

# **MLMSA**

Melbourne Law Masters  
Student Association

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday 27 March 2014

6:30pm – 7:30pm

Room 611, Level 6

Melbourne Law School

**Attendees:**

Kaye Nankervis, Program Manager (MLM)  
Emma Manning, President  
Angela Lee, Member  
Chaudhry Ali, Member  
Vindya Liyanaarachchi, Member  
Vivek Kumar, Member

**Apologies:**

Professor Cheryl Saunders, Associate Dean (MLM)  
Shefali Sihag, Vice-President  
Bianca Phillips (Genziuk), Treasurer  
Mpaata Jerome Owagage, Strategy and Policy Director  
Alison Huitfeldt, Communications Director  
Diego Luis Yegros, Member

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**1. Opening Remarks**

Emma Manning welcomed the meeting and thanked Kaye Nankervis for representing the Melbourne Law Masters Office.

**2. Apologies and Attendance**

As above.

**3. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes**

The motion to adopt the previous PLSA AGM Meeting Minutes from 28 March 2013 was proposed by Emma Manning and seconded by Kaye Nankervis unopposed.

**4. Minute taker appointed**

Vindya Liyanaarachchi was appointed as minute taker.

**5. Presentation of Annual Report**

In the absence of MLMSA Vice-President, Shefali Sihag, Emma Manning presented the MLMSA Annual Report as per Appendix A. There were no additional questions or comments.

**6. Motion to adopt Annual Report**

The motion to adopt the Annual Report was proposed by Emma Manning and seconded by Chaudhry Ali unopposed.

## **7. Presentation of Financial Report**

In the absence of Treasurer, Bianca Phillips (Genziuk), Emma Manning presented the Financial Report as per Appendix B. There were no additional questions or comments.

## **8. Motion to adopt PLSA Accounts 2012/2013**

The motion to adopt the Financial Report was proposed by Emma Manning and seconded by Chaudhry Ali unopposed.

## **9. 2014/15 Executive Committee Election Results**

Kaye Nankervis announced the results of the online election which was conducted via email with votes collected and tallied by the Melbourne Law Masters Office.

The MLMSA Executive Committee for 2013/2014 was elected as follows:

- President - Emma Manning
- Vice-President - Diego Luis Yegros
- Treasurer - Bianca Phillips (Genziuk)
- Strategy and Policy - Angela Lee
- Communications Director - Chaudhry Ali
- Events Director - Vindya Liyanaarachchi

## **13. Any Other Business**

None

## **14. Closing Remarks**

Emma Manning thanked Kaye Nankervis and the other attendees and congratulated the incoming MLMSA Executive Committee.

## APPENDIX A – ANNUAL REPORT

In 2013/14 the MLMSA Executive satisfied the objectives of the Association as stated in Section 3 of the MLMSA Constitution adopted on 28 March 2013 as follows:

### Create a student community to promote social and professional networks between MLM students

In order to promote social and professional networks between MLM students the MLMSA hosted the following events:

#### **Professional Networking Event**

- 22 May 2013
- 30 October 2013

MLMSA held one Professional Networking Event per semester to enable students to develop their professional networks. The Professional Networking Event is a ticketed event which is partially subsidised by the MLMSA. The first event was held at Bluestone Restaurant and Bar and the second at Sahara Rooftop Bar. Both events were attended by over 80 students and several staff.

#### **Orientation Event**

- 25 July 2013
- 27 February 2014

MLMSA held two orientation events to welcome new MLM students to the Law School. The first event was held at Fathers Office attended by over 65 students. The second event was held at the Emerald Peacock attended by over 80 students. This event is fully subsidised by MLMSA.

#### **MLMSA Open House**

- 11 April 2013
- 16 May 2013
- 27 June 2013
- 26 September 2013
- 24 October 2013
- 12 March 2014

The MLMSA holds Open House events in the Law Building throughout the year, providing our students a forum to gather together and form new friendships and provide MLMSA with valuable feedback about their study experience. This event is usually attended by between 30 – 50 students.

In addition to the above regular events, MLMSA also hosted one Social Justice Lecture on 7 June 2013 and one Karaoke night on 28 August 2013. These events

were fully subsidised by MLMSA but were not very successful with less than 10 students attending each event.

### Facilitate interaction between MLM students and MLM academics and the wider legal community

#### **State Representatives**

In order to promote social and professional networks between MLM students based interstate, the MLMSA created state based representation. State Representatives facilitate a local network of MLM students via local meet-ups and other social or professional networking events in their home states or territories. There are presently five currently students filling state representatives roles in ACT, SA, WA, TAS and QLD.

#### **Academics**

- MLMSA encouraged MLS academics to attend the Professional Networking Events
- Promotion of MLS, LSS and GLSA academic events via the MLMSA Facebook Group

#### **Wider Legal Community**

- MLMSA President interacted with professional and academic bodies on behalf of the MLMSA
- Sharing of research and employment opportunities via the MLMSA Facebook Group

### Represent the collective interests of MLM Students within Melbourne Law School

#### **Engagement within the Law School**

MLMSA represented the collective interests of the Masters cohort on the following committees in the past year:

- Melbourne Law Masters Committee
- Student Group Representative Council
- Social Media Policy Working Group
- Wellbeing Committee

#### **International Student Representative**

In order to specifically address issues arising from international students the MLMSA created an appointed International Student Representative position to inform the Executive of any specific issues relating to International Students.

### Advocate on behalf of individual Members within Melbourne Law School

The MLMSA Executive Committee and the Melbourne Law Masters Office Program Manager meet at least once a month to discuss student feedback.

### **Facilitate knowledge of developments in law and legal thinking**

#### **Melismata**

The 2013 year saw the introduction of a Melbourne Law Masters Student Review: Melismata. The Executive Committee and Editors of Melismata are proud to introduce this new and exciting biannual publication which enables students to share their exceptional research papers amongst their cohort.

The first edition was released in February 2014. We continue to encourage students to submit their research papers for the next edition, due to be released in September 2014.

### **Organise and promote MLMSA functions, events and services**

- Develop and promote MLMSA branding and image
- MLMSA Monthly MLMSA Newsletter
- MLMSA Facebook Group (presently at almost 500 members)
- MLMSA Website
- Melsimata

## APPENDIX B – FINANCIAL REPORT

### 2013 Accounts Summary

The 2013 Opening Balance was -\$303.06.

The annual grant from the Melbourne Law School for the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013 was \$9,000.

The MLMSA raised a total of \$2,683.84 via ticket sales for the Professional Networking Events.

The MLMSA does not have any external source of funding and therefore the Melbourne Law School funding and event ticket sales constituted the entire annual income of the MLMSA for 2013.

**2013 Total Income = -303.06 + 9,000 + 2683.84 = \$11,380.78**

Predominant expenditures included the MLMSA Open House Events, MLMSA orientation events, and MLMSA Professional Networking Events held in the 2013 year. Nominal expenditures were made for the purposes of administration and production of the Melismata publication.

**2013 Total Expenditures = \$10,943.43**

**Total Income – Total Expenditures = 11,380.78 – 10,943.43**

**2013 Balance = \$437.35**

### 2014 Annual Grant

Through the effort of Executive Committee Members, the Dean of Melbourne Law School has accepted an allowance of \$10,000 for the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014.

In addition, the balance of \$437.35 from the 2013 year will be rolled over into the 2014 account.