**UniSC LSA AGM Meeting Minutes**

**Held: K Block, Lecture Theatre 8**

**Date: 21.09.2023**

**Time: 6:00pm**

**Chairperson**: Ashley Pearson

**Returning** **Officer**: Teddy Henriksen

**Members Present:**

1. Taylor Medwin
2. Eboni Sydes
3. Teddy Henriksen
4. Simone Henriksen
5. Kaelah Cave
6. Nicola Yfantis
7. Tara Phillips
8. Jenna Ryan
9. Shelby Bennett
10. Bella Blunt
11. Georgia Coen
12. Aviendah Dwyer-Flynn
13. Holly Trickett
14. Gunter Nolle
15. Jessica Cherry
16. Vienna Mitchell
17. Leneyah Solomon
18. Renee Glau
19. Harry Youren
20. Ruby Natoli
21. Emma Bryan
22. James Wood
23. Emily Paul
24. Amelia Strazdins
25. Jackson Bayley

Total Full Members = 25

**Apologies:**

* Liam Donovan

**Preliminary**:

Ashley gave an acknowledgement to country.

Reached quorum was reached.

Quorum: Under the Associations’ Constitution, quorum at this annual general meeting is equal to the number of members in the Committee. The current Committee is 16 and therefore established at 6.00pm.

Previous minutes confirmed by motion by Ruby Natoli. seconded by Taylor Medwin.

**Executive Reports**

**President Report by Eboni Sydes**

* Eboni stated a huge thank you to the committee for all their effort and time.
* She noted that this association is terrific advocate for every student.
* ALSA
	+ ALSA is the peak advocacy body for every law student in Australia.
	+ Kelly Telford and Mitchell Bell competed in the ALSA negotiations competitions.
	+ She and Bella Blunt attended key education sessions which was a great resource for engagement with other university and regional firms’ session. Michael Kirby J – spoke and was fantastic.
* The law school has been amazing this year. A big thank you to the newest members Leon and Alex for the effort they have already put in. The law school have already purchased tickets for law ball.
* Eboni is confident in the LSA, and its ability going forward and provided her thanks again.

**Treasury Report by Shelby Bennett**

* Shout out to Eboni and Bella as her director for all their support.
* This year saw a very successful prospectus with most previous year sponsors keen to get on board again.
* We have raised almost $12,000.00 this year with packages and events for purchase.
* Prospectus is recommended to be used for next year.
* The LSA has made a $5,111.54 profit this year.
* We have paid a ALSA invoice paid recently and had the ability to send ALSA attendees as we were tracking very well this year.
* The decrease in events this year saw an increase profit and good quality events.
* We were 3 members below the previous financial year in 2022.
* Overall, we tracked very well this year.

**Events Report by Ruby Natoli**

* Unofficial O’Week event had 35 attendees and overwhelmingly positive feedback.
* White party welcome back event was held at The Dock, Mooloolaba. The event had 75 attendees and was success. There were 90 tickets redeemed but only 75 attended which may have due to the fact the event was free. The venue was not as accommodating as in the past, Ruby suggested a new theme for new year and noted feedback that the white theme was overdone.
* Law on tour was a new event that replaced nibbles and networking. We wanted to look beyond the textbook and find connection to the profession. The speakers where great fits for the event that ran like ‘speed dating’ but with lawyers/students. It is recommended that this event continues in 2024 as 30 students attended.
* Wild wild west welcome back was a casual and a great way to open the semester.
* Women in law had a substantial attendance this year with 75 people. There is a growing importance around this issue. Publications did an amazing effort at marketing the event. Ashley as MC and all the speakers helped sell the event through their achievements and public figure hood. The venue delight to work with even though the feedback from last year was that they were hard to deal with it.
* Law ball is to be held soon. There are 75 tickets sold as of today. In 2022, tickets sales reached 122 and we are hoping to match those numbers. There will be a photo booth, DJ, bar tab for 4 hours and a photographer.
* For the year Ruby had a shared Google doc for her and her team with all the detail and actionable of their events. It was 26 page and tick boxes for when tasks were complete. She said it was seamless to know what tasks were complete and for everyone to know which tasks belonged to each member.
* The attendance in general at events has been lower than previous years.
* Thank you to Amelia and Tara, the events Directors.

**VP Competitions Report by Vienna Mitchell**

* In Semester One negotiations was held and in Semester 2 the mooting competition.
* The negotiations competition was the biggest at USC to date. There were 8 teams and 3 rounds were held.
* The sponsors where Brandon and Gullo and Ashlee said that he was so impressed with the LSA generally.
* The negotiation finalist team consisting of James, Kelly and Caleb were amazing and went to ALSA in Sydney.
* Vienna thanked her team for their dedication, especially Kaelah, Director of Competitions, and sponsors.
* A mooting competition was also heard this year and it was a success that this competition ran given that last year we could not get enough sign ups to run the competition.
* The mooting competition is a massive workload and we had 2 teams who competed.
* The winners were a first-year group who went up again 3rd and 4th year students. The winners received a $300 voucher for their efforts.
* Vienna noted that Mac from Sajen Legal said he was so impressed and that we have anyone at this point in the semester given it held in a later week.
* Again, Vienna expressed a massive thank you to Kaelah and Liam, the
* Vienna thanked her team for their dedication, especially Kaelah, Directors of Competitions.
* For the next Vice-President of Competitions Vienna expressed that delegations are key as directors are there to help and they want to help and said to lean on them.
* She further noted that the problem bank for the ALSA competition is not always proofed too well. She suggested to read the scenarios well to make sure all the names and dates make sense. She wished the next Vice-President of Competitions good luck.

**Education Report by Jenna Ryan**

* The education portfolio had a busy but successful year.
* Jenna thanked her Directors James, Jessica and Emma, especially in terms of them balancing their commitment with the LSA with life and study.

Law Buddy Program

* This year’s intake was quite small and there were 10 first years who signed up.
* Jenna noted that maybe students believed they had enough support from teaching staff.
* The buddies this year were allocated to committee members, instead of previous years where the senior year students in law school were asked to undertake these roles.
* In reflection we should have defined what support was allowed as there was lots of help asked for in relation to assessments and essay structure. A collection of resources would be helpful as well as, a guide for what the role of the buddy is.

Street Law Skills

* First time holding this event as it was a suggestion of the By-Laws (however, the event is defined well)
* Theme was motor vehicle life skills and the law surrounding.
* The second seminar was legal super. Which provided a different topic to insurance and shared details super and home buyers schemes. Attendees found this information very valuable.

Well-being Breakfast

* Attendance was capped at 50 attendees, but we could have sold more. We capped the number as we wanted to run the event with certainty.
* Venue, Pavilion Mooloolaba, was hard to coordinate with.
* Jenna would re-consider the costs of the gift packs, as you don’t break even on if giving $10 gift packs.
* Sponsor tickets are a strain costs wise and a suggestion to reduce tickets given to sponsors for financial reasons and the impact on the students. Impact on the students as the event was sponsor heavy.

Careers Night

* Moved to Semester 2 so that the education portfolio could focus on street law skills for Semester 1.
* Panel 1 was guest speakers from private practice and Panel 2 was an in-house lawyer, a judges associate and a Prosecutor.
* 4-5 student and family’s form high schools’ attendance which was great to see and show us how we have developed good connections.

Diversity Event

* Jess, Director of Diversity ran this event with no input from Jenna.
* Struggled with the event given that no funding from the university is supplied anymore as it used to be.
* Hard to get up and going with the pressure of sponsors.
* Jess did well to manage expectations for this event and it was a great night.

Jenna thanked her portfolio for the year

**Publications Report by Aviendah Dwyer-Flynn**

* Thank you to everyone who was on the team this year.
* Reels were incredible engagement wise and did so well. Engagement went up a lot because of the reels.
* Instagram engagement went up a lot and reach on Facebook as well.
* They had an aesthetic change to make it less messy and worked well.
* Sponsors posts were lacking as some of the sponsors did not provide them.
* Aviendah suggested to keep up the reels, even though they can be difficult.
* She further suggested to keep constant posting and to make the content fun.

**Retiring Executive**

* President: Eboni Sydes
* Secretary: Taylor Medwin
* Treasurer: Shelby Bennett
* Vice President of Events: Ruby Natoli
* Vice President of Competitions: Vienna Mitchell
* Vice President of Education: Jenna Ryan
* Vice President of Publications: Aviendah Dwyer- Flynn

**Retiring Committee**

* Director of Equity and Diversity: Jessica Cherry
* Director of Sponsorship and Finance: Bella Blunt
* Director of Well-being: Emma Bryan
* Director of IT: Georgia Coen
* Director of Events (social): Amelia Strazdins
* Director of Competitions (Skills): Kaelah Cave
* Director of Competitions (Internal): Liam Donovan
* Director of Legal Hands: James Woods

**Retiring Representatives:**

There are no current representatives on the 2023 committee.

**Election of New Committee**

The elections for both executive and committee positions for 2023 were held.
See ‘Annexure A’.

**Special** **Business**

Eboni asked if the members had any special business to raise.

No special business notice was provided to the Committee.

**Other Business**

The law school raised whether there should be a Moreton Bay portfolio.Law school posed to Committee whether they would be willing to take on the role and Committee noted that they have confusion on what that would look like, at this time. It was noted there are 30 first years at Moreton Bay and people from Sippy Downs campus could bridge the gap between the two campuses. At the moment within Sippy Downs running events down there isn’t financially viable. Law faculty suggested they be able to fund a bus and said they need to work out some finance hoops. They are working towards a budget to freely support the LSA and have more support from the LSA. Committee asked law school what they see us doing in Moreton Bay? An Event down or maybe just a coffee catch-up, something social and nothing more at this stage. There are also academics are based in Moreton Bay, being Dale, Ash, Kelly. We can discuss amongst us Moreton Bay law faculty.

Ruby Natoli raised the issues with engagement this year and asked generally how to get more students engaged in the LSA. Teddy said that is hard to help as there is no lecturers and slides for weekly content 4 weeks in advance. The LSA can work on their communication with those factors in mind. Lecturers noted that they LSA could do a welcome back reel on canvas, as a video file and would be great if it was an overview of the whole semester ahead. Simone noted to have more fun events and less education events. Noted that networking is great, but it is probably better for well-being to focus on social events, as students need a break from learning.

Amelia raised having a staff representative for the LSA to guide us. Law school noted that staff should be members as a first step. Suggested a meeting with the law school and LSA in the early weeks of semester to liase for the year. Eboni raised that ALSA some of the associations have scheduled meetings with the dean of their school. More frequent meetings with the law faculty would be ideal. Bella noted that the staff attendance this year was amazing. Jess noted that it was a great to see the mix of the years at all events. Asley noted we need to work on the gap between the LSA, faculty and high schools. She understands that volunteering is a financial commitment, and we have to pay for that. An LSA table from the law school could be considered for 2024. Gorgia raised that a random member ship draw idea price could be a good idea. Teddy noted that if every staff member had a membership, it totals the value of a law ball ticket. James raised that having the law school more involved will boost engagement and increase transparency in what we are doing.

Ashlee asked if we would consider re-branding and moving away from old university colours. Taylor noted that we have been taking some steps but noted that LSA is moving with the changes from the university. Ashley said the LSA is a reflection of the UniSC brand. Marketing colour guide could help bridge the gap. It was noted that no Committee knew the LSA had the university old colours. Ashley noted that the colour is more important than the name to the university.

Eboni reminded Committee that handover in November 1st.

**Conclusion**

Taylor thanked the Returning Officer, Chairperson and the outgoing committee. She then congratulated the incoming committee of 2023. Taylor then called the meeting to a close at 7:42pm.

**Annexure A**

**USC LSA Committee for 2023 as of 21 September 2022.**

**Executive**

* Vienna Mitchell, President
* Taylor Medwin, Secretary
* Ruby Natoli, Treasurer
* James Wood, Vice-President Competitions
* Aviendah Dwyer-Flynn, Vice-President Publications
* Amelia Strazdins, Vice-President Events
* Emma Bryan, Vice-President Education

**Committee**

* Nicola Yfantis, Director of Equity and Diversity
* Gunter Nolle, Director of Finance
* Renee Glau, Director of Wellbeing
* Leneyah Solomon, Director of Events (Professional)
* Holly Trickett, Director of Publications (Professional)

**Vacant Positions**

* Director of IT
* Director of Events (Social)
* Director of Publications (Social)
* Director of Legal Hands
* Director of Competitions (Internal)
* Director of Competitions (Skills)

Signed by President and Secretary:

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Eboni Sydes, President Taylor Medwin, Secretary