



MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE SEMINAR ROOM 427 ON THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER AT 6:00PM

Chair: Christian Jones

Minutes: Kane Hardy

Attendance: Christian Jones, Kylee Hartman-Warren (*via Skype*), Kane Hardy, Guien Miao, Bhagaban Acharya, Ahmed Suhaib, Rachel Evans, Mike Butler, Joseph Callingham, Anna Sanders-Robinson, Angelica Fernandez, Thomas Greenwell, Rafi Alam (*arrived at 6:09pm*), Fatima Rauf (*arrived at 6:09pm*), Joshua Preece (*arrived at 6:13pm*), Ellen Weekes (*arrived at 6:13pm*), Kaitlin Tagg (*arrived at 6:28pm*), Gareth Charles (*arrived at 6:28pm*), Carlos Monteverde (*arrived at 6:30pm*), Marguerite Biasatti (*arrived at 6:56pm*)

Staff: Adrian Cardinali

Guests: Leticia Funston, Claire Parfitt

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 6:06pm and the Indigenous Officer gave an acknowledgement of country.

★

2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

James Hammerton

Douglas King

Elizabeth Gatens

Kieran Latty

Syed Atif

Mike Butler

Myriarm Song

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal
Forough Ghanizadeh
Rashmi Dixit

2.2. Proxies

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

Elizabeth Gatens to Ellen Weekes (2nd preference Myriarm Song, 3rd preference Joshua Preece)

Syed Atif to Mike Butler (2nd preference Carlos Monteverde)

Mike Butler to Rachel Evans (2nd Kaitlin Tagg, 3rd preference Ahmed Suhaib)

Myriarm Song to Joshua Preece (2nd preference Christian Jones, 3rd preference Kylee Hartman-Warren)

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal to Forough Ghanizadeh

Forough Ghanizadeh to Mike Butler (2nd preference Marguerite Biasatti, 3rd preference Ahmed Suhaib)

Rashmi Dixit to Kylee Hartman-Warren (2nd preference Kane Hardy, 3rd preference Marguerite Biasatti)

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Motion [NOV04-01]: That council approves all unstarred items.

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

Carried.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 6TH OCTOBER 2015

3.1.2. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 9TH OCTOBER 2015

3.1.3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING, 23RD OCTOBER 2015

3.1.4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, 23RD OCTOBER 2015

3.1.5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING, 27TH OCTOBER 2015

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports



4.1.1. CO-PRESIDENT

Christian Jones

The Co-President spoke to his report as it was received late by the Secretary. He has been working with the SAAO Coordinator and the Vice-President on policy. Honi is finished for the year so he is no longer working on that. He also attended media training.

Fatima Rauf and Rafi Alam arrived at 6:09pm.

He spoke about the new space-themed Survival Guide. He has been working on the calendar, which will be coming soon.

The Vice-President asked the Co-President why he hadn't individually indicated hours spent on each task. The Co-President apologised. A councillor said that it's even more important to do now since he has two roles.

The Vice-President asked the Co-President to explain why he arrived 15 minutes late to the probation committee, which he called. The Co-President apologised again.

A councillor asked the President to explain to council what his duty is to council as Co-President and if he understands his duties, given that there are a lot of apologies. Additionally, he asked why the Co-President hasn't updated the council on the grievances, as per the grievance regulations. He also asked if there were any other grievances.

Joshua Preece and Ellen Weekes arrived at 6:13pm.

Motion [NOV04-02]: That this meeting of council moves *in camera*.

Moved: Christian Jones

Carried.

Leticia Funston, Claire Parfitt and Adrian Cardinali left at 6:15pm.

Kaitlin Tagg and Gareth Charles arrived at 6:28pm.

Carlos Monteverde arrived at 6:30pm.

In camera section has been removed (still present in Secretary's minutes).

Motion [NOV04-03]: That this meeting of council moves *ex camera*.

Moved: Christian Jones

Carried.

Leticia Funston, Claire Parfitt and Adrian Cardinali returned at 6:33pm.

Motion [NOV04-04]: That Council approves the report of the Co-President and Director of Student Publications.

Moved: Joshua Preece **Seconded:** Ellen Weekes
Carried.

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

Ahmed Suhaib

★ 4.1.6. TREASURER

Joshua Preece

The Treasurer spoke to his report as it was received late by the Secretary. He said that he would like to meet up with Equity Officers to outline things they would like to do and get them to give an idea of the money they would need.

A councillor asked how much a volunteers' stipend would cost. The Treasurer said that no amount has been confirmed yet; it's only the concept, which was approved by the Finance Committee.

Motion [NOV04-05]: That Council accepts the report of the Treasurer.

Moved: Joseph Callingham **Seconded:** Mike Butler
Carried.

4.1.7. SECRETARY

Kane Hardy

★ 4.1.8. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Christian Jones

Previously dealt with in item 4.1.1.

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

★ 4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Mike Butler

Recommendation: That SUPRA recognises Australia Day, 26th January, as Invasion Day.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Officer said that Australians are becoming adult enough to have Australia Day and recognise it as Invasion Day as well. He said that it should be added to wall calendar.

A councillor preferred being clear that SUPRA says it's simply invasion day, and anything that SUPRA puts out publicly saying that it's invasion day.

The ATSI Officer said that his intent is to give it equal billing; he just wants to formally introduce the concept of invasion day to postgrads.

The Secretary asked if the ATSI Officer wanted to put both invasion/Australia on everything. The ATSI Officer said yes.

A councillor said that she wanted to say that it was not last council but the council before, that when anything important came up to go on the calendar it should go into eGrad with an explanation to introduce the concept, especially to international students. Invasion day was also brought up.

Another councillor said that SUPRA should recognise it as invasion day because that is what it was. This is a colonial state. She said that it is confusing to have invasion day and Australia day side by side, should take a position one way or the other and clarify why.

A councillor spoke against the idea. He said that he agreed with the suffering of indigenous Australia but the term "invasion day" expresses vitriol. He said that it continuously drives a stake between the Australian population when the population should be united. Some people don't see in it that light yet and it alienates them. The ATSI Officer asked if that councillor had any suggestions. The councillor said no.

A councillor said that she completely disagrees with the previous councillor. She said that it is ridiculous to say it would scare people away. SUPRA should be talking about the genocide that occurred, not covering up what happened. She said that Australia is definitely ready for it. She has seen a lot of rallies over this year against attacks on Aboriginal communities. SUPRA needs to support that and students could get behind it. SUPRA should be leading this can't moderate this position.

A councillor said that she agreed with aspects of what everyone is saying. A lot of people don't recognise the suffering of Aboriginal people and SUPRA shouldn't shut them out. She said she is not sure if SUPRA should start renaming this. SUPRA should acknowledge both positions.

A councillor said that he was happy with the motion but he wanted to go more with solely recognising it as invasion day. When people hear the term they don't shut it out. It allows them to reflect on what happened on that day. Invasion day is what it is. People don't want to celebrate a day where their country was invaded.

The ATSI Officer accepted what people were saying, but said that he just wanted to get the motion through.

Two counterposed motions were put forward.

Motion [NOV04-06]: That SUPRA recognises the 26th of January as both Australia Day and Invasion Day.

Moved: Mike Butler **Seconded:** Gareth Charles

Motion [NOV04-07]: That SUPRA recognises the 26th of January as Invasion Day only.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Angelica Fernandez

Motion [NOV04-06]: 12 votes

Motion [NOV04-07]: 7 votes

Motion [NOV04-06] carried.

Motion [NOV04-08]: That Council accepts the report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Rafi Alam

Carried.

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti



4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal

Report late and not there to speak to it. No stipend.

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. Verbal Report from Staff Member

Marguerite Biasatti arrived at 6:56pm.

The SAAO Coordinator, the Vice-President and a Co-President did media training today. The past month has been a busy month for policy work. There have been big administrative changes going through. There will be a central graduate admin centre to deal with progress and examinations. There will be large changes to the examination process. SUPRA achieved improvements to policy procedure and plagiarism policy. Policy has improved thanks to SUPRA's work. He is currently getting submissions together for bullying, harassment and discrimination.

The website contract has not been signed yet, but is nearly finished. It has taken several months because the last time SUPRA engaged with website changes it got burnt because there were no provisions for updates. Legal services are involved with sorting that out.

As for the database, a year's worth of casework data, which was previously unusable will be more accessible on the new database, which is in the second prototype now. This is moving fairly slowly too but getting that working properly involves testing. Even with a good database the development takes a long time. It should be live later this year or at the beginning of 2016. It will have an improved reporting function and speed.

Casework and legal services will continue up until the end of December. Staff will have large workloads.

A Co-President asked about the student centre, asking if any students have had difficulties contacting their faculties. The SAAO Coordinator said a little bit, but policy work has been going on the background. Central administration will take control of things such as special consideration. SUPRA is hoping that that will lead to improvements for students. Sydney Student is seeing some issues.

A councillor said that in the Faculty of Education and Social Work there is a lot of anxiety from staff that everything will be centralised. Students don't have a specific person to speak to. There may be less support with this change over. The SAAO Coordinator said that it is a real issue but he hasn't yet spoken to the NTEU.

A councillor asked about PhD milestones and how they fit in with science. She asked if it will be a 6-month APR and if it is a trial to be implemented in other faculties. The SAAO Coordinator said that the university-wide policy is still 12-month APR. From memory, there will be three levels of milestones; university level, which is generic, faculty level, which SUPRA will work out to fix, and the department/school level. Progress is determined against milestones.

Marguerite Biasatti left at 7:15pm.

A councillor said that the central administration sounds like getting rid of bureaucracy and staff from faculties and it seems that students would have less access to help. The SAAO Coordinator said there was suspicion around centralisation and that SUPRA should be speaking to NTEU colleagues.

A councillor said that SUPRA should be alert about the admin staff getting sacked or expertise not assisting students. PhD and masters student might be worse off. It is important for SUPRA to think this through and make a statement. She said that she feels against this. Management wants to centralise degrees too. SUPRA doesn't have enough of the detail here though. She suggested that the Education Officers and Co-Presidents get something together.

Marguerite Biasatti returned at 7:18pm.

The SAAO Coordinator said that SUPRA needs to be sophisticated; staff may be unhappy with the outcome. SUPRA and NTEU could be aligned.

Motion [NOV04-09]: That Council thanks Adrian Cardinali for his report and work throughout the last month.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

Motion [NOV04-10]: That Council thanks Heather for her service to SUPRA during her time here.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Christian Jones

The SAAO Coordinator said that she got a glowing review from the students, too.

Carried.

Action: Education Officers, Co-President and SAAO Coordinator to work out a position and make a statement on the centralisation and report back to Management Committee and council.

★ 6. Volunteer's Stipend

This was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. The committee voted to support the establishment of a volunteer's stipend in the new budget (*see minutes attached*).

The Treasurer spoke about the discussion at the meeting of Finance Committee. A councillor said that if SUPRA adopted this it would have to think carefully about the culture of volunteering.

A councillor said that he was against the idea. He said that expenditure on office bearers is close to 20% of budget. He said this is absurd when the basis of the organisation is volunteering. Volunteers are what councillors are. Another councillor said that the executive end up doing most of the work, which is not a good thing. SUPRA should encourage bringing other people in to help out. A Co-Education officer said that he signed up as a volunteer.

A councillor said that he was for reimbursing people for their work for SUPRA. A councillor said that it is problematic because the whole concept of volunteering is that it is volunteering. She asked how to separate who did what. A Volunteer's Stipend changes the nature of why people are participating.

Another councillor said that he is torn. People should be rewarded for this sort of activity. It is good to get councillors to this event. He suggested keeping it informal with gifts for volunteers.

A councillor said that there should be a line item in the budget for councillors who take initiatives on specific projects, but not for helping out at events such as Wine & Cheese.

A Co-Education officer said that she supports it because there is a difference between paid office bearers and general councillors. She said that it is unfair that office bearers can claim hours for things that councillors can't. She understands that councillors signed up for this not to be office bearers, but it is unfair.

A councillor agreed with the last councillor, saying that people should just turn up to stalls, Wine & Cheese etc. but other skilled work can come out of education budget, for example.

Another councillor said that she thinks a Volunteer's Stipend makes sense. Volunteering is problematic because it undercuts work and exploitation on workers and particularly young people. It often forces people into unpaid work. She said it would be fine to work out the logistics of it. It's not a horrible thing to pay people for the work they do. Offering paid work through SUPRA could also be a good way to build the organisation.

A Co-President said that many students can't volunteer for financial reasons. She supports gifts for councillors who give up hours for SUPRA and paying people who do proper work.

Motion [NOV04-11]: That Council defers this item to finance committee to formulate a model to bring back to council.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Gareth Charles

Carried.

Motion [NOV04-12]:To have a new item about campaign to support asylum seekers inserted as Item 7.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

★ 7. Asylum Seeker Support

A guest spoke to this item, drawing attention to companies making money out of mandatory detention. She is promoting a BDS campaign to undermine companies that profit from this. She has been focusing on divestment including superannuation funds. These companies are breaching human rights law. She suggests sanctioning companies for breaching international laws and encourages other organisations to boycott the companies (Transfield, Decmil, Serco). They also run detention centre on Manus Island and Nauru.

450 staff members of USyd expressed opposition to the Australian Government's policy. They have called on the university and UniSuper to divest and boycott. She encouraged SUPRA to follow it up by writing to companies breaking international law.

A councillor asked what Transfield does. The guest said that they clean NSW government schools and hospitals. They work with PNCs and parents group. At Newcastle University they do different management projects. They also run the offshore detention centres.

Motion [NOV04-13]:That SUPRA:

- Acknowledges the letter by some 450 staff of the University of Sydney which condemned the treatment of asylum seekers by the Australian Government
- Finds that the evidence of torture and abuse in Australia's on-shore and offshore immigration detention centres is overwhelming.
- Condemns business organisations that profit from the abuse of asylum seekers, and endorses the *No Business In Abuse* pledge (see below), which calls on organisations to meet fundamental human rights standards.
- Supports the current campaign by staff at the University of Newcastle calling on their administration to reconsider its \$88 million contract with Transfield Services, a company that profits from the abuse of asylum seekers.
- Calls on this University to publicly commit to not to engage, contract or invest in any companies involved in the mandatory detention industry.
- Calls on UniSuper to:
 - Publicly commit to a policy of zero investment in any businesses profiting in any way from the detention of asylum seekers, including but not limited to Transfield, Decmil and Serco;
 - Ensure it does not retain the services or otherwise employ any fund managers or other individuals who either invest in or are employed by businesses that profit from the detention of asylum seekers, including but not limited to Transfield, Decmil and Serco.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell
Abstentions: Guien Miao
Carried.

Motion [NOV04-14]: That SUPRA thanks to thank Claire Parfitt for her contribution to this council meeting.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

Claire Parfitt left at 7:56pm.

8. Events

8.1. Spit Bridge to Manly Walk

This will be held on the 22nd of November 2015.

A Co-Education Officer wants to get a group of students together for this bushwalk. The money is for lunch. A councillor asked why the participants couldn't pay for their own lunch. The Co-Education Officer said that they can, but SUPRA has funding for this and they are our members. The councillor asked where the money would come from. The Co-Education Officer said that it would form from the community engagement line.

Motion [NOV04-15]: That council approves up to \$600 (at the rate of \$15 per attendee) for 40 people to attend a Spit Bridge to Manly walk on 22nd November 2015.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Kaitlin Tagg
Carried.

8.2. End-of-Year Party

This will be held on the 11th of December 2015.

Management Committee approved a party for 19th, which is not really a SUPRA party because it is with the USU. SUPRA should have it's own. The money is for food; the price will go down depending on how many people come.

A councillor said that he thinks it's a good idea, but a lot of money lately has been spent on things not related to students. This is good though.

A councillor asked for an estimate of people who go to this party and asked if \$500 would be enough. The Treasurer suggested making it \$600.

Motion [NOV04-16]: That council approves up to \$500 for an end-of-year party to be held on the 11th of December 2015.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Joshua Preece
Carried.

8.3. Announcement of Other Events

8.3.1. COFFEE WITH SUPRA

This will be held on the 5th of November 2015 from 12:00pm to 2:00pm at the Courtyard Restaurant and Bar.

8.3.2. BBQ AT AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY PARK

This will be held on the 6th of November 2015 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Australian Technology Park.

A Co-Education Officer asked councillors to come along to that.

8.3.3. PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

This will happen on the 29th of November at The Domain in the city. SUPRA has endorsed this and is working with other student organisations on campus to promote the rally.

★ 9. New Banner and Flags

The Secretary worked on designs for the new pull-up banner and flags for SUPRA that were printed at Signarama in Annandale. He showed the final products to council.

Motion [NOV04-17]: That Council thanks the Secretary for his work on the flags and pull-up banner.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

★ 10. Rainbow Campus Now

See attached documentation.

The Queer Officer wants the senate to sign on. SUPRA should be a proud and active place for USyd postgrads.

Motion [NOV04-18]: That SUPRA endorses the Rainbow Campus Now campaign.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

Motion [NOV04-19]: That SUPRA endorses the Queer Refugee campaign.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Rafi Alam

Carried.

Motion [NOV04-20]: That SUPRA approved \$600 for the Queer Refugee campaign.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Mike Butler

Against: Joseph Callingham

Carried.

★ **11. StResS Christmas Party**

This is a Christmas party with the Student Research Society off-campus to get Westmead students involved, since they often feel isolated from the main campus. This will bring people together. The Treasurer said that sponsoring events like this is a good way to get SUPRA's name out.

Motion [NOV04-21]: That council approves \$500 for a StResS Christmas Party.

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

Carried.

★ **12. Other Business**

12.1. SSAF Negotiations

Motion [NOV04-22]: That Council endorses Christian Jones, Kylee Hartman-Warren and Joshua Preece to attend SSAF negotiations on behalf of SUPRA.

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

Carried.

12.2. USyd Health Students

A councillor said that there would be a protest against children in detention tomorrow at 11am in the Quadrangle. Another councillor said that offshore processing so wrong and that he is in favour of this motion.

Motion [NOV04-23]: That SUPRA endorses the action tomorrow at 11am in the Quadrangle against the border force act.

Moved: Ellen Weekes **Seconded:** Mike Butler

Carried.

12.3. Anti-Fascism Rally

This will take place on 22nd November.

Motion [NOV04-24]: That SUPRA endorses the anti-Reclaim Australia rally to be held on the 22nd of November.

Moved: Angelica Fernandez **Seconded:** Anna Sanders-Robinson

Carried.

12.4. Cronulla Never Again Rally

Motion [NOV04-25]: That SUPRA endorses the "Cronulla Never Again" rally against fascism, bigotry and violence to be held at Don Lucas Reserve, Cronulla Beach on Saturday 12 December at 12pm.

Moved: Kane Hardy **Seconded:** Rafi Alam
Carried.

12.5. Announcements of Council Meetings

Motion [NOV04-25]: That announcements for council meetings are made two weeks in advance and are advertised two weeks in advance.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Fatima Rauf
Carried.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.