



Minutes of the KPA OGM

Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 5.15 pm

Room WM0.02

In attendance

Amy Blaney (Chair), Katie Charlton, Amy Holden (observer), Gabriella Gay, Currie Agyeman (minute taker), Christopher Murphy, Rocio Clemente, Richard Backhurst, Sophia Taha, Martin Goodhead, Toni Karic, KMS Tareq, David Marchant, Archit Tamboli.

1. Apologies

Rachel Bright, Sharon Yang.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 23.01.19

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2.2 Matters arising from the minutes- there were no matters arising.

3. Committee Reports

ST, on behalf of a student, requested that the committee thinks about events that are more International Students focused.

4. KPA Finances report

There were no questions or concerns on the finance report.

5. Rachel Bright, KPA Trustee

This item on the agenda was cancelled because Rachel Bright could not attend the OGM.

6. Discussion Groups

6.1 Mental Health Provision (Toni Karic, facilitates).

- Transition period should be longer and clearer. Clearer in the sense that, people transitioning from undergraduate study should be made to know more clearly what postgraduate study involves. International students should also be made aware of what is required of them in a different education system they have found themselves in. Transition period for such international students should be made a lot longer for them to grasp all that is required of them.
- Assumptions made for students that they know what they are getting themselves into, when coming into postgraduate study. So, there should be a lot more support and less assumption.
- More one to one support.
- A more identifiable personal tutor.
- More signposting need to be encouraged.
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ST commented that there are 6 one to one support sessions given by the library to every student. She suggests that we tell postgraduates about this in our emails and in our weekly digest.



6.2 Events and Activities.

- KPA breakfasts have been successful and need to be encouraged. The social element is quite helpful; therefore, we need to encourage more ice breaking opportunities every couple of months.
- Prosecco Canape/Picnic. This event is usually run in Freshers' Week, then also in the summer. This event organised during Freshers' Week received positive feedback. Impressive venue for the event the last time (Keele Hall, SCR room). ST suggests that, more of these programs should be organised in between Freshers' Week and summer.
- Trentham Garden visit was positive
- Film night caught low attendance.
- Email is more effective than social media in terms of sending out information. However, there is also the need to mix it up.

Activities that students would like to see more often:

- language tables
- More trips; to Hanley and Pak foods were asked for.
- The KPA Cinema Club - where we attend film screenings at a discounted price in Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Have a KPA team at the weekly quiz so that postgraduates are able to take part in the quiz if they attend on their own.
- People were unsure if they wanted the KPA to run educational events.
- KPA to signpost more educational events, for example Ted Talks and some of which are organised by ILAS.
- KPA talks in the pub. Not in a lecture form.
- Knowledge share/ philosophy in the pub.

6.3 KPA Bursary

- Not many applications have been received this year. Application for the bursary is encouraged to all postgraduates. See <https://www.kpa.org.uk/the-kpa-bursary>
- Katie has made a powerpoint presentation and will be uploaded onto the website. This gives students tips on how to apply.
- Due to data protection, we cannot share some successful applications.
- Martin offers that his application could be shared with people. David asks whether KPA bursaries can cover international conferences. Katie says bursaries can cover accommodation costs, workshops, conference fees. However, they cannot be used to cover the cost of the international travel element.

7. Any Other Business.

7.1 Gabriella talks about "come dine with me." Tables have been set in different parts of the university; the library the SU, KPA etc to encourage postgraduates to sit together and socialise. These tables are identified by the heading "come dine with me" so people can look out for that.

7.2 Postgrads that lunch has been moved to Wednesdays, 1pm in Chancellors CBA 0.021.

Close of meeting 6:33pm.