

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

MINUTES

2:00 pm, 18.08.2016

Meeting 1 of Semester 2

**Training Room 1, 3rd Floor
Union House**

Chair: Phoebe Churches, Manager, Advocacy & Legal

1 Welcome and Procedural Matters

1.1 Apologies

Akira Boardman & Paul Sakkal

1.2 Attendance

Phoebe Churches, Donna Markwell, Michelle Almiron, Paul Hornsby, Alanna Smith, Reeanna Maloney, Nadia Di Battista, Tyson Holloway-Clarke, Dominic Cernaz, Christian Tsoutouvas, Tom Crowley, Yan Zhuang, Adriana Mells, Emily De Rango.

*An attendee arrived late – name to be confirmed at next meeting.

Welcome – Reeanna Maloney, Principal Solicitor.

1.3 Confirmation of previous minutes

Confirmed by Donna Markwell.

2 A & L Service Reports

2.1 Advocacy case work

Quarterly Report

A number of critical issues were identified in the most recent report. This was circulated to the University with mostly positive responses. Some staff at the University also echoed many of the issues raised. This was discussed further at the Advocacy Reference Group. Ms Ngaere Blair, Manager, Course Planning and Equity gave a positive report on some of the initiatives Stop 1 and SEDS are taking to resolve some of these issues at a lower level. We have also been invited to attend the Special Consideration Leaders Practise Group to discuss some of these things further. Donna is attending this meeting on behalf of the service. Phoebe also met with Dr Evan Kritikakos and Dr Fiona Downie – their department are looking at ways administrative decisions can be better made. They indicated that special consideration applications increased by 700 this quarter. The University looking into processes to detect any “strategic behaviours” in students – i.e. those ‘gaming’ the system. Tyson queried the appropriateness of decisions in regards to the recent audit which showed good decisions were being made – the Academic Board is aware of these issues.

Academic Misconduct

Tyson, Paul and Tom met with the University to discuss admissible evidence in academic misconduct hearing. Phoebe is in the process of writing the quick reference guide for the student member training at the end of the month. There is general consensus that the new Student Academic Integrity policy is fairly good on paper – but implementation remains to be seen.

2.2 Legal Service

Reeanna gave an update on the status of the Legal Service. The crosscheck is happening Wednesday 24 August. We have started recruiting to fill the solicitor position and the advertisement will go online on Friday 19 August. We hope the new solicitor will start at the beginning of October, and we can re-open the service shortly after. In the future we're looking at starting a volunteer program, and possibly running a clinical placement subject/internship program.

3 Reports from Student Office Bearers

3.1 Items of interests related to Advocacy or Legal Services

Tom provided an update on FLEXAP. He recently met with Mr David Haynes regarding the accessibility of subjects. Currently there are issues around timetabling – the University is looking at a preference system as a possible solution. There was a major increase in timetabling clashes reported to Stop 1 last semester.

We discussed the late enrolment fee – Reeanna was of the view that it is potentially a legal matter if the University is charging students a fee if they enrol late – this could be considered a fine. There are also a number of other ways the University is charging (gouging?) students – e.g. obtaining a transcript and replacing their student card. These issues could be raised at the next Academic Board meeting.

4 Other Business

N/A.

5 Next Meeting

Thursday 10 November, 2016 2:00 PM.

6 Close

Meeting closed 3.08pm.
