

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

Minutes of Meeting 1 of Semester 1 2014 – February 12, 2014

1. Welcome and Procedural Matters

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

1.1. Apologies

Donna Markwell, Greta Haywood

1.2. Members Present

Phoebe Churches (Chair), Declan McGonigle, Ashley, Jim, Jess, Ella, Hana Dalton, Adam Galvin, Justin Bare, Nadia Di Battista (Minutes), Aamer Rahman.

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

Aamer discussed the issue around fraudulent medical certificates from last year, which has continued through to this year. It seems international students are falling victim to online scams, where they can purchase a HPR form with a fake provider number. Aamer is currently looking into public education and awareness around this issue. Adam expressed interest in being involved in this. Jess stated that this issue can potentially skew data for how many students are applying for special consideration.

Phoebe discussed further issues around the special consideration procedure. There has been a significant spike in genuine applications being knocked back, ones that have met the criteria. However around 90% of these who choose to appeal are upheld. The procedure is currently being reviewed again; Advocacy would like to work with Office Bearers to see what can be done. It has previously been reviewed through the Student Lifestyle Review, and UMSU has had a part in this. However it is unclear where it's at right now. David from DLU has been active in this review.

2.2. Legal case work

Phoebe spoke on behalf of Greta and distributed current Legal Service statistics. Greta has been working with UMSU International and a campaign on scams. She is also now a credited mediator.

3. Reports from Student Office Bearers

Jess gave us an update on the Disability Department, and mentioned that there is currently no student representation on the Disability Working Group.

Phoebe mentioned there is currently a grant for student engagement, and suggested that Clubs and Societies might benefit from this.

4. Directions for A & L SAG for 2014

The GSA Advocacy Service will cease operation on 1st March 2014. Phoebe has been in communication with Vyvyn Mishra, manager GSA Advocacy Service regarding case hand over and referrals. They will be continuing discussions.

Nadia discussed projects that the Advocacy Service and Legal Service are currently working on. UMSU is launching their new website in the next few days, Donna has been reviewing contents for the Advocacy Service and that seems to be up to date now and ready for the launch. Nadia is still working with Greta to review the Legal Service contents. The Advocacy Service is also in the early stages of film production for our "CUPC Video". This is aimed to students facing the Course Unsatisfactory Progress Committee and will give them a run through of what to expect in their meeting. Donna and Nadia have created a mock up, and hope to have the video complete by semester one CUPC meetings (July 2014).

Further to website development, Phoebe raised the issue of legal advice on the UMSU website. It has been brought to our attention that another department has legal advice on their page, without consulting Greta first. We are in the process of reviewing this.

Phoebe discussed a student based program within the Legal Service. This is a long term project, which will hopefully also include a volunteer program.

The Advocacy Service will be conducting its annual user survey for 2014.

In addition to this, we will also be working with Declan and the Office Bearers on training for student reps who sit on Committees. Phoebe is also currently working with Vyvyn for similar training at the GSA.

5. Other Business

Phoebe is welcoming any requests for data/information. You do not have to wait for the quarterly report to receive this information, just contact Phoebe.

We would also like you to think about the direction of the A & L SAG. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please let us know, you do not have to wait for the next meeting, feel free to contact us with any feedback at any time.

6. Next Meeting

Wednesday 14th May 2014

7. Close

The meeting closed at 11:36am.