

Department of Geomatics
The University of Melbourne

Staff/Postgraduate Student Meeting 1/2006

Minutes

Tuesday, 2nd May 2006

Present: Ian Bishop, (Chair), Michele Velik, Deborah Thomas (Minutes),
Postgraduates (10)

1. Sue Hope and Rohan Bennett confirmed the minutes of the last meeting.
2. **Matters arising from the last meeting.**

Ian Bishop thanked those students who were emailing a brief outline of their meetings with their Supervisors to the Postgrad diary email address. About 90% of postgraduates are regularly posting diary entries.

A reminder to those students who are not regularly sending diary entries, the address to post to is postgrad-diary@unimelb.edu.au

Departmental Seminar feedback forms will be distributed by Stephan Winter when appropriate. Recent seminars have been either by visitors or PhD Confirmation seminars and have not been suitable forums for the feedback forms.

Matt Duckham spoke about the possibility of the Department providing funds for PhD students to buy their own computer (as per the Physics example). Matt reported that at the moment it was not known where the funds for this initiative would come from. In the case of ARC funding, there is no provision for students to own the computer after the project is completed. The recent Faculty review and the possible changes to departmental structures also make it difficult to implement a policy like this at the moment. The possibility of providing funds to students will be re-investigated when the final outcome of the Faculty review is known.

3. **Postgraduate Coordinators Report** (Ian Bishop)

Postgraduate Conference Assistance Scheme (PCAS) funding increased to \$10,000 for this year, which leaves \$3,345 for the second round of applications in July. Funding was increased for this year due to the large number of applications received in the first round (14 applications in total).

The PCAS Committee clarified some of the guidelines as follows:

- maximum \$1000 for overseas conference in which full papers are refereed
- maximum \$500 for overseas conference in which full papers are not refereed (or only maybe refereed when books or special journal issues are proposed)
- maximum \$500 for Australian conference in which full papers are refereed
- maximum \$250 for Australian conference in which full papers are not refereed (or only maybe refereed when books or special journal issues are proposed)
- maximum \$1500 to any student during the course of his or her PhD
- maximum \$500 to any student during the course of a research Masters
- for a student who has already had 3 years full-time equivalent candidature, conference registration only (to the limit above)
- students who are awarded a grant are required to submit a short report (4 or 5 lines) about their participation in the conference when they return from the conference.

The new Coursework Internship Program has been approved by Academic Board and will be trialed by two or three students in semester 2 this year. The program will be fully implemented in semester 2, 2007.

Ian reported on a seminar he attended chaired by Prof. Barbara Evans and the Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor John McKenzie. The University was looking at making structural changes to Research Higher degrees. The introduction of coursework components into the PhD was being considered in light of the changes coming into effect in undergraduate degrees in 2008. A discussion took place about the value of doing one year of coursework before three years of research.

4. **Report by GPS (Nathan Daw-Quadros)**

Nathan outlined the members of this year's GPS as follows:

Nathan Daw-Quadros – President
 Zaffar Ghouse – Secretary
 Simon Fuller – Treasurer
 Cathy Storr – Coursework Representative
 Daniel Loiterton – Member
 Anna Boin – Member
 Mohsen Kalantari - Member

Nathan reported that the possibility of running a day trip to somewhere like Philip Island had been proposed. Upon further investigation it was discovered that UMPA ran day trips like this and that if students were interested in attending they should consult the UMPA website.

The possibility of creating a GPS web page would be discussed at the next GPS meeting.

The GPS would like to include something about their group in the 2005 Departmental Annual Report and will provide Colleen with some information shortly.

There has been interest in postgraduates from other departments, mainly Chemical and Mechanical Engineering, participating in a day or weekly event against the GPS soccer group. Details will be worked out and passed on. New soccer goals have also been purchased.

5. **Any other business**

The issue of whether to continue with the Thursday morning teas was raised by Michele Velik. This initiative was originally started by postgraduates and needed the input of postgraduates to continue. There was a consensus to keep it going and many postgraduates added their name to the morning tea roster.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.35