

MINUTES FOR VACE MEETING

Elliott Wallace

11th March 2019

Meeting started: 11:07 am

Attendee's: Elliott Wallace (VACE Chair) Nitin Narula (Public Affairs Council President) Bre Shanahan (Proxy for Conrad Hogg, UWA Women's Department officer) Ayesha Friedrickson (Guild Volunteering Student Officer) Antonia Taylor (Guild Volunteering Manager)

Elliott (VACE Chair): general introduction and welcome

Went through the composition of Guild Volunteering and the agenda for the first meeting (See the attached PowerPoint for the full rundown of what was said in relation to what I would like to achieve being VACE chair for 2019.)

1: Transcript Recognition for Clubs and Societies.

Nitin (Public Affairs Council President): Believes it is important to have volunteer hours for executive positions on the guild council as well as executives in clubs and societies. Not only for the mass amount of work that they do, but as some clubs and societies are linked to fostering a positive community impact.

Elliott: pointed out the accountability issues involved with the clubs and societies wanting recognised transcript hours. If its organising events that are just "party focused" it is not fostering a great community impact. Also pointed out the fact that the guild council is political in nature. Meaning it has resources and its main focus is "representing students" unsure of whether it can be classed as volunteering.

Antonia: (Manager of Guild Volunteering): The definition of volunteering is:

'Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain.'

Concern raised about the ramifications of any changes both from a back-end perspective (admin required in collating and verifying hours) and also fielding a huge amount of queries of constitutes "volunteering" or not.

Bre Shanahan (Proxy for Conrad Hogg, UWA Women's Department officer): Volunteering should be output through the community, need to distinguish line between party like activities and "pure" volunteering.

Antonia: Key considerations are:

- How GV would manage extra administration
- Development of incredibly clear policy guidelines
- No backdating
- This is the academic transcript so essentially it's UWA that needs to make this call
- Consulting with other universities and see how they are approaching the issue, in relation to volunteering hours.

Chloe Jackson (Associate Director – Student Services): The reason for why the Student Guild has not previously recognised volunteer hours is that executive positions were privy to "kickbacks" such as discounts associated with their society. However, times have changed and we need to consider recognition of students work.

Possible solutions to this motion:

- Having a cap on the amount of volunteer hour's clubs and societies are able to be verified by the guild volunteering office.
- Including the role that student had obtained through their club and society on their academic transcript rather than the total hours (preferred by all)

Nitin: Agreed with this motion due to the importance students place on the role itself rather than on the actual hours recorded.

Antonia has since been contacted by SOC and they also agree that working with UWA to get roles and dates listed on transcripts would be the most preferable option for all.

2 – PROSH

Antonia: Would like to research initiatives that enhance the ongoing relationship with the three charities that will be PROSH donation recipients for this year, Guide Dogs Australia, Red Frogs and Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Elliott: PROSH Guild Volunteering team is organised to help set up the BBQ breakfast rave and marshalling the students onto the bus.

3. – Marketing and Commerce update

- Due to our volunteering events through O-Week and Club Carnival we now have 3.5K signs ups to our monthly newsletter, around 600 of which came through O Week. The monthly newsletter is sent out to all students who subscribe and notifies them of new and exciting volunteer opportunities.
- Progressing with Careerhub to develop new Guild Volunteering website
- GV design meeting scheduled with graphic designer Elyse.
- GV Facebook page has been reinstated, we need support with content!
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Also trying to make volunteer events in relation to themes for social impact week. For example doing some mental health based volunteering or a seminar for mental health week.

Elliott: Concluding remarks, thank you for coming, and the next VACE meeting will be delivered by email and is still to be confirmed.

4. – International Volunteering

Antonia: discussion of possible regional trips and will start to look into working on a larger project of raising awareness about ethical issues related to voluntourism and potentially looking at partnering with some screened and endorsed providers of international cultural/ eco-volunteering that do not negatively impact local communities. This project may be launched in Student Volunteer Week depending on the outcomes of rigorous research and consultation.

Meeting Concluded 12:02 PM.

Next Meeting: