

Elder Conservatorium of Music
School Executive Meeting – Minutes 02/2024
Friday 3 May, 10:00 – 11:00am, Schulz 10.06

In attendance: Anna Goldsworthy (Chair), Luke Dollman, Stephen Whittington, Luke Harrauld, Car Crossin, Mark Ferguson, Elizabeth Layton, Greta Larsen

Apologies: George Torbay

1. Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the original custodians of the Adelaide plains and the land on which the University of Adelaide campuses are built.

Welcome & Apologies

Anna welcomed all to the first School Executive for 2024 with a special welcome to Dylan Henderson to speak to his new role, School Communications Manager.

Approval of previous minutes – Liz & Stephen

2. Business Arising

2.1 Open Day

Discussion regarding Open Day events – as per previous years, staff would need to have a presence in the tent on the maths lawns but this year the UoA will also have a ‘dome’ where we can showcase our students. Staff were keen to offer ensemble activities but queried whether students / tech support would be funded.

Action: Anna to check on student / tech support payments / honorariums

2.2 Auditions 2025 entry

Greta advised of the issues regarding staff absences for mid year auditions – all agreed we could move the mid-year auditions to swat week or even week 14. This would enable staff to take leave

Action: Greta to let all staff know new date, to commence 2025

2.3 A Day at the Con

Discussions re the different options for a Day at the Con

Luke H & Stephen advised this year will be similar to what was offered last year

Liz advised classical would see a mix of year levels with some areas, ie strings, focussing on year 11 & 12 students.

Action: staff to let Greta know what activities areas would like to run so the office can start planning / marketing etc

3. Standing Items

3.1 International

- Stephen provided the committee with a report on international auditions and conversion/success rates. Discussion followed regarding success rate, our expectations/objectives. Current procedure is to NOT provide feedback to applicants and the web’s assessment criteria was outdated and insufficient. All agreed that we needed to do better in this space including the idea of offering trial lessons for applicants that may not be good enough to be admitted now, this would give them something to work on and audition again down the track.

- Both Liz and Stephen agree that if we requested specific repertoire this would work better to gauge the applicants' level – Jazz advised they do this already and provide the 'tunes list' online. He also advised that P&P PGCW students were advised to audit the UG courses.
- Discussion regarding our engagement with international students and the need to provide greater support, Stephen keen to start up socialising events again as well as putting something on our website in Mandarin.

Action: Stephen to investigate getting a mandarin speaker to translate information for our website.

Action: Greta to send Stephen the e-copy of our international applicants database

3.2 Budget & Planning

Greta gave brief points regarding our current position with the promise of a report for the next meeting.

3.3 Learning & Teaching

Anna gave a brief update on the L&T space and suggested that now that Amanda was heading up this area, might be worthwhile adding her to the committee.

Action: Speak with Amanda re sitting on the School Executive Committee

3.4 Research

Luke advised the following:

- faculty had granted and extra \$40,000 to funding a RA for CASM
- he was chasing Faculty regarding funding for the Naxos project
- deadline for school & faculty research funding was set at May 29 – Anna suggested we postpone the school app date so people would be more inclined to apply for faculty grants.

4. Director's Report

- Anna thanked everyone for their continued great work including Hal's Hall, Matthew Sheens residency, strings weekend, bass day
- Anna also thanked everyone for managing the fall out of the Advertiser story including reassuring our stakeholders that the Elder Con was alive and kicking. Anna had spoken to the ABCE, donors, Advisory Board members etc and thought very important that we promote our 'tsunami of good news stories' including our robust health and growth trajectory. Anna advised that one positive that has come out of all of this 'nonsense' was how much the community values the Con!
- Stephen suggested that our reputation o/s could be damaged and would raise this at the next international committee meeting.

Action: Anna to provide a template of her message for staff to use

5. Any other business

N/A

Meeting closed at 11:00am