



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL SUPRA RESOURCE ROOM 2:00PM ON 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

**Chair:** Angelus Morningstar

**Minutes:** Mike de Waal

**Attendance:** Angelus Morningstar, Mike de Waal, Andrew Rhodes, Stephen Beverley, Zhila Bahman, Manna Mostaghim, Tuba Omer, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Joanne Gad, John Nowakowski, Marilena Indelicato

### 1 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 2:02pm.

### 2 Governance

#### 2.1 Apologies

Siva Purushothuman, Audrey Irish, Tom Munro, Amy Mao, Timothy Scriven, Pip Muratore, Khawaja Almas, Sam Usama, Peter Mendis, Nicole Doughty, Cyrus Achaemenian

#### 2.2 Proxies

Siva Purushothuman to Tuba Omer (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Kylee Hartman-Warren)  
Tom Munro to Tuba Omer  
Timothy Scriven to John Nowakowski (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Alice Brandli, 3<sup>rd</sup> pref: Joanne Gad)  
Pip Muratore to Marilena Indelicato (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Kareena Denley)  
Khawaja Almas to Mike de Waal (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Kylee Hartman-Warren)  
Amy Mao to Joanne Gad  
Sam Usama to John Nowakowski

#### ★ 2.3 Starring of Items

**Motion [SEP2-01]:** That Council accepts all un-starred items.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Mike de Waal    **Consensus.**

#### ★ 2.4 Resignation

Sharangan Maheswaran has resigned. As per 05.08: 1) of the constitution, he has named Nicole

Doughty to take his place. Nicole has consented to this appointment.

**Recommendation:** That Council notes the appointment of Nicole Doughty.

### **3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were deferred for consideration until the end of the meeting. However, they were not raised again.

The minutes of the meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 will be tabled at the October meeting of Council.

### **★ 4 Council of International Students Australia (CISA) Funding**

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.

The International Officer spoke to the item. She noted that CISA is asking for \$15,000.

The International Officer strongly supports what CISA does. They are the biggest national peak body for international students in Australia. They have helped students in issues such as Iranian students' account freezes; they have worked in Victoria for women who could not gain access to some medical procedures. They are holding a workshop in October for training of international officers from around the country. The aim is to meet government bodies and lobby at various levels of government. DIAC is giving funding to CISA for one of their projects. There is a big effort on CISA's part to incorporate international and local students, and help international students make their voices heard.

CISA is planning to hold their annual conference at Sydney next year. The Brisbane conference this year was amazing. There were government and business people there helping international students get ahead. There was great dialogue and discussion, as members of the community could be questioned directly. She suggested there is a 90% chance that the 2013 conference will be held at Sydney University. This would involve 300 international students coming in from all over Australia. There's a rumour of Julia Gillard coming.

Regarding the funding amount, in the past SUPRA has given CISA \$500 or so here and there. On a per head basis, \$15,000 is not that much. She spoke to John Fell [Finance Manager] about how we can afford it, and our allocations are coming through at reasonable times.

Her personal opinion is that right now, we are giving \$20,000 to CAPA, and she doesn't want to downgrade them, but she feels CISA is doing a great job and yet they are asking for less. The way they have communicated with her has made her feel that they genuinely care.

The Vice President (Publications) responded that both CISA and CAPA are organisations that should be supported. He clarified that CISA's original funding model asked for \$500 per member. We gave this amount not because we were being measly, but because that was simply the fee.

He further noted that the CAPA President who recently resigned was of the view that international students are no longer the domain of CAPA. She is no longer President. More can and will be done from CAPA for international students. Regarding the issue of funding \$15,000, SUPRA is one of the largest associations that could afford to fund CISA. CISA would enormously benefit from it.

The International Officer noted that other universities have been asked for more.

The Vice President (Policy) declared a Conflict of Interest as the Education Officer of CISA. She argued that CISA are doing really great work and \$15,000 isn't too much to ask. The international representative work they're doing is quite involved and at times expensive. You're trying to get the attention of people who have influence and power. CISA has a lot of respect from the industry. It is in quite a strong place. While they do get grants, they often don't go very far, and it is problematic to be beholden to special grants.

*The President took a straw poll revealing that Council were broadly in favour of giving financial support.*

The Education Officer queried whether giving so much support to CISA, and effectively ignoring that CAPA is about to restate its support, might alienate some international students and drive them further apart from domestic students.

The Vice President (Policy) responded that the "bridge" remains. CISA actually works for people who aren't international students, indirectly. For instance, the travel concessions campaign is "all access". She doesn't believe the social question of where students will "flock" doesn't really play into how CISA does its work. CISA does not want to segregate international students. Regular student organisations just don't ask the international student "question" as often as they should. It's not that these organisations are bad; it's just not their priority.

The Education Officer asked if there had been a commitment between CISA and CAPA in how they overlap.

The Vice President (Policy) responded that overlap has to happen if you want to push through legislation. You need multiple organisations to make something happen. A CAPA representative sits on CISA council.

The Education Officer responded that fragmentation is still problematic. It may be worthwhile sometimes to put all your forces behind one organisation. She asked if CISA has made any commitment about how the money would be spent.

The Vice President (Policy) noted ongoing projects of the organisation. The International Officer added that CISA's finances went dry after the recent conference in Brisbane. A taskforce in October will be used to plan the year ahead, but some projects have already started.

The President argued that CAPA and SUPRA are examples of why it's good to have separate representation. We don't want to be a part of NUS or SRC. Postgraduate issues get sidelined when that happens. The same thing principle applies with international students. There should be an international student voice at Senate, more so than other equity groups, due to economic issues. He felt that a budget and per capita basis would be ideal.

There was discussion around a proposal that funding moves from SUPRA to CAPA to CISA. It was

resolved that money going directly between associations would be more effective (i.e. SUPRA to CISA).

The International Officer argued that CISA should be funded independently.

The President proposed that SUPRA approves \$7,500 of funding immediately, and \$7,500 later. This means CISA would be able to start its work. We would need to see a formal proposal before delivering the second amount, though.

**Motion [SEP2-02]:** That SUPRA funds the Council of International Students Australia with \$15,000, whereby \$7,500 is payable immediately, and \$7,500 is payable in 2013.

**Moved:** Tuba Omer    **Seconded:** Marilena Indelicato    **Failed.**

**Motion [SEP2-03]:** That SUPRA funds the Council of International Students Australia with \$7,500 immediately, and \$7,500 in 2013 upon receipt of a budget proposal acceptable to Council.

**Moved:** Angelus Morningstar    **Seconded:** John Nowakowski

*An amendment was moved by the International Officer to fund \$10,000 immediately.*

The amended motion **failed**.

The original **Motion [SEP2-03]** was **carried**.

## ★ 5 Portfolio Development and Assignment for Vice Presidents

The Vice President (Publications) explained the document. He first proposed to defer discussion of position descriptions, since not all documentation was printed regarding these. The item was deferred to the next meeting, where all documentation, as well as the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, would be provided.

He next addressed the various portfolio models. There were two options. The Secretary asked which model the Vice President preferred. He responded that recommended model 2a was most desirable.

**Motion [SEP2-04]:** That Council accept Model 2A as the portfolio model for SUPRA Vice Presidents.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren    **Consensus.**

The Vice President (Publications) recommended that items 3 and 4 of the document be deferred until all Vice Presidents are able to be in the room, and after the minutes of the Annual General Meeting have been arranged.

## ★ 6 Standing Sub-Committees Membership

The Vice President (Publications) noted that only two people haven't been allocated to committees. Everyone has at least joined one committee. Now that we have that sorted out, we should enact the part of the constitution that requires we record who goes to meetings.

The President added that Councillors have obligations to attend subcommittees.

## ★ 7 Publications

## 7.1 Wall Calendar

The Vice President (Publications) asked that all SUPRA councillors, and particularly Equity Officers, contact him regarding equity group events for noting on the calendar.

One councillor queried the inclusion of Australia Day on the calendar. The Vice President (Publications) asked that people contact him directly about the specific dates.

## 7.2 Communication and Engagement Survey

The Vice President (Publications) explained that this is a broad survey, and has been approved by the Publications committee. He asked that Council approve prizes for Survey participation, as well as the survey itself.

**Motion [SEP2-05]:** That \$150 be approved for the purchase of three \$50 vouchers to the Co-op Bookshop to be used as prizes in the survey.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Angelus Morningstar    **Consensus.**

**Motion [SEP2-06]:** That the 2012 Communication and Engagement Survey be approved.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Angelus Morningstar    **Consensus.**

## ★ 8 Councillor Engagement in SUPRA Events

The Vice President (Publications) described the poor councillor attendance at the recent Wine and Cheese night. He called on councillors to remember that there is an expectation that we participate in events promoting the Association.

The Vice President (Policy) agreed, adding that she would not be opposed to some sort of stipend or honorarium to be paid to councillors to attend regularly.

The President added that for stipend claimers (i.e. office-bearers), this is a legitimate expense of their time, and they could be compensated.

One councillor suggested that there was a communication problem. She feels that councillors like herself do want to help out if there is a problem, but they need to know!

The Co-Treasurer noted that a system of stipends would be messy. The President deferred discussion of stipends, flagging that it can be discussed at a later Council meeting.

## ★ 9 SUPRA Staffing [In camera]

**Motion [SEP2-07]:** That Council endorses the position descriptions as written.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren    **Consensus.**

**Motion [SEP2-08]:** That Council activates a hiring process for the Community Development officer for a six month contract, with opportunity to create a permanent position in 2013.

**Moved:** Maria Elena Indelicato    **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren    **Carried.**

The Vice President (Community)'s objection to Motion [SEP2-08] was noted.

## ★ 10 Other Business

## Code of Conduct

*This discussion was held in camera.*

## Education Officer

The Education Officer requested a stipend for this position. She has identified a number of key areas that need work.

**Motion [SEP2-09]:** That Council approves a temporary stipend allocation for five hours per week, to be reviewed at the November Council meeting.

**Moved:** John Nowakowski    **Seconded:** Andrew Rhodes    **Consensus.**

**Motion [SEP2-10]:** That finances be amended to reflect Motion [SEP2-09].

**Moved:** Angelus Morningstar    **Seconded:** John Nowakowski    **Consensus.**

## CISA

The International Officer noted that she still feels strongly about the funding issue. She asked if she could submit a report to next Council for review. The President replied that there is no problem with that.

One councillor asked if SUPRA could call upon CAPA to collaborate with CISA more. The Vice President (Publications) replied that he would take it to the incoming CAPA President the following Monday.

## Dinner

The International Officer asked if Councillors could have a dinner together to get to know each other better. We're all here from diverse backgrounds and we're unable to help each other out.

The Vice President (Policy) offered organise the event for some time within the following month.

The President called for any other business. There was none.

The President closed the meeting at 3:55pm.