

# NZMSA MEETING MINUTES

**Team Name:** NZMSA Exec & Team Meeting  
**Chairperson:** Indira Fernando  
**Date:** 20/4/2023  
**Time:** 19:00  
**Scribe:** Olivia Gray

AGENDA:					
1	Call to order, roll call, apologies, confirm minutes, conflicts of interest, action points	2	Meet the new reps	3	Working group updates
4	Financial hardship including Draft Letter to MoE and TEC	5	NZMSA merchandise	6	NZMSA financial update
7	Other business	8		9	
PRESENT:					
1	Gaby	2	Patrick	3	Olivia
4	Erin	5	Anthony	6	Gaby
7	Tony	8	Brian	9	Angad
10	Phil	11	Dani	12	Indira
13	Cameron	14	Mukish	15	
APOLOGIES:					
1	Lorna	2	Thomas	3	Andrew
4	Matthew	5			
ABSENT:					
1	Maia	2		3	
AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES					
N/A					
<p><b>Moved that minutes from previous meeting dated along with any amendments be accepted as a true and correct record:</b>  <b>Moved: Seconded:</b>  <b>Carried</b></p>					
MATTERS ARISING					
Item #:	Agenda Item	Detail			
1	Call to order, roll call, apologies, confirm minutes, conflicts of interest, action points	Action points from previous meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reps to message Indira when regional elections are complete so NZMSA can proactively reach out to relevant reps for equity board → <i>All new reps have been contacted and allocated into working groups.</i></li> </ol>			

		<p>2. Tom and Gaby will discuss PO Box → <i>Lorna has set up PO Box 775 in Christchurch</i></p> <p>3. Reps to please gauge where the hardship is predominantly, is there a particular year group? Or campus? Discuss this again next meeting, looking to create a plan to address student hardship. → <i>See agenda item #4</i></p>
2	Meet the new reps	<p>Dani – Auckland Clinical Rep (Advocacy) Phil – Otago (Dunedin) ALM Rep (Advocacy) Tony – Auckland Pre-clinical Rep (Engagement) Brian – Otago (Dunedin) ELM Rep (Engagement)</p>
3	Working group updates – <i>Patrick, Indira, Olivia</i>	<p><u>Olivia – Workforce</u> Successful ACE RMO workforce meeting- Olivia advised ACE about difficulties and confusion regarding the “categories” for references which is particularly difficult for certain students depending on their quarter. Also advised them about the difficulty obtaining references from vocationally registered consultants’ especially in smaller regional centres. These are action points they will provide updates on in the next meeting. Working group continuing to work on the program for BTMSGs which is at the end of May.</p> <p><u>Indira – Advocacy</u> National survey launching in May. Advocacy working group will need the help of reps to push this out to students. Big push for Mahuru Māori this year- will be working on creating content for this with reps at conference. Are aiming to send out a PGY1 letter to Minister of Health in the coming weeks.</p> <p><u>Patrick – Engagement</u> Working group have decided to pursue a noho marae at CLF, so non-locals will stay on the Marae for the duration of CLF. MoU has been signed with NZMSJ. Will set a groundwork of trust for SRF. Waiting for Christchurch campus to reply to email regarding SRF booking - Erin will find this number for him.</p>
4	Financial hardship including Draft Letter to MoE and TEC - <i>Indira</i>	<p><i>Indira</i> - summarised the SC meeting in early April and history of NZMSA financial hardship advocacy. She explained that we have repositioned our primary goals to something which is more accessible and achievable in a shorter time frame. There would be benefits to removing student allowance as a classification of “income” under MSD and Study link, in addition to other options to address financial hardship for students. Aim to advocate for a date for a formal review of a TI grant, with the view to continually increasing it with CPI. NZMSA would also like to look wider than the TI grant. One option is a ‘benevolence fund’, which NZMSA will run the admin for this small fund to provide support for at-need students. Indira explained we would be asking wider medical workforce for support with</p>

		<p>administering this fund. The benefits is that we can ensure that students who are normally excluded from financial supports are supported. Other ideas are pushing for fees free public transport, universal streaming of all lectures and rent caps. These later ideas are mahi which is already happening and things we can lend out weight to immediately.</p> <p><i>Patrick</i> - A nice place to start for benevolence fund could be contacting past NZMSA presidents. Start within our NZMSA and RMSA networks first.</p> <p><i>Tony</i> - Wondered what the time frame to achieve these goals for?</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - Letter regarding TI grant will be sent by June this year at the latest with the goal to help the incoming students.</p> <p>Benevolence fund will be planned this year and will be handed over to next year's exec</p> <p>Petitions – will happen as quickly as possible, by the next SC meeting in 2 months</p> <p><i>Brian</i> - Regarding benevolence fund, wondering what the administration time is and how other logistics will work?</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - Advised that if someone donated, it would be an anonymous donor pool, and that they would acknowledge they would not be able to pick the recipient. Also advised that NZMSA would seek legal input when setting this fund up. We will avoid current university staff when in the deciding committee. Explained we need to invest in a secure data collection method as well to facilitate this process.</p> <p><i>Phil</i> - Wondered about rounding up funding, rather than starting a new fund? For example, asking the university if they can increase their scholarship values?</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - Concerns from RMSAs regarding the university hardship funds as they are difficult to access, poor advertising, and overall, not accessible to international students. Both universities are struggling financially and are resistant to giving students more money.</p> <p><i>Phil</i> - Wondered if NZMSA needs to be careful how we angle the benevolence fund being accessible to international students, “when regional students are also struggling”, particularly if it’s negatively picked up by social media.</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - Reassured that we are very careful with this, as have become aware about the media picking this in a negative way</p> <p><i>Dani</i> - Wondering if there has been a centralised audit of hardship funds and scholarships available to students?</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - Agreed, doesn’t currently exist but advised that each RMSA are going to be creating local documents which NZMSA will collate and distribute.</p> <p><i>Tony</i> - Received misguided letter to students advising them to not work when we need to work to pay bills.</p> <p><i>Brain</i> - In Dunedin, they advise you to be careful with work, and there is a student welfare lecture about resources available in Dunedin.</p>
5	NZMSA merchandise - <i>Patrick</i>	<p>Wondering what the consensus is about having NZMSA merchandise?</p> <p><i>Tony</i> - has done some design experience, and is keen to help out</p>

		<p><i>Dani</i> - clarified if this is to sell or give away? And there is already university merch.</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - It could be either.</p> <p><i>Olivia</i> - How does this come across when we are also working to target financial hardship and then asking people for money? Wonders if this isn't something we should pursue in current climate</p> <p><i>Brain</i> - sees it in a different view, if people want to spend money on merch, then why not. Just maybe something more universal e.g., coffee mug</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - Potential as a fundraiser?</p> <p><i>Tony</i> - See the success of merchandise depend on framing, if we frame it as a fundraiser, it should be received well.</p> <p><i>Patrick</i> - Conference team have put in order for tote bag, but still have time to put in order to put things in a tote bag for conference.</p>
6	NZMSA financial update - <i>Ashley</i>	<p>See Ashley's presentation for more details. Overall we are covering our costs with an approx. 2.5K surplus at the end of the year.</p> <p><i>Indira</i> - encouraged reps to get in touch if they have any engagement event ideas, and to get in touch with Patrick about their idea.</p> <p><i>Patrick</i> - explained what a local engagement event involves. Essentially money to create an opportunity to create an event for students to meet you.</p>
7	Other business	No other business
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Erin to send number of Christchurch campus to Patrick</li> <li>● Reps to touch base with their local RMSAs to check if the collation of scholarships/ hardship grants is taking place.</li> <li>● Patrick to work with Gaby and Tony re merchandise</li> <li>● Ashley to please send his powerpoint to Lorna to distribute</li> </ul>		
<b>Meeting Finished:</b>		-
<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b>		18/5/2023
<b>Chairperson:</b>		Indira Fernando