



MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR ROOM 458 ON THE 7TH OF SEPTEMBER AT 6:00PM

Chair: Kylee Hartman-Warren & Christian Jones

Minutes: Kane Hardy

Attendance: Kane Hardy, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Christian Jones, Myriarm Song, Elizabeth Gatens, Joshua Preece, Rashmi Dixit, Thomas Greenwell, Joseph Callingham (*left at 7:09pm*), Ahmed Suhaib, Marguerite Biasatti, Kieran Latty, Ellen Weekes (*arrived at 6:10pm*), Mike Butler (*arrived at 6:11pm*), Gareth Charles (*arrived at 6:17pm*), Carlos Monteverde (*arrived at 6:17pm, left at 8:26pm*), Syed Atif (*arrived at 6:17pm*), Forough Ghanizadeh (*arrived at 6:17pm*), Kaitlin Tagg (*arrived at 6:20pm*), Fatima Rauf (*arrived at 6:28pm*), Guien Miao (*arrived at 6:34pm, left at 7:43pm*), Rachel Evans (*arrived at 7:01pm*)

Staff: Adrian Cardinali

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 6:05pm and Joshua Preece gave an acknowledgement of country.

★

2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

James Hammerton

Rachel Evans (late)

Bhagaban Acharya

Rafi Alam

Douglas King

Kaitlin Tagg (late)

Angelica Fernandez

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal

Anna Sanders-Robinson

2.2. Proxies

Bhagaban Acharya to Forough Ghanizadeh (2nd preference Syed Atif, 3rd preference Joseph Callingham)

Douglas King to Anna Sanders-Robinson (2nd preference Mike Butler, 3rd preference Gareth Charles)

Rachel Evans to Mike Butler

Anna Sanders-Robinson to Mike Butler (2nd preference Kane Hardy)

Rafi Alam to Kane Hardy (2nd preference Thomas Greenwell, 3rd preference Fatima Rauf)

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal to Forough Ghanizadeh (2nd preference Kane Hardy)

2.3. Leaves of Absence

Douglas King has requested a leave of absence for the period of 14/09/15 to 05/10/15 inclusive as he will be presenting at a conference and then going on fieldwork immediately afterwards.

Anna Sanders-Robinson has requested a leave of absence for the period of 07/09/15 to 18/09/15 as she will be on placement during this time and won't be able to make meetings.

Motion [SEP07-01]: That Council approves a leave of absence for Douglas King for the period of 14/09/15 to 05/10/15, inclusive, and a leave of absence for Anna Sanders-Robinson for the period of 07/09/15 to 18/09/15, inclusive.

Moved: Kane Hardy **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

Carried (consensus).

2.4. Starring of Items

Council is invited to star any agenda items they would like discussed.

Motion [SEP07-02]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

Carried (consensus).

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 13TH AUGUST 2015

3.1.2. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING, 18TH AUGUST 2015

3.1.3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING, 21ST AUGUST 2015

3.1.4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, 24TH AUGUST 2015

3.1.5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING, 24TH AUGUST 2015

3.1.6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, 31ST AUGUST, 2015

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

★ 4.1.1. CO-PRESIDENT

Christian Jones

The President spoke to his report, stating that he has had a lot of meetings and that the memorandum of understanding is being negotiated with the SRC and USU.

Ellen Weekes arrived at 6:10pm.

Mike Butler arrived at 6:11pm.

The President, The Vice-President and the Treasurer will be having a meeting with the USU on Wednesday.

Motion [SEP07-03]: That council approves the President's report.

Moved: Mike Butler **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

Carried (consensus).

4.1.2. CO-PRESIDENT

Kylee Hartman-Warren

4.1.3. VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas Greenwell

4.1.4. CO-EDUCATION OFFICER

Fatima Rauf

★ 4.1.5. CO-EDUCATION OFFICER

Rafi Alam

No report submitted.

★ 4.1.6. TREASURER

Joshua Preece

The Vice-President noted that motions in reports that are approved with unstarred items are assumed to have unanimous support. A Councillor suggested for the office bearer to have the motion put in the agenda.

Action: The Secretary should, from now on, put motions from the reports into the agenda.

Gareth Charles, Syed Atif, Carlos Monteverde and Forough Ghanizadeh arrived at 6:17pm.

Kaitlin Tagg arrived at 6:20pm.

Motion [SEP07-04]: The 2015 Med Revue, 'Pulse Fiction' was performed from 3 September to 5 September. SUPRA congratulates the 2015 Stage 1 Medicine Cohort on their engaging performance. SUPRA particularly commends our three SUPRA Stars

(Elizabeth Gatens, Myriarm Song, and Ellen Weekes) for their ability to blend the intricate footwork of Ginger Rogers, the comedic timing of a pre-Pitch Perfect 2 Rebel Wilson, and the stage presence of a young Liza Minnelli. Rumours abound that they may soon leave us for the West End.

Moved: Joshua Preece **Seconded:** Mike Butler

Abstentions: Forough Ghanizadeh (and 2 proxies), Syed Atif, Carlos Monteverde

Carried.

Motion [SEP07-05]: That council approves the Treasurer's report.

Moved: Rashmi Dixit **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

Against: Forough Ghanizadeh, Syed Atif

Abstentions: Kaitlin Tagg

Carried.

4.1.7. SECRETARY

Kane Hardy



4.1.8. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Myriarm Song

The Director of Student Publications (DSP) stated that the past month or so has been very busy. She has been managing emails and articles for Honi Soit and has been helping with communications with the Sydney Medical Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society. She is considering resigning because it is a lot more work than she initially anticipated. When she signed up for the job she didn't believe that the hours working for Honi Soit was incorporated into the job description. She suggested raising the stipend since this is a new job description. During her time in the role she has been spending five hours per week alone on Honi Soit and has had no time to work on the Postgraduate Survival Guide.

The Secretary asked if the DSP was planning on resigning now, or if she was planning on delegating hours to someone else. The DSP said that she was planning to resign a week ago. She is currently still getting phone calls and emails. People making plans are still contacting her. Her personal preference is to be resigning now, but she doesn't know how long the process will take.

A councillor said that it is great that the DSP has recognised problems with time management early on. He asked if she will still be staying on council, or if she would be resigning from that too. The DSP said that she would be staying on council. The councillor then asked what the work with Honi Soit involved. She said that she has been checking emails, chasing up for articles, reading through articles and spending a lot of time spent chasing up people.

Fatima Rauf arrived at 6:28pm.

A councillor asked the DSP if she could get help from other officers and staff members. The DSP said that there are a few issues. Since there are a lot of the other staff and executive, the exchange is not particularly quick and she is constantly worrying about what will be happening. For example, one of the administration/publications staff took two weeks to reply on something to go in

eGrad. The job is not what she thought it would be, she is not enjoying it and it is very stressful. The problem is not just the time commitment, but the personal stress and not being able to do a proper job.

Guien Miao arrived at 6:34pm.

Motion [SEP07-06]: That council approves the report of the Director of Student Publications.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Fatima Rauf

Carried.

Abstentions: Joseph Callingham

Motion [SEP07-07]: That council accepts the resignation of Myriarm Song from the position of Director of Student Publications.

Moved: Joshua Preece **Seconded:** Christian Jones

Abstentions: Guien Miao

Carried.

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Mike Butler



4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti

The Disabilities Officer said that she will endeavour to get reports in on time in the future. She outlined that in the written report circulated at the meeting. She has been working on disability awareness week, amongst other things.

Motion [SEP07-08]: That council accepts the Disabilities Officer's report.

Moved: Kane Hardy **Seconded:** Syed Atif

Carried (consensus).

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans

4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Forough Ghanizadeh

4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Douglas King

4.3. Business Arising from Reports

★ 5. Meeting Procedure

The Vice-President will speak to this item.

The Vice-President wants to add half a sentence to 03.01 3) of the Rules of Order. If office bearers don't have their reports circulated they have to speak to it at council. The Rules of Order say that reports submitted late can only be noted, which contradicts the Financial Regulations saying that office bearers can be paid.

A councillor asked the Vice-President to explain the implications of this. The Vice-President said that everything is the exact same. The Rules of Order will be updated to be consistent with financial regulations.

Motion [SEP07-09]: That council approves the attached amendments.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Kaitlin Tagg

Abstentions: Syed Atif, Guien Miao, Marguerite Biasatti

Carried.

The Secretary requested that the Vice-President summarise the meeting procedure. The Vice-President said that people are not adhering to the Rules of Order.

A councillor said that there is nothing in the Code of Conduct saying to move a procedural motion to remove someone from the room. Another councillor asked who can move a procedural to remove someone. The Secretary said anyone could. The councillor said this could be abused if the meeting is stacked.

★ 6. Report Back from Engineers' Coffee with SUPRA

See attached documentation.

A councillor summarised the attached documentation about this event that he hosted. He has compiled concerns from engineering students and is working on acting on them. He would like to host a football game on campus so that postgraduate students can network with each other.

He added that he would like next council meeting to take place on the engineering campus. Another councillor suggested keeping meeting in the middle of both campuses. The other councillor suggested going around the campus to see which is the best. Another councillor said that council might have to take into account logistical factors e.g. availability of rooms, but commended the idea.

A Co-President said that he doesn't mind having it on the Darlington campus, but doesn't think the meetings should move around too much. He doesn't think we should have meetings on satellite campuses.

A councillor said that there's a line in the budget allowing for travel and that she can recommend rooms for council meeting on the engineering side of campus.

Motion [SEP07-10]: That the next meeting takes place on the engineering side of campus.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Guien Miao

Abstentions: Ellen Weekes, Myriam Song, Joshua Preece

Carried.

Motion [SEP07-11]: That council thanks Mike Butler, Syed Atif, Forough Ghanizadeh

Moved: Guien Miao **Second:** Kaitlin Tagg

4 abstentions.

Rachel Evans arrived at 7:01pm.

Motion [SEP07-12]: That council discusses items 7 and 8 together.

Moved: Christian Jones

Carried.

★ **7. Poor Communication from the President's Office**

A councillor had raised concerns stating, "Despite having two presidents, there has been an acute lack of response from the President's office. Even after several weeks have lapsed, I am still awaiting response on my two emails sent to the President's office, dated 14th August and 25th August. Consultations with other colleagues has revealed that I am not the only affectee. This also raises doubts over President's Report since the President has been consistently claiming hours under the heads of housekeeping duties. Moreover, it highlights the inaccessibility of the co-Presidents, not only to the general SUPRA subscribers, but even the worthy council members."

8. Professional Etiquette for Electronic Communication

Another concern raised states, "It is rapidly becoming a habit of some office bearers to respond on behalf of others. This reflects a very unprofessional behaviour on part of the SUPRA executives, as well as the general councilors. Lately, it has been observed that the emails directed to the president's office, regardless of the unfateful response they are greeted with there, are being responded by very unrelated personnels. For instance, a question directed to the President was responded to by the Co-Education Officer, and very recently, another question directed to the president's office was responded to by the Rural Officer. I believe that this trend needs to change, and the office bearers should let the Co-Presidents take charge and respond to the questions, as at the end of the day it is their word that matters, and not the office bearers on an unrelated portfolio. Depriving the Co-Presidents of the opportunity to respond only (mis-)communicates the notion of their lack of knowledge on SUPRA policy matters and the incompetency thereof."

★ **Motion [SEP07-13]:** That the Thomas Greenwell becomes the chair.

Moved: Christian Jones

Carried.

Thomas Greenwell becomes the chair.

The councillor who brought this item forward said that he doesn't really have anything to say about it, stating that it is self-explanatory. He has been sending emails, but hasn't heard back from them. He said that unrelated, irrelevant people have been responding to his emails. That needs to end. If a question is asked of the Presidents, they need to respond.

The Presidents are claiming hours from housekeeping, e.g. responding to emails, and they need to be accountable to that.

A Co-Education officer said, in response to item 8, that the question was to be responded by the other Co-Education officer. The email was sent to all of council the councillor expects no one to respond to them. She said that he cannot expect that, and that he shouldn't CC all of council in future. Another councillor recommended what the Co-Education Officer said, but said that the Presidents should have still replied.

The councillor in question, in response to the Co-Education Officer, said that there is a distinction between "TO" and "CC". He wanted everyone to know what's happening. It was suggested in one of the Presidents' emails that people should get Facebook because it is the preferred means of communication – that shouldn't be imposed on people, they may have good reasons for not getting Facebook.

Joseph Callingham left at 7:09pm. He proxied to Kaitlin Tagg.

A councillor wanted to mention that the prestige of President means that they should reply to emails that address them. The fact that the Presidents don't reply to their emails shows that they don't have the knowledge, which disrespects the President's office.

A councillor said that one of the biggest failings of the last council was a lack of communication and council being left out. She doesn't mind seeing the emails because at least she knows what's going on.

Gareth Charles and Mike Butler left at 7:15pm.

Guien Miao left at 5:16pm.

A staff member acknowledged that the Presidents have been working very hard. A Co-President thanked everyone for raising concerns. She said that he has noticed this issue as well. She has worked on emails, creating a colour-coded system to better mitigate emails. She said that there are other media for contacting the president if emails are missed. She added that the asking councillors to use Facebook is just a suggestion. There is a Facebook group just to have more inclusivity.

Guien Miao and Mike Butler returned at 7:18pm.

The Vice-President would like it noted that "reply all" has been a problem since 2011. It is time that council develops a formal policy around it.

Motion [SEP07-13]: That Kylee Hartman-Warren becomes the chair.

Moved: Kane Hardy

Carried.

Kylee Hartman-Warren becomes the chair.



9. Satellite Campus Officer Report

See attached documentation.

The Vice-President wanted the position created today but council can't do so because of budgetary reasons. When SUPRA has funding it can use this report as a basis for creating the role.

A councillor thanked the Vice-President for doing a lot of work on this.

The Vice-President said that SUPRA often neglects the other campuses. The Satellite Campus Officer will act as a 'whip' for council to go to off-campus events. Councillors don't usually go, so the officer would provide motivation.

A staff members said that staff do go out to other campuses with a very specific purpose: caseworker services. At the moment this year staff have been to Camden, Westmead, Lidcombe, the Conservatorium, SCA and others. He said he is happy to work with whoever gets the position and that he has contacts to make the position easier for them.

Mike Butler left at 7:24pm.

Mike Butler and Gareth Charles returned at 7:26pm.

★ 10. Internal Administration

10.1. OH&S

A Co-President said that this position has been vacant for quite some time now.

Fatima Rauf and Thomas Greenwell left at 7:29pm. Fatima Rauf proxied to Thomas Greenwell.

The Co-President said that the person who nominated for this position would pick from a number of sessions. A councillor asked if the Co-President was going to stipend the training. The Co-President said that this is up to council to approve.

Ahmed Suhaib volunteered to take on this position.

Motion [SEP07-14]: That council appoints Ahmed Suhaib as SUPRA's OH&S representative.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Kaitlin Tagg

Thomas Greenwell returned at 7:33pm.

Abstentions: Thomas Greenwell (with 1 proxy)

Carried.

Christian Jones left at 7:33pm.

★ 11. Future Events

11.1. Trivia Night

The Vice-President and a councillor would like to do a trivia event to augment Wine & Cheese and encourage people to have input. A councillor said that this is a very interesting idea. He asked if it has a proposed budget. The Vice-President said that he only has a loose estimate. The councillor asked if there would be prize money. He said that it would motivate a larger group of people to attend. The vice-President said maybe.

A councillor said that they should look at venue availability now and costs. The Vice-President said that by the time the events comes around, SUPRA may be able to get in-kind support from the USU.

Christian Jones arrived at 7:36pm.

The Vice-President extended thanks to Ahmed Suhaib for his work on this.

★ 12. Postgraduate Parents' Workshop

The Women's Officer is organising a workshop, working with another student to get this done. It will be a whole-day workshop. She has been offered a \$1000 grant from the university, which might not be enough. In case the workshop gets more registrations and might need food, she is requesting an additional \$500 from SUPRA.

Motion [SEP07-15]: That council approved \$500 for a postgraduate parents' workshop.

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Syed Atif

Abstentions: Thomas Greenwell (and 1 proxy), Forough Ghanizadeh (and 2 proxies)

Carried.

★ 13. Anti-Racism Rallies

See attached documentation.

A councillor asked if the language used is appropriate. Another councillor agreed, saying that it should focus on the issue.

Guien Miao left at 7:43pm. Proxies to Syed Atif.

The councillor who brought the motions forward said that she just came from the candlelight vigil for refugees fleeing from the Middle East who have drowned at sea. SUPRA should support these events. She spoke about the atrocities against Muslims in the Middle East. Sydney University postgrads should put their hands up in support.

The Vice-President said that endorsing this is a good idea. He doesn't take exception to wording against Abbott Government, saying that they've just put forward basically racial profiling. He said that the wording is appropriate.

A councillor said that she was offended by an article in the Sydney Morning Herald today saying that Australia should only take Christian refugees. As a Christian herself, she found it offensive. Another councillor said, as a Muslim international student, that he understands why SUPRA should support this, but said that council should keep the wording as apolitical as possible. He said that the current wording could alienate Abbott supporters.

Another councillor said that she supports it, coming from a Muslim community. She understands and supports the motion, but prefers to word it less emotionally and more logically. She said that council should relate it more to students with statistics.

The Indigenous Officer, as an indigenous Australian and son of an Irish migrant, has never met a bad refugee or migrant. He supports both of the motion, but added that it's not just the Abbott government; it's also the Labor party.

Motion [SEP07-16]: That SUPRA endorses the Communities United Rally against fear and racism, for diversity and multiculturalism action.

Many non-white students: international and national, are facing more verbal, and physical racist attacks because of the fear mongering waged against these communities by the current Abbott government.

This rise in racism from within the community comes from government scapegoating of refugees and migrant communities. The

recent Border Force moves onto the streets of Melbourne are a case in point.

This rally is an important step against this dangerous vitriol.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

Carried.

There was then discussion around the second motion. The motion mover stated that this is a national rally and tha SUPRA should help build the rally. A Co-President asked what the \$200 is for. The councillor said that it's either for producing a banner to show around campus or to be dropped off bridge and Facebook promotion. A councillor requested a draft of the banner to be brought to the next council before approving money. The mover said that would be too late.

A councillor said that, given that there are postgraduate medicine students working in this area, maybe SUPRA could engage them so that it is specific to Sydney University.

Motion [SEP07-17]: That SUPRA endorses the 'Stand up for refugees rally: Break the silence'.

Students are outraged at the treatment of refugees by this government. Many students are former refugees, or whose father and mothers were refugees to Australia.

It is important that SUPRA and other student organisations take a stand against the Abbott governments torture and inhumane treatment of refugees.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

Carried (consensus).

★ 14. Sydney University Marriage Equality Campaign

See attached documentation.

The Vice-President asked if the motion is requesting any funding. The Queer Officer said that it is requesting \$300 for posters, which are still in their developmental stages. She said that the money will come out of the Queer Officer budget.

A councillor asked how much money is left in the budget. The Treasurer said approximately \$9,000-10,000. The councillor said that the previous motion asked for \$200 and asked why this motion is requesting \$300. The Queer Officer said that the \$100 is for approximately 250 A3 posters. A good banner could cost up tot \$200.

Motion [SEP07-18]: That SUPRA signs onto the 'Sydney University should become a "Marriage Equality Now!" campus', campaign. The objective of this is to get Sydney University to support the marriage equality - put the bill, pass the bill campaign.

That SUPRA supports \$300 of the queer OB budget for posters and an A-frame.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Kaitlin Tagg

Carried (consensus).

15. People's Climate March

On 29th of November Paris will be holding the climate change conference. On Sunday the 29th of November this year Sydney will have its largest climate change rally ever. The largest ever rally, Peoples Climate March, from last year in New York will be the model we follow this years rally in Sydney. University students are going to be a fundamental part in the formation and the makeup of the rally. Other student organisations such as the SRC and USU will also be a part of organising support from Sydney University.

A councillor suggested deferring funding approval to Management Committee, as in the previous motion. Another councillor said council should approve the money as council, rather than Management Committee, since council is a bigger body. Councillors should feel confident to approve money for building this rally.

Motion [SEP07-19]: That SUPRA Council endorses the People's Climate March to be held on the 29th of November 2015 and approves up to \$200 in support (printing, banners, etc.). SUPRA recognises that broad action on climate change is important for all current and future students and will aid in putting pressure on the university to further divest from fossil fuels.

Moved: Kane Hardy

Seconded: Thomas Greenwell

Carried (consensus).

16. Other Business

16.1. Report Back from a Member of Staff

A staff member gave a verbal report. A staff member who has taken maternity leave has now been replaced. He added that there is a six-month backlog of work. The BUSS5000/6000 matter is beginning to wrap up. He has been working closely with the Co-presidents and has been contacting the NSW ombudsman with postgrad issues. Regarding Honi Soit, the semester is halfway through. He is continuing to bring up stigmatised/unfashionable issues in the SUPRA pages. A staff member has been hired to help with the backlog of work.

16.2. Financial Report

A councillor suggested that the Treasurer give a report back on the budget at each council meeting.

16.3. Cultural Workshop

One of the Co-Presidents said that she has to report back to the person who offered to come and give workshop.

Carlos Monteverde left at 8:26pm.

16.4. Office Bearer Reports

A councillor commended the Vice-President, Secretary, and Women's Officer's reports, stating that it's clear to see exactly what they're claiming hours for. Other office bearers

should to account for their hours. The Disabilities Officer said that sometimes it's hard to note the hours and that office bearers need flexibility. The councillor said that he's only requesting approximations.

16.5. Minutes

A councillor asked that the Secretary send out the minutes as soon as they're edited so that council can keep up-to-date with what is happening at meetings.

The meeting closed at 8:32pm.