

AURA AGM Minutes
7:00PM 16/10/2014
4.501

Present: Abigail Birkin-Hall, Oliver Wilson, Andrew Chen, Robert Sawrey, Nick Lim, Karan Purohit, Thomas Paulin, Chris Stanton, Ellen Luo, Jack Barker, Lucas de Rijk, Nathan Allen, Michele Lee, Aaron Nam, Kazuki Murakami

Apologies: Max Gruebner, Kerey Watters, Hamish Ross

Observers: None

Meeting opened at 7.03pm

1. Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)

Abigail Birkin-Hall, seconded by Chris Stanton

2. Executive Reports (Appendix B)

Chairperson's Report

Andrew Chen, seconded by Oliver Wilson

3. Election of 2015 Executive Committee

Nominations

Chairperson : **Robert Sawrey**, *Nominated by Thomas Paulin, Seconded by Nicholas Lim*

Treasurer: **Abigail Birkin-Hall**, *Nominated by Max Gruebner, Seconded by Oliver Wilson*

Volunteering Officer: **Lucas de Rijk**, *Nominated by Andrew Chen, Seconded by Abigail Birkin-Hall*

Competition Officer: **Jack Barker**, *Nominated by Abigail Birkin-Hall, Seconded by Hamish Ross*

Marketing Officer: **Ellen Luo**, *Nominated by Jack Barker, Seconded by Oliver Wilson*

Appointment of Andrew Chen as scrutineer

Andrew Chen motions to not use the secret ballot mechanism for the purposes of the Executive election.

Results

Chairperson: Robert Sawrey, elected unanimously

Treasurer: Abigail Birkin-Hall, elected unanimously

Volunteering Officer: Lucas de Rijk, elected unanimously

Competition Officer: Jack Barker, elected unanimously

Marketing Officer: Ellen Luo, elected unanimously

4. Rob makes an inspirational opening address

5. Proposed Constitutional Changes/Amendments

5a) Executive Terms

Current wording:

6. f) IV. The AGM shall elect its Office holders and Executive members for the proceeding year

Proposed wording:

6. f) IV. The club shall elect its Office holders and Executive members at the AGM. Election results come into effect on the last day of Semester Two exams.

Abigail Birkin-Hall, seconded by Robert Sawrey

Passed, 13-1

Justification:

I propose that the changeover timing of the Auckland University Robotics Association executive be changed. I propose that the new time of changeover should be immediately on election (at the Annual General meeting) rather than at the end of the calendar year. The first position elected should be the position of chairperson at the beginning of the meeting; they should then run the remainder of the meeting (including the election of the other positions). The term of an executive member would therefore be from one AGM to the next. The rationale behind this is as follows:

1) The new executive (in particular the Chairperson) are then seen to be in their new position are therefore cemented into that role in the minds of those present, rather than an unseen changeover in the middle of the summer holidays.

2) Should a member of the outgoing executive be leaving (whether it be just the university or overseas) there is still time for their successor to be assisted by them, thereby learning the ins and outs of the position with minimal stress. In addition if a member of the outgoing executive were to leave overseas over the summer there would still be someone in each role following exams.

In summary the change of executive should occur at the annual general meeting rather than at the end of the calendar year to help the new executive settle into their new roles, for themselves and in the minds of the club members. This should assist in smooth running of the club for all involved.

5b) Quorum and majority for exec meetings

Current wording:

- 4) c) The quorum for a Executive meeting shall be one more than half the total number of Executive members.

Proposed wording:

- 4) c) To reach quorum, an Executive meeting must be attended by more than half the total number of Executive members.

Motioned by Oliver Wilson, Seconded by Andrew Chen

Passed 13-1

Current wording:

- 4) h) All motions made at meetings must be passed by at least one more than half the total number of executive members present at the meeting.

Proposed wording:

- 4) h) To be passed, a motion must receive more votes than half the total number of executive members present at the meeting.

Motioned by Oliver Wilson, Seconded by Abigail Birkin-Hall

Passed unanimously

Justification:

The intent of the original constitution was for a majority (for example, three of five) of the executive to be required for quorum and to pass motions. The “one more than half” language isn’t consistent with that intention. At best, the current wording is confusing.

5c) Election procedures

Current wording:

5) b) III. If there are no more candidates for a position than there are vacant positions, scrutineers shall be appointed and a secret ballot held.

Proposed wording:

5) b) III. Scrutineers shall be appointed and a secret ballot held.

Motion by Oliver Wilson, Seconded by Chris Stanton
Passed unanimously.

Justification:

We need to hold secret elections regardless of how many candidates are running, because voting no confidence is an option.

5d) Constitutional amendments

Current wording:

6) h) Amendments to this Constitution
I. Any part of this Constitution may be amended at any General Meeting and shall take effect immediately.

Proposed wording:

6) h) Amendments to this Constitution
I. This constitution may only be amended at a General Meeting. Any part of this Constitution may be amended at any General Meeting.

Motion by Oliver Wilson, Seconded by Robert Sawrey
Passed unanimously.

Justification:

This makes it explicit that the exec can’t just decide to change the constitution without calling a general meeting: “c. *The Executive has full powers to deal with matters relating to the aims and objects of the Club except where control is vested in a General Meeting as outlined in this Constitution.*”

6. Any Other Business

How many full members do we have? 25

Proposition to set membership fees for 2015 to same as 2014
Andrew, seconded by Chris
Passed unanimously

Michele acknowledges Andrews dedication to AURA over the last four years, and thanks him for starting the club and investing so much time into it.

Meeting Closed 7.38pm

Discussion of Worlds 2015 Trip

Approximate cost \$5-5.5k

Potential Attractions

Science Museum

Kentucky Food (KFC)

National Quilt Museum

Frazier History Museum

Muhammad Ali Center

Louisville Zoo

Thomas Edison House

Lucas, Jack, Oliver, Andrew, MAYBE Karan, Nathan, Aaron, (MAYBE) Rob

Appendix A - Treasurer's Report

Auckland University Robotics Association

Income Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

NB: This report only covers the months until 27/09/14

	\$	\$
Income		
Membership Fees	1160	
Donations	100	
Shirts	191	
Bank Interest	36.33	
Total Income		1487.33
Expenses		
Team Registration	122.79	
Website Expenses	25	
Parts and Laptop	1456.71	
Shirts	632.5	
Event Subsidies	109.33	
Total Expenses		<u>2346.33</u>
Net Surplus		<u>-859</u>

Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31 December 2014

NB: This report only covers the months until 27/09/14

Assets		
Bank		2013.66
Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses		<u>-226.97</u>
Net Assets		<u>2240.63</u>
Equity		
Retained Surplus		3099.63
Surplus for the year		<u>-859</u>
Total Equity		<u>2240.63</u>

Appendix B - Chairperson's Report

AURA has had a good year both in terms of building relationships and in continuing our service to the Auckland robotics community.

We started the year by continuing our annual contribution to organising the New Zealand VEX Robotics National Championships. Our volunteers were key to ensuring that the competition ran smoothly, both in the pre-competition preparation stages and in manpower over the three day event. Teams in attendance were really appreciative of the support we provided throughout the competition, and the event ran smoothly overall. We also organised a National's Volunteers' Dinner following the final day of competition, which was a relaxing end to the weekend and a great opportunity to strengthen ties with other university- and high school- level volunteers from around the country.

Following Nationals, two of our members worked within a group of Kiwibots volunteers on the KiwiChallenge game for this year. They produced a well balanced and interesting game, which was used to help beginner New Zealand teams get up to speed on competition format. We then made further use of this game idea in our recruitment event for this year - a joint effort with the AUTbots club, in which we spent three weeks working with new members from both clubs towards building robots to compete in an Auckland University vs. AUT challenge in the final week. While this new style of recruitment had some teething problems, it was overall a good initiative, both getting new members from both universities involved, and helping us to build on our relationship with the AUTbots club. I look forward to hopefully seeing this run as an annual event.

One of the highlights of the year was our VEX Robotics World Championships Viewing Weekend, which was hosted in Omaha by one of our members. Although we didn't compete in the World Championships this year, we thoroughly enjoyed watching them with other New Zealand volunteers, and supporting our favourite teams. The weekend also included a variety of other social activities, with stand up paddleboarding, handball, and card games being some highlights.

We have continued our support of the Auckland robotics community both through volunteering at scrimmages, mentoring teams within their schools, and community presentations to local groups. In March, we attended a meeting of the Explorers childrens' group, talking to them about various aspects of robotics and giving them an opportunity to get hands-on with some of our designs. The organisation was very happy with the day, and would be eager to have us back in the future. In terms of volunteering at competitions and providing mentoring in schools, we have had a very successful year so far, completing over 550 combined hours of volunteering since the end of Nationals.

More recently, we exhibited as part of the ECE department at Courses and Careers day. With six robots on display, we had lots of interested students asking questions and almost 100 people in attendance for our lecture slot. This bodes well for interest in the club from new students for future years.

Competitively, we have been meeting our goals for this season. We are preparing for the Vex U scrimmage on December 1 against the other university teams in NZ, and are planning to send a team to Vex U Worlds 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition to the Vex, some members have competed in the first season of Auckland University's RoboSoccer competition. We have had some interesting projects started by members throughout the last semester, including an automated screw sorter and a re-working of a previous project using the LEAP Motion Controller.

Overall, this has been a solid year for AURA, with a variety of social events and service activities. I look forward to seeing where the club progresses to next year.

Appendix C - Constitution