



**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL
EDUCATION SEMINAR ROOM 458
6:00 PM ON 12TH MAY, 2014**

Chair: Joanne Gad

Minutes: Guien Miao

Attendance: Douglas King (*departed at 7:15 p.m.*), Brigitte McFadden, Timothy Scriven, Thomas O'Connor, Ensiyeh Kazerarni (*departed at 7:22 p.m.*), Kaitlin Tagg (*departed at 7:12 p.m.*), Michael Butler, Andrew Fraser, Joseph Callingham, Gareth Charles (*entered at 6:30 p.m.*), Jay Tharappel (*entered at 6:33 p.m.*)

★ **1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

★ **2. Governance**

2.1. Apologies

Wen Chen

Arunan Sriravindrarah

Maral Hosseinpour

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal

Michael de Waal

Tanveer Sohal

2.2. Proxies

Arunan Sriravindrarah to Douglas King

Maral Hosseinpour to Joanne Gad

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal to Guien Miao

Michael de Waal to Timothy Scriven (2nd pref: Kieran Latty)

Tanveer Sohal to Guien Miao (2nd pref: Joanne Gad, 3rd pref: Douglas King)

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Motion [MAY12-01]: *SUPRA Council accepts all un-starred items.*

Moved: Joanne Gad **Seconded:** Kaitlin Tagg
Carried.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 17TH APRIL 2014

3.1.2. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 22ND APRIL 2014

★ 3.1.3. EDUCATION COMMITTEE, APRIL 2013

Attached documentation: Minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

It was noted that the minutes for the Education Committee had been submitted late; they were shown on the screen for approval.

Motion [MAY12-02]: *SUPRA Council accepts the tabled minutes, with noted amendments.*

Moved: Guien Miao **Seconded:** Timothy Scriven
Carried.

★ **3.2. Business Arising from Minutes**

There was none.

4. Officer Reports

★ **4.1. President**

Joanne Gad

The President noted that she had been sick and unable to prepare her report by the deadline. She noted that she has provided a printed copy of her report and allowed those present time to read it.

She noted, in particular, that SUPRA is now an ACON safe space. She also gave a reminder about capital works occurring and added that we are currently asking for a new home for SUPRA in the submission for upcoming capital works. She also noted that she has been in touch with Camden regarding student support services, as well as following up on supervision.

★ **4.2. Vice-President**

Kylee Hartman-Warren

The Vice-President noted a correction to the date of her report. She added that she had attended Management Committee and Education Committee. She noted that she will cover policy more in the Policy Review agenda item. She also asked that councillors be more aware of Sydney Student, which is being rolled out by the university. She added that the university will be changing census dates for research students, which will probably affect those completing next year.

The President added that draft higher education standards are under review and the SSAO team is currently working on a submission at the moment, noting that this submission may be circulated to Council.

★ **4.3. Education Officer**

Timothy Scriven

The Education Officer noted that he would likely not make it to the next Council meeting and so this will be his last meeting as a member of the Executive. He noted that the next period will be exciting for the next Education Officer, in light of the Norton-Kemp review, commission of audit and Federal Budget. He added that he has been engaged with the EAG, working around a campaign for a student who might be disciplined regarding chalking. He noted that a lot of our future work looks like it will be around Federal policy as there is concern about cuts and fees.

He pointed out the importance of the next Education Officer engaging broader layers of students, noting that, although he had made a number of attempts, engagement with postgraduate students had been difficult. He stressed the importance of negotiations and strongly urged the next Executive to put a lot of effort into getting the SSAF negotiations right.

4.4. Treasurer

Douglas King

4.5. Secretary

Guien Miao

4.6. Director of Student Publications

Tanveer Sohal, Guien Miao (Acting)

The President noted that the Director of Student Publications had put in a claim for some hours and that, in total (with the acting Director of Student Publication's claim), it will exceed the monthly quota of hours.

The Education Officer suggested revisiting the problem of when hours are split between a number of people and the total claim is greater than the quota of hours in the near future.

It was agreed to leave it to Management Committee to approve the Director of Student Publications' hours as the request for hours had only been received shortly before the meeting.

Motion [MAY12-03]: *SUPRA Council defers the approval of the report and hours for the DSP to Management Committee.*

Moved: Douglas King **Seconded:** Andrew Fraser

Carried (2 abstentions)

4.7. Equity Officers

4.7.1. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Tuba Omer

4.7.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Nayeem Faisal Shaikh

No hours claimed.

4.7.3. QUEER OFFICER

Timothy Scriven

No hours claimed.

4.7.4. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerarni

4.7.5. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Callum Forbes

No hours claimed.

roles in the near future. He added that it seems like they're on the right track, but will be good to make sure that this remains so.

★ 8. Policy Review

- Financial Regulations

The Vice-President noted that the Treasurer had proposed a few changes to the document, in particular, to 5.05 2). It had been proposed that the approval of payments be delegated to the Treasurer rather than the Vice-President as the Treasurer would have a better idea of the finances and the role is consistent with the role of Treasurer. Changes to 5:05 4) would be necessary to ensure consistency with 5.05 2).

The Education Officer disagreed with the shifting of the role from the Vice-President to the Treasurer, noting that one of the core functions of the Vice-President is to step in for President and that the Treasurer maintains oversight over finances, which might be difficult if Treasurer steps into such a role. The Education Officer also noted that VP is in the office for more hours, so generally the Vice-President fills into the role more naturally and easily. The Treasurer noted that oversight would still exist. A councillor suggested that the Treasurer should then take on all financial oversight. The Education Officer noted that when we drafted the last version, then there was a concern that the Treasurer should remain at arm's length from these approvals to maintain oversight.

The President pointed out that these changes would be delegating the task of letting the Finance Manager know about supernumerary claims. The Education Officer suggested that it should be delegated to the Secretary instead, as the Secretary maintains such records. The Secretary noted that this has certainly occurred in the past regarding financial approvals from Management Committee or Council. The Education Officer suggested not jumping into making the change then. The Treasurer suggested sending it back to Policy Committee for reconsideration. The President suggested checking with the Finance Manager to see what would occur in practice. The Treasurer noted that he would have a talk with the Finance Manager and take it to the next Policy Committee.

- Safer Spaces

The Vice-President noted that, originally, the Safer Spaces document did not refer to where the policies apply and pointed out that it really should apply to e-spaces as well as physical spaces. She added that the ACON website also refers to digital spaces and that it would allow us to police our website. She also noted that there were a lot of editorial changes, such as replacing "this association" with "SUPRA" to sound more direct. A councillor pointed out that "this association" is usually associated with legal documents and asked whether or not the document is part of our Constitution; it was noted to not be part of the Constitution. He also asked whether we define e-spaces; the Vice-President noted that the document does.

The Education Officer proposed a minor change to the document. The Vice-President noted that we're responsible for looking after our digital spaces. The Education Officer noted that he does not like the document, pointing out that it is difficult to enforce the document as it is written in the positive and that although, at the end of the day, the judgement calls will come down to what a reasonable person will think, the document is not directive at all. The Vice-President noted that the document works in conjunction with the Code of Conduct. The President pointed out there are two issues: the relatively minor changes and the changes to underlying policy. For the second, she suggested consultation with staff. The Treasurer suggested accepting the proposed changes in the interim.

Motion [MAY12-06]: *SUPRA Council accepts the proposed changes to the Safer Spaces Charter.*

Moved: Timothy Scriven **Seconded:** Douglas King

Carried.

- Constitution

The Vice-President noted that SSAF negotiations are a big part of what SUPRA does and suggested that they deserve mention either in the Constitution or in the President's duty statement. She suggested making the selection of the SSAF negotiation team part of the Constitution. The Treasurer suggested that this should go to Policy Committee rather than Council. A councillor suggested that it should be flexible. The Education Officer noted that, if we have a Council incompetent enough to not send people to SSAF negotiations, then a clause in the Constitution would not prevent this. He also added that he is not sure if the negotiations will occur next year and can also imagine a small issue with phrasing could cause issues with being too specific. He added that does not think this is necessary. The Treasurer noted that it is not a negotiation with the university, but rather, with other student bodies. The President noted that there still needs to be one person

representing SUPRA at the negotiations and agreed that there could be a reduction in flexibility if included in the Constitution. The President noted that it might be good to continue the conversation at a later point in time. The Vice-President noted that she would call a Policy Committee meeting next week, noting a general sense that this should not be included in the Constitution.

★ 9. Other Business

- University Australia Statements

The Education Officer noted that he had included these statements for circulation.

Kaitlin Tagg departed at 7:12 p.m.

Douglas King departed at 7:15 p.m.

The President noted that it would be good for Council to think about comparing our strategies with theirs. The Education Officer noted that we can put pressure on the Vice-Chancellor regarding support of students, by writing letters to Honi Soit, etc. The Vice-President noted, from her own experience, that the Vice Chancellor's office seems to be quite pro-student, which could be a powerful tool for us.

A councillor asked whether there are any particular concerns with what is in the statements. The Education Officer noted that it seems that it seems like they are putting forward comments and highlighting issues.

Ensiyeh Kazerarni departed at 7:22 p.m., passing her proxy to Guien Miao.

The councillor noted that he does not think there is anything specific in these statements that we need to respond to. Another councillor suggested that analysing the statements before the Federal Budget is released is not useful. The Education Officer noted that his intention was to bring up things that are on the agenda, rather than to make particular decisions right now.

The President closed the meeting at 7:24 p.m.