

Clubs Council Executive Meeting Agenda/Minutes

2019-07-15

Brian Kenyon Student Space

Meeting Opened: 6:10pm



1. Acknowledgement of Country

Delivered by James

2. Attendance and Apologies

In Attendance:

Skanda
James
Cahill
Jason (left at 7:17pm)
Sam
Jacob
Claudia
Ben (arrived 7:04pm)

Apologies:

Ebe
Stavros
Niam
Ji

Absent:

Eli
Paris
Dash
Matthew
Andrea
Emily
Esha
Andrea



3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest & Confidentiality

Claudia: Now the sec of MTC

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4. Actionables Arising

a. Cahill to start Club visibility working group

Cahill: That's done, first meeting week 2.

b. Jason to start constitutional/independence/postgrad representation working group

Jason: Have done, had some concerns about diversity of people who volunteered, a little better now but still not great, if non-white dudes could volunteer that'd be great.

c. James to check back with Eden about talking to Zyl about the expectations of PARSA representative attendance at CCE meetings.

James: still in talks with Zyl apparently, we have received apologies from Emily, not Paris. Will get an update next week.

5. Budget and Process Reporting

Jacob: Everything is going fine, one thing worth mentioning is that AFEC was paid 1300 instead of ASOC, they returned it. I have just remembered that I intended to follow that up, so that's the thing. We have now paid per the run 80,266.78, zain changed the run and it is somewhat better. Anyway, we have probably only actually paid 78,000ish. A bit more than ideal. This is roughly where we expected to be end of last term. Probably good to discuss. CCM3 is an option or tightening admin or emergency powers. The best option is to rein in spending ASAP.

Jason: The aim for expenditure at the end of the last payment period was 65 grand, so we're significantly over going into ball season, I suspect we at current rate of expenditure will hit around 175,000. Obviously can't do that.

Jacob: Much stricter application of the funding policy. That would look like clubs not getting money they would expect. Might be a reason to have an earlier CCM.

Jason: other risks we have to consider is that clubs reject changes to funding policy. Worried that by the time we hit 75% it'll be too late. Is it may be possible to reallocate some other money from ANUSA budget?

James: when I've discussed it with Eden she indicated that it was very unlikely

Jason: The other thing is the Ian thing. There was a grant and Ian pointed out to the club that they could get significantly more money and approved it for the greater amount.

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Jacob: Eleanor spoke to me, she said that if clubs make a mistake, I would make the call about whether the club would be informed.

Recurring Actionable to discuss budgetary position at CCE meetings.

6. Portfolio Reports

James: Most recently I was scheduled to have a meeting with Eden, didn't happen. I did eventually meet her, Monday last, about the tax issue. I met with Eden, Sam, Michael, Liana, Eleanor; Ill discuss later. Also discussed the Ian issue, asked about the gov review. CC is not getting chopped necessarily, but looked at considerably.

Jason: Long time since my last report. I went on the ANUSA retreat, it was good to work with people in ANUSA I hadn't so much, for professional development. During that, the tax issue came up, in large part thanks to Jacob. I'll let him speak to it but it's bad, clubs will probably be liable for substantial amounts of income tax.

Sam: missed a couple of days sick, tax discussion, some actionable out of that. I'll be finishing on the 30th of August.

Skanda: not much over the break, welcome to help out on the constitutional working group. Email access issue

Cahill: made the working group with Ji and Ebe, CSSA and Women in Leadership. CSSA is complicated, Women in Leadership is good with a few tweaks. The AP reforms are underway, work from me and Jason, we will have a meeting this weekend/

Clausia: meeting with Claire Holland, also trying to bet a meeting with Marnie mount, Kambri is being good, v helpful, I have been talking to theatre clubs to see where the push back is and it is ANU not Kambri.

Jacob: I too went on the retreat, it was a good and productive time. We expressed to the ANUSA exec the desire for named officers to go again. Tax came up, some clubs had sent emails about tax returns, became a large concern for me. There was a meeting about it, was not there. I don't know everything from that meeting. Seems like something has come out of it, seems the problem is still there. Some clubs if audited would be liable for thousands. I have dealt with an issue when Ian approved for significantly more than they applied. It would have been an interesting question whether they could have gotten that, but you don't get more than you apply for. I've been talking to Chinese Debating, they are trying to get around the SEEF exclusion, we don't have a problem, SEEF might.

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Jacob for Ebe: Read Clubs Awards document in the community channel. Register attendance for union event, and publicise it. Make sure to have people roaming around on market day to help Clubs.

Jacob: If anyone wants to volunteer for bush week pls do.

7. Items to Discuss or Decide

7.1. Vacancy of 'Humanitarian, Social Justice and Advocacy' and 'Discipline' Branch Officer Positions (James, Discuss and Decide)

James: resignations in space of a week, good reasons. Harry, Sad to see him go. Abigail also resigned because of an exchange, also resigned. Concerned about resignations, but better to resign than creep on. There was some discussion whether to fill the positions, now with two vacancies I think we probably should. I think we should discuss the issue here.

Jacob: I agree that we should fill, especially with two vacancies. Was sympathetic to Jason's argument initially, was then convinced by Ebe's point that we need a point of contact for those clubs.

Cahill: I agree with Jacob, I originally thought we could just put a gen rep in but now think an open app would be good

Jason: When it was Harry I thought we should just not fill it; mostly thought the difficulty of training someone would outweigh the benefit on a new officer. Not sure filling the role was necessary. The Branch Officer position varies in importance a great deal - some branch clubs talk to their officers, some don't. I think position is somewhat redundant. Now there are two vacancies, I kind of agree - mainly need the two bodies.

Ebe (via Jacob): Also, opening the Branch Officers up gives us a chance to get more keen first and second years involved

James: first vacancy was community, filled by Ebe and a few branches that were uncontested. I think the format depends on the number of applicants. I'm of the opinion that only the in meeting interviews are necessary. **Ill create that form by the end of the week.**

Jason: Optical issue in filling lots of vacancies. Organizational issues can create a contagion of failure - more people could resign. However, think this is fundamentally better this year - people doing their jobs and less senior people resigning compared to last year. Part of this is keeping morale up - internal social events important.

James: CC retreat has been discussed within ANUSA. Can also have our own social events but be aware that might be a thing - would be great if can get it done before Sam leaves as well.

7.2. Review of Branch Officer Position (Jason, Discuss and Decide)

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Jason: This flows on from the discussion we just had. Certain branches don't really work - no shared interests and no communication with Branch Officer. Skanda's perhaps is most like this. Claudia's the reverse. Perhaps worth a thought whether all the Branch Officer positions should exist next year, whether some should be optionally not filled.

James: Inclined to agree. Long thought how CC in current form has been quite odd. If we do reduce number of members depends how many we reduce it by. Quorum reduction might be considered. While we have a great team here, quorum has been a problem in the past.

Jason: Efficient board size is an issue - AICD training suggests most efficient board size is between 7 and 15 members, we have 21. Should probably have some appointed people and have something of a hierarchy.

Skanda; Jason correctly identified that my branch is the most questionable, they have no shared interests, the engaged ones just go straight to other parts of CCE, others don't at all. I don't think any would lament the end of the special interest branch. There may be an issue of inequity of representation

Claudia: I agree that some branch officers have a situation where there is no engagement, I am in a situation where there are well organized clubs who have problems and need a point of contact. In addition to MTC, this position has been of value to many other theatre societies.

James: last year there were a number of uncategorized clubs, there was a push to make sure every club has a branch. A number of clubs just don't engage. Maybe they'll engage in future years. Some clubs are just independent, LSS for example. Any reforms will be in the regs.

Jason: I think that is a good idea, this should be a working group. I think one thing that is good to do is identifying where branches officers are useful

Jacob: I kind of feel we're conflating interests and how to provide support. Maybe that works for theatre, specific interests. While special interest makes sense for a category, does not make sense to have a branch.

Jason: I don't have time for running another working group

Skanda: Actionable for a working group

7.3. CCM date and location (James, Discuss and Decide)

James: looking at week 3 Friday, climate walk out at 12, might be an issue. Super floor was stolen from us. CC is homeless. We're looking at China in the World. There are expressions of preference for Friday, Friday also has issues. Seems like Friday week 5, the 23rd of August, 9 till 1 pm. Jason suggested bringing it here for discussion.

Jason: I back that time, better than cramming things in, gives prep for some stuff

Jacob: only argument for is that the funding policy needs change. I would prefer later. Worth being aware of the funding issue

Cahill: keep in mind is that elections are week 5,

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Jason: ahh, that's not good. week 4?

James: Only Monday, Wednesday, Thursday. Ebe can't come

Cahill: the elections end on Thursday night

Jason: well no problem then

James: stick to the 23rd, then

Sam: to book 9am till 1pm, Friday the 23rd of august.

- 7.4. Funding Data Analysis Update (Question, Jason, Held Over)
Tabled.

- 7.5. Executive Payment (Discuss, James, Held Over)

James: The idea is getting at least the named officers paid but we need to figure out whole system of honoraria like ANUSA. Will all be up to working group. I'll create another channel on Slack for that. If you're interested, please express so now. I will of course be part of this working group. To be added to the channel: James, Skanda, Jacob, Ben, Cahill, Sam, Jason.

James moves to form working group to discuss executive compensation.

Seconded by Jacob. Passed unanimously.

James: create Slack channel for working group and add people above.

- 7.6. Income Tax for Clubs (Update and discuss, James, Held Over)

James: I'll give the general gist of what went down. Effectively, the ATO is seeing tax returns from clubs - we know of around 8.

Sam: There's 30 letters which haven't been opened at BKSS from same postbox, but may not be all from ATO.

James: Seems mainly aimed at clubs formed around 2016 under GAC. ATO also seeking returns for clubs which don't have execs.

Sam: This includes some clubs which no longer exist - the ANU Eager Learning Society.

James: Clubs are registered as unincorporated associations in their ABNs. Need to find out if these clubs are tax-exempt entities. Financial Controller says they may need to pay tax if there is assessable income. ANUSA charity so don't have to pay income tax. We will look at their assessable income and tax categories. If there is income from non-members, it might be assessable income. Relationship to ANUSA talked about and how that works with ATO. If we give them a reimbursement it means the money is our expense which is not this case. LSS have own accountant and do tax returns - are registered charity. I raised in this meeting that it was important to note that clubs are mostly formed by interested students without awareness of tax liability. While ANUSA doesn't have to take full accountability it's vital that we do everything we can - didn't tell clubs that they would be assessable for tax. In future if they are assessable we should inform them when affiliating - hopefully wouldn't discourage. General summary: Will be some discussion through Tag on the ANUSA Staff side, to see how other unis are handling. ATO likely to be contacting other student associations etc.

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Jacob: Essentially, there are two ways a not for profit can be exempt from income tax - one is being a registered charity, the other is falling into one of 7 categories. IMO, only relevant one of those is "cultural" - essentially the Arts and Performance branch. I don't think really any other clubs fall into categories - therefore around 100-110 are not exempt from paying income tax. Income tax for not for profits kicks in at \$416 of assessable income. Non-assessable income is income from members - fees, tickets to events that members buy. Assessable income includes sponsorship and grants. Confusion as to whether our grants would be considered grants for the purposes of this legislation - might be considered sponsorship. A number of clubs receive substantial sponsorships from external sources - this would all be assessable. My opinion is that ANUSA grants and SEEF funding would also be assessable. Then have deductible and non-deductible expenses, and apportionable expenses, which are divided between the two. Non-deductible are expenses on providing benefits for members - which is most of what clubs spend money on. If ATO views it as us granting clubs money and them spending it on their members, some clubs would have 10 grand a year of assessable income. Deductible is money they spend on benefits for non-members - i.e. ball tickets, however much is spent on food and drink. Basically, some clubs would be really fucked - would have net assessable income in 10s of thousands. Income thresholds are no joke - 55% under \$900, I think in the 40s above that. So some clubs would have a tax bill over \$4000. This is a bad situation. I hope that some part of that is wrong. The other option is that we can work out a way to avoid any clubs actually having to pay that money for their existing liabilities. This is difficult. At the very least, we need to be working on a path forward that won't lead to more years of unpaid tax debt. I looked up how some other student societies around Australia do it (USYD, UNSW & UQ) - UQ & UNSW are vaguely similar to us in that all their clubs have ABNs. What concerned me even more was that it didn't appear that any USYD clubs have ABNs. I probably trust the USU most to not fuck this up, so perhaps they cottoned onto this potential issue at some stage and have a different relationship between the USU and the clubs which allows them to not have to pay tax. ANUSA & USU as registered charities don't have to pay tax themselves - if clubs are a part of ANUSA that might be a way forward, but I understand that people at the meeting were not keen about that.

James: Myself or Jacob will keep CC updated as this situation continues. I foresee there will be an update for at least the next few meetings.

8. Funding Items

8.1. Science Society Student Life Discretionary Grant (Decide) (See Appendix A)

Jacob: Essentially, SciSoc went to Mt Stromlo to do something some night towards the end of last year. They'd originally booked the ANUSA bus, but the person who had the bus before them was running late, so they couldn't use it. However they'd already planned event, so they had to hire buses to get people out

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there. It was \$408.50. Their original application had a problem - they put bus expenditure on income field of application form. This was submitted last October, shortly after event (and shortly before exam period). Admin assistant at the time queried their error. The application was never resubmitted that year, but fixed and resubmitted at the start of this year. SciSoc said they never received communication about resubmission last year because it was handover period and exams - deadline passed without them knowing, and new President only found out this year. Question of whether just querying it and not emailing them amounted to an administrative error - was decided that it was not. This grant is a way for them to get that money. My opinion is that we should approve this grant. I know we are currently in a bit of a budgetary situation but SciSoc had to spend money they didn't expect to on this event and because of factors that were not within their or our control, they didn't realize they had to correct a very minor error in their application. Really just putting a number in the wrong box - don't feel like they should be out a significant amount of money for that.

James: Have they paid for it?

Jacob: Yes - this is why I won't be deeply crushed if this doesn't pass. \$410 matters to SciSoc, but they've been able to absorb the cost - has a meaningful impact on their liquidity, however.

Skanda: Has this kind of thing happened before due to mix-ups during exam period?

Jacob: Not that I know - important to note it was not an administrative error.

Skanda: I was more asking if it should be normal practice for SciSoc to check this in handover?

Jacob: If I was in that position, I would have, but not sure if we can necessarily hold everyone to that standard. If it happened with the new mid-semester funding deadlines, I'd be more skeptical. I think it would be good for clubs to emphasise both internally as their teams are outgoing and to their incoming execs that they should check MSL regularly, but the reality is that a lot of clubs don't.

Motion to approve the Science Society Student Life Discretionary Grant (See Appendix A).

Moved: Jacob

Seconded: Sam.

Passes unanimously.

8.2. Chinese Debating Society Capital Expenditure - Banners (discuss and decide) (see execmeetings channel on slack and Funding Policy s4.3.3)

Jacob: They submitted an application the other week for 4 banners to replace old banner. When queried why they needed 4 rather than 1, which most other clubs have, they said they needed 4 banners to be in 4 venues at a relatively major debating competition that they're holding here next month. My view is that this is not, in the words of the Funding Policy, a reasonable thing for a club to ask

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for capital expenditure for. While it would be nice for them, not something they're regularly running - an occasional thing, and even if necessary for this, would be sitting around for the rest of the year. I think this raises another issue where capital expenditure is meant to be something durable that clubs would regularly reuse. Want to move a motion under 4.3.3 of Funding Policy to deem this expenditure unreasonable. Upon my advice, they've separately applied for one banner (which has been approved), so this grant request is now for 3 banners.

Motion to deem expenditure unreasonable and unnecessary under s 4.3.3 of the Funding Policy, and reject grant accordingly.

Moved: Jacob

Seconded: Skanda

Passes unanimously

9. Other Business

Actionable to discuss how we plan to deal with funding.

10. Recall Actionables

- a. **Recurring Actionable to discuss budgetary position at CCE meetings.**
- b. **James to create form for Branch Officer vacancies by the end of the week.**
- c. **Skanda to create Branch Officer role discussion working group**
- d. **Sam to book China in the World Lecture Theatre 9am till 1pm, Friday the 23rd of August.**
- e. **James: create Slack channel for executive payment working group and add people.**
- f. **Actionable to discuss how we plan to deal with funding.**

11. Meeting Close

Meeting Closed: 8:10pm

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Appendix A - Funding Applications

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1HZnXkbmYSTQKeq7-Z4YkwFdBssJOdFcP>