



MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN SNH SEMINAR ROOM 3001 ON THE 6TH OF FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6:00PM

Chair:	Mariam Mohammed
Minutes:	Oliver Moore
Attendance:	Eila Vinwyn, Patrick Cook, Jennifer Nicholson, Nic Avery, Mariam Mohammed, Cathy Eatock, Yang Fu, Jessie Zhang, Manisha Reza Paul, Natasha Chaudhary, Dean Lovett, James Leeder (<i>entered 6:18pm</i>)
Staff:	Louise Corney, Francine Seeto
Guests:	TBC

★ 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

Mike Butler
Siobhan Menzies
Samay Sabharwal
Rachel Evans
Daniela Eassey
Luoning Dong
Jocelyn Drakakis
Bec Johnson

Ratified by Council 12/4/18.

Gareth Charles
Gayatri Kotnala
Jeevan Jagnam

2.2. Proxies

Mike Butler proxies to Cathy Eatock (1st, Zushan Hashmi 2nd, Kiriti Mortha 3rd)
Siobhan Menzies proxies to Oliver Moore (1st, Rachel Evans 2nd, Gareth Charles 3rd)
Samay Sabharwal proxies to Natasha Chaudhary (1st, Dean Lovett 2nd, Manisha Reza Paul 3rd)
Rachel Evans proxies to Eila Vinwyn (1st, Nic Avery 2nd)
Daniela Eassey proxies to Manisha Reza Paul (1st, Natasha Chaudhary 2nd, Dean Lovett 3rd)
Luoning Dong proxies to Natasha Chaudhary (1st, Dean Lovett 2nd, Manisha Reza Paul 3rd)
Jocelyn Drakakis proxies to Dean Lovett (1st, Manisha Reza Paul 2nd, Natasha Chaudhary 3rd)
Bec Johnson proxies to Manisha Reza Paul (1st, Natasha Chaudhary 2nd, Mariam Mohammed 3rd)
Gareth Charles proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Eila Vinwyn 2nd)
Gayatri Kotnala proxies to Manisha Reza Paul (1st, Natasha Chaudhary 2nd, Dean Lovett 3rd)
Jeevan Jagnam proxies to Nic Avery
Jessie Zhang proxies to Patrick Cook

2.3. Starring of Items

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

[180206-1]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Ollie **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

2.4. Resignations (if relevant)

Zushan Hashmi resigns to Yang Fu.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 7TH DECEMBER 2017

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Mariam Mohammed

Kiriti Mortha

★ 4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Gayatri Kotnala [*no report received*]

Dean Lovett [*report received late*]

Dean Lovett (D.L.) has been doing most of his work around CAPA in December. There have also been a number of meetings. He was away for most of January and has been working on the rebrand and O-Week. He will be focussing on the rebrand and merchandising matters. Admin have been exceptional

[180206-2]: To thank Emma and Anthea for their hard work on the redesign.

Moved: Dean **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

★ 4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Rachel Evans

Cathy Eatock (C.E.) asks if a poster was printed as part of the Invasion Day. She notes that SUPRA has contributed to and endorsed the treaty talks and that this would be moving contrary to this. She finds this to be a direct challenge to her role as Indigenous Officer and against SUPRA's support of the treaty action. She has serious concerns about work involving the Indigenous community not being talked about to the Indigenous officer. Mariam Mohammed (M.M.) holds Bec Johnson's proxy and would like to note that much of the Education officer report does not hold any direct benefit for USYD students. She would also like to note that this is an issue that has been raised multiple times by C.E. She notes that we did commit resources and supported this march, we have a responsibility to ensure its success. C.E. notes that there are other issues that would be raised with her report. Dean Lovett (D.L.) notes that there is a clause in the duty statement that the Education officer is responsible to the views of Council.

Procedural: To move to the Indigenous officer report

Motion carried.

C.E. does not support the seeking of payment to an event that directly undermines the work of the indigenous officer report.

Kiriti Mortha (K.M.) notes that when claiming the council's money we need to be supportive of the organisations stated goals. He also notes that this issue has been raised three times. J.L. asks the distinction between the private individual and the formal participation in the rally. C.E. notes that she has never discouraged anyone from participating in the FIRE rally, her concern is to the payment as a SUPRA officer. Eila Vinwyn (E.V.) notes that while the rally R.E. attended was not endorsed does that mean that it was disendorsed. K.M. notes that the duty statements requires the officers to support the council's views. J.L. asks if anyone would have been censored for this, does this mean that attendance is only brought into question and she becomes the Education Officer when she gets paid for it. C.E.

states that she is formally representing SUPRA when she is getting paid for it. Patrick Cook (P.C.) asks if we had any idea that another rally would be taking place at the same time. C.E. says that it was only in January that the co-ordination with FIRE fell apart. J.N. notes that we endorsed it in September, so Council as a whole would not have been aware of the alternate rally. She notes that we really need to speak to R.E. about this.

Procedural: That the discussion under 4.1.3 become in camera

Moved: James

Motion failed.

N.A. notes that if council had moved an action condemning FIRE then R.E.'s actions would have been working contrary to SUPRA's position, but as that did not happen there is no violation.

[180206-3]: To defer this report to next council.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Dean

Motion carried.

E.V. notes that the Education portfolio has been working on the log of claims and she was wondering if they could have five minutes to speak about it. D.L. says he'd be happy for that to happen.

★ 4.1.4. TREASURER

Luoning Dong *[no report received]*

4.1.5. SECRETARY

Oliver Moore

★ 4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Zushan Ahmad Hashmi *[no report received]*

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

★ 4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Cathryn Eatock *[no report received]*

C.E. notes that she has printed the wrong report, but will recall it from memory. The reason she has been pushing for a treaty because there are power and governance issues that are impacted by the lack of a treaty, and this has been brought up time and time again. She notes that any legislation can be changed by a hostile government. She notes that there cannot be a just outcome from a referendum. The funding for the march has included sponsoring people from across the country and included getting significant members of the community. It got coverage from Channel 7. Some of the challenges included people approaching their speakers who were discouraged from appearing. GetUp were approached with some concerns with personally derogatory comments. This occurred the day before the workshop, which prevented Aboriginal people from attending the march. She also received abusive text messages and threatening phone calls. The event was stormed and they threatened to kill her. There was no time when she had discouraged people from attending the rally at the Block. She notes that she spent three meetings trying to combine the events. At the first meeting there was an agreement, at the second meeting this changed, and then again at the third meeting there was a member of Solidarity and

there was strong disregard for members of the Aboriginal community and C.E. feels she was treated very poorly by the organisers. A particular venue was selected as there was a need for people to feel connection to country. There was concern over whether or not the business school was available. She would also like to note that Mike Butler (M.B.) was denigrated by a previous councillor to the National Congress. She notes that there was constant and deliberate undermining of an Aboriginal-run event. She notes that one of the speakers was too scared of the threats to attend the final day of the treaty workshop. Some of these issues have been raised with Rachel Evans (R.E.) on the phone. She finds their way of operating has been misogynistic and immoral. M.M. notes that she doesn't care what officers do in their private time, however as there is funding requested for that time. Nic Avery (N.A.) congratulates C.E. on such a successful event. He hopes that she can get some resolution on some of the issues raised. Regarding people claiming for different things, there was a difference of position between FIRE and C.E. C.E. notes that FIRE is not an Aboriginal-led organisation. N.A. notes that there should be a clear proposition for the way forward, and this would be difficult to do without a prescription for how people should think. C.E. notes that this council has taken a position to support the march for treaty. D.L. wants to know what capacity R.E. attended the event in. James Leeder (J.L.) notes the press he saw for both rallies. He asks if the initial support of the rally directed the education officer do anything. He also asks if R.E. was involved in a personal or a more significant role. C.E. notes that R.E. did not raise being involved in the organisation of the other rally with her. She expected some support that in this capacity from the Education Officer. N.A. is surprised to hear this from FIRE people, he attended the FIRE rally on Invasion Day and it was large and beautiful and peaceful, which is why he was surprised to hear that they had behaved so badly. There is some ambiguity here between the council for supporting things and whether they need to be directed as to how office bearers work. Jennifer Nicholson (J.N.) notes that there was no direct link towards the education officer portfolio in the motion passed. She notes that there is not a lot that we can do about it in this capacity. C.E. notes that her main concern it is an individual officer seeking reimbursement for directly undermining the work of the council. She also notes that FIRE have only been organising rallies for three years, and that they are a mostly white group. M.M. notes that there is some concern about the difference between your personal time and the decisions of council. She notes that there has been repeated disavowal of the indigenous sovereignty. She thanks C.E. for her hard work to make that happen.

[180206-4]: To accept the Indigenous Officer's report pending a written submission.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Dean

Motion carried.

- ★ 4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER
Marguerite Biasatti *[no report received]*
- ★ 4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER
Samay Sabharwal *[no report received]*
- 4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER
Oliver Moore
- ★ 4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Natasha Chaudhary [*no report received*]

N.C. notes that she was flying back from India, which is why she has not submitted a written report. Most of the work has been on the Women's Conference, they have submitted a request to Jordi Austin and she has connected them with a number of important people in the university. They have an exhaustive list of speakers and they've been approached. There has been some issues with the website, but moving on they have an alternate strategy in place. Francine Seeto (F.S.) wants to know SUPRA's position on the online consent module, and secondly the need for childcare on campus. N.C. notes that next week we're having a meeting, where there will be testing of the online consent unit – all new students would be enrolled, and existing students have the option to enrol in it.

[180206-5]: To approve the report.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Dean

Motion carried.

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

[180206-6]: Approve \$1,815 for the O-Week Stall

Moved: Presidents

Motion carried.

4.3.4. OTHER BUSINESS FROM REPORTS

★ 5. Postgraduate issues

K.M. notes that it's been mostly administrative work as university has been off. He notes that O-Week is coming up and that we're going to have new merchandise. An email has been sent around to do inductions. An email will go around for a working bee to pack all the induction packs. We approved the O-Week stall in this meeting, so a roster will be sent around for this. There will also be O-Week events, including campus tours to show people where the SUPRA is. There will be a staff member available who will give a presentation to students. L.C. notes that there is an admin timeline that needs to be spoken to as well.

★ 6. Verbal report from staff member

L.C. notes that we're at the good end of a busy period, which they planned for in advance which was really successful. There has also been two people who have been hired recently who have done an amazing job. The logo has been chosen but there's a style guide incoming which will be great for continuity across councils. The survival guide is at the printer, and will be printed in colour for the first time. There is some back end work that needs to be done before the front end of the website can be done, but that will be resolved in a couple of weeks. Election planning has begun, some things need to happen before the next council meeting. L.C. asks for an update on the vacant positions and the election. D.L.

refers her to the November meeting. There are a number of regs that she would like to flag in terms of the election cycle and prepping for the next council. There are a number of internal staff policies that have not been ratified for some time. K.M. was unaware of this and we can take it on board. C.E. asks if this has been raised in any form of a written way. F.S. notes that this has been raised by Adrian Cardinali previously. L.C. notes that there is an WCC meeting tomorrow, and notes that it would be great if they were able to meet monthly to allow for greater transparency. This is an industrial committee and has to exist

F.S. notes that we had about 170 new cases, around the same as for the same period last year. We currently have four full time positions and two part time positions. One full time staff member resigned but has been replaced. Key case issues have been show cause, appeals, and academic honesty and misconduct. There have also been tenancy issues which keep coming up. The show cause kit has been updated online. There is also some tenancy workshops planned to understand their rights. Getting survival guide done has been a huge effort. There was a response submitted to the Ombudsman on HDR supervision. The thesis guide was last published in 2013, so it's important that we bring that back up to date. Supervisor of the Year needs to run again, the first thing we need will be a poster. There will be a potential push back to the March wine and cheese to April. C.E. asks if there was an exit interview done with the departing staff member. K.M. notes that there was an exit interview and it will be discussed with the council at a later date.

[180206-7]: To thank the staff for their hard work

Moved: Ollie **Seconded:** James

Motion carried.

★ 7. **CAPA Update and ACM**

In December D.L. and Marguerite Biasetti went to CAPA ACM, they wanted to bring meaningful discourse to the table. The new president would like SUPRA to be involved in the lobbying of political figures around higher education policy. Something that would be great would be sharing their de-identified SAAO data between universities. C.E. asks about the approval of the treaty march. This was brought up at CAPA and was fully endorsed, as well as by NATSIPA. K.M. notes that the SCM for CAPA has been called for the 9th, 10th, and 11th of April, are we interested in hosting it. M.M. notes that this would need some assistance in hosting this. It would involve booking all rooms during peak semester, as well as catering and accommodation services. J.N. notes that unless there are a lot of people keen to do it then we probably don't have the capacity to do it. She suggests a partnership with some other unis.

★ 8. **Appointment of RO and Arbiter for Election**

This will take place by motion of circulation.

ACTION OLLIE: Send a letter of notice to warn people about this

★ 9. **Med Camp Sponsorship**

J.L. notes that this is a weekend camp for first years. Previously we've supported them by providing prizes, it's also a good opportunity to spruik SUPRA's services. K.M. notes that they want to buy the prizes from the Co-Op. C.E. asks about the history of the Co-Op. K.M. gave a brief overview.

[180206-8]: To approve \$350 for the SUMS Medical Camp

Moved: Patrick

Seconded: Eila

Motion carried.

★ **10. MUPSA Funding**

While D.L. was at CAPA MUPSA came forward to say they cannot afford CAPA affiliation as there has been some poor management of MUPSA funding. They only have \$6000 funding for the coming year. There is a suggestion that an amount be paid to bolster their funding. There was also a suggestion that our staff could go there to train them and that their staff could come here to learn. There is some concern that this is not USYD money and therefore we shouldn't send it but there is a strong case for improving the services everywhere. L.C. notes that there is quite a bit of detail on what SSAF funding can be spending on so we should look at this first. C.E. notes that in principal she supports this, because it is shocking that they are operating on such a low budget, but it would be great to take a business case to the university for this to help them build a case of receiving funding from their university. N.A. notes that it's a good idea to create solidarity between postgraduate associations. J.L. notes it's really worth us going through the SSAF agreements, and there's some worries about pooling it in other organisations. M.M. thinks that we should do it as building these links between universities helps us all. Council could vote on it conditional to John's approval. C.E. would recommend leaving it to Policy Committee.

ACTION: Move this to ManCom

★ **11. Support Adani Blockade Legal Fees**

N.A. notes that we all know about the Adani mine. There are a group of people camping out in QLD taking part in civil disobedience to ensure that the coal mine will not go ahead. N.A. went up to the site and took part in an action with four other people where they entered the coal port and stopped work at the port for twelve hours. There is a court appearance next week and they're expecting to pay for legal representation. They've had a lot of support from their communities.

[180206-9]: SUPRA to donate \$1000 to pay for legal representation.

Moved: Nic **Seconded:** James

Motion carried. Bec Johnson voted against this motion.

J.L. would like to speak in favour of this, as he has spoken to some of the people who have been involved in blockading the travesty, and notes that the continued pressure on the government is a reason for its continued presence in the news. Legal representation is really important in these cases and thinks that this money goes to a very good cause. D.L. would caution that this would be seen as an endorsement of illegal activity. E.V. would like to thank N.A. for doing this important work. She would like to go one step further and set up a fund for councillors who are doing this kind of thing. M.M. notes that John after our Decemeber meeting cautioned us against spending any more on Adani campaigns. We've endorsed the campaign and have approved money at a couple of different meetings but that at the end of the day there will be difficult to justify at SSAF. J.L. notes that there is nothing illegal about supporting people to seek legal representation. He also notes that we've supported this campaign in the past. He thinks it is important to support the students of this university. K.M. notes that this would need to be defensible to the university. N.A. notes that this could be seen in line with the Co-Op campaign, where they supported an SRC councillor who was personally sued by the Co-Op. J.L. notes that there have been

analogies when the SRC was supportive of students who had been arrested protesting against the university and sought support for legal costs.

★ **12. Queer Beers**

Oliver Moore (O.M.) notes that the Presidents have approved \$250 for a Queer Beers networking event during O-Week.

13. Other Business

There is a Queer Muslims event being run by a previous councillor who is seeking SUPRA's endorsement.

[180206-10]: That SUPRA endorse the Queer Muslim event.

Moved: Dean **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

N.A. asks for a reportback on the casual vacancies. The advice received is that the amendments need to go to the general election because the way we amended the constitution. There is one remaining vacancy that is way down on the list of the priorities as there are more important matters to deal with. K.M. notes that the new constitution came into effect after the AGM and after the general election. They don't need to look at the vacancy as casual. K.M. notes that we don't have the power to fill the vacancies, they look like they haven't been filled at the AGM.

N.A. notes that there's a rally next week to commemorate the death of TJ Hickey and in response to the indigenous deaths in custody. C.E. worked for many years on the deaths in custody campaign however she would not like to support funding for them as one of the men involved was abusive to her. C.E. suggests we send a letter to the family members in support of seeking justice.

[180206-11]: SUPRA send a letter to the family members of TJ Hickey in support of seeking justice.

Moved: Cathy **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

[180206-12]: That SUPRA not fund the ISTJA rally on the history of their history of abuse to Aboriginal women

Moved: Cathy **Seconded:** Natasha

Motion carried.

Meeting closed 8:56pm.