



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SUPRA COUNCIL
HELD AT EDWARD FORD TUTORIAL ROOM 101
6.00 PM ON 11TH MARCH, 2015**

Chair: Timothy Scriven

Minutes: Douglas King

Attendance: Paul Stewart, Brendan McMonigal, Brigitte McFaden, Guien Miao, Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerarni, Kaitlin Tagg, Kane Hardy, Michael Butler, Kieran Latty, Armen Aghazarian, Gareth Charles (from 7.55pm)

Staff: John Fell, Adrian Cardinali

Others: Ahmed Suhaid

★ 1. **Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.24 pm.

★ 2. **Governance**

2.1. **Apologies**

Vanessa Wells

Alex Dore

Xiaoyi Sun

Thomas Greenwell

Zachary Thompson

Helen Chen

Joseph Callingham

Phillip Roberts

Guien Miao

Celeste Ellis

Armen Aghazarian

Kylee Hartman Warren

Gareth Charles

2.2. Proxies

Vanessa Wells to Joanne Gad

Xiaoyi Sun to Guien Miao

Thomas Greenwell to Brigitte McFadden (2nd pref: Kane Hardy; 3rd pref: Kieran Latty)

Helen Chen to Guien Miao (2nd pref: Douglas King)

Joseph Callingham to Alex Dore (2nd pref: Paul Stewart)

Phillip Roberts to Brigitte McFadden (2nd pref: Kieran Latty; 3rd pref: Kylee Hartman Warren)

Guien Miao to Joanne Gad (2nd pref: Ensiyeh Kazerarni; 3rd pref: Kaitlin Tagg)

Celeste Ellis to Brigitte McFadden (2nd pref: Kane Hardy; 3rd pref: Kieran Latty)

Armen Aghazarian to Brigitte McFadden (2nd pref: Tom Greenwell; 3rd pref: Kane Hardy)

Kylee to Joanne Gad (2nd pref: Ensiyeh Kazerarni; 3rd pref: Tom Greenwell)

Gareth Charles to Douglas King (2nd pref: Kieran Latty; 3rd pref: Kane Hardy)

2.3. Starring of Items

A councillor requested items 2.4 Results of Motion by Circulation, 3.1.4 Finance Committee Meeting, 6th March 2015 (inquorate) and 4.1 President's Report be starred.

Motion [MAR11-01]: That SUPRA Council accepts all un-starred items.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerarni

Carried (consensus).

2.4. Results of Motion by Circulation

Motion [MAR03-01]: That this council offers Stephen Leslie an appointment as Returning officer for the 2015 SUPRA elections, and offers the Piggott-Stinston law firm (represented by Ray Travers) the position of electoral arbiter.

Moved: Tim Scriven **Seconded:** Douglas King

Carried (17 for, 9 against [1 nay, 2 abstentions, 6 failed to respond]).

The President spoke to the results of the motion by circulation. A councillor had reservations that the Returning Officer could have a potential conflict-of-interest, noting that in last year's appointment of him as returning officer it was noted that his daughter was a constituent of SUPRA. The President noted this concern, mentioned he had contacted the Returning Officer on this matter, and was awaiting reply as of the time of the meeting. The President further noted he would ask the Returning Officer again for advice on this matter.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 12TH JANUARY 2015

3.1.2. COUNCIL MEETING, 10TH FEBRUARY 2015

★ 3.1.3. COUNCIL MEETING, 19TH FEBRUARY 2015

The Treasurer spoke to the corrections made in the tabled minutes from the draft minutes previously circulated to Council.

Motion [MAR11-02]: That SUPRA Council accepts the tabled minutes of the Council Meeting of 19th February, 2015.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Kieran Latty

Carried (consensus).

★ 3.1.4. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 6TH MARCH 2015 (INQUORATE)

A councillor noted that minutes for inquorate meetings were never traditionally presented to Council. The President mentioned the precedent that attendance or noted apologies for subcommittee meetings, even if proving inquorate, were to be recorded for the purposes of the removal-by-non-attendance clauses of the Constitution. The Treasurer added that, in light of recent differences of interpretation of the Constitution, there was need for a Council-approved official record. Several councillors replied that minutes that covered no business were unnecessary, and the Secretary could simply be directed to keep a record of those present or having sent apologies. The President agreed with this proposal.

★ 3.1.5. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING, 12TH FEBRUARY 2015

Motion [MAR11-03]: That SUPRA Council accepts the tabled minutes of the Publications Committee Meeting of 19th February, 2015.

Moved: Brigitte McFadden **Seconded:** Guien Miao

Carried (consensus).

Attached documentation: Minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

Message from Acting Secretary regarding minutes of Council meeting, 12/1/15

3.2. Business Arising from Minutes

4. Officer Reports

★ 4.1. President

Timothy Scriven

The President noted his report was as written, but he was happy to take any questions. A councillor asked how SSAF negotiations and the SSAF submission document were progressing. The President replied that the applying student associations had agreed there would be no agreement between them, with a total claim between them \$200,000 above what was on offer. The individual submissions from each association would be presented to the University to arbitrate on the strength of each submission. SUPRA's submission was near complete, including the President's cover letter, with some more work by the Finance Manager due before a final review on Friday.

Motion [MAR11-04]: That SUPRA Council thanks the Finance Manager, John Fell, for his work on the 2015 SSAF negotiations.

Moved: Timothy Scriven **Seconded:** Guien Miao

Carried (consensus).

A councillor asked after the Acting-Vice-President's report. The President clarified that as no hours had, as yet, been claimed, no report was necessary and, further, that hours could be claimed for this period later on. The Education Officer asked if the Acting-Vice-President was aware of the paperwork he was required to complete, which the President and the SSAO Coordinator confirmed.

A councillor noted that the first issue of *Honi Soit* had attributed authorship of SUPRA content to the President and executive, rather than Council as agreed at prior Council meetings, and enquired if a printed apology could be sought from *Honi Soit*. The President responded that a Memorandum of Understanding was to be drafted with the *Honi Soit* Editors, and an apology could be negotiated at that stage. A general discussion to the lack of SUPRA content for the second edition followed, with the President explaining that O-week pressures, along with staff illness, had precluded this. Means to ensure content was always available for publication were discussed, with a consensus arising on a 'Research in Profile' feature to promote the work of postgraduates, with controls for quality and concordance with SUPRA's historically expressed policies.

Motion [MAR11-05]: That SUPRA Council seeks, through eGrad, submissions from subscribers for a 'Research in Profile' feature for publication in the SUPRA pages of *Honi Soit*,

4.7. Director of Student Publications

Joanne Gad

The DSP's report was briefly discussed.

Motion [MAR11-08]: That SUPRA Council thanks Amity Lynch for her work on the Survival Guide.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerarni

Carried (consensus).

Motion [MAR11-09]: That SUPRA Council approves the Director of Student Publications' Report.

Moved: Douglas King **Seconded:** Guien Miao

Carried (consensus).

4.8. Equity Officers



4.8.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Michael Butler

The ATSI Officer spoke to his report, noting he attended the state funeral of Mrs Faith Bandler AC, a leader of the fight for the 1967 Referendum, for SUPRA. The ATSI Officer noted that Faith Bandler, who he had not been aware previously aware of, was a model to emulate, and campaigned with grace and dignity.

The ATSI Officer mentioned he had met with Kaya Aboagye from the DVC (Indigenous)'s office, who had ownership of the indigenous postgraduates portfolio. A meeting of the indigenous postgraduates network was held on February 15th, funded by the University, to draw the many external campus members together to enhance academic skills and sense of inclusion in the University.

The ATSI Officer had met with a local Glebe elder – Graeme Mooney, who had been on the Board of Aboriginal Studies for the NSW government – to improve networks with the local indigenous population.

The Education Officer, along with various members of Council, discussed with the ATSI Officer the possibility of arranging a visit by Council to the Redfern Tent Embassy. A consensus that a date should be arranged very soon due to the threat of evictions was reached. The Education Officer also thanked the ATSI Officer for his light-heartedness and general good-humour during O-week, noting it reduced stress for all present.

The ATSI Officer also noted there would be a free concert on the next Friday, open to all, in the Great Hall to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides, including artists such as Troy Cassar-Daly.

Motion [MAR11-10]: That SUPRA Council approves the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Officer's Report.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Armen Aghazarian

Carried (consensus).

4.8.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Position currently vacant



4.8.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Nayeem Faisal Shaikh

Motion [MAR11-10]: That SUPRA Council approves the International Officer's Report.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Michael Butler

Carried (consensus).

4.8.4. QUEER OFFICER

Position currently vacant

★ 4.8.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerarni

The Women's Officer spoke to her report, noting she had nothing to add and was happy to answer questions.

Motion [MAR11-11]: That SUPRA Council approves the Women's Officer's Report.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Brigitte McFadden

Carried (consensus).

4.8.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Position currently vacant

Attached documentation: Reports of Officers.

★ 4.9. Business Arising from Reports

The President spoke to his motion regarding O-week, requesting that all councillors, constituents and non-subscribers that assisted be added, but not individually named for fear of forgetting anyone's efforts. A Councillor requested that names of office bearers be included, to which the President agreed.

Motion [MAR11-12]: That SUPRA council thank (in no special order): the Treasurer, Douglas King; Acting Secretaries, Guien Miao and Douglas King; Vice-President, Kylee Hartman Warren; Acting Vice-President, Tom Greenwell; Education Officer, Brigitte Garozzo; Director of Student Publications, Joanne Gad; Women's Officer, Forough Kazerarni; Indigenous Officer, Mike Butler; and International Students Officer, Faisal Shaikh; as well as all non-office bearers for their contributions around and during O-week.

Moved: Timothy Scriven **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerarni

Carried (consensus).

Guien Miao noted her conflict of interest for the next motion, and abstained from discussion.

The President requested the motion be adjusted to give thanks to Guien for taking on the role when she had an extremely busy workload already and was not expecting this work.

Motion [MAR11-13]: That SUPRA Council approve 14 hours for Guien Miao for her work as acting Secretary for the period, 23/02/2015 to 01/03/2015, and thanks her for taking up the position on top of her extremely busy workload and without having expected the work.

Moved: Ensiyeh Kazerarni **Seconded:** Michael Butler

Carried (1 abstention, Guien Miao).

A councillor noted, regarding the next motion, that Vaivi Mase, Kane Hardy and Kaitlin Tagg had put in especial effort during O-week, and should be recognised. The Education Officer requested that Phillip Roberts be included, to which the councillor was amenable.

Motion [MAR11-14]: That SUPRA Council extends its thanks to Vaivi Mase, Kane Hardy, Kaitlin Tagg, and Phillip Roberts for their significant contributions during O-Week.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Brigitte McFadden

Carried (consensus).

A councillor noted that in her report as acting Secretary she had included a breakdown of hours worked, and noted the Treasurer had done the same for his claimed hours. In addition, the matter had previously been discussed in Council, it was useful to have proof of work, it didn't take much longer to tally for the report, and enabled Council to see what tasks required assistance they could provide.

The President raised some concerns, noting that in a facilitating role such as his, continuously swapping from project to project, quantification of individual tasks was problematic for the quality of hours reported.

Motion [MAR11-18]: That SUPRA Council thanks all staff members for their efforts during O-week.
Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Brigitte McFadden
Carried (consensus).

★ 8. CAPA 2015 Affiliation

Attached documentation: Letter to Affiliates
SUPRA Affiliation Invoice
Fee Discount Form
CAPA Budget 2014

The President spoke to the history of SUPRA's affiliation with CAPA noting that, despite heavy debate every year as to the relative merits of being affiliated, Council invariably voted to continue our affiliation. A Councillor enquired what services CAPA actually provided. The President listed many of these including: lobbying of Federal parliament; organisation of campaigns; production of resources; research on postgraduate issues; release of press releases; and assistance for postgraduate bodies actively trying to be shut down, such as MUPRA at Macquarie University. The President further stressed that none of this would be possible without affiliation by university postgraduate bodies. The SSAO Coordinator added that if SUPRA wished to influence lobbying, affiliation was necessary, noting several successful campaigns. He added that staff would approve affiliation. The Education Officer stated that CAPA was an important peak body ensuring government lobbying and added that, when undergraduates are so much more visible, it is critical to support both CAPA and a strong postgraduate voice more generally. The Education Officer noted some reservations, noting CAPA's relative lack of activism, but stressed this was no reason to withhold support – rather a reason to increase involvement.

Motion [MAR11-19]: That SUPRA Council approves \$28,104.41 for affiliation to CAPA for 2015.
Moved: Kieran Latty **Seconded:** Brigitte McFadden
Carried (consensus).

★ 9. Interim Budget 2015

Attached documentation: Revised interim budget 2015

The Treasurer spoke to this item, noting that the budget circulated to Councillors had been adjusted to meet the terms of the motion of last Council meeting, and came out at approximately \$600 surplus. He noted that the ongoing SSAF negotiations would likely result in \$20,000 less than previously forecasted for SUPRA, yielding a small deficit, as per the budget tabled at this meeting. The Treasurer noted that a budget does not dictate how Council would spend money but, rather, puts aside provisions for such expenditure as Council is likely to approve. As such, the deficit on paper in this budget was likely to actually result in a much lower operating deficit, or possibly a small surplus.

A councillor asked after the result of the 2014 budget. The Treasurer stated that 2014 has resulted in an operating surplus of approximately \$50,000 that, after increasing provisions for staff entitlements in line with the auditor's suggestions for good corporate governance, yielded a gross deficit of approximately \$13,000. The Treasurer noted that even this deficit was markedly better than the last few year's budget outcomes, strengthening SUPRA's long-term viability.

Gareth Charles entered at 7.55 pm

The Finance Manager spoke to the pressing need to have an interim budget passed, noting it was extremely restrictive to not have a guideline to work with. He added that the budget was to be seen as an expenditure budget, realistically putting down only what SUPRA wanted to spend and how much we were likely to receive via SSAF. The Treasurer noted that a final budget would be presented when the SSAF process was complete, adding there was a need to pass an interim budget before SSAF submissions were due, on Friday. The Finance Manager stated that he was happy to answer any budget questions at any time via email or phone.

The President thanked the Finance Manager and the Treasurer for their work on the budget, noting it had undergone revision twice. He also stated his unease with reducing provisions to create a surplus on paper, noting that if a larger gross surplus results it creates difficulties for future SSAF negotiations. The President commended the budget to the floor.

Motion [MAR11-20]: That SUPRA Council approves the attached revised interim budget for 2015.

