



## MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL NEW LAW LECTURE THEATRE 440 6:00PM ON 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

**Chair:** Angelus Morningstar

**Minutes:** Mike de Waal

**Attendance:** Angelus Morningstar, Mike de Waal, Marilena Indelicato, Cyrus Achaemenian, John Nowakowski, Tuba Omer, Timothy Scriven, Kareena Denley, Joanne Gad, Tom Munro, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Siva Purushothuman, Andrew Rhodes, Alice Brandli, Bishara Marzook

**Guests:** Audrey Irish, Adrian Cardinali

### 1 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 6:05pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

### 2 Governance

#### 2.1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Bradley Wells, Amy Mao, Khawaja Almas, Pip Muratore, Manna Mostaghim, Sam Usama, and Sharangan Maheswaran.

#### 2.2 Proxies

Bradley Wells to Angelus Morningstar (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: John Nowakowski)  
Pip Muratore to Marilena Indelicato (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: John Nowakowski)  
Khawaja Almas to Kylee Hartman-Warren (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: John Nowakowski)  
Amy Mao to Joanne Gad  
Sharangan Maheswaran to Tuba Omer

#### ★ 2.3 Starring of Items

**Motion [SEP12-01]:** That Council accepts all un-starred items.

**Moved:** Angelus Morningstar

No objections.

## ★ 2.4 Notifications

The President explained that Cyrus Achaemanian had been removed from Council without justification. He had sent a text message apology to a previous meeting of Council that had not been recorded.

**Motion [SEP12-02]:** That Council apologises to Cyrus for the misunderstanding.  
**Moved:** Tim Scriven    **Seconded:** Angelus Morningstar    **Consensus.**

## ★ 3 Elections and Appointments

### 3.1 Elections for Casual Vacancies on Council

Prior to the meeting, nominations had been received from Zhila Barman, Stephen Beverley, and Kieran Latty.

The President called for a Returning Officer. Timothy Scriven nominated. There were no further nominations and no objections. Timothy was appointed Returning Officer.

The Vice President (Publications) asked that the Council Nomination Form include a box for main-campus/non-main-campus. He also asked for the information concerning SUPRA Council's female quota to be updated on the form.

The President explained that elections for the female and male-identifying candidates would be conducted separately due to SUPRA's current quota requirements.

**Election 1 Candidates: Kieran Latty, Stephen Beverley, and No candidate.**

Stephen Beverley was elected to SUPRA Council.

**Election 2 Candidates: Zhila Bahman and No candidate.**

Zhila Bahman was elected to SUPRA Council.

*Bishara Marzook arrived at 6:25pm.*

After some deliberation it was found that SUPRA had not specified a closing date for nominations in its mail-out. The President called for nominations from the floor.

Audrey Irish indicated her interest in joining SUPRA Council. She was nominated by John Nowakowski and Kylee Hartman-Warren.

Audrey Irish spoke to her nomination. She spoke of her experience as Education Officer at the University of Melbourne's student organisation. She noted her deep interest in higher education policy. She argued that SUPRA is important; it's essential to have a strong postgraduate organisation.

**Election 3 Candidates: Audrey Irish and No candidate.**

Audrey Irish was elected to SUPRA Council.

### 3.2 Nomination for Co-Treasurer

The Treasurer has nominated Joanne Gad to share his position for the remainder of 2012-13 Council.

**Motion [SEP12-03]:** That Joanne Gad share the position of Treasurer with Khawaja

Almas for the remainder of 2012-13 Council.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Tuba Omer    **Consensus.**

The Vice President (Publications) noted that there is no longer a non-Executive member of Workplace Consultative Committee.

### **3.3 Election for the position of Education Officer**

The President called for nominations to the position of Education Officer.

Joanne Gad nominated.

It was asked what the position involves. The Vice President (Community), who had written the position description, explained the role to the satisfaction of Council.

There were no other nominations.

Joanne spoke to her nomination. She believes education activism is important. Her main priorities include developing a postgraduate representative network, working with the National Tertiary Education Union to identify how to fight casualization of teachers, and developing a Minimum Resources Policy.

She was asked what had changed since the meeting of the Representatives-Elect, when she was nominated for the position. Joanne responded that her perspective had changed on the importance of the role and the position of Council.

The President appointed Timothy Scriven to be Returning Officer.

**Election 4 Candidates: Joanne Gad and No candidate.**

Joanne Gad was elected Education Officer.

### **3.4 Appointments to Equity Positions**

The President explained that someone from the equity group may nominate as Acting Officer. Someone from outside of that group may nominate as a liaison.

#### **3.4.1 Rural and Regional Officer**

#### **3.4.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer**

Andrew Rhodes nominated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison.

Andrew Rhodes spoke to his nomination. He has a keen interest in Indigenous Australia. He works for David Shoebridge MLC, who has promoted Indigenous affairs in government. He recently ran for Woollahra Council with the Greens. One of his policies was to run an Indigenous Festival.

It was asked if he understands that as Liaison he would be committing himself to find a member of that equity group to take on the role of Officer. He answered in the affirmative.

**Election 5 Candidates: Andrew Rhodes and No candidate.**

Andrew Rhodes was elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison.

*The President, noting the time, moved procedurally to move the meeting to items 7 and 8. There were no objections.*

*The International Officer moved to move item 9 after items 7 and 8. There were no objections.*

## **4 Minutes of Meetings**

### **4.1 Minutes of the previous month's meetings**

4.1.1 Meeting of Council

4.1.2 Management Committee

**Recommendation:** That Council accepts the tabled minutes, with noted amendments.

*Attached documentation:* Minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

### ★ **4.2 Business Arising From Minutes**

*This item was returned to after item 6.*

One councillor noted problems with the act of transference at the last meeting of Council. At the AGM there was a motion that failed making Vice Presidents have three separate titles. The one that passed involved Vice Presidents being elected in turn.

The President responded that his understanding was that what the councillor was referring to was a rejection of Vice Presidents as defined by their duties, rather than a simple numbering system.

The Vice President (Publications) recalled that two options were put forward: Vice Presidents for Media, Publications and Education (he thought), versus numbered. The meeting endorsed the second option. What subsequently happened was because the meeting of Representatives-Elect came before the passing of the new constitution by Senate, the recommendation put to council was that these three people would be viewed as the people moving into the numbered VP positions. There were a number of possibilities. One was that we could hold fresh elections. Two Council meetings ago we endorsed the idea that the people in the old roles move into the relevant new roles.

The President added that the President's Report for that meeting detailed the rationale for the decision.

The Vice President (Community) noted that whatever we do has to be consistent with the Annual General Meeting.

**Motion [SEP12-08]:** That the Minutes of last Council are passed.

**Moved:** Angelus Morningstar    **Seconded:** Mike de Waal    **Carried.**

## **5 Reports of Meetings**

### **5.1 Reports of the previous month's meetings**

5.1.1 Publications Committee

5.1.2 Operations Committee

5.1.3 Education Committee

*See Vice President (Community) report.*

**Recommendation:** That Council accepts the tabled reports.

*Attached documentation:* Reports of the abovementioned meetings.

★ **5.2 Business Arising From Reports**

There was no business arising from the reports.

**6 Officer Reports**

**6.1 President**

Angelus Morningstar

**6.2 Vice President (Community)**

Tim Scriven

**6.3 Vice President (Policy)**

Kylee Hartman-Warren

**6.4 Vice President (Publications)**

John Nowakowski

★ **6.5 Treasurer**

Khawaja Almas

*The Treasurer's Reports for August and September will be considered here, as due to an oversight, the August report was not tabled at last Council.*

*This item was returned to after item 8.*

**Motion [SEP12-07]:** That Council accepts the August Treasurer's report.

**Moved:** Mike de Waal    **Seconded:** Angelus Morningstar    **Consensus.**

**6.6 Secretary**

Mike de Waal

★ **6.7 Equity Officers**

6.7.1 International Officer

Tuba Omer

6.7.2 Disabilities Officer

Timothy Scriven

6.7.3 Queer Officer

Tom Munro

6.7.4 Women's Officer

Kareena Denley

6.7.5 Equity Convenor

Tom Munro

**Recommendation:** That Council accepts the tabled reports of Offices.

*Attached documentation:* Reports of Officers.

★ **6.8 Business Arising From Reports**

### International Officer report

One councillor asked what the International Officer meant by claiming “10-14 hours on average” in her report. The International Officer explained that she did not know this was unconventional. The Vice President (Community) stated the rule is that whatever you indicate, it should give a close idea for the total number of hours claimed per month.

The International Officer apologised and said she would be more specific in the future.

### Equity Convenor report

The President noted that one or two film nights should have occurred that haven't. The Equity Convenor responded that the Equity Committee meeting is happening on Wednesday. He has been working on evaluation frameworks for this portfolio. The Equity film nights will be resumed soon.

The International Officer added that it would be great to have a night with all the Equity Officers there.

## ★ 7 Verbal Report from a Member of Staff

Adrian Cardinali, SAAO Coordinator, spoke on behalf of staff.

For newcomers, he explained that there are three staffing schemes: advocacy team, legal team, and administration. The advocacy team are updating their statistics at the moment. More people are coming in to help with data entry. We're looking at 800 cases in 2012. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year staff casework load has increased. They're seeing a lot of special consideration cases. Many of the cases are related to disabilities. The Law School and Business School are the worst offenders.

Thesis Guide and Survival Guide are being revised at the moment. SUPRA Staff are working with the Vice President (Publications) to develop this.

The last few months have been really busy. Catherine Pont is new on staff. She's been doing well, but battling with ICT to get the SUPRA website back up.

The staff have been working on position descriptions for two possible six-month contract positions. The consensus amongst staff has been that the two big gaps in the organization have been in publications, and community development. Narrowly, people have felt that currently, a community development position would develop SUPRA's consultation resources and be a “better long-term bet” for the organization.

The President invited Council to ask questions.

The Vice President (Publications) asked what policy and research opportunities Adrian has been undertaking. Adrian said there is a review of the SEG committee structure within the university. This was built several years ago and is essentially a committee structure that gives University management a consultation forum with various members of the community. It has proved to be not particularly transparent. New privacy laws in NSW require public institutions to actively disclose. This is ongoing work.

**Motion [SEP12-04]:** That Council accepts the report of the staff.

**Moved:** Angelus Morningstar    **Seconded:** Joanne Gad    **Consensus.**

## ★ 8 Endorsement for Postgraduate Fellow of Senate

The President noted that newly-elected councillor Audrey Irish has a conflict of interest here.

The President explained that at the meeting of Councillors held 13<sup>th</sup> September, a discussion was held by those in attendance around endorsing a Senate candidate. The meeting recommended:

- (1) That Council will endorse a candidate.
- (2) That Council will provide its constituency with an endorsement, reasons for its endorsement based on received Candidate Statements, and a short explanation of the function and importance of Senate.
- (3) That Council will urge its constituency to conduct their own further investigations into the Senate candidates.

**Motion [SEP12-05]:** That Council accepts the recommendations of 13<sup>th</sup> September.  
**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Mike de Waal    **Consensus.**

*Audrey Irish left the room at 7:10pm.*

It was asked whether discussion had occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> involving which candidate to endorse. The President responded that there was no consensus; that deliberation should happen now.

The President responded that there had been concerns raised about a number of the candidate statements. A straw poll was taken. It was found that nine councillors felt strongly about a particular candidate. The President opened a speaking list.

The Vice President (Community) spoke in favour of endorsing Audrey Irish. He believes Audrey has a strong record in education activism, and strong progressive views. He knows she has a solid support base. He argued that Manna should be our second preference, because her chances are not as good.

The Secretary spoke in favour of endorsing Manna Mostaghim. He said that Manna was popular within the Law School and would be a progressive supporter of postgraduates on Senate. He also noted that unlike Audrey, Manna completed her undergraduate degree at the University, and therefore has knowledge of the University that would be hugely beneficial on Senate.

The Vice President (Policy) spoke in favour of endorsing Bradley Wells. She argued that Bradley has experience on SUPRA Council. He has been very pro-student. Some might say he is not “progressive”, but she believes he is on student issues. He is knowledgeable and a strong advocate for students.

The International Officer argued that no one in their candidate statements discussed their priorities for international students in any meaningful way. Maybe they are not fully aware of the difficulties associated with achieving real change for international students.

Another councillor spoke in favour of Audrey Irish. She was persuaded due to the depth of her candidate statement, particularly her response to question 5. She also mentioned that Bradley would be her second preference due to his experience.

One other councillor argued that Manna is the only candidate who appeared to have a more political understanding of the issues.

The President closed the speaking list. The Vice President (Publications) recommended that a secret ballot be held based on the candidates that had been preferred in the council discussion. There were no objections to that recommendation.

The Vice President (Publications) nominated to be Returning Officer. There were no objections.

A vote was held. There was confusion as to whether Councillors could nominate second preferences.

The vote was taken again, with the stipulation that second and third preferences may be given.

After the distribution of preferences, Manna Mostaghim and Audrey Irish tied first in the count.

The Vice President (Publications) argued that it appears there is a strong feeling in Council that both of these candidates should be endorsed.

Several councillors spoke against this recommendation. Two further councillors spoke in favour.

The Vice President (Policy) asked for clarification whether SUPRA would be able to ensure that we encourage preferences to flow from one to the other. The Vice President (Community) responded in the affirmative.

**Motion [SEP12-06]:** That Council endorses both Audrey Irish and Manna Mostaghim for Postgraduate Fellow of Senate.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Timothy Scriven    **Carried.**

The Vice President (Policy) spoke in favour of making Bradley Wells the Council's third preference. Several councillors responded that this would be too confusing.

**Motion [SEP12-07]:** That Council endorses Bradley Wells as its third preference for Postgraduate Fellow of Senate.

**Moved:** Kylee Hartman-Warren    **Seconded:** Siva Purushothuman    **Failed.**

The President, noting the time, procedurally moved to defer all items except Officer Reports and Minutes of Meetings.

*Cyrus Achaemanian left the room at 7:57pm.*

*Audrey Irish re-entered the room at 7:57pm.*

## ★ ~~9 — Council of International Students Australia (CISA)~~ ~~Funding~~

~~The International Officer will speak to this item.~~

~~Council of International Students Australia (CISA) has submitted a proposal asking SUPRA to support it in order to:~~

- ~~1. — Enable CISA to address critical issues affecting international students in Australia~~
- ~~2. — Facilitate network building among stakeholders with an interest in supporting international students studying in Australia~~
- ~~3. — Increase international students' level of commitment towards active participation and involvement with opportunities in the local community during their studies~~

~~CISA is also asking if it can use SUPRA's logo for its training workshops for international officers being held on 22nd October, which the International Officer is attending.~~

~~Attached documentation: CISA Funding Proposal.~~

## ★ ~~10 — Portfolio Development and Assignment for Vice Presidents~~

~~The President will speak to this item.~~

*Attached documentation: Changing Vice President Portfolios document, and position descriptions.*

## ~~11 Standing Sub-Committees Membership~~

This item is for noting.

*Attached documentation: Meeting Membership and Attendance, and New Subcommittee Meeting Requirements.*

## ★ ~~12 Publications~~

The Vice President (Publications) will speak to this item.

### ~~12.1 Wall Calendar~~

### ~~12.2 Communication and Engagement Survey~~

*Attached documentation: SUPRA Wall Calendar Overview and Communication and Engagement Survey.*

## ★ ~~13 Councillor Engagement in SUPRA Events~~

The President will speak to this item.

## ★ ~~14 SUPRA Staffing [In camera]~~

The President will speak to this item.

*Attached documentation: SUPRA Position Descriptions.*

## ★ 15 Other Business

One councillor noted that SUPRA has to pay \$14,000 to the Tax Office. Council should be aware of that.

The President responded that our financial regulations oblige that.

The President noted that items 9-14 would be raised at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>.

The President closed the meeting at 8:15pm.