



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL CARSLAW LECTURE ROOM 451 5:00PM ON 23RD OCTOBER 2012

Chair: Angelus Morningstar

Minutes: Mike de Waal

Attendance: Angelus Morningstar, Tuba Omer, Mike de Waal, Nicole Doughty, Andrew Rhodes, Stephen Beverley, Zhila Bahman, Pip Muratore, Bishara Marzook, Khawaja Almas, Kareena Denley, Joanne Gad, Timothy Scriven, Kylee Hartman-Warren

1 Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The President opened the meeting at 5:05pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 Governance

2.1 Apologies

Amy Mao, Joanne Gad (until 6:00pm), Thomas Munro, Peter Mendis, Cyrus Achaemenian, Audrey Irish, Siva Purushothuman, Sam Usama, Marilena Indelicato, Manna Mostaghim, John Nowakowski

2.2 Proxies

Joanne Gad to Kareena Denley (until her arrival)
Thomas Munro to Tuba Omer
Peter Mendis to Kylee Hartman-Warren
Cyrus Achaemenian to Angelus Morningstar (2nd pref: Timothy Scriven)
Amy Mao to Kylee Hartman-Warren
Audrey Irish to Kylee Hartman-Warren (2nd pref: John Nowakowski)
Siva Purushothuman to Alice Brandli (2nd pref: Kylee Hartman-Warren)
Sam Usama to Timothy Scriven (2nd pref: John Nowakowski)
Marilena Indelicato to Pip Muratore (2nd pref: Tuba Omer)
Manna Mostaghim to Tuba Omer
John Nowakowski to Timothy Scriven (2nd pref: Pip Muratore)



2.3 Starring of Items

The Council is invited to identify any items not currently scheduled for discussion

Motion [OCT12-01]: That all unstarred items are accepted.

Moved: Nicole Doughty **Seconded:** Kareena Denley **Consensus.**

★ 2.4 Notifications

There were no notifications.

At the request of the International Officer, the President procedurally moved the meeting to item 11.

3 Minutes of Meetings

3.1 Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1 Meetings of Council (17 Sep and 28 Sep)

3.1.2 Management Committee

3.1.3 Finance Committee

3.1.4 Annual General Meeting (Held June 2012)

★ 3.2 Business Arising From Minutes

The Secretary noted that in the minutes of the 28th September meeting, under item 7.2, the motion should read: "That the 2012 Communication and Engagement Survey be approved."

Motion [OCT12-02]: That Council accepts those minutes including the amendment.

Moved: Angelus Morningstar **Seconded:** Andrew Rhodes **Consensus.**

The Chair moved procedurally to item 7.

4 Reports of Meetings

4.1 Reports of the previous month's meetings

4.1.1 Policy Committee

4.1.2 Education Committee

Recommendation: That Council accepts the tabled reports.

Attached documentation: Reports of the abovementioned meetings.

★ 4.2 Business Arising From Reports

There was no business arising from the reports.

5 Officer Reports

★ 5.1 President

Angelus Morningstar

This discussion was raised as a part of item 10.

The President spoke to the aspect of his report concerning his stipend. He noted conflict of interest and offered the option of not speaking to the item. Council permitted him to speak. He noted that he would not move or second any motion regarding the matter (and had no voting rights as Chair nominally).

The Co-Treasurer asked if there was any way of delegating extra work to other executives.

The President responded that most of his work comes from being General Manager of SUPRA. That's really non-delegable. Even in 2011 when he was stipended 35 hours per week and didn't have onus of SSAF negotiations, he was still doing 40 hours per week. There's sufficient work that the time will be taken up by things.

The Co-Treasurer argued that because we're all students, 40 hours per week might impact your study. The financial regulations state that SUPRA doesn't provide a living wage; it's remuneration for work that's done. Your situation sounds like a full-time job. The spirit of the financial regulations is that you're not precluded from studying.

The President responded that the reality has been that most Presidents take a leave. I've gotten used to work-life balance and have still done well at university.

The Vice President (Community) argued that all the executive are working beyond the hours they're claiming. The question then is that if we're all putting in more hours than what we're being paid for... if we all start claiming the hours we are doing, that would involve a budget blowout.

The President responded that he has worked between 40 and 50 hours per week this year. A lot of it can't be delegated.

The Co-Treasurer reiterated that stipend hours are what we expect of the president. We don't expect him to do 45 hours per week and we are happy to help him.

Motion [OCT12-03]: That Council set the maximum claimable hours for the position of the President to 40 hours per week, and amend the stipend policy accordingly, with review at the end of 2012 for the 2013 budget.

Moved: Stephen Beverley **Seconded:** Mike de Waal **Carried. (11, 0, 2)**

5.2 Vice President (Community)

Timothy Scriven

5.3 Vice President (Policy)

Kylee Hartman-Warren

5.4 Vice President (Publications)

John Nowakowski

★ 5.5 Treasurer

Khawaja Almas and Joanne Gad

This discussion was raised as a part of item 7.

The Co-Treasurer stated that the Financial Regulations require that she present a budget. She outlined that we are currently out to make a surplus of \$12,000 if we don't add on any more expenses. This forecasts stipends for councillors, and staff wages. We have also under-budgeted for certain items. The Treasurer stipend was budgeted to \$8,500, which she believes was done in anticipation of 7 hours per week. Also there are several line items we were hoping would not get spent, but if we want a realistic budget for next year, we need to take these into account. There has been talk of better conference support – this may go up. We need to pay \$2,500 of insurance next year. Basically, there are a few things that are going up, so we will need to be aware of them. Council should have an interest in the budget. If we look back at our strategic goals meeting, one of them is to spend more money on publicity.

The Vice President (Community) spoke in regard to the publicity line item. We could increase the

amount we're spending on these items almost indefinitely, and you wouldn't see a real rise. It's all coming out of the photocopier and materials budget. He has printed out 100s of posters for events this year; it all comes up as printing.

The President noted that the USU has expressed they are amenable to allocating part of their budget on postgraduate events and community development as part of SSAF negotiations.

Motion [OCT12-04]: That Council accepts the report of the Treasurer.

Moved: Kylee Hartman-Warren **Seconded:** Bish Marzook **Consensus.**

5.6 Secretary

Mike de Waal

5.7 Equity Officers

5.7.1 International Officer

Tuba Omer

5.7.2 Disabilities Officer

Timothy Scriven

5.7.3 Queer Officer

Tom Munro

5.7.4 Women's Officer

Kareena Denley

5.7.5 Equity Convenor

Tom Munro

Recommendation: That Council accepts the tabled reports of Offices.

Attached documentation: Reports of Officers.

★ 5.8 Business Arising From Reports

There was no business arising from the reports.

★ 6 Staff Selection Committees

Senior Student Advice and Advocacy Officer (SAAO) Margaret Kirkby spoke to Council, outlining the report of the Committee. It was noted that Administration Officer Catherine Pont was currently doing a review of all SUPRA's HR policy.

It was noted that Adrian Cardinali, SAAO Coordinator, had voiced his opposition to the last recommendation (that interviewees be given a copy of the questions before the interview itself).

It was asked what questions were asked and how many. Margaret outlined the process of presenting scenarios. It's very arduous being on a staff selection process, but it's really beneficial. She recommended that if it comes up again, think about volunteering. You have to think as an employer.

Motion [OCT12-05]: That the recommendations of the Selection Committee be forwarded to Catherine Pont as part of her HR work.

Moved: Angelus Morningstar **Seconded:** Tuba Omer **Consensus.**

Khawaja Almas left the room at 6:06pm, passing his proxy to Kareena Denley.

Tuba Omer left the room at 6:06pm, passing her proxy to Mike de Waal.

The Chair moved procedurally to item 9.

★ 7 SSAF Allocation Update [In camera]

This item was discussed in camera.

Motion [OCT12-06]: That Council direct Finance Committee to develop two draft budgets: one with an actual projected balance, and one with a projected \$30,000 deficit.

Moved: Kareena Denley **Seconded:** Pip Muratore. **Consensus.**

Bish Marzook left the room at 7:09pm.

Motion [OCT12-07]: That Council empowers the President to negotiate with the USU, in good faith, for the collaboration of community and social activities, with a view to reduce those operating costs in the SUPRA 2013 budget; and that any proposed agreement be returned to Council for consideration and ratification.

Moved: Stephen Beverley **Seconded:** Mike de Waal **Consensus.**

Andrew Rhodes left the room at 7:12pm. He passed his proxy to Joanne Gad.

★ 8 SUPRA Relocation

The President explained the relocation plans. USU brought to us the Wentworth plan. There are reservations about what this might mean 5 or 10 years down the track. This is a space literally next door to SRC. It facilitates discussions about amalgamation. The university may ask, “Why do you not have one service here?” From the perspective of the Vice-Chancellor, the areas most likely to be considered in terms of duplication relate to administration. They wouldn’t think of legal service, casework, etc about duplication. They’re not thinking about “one organisation”, at least at the moment. But in different economic conditions this may be problematic.

The promise is that it’s in Wentworth. It’s right in the heart of all the student services. We would have to give up the resource room. There’s no space in Wentworth. It’s probable that we would be able to negotiate for little or no rent. We are in the precarious position at the moment that the University provides our venue.

The person in negotiations for Wentworth is overseas until November. So we probably couldn’t move in December. We may be in demountables near Ross St for six months. In any event this would only be a temporary solution.

It was asked if there are any other options than the demountables or Wentworth.

The President responded that none have been signalled so far. Level 7 of Fisher was on the cards at one point, but no more.

The Vice President (Community) read out a statement from the Vice President (Publications) in opposition to the Wentworth plan.

The President recommended that we defer discussion for now as it is not urgent. The Co-Treasurer asked if we can have the discussion now. The President responded that we do not have enough information at the moment.

Motion [OCT12-08]: That Council defer the discussion about relocation to Wentworth until January, when more information is available.

Moved: Kareena Denley **Seconded:** Mike de Waal **Consensus.**

Motion [OCT12-09]: That Council assign responsibility to Management Committee to review strategic impacts of venues for relocation of SUPRA, and provide recommendations.

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

The President moved procedurally to item 6.

★ 9 Policy Review Recommendations

The President noted that the Administration Officer has indicated that she would do most of the work in developing these recommendations.

Bish Marzook left the room at 6:09pm.

Joanne Gad entered the room at 6:10pm.

The Vice President (Policy) added that she was very happy Catherine was spearheading this process. The idea is great. The Secretary added his support for the standardisation process.

Motion [OCT12-10]: That Council endorses the recommendations of the Policy Review

Moved: Mike de Waal **Seconded:** Stephen Beverley **Consensus.**

★ 10 Treasurer Stipend

The President cited the Treasurers' conflict of interest.

The Co-Treasurer explained the current circumstances. At its October meeting, the Finance Committee resolved to request that Council restore the Treasurer's stipend to 28 hours claimable per fortnight.

The Vice President (Policy) voiced her support for the change. The Treasurer can do stuff outside of the budget when there are lulls – e.g. projects, grants, preventing cuts, etc.

The President asked if her increased hours have all been spent focussing on Treasurer duties. The Co-Treasurer responded in the affirmative, though noted that she would also love to be more involved and to get more information on SUPRA's financial status, etc. It's a really important role.

It was noted that John Fell (SUPRA Finance Manager) has already forecasted for 14 hours per week in any case.

Motion [OCT12-11]: That the Treasurer stipend be restored to 28 hours claimable per fortnight.

Moved: Stephen Beverley **Seconded:** Nicole Doughty **Consensus.** *The Co-Treasurer abstained.*

★ 11 International Student Bushwalk

The International Officer introduced herself and outlined the bushwalk. Based, on quotes, the coach costs \$800 for 25 people for a full day. She has been in touch with SUPRA Finance Manager John Fell who will actually be leading the team.

She noted that there is a lot of money in various line items. She has already exhausted the International Officer's specific budget with her events already.

The event is 8am-5pm, on Saturday 24th of November.

Motion [OCT12-12]: That Council approves \$800 for the Bushwalk event, to be taken out of the

Community line item.

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

The President procedurally moved to an item of Other Business.

★ 12 Council of International Students Australia Funding Request

Update: In light of the ongoing SSAF Negotiation environment, the International Officer has asked that this item simply be submitted for noting.

The International Officer submits the following request to Council:

“Further to the discussion for the CISA proposal in the last meeting, the new one is now attached. This is the proposal giving a detailed account of the possible avenues where SUPRA's money will be spent as requested by Council. I would like to propose that funds amounting to \$7,500 be granted to CISA for the beginning of next year.”

Attached documentation: CISA Expenditure 2012-2013.

★ 13 Defence Trade Controls Bill

The Vice President (Policy) promised to send an email out about this issue.

The Vice President (Community) noted that there is also a petition up.

★ 14 Budget Cuts Campaign

The Education Officer spoke briefly to this item. It is going very well. She had a meeting with around twenty people. They are all very angry! They will be putting forward a petition and staying involved. It's really good that people are excited about it.

15 Universities Australia Media Release

For noting.

★ 16 Changing Vice-President Roles

The President moved procedurally that this item be delegated to Management Committee. There were no objections.

17 Other Business

Council resignation

The President spoke in reference to a resignation email received that morning from a former member of Council. Its contents were vitriolic and bitter, accusing Council of corruption and criminal activity. The President has tried to contact him, to no avail. He understands what some of them may relate to, specifically conduct of previous councils.

The President believes the email was driven by emotion, after the endorsement of a Senate candidate. The councillor had never objected to the idea that a Senate candidate should be supported. From the email, it's not clear whether he is now objecting to the endorsement of a candidate, or whether we didn't endorse him.

The Secretary asked if the councillor ever approached the President directly about these issues. The President responded that he had not.

It was asked if the President would be able to circulate any of the former councillor's responses. The President replied that he would. These are issues that must be dealt with sensitively.

It was asked if this was the first time SUPRA had endorsed a candidate. The President replied that he believed we had done so previously. This year, we passed a motion but circulated some information without the President's "signature" as such. The message was: SUPRA endorses these two candidates.

The President noted that he originally refused to sign off on the original release that was prepared, even though it correlated with the directness of the motion taken by Council in order to moderate that position.

The President moved procedurally to return to item 3.

This item was returned to after item 16.

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

The President closed the meeting at 8:12pm.