



## **AMSS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006, 5.30pm  
Room 1.23, Eleanor Harrald Building, RAH

**Meeting opened by Daniel Hubik at 5.40pm.**

**Present:** Daniel Hubik, Briony Andrew, Adam Nelson, Ross Roberts-Thomson, Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid, Hannah Klingberg, Caroline Kronborg, Verna Aykanat, Tom Capogreco, Alice White, Ken Lim, Ian Wu, Kian Lim, Maddie Trott, Lachie Farmer, Sam Kirchner, Sophie Nelson, Mark Hassall, Martin Downs, Christopher Wong, Megan Ang, Lauren Taylor, Amanda Poprzeczny, Jared Panario, Louise Dexter, Amy Schirmer, Rick Fielke, Jenna Chiu, Dharshan Sathananthan, VickyAnne Williams, Brenton Systemans.

**Apologies:** Anthony Pisaniello, Katrina Lyne, Eamon Raith, Matthew Hauser, Lucy Crawford, Claire Frauenfelder, Erin Horsley, Nicole Hersch, Matthew Rackham.

**Guests:** Dr Heidi Beadnall, Dr Andrew Perry & Dr John Maddison.

### **1) Minutes from Committee Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**MOTION** – Moved by Daniel Hubik

“That the minutes of the last Committee meeting are a true and accurate representation.”

**2<sup>ND</sup>** – Amy Schirmer

No direct negatives

**PASSED – Unanimous**

### **2) President’s Report (Daniel Hubik – President)**

Dan began his report by thanking the Committee, especially the *Stimulus* editors and the Functions Coordinators for their recent hard work.

#### *Med Ball*

Dan announced that all Committee members are invited to attend sponsor drinks at 6.30pm prior to Med Ball.

#### *International Students*

Daniel reported that several initiatives for international students are underway. The international students’ survey and international BBQ have both been successful this year. Veena Pillai has met with the Year Level Overseas & Multicultural Representatives and identified some projects for this year. An international food festival will be held towards the end of Term 3.

**ACTION** – All Committee members to tell Dan if they are interested in assisting with the organisation of the international food festival.

### *Robson Lecture Theatre & AMSS Office Use*

Daniel asked members to ensure that all requests for bookings of the Robson Lecture Theatre be made by him or Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid, to allow for a coordinated approach. He also asked members to treat the Robson Lecture Theatre and AMSS office as working spaces and to keep both clean.

### *Electives Night*

Dan reported that Electives Night had been successful and thanked Briony Andrew and Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid for their help.

### *Curriculum Review Forums*

Dan reported that the clinical curriculum review forum had been held the previous week. He stated that good feedback was generated despite the small attendance. He announced that the preclinical forum would be held at 1pm in the Florey Lecture Theatre the following day. He reported that both clinical and preclinical students will take part in the formal MBBS review.

### *O'Brien Awards*

Dan announced the nominees for the O'Brien Awards. The nominees for the Judith Ann O'Brien Award are Hannah Klingberg, Katrina Lyne, Adam Nelson, Jared Panario, Ross Roberts-Thomson, Amy Schirmer, Vickyanne Williams and Christopher Wong. The nominees for the Daniel Mannix O'Brien Award are Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid, Claire Frauenfelder, Alok Narayan, Soon Yee Teoh, John Whitlam and Alison Zhang.

### *Touch Footy*

Dan announced that he hopes to hold this event in conjunction with Flinders Medical Students' Society. The likely date would be 27<sup>th</sup> May.

### *Election of Functions Coordinator*

Dan reported that Kate Gallagher would no longer be able to fulfill her role as Functions Coordinator due to clashing commitments. He stated that another functions coordinator is required to fill Kate's place. He informed the Committee that the Executive had discussed the matter and that, given the need to fill the position quickly and with someone of experience, the Executive recommends the appointment of Jenna Chiu without seeking other nominations. Jenna was deemed ideal due to her extensive experience as Functions Coordinator in 2005. It was established that, given the usual method of election of Functions Coordinators, a Special General Meeting is not necessary for this appointment.

### **MOTION** – Moved by Daniel Hubik

“That the Committee supports the decision by the Executive that Jenna Chiu will replace Kate Gallagher as a second Functions Coordinator.”

**2<sup>ND</sup>** – Caroline Kronborg

No direct negatives

**PASSED** – Unanimous

### *Men's Officer*

Dan reported that he had been approached by several students who are interested in filling the position of Men's Officer in an unofficial capacity. The discussion was deferred to a later meeting when these students can be present.

### *AMA Ball*

Dan announced that there are three seats still available at the AMSS table for the AMA Ball. A random draw from a list of all interested members determined that Linda Mignone, Alice White and

Claire Frauenfelder will attend the Ball. Should anyone be unable to attend, Lucy Crawford will take their place.

#### *AMA(SA) DiT Leadership Development Seminar (LDS)*

Dan announced that this LDS will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> May. The AMSS will subsidise tickets by \$30 for ten medical students. He announced that applications are now open and that preference will be given to clinical students, given that this is a DiT initiative. Dan stated that he will provide information about the application process via email and the year level bulletin boards. It was agreed that students who attend the AMA(SA) DiT LDS will not be ineligible to attend the AMSA LDS, but that their chances of being selected to attend the AMSA LDS may be slightly lower. Brenton Systemans announced that he is actively exploring the possibility of holding a local LDS for medical students in South Australia.

#### *Curriculum Review Submission*

Dan announced that he is working on this submission with Adam Nelson, Chris Wong and Martin Downs. He asked that members contact him if they would like to provide some input.

#### *Committee Med Ball Photo*

Dan asked that a photo of Committee members be taken at Med Ball. The time for this photo will be announced on the evening.

### **3) Vice President's Report (Adam Nelson – Vice President)**

#### *AMSS Logo*

Adam stated that the AMSS logo has now been completed in black and white. A colour version is also being created in the heritage colours – maroon, dark blue and gold.

#### *Diagnostic Kits*

Adam announced that he has organised a bulk discount on diagnostic kits for students in Years 1-6. These kits will be ordered via the internet and the information regarding these kits will be posted on the year level bulletin boards.

Daniel Hubik thanked Adam for his work on the logo, diagnostic kits and Med Ball menu design.

### **4) Constitution Review Working Party Update (Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid – Secretary)**

Yasmine provided an update on the Working Party for the Committee. She informed the Committee of the following Working Party recommendations:

- All Committee members will have the right to move and second motions
- All Committee members currently in existence (with the exception of Cascade Cup and Pippis Cup Captains) will be permitted to vote
- Shared positions (e.g. Functions Coordinators) will continue to share a vote
- A student will be permitted to hold more than one Committee position, but not more than one vote
- The section regarding Year Representatives in the Constitution will be changed to state their existence. The details of how many year representatives and how they will vote will become part of the Rules & Regulations.
- A clause 10.4 will be inserted in the Constitution regarding the appointment of interim officers when necessary
- The Regulations & By-Laws will be amended to reflect the process by which Med Camp, Skullduggery, Functions and Med Revue Convenors are elected

The recommendations were well received by the Committee. The Committee also agreed that the position of AMSA Junior Representative should remain non-voting as it was initially created as an apprenticeship position. It was also agreed that AURHA Representative should remain as a non-voting

position, given that they are elected by AURHA and not the AMSS. It was agreed that VYG Coordinators will be permitted one vote between them.

Daniel Hubik thanked Yasmine and Claire Frauenfelder for their hard work to date. Yasmine announced that the next meeting of the Constitution Review Working Party will be on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

#### **5) Sponsorship Officer's Report (Briony Andrew – Sponsorship Officer)**

##### *Perks*

Briony reminded the Committee that the AMSS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Perks at the end of 2005. The process of signing a formal contract is currently under way. Perks are keen to sign a three-year contract, instead of the one-year contract proposed by the AMSS. The Committee could not see any problems with this arrangement. The option for either the AMSS or Perks to withdraw from the relationship will always be part of the contract. The Committee agreed that a three-year contract may help to promote stability.

**MOTION** – Moved by Briony Andrew

“That the Committee supports the AMSS pursuing a three-year contract with Perks, subject to a review at 12 months.”

2<sup>ND</sup> – Adam Nelson

No direct negatives

**PASSED – Unanimous**

##### *Radiology SA*

Briony informed the Committee that the Executive has written a letter to Radiology SA asking for sponsorship of a series of radiology seminars for medical students. The letter will be forwarded to Radiology SA by Professor Frewin, on behalf of the AMSS. Radiology SA was identified as a potential sponsor that can provide educational benefits to AMSS members, rather than just financial benefits. The Committee thanked Briony for her work.

#### **6) Education Update (Chris Wong & Martin Downs – Education Coordinators)**

##### *Banding*

Martin Downs announced that he would be meeting with the Curriculum Committee to discuss banding the following day. He tabled the document “AMSS Position Statement – Banding”. He summarised the key points of the statement as follows:

- The AMSS supports the concept of academic feedback to students and is not opposed to the identification of students who are high achievers
- The AMSS believes that all feedback and assessment should be of high quality, and that there is a more pressing need for the provision of constructive qualitative feedback to students rather than simple bands
- The current banding system with the “A,B,C,D,E” descriptors is misleading to both assessors and students, because the descriptors are often thought to be grades
- The AMSS believes that banding is a better method of feedback than NGP
- The AMSS does not believe that the current banding system should be used on academic transcripts or in official letters as it is not robust enough. A more objective and reliable system of assessment is needed, particularly in regards to: consistency between teaching hospital assessment; more comprehensive education of assessors on the system; and clear descriptions of what constitutes high achievement.

The Committee discussed the position statement. It was generally agreed that the banding system had significant limitations, which prevent it from being used fairly on official transcripts and in letters of recommendation from the University. The Committee agreed that banding should only be limited to use as informal feedback and Rick Fielke stated that the banding system's lack of congruency and standardisation is its weakest point. Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid asked that it be made clear to all year levels that the AMSS Committee is not deciding against graded assessment or the provision of

feedback to students, but that it does not believe that the current banding system is robust enough to be used on official documents. The Committee thanked Martin, Chris, Dan and Adam for their work.

#### *Review Panel Meeting*

Martin reported that the education representatives will be meeting with the panel reviewing the MBBS course. Both the Faculty and the University are undertaking reviews. Martin stated that a range of AMSS position statements on educational issues will be created, discussed at Committee meetings and submitted to the review panels. It was agreed that these position statements should appear on the AMSS website.

#### **7) Patron's Plate Voting (Chaired by Adam Nelson – Vice President)**

Adam welcomed Dr Heidi Beadnall, recipient of the Patron's Plate in 2005. The Year 6 nominees were asked to leave. The CVs of the nominees were tabled.

Heidi spoke to the Committee. She stated that the Plate was donated in 1982/3 by the late Dr. Locket and this year it is quite important as he died last year. Dr Locket has been involved with the AMSS and was most prominent in the Tasmania Convention DVD where he talked about the "unusual" mating rituals of medical students. Heidi spoke about how the Plate recognises contribution to medical student life and is an important and prestigious award

Adam outlined the process of nominating and voting for the Patron's Plate, as per the 2006 AMSS Awards Protocol. Adam asked for discussion on the nominees of the plate. Tom Capogreco said that he thought it was important to realise that medical life is different from the boring and monotonous life of non-med people. The nominees and eventual winner of the Patron's Plate are the people involved in making Medical School so good.

Adam and Heidi went through all of the nominees one by one and outlined what they have done and asked for opinions on each. Ross Roberts-Thomson pointed out that all the nominees for the Patron's Plate and many 6<sup>th</sup> Years who have not been nominated have contributed to the life of Medical School and that it is acceptable to abstain if members do not feel confident about which candidate to vote for. Voting was conducted by secret ballot and the votes were counted. The Year 6 nominees were invited to rejoin the meeting. Adam Nelson announced that a verdict on the winner of the Plate had been reached.

#### **8) AMA(SA) & DiT Committee Update**

Daniel Hubik introduced and welcomed Drs Andrew Perry and John Maddison. They stated that they wished to provide an update on AMA (SA) and junior doctor issues and to receive feedback from students on these issues.

#### *AMA National Conference*

Andrew informed the Committee that the AMA National Conference will be held in Adelaide this year. In conjunction with the Conference, the DiT Leadership Development Seminar and the AMA Gala Dinner will also be held. He encouraged students to apply for the Leadership Development Seminar.

#### *Medical Careers Expo*

Andrew informed the Committee that the Expo will be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. It is aimed at senior medical students, interns and RMOs. It is a joint initiative of the Department of Health and the AMA DiT and is an attempt to address the workforce shortage in South Australia. Andrew also informed the Committee that the AMSS and AMA (SA) will hold a joint information session for Year 6 students about JMO issues on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

#### *Full Fee-Funded Bonded Places*

Andrew reported on the increase in bonded places at both the University of Adelaide and Flinders University. Many issues like the selection procedure for such bonded students, the conditions of the bonding and the timing of the bonding are yet to be finalised. Andrew suggested that the AMSS

submit a position statement on what the conditions of bonding should be to the Medical School, in partnership with the AMA (SA).

#### *Employment of Medical Students in Hospitals*

Andrew discussed the issue of employment of medical students as “student interns” by public hospitals in an attempt to deal with the workforce shortage. He reported that four Year 6 students were employed in such a capacity during 2005. He stated that the Medical School Curriculum Committee and the Medical Board are not opposed to this occurrence. He stated that he has concerns about this and outlined some of the key problems – such students miss opportunities for formal teaching; there is likely to be an issue of inadequate supervision of such students given the workforce shortage; and there may be issues with medical indemnity insurance. He referred members to his article in the recent edition of *Stimulus*.

John pointed out that final year students in New Zealand are employed in such a capacity. A possible solution in South Australia may be the accelerated graduation of final year students who are ready to commence internship (perhaps following an exam at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> Year).

The Committee agreed that it would be worthwhile for the AMSS to develop a policy on the matter.

John encouraged members to continue their involvement in representation once they graduate from Medical School. He asked members to consider joining the RMO societies and the AMA DiT in the future. The recent formation of the RMO Alliance has been a positive step in representation for junior doctors and the continued involvement of current medical students is required in the future. Daniel Hubik thanked John and Andrew for attending the meeting.

#### **9) Dr YES Update (Amanda Poprzeczny – Dr YES Liaison Officer)**

Amanda reported that she had recently traveled to Perth to meet with medical students who have been involved with the Dr YES program and with AMA (WA) representatives. She stated that she will recruit a team of students interested in being involved with Dr YES over the next few weeks. These students will undergo training by mid year and there will be pilot sessions of the Dr YES program in high schools next semester. She reported that she will try to recruit students in Years 1-3 for continuity’s sake. Alice White asked that a concerted effort be made to recruit students from beyond the AMSS Committee.

#### **10) Education Forum (Amanda Poprzeczny & Megan Ang – Education Forum Convenors)**

Amanda and Megan reported that the Education Forums would commence the following week in the Florey Lecture Theatre. They asked all Committee members to advertise the Forums.

#### **11) Future of IFMSA at Adelaide University (Eamon Raith)**

Discussion of this item was deferred to a future meeting due to Eamon’s absence.

#### **12) Pipp’s Cup Captain (Brenton Systemans – Senior AMSA Representative)**

Brenton reported that neither Pipp’s Cup Captain can attend AMSA Convention this year. He stated that Jane Healy and Madeleine Trott are happy to take over the roles. The Committee supported this.

**MOTION** – Moved by Brenton Systemans

“That the AMSS adopts Jane Healy and Madeleine Trott as acting Pipp’s Cup Co-Captains.”

2<sup>ND</sup> – Linda Mignone

No direct negatives

**PASSED – Unanimous**

#### **13) Any Other Business**

*VYG Update (Megan Ang – VYG Coordinator)*

Megan reported that Dr Yee Khong is no longer coordinating the VYG program and that several mentors are no longer involved. However, students have expressed an interest in being involved and

many students have already been placed into VYGs. The possibility for collaboration with the AMA (SA) in its efforts to set up a mentorship program for junior doctors was raised. Yasmine Ali Abdelhamid asked that the AMSS approach the Medical School for funding to support the VYG program, as has been suggested at several previous Committee meetings. Megan reported that it may be possible to obtain funding from the Dean. The Committee supported this idea.

**ACTION** – **The Executive** to formally submit a request for Medical School funding of the VYG program to Dean Beilby.

*ADCA Drug Harm Minimisation (Brenton Systemans – Senior AMSA Representative)*

Brenton reported that the ADCA have approached AMSA and asked for support of its drug harm minimisation policy. The AMSA Executive plans to form a position statement as guided by the medical student societies. AMSA needed the AMSS' position by the following day. The Committee agreed that it had not been given enough time to debate the matter fully and that this should be communicated to the AMSA Executive. The Committee asked Brenton to request background reading about the ADCA's stance and more time for discussion.

*AMSS Foundation (Alice White – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Social Representative)*

Alice enquired whether the \$2000 set aside in the 2005 AMSS budget for investment by the AMSS Foundation had been invested yet. It was clarified that this money has not yet been invested and that the AFIT should look to remedy this.

*Preclinical Coordinator's Report (Caroline Kronborg – Preclinical Coordinator)*

Caroline reported that the AMSS raised \$1800 on Smile Day for the WCH clown doctors. She thanked the AMSS for its donation of \$50 to purchase wigs for the day and informed the Committee that the WCH is keen to continue its relationship with the AMSS in the future. She stated that a lesser amount of money was raised for the Neurosurgical Research Foundation, but the Committee agreed that it would continue its support of this organisation in the future. Caroline reported that the Lions Hearing Dogs Association has asked the AMSS for its support. The Committee agreed that a lecture theatre collection should be done for this organisation. Caroline advised the Committee that she is looking into future ways for the AMSS to support the Starlight Foundation and the Royal Flying Doctors Service. The Committee thanked Caroline for her excellent work as preclinical coordinator and for her tireless commitment to fundraising and charity.

*Developing World Conference (Brenton Systemans – Senior AMSA Representative)*

Brenton informed the Committee that a meeting about the organisation of the 2007 DWC would be held on the following evening and that interested members were welcome to attend.

**The meeting closed at 9.05pm.**

**ACTION LIST**

**All Committee Members:**

- to contact **Daniel Hubik** if they are interested in assisting with the organisation of the international food festival

**All Executive Members:**

- to formally submit a request for Medical School funding of the VYG program to Dean Beilby