The Australian National University
Computer Science Students' Association

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING #1
3 April 2014

MINUTES

Attendance

Committee Members
Donnellan, Andrew James (u4837946) [President]
Offner, Robert Benjamin (u4849459) [Vice-President]
Creelman, Benjamin (u4529362) [Secretary]
Goli, Chanakya (u5019258) [Treasurer]
Franzi, Jonathan Erik (u5019815) [Projects Officer]
Gonzalez Ferreras, Maria De Los Reyes (u4973689) [Social Officer]
Macleod, Caitlin Anne (u5351248) [Industry Liaison]
Martin, Benjamin Pfalzgraf (u5214945) [Education Officer (Curricular) and International Representative]
Tsimeris, Jessica Anne (u4644314) [Postgraduate Representative]
Zimmer, Jan Thorben (u5181920) [Communications Officer]

Other Members
Barber, Jedidiah John (u5126661)
Biswas, Shovan (u5389554)
Bradbury, Teresa (u4667503)
Doody, Nicholas Alexander (u5585928)
Filan, Daniel Arthur (u5161512)
Fu, Jimmy Xiang (u5373345)
Lau, Sebastian (u5375249)
Law, Winsome (u4680094)
Leike, Jan (u5485774)
Levingston, Roderick (u5378714)
Li, Lin (u5040148)
Mascolo, Alexander (u5022811)
McCarthy, Fiona Margaret (u4667679)
Mobbs, Nicholas William (u5388261)

Ram, Rohit (u5568718)
Rao, Kunta Nrupendra (u5534831)
Rayns, George Nicholas (u5586058)
Schloss, Wilhelm George (u4853281)
Tran, Khoi-Nguyen Dao (u4315673)
You, Hong (u5290604)
Zhang, Holly Haoyi (u5582287)
Zhao, Chen (u5516240)

Non-members in attendance
N/A

Apologies
Henschke, Martin (u5237538) [Education Officer (Extracurricular)]

Location
Room N101, CSIT Building 108, The Australian National University

1. Meeting Open and Apologies

Opened
Meeting opened at 19:46.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members. Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOTION: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 August 2013 be accepted.
Moved: Fiona McCarthy
Seconded: Robert Offner

Alexander Mascolo's dissent was noted.

Motion carried with singular dissent. [Resolution 2014/OGM/1]

3. Reports from Committee
The Committee presented reports. Key points are noted below.

3.a. Andrew Donnellan, President
- We have 196 members (as at the start of the meeting)

- We've run 22 events already this term, and we that will be 25 by the end of this week
- There is some work going on within the school involving a review of the computer science curriculum, particularly around degree structure and first year courses. The CSSA will be looking to engage with students around this review.
- We've been approached by high school teachers interested in forming links between uni students and high school students
- Thank you to the CSSA membership and their strong support, particularly those who have volunteered and helped out with various events

3.b. Robert Offner, Vice-President and Advocacy Officer
- Working on multiple committees including ANUSA CRC
- First year camp went well

3.c. Chanakya Goli, Treasurer
- We have a large amount of money
- Currently ~$5600
- Waiting on a further ~$1800 from ANUSA via GAC grants
- Careers Fair in S2 should also bring in some more money

3.d. Ben Creelman, Secretary
- Looking after the organisation side of the CSSA - paperwork and compliance, regulations, meeting minutes and correspondence
- We now have regular meetings with Alistair (Director RSCS) and Janette (School Administrator). This is giving us the traction to progress issues quickly and with influence
- Working with the school to identify more space for the CSSA
- Keen to see more engagement with our new first years (wow, such cute) and also with international students
- #EGN007 is looking like it will be the best yet

3.e. Benjamin Martin, Education Officer (Curricular) and International Representative
- The COMP1100 study event was a great success
- Uwe (course convenor) thought the event was very useful
- The model for the event will be used again, next in the second COMP1100 assignment and then with other courses in the future

3.f. Martin Henschke, Education Officer (Extracurricular) [Delivered by Ben Martin]
- Looks after extracurricular education events - what can CS accomplish, and where the discipline might lead in research and industry

- Responsible for administering the common room
- Have run talks on research opportunities and further tech talks are upcoming
- Minecraft related events are on the way
- Looking forward to running more events and always open to suggestions

3.g. Reyes Gonzalez, Social Officer
- Chief Fun Officer
- 2 BBQs this semester (thanks to PAL for the food at the second BBQ), as well as paintball. Age of Empires night will be happening soon
- Other events planned for the semester include more BBQs, karaoke, bowling

3.h. Caitlin Macleod, Industry Liaison Officer
- Continuing to expand sponsorship opportunities
- Creating links with other Canberra tech communities - this is currently a weak point of the CSSA
- Careers fair will be in Week 5 Semester 2

3.i. Jonathan Franzi, Projects Officer
- Cryptography event went very well and was a great example of a member running an event with CSSA support
- We have a game jam coming up soon which will be very cool and we will have local game developers attending

3.j. Jess Tsimeris, Postgraduate Representative
- Before the current committee, we had no postgrad events, now we have several
- Monthly Munchies has been happening (monthly) and also features alcohol
- Looking at more events that are focused at postgrads but that everyone can attend

3.k. Jan Zimmer, Communications Officer
- No longer the pizza officer - new arrangements mean the pizza gets delivered
- Still spending lots of money on food
- Writing all our posters and newsletters

MOTION: That the reports of the committee be accepted.
Moved: Tessa Bradbury
Seconded: Fiona McCarthy

Motion carried unanimously. [Resolution 2014/OGM/2]

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned until 20:30

Moved: Andrew Donnellan
Seconded: Robert Offner

Dissent noted from Jan Zimmer

Motion carried with singular dissent. [Resolution 2014/OGM/3]

At 20:08 the meeting was adjourned in order to facilitate effective consumption of pizza.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 20:35.

4. Policies for discussion

MOTION: That the meeting move to a committee of the whole.

Moved: Andrew Donnellan
Seconded: Jimmy Fu

Motion carried unanimously. [Resolution 2014/OGM/4]

4.a. Common room access

Ben Creelman discussed issues and options surrounding access to the common room. The committee is of the opinion that there should be more people with access to the room (i.e., the door code). This will be done by application from members. After that the committee will select 1-3 people from among these applications. There are a number of responsibilities this entails, including keeping the room open, clean, and comfortable, including safe, for our members.

Questions and comments were received:
Sand: Could we have a supercomputer run the room?
Ben Creelman: No

Magic: Does the power of common room access extend to kicking people out?
Andrew Donnellan: Yes. This is at times a key responsibility.

Magic: Will having more people with access actually solve the problem?
Jan: We hope so. Right now 3 members keep it open 80% of the time.

Magic: How will the selection process work? Are you going for a particular type of person, such as first year?
Ben Creelman: Mostly we're just going for keeping it open more

Tess: I would prefer if the people were elected
Fiona: Could the committee shortlist and then people vote?

Ben Creelman: We're planning on the committee choosing people for this time, noting that it's only until the AGM in Term 3. We plan that in the future these will be chosen at election. We will have to assess how well this works.

Sand: Can we get card access for the door?
Ben Creelman: We've considered this in the past but it's a major pain. So for now, nope.

4.c.i. Alcohol

Ben Creelman discussed the alcohol policy of the CSSA, which was recently reviewed by the committee. In summary, the existing ban on alcohol within N102 will remain, this includes storage within the room. The CSSA is not looking at running or being involved with events where the primary focus is alcohol, e.g. Engibeering. The committee is keen for other or existing events, such as BBQs, to include alcohol. In addition, we hope to be open to events being run at a licenced venue or having an 'after event' at a bar or similar.

Questions and comments were received:
Magic: Does this actually change anything?
Ben Creelman: We will be spending CSSA money on it now, and we haven't previously.

4.c.ii. Subcommittees

Ben Creelman and Andrew Donnellan discussed a proposal for increasing the number of people involved with running events and activities with the CSSA. The committee has noted that there are a number of people interested in contributing to the CSSA, but don't have the regular time or do not want the responsibilities that come with being a member of committee. We are looking at a number of structures to achieve this - one of these is 'subcommittees'. This would involve each member of committee that currently has a portfolio being responsible for engaging other interested people in work that was within their portfolio - i.e., head of a subcommittee. People could be a member of more than one subcommittee, and the responsibilities and expectations would be more flexible and not as onerous as that of committee.

Approximately 6 people in attendance expressed interest in more involvement with the CSSA in a subcommittee style.

Questions and comments were received:
Magic: Would there be an EGN subcommittee?
Jan: This semester the EGN organising group is sourced from within the committee, however we will still be requesting volunteers on the night.

Reyes: How would they be elected?
Andrew: The portfolio officer would shortlist, then the full committee would give a thumbs up/thumbs down.

Tess: This is cool and also lets people progress their own events faster.

Probie: Do we still need two education officers?

Ben Creelman: The portfolio structure is somewhat fluid and this can be restructured depending on the interest in particular portfolios.

4.b. Video game ban trial, week of 11-14 March

During the week of 11-14 March 2014, there was a ban on video games within the common room between 9am and 5pm. Andrew Donnellan noted that the key issue was to answer the question "how do we make the common room more social?" The committee decided a trial would be a reasonable way of gaining further understanding around this issue.

We got a mixture of feedback from within the committee - and the committee was not in complete agreement. Feedback from outside the committee was likewise mixed. There were some positives - people noticed the room seemed to be more social, but there was no real reduction to noise, as the video games were just replaced by conversation. In addition, it felt alienating to some of our members and the method that we used (a broad ban) had room for improvement.

Ben Creelman mentioned that we all need to be aware that the common room is a social place that should be welcoming for all members of the CSSA, particularly those who are new or don't spend much time around the common room.

Questions and comments were received:
Alex Mascolo: This doesn't appear to be broken, why fix it.

Daniel Filan: Was the room more welcoming?
Ben Creelman: We got a mixture of feedback from it.

Magic: How did the committee like it?
Ben Creelman: The committee is not in agreement on this issue - some liked it, some didn't. Again, there was a mixture of positives and negatives.

Tess: The common room is sometimes not the most social place to be.

Jimmy: What action will come out of this?
Ben Creelman: Hopefully this will help us all to think a bit more about the culture within the room and to be more aware of others there.

Magic: Will there be a follow up in a similar manner? Will it be discussed behind closed doors?
Ben Creelman: It depends on the size of the change. We felt this was a small change, and in addition it was a short week - 4 days. For bigger things we will consult more widely.

Nguyen: Can we just get rid of the tables?

Magic: Could you please consider all the situations this could effect when making decisions.

5. Questions without notice

Magic: Ben - where is the paperwork tattoo?
Ben Creelman: No.

Alex Mascolo: Can we get more space for the common room?
Ben Creelman: We are working on it.

Sand: Is there a structured way for us to suggest food options?
Jan: It's hard to find some things at costco - you are always welcome to join
Sand: What about internet jerky?
Ben Creelman: Can always send us an email with suggestions and links.

Magic: Can we get stuff from supermarkets around Canberra?
Jan: Yes, but the price would go up, and we don't have the time
Ben Martin: Some stuff is hard to find at costco - we can't get everything.

Magic: Did we buy more stuff for the common room?
Ben Creelman: Not yet - but we have plans to.

Daniel Filan: Can the door sensor please be fixed?
Jan: We don't know why it's broken - working on it.

6. Other Business

MOTION: That the CSSA acknowledges the work of Jonathan Franzi during his term on Committee and thanks him for his contribution.

Moved: Andrew Donnellan
Seconded: Ben Creelman

Andrew Donnellan spoke to the motion:
Jono was a fine committee member who was actively involved with the CSSA, however his workload was too high and this has meant he will be stepping down. He has run some great events and the upcoming game jam is looking to be awesome.

Jonathan Franzi spoke to the motion:
Jonathan thanked Andrew for his kind words. He also indicated that he would stay on as a committee member until the end of game jam.

Motion carried unanimously [Resolution 2014/OGM/5]

Ben Creelman informed the meeting that the CSSA has a policy to have at least one general meeting every term.

7. Meeting Close

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all members for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Closed

Meeting closed at 21:35.

Andrew Donnellan
President

Ben Creelman
Secretary