



**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL  
NEW LAW ANNEXE SR444  
6:00 PM ON 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2014**

- Chair:** Timothy Scriven
- Minutes:** Joanne Gad
- Attendance:** Grace Sharkey, Guien Miao, Mike Butler, Philip Roberts, Ensiyeh Kazerouni, Kylee Hartman Warren, Kieran Latty, Vanessa Wells (*Arr. 6:14 p.m. via Skype*), Armen Aghazarian (*arr. 6:19 p.m.*), Gareth Charles (*arr. 6:19 p.m.*),
- Guests:** Adrian Cardinali (*SUPRA Staff*), Patrick Miller

**1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country at 6:13 p.m.

★ **2. Governance**

**2.1. Apologies**

Joseph Callingham  
Paul Stewart  
Douglas King  
Kane Hardy  
Alex Dore  
Brigitte McFadden  
Zachary Thompson

**2.2. Proxies**

Douglas King to Philip Roberts (2<sup>nd</sup>pref: Gareth Charles; 3<sup>rd</sup>pref: Vanessa Wells)  
Brendan McMonigal to Joseph Callingham (2<sup>nd</sup>pref: Paul Stewart)  
Kane Hardy to Michael de Waal (2<sup>nd</sup>pref: Kieran Latty; 3<sup>rd</sup>pref: Kylee Hartman Warren)  
Brigitte McFadden to Douglas King (2<sup>nd</sup>pref: Joanne Gad; 3<sup>rd</sup>pref: Timothy Scriven)

**2.3. Resignations**

Michael de Waal has tendered his resignation from Council, nominating Armen Aghazarian as his successor.  
*Vanessa Wells joined the meeting at 6:14 p.m. (Via Skype)*

The President thanked Michael de Waal for his long period of service to SUPRA both as a Council member and as Secretary. The President noted that Michael de Waal was involved in SUPRA during a tricky period, and that his intelligence and insight contributed in getting us through that period.

Nayeem Faisal Shaikh has resigned as Disability Officer and was subsequently elected International Officer. The President reminded Council that Maral Hosseinpour resigned from her position as International Officer and from Council in the previous month.

**Motion [DEC14-01]:** *That SUPRA Council accepts the above resignations, and appoints Armen Aghazarian to Council under section 05.08:1) of the SUPRA Constitution.*

**Moved:** Philip Roberts                      **Seconded:** Kieran Latty

**Carried (consensus).**

## 2.4. Leaves of Absence

Brendan McMonigal, returning in February 2015

## 2.5. Starring of Items

The Council was invited to star items currently not scheduled for discussion.

**Motion [DEC14-02]:** *That SUPRA Council approves all un-starred items.*

**Moved:** Kieran Latty                      **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman Warren

**Carried (consensus).**

# 3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

## 3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

3.1.2. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014

*Attached documentation:* Minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

## 3.2. Business Arising from Minutes

# 4. Officer Reports

## ★ 4.1. President

Timothy Scriven

The President pointed out that his report was tabled in the documents of the meeting, and that he is happy to answer questions in relation to it. He said he is not very busy but still remaining involved in uni activism and also in the management of the team. He invited people to get in contact for new initiatives.

**Motion [DEC14-03]:** *That the President's report be approved.*

**Moved:** Joanne Gad                      **Seconded:** Philip Roberts

**Carried (consensus).**

★ **4.2. Vice-President**

Kylee Hartman-Warren

The Vice-President noted she had circulated her report via email. She added that she recently attended a CAPA conference where a new Executive was elected, as was a new President, Harry Rolf. She added that CAPA are very concerned with the education cuts, and the organisation has run campaigns against these. One of these campaigns involved protesting at Parliament House, and the protestors were escorted off the Parliament House property.

*Armen Aghazarian and Gareth Charles entered the room at 6:19 pm.*

The Vice-President also said she will be organising a staff dinner for next Thursday, and she invited councillors to attend. It will be held at the Spanish Tapas in Glebe. One councillor requested that this invitation be circulated to all of the Council via email.

The Vice-President added that she will be looking at strategy and policy in the new year, and reminded the meeting that she will be presenting some proposed electoral reforms later on in the meeting.

The President spoke in support of the Vice-President's report, saying that the volume and quality of her work has been exemplary in a number of areas.

**Motion [DEC14-04]:** *That Vice-President's report be approved.*

**Moved:** Mike Butler **Seconded:** Philip Roberts

**Carried (consensus).**

**4.3. Education Officer**

Brigitte McFadden

**4.4. Treasurer**

Douglas King

The President noted that the Treasurer's report was tabled and circulated.

**Motion [DEC14-05]:** *That the Treasurer's report be approved*

**Moved:** Guien Miao **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerouni

**Carried (consensus).**

★ **4.5. Secretary & Director of Student Publications**

Joanne Gad

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications reported that the 2015 wall calendar publication was now complete and copies have arrived in the office. She noted that she had brought copies to the meeting for councillors to have and share. She also reported that solid progress is being made on the 2015 Survival Guide, and that January and February of 2015 will be extremely busy with this publication, particularly as a number of staff members will be going on leave.

The President thanked the Secretary & Director of Student Publications for her work.

**Motion [DEC14-06]:** *That the report of the Secretary & Director of Student Publications be approved.*

**Moved:** Guien Miao **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

**Carried (consensus).**

#### 4.6. Equity Officers

★ 4.6.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Michael Butler

The Indigenous Officer reported that he is still trying to get the dinner meeting between SUPRA and Shane Houston to happen. He is currently aiming at a date in February, and also trying to get cultural training organised at a date closer to the start of the academic year. He would like to get these events in place as soon as he can.

The Vice-President offered that she may be able to assist with organising the cultural training, and that CISA works with a very good training provider of cultural competence programs. The Indigenous Officer agreed to be in touch regarding this, and noted that cultural competence isn't just about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness, but that it pans more broadly than that and extends to all cultures, including also international students, people with disabilities, and others.

Adrian Cardinali (SUPRA Staff) added that there is a network he knows of which does that sort of training for next to no money. He would be happy to provide contact details if they were required.

**Motion [DEC14-07]:** *That the Indigenous Officer's report be approved.*

**Moved:** Philip Roberts                      **Seconded:** Kieran Latty

**Carried (consensus).**

The President took a moment to welcome Armen Aghazarian to the council and congratulate him on joining.

#### 4.6.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

*Position currently vacant*

★ 4.6.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Nayeem Faisal Shaikh

The President noted that the International Officer's report was tabled at the meeting.

**Motion [DEC14-08]:** *That International Officer's report be approved.*

**Moved:** Guien Miao                      **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerouni

**Carried (consensus).**

#### 4.6.4. QUEER OFFICER

Grace Sharkey

No hours claimed

★ 4.6.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerouni

The President noted that this report was tabled at the meeting.

**Motion [DEC14-09]:** *That Women's Officer report be approved.*

**Moved:** Kieran Latty

**Seconded:** Grace Sharkey

**Carried (consensus).**

#### 4.6.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

*Position currently vacant*

**Recommendation:** SUPRA Council accepts the tabled reports of Officers.

*Attached documentation:* Reports of Officers.

### 4.7. Business Arising from Reports

## ★ 5. Workplace Health and Safety

The president noted an issue concerning Fire Safety will be addressed during the report from a member of staff. One councillor reported that utensils and cleaning equipment seem to be lacking. We need more sponges and detergent.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications noted that there were now two more working computers in council offices.

## ★ 6. Verbal Report from a Member of Staff

Adrian Cardinali (SAAO Coordinator)

Adrian Cardinali reported that there were presently 627 cases in the system. The way these are recorded we will end up with over 700, and this will be the most that we have ever had in one year, ever. Lots of academic dishonesty and show cause cases, plus some academic appeals. There have also been cases of fraudulent doctor's certificates recently reported in the news, and SUPRA is seeing some of these cases.

The Indigenous Officer asked how these cases are dealt with, and Adrian Cardinali replied that we will look to help a student defend themselves in any reasonable way that they can.

The legal service is seeing supervision issues, and also family law as well as motor vehicle and injury cases. Some of this is because community legal aid has been cut, and some students cannot get help outside of SUPRA if they lack money. Adrian noted that we don't yet have all the year's data from RLC, but so far their surveys indicate an extraordinary level of service demand at SUPRA.

The Student's Representative Council (SRC) has reported that the Department of Transport is asking Universities for private student information for Government monitoring purposes.

Adrian also reported that he is working with Admin on a new database, as there are problems in accessing reports. He has also conducted, and is just about to do a review of feedback from students.

Hank Whan is currently working on a slumlord database, and has recently been to Camden Farm to celebrate the opening of the new children's playground. SUPRA was involved in seeing this playground be funded and built across the previous years.

Adrian also reported that he is about to commence in-team planning in the new year.

Hayley Stone is our new fire warden and there was a fire drill held in the offices last Friday. The resulting preparedness assessment was not good, and there are fire risks that make it not as safe as it should be. For example, when an alarm goes off there is nothing that tells the fire brigade where the fire is. There are also problems with the alarms themselves as they don't automatically report to a central point, and rely on someone being present within the building to respond to the alarm.

Adrian also said staff are planning international visa sessions for 2015, and are all writing Survival Guide content. There are also new brochures being developed and soon going up online.

Staff recently went on a tour of the new premises with some members of council. Staff are saying that these premises are very good and better than SUPRA has ever seen. There are some issues to be resolved, such as damp within the building and wi-fi connectivity.

A councillor inquired about case work load, and asked about the nature of some of the new issues coming out of casework. He also asked whether there are any policy changes that could be taken up as a result of that by councillors on representation committees. Adrian noted that there are some instances where some situations trigger high level responses from the university by meeting certain criteria. In some cases this starts a series of processes that can be difficult to deal with, cannot be reversed, and are also unnecessary and disproportionate. Increasing the threshold for that trigger would be better for students. Secondly, case numbers are increasing, and there will be a discussion in the team about the threshold at which it is necessary to accompany a student to a meeting. If this discussion isn't had, the Advocacy team will very quickly reach a point where they won't be able to meet student demand for services.

The President reported that the Vice Chancellor, Dr Spence, had brought up the issue of plagiarism at a meeting of the Academic Board. Dr Spence advocated not taking a completely penal attitude to plagiarism. Others at that meeting reflected that the current HSC is more or less structural plagiarism. The President requested that Adrian write a paper proposing an alternative response to plagiarism cases, and also include details of a University at which this alternative is being used successfully, or where a different system applies. Adrian agreed to this request.

A councillor added that University staff have trouble dealing with plagiarism and many cases remain hidden. Even if cases of plagiarism are found, there is a lack of time available to deal with them. It may be that legitimate cases of plagiarism are identified, but the teacher has more incentive to just deduct marks rather than go through the many additional hours that are required to properly deal with it. Adrian responded that there is a skill issue also involved, and some students just do not have the skills to produce the work that is expected of them. Adrian reflected that selling or buying degrees as a commodity is not far off from getting a fraudulent medical certificate, and that there are structural factors that push things this way. The President asked Adrian to include this comment in his report.

The President also added that there was recently a motion passed at the Workplace Consultative Committee advising Council to alter the terms of Adrian's employment.

**Procedural:** That the meeting move *in camera*, allowing Adrian Cardinali to remain in the room.

**Moved:** Timothy Scriven                      **Carried** (6:59 p.m.)

**Motion [DEC14-11]:**      *That Council thank Adrian Cardinali for his report.*

**Moved:**                                      Guien Miao                                      **Seconded:**                                      Philip Roberts

**Carried (consensus).**

**Procedural:** That the meeting move *ex camera*.

**Moved:** Timothy Scriven                      **Carried** (7:05 p.m.)

## ★ 7.      **Conference Request**

Attached documentation: - *SUPRA Conference Attendance Support for Subscribers*  
- *Request for support from a student*

The President introduced the request for support, drawing attention to the policy put together by the Treasurer. The Secretary & Director of Student Publications noted that the policy was only a draft and that it had not yet been considered or adopted by Council.

The President suggested that the policy could be considered prior to the request for support, and said that the draft policy outlines the ways in which SUPRA can provide support for activities which further the aims of the Association. The Treasurer wrote up this policy, and the President stated that he thinks it is fine, however he was not sure whether all of the recommendations from Policy Committee had been incorporated.

Adrian Cardinali made an inquiry about the budget limit contained within the policy, and the President replied that it would change proportionately according to funding.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications pointed out section 1:2) and could arguably preclude a lot of different activities, and the Vice-President agreed saying that it would exclude the request tabled before Council tonight.

Adrian Cardinali advised that there is SSAF legislation preventing SSAF funding from flowing to political parties, however that it wouldn't necessarily preclude a student attending a conference with the aim of presenting on student issues, as they would not be in attendance in support of the party.

President agreed that the upcoming request for support was not likely to be approved under the policy, and we could probably defer consideration of the policy to a later meeting. One councillor stated that Council should be clear that its decision regarding the student's request is being made irrespective of the policy, as there is question over the policy's legitimacy or whether it was previously adopted by Council.

The meeting took some time to consider the student request, and the President took a straw poll to see whether there was support for the request. The poll indicated a widespread lack of support.

The President advised that the student's request be rejected and that the conference attendance draft policy be deferred to the next meeting.

## 8. Proposed Electoral Reforms

*Attached documentation:* - Proposed amendments to the Electoral Regulations

The Vice-President spoke to the item and relayed that in 2012 there were problems with electoral regulations which resulted in the Returning Officer ruling to exclude postgrads from voting in SUPRA elections if they were not registered SUPRA members by a certain date.

She recommended that the Electoral Regulations be amended to entitle all postgrads to vote in SUPRA elections, clarifying that under the proposed amendments the cut-off will determine who can receive a postal ballot, but allow all other eligible postgrads to join and vote in the election right until the close of ballots.

The President voiced his concern about changes to sections 5.02:3) and 5.02:4) which would make mandatory the advertising of compulsory written candidate statements. The Vice-President explained that her proposed changes to the Regulations are intended to make drafting of the notice clearer, and that the change was simply to ensure that information on the notice of elections was as complete as possible. The Secretary & Director of Student Publications also spoke in favour of the proposed amendments, saying that without the amendment, it was likely many candidates would be disqualified as they may not be aware that a written candidate statement is compulsory. The President proposed that any outstanding issues could be addressed at a further time, even if the amendments were approved.

One councillor asked how the roll of eligible voters could be checked if the roll was open until the close of ballots, and the Vice-President replied that a physical roll of postgraduate students is used to confirm voter eligibility, and that this process would remain unaffected by the amendments.

*Patrick Miller departed at 7:32 p.m.*

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications raised that the late delivery of postal ballots was an issue at the last election, where many ballots from off-campus students were excluded due to delayed postage. She asked whether there could be an effort to address this, and this issue was discussed. It was proposed that notices could be inserted in the ballot information leaflet, and also in eGrad.

**Motion [DEC14-12]:** *That the amendments to the Electoral Regulations be approved as tabled.*

**Moved:** Kylee Hartman-Warren      **Seconded:** Joanne Gad

**Carried (1 abstention – Vanessa Wells).**

## 9. Other Business

- Honi Soit Pages

A councillor brought up that for \$4000 SUPRA could get pages in Honi Soit at cost price. The councillor also noted that there may be issues with getting content prepared and submitted each week, and that those issues would have to be discussed internally to SUPRA prior to any decision being made. Adrian Cardinali confirmed that staff would need to discuss this first, and that this has happened before in the past.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications suggested that this be discussed at the next meeting of the Workplace Consultative Committee, and the President signalled his interest in managing this as an ongoing process. One councillor advocated that content could be drawn from constituents who may like to prepare information and profiles on their research.

- Camden End of Year Event

A councillor raised that it would be good to have a post-Christmas party, such as a BBQ, for the isolated postgrads at Camden Farms. A potential event for Australia day was also discussed with issues raised about its significance as a day of invasion. It was suggested that a day out at the beach could be one option, and one problem was identified in that many international students don't know how to swim. It was decided to defer this item for further discussion at the next meeting of Management Committee.

- The next meeting of Management Committee

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications raised that she had a scheduling clash with the current time of the next Management Committee meeting. Various times were discussed and 5 p.m. on Monday was identified as a suitable time. She agreed to send notice of the amended time on behalf of the President.

- Log of Claims

The President reported that two new ideas had recently come up at the last Education Action Network meeting. One was a log of claims, and the other a student forum. He asked if there was any dissent or discussion to these being supported by SUPRA, and there were no objections.

**Motion [DEC14-13]:** *That SUPRA work on a log of claims campaign building up to a town hall meeting early next semester, and ideally in combination with SRC and USU but on its own if necessary.*

**Moved:** Grace Sharkey                      **Seconded:** Philip Roberts

**Carried (consensus).**

**Motion [DEC14-14]:** *That SUPRA resolves to hold a forum on free education in combination with SRC and USU next semester.*

**Moved:** Philip Roberts                      **Seconded:** Grace Sharkey

**Carried (consensus).**

The President called for other business and there was none.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:52 p.m.