



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE
ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5:30 PM ON THE 20TH OF APRIL
2011, AT THE SUPRA OFFICES**

Chair: Angelus Morningstar

Minutes: Kylee Hartman-Warren

Attendees: Heidi Claus, Marie GERMA, Kylee HARTMAN-WAREN, David LATIMER, Pip MUNROE, Rosemary WHITECROSS, Katherine HARPER, Angelus MORNINGSTAR, Marie Elena INDELICATO

The meeting opened at 5:42pm.

1. Acknowledgements of Country and Welcome

Conducted by the Chair.

2. Housekeeping

2.1. Resignation

Rashmi Kumar has resigned from Council. Rashmi Kumar has appointed a successor to her vacancy as per 5.19 (a) of the Constitution.

2.2 Apologies

Sophia BARNES, Ben FERRIS, John NOWAKOWSKI, Elizabeth SCALLY, Bradley WELLS

2.3 Proxies

Katherine HARPER for Ben FERRIS & Bradley WELLS

Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN for Sophia BARNES

Pip MURATORE for John NOWAKOWSKI

2.4 Elections

In this meeting of Council, an Election for the role of Vice-President (Policy) will occur.

Discussion Summary:

A contested election did not take place. Instead, Katherine HARPER, and Lian JENVEY agreed to work together, and put their name in for appointment. There was a motion to appoint them, and the result of that motion is below.

Motion 110420.1: That Council appoint Katherine HARPER and Lian JENVY as joint acting Vice President Policy.

Result: *Carried* (two abstentions)

4. Minutes

Councillors are advised that minor edits to any of these minutes should be submitted to the Secretary in writing either by circulation before the meeting, or tabled at the meeting in writing.

If Councillors seek to raise substantive issues, they are advised to star the item for discussion during the beginning of this item.

4.1 Minutes of Council of the 22nd of March 2011

Motion 110420.2: That Council defer the minutes to this meeting to the next Council Meeting and request a more thorough overlook.

Result: *Carried*

- 4.2. Minutes of Management Committee Meeting 22nd March, 11**
- 4.3. Minutes of Management Committee Meeting 5th April, 11**
- 4.4. Minutes of Management Committee Meeting 12th April, 11**
- 4.5. Minutes of Publications Committee 14th April, 11**
- 4.6. Business Arising From Minutes**

Any actions or objects that arise from the review of minutes will be tabled and addressed.

Motion 110420.3: That Council accept the tabled minutes, with noted amendments to be sent to the Secretary.

Result: *Carried*

Discussion Summary:

The Secretary admitted that due to a technical glitch, or human error, the minutes for the last council were lost. A discussion on how to avoid this in the future took place. One solution is to back minutes up on the server the night of the meeting.

5 Office Bearer Reports

- 5.1. President Report**
- 5.2. Vice-President (Policy)**
- 5.3. Vice-President (Community)**
- 5.4. Secretary**
- 5.5. Treasurer**
- 5.6. Director of Student Publications**
- 5.7. Women's Officer**
- 5.8. International Student Officer**
- 5.9. Queer Officer**
- 5.10. Disability Officer (acting)**
- 5.11. Business Arising From Reports**

If Councillors seek clarifications or need to raise substantive issues, they are advised to star the item for discussion during the beginning of this item.

Any actions or objects that arise from the review of minutes will be tabled and addressed. Recommendations in reports will be reproduced here, and Councillors may star these recommendations if there is an objection to them. Otherwise they will be accepted in the following motion.

Motion 110420.4: That Council accept the tabled reports of Office Bearers, and their recommendations.

Result: *Carried.*

Motion: That Council defer the Vice President Community Report to the next Management Committee Meeting.

Result: *Carried.*

6. Governance

6.1. Committees

6.1.1. Constitution Review Committee

This is a call for the convening of a Constitutional Review Committee, see attached document, Constitutional Review.

Motion 110420.5: That a Review of the Constitution be conducted by the 10th of May, 2011.

Result: *Carried.*

Motion: That a Constitutional Review meet on the 2nd of May, 2011.

Result: *Carried.*

Discussion Summary:

A long discussion with regard to the Constitutional Review took place. There were various items brought up as suggestions that Council might consider changing in the upcoming year.

For example, it was suggested that it might be a good idea to extend the Council term for two years. Pros and cons were weighted for this – and Council basically assessed that it would be hard to get students to commit for two years, especially since so many are in one year degree programs, and others find themselves too burdened with their thesis in their second and third year of research.

Affirmative action needs more attention in the SUPRA Constitution. It was suggested that the committee finalize the draft recommendations for affirmative action that were tending at the last meeting.

It was suggested that the Executive achieve a better definition. The idea of the Executive is that it could have more leeway to make decisions in between Council Meetings, in order to achieve more. The largest issue has to do with employment – when a Staff Member resigns between Council, and immediate hiring needs to occur. There seems to be in principle support for defining executive. The most contentious issue is the fact that the Executives might be the only supporters in certain matters, and this could hinder the democratic process of SUPRA.

This issue was tabled to the Constitutional Review Committee Meeting.

It was also recommended that the Constitutional Review Committee submit ideas with regard to the Executives and their hiring capabilities to the WCC.

Another concern came up with regard to shared Office Bearer or Executive roles. There are benefits, largely because students may not have the time needed to complete the responsibilities in these roles. However, Council might consider allowing Office Bearers to appoint or nominate deputies in these tight situations. Deputies. It was also noted that one could have a temporary deputies role.

That the committee draft a clause that permits office bearers to nominate a deputy in

Motion 110420.6: That the Constitutional Review Committee submit one clause with regard to Office Bearers appointing deputies, for the Constitutional Review.

Result: *Carried (five against, one abstention).*

Rosemary Whitecross wished to formally record that she firmly believes that not allowing joint roles will hinder the Executive from doing their job effectively.

Another recommendation for the Constitutional Review is that the Director of Student Publications be established as an official office bearer in the Construction. This would make the Director of Student Publications a permanent position within SUPRA Council. Currently, it is not, however Publications is vital to SUPRA's functions, and formalizing the Director of Student Publications will give more priority to the position.

A recommendation for the Constitutional Review Committee was a clause, which allowed Council to remove Councillors, with cause.

A recommendation was made to include a clause in the constitution with regard to individuals who join council in the last quarter. Essentially the recommendation is that Councillors who join in the last quarter of a council term automatically become nominees for the upcoming election.

A recommendation was made to suggest that every member of council is required to be a member of a standing committee. Another recommendation was that the Constitutional Review Committee create a clause for the Construction which allows standing committees to grant membership to SUPRA subscribers. Subscribers can be associate members and thus fulfill a quorum, however they cannot vote.

On quorum, it is suggested that the requirements for a Management Committee quorum stay the same, where as other committees can drop to three for required quorum. Sub committees (or working parties) do not require a quorum.

It was recommended that 'sub committees' be changed to 'working parties.'

David LATIMER wanted to put forth a motion of thanks to everyone working on the Constitutional Review, because it is an intense and tedious process. LATIMER was particularly impressed with how the President, Angelus MORNINGSTAR was managing the Constitutional Review.

Motion 110420.7: That a formal notice of thanks for the work that was done on the Constitutional Review, by SUPRA Councillors, and in particular by the Vice President Policy and the President, be noted.

Result: Carried

6.1.2. Annual General Meeting

This will be a discussion with regard to the upcoming Annual General Meeting, how to plan for it, and what Council needs to do before now and then.

Discussion Summary:

For the sake of time, this agenda item became a point of noticed, and the discussion was tabled for a later meeting of Management Committee.

The Meeting adjourned for five minutes.

7. Policy

7.1.Policy Development

The President was charged to do a review of standing orders, and provide a revision of the Standing Orders of the meeting of Council.

Discussion Summary:

A discussion with regard to the Standing Orders occurred. There are concerns with the current Standing Orders, particularly because they seem quite ‘Western.’ It was noted that Western nations have a similar style of Democracy as Australia, however, individuals from other cultures, this style of Democracy can feel intimidating – especially at Council Meetings when debates get heated. It was noted that while there needs to be debate, it is important that more dominating voices do not commandeer the meeting.

It was recommended that the Policy Committee revise the Standing Orders in light of these observations. They should be considerate of non-western backgrounds.

Motion 110420.8: That council approve that ordinary motions be seconded at Policy Committee Meetings.

Result: *Carried* (six against).

Motion 110420.9: That the next Policy Committee meeting be chaired by Katherine Harper on Tuesday the 10th of May, 2011.

Result: Passed.

8. Other Business

8.1.Computer for the Secretary

The laptop generally used by the Secretary, has not been working very well.

Motion 110420.10: That Council approve a new computer to be procured through In Kind Support, for the Secretary, as the current one is faulty.

Result: *Carried*

8.2.Casual Employment [In Camera]

8.3.USU

For Council's notice – USU has received a notice from the University that it will no longer be able to operate as it currently does. Chances are, there will be opportunities to protest this, and fight for a student voice at the University of Sydney.

8.4.SRC BBQ

SRC had a BBQ. This was a point of notice.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.