & L Service Reports

2.1. Advocacy case work

Phoebe included the Advocacy Service Report with the meeting invitation. Fraudulent medical certificates still remain an issue. International Student Services and the Academic Registrar have taken an interest in this, and a series of videos have been made to promote awareness. Ashley suggests we promote this through the GSA networks, suggested SUAS be involved in their mid-year Orientation. Hana suggested there should be a clause on the HPR form reminding students that this should not be completed by an 'online doctor'. Paul suggested that something online at the time of lodgement may also be beneficial.

There have been recent issues with the University's Grievance Procedure. Some grievances have various components to them, and where individual staff conduct is identified as an issue, parts of the grievance may be progressed via the University's Human Resource Department for investigation. This results in a splitting of grievances across academic and administrative areas. We are seeing major problems with communication from HR to the complaint/s about the progress of the investigation. When the grievance is segmented like this, we are also seeing a failure of the central

complaints management process to provide a complete outcome to the complainant addressing all substantive issue in the complaint. SUAS has fed this back to Uni HR.

We are still seeing some CUPC appeals and have been assisting students with these.

Most of the cases that were handed over to SUAS from the GSA Advocacy Service have been closed, there are only two remaining open out of the nine that were handed over.

2.2. Legal case work

Greta spoke about the recent Legal Service statistics. It must be noted that these may not be a true reflection, as the service has been quiet busy and Greta hasn't had a chance to enter them all in.

The new contact form on the Legal Service website may account for the recent busy period, it is now even easier for students to contact us and arrange an appointment.

Phoebe and Nadia recently attended a meeting with Roger Deutscher and Ben McCarthy at Student Services to discuss tenancy matters. We have noticed a spike in students attending our service with these types of matters, and we were meeting to discuss a way to manage this collaboratively.

The Legal Service is currently undergoing accreditation with National Association of Community Legal Services (NACLC). We have had a contact come NACLC to interview Phoebe and Greta and work towards full compliance.

Greta has been working with the Public Interest Law Group, which is a club in UMSU. Future projects are in planning process.

We are still working towards our volunteer program, hopefully this will be ready to commence by the beginning of next year.

Greta spoke about a recent big case she was assisting a student with against Ormond College. This particular case has been ongoing since September last year and was finally closed with a positive outcome earlier this year.

Greta is also interested in producing a video regrading online scams. Recently there have been several students who she has seen that have fallen victim to online scams, specifically to do with their visa.

2.3 Projects and initiatives

2.3.1 Research and other projects

Phoebe will send around the YouTube “Don’t Risk It” video.

We are currently recruiting for the Exam Support Stall and Peer Support Program. Nadia mentioned we currently have 58 applications, with still a week and half to go before the Exam Support Stall ones close. The Peer Support program closes later next month. Phoebe went into detail about what’s involved with the two programs for those who don’t know.

3. Reports from Student Office Bearers

Nothing to report.

4. Other Business

The SUAS CUPC video is still in progress. Donna is waiting to hear back from a contact regarding costs. Aviya suggested UMSU International may like to get involved.

Paul raised some issues in within Graduate Education and Academic Misconduct. He has noticed some similar approaches with non-compliant outcomes. Phoebe mentioned that they do have a policy for requesting a resubmission on a pass fail basis.

Phoebe asked Ashley whether GSA Council would like to receive a specific Advocacy report prior to Council meetings. Ashley will email Phoebe dates of forthcoming meetings for this purpose.

5. Next Meeting

13 August 2014

6. Close

The meeting closed at 11:36am.