

**University of Melbourne Student Union
Advocacy & Legal Student Advisory Group
Minutes 10:30 am, 13.08.2014
Meeting 1 of Semester 2**

Chair: Phoebe Churches, Manager, Advocacy & Legal

1 Welcome and Procedural Matters

Phoebe welcomed all those in attendance.

1.1 Apologies

Justin Baré and Paul Hornsby, Nadia Di Battista

1.2 Attendance

Phoebe Churches, Greta Hayward, Donna Markwell, Candy Tang, Goldie Pergl, Jim Smith, Ashley McInnes

1.3 Confirmation of previous minutes

Last meetings minutes were confirmed without amendment

2 A & L Service Reports

2.1 Advocacy case work

Phoebe included the April- June Advocacy Service Report with the meeting invitation.

2.1.1 Assessment/equity issues with group work

Donna raised some equity issues with group work and students with a disability. Students taking leave for a disability are impacted with Group Work – and the University currently offers no adjustment.

Phoebe suggests talking to Gloris Willoughby regarding this issue.

The Special Consideration policy is being rewritten and it's looking quite good – but nothing for group work activities.

Disability Unit has reported a large number of students reporting this issue from a particular faculty.

More generally it was noted that there is confusion regarding policy development at the Uni. The old Melbourne Policy Framework has been discontinued. Uni has confirmed that means no new policy will be issued during this time, however it seems new policies are being enacted via an informal method, and Advocacy isn't being notified.

Advocacy is coming to the end of their Uni contract (end in May 2015).

Uni Reference Group with hasn't met in sometime. Issues with this include accountability and that there is no two way mechanism for any issues to be discussed. Reference Group is now meeting before the end of the month. We have no reason to believe that the Uni will discontinue funding, but we need to know their intentions.

Conducted the annual service user survey in June. Return rate was very low so will re-do survey in October to get more data.

2.2 Legal case work

Stats– numbers are slightly out of date due to increased workload. Increase in migration work being requested, potentially due to census dates coming up.

Stats compare favourably to same time last year.

Large volume of complex files during period.

Attended a Tenants' Union session : really informative, good information on when to refer.

Community Legal Education : Commerce week for women – Greta is presenting on work rights, employment and business structures. Donna is also presenting for the week.

2.3 Projects and initiatives

2.3.1 Research and other projects

- CUPC walkthrough Video project
Donna has received costings from various providers – have locked one in. Filming starts in October. Shots on south lawn, systems gardens, students centres. 4 minute film aimed for – will be a great initiative. Other Unis have done this before – but this aims to be a lighter, broader experience. Cost will be roughly \$3300. Cost cutting with everything – no lighting, no sound – all shot with still camera from POV.

2.3.2 NACLC Accreditation

Coming along slowly. Waiting for MUSUL to get policies approved – now to be approved in October.

2.3.2.1 Policies for review – Legal Service.

Deferred until next meeting due to low attendance

2.3.3 Legal Service Capacity Building Steering Group

Expressions of interest will be sent out soon.

Aim to hold over main discussion until next meeting.

Capacity needs to be built within service. Have talked about student volunteering – first step is to work out demand and need of students. Phoebe is hoping to establish the above steering group to help figure this out.

3 Reports from Student Office Bearers

No reports.

4 Other Business

5 Next Meeting

Next meeting – final for year will be held on Wednesday 12th November 2014.

6 Close

11:14 pm
