



STAMP Annual General Meeting Minutes, 29/3/2007

Meeting opened at 4.24pm.

Present:

Loretta Bartolini (Chair), Norman Do, Andrew Downes, Emily Duane, Heather Lonsdale, Ofer Manor, Anthony Mays, Alana Moore, Amy Sullivan, Alison Thomson, Abbey Trewenack, Dimetre Triadis, Paul Fijn (Minutes).

1. *Attendance*

Apologies were received from Ellie Button, Sandy Clarke and Jennifer Slater.

2. *Adoption of Agenda*

MOTION: *That the agenda be adopted in its current form.*

Moved: Alana Moore **Seconded:** Amy Sullivan

Carried without dissent.

3. *Welcome*

Loretta Bartolini welcomed new and returning members to the AGM, on behalf of the committee.

4. *Constitution*

The chair called on the secretary to discuss the constitution. The constitution was circulated in its current form. There were no amendments proposed.

MOTION: *That the constitution of STAMP, the Statistics and Mathematics Postgraduate Group, be ratified.*

Moved: Paul Fijn **Seconded:** Andrew Downes

Carried without dissent.

5. *Reports*

Loretta Bartolini reported that STAMP activity has been scaled back over the past year, primarily due to uncertain funding arrangements as a result of VSU. This meant that STAMP applied for less funding than previously, however we did subsidise attendance at the Postgraduate Ball, held regular morning teas and had a sizable contingent at the Crafternoon. Morning tea has become the first point at which problems are identified, this has led to extensive advocacy and representation work by STAMP. Loretta was the postgrad representative on the departmental Research and Graduate Studies and Honours Committees. Ellie Button is now the representative for the Honours Committee, and Emily Duane continues to be on



the Environmental Health and Safety Committee. People with issues or concerns should contact the relevant representative. Full report is attached.

MOTION: *That the President's report be accepted.*

Moved: Alison Thomson **Seconded:** Dimetre Triadis

Carried without dissent.

Paul Fijn reported that as at the close of the AGM people will need to actively sign up to be members of STAMP, namely giving the Secretary your student number and e-mail address. Paul also reported a change in funding arrangements with UMPA, whereby we need at least thirty student members, of which at least 30% are subscribers (i.e. have paid \$66) to UMPA to be eligible for maximum funding. This would represent a maximum of \$900 funding, as opposed to the maximum of \$500 for which we are currently eligible. Full report is attached.

MOTION: *That the Secretary's report be accepted.*

Moved: Abbey Trewenack **Seconded:** Heather Lonsdale

Carried without dissent.

Andrew Downes reported that we received approximately \$300 in UMPA funding, half of which was spent on the Postgrad Ball, and half which went into the bank account (originally intended for the STAMP Christmas Party). The rest of our financial activity was for morning teas, which were operated on a cost-neutral basis as a result of departmental funding. Full report is attached.

MOTION: *That the Treasurer's report be accepted.*

Moved: Loretta Bartolini **Seconded:** Alison Thomson

Carried without dissent.

6. *Affiliation to UMPA (the University of Melbourne Postgraduate Association)*

Loretta Bartolini and Paul Fijn declared that they were members of UMPA Council. Loretta Bartolini discussed the importance of UMPA to STAMP in terms of resources (financial and otherwise) and the desirability of being affiliated.

MOTION: *That STAMP (Statistics and Mathematics Postgraduates Group) re-affiliate with UMPA as a postgraduate group.*

Moved: Alana Moore **Seconded:** Alison Thomson

Carried without dissent.

7. *Elections*

MOTION: *That Amy Sullivan be confirmed as the Returning Officer for the STAMP committee elections.*

Moved: Paul Fijn **Seconded:** Alana Moore

Carried without dissent.



The Returning Officer (Amy Sullivan) explained the voting procedure:

- Contested positions to be decided by a vote;
- voting will be by a show of hands, with a simple majority deciding;
- each office-bearer position is to be filled by a single candidate; and
- there is no limit to the number of general committee positions, so a vote will take place only if concerns are raised with regards to one (or more) of the candidates.

The Returning Officer called for nominations to the following positions:

- President

NOMINATED: *Loretta Bartolini*

By: Paul Fijn **Seconded:** Andrew Downes

- Vice President

NOMINATED: *Abbey Trewenack*

By: Loretta Bartolini **Seconded:** Anthony Mays

- Treasurer

NOMINATED: *Andrew Downes*

By: Alison Thomson **Seconded:** Abbey Trewenack

- Secretary

NOMINATED: *Paul Fijn*

By: Emily Duane **Seconded:** Alison Thomson

- General Committee

NOMINATED: *Ellie Button*

By: Heather Lonsdale **Seconded:** Emily Duane

Ellie Button had previously indicated that she would be willing to accept a nomination for a general committee position, if one was forthcoming.

NOMINATED: *Alison Thomson*

By: Paul Fijn **Seconded:** Andrew Downes

NOMINATED: *Alana Moore*

By: Emily Duane **Seconded:** Alison Thomson

No more nominations were received. As there were no contested positions, and no concerns were raised with regards to any candidate, a vote was deemed unnecessary. The Returning Officer declared the result of the elections, with the new committee



being comprised of:

<i>President:</i>	Loretta Bartolini
<i>Vice President:</i>	Abbey Trewenack
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Andrew Downes
<i>Secretary:</i>	Paul Fijn
<i>General Committee:</i>	Ellie Button
	Alana Moore
	Alison Thomson

8. *Other Business*

- Alison Thomson raised concerns about the heating and cooling for student offices. This was discussed at the recent EHS committee meeting, and the department's official response was that there were insufficient funds to provide fans; accordingly students with excessively hot office spaces should work from home on hot days. Alison believed this was discriminatory as some students may not have access to a suitable work environment at home.

Additionally, Alison raised concerns that the current ad hoc basis for office allocation is unfair, she proposed that a system whereby final-year students would have access to better offices could be instituted. The basis for this is that students nearing the end of their degree have more need for a fixed space (for accumulated research materials) and are more reliant on computer facilities for the typing of their thesis. Early candidature students typically have less need for "nice" office spaces as their primary activity would be reading. Alana Moore generally agreed with Alison, however pointed out that the need for computer resources depends upon the type of project — some applied mathematics requires facilities very early to run simulations, et cetera. Loretta Bartolini was concerned with the 'work from home' idea, particularly since students don't typically have air-conditioning: thus if it is too hot to work at uni, it would also be too hot to work from home. Loretta suggested that pedestal fans could be purchased for those offices which do not have access to at least one of the following: external openable windows; air-conditioning; or ceiling fans.

Paul Fijn added that Loretta's suggestion sounded reasonable, as pedestal fans can be acquired quite cheaply (~\$15 from Bunnings) and the number required would be small.

ACTION: Loretta Bartolini is to raise this issue with the Chair of RGS Committee.

Emily Duane stated that there are issues with many offices (for example crumbling ceilings, poor heating, malfunctioning lighting) and requested that students with environmental health and safety concerns contact her so that they can be raised at the next EHS committee meeting.



MOTION: *That when better student office spaces become available, they should be offered to later-year students in the first instance, and allocated on a basis of need.*

Moved: Loretta Bartolini **Seconded:** Andrew Downes

Carried without dissent.

- Loretta reminded STAMP members that if they are experiencing issues with supervisors (particularly if due to university-imposed workloads) they should contact STAMP. Potential help may be possible to assist both student and supervisor.
- Some computer workshops were proposed, one on the use of graphics software, and a pair of website development workshops one each for Dreamweaver and HTML. They would have a strong practical focus.

ACTION: Paul Fijn to investigate the availability of relevant staff members and teaching spaces, with a view to the workshops happening in the winter non-teaching period.

- Amy Sullivan stated that she currently uses COMSOL (along with Maya Muthuswamy), a program for solving partial differential equations. The department has multiple licenses now, so the software is available for wider use than at present.
Loretta added that if students would like specific software to assist with their thesis, they should contact either her or Aleks Owczarek.
- Loretta raised the issue of RSS (Research Student Support) funding. The RSS Guidelines currently state that funding is contingent upon giving a talk; practice does not currently reflect the guidelines in that exceptions may be made. Past attempts to change the wording of the guidelines have been rebuffed, however Loretta is taking a list of possible wordings to the next RGS meeting. In the meantime, Loretta advised postgraduates that exceptions may be made, and students should discuss possibilities with the chair of RGS, Aleks Owczarek, if they wish to seek funding.

ACTION: A letter of support is to be produced, to assist Loretta with her proposal for an alignment of the RSS Guidelines with current practice.

Meeting closed at 5.17pm.