

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Advocacy & Legal Student Advisory Group
Minutes 10:30 am, 13.05.2015
Meeting 2 of Semester 1**



Chair: Phoebe Churches, Manager, Advocacy & Legal

1 Welcome and Procedural Matters

Phoebe welcomed all those in attendance.

1.1 Apologies: Donna Markwell

1.2 Attendance

Phoebe Churches, Alanna Smith, Nadia Di Battista, Nellie Montague, Greta Haywood, Emily De Rango, James Bashford, Yan Zhuang

1.3 Confirmation of previous minutes

Last meetings minutes were confirmed without amendment by Alanna.

2 A & L Service Reports

2.1 Advocacy case work

Alanna spoke of various academic misconduct cases and supervision cases she currently has open. Phoebe mentioned that this was standard for this time of year, however according to the stats there are slightly more supervisor issues than last year. Phoebe says this may be due to the GSA Advocacy services closing, as people are only just being redirected to our service now.

Phoebe talked about the new special consideration policy. This new policy creates a single point of entry for students who have had some disadvantage to their studies. Overall, this new policy is unclear, and we need to seek clarity from the University.

2.2 Legal case work

Greta spoke of the comparison in stats from this time last year, currently there are more international student accessing our service than domestic students. This explains the influx in migration issues as the University no longer provides this service to students.

There has also been an increase in Myki matters. Phoebe is currently assisting a student at the moment with a Myki appeal. She has contacted Julian Burnside and is in communication with him regarding this matter. Earlier this month we advertised our service on social media and encouraged students to contact us if they received a infringement notice for not travelling with a valid ticket, this could explain the increase of these matters.

Greta mentioned there have been police on campus targeting student for not wearing a helmet while riding their bike through campus.

According to the stats there has also been an increase in tenancy matters, this could be due to BIP and the changes taken place in Student Services who provide tenancy assistance to students. It is also not clear to students that the University provides this assistance, many

students end up coming to our service instead as they weren't aware they could get assistance at Student Services regarding tenancy issues. Phoebe says we should monitor this closely, as it might be a SSAF issue in future.

Greta discussed the case she currently has open at the moment, student vs. Wicked Campervans. The matter has not settled and is due for court in June/July. A barrister has agreed to assist the international student pro bono.

Greta also discussed the increase in Family Law matters.

2.3 Projects and initiatives

The Legal Service Volunteer Program is underway. There are several stages, and we're currently in stage two of the first phase. We have one volunteer who started with us recently. She is not only running files, but is also working on manuals and policies for the program. Melbourne Law School is not keen to be involved in this program, as they don't believe it is appropriate for Melbourne Law students to be assisting UoM students. Phoebe is looking into other options where students from other institutions may be able to volunteer at our service and gain credit.

Nadia provided an updates on the Exam Support Stall and Peer Support Program which is coming up in June and July. We have received 90+ applications so far for both programs. Nellie indicated that her department would be interested in helping this semester.

Phoebe made mention of the academic misconduct discussion paper she has put together. We hope to produce one or two papers a year on various topics.

Greta discussed a 'scams' campaign she was working on collaboration with UMSU International. Greta produced posters and pamphlets for distribution around Union House. Greta also mentioned a consumer affairs matter she currently has on foot. She has established a relation with Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), and someone from CAV visited Union House to meet with Greta and the student.

3 Reports from Student Office Bearers

Nellie spoke about the Student Representatives Networking meeting that took place recently. She also noted the various working groups that are coming out of committee at the moment.

4 Other business

None.

5 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be in August, date TBA.

6 Close

Close: 11.33am