

MINUTES OF THE NUAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6:00pm, 27 October 2016

Enid Cook Room, Surry Hills Library, 405 Crown Street Surry Hills

In attendance:

Board Members: Leon Fernandes (LF), Melanie Joyce (MJ), Robyn Maurice (RM), Aly Murray (AM), Karen Stapleford (KS), Bradley Mathers (BM), Mary Harrod (MH)

Invitees: Uncle Allen Madden (MLALC), Alex Cowell (Purpose Accounting), Sione Crawford, Nicola Bath

Returning Officer: Susanne Castellias (SC)

Other: 16 Community Members, NUAA staff and volunteers

Apologies: Chris Gough

1. Introduction and Welcome to Country

At 6.15 LF opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.
Uncle Allen Madden of the Gadigal people provided the Welcome to Country.

2. Apologies

Chris Gough was noted as an apology

3. Review Action from previous AGM

No action was noted from the previous AGM.

4. Adopt Minutes from Previous AGM

Discussion	Moved	Seconded
The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were moved and accepted	MJ	BM

5. Chair's Report

LF reported on the staff restructure, NUAA securing funding for the coming year and strong representation. LF thanked MH especially for sharing her personal story with the press. LF thanked outgoing board members. He mentioned that Board Meetings had changed to once every two months.

MH delivered the CEO report. She spoke to consolidation and change in NUAA-delivered programs, including expansion of the NSP hours and increase in distribution at both Crown Street and Outreach South West Sydney. She commended the success of Peerlink, and of the Peer Support Workers. MH spoke to expansion of services in the coming year, including an additional magazine Insider News, expansion of community engagement through Peerlink and hopes that NUAA will get funded to do Consumer Engagement in order to address gaps in Drug and Alcohol service delivery.

6. Treasurer's Report

MJ introduced Alex Cowell of Purpose Accounting, who delivered the financial report. 90 % of funding came from the Ministry of Health. 70% of the budget went to wages which is normal for a NFP. Overall NUAA is in a sound financial position.

7. Acceptance of Financial Statements

Discussion	Moved	Seconded
The Financial Statements were moved and accepted	LF	MJ

8. Questions to Directors

A community member questioned the change in Board Meeting frequency. LF answered that subcommittee meetings were held on the alternate months, but that the efficacy is worth discussing.

A community member asked if the CEO felt supported by the board meetings. MH said that the subcommittees need to be energised, but the monthly exec meeting provided enough support. MJ stated that the board needs to work on building momentum in subcommittees in new year, suggested longer terms may be the solution. KS agreed that a one-year term is not enough.

A community member asked about what the subcommittees were. LF answered that they were membership, policy and fundraising. MJ added that the role of the membership subcommittee was to provide clarity and direction to membership recruitment.

A community member asked about engaging with PWID in prison. MH answered that Users News regularly publishes contributions from inmates, has advice specifically targeted at people in prison, and that NUAA is starting a new publication, Insider News, for in-prison populations only.

A volunteer asked if it's possible to engage in-prison members for the next AGM. LF said they will need to look at possibilities.

AM asked what NUAA offers rank and file PWUD. MH answered that NUAA runs the NSP, published User's News, has Peer Support Workers at LHDs and provides feedback to the services and the Ministry of Health, influencing change at a higher level. Fiona Poeder (FP) added that NUAA answers 10-15 direct queries per week, as well as engaging the membership in consultation projects. Yvonne Samuel (YS) added that the NUAA volunteer program develops members and has at times led to paid positions.

Community member Julie Bates commented that in the past there has been a staff representative position on the board, asked if this has stopped. MJ answered that this close interaction involved the board too much in operational matters, and circumvented proper lines of communication. JB suggested a meeting with staff so that Board Members and staff can be introduced to each other.

9. Acceptance of Annual Report

Not moved.

10. Appointment of Auditor and Questions

Discussion	Moved	Seconded
Bryan Rush and Co moved and appointed as NUAA's auditor for 2017.	MJ	RM

11. Election of Directors

LF introduced changes to the electoral process as voted into the NUAA constitution at the 2015 AGM and handed over to SC. SC declared all positions vacant. SC announced that the nominees for the 2016/2017 Board are Chris Gough, Indraveer Chatterjee, Julie Bates, Kate DeMaere, Melanie Joyce, Emma Nixon and James Robinson. SC announced that by the rules of NUAA's constitution the above nominees are elected unopposed.

12. Hall of Fame

LF introduced Nicola Bath (NB). NB paid her respects to the elders past and present and introduced Sione Crawford, who has been inducted into the NUAA hall of fame for an overall significant record in the Drug User Movement here and abroad. NB spoke of her personal admiration for Sione for his history of advocacy.

Sione thanked NB, MH and members, and stated how special NUAA is to him. Sione spoke about recent changes to DUOs, and growing restrictions due to changes in funding structures. He stated he was impressed the with way that NUAA invents new ways to address problems despite new restrictions, and spoke about the resourcefulness of DUOs generally.

13. Meeting Closed

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15pm