



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN SNH SEMINAR ROOM 3001 ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 6:00PM

**Chair:** Mariam Mohammed

**Minutes:** Oliver Moore

**Attendance:** Rachel Evans, Siobhan Menzies, Gareth Charles, Nic Avery, Dean Lovett (*left 6:08pm, entered 6:51pm*), Jennifer Nicholson (*left 9:07*), Zushan Hashmi (*left 6:10pm, entered 6:50pm*), Natasha Chaudhary (*left 6:10pm, entered 6:50pm*), Jeevan Jagnam, Patrick Cook, Kiriti Mortha (*entered 6:50pm*), Cathy Eatock (*entered 6:50pm*), Marguerite Biasetti (*entered 6:51pm*), Jessie Zhang (*entered 8:30pm*).

**Staff:** Adrian Cardinali

**Guests:** Julia McConnochie, Sam Bassett, Dharsana Dhanamadhaven (*left 6:38pm*), Miaomaio Lyu, Jennifer Ly (*left 7:25pm*), Yung Fu, Amy Song, Camille Bodet, Kristina Djikanovic

*Meeting opened at 6:07pm.*

### ★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land. We acknowledge that the land upon which we meet is stolen land, and that sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to all First Nations persons here. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

### ★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

#### 2.1. Apologies

Eila Vinwyn

Jessie Zhang

James Leeder

Ratified by Council 8/11/2017.

Mike Butler  
Samay Sabharwal  
Jocelyn Drakakis  
Manisha Reza Paul  
Luoning Dong  
Rebecca Johnson  
Gareth Charles  
Nichole Seebacher  
Gayatri Kotnala

## **2.2. Proxies**

Eila Vinwyn proxies to Rachel Evans (1<sup>st</sup>, Nic Avery 2<sup>nd</sup>, Garth Charles 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Jessie Zhang proxies to Nic Avery (1<sup>st</sup>, Rachel Evans 2<sup>nd</sup>, Oliver Moore 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
James Leeder proxies to Oliver Moore (1<sup>st</sup>, Nic Avery 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jennifer Nicholson 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Mike Butler proxies to Cathy Eatock (1<sup>st</sup>, Natasha Chaudhary 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zushan Hashmi 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Samay Sabharwal proxies to Natasha Chaudhary (1<sup>st</sup>, Kiriti Mortha 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dean Lovett 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Jocelyn Drakakis proxies to Kiriti Mortha (1<sup>st</sup>, Mariam Mohammed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zushan Hashmi 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Manisha Reza Paul proxies to Kiriti Mortha (1<sup>st</sup>, Mariam Mohammed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zushan Hasmi 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Rebecca Johnson proxies to Cathy Eatock (1<sup>st</sup>, Dean Lovett 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zushan Hashmi 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Gareth Charles proxies to Siobhan Menzies (1<sup>st</sup>, James Leeder 2<sup>nd</sup>, Oliver Moore 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jennifer Nicholson 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Nichole Seebacher proxies to Oliver Moore  
Gayatri Kotnala proxies to Dean Lovett (1<sup>st</sup>, Natasha Chaudhary 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zushan Hashmi 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Luoning Dong proxies to Dean Lovett (1<sup>st</sup>, Cathy Eatock 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zushan Hashmi 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Rachel Evans proxies to Nic Avery (1<sup>st</sup>, Oliver Moore 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## **2.3. Starring of Items**

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

**Recommendation:** That council approves all unstarred items.

## **2.4. Resignations (if relevant)**

Cameron Nottingham resigns his position to Jeevan Jangam.

# **3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings**

## **3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings**

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

3.1.2 Meeting of Management Committee, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

- 3.1.3 Meeting of the Policy Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- 3.1.4 Meeting of the Education Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- 3.1.5 Meeting of the Community Engagement Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### **3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**[171010-1]:** To approve all unstarred items

**Moved:** Ollie **Seconded:** Nic

**Motion carried.**

## **4. Officer Reports**

### **4.1. Executive Reports**

#### 4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Mariam Mohammed *[no report submitted]*

Kiriti Mortha *[no report submitted]*

The report was not submitted due to exam period. A few long term projects have started, such as the rebranding project to be discussed later. Some discussions have taken place around incorporation, which will also come up later. Kiriti spoke to Academic Board today about the student experience survey results. They're working on a proposal with the USU for them to work better with SUPRA to engage postgraduates. They've also been creating office space within our existing office as there are some team members coming back and there is a shortage of space.

**[171010-2]:** To approve the report.

**Moved:** Ollie **Seconded:** Jennifer

**Motion carried.**

**Procedural:** To extend the time to reach quorum for another thirty minutes

**Moved:** Rachel

**Motion carried**

#### 4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Gayatri Kotnala *[no report submitted]*

Dean Lovett *[no report submitted]*

G.K. has a statement read by D.L. provided support to the FASS study spaces, reached out to students at satellite campuses. They worked together to organise their first wine and cheese. In October they organised the last wine of the year, worked on policy and attended Academic Board.

D.L. notes that most of his time has been spent on the rebranding SUPRA. He attended Academic Board, attended wine and cheese. He's also worked on policy committee to refine the safer spaces policy, grievance policy, and code of conduct. This is a work in progress. There will be an anti-bullying policy developed.

**[171010-3]:** to accept the VP report

**Moved:** Kiriti **Seconded:** Zushan

**Motion carried.** Rachel Evans voted against this motion.

R.E. asks about the satellite campus. This is being followed up by G.K.



#### 4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Rachel Evans

Rachel Evans (R.E.) notes that she and Nic Avery have been helping the NTEU with the strike actions and there are some action items that have come out of the strike. There's also three motions to come out of the education report. Nic Avery (N.A.) notes that the NTEU has been negotiating with the university over their pay conditions. There have been a few strikes. Recently the NTEU has decided to accept managements pay offer and there is an in principle agreement. This is a good deal from the NTEU's perspective, however some sections of the NTEU, including the casual workers thought this could have been a stronger agreement. There is still work required to enforce this new agreement. There have been some big wins in parental leave in particular, but it requires a strong union to enforce it now. He will continue to be in contact with the NTEU and the casual's network to see how we can help. There's a meeting on Thursday at 1pm.

R.E. notes that SUPRA has endorsed the Stop Adani proposal. IT looks like they're going to go ahead with building mines. Stop Adani has asked for help building stickers and campaigns and to assist with travel costs.

**[171010-4]:** That SUPRA contributes \$500 to the Stop Adani campaign

**Moved:** Rachel      **Seconded:** Kiriti

**Motion carried.**

**[171010-5]:** That SUPRA endorses the forum on "Rojava: the most feminist revolution in history" and contributes \$300 for food.

**Moved:** Rachel      **Seconded:** Nic

**Motion carried.**

N.A. would like to support both the motions. He has worked with Stop Adani and considers them to be great activists, he believes that these are exactly the kinds of things we should be supporting. He also believes that the forum is a great

Kiriti Mortha notes that he supports the Stop Adani campaign and would like to second the motion. However he notes that despite us being in a good financial position there are still things we need to spend money on.

**[171010-6]:** To approve the education officer's report:

**Moved:** Ollie   **Seconded:** Jennifer

**Motion carried.**

#### 4.1.4. TREASURER

Luoning Dong

#### 4.1.5. SECRETARY

Oliver Moore

#### 4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

## 4.2. Equity Officer Reports

### ★ 4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Cathryn Eatock [*no report submitted*]

C.E. has held a second workshop on indigenous methodologies which went well. She put forward a motion to review indigenous employment at the university, this is going ahead but has had some meetings in the planning stages. She has undertaken the review of WHS and is open to meeting with council about anything they're concerned about. The main thing she's been working on is the Treaty proposal. She sought staff's assistance, however they were not able to be of assistance. There is a timeline being handed around drawing on the funding required for the various areas. There is a tentative amount for SUPRA. They're looking at international speakers, including people from Canada and New Zealand. The amount covers airfares, accommodation for seven days, and then TA funding. There will be a spillover campsite, so there needs to be funding for portaloos, security, and so on. There is funding allocated to fund bands to play in the evening following the march. There will be live-streaming of the conference which will take place around the march. There is a large budget for travel, as this will allow two or three busses to come for every state. We have allocated a \$20 a day food allowance for those who are coming from interstate. However, as income management has been brought in in the NT and WA, and as a result there has been more money allocated from those areas. The aim is to get each main state body to contribute to funding for each state. C.E. has good links with the ACTU and Unions NSW. Speaking to the SUPRA allocation amount, which will be spent on catering, she says that the catering will be done by chai tents and it will be free. She believes we need to put the money on the table, though it can be on the proviso that the other contributors come through. SUPRA is leading this event, and it is the most significant human rights issue across Australia. It needs an opportunity for people to sit down and work out what would be in the treaty, which this event would provide. There will also be significant coverage in major press, and we would be listed as a contributor. It will highlight that student groups are an important part of social change in Australia.

R.E. says that she thinks this is a great idea and believes that SUPRA should support it. There needs to be full time people working on organising this. She is worried about the timing and the lack of organising capacity, and wonders if we can get other unions to contribute to this. C.E. notes that it is herself and another officer working 7 hours a week, but in that time she has got a large number of organisations to sign on and support this. They are sending letters to unions at the moment and this sits in the timeline they had planned out. There will be two loads of speakers, including some mainstream speakers for the march.

**[171010-7]:** That we contribute \$25000 to the Treaty Yeh! Treaty Now! Campaign on the provision that the other funding comes through

**Moved:** Cathy **Seconded:** Marguerite

**Motion carried.**

K.M. suggests we send this to Management Committee to talk about this further. C.E. notes that we are approaching funding bodies now and it makes a difference to say that there is already funding attached.

[171010-8]: To approve the Indigenous officer's report

**Moved:** Kiriti **Seconded:** Patrick

**Motion carried.**

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti

★ 4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Samay Sabharwal [*no report submitted*]

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Oliver Moore

4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Natasha Chaudhary [*report submitted late*]

4.2.6. SATELLITE CAMPUS OFFICER

Vacant

**4.3. Business Arising from officer reports**

4.3.1. PRESIDENT QUESTION TIME

4.3.2. ACTION SCHEDULE UPDATE

4.3.3. MOTIONS FROM REPORTS

4.3.4. OTHER BUSINESS FROM REPORTS

★ 5. **Postgraduate issues**

★ 6. **Verbal report from staff member**

Adrian Cardinali (A.C.) notes that there are 718 cases that have gone through at the moment, and this has been slightly as a result to a drop in staff numbers, there is going to be a staffing plan that will use money saved earlier in this year to have sufficient staff to handle the spike at the end of the year. He notes that there have been more severe spikes at peak times this year. There is an assumption that there'll be a 20% spike in the summer period. Publications have made contributions to *Honi Soit*, and material is being prepared for the 2018 Survival Guide and Thesis Guide. Supervisor of the year has gone well for a second year, there is a meeting next week to finalise the award night and so on. Tax help are finishing for the year, and our visa lawyer is booked up until the end of the year. It is hardly advertised and is consistently full, so something will be done to expand that next year. There has been a graduate qualities paper floating around the university that was endorsed by academic board today, which will alter what the university will expect from students. There has also been some work looking into the outstandingly poor feedback regarding student services across a range of different measures. K.M. presented a report on this to the Academic Board today. John Fell was predicting a \$90,000 surplus, but he's not sure if this includes some recent planned expenditure. Admin is working on finalising some templates and processes which will assist for the spike at the end of the year. The calendar

and other things are close to being completed for the year. They've also been working with the VPs and Presidents on the rebranding issues. The legal service is going through an auditing process, which happens every two years, however is also meeting with A.C. and the presidents regarding incorporation.

**[171010-9]:** To thank Adrian and all the staff for their hard work.

**Moved:** Ollie **Seconded:** Nic

**Motion carried.**

## ★ 7. Election of Councillors

Nominations:

- Sam Bassett
- Dharsana Dhanamadhaven
- Reza Kahlaee
- Geena George
- Jennifer Ly
- Xiaobo Sun
- Julia McConnochie
- Riya Brahma
- Miaomiao Lyu
- Yang Fu

**Procedural:** To nominate Mariam as the Returning Officer

**Moved:** Kiriti

**Motion carried.**

Gareth Charles (G.C.) notes that this is not the electoral method decided previously, nor is it in line with the electoral regulations, which requires optional preferential voting. K.M. notes that this is implied to be for general elections, there is also a section that says that casual vacancies can be filled by a nomination. There was a concern under the previous ballot which would not allow for fairness. G.C. notes that the previous times for casual vacancies have always had secret ballots. Nic Avery (N.A.) notes that there was an issue with the first method of voting proposed. He objects to the notion that the present has been a consultative process, and believes that this was decided today by the presidents. OPV is the most democratic method of voting, we could clearly not hold a general election using this method. This system will only allow for a majority victory. N.A. notes that we don't usually make elections take place presided over by amateurs, we need to take this to an electoral regulator. R.E. notes that this needs to be taken to an arbiter and that this is not a democratic process for voting. She does not believe that minority voices are being heard on council. She does not have faith that this procedure, and wants to know why the presidents didn't ask Raf to preside over this election. She notes that the senate and the upper houses allow for more minority parties to be presented in parliament. K.M. notes that we employ Rafael on a contractual basis, and we currently do not employ him. K.M. says that there has been a consultative process and asks why no one has raised these earlier. K.M. notes that there's a formula in the schedule.

**Procedural:** To move to formal debate

**Moved:** Kiriti

**Motion withdrawn.**

**Counter-motion:** That we employ Rafael to conduct the election of the casual vacancies in the November election

**Moved:** Rachel

**Motion withdrawn.**

K.M. notes that it is not as simple as just employing Raf. They would have to go to Raf and ask for a quote and then bring that back to the council to have it approved. This will drag out the timeline to January or February. K.M. notes that we can do OPV today and come back and count it at a later date. Zushan Hashmi (Z.H.) notes that these kind of discussions are the kinds of things that put him of wanting to be involved in SUPRA. He believes that this kind of thing takes us away from working for students. N.A. notes that he thinks that we should move ahead today with an OPV system and record the votes in a transparent way, and that over the course of the next few weeks we find a way to adjudicate those results. K.M. agrees with Z.H. and appreciates the compromise. He also notes that we will need to adjourn the meeting so the returning officer knows the OPV system and that she can explain it to us. G.C. notes that his concerns were only noted because it only recently became clear to him recently that there was a method mandated by the regulation. He also notes that the first two or three positions would be able to be cleared if not declared by the first count. Jennifer Nicholson (J.N.) notes that the objection is in part the change in the voting system and that she was surprised to see that it had changed. K.M. notes the reason for the change has been explained. He notes that it is easy to criticise but a lot of work has been done to ensure that the best practice has been taken place. M.M. notes that this was done in consultation with the secretary and that this has been to a council and to a Man Com. G.C. notes that it is unfortunate that it has come to this at this late time. He believes that the most effective way forward is for us to conduct the election now with OPV and that any finer details of the count can be finalised at a later date. Marguerite Biasetti (M.B.) notes that there would need to be full clarity. G.C. notes that the method is fully specified, so that even if there was some uncertainty about the mathematics of the transferring that could be referred to. He notes that while it might take time to finalise, this is undesirable but not a big obstacle. M.M. is unsure of why this has not been raised with past leadership. K.M. notes that the previous council filled casual vacancies by a show of hands. The same regulation refers to the election taking place by secret ballot. D.L. is mindful that if we filled in the ballot papers tonight and then at a later date elected a returning officer for the election it would be required that the ballot papers would need to be filled in again in order to satisfactorily declare the vote. C.E. first wants to note that she doesn't think that M.M. or K.M. have had any bad intentions in preparing the ballot. She suggests we use OPV and stick to five. N.A. is unsure if he can comment on that process and thinks we should attempt to go ahead with some kind of election tonight.

**[171010-10]:** To vote preferentially on the ballots we have.

**Moved:** Jennifer      **Seconded:** Nic

**Motion carried.**

**[171010-11]:** To adjourn for ten minutes.

**Moved:** Kiriti      **Seconded:** Ollie

**Motion carried.**

M.M. doesn't know how OPV works for filling multiple positions so she cannot explain to the meeting how it will work. She is not aware if we need to do OPV or single transferrable. N.A. respects that it is complicated and thinks that we should follow the electoral regulations. M.M. notes that it is a different ratio for the number of people, and the transfer value is different. K.M. notes that this is the reason why the previous councils have

chosen the show of hands. It is for this reason that previous councils have had a simple majority. He suggests adjourning the election for a week from now or to do the election by circulation. Patrick Cook (P.C.) asks if it is possible for the Returning Officer to elect someone who does explain it to ask them to explain it to them. D.L. cautions against conducting a ballot and then at a later date electing a returning officer as their job is to validate an election and they can't do that if they're not here. R.E. thinks we need to seek advice from Rafael who knows the electoral process inside and out. She thinks this should go to Man Com. K.M. notes that it's interesting to note that they've changed their mind again.

**[171010-12]:** to conduct the rest of the meeting tonight and to defer this matter to Man Com.

**Moved:** Kiriti **Seconded:** Patrick

**Motion carried.**

**[171010-13]:** for Council to approve up to \$5000 to engage an electoral expert

**Moved:** Kiriti **Seconded:** Ollie

**Motion carried.** Natasha Chaudhary voted against this motion.

A.C. notes that there are people engaged by SUPRA previously that we could engage with to ensure that we are following the electoral regulations and the constitution. This needs an expert to determine it and does not think that this council is in a position to offer a position on this until we get that expert advice.

**Procedural:** To change the chair to Kiriti

**Moved:** Kiriti

**Motion carried.**

## ★ 8. CAPA ACM

K.M. suggests that we take up option 2 and sponsor the airfare for three councillors. He would also like the delegates to strategize with the staff to help

C.E. wants to know if the proposal for the treaty to be put to CAPA.

**ACTION:** Kiriti to follow up on this.

R.E. thinks we should support it and that there be councillors there. M.B. thinks that we should attend because it's not necessarily transparent when you're there. This year CAPA is doing an equity conference as well. Marguerite would like to attend, Dean would like to attend, as would Cathy.

**[171010-14]:** for SUPRA to support Cathy, Dean, and Marguerite to be the CAPA delegates and to earmark \$3000 for this

**Moved:** Mariam **Seconded:** Natasha

**Motion carried.**

## ★ 9. TEQSA Conference

K.M. notes that this is the second annual conference. The presidents have noted that there is a lot of interest from the staff to attend, however the presidents have secured a complimentary registration and round trip and a second discounted registration. C.E. asks that the matter of the treaty proposal be put to the conference. A.C. notes that he was very keen to attend it. He thinks its important for the council to attend this as the University of

Sydney is currently going through the reregistration process at the moment and if organisations like SUPRA are across this process we'll be in a much better position to take the university to task on student support matters. He also suggests that there are four postgraduate associations that have the same size and scope of SUPRA and there is an opportunity for the presidents to work with them at this conference. K.M. notes that we received this complementary offer because they reached out to the chair of the academic board. TEQSA is also particularly worried about student experience and the university of Sydney is doing badly on that front at the moment. R.E. thinks that it's good that people go to these conferences.

**[171010-15]:** to approve up to \$1000 for the TEQSA conference

**Moved:** Mariam      **Seconded:** Natasaha

**Motion carried.**

## ★ 10. **Rebranding Working Group**

This will be a working group with a few office bearers and staff that will engage with the branding firm that we hire. N.A. notes that this quorum seems a bit high. K.M. notes that the idea was that the rebranding will stay for a really long time so we need to make sure that all elements of SUPRA are represented. D.L. clarifies that the wording says rebrand but this is more about an update of the brand identity. What the VPs have been doing is establishing this committee to talk about how to do this. They're looking to develop a dynamic logo, which is where each department has their own little subset of the logo but that it's their logo. There will be consultation with the collective to develop their own core logos based of their main logo. M.B. says that she thinks this is a great idea. D.L. notes that he will be project managing this.

**[171010-16]:** That we form a rebranding working group

**Moved:** Mariam      **Seconded:** Dean

**Motion carried.**

**[171010-17]:** that the rebranding working group be allowed to approve up to \$10,000 to engage with a branding firm on the provision of a democratic vote

**Moved:** Dean   **Seconded:** Marguerite

**Motion carried.**

Jeevan Jagnam (J.J.) asks if it will be ready for a mid-November deadline. D.L. thinks that this will be pushing it. K.M. notes that the reason why publications are on this timeline is that students come and request our calendar and so forth from the start. Staff suggested a smaller order for the old logo and to have a larger print run for the new logo.

## ★ 11. **Request for Support: Sydney Medical Society**

Rachel has asked for some support for a halfway graduation ball, they're asking for support for a photo booth, and they're giving the SUPRA logo on the photo frames and will advertise in whatever manner SUPRA wants. They think this will be a great way to promote SUPRA to their cohort and to encourage people to get involved. P.C. notes that this is a pretty special milestone as after this they will no longer be at the university and will be entirely based at hospitals.

**[171010-18]:** To approve up to \$1000 for Sydney medical School for their event.

**Moved:** Dean

**Seconded:** Patrick

**Motion carried.**

★ **12. Request for Support: Sydney University Critical Care Society**

P.C. notes that this is a new society for students interested in emergency medicine – there is currently a lack of educational opportunities for students in emergency medicine and this will expand to all medical students, nursing, and other allied health. They're requesting money for seven teams across every teaching hospital in the University of Sydney. The costs include catering, tableware, prize money, and other things. The money for prize money is to cover trauma kits that teams would pay for out of their own profit. This will be a multidisciplinary educational experience. The catering is \$10/head and the prizes are \$600 total. The prizes will be medical equipment and textbooks. Jessie Zhang (J.Z.) notes that AMSA coordinates this competition annually and that this is a great opportunity for medical students to speak to each other and to develop camaraderie. M.M. asks what the other money is going towards. There will be an award that will be passed down. There is a lot of start up costs as this is a new society. K.M. notes that we often endorse things and don't get a great deal of documentation. He asks if we can get a report. P.C. is agreeable to that.

[171010-19]: To approve \$2145 for the SUCC provided that SUPRA is credited at their event and a report provided

**Moved:** Patrick      **Seconded:** Jessie

**Motion carried.**

**ACTION:** policy committee to look into endorsement policies

★ **13. Incorporation**

As everyone should be aware, SUPRA does not have a legal status currently. This means that the legal form of SUPRA is responsible for SUPRA. This means that we're all liable if we were to be sued. Most organisations of our size are incorporated by this point. There is scope of a lot of maladministration and malpractices. There are a lot of benefits to incorporation, we would have a legal form and a legal status, which means we could sue and be sued. The process is that firstly we need to know what council thinks, then we need to know what the constituents think, and then we need to know what the university thinks. They would then no longer have any control over us, however they would still control the purse strings. This would also mean we would be able to apply for funding ourselves. This would then go to a general meeting. The formal process of incorporation would mean bringing in a lawyer. This would take twelve months from today if we put it in motion. M.M. notes that this is an even longer term goal, which is why this has been started in the past but not completed. This would be great for the longer term for us to be incorporated. A.C. notes that the three other large postgraduate student associations are all incorporated. He also notes that every time he's had need to approach external solicitors they've been shocked that SUPRA is not incorporated. He notes that the costs would be relatively low. There is consensus that people are in favour of this. K.M. notes that the next step would be to sound out the university and see what's

[171010-20]: that we endorse the presidents to pursue incorporation on behalf of SUPRA

**Moved:** Cathy **Seconded:** Dean

**Motion carried.**

## ★ 14. Request for Support: Unemployed Workers Union

Preamble:

The Federal Government's May budget attacked welfare recipients: unemployed people strengthening "Mutual Obligation" requirements for job-seekers, proposing to drug-test 5000 welfare recipients, and extend Income Management - whether through the cashless debit card or the basics card. They also rolled out the disastrous 'robo-debt' program. The government also proposed a major roll-out of the cashless welfare card. The debit card quarantines 80 per cent of a person's welfare money and prevents them from buying liquor, gambling, or withdrawing cash.

The Turnbull government are moving on this promise - backed by mining mogul Andrew Forrest, and are moving to trial the cashless welfare card to the WA Goldfields, including a visit to the remote communities of Warburton and Wiluna - extending beyond the two existing trial sites in the East Kimberley and the South Australian town of Ceduna. It will also lift the expiry date of the trials, allowing them to continue indefinitely.

The cashless welfare card can target all young people on welfare even those working on low casual wages as underemployed or on short term contracts

The Australian Unemployment Workers have been campaigning against welfare attacks and fear NSW will be subject to these cashless debit cards and wants support from SUPRA. Below is their letter.

**[171010-21]:** That SUPRA work with the Inner West branch of the Australian Unemployed Workers Union and Indigenous groups on a campaign to stop the roll-out of cashless welfare trials in Australia. This support could include an office, publicity in the form of campaign posters, stickers and leaflets and organizational help with rallies and information nights etc.

**Moved:** Rachel            **Seconded:** Siobhan

**Motion carried.**

10/10/17

Dear SUPRA representatives,

The Cashless Welfare Card proposed for NSW will affect many students at the University of Sydney particularly those studying part-time or working on short-term casual contracts who sometimes need welfare support.

There is evidence that cashless welfare will exacerbate social division, homelessness and mental health issues affecting overstretched social services in NSW. A recent letter from the Australian Unemployed Workers Union regarding Income Management to the Federal Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter received a response from the "Branch Manager, Work and Study Payments" which may indicate that the roll-out of income management could also target student payments.

The claimed social benefits of cashless cards are based on flawed research that has not received peer review support as reported by respected sociologist Eva Cox in the Guardian

recently: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/07/much-of-the-data-used-to-justify-the-welfare-card-is-flawed>

The Indue card to be used for cashless welfare is also owned by for profit, unelected, unaccountable business entrepreneurs with links to the Liberal National Party. It is unclear what the regulatory framework will be to protect the privacy and prevent abuse of clients on the Indue card. The card also targets Aboriginal and economically disadvantaged communities the most representing a loss of human rights.

I propose a motion that SUPRA work with the Inner West branch of the Australian Unemployed Workers Union and Indigenous groups on a campaign to stop the roll-out of cashless welfare trials in Australia. This support could include an office, publicity in the form of campaign posters, stickers and leaflets and organizational help with rallies and information nights etc.

Best Regards,  
Bernadette Smith  
Mob: 0469175865  
Master of Fine Arts student SCA

C.E. notes that this is an important issue that impacts communities. She is very supportive of this motion. She also supports the unemployed workers union. She would also like it if indigenous issues were run by her to ensure that they're best represented.

## **15. Other Business**

*Meeting closed 9:39pm.*