

## Strategic Plan for “Professional Events” Sub-Committee (PASC)

The PASC will fulfill its mandate by undertaking three (3) main events each year. These events are:

- (i) An Annual (Academic) Conference
- (ii) A Series of Panel Discussions Surrounding the Business Strategy and Growth and the National Budget – Series of 3 – 5 Panel Discussions
- (iii) Serve as the Society’s ARC Grant Writing Hub

These three events will directly service two (2) of the Society’s three (3) Pillars. The two (2) are: (i) Networking; (ii) Creating Opportunities. The third pillar, “Services”, will be serviced indirectly.

These Events will be continuously assessed and reformulated when necessary on the basis of an ongoing cycle of activities (IMIMI...). The overarching approach for this cycle of activities will be to:

- (i) Identify the need for an activity
- (ii) Measure the impact, or lack thereof, of the activity
- (iii) Implement a formulated strategy to fill the identified gap.
- (iv) Monitor and Evaluate (M&E) the Performance of the Activity (Includes Identifying shortcomings)
- (v) Measure, reformulate and Implement reforms based on the M&E

### Annual Academic Conference:

**What and When:** The Annual Academic Conference will be held in either the periods (a) Mid-July or Mid-August; or (b) Mid-November through Early-December. These periods are chosen because they should represent Non-teaching periods at least in the Australian University context. Within the conference there will be two main streams. These are: (i) the usual academic paper presentations and plenary sessions; and (ii) Paid workshops delivered by UoM staff and students (or other qualified and related parties). Workshops could include Certificates real world skills such as: (i) Risk Management; (ii) Strategic Marketing; (iii) Quantifying Customers and the Competition – good old estimation of Microeconomic models with a name that is probably useful to practitioners; etc etc.

**Why Do We Care:** The conference will create an opportunity for PhD students to present/showcase their work; garner relevant skills by volunteering as conference organizers and reviewers; network with senior and not-so senior academics from the Australasian region and the rest of the world. Monies raised from the conference will be directed at least partially for the purpose of financing research and research related activities of PhD students. Funds raised will come mainly from conference registration fees and workshop participation fees. Of course, those who deliver the workshops and the providers of “seed-capital” and other resources will need to be compensated accordingly.

### Business and Economic Policy Symposium (BEPS):

**What and When:** This will be a series of 3-5 Panel Discussions chronologically surrounding the National Budget. The main idea of the series is to examine, reflect and provide public scholarship and

practical guidance on impending as well as business and economic policy and outcomes of the recent past. Ideally, one of these Panel Discussions will be held one day after the main budget release. The others would be held within two months on either side of the budget to reflect the emphasis on impending and economic activities of the recent past. The expertise of Academics and Practitioners from major spheres of Business, Industry and Government will be relied upon to share their views on the budget and other economic and business outcomes and policies. Was this activity in place at the last budget we would have focused on changes to taxes with specific interest in the changes to Super Annuation and the Small Business Incentives Tax Package. A year prior, the debate might have focused on changes to the funding of tertiary educational institutions.

**Why Do We Care:** This seminar series provides a distinct opportunity for PhD students to network with leaders of Business, Academia and the Political Arena. Activities as simple as hosting participants when they visit UoM to take part in the Seminar Series will provide the opportunity for PhD students to open discussions and initiate lasting professional relationships with whomever they host or invite to participate in this series of activities. UoM and the organizers, PhD students, may even find representation in the national spotlight via this specific forum.

### **ARC Grant Writing Hub:**

**What and When:** The ARC Grant Writing Hub will serve as the arm of the PhD Student Society that initiates and develops proposals with the view to securing ARC grants which will in turn provide financial and other support for the research of PhD students. A major hurdle in this process is to win the support of Academics who will need to attach themselves to any ARC Grant that we prepare. As a means of not making “cold calls” to academics to participate I am initiating the FBE SITSS Fitness Club which will serve as a venue for greater interaction between PhD Students, Academics and other members of Staff. The Idea is to partner with the leaders of the Staff Wellbeing Program to develop a series of activities around physical fitness. My number one target will be cycling; others are free to propose other activities. For Cycling I am proposing three days a week, under the theme “Alive at 5” which signifies a 5 PM start to the cycling activities. The three days will be aptly and controversially named: (i) Take me home Tuesdays – Cycle trip to the neighborhood of one of the participants in the day’s cycling; (ii) Wild Wednesdays – we will cycle to wherever works; (iii) Trail Trek Thursdays – We will cycle along one of Melbourne’s fabulous bike trails. There is no doubt that cycling is risky and is a big side-note to the main objective here so caution and acceptance of risk must be maintained by anyone who volunteers to participate.

**Why Do We Care:** Undoubtedly ARC Grants will look good on our CVs. The funds and other resources which come along with an ARC Grant can clearly take research beyond otherwise insurmountable hurdles. By creating networking opportunities with academics and other staff members who understand the process, we improve our chances of winning the support of truly important parties to pushing any ideas that we may have for an ARC Grant forward.

**My Note:**

I do hope this can be viewed as an inspired and invigorating initiative. I will follow-through with fervor and fruitfulness in purpose. I also look forward to your friendly and fortifying feedback.