

SEMESTER 1, WEEK 9- Monday 27th April 8:00am

Present: Amer, Donna, Alex, Barry, Oscar, Eden, Patrick, Alison, Daniel, Sarah Tang, Sarah Purvis, Rosie, Ibrahim, Natalie, Dani, Mark, Deaundre, Abbey

Late: Felicity

Apologies: Miriam

Absent: Sinem, Vish

Items:

1. Welcome, Apologies (MT)
2. Capacity check-in
3. Last week Updates/shoutouts (MT)
4. What's on this week:
 - a. **Mon:** Clerkship Presentation (HSF)
 - b. **Tues:** Clerkship Presentation (Clayton Utz), Consult Your Cohort (LLB IV, LLB V, JD I and LLM)
 - c. **Wed:** community legal centre talks, Interfac HIIT workout at 10am (OA). Clerkship Presentation (Allens)
 - d. **Thurs:** Clerkship Presentation (Ashurst), Consult Your Cohort (LLB Iii, JD I and JD II)
 - e. **Fri:**
 - f. **Saturday:** Consult Your Cohort (LLB I and II)
5. Sponsorship Refund Policy + Sponsor advertising in FB cohort groups (MT)
6. ACNC Obligations and Advocacy* (AN)
7. Discrimination Statement* (IT)
8. Any other matters

Updates/shoutouts

- Deaundre for Earth Week!!!

Sponsorship Refund Policy (MT)

- If we cancel an event, full refund
- If events are going ahead we will only be issuing partial refunds if there is a legitimate request for it. Assessed on an ad hoc basis.

Sponsor advertising in FB cohort group (MT)

- MT: thoughts on advertisements for sponsors on specific cohort groups? We have a law firm that has pre-pen programs and has asked about targeted advertising. My first thoughts are a bit hesitant, as they are meant to be more campus support groups. However, i would think it's helpful for students nonetheless (just worried about setting a precedent)
- DS: Worried because all the posts in the cohort groups are from SULLS right now so it might push people even further away.

- MT: need to exercise judgment & see how much we have been posting on each cohort group
- AN: depends on ad hoc basis. Not sure about sponsored but shouldn't be a massive problem with just making a judgment (e.g. clerkship events for penultimate students) if it's targeted info that's truly beneficial for a student body

ACNC Obligations & Advocacy

- AN: ACNC leaves obligations very open-ended as to what we can and can't do. 2 step formal process we should be following: 1) checking whether advocacy project fulfills requirements of ACNC, 2) whether it's within our constitutional purpose & objects. If it doesn't fulfill either then best we don't pursue that project
- IT: Statement was in response to the arising attacks on Asian-Australian students, showing support and commitment that SULLS denounces any sort of racist attacks. A petition addressed to a federal minister was included in the statement. Although it does have consensus in the Asian-Australian. Committee is ok to remove it because the first statement gets across the same point.
- MT: senior exec did not decide anything, merely agreed that in our opinion, it does not breach our ACNC obligations or our constitutional objects. It involves weighing up factors like precedential value, perception on SULLS, the issue on hand, how political the statement is etc
- DE: I want to speak for it
 - I think statement is uncontroversial
 - Petition should be included for 2 reasons:
 - 1) there is precedent of SULLS releasing or circulating petitions. A couple years ago we have SULLS actually circulate a petition and have directed members to go to the office and sign it. Our last fb profile supported same sex marriage and asked people to vote yes (i.e. told them how to vote)
 - So in terms of similar activities there has been precedent.
 - 2) this petition is quite universal & is not a polarising issue. It also impacts a lot of our members because a lot of SULLS members are Asian-Australians and international students and there are a lot of racism happening on the street. So it's important to show solidarity with the members.
 - I think we need to be cautious about all petitions that are being put forwards but this case about racism is not an issue for me
- ES: given there's precedent, I agree with DE. We should consider these on a case by case basis. Should be considering whether SULLS should be representing what is being put out by it - shouldn't be putting something up where it divides our members. But something like racism is widespread & we don't want anyone part of SULLS to advocate for the opposite. Completely for it.
- AN: To clarify one thing - precedent was set before ACNC status.
- ES: Even so, specific wording of ACNC obligations appears to ok it
- NL: To clarify ACNC obligations to everyone

- It's very broadly worded and very generic - see website for what charities can / can't do on advocacy: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/advocacy-charities>, <https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/guides/charities-elections-and-advocacy>
- So concern is whether we want SULS to head in that direction rather than whether if we're fulfilling our ACNC objectives
- ADA: Need to think about what organisation we want to be. One of the goals was inclusivity - this was one of the main things we ran on during election and bringing in people and standing up for people who traditionally didn't feel like they were supported or involved. This is a prime opportunity especially given that we are in lockdown and there's nothing physical we can do. So we definitely should be looking at going forwards with this petition.
- AC: Petition has bipartisan support. From personal experience & knowledge, petitions aren't the most effective thing but here, it's more about showing our community support. So I'm not against it here but in the future we should definitely be thinking about the effect of petitions in the future
- MT: Bipartisan support is important for ACNC guidelines. Important that what we are releasing is neutral. So here not a controversial opinion given the bipartisan support.
- OA: I think we're all pretty on board. Looking back, with our new ACNC obligations, do you think fb profile pic would have been an issue? I don't think this petition is contentious regards to discrimination.
- NL: When we applied to get registered w ACNC, our fb profile pic was still the marriage equality logo & statement.
- MT: nothing wrong with necessarily advocating a certain view. It's more about advocating a certain political party & its policies. ACNC guidelines state that you have to advocate for a certain charitable purpose.
- EM: It's our purpose to represent LGBTQ students. So it wouldn't be too much of an issue doing a similar thing like the plebiscite dp. But maybe I'm biased? It's tricky but I think fundamentally we should be supporting those groups at the end of the day.
- AN: Senior exec went through a 2 step process and I'm satisfied the formal steps have been ticked so I think in my opinion it's fine to carry this. But want to raise the flag that putting out things like this becomes a bit trickier for future precedent. We could be risking a lot hence why this discussion is happening. Need to come to a team discussion.
- DE: if anyone does have a dissenting opinion (not necessarily opposing to the whole decision but even just having some reservations) please express those because we need to make the best decision in the interests of SULS.
- Motion to allow Ibbey's statement on racist attacks on Asian-Australians to include the petition
 - MT: motion moved
 - DE: seconded
 - Everyone present voted yes (17); nil no votes (0); nil abstentions (0); quorum (15) satisfied

- lby was excluded from vote on basis of potential conflict of interest as member drafting and intending to post the statement

Other matters

- AN: important we have thorough conversations. Don't be afraid to speak your opinion.
- MT: clerkship cocktail evening - it'll be going ahead in a speed-dating format. 21st May 6:30-8:30pm. Score a date with a HR rep from a law firm. 13 different calls for 13 different firms. Need as much help as we can get so if you can help please let Mark, Flick, Barry or Amer know.
- AN: we received 4-5 messages last night from the student body after the weekly was published. Wanted to share to award everyone's efforts and adjusting to online learning and supporting our peers.