



**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL
EDUCATION SECONDARY MATHS ROOM 418
6:00 PM ON 10TH JUNE, 2014**

Chair: Joanne Gad

Minutes: Guien Miao

Attendance: Douglas King, Michael de Waal (departed at 7:15 p.m.), Timothy Scriven, Anette Hansen, Maral Hosseinpour, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Ensiyeh Kazerouni, Andrew Fraser (*entered at 6:18 p.m.*), Gareth Charles (*entered at 6:28 p.m.; departed at 7:40 p.m.*), Vanessa Wells (*via Skype*)

Guests: Francine Seeto

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

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country at 6:04 p.m.

★ **2. Governance**

2.1. Apologies

Arunan Sriravindrarajah

Kaitlin Tagg

Tuba Omer

Kieran Latty

Michael Butler

Vaivi Mase

Joss McCay

Wen Chen

Callum Forbes

2.2. Proxies

Arunan Sriravindrarajah to Douglas King

Kaitlin Tagg to Joseph Callingham

Vaivi Mase to Guien Miao (2ndpref: Joseph Callingham; 3rdpref: Kaitlin Tagg)

Joss McCay to Michael de Waal (2ndpref: Kylee Hartman-Warren)

Callum Forbes to Joseph Callingham

2.3. Starring of Items

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

It was noted that Vanessa Wells would be using Skype during the meeting. The Education Officer noted that Skype is different from a phone-call – Skype has been specifically constructed for long-distance meetings – and that, practically, it is difficult to engage students from remote campuses.

Motion [JUN10-01]: *SUPRA Council affirms that Vanessa Wells be considered present for the meeting.*

Moved: Timothy Scriven **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren
Consensus.

Motion [JUN10-02]: *SUPRA Council accepts all un-starred items.*

Moved: Joanne Gad **Seconded:** Douglas King
Carried.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 12TH MAY 2014

3.1.2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 15TH MAY 2014

3.1.3. POLICY COMMITTEE, 15TH MAY 2014

3.1.4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 2ND JUNE 2014

Attached documentation: Minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

★ 3.2. Business Arising from Minutes

No business arising from minutes was noted.

4. Officer Reports

4.1. President

Joanne Gad

★ 4.2. Vice-President

Kylee Hartman-Warren

The Vice-President noted that her report was late as the date of Council is quite early this month and she has been overwhelmed at the moment. She noted that she had, in addition to activities in her written report, also attended Management Committee and Policy Committee meetings.

★ 4.3. Education Officer

Timothy Scriven

The Education Officer/Queer Officer apologised for not sending his reports in on time and noted that he had printed off copies and would be forwarding a copy to the Secretary for archival purposes. A councillor asked about a hanging sentence in his report; the Education Officer noted that he would make the amendment before forwarding his report to the Secretary.

Francine Seeto entered at 6:11 p.m.

4.4. Treasurer

Douglas King

4.5. Secretary

Guien Miao

4.6. Director of Student Publications

Guien Miao (Acting) and Tanveer Sohal

4.7. Equity Officers

4.7.1. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Tuba Omer

4.7.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Nayeem Faisal Shaikh



4.7.3. QUEER OFFICER

Timothy Scriven

4.7.4. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerouni

4.7.5. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Callum Forbes

No hours claimed.

4.7.6. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Michael Butler

No hours claimed.

Attached documentation: Reports of Officers.

Motion [JUN10-03]: *SUPRA Council accepts the tabled reports of Officer.*

Moved: Douglas King **Seconded:** Michael de Waal

Carried.



4.8. Business Arising from Reports

The President noted that the Annual Report has been submitted to Senate and will likely be reviewed at the Senate meeting to be held at the end of July.

A councillor asked about how much contact SUPRA Executive has had with the university regarding the university's response to the Federal Budget. The Vice-President noted that she had spoken to Timothy Payne and that the response is that the university is in line with the views of UA, but there is still much information

that the university does not have access to at the moment. She added that there had been comments from the Vice-Chancellor pointing out that the Federal Budget will impact negatively, but hopes to implement a system to help students from low socio-economic backgrounds, as well as those who do not register as low-SES but are also under financial strain. The President noted that there would be a SCC meeting tomorrow; the Vice-President asked that the President ask them why they have not done anything about the Federal Budget if they don't support it, what their response to the student reaction to the budget is and why have they not said anything in response. The President noted that there was a statement which was sent straight after the announcement of the Federal Budget, but that she is not aware of further responses. The Education Officer noted that the Vice-Chancellor's response has been soft, but in agreement with government.

Andrew Fraser entered at 6:18 p.m.

The Education Officer noted that he had been asked by a constituent why there are no free telephones on campus to call the university regarding administration issues.

Francine Seeto noted that there is concern that students who are intending to take a degree are currently unsure of committing to the degree as there has been no guarantee that they will not be affected by changes to the RTS. She noted that they are in a position where they have been offered a scholarship which seems to pressure them into starting the degree and getting locked into the situation. A councillor noted that, usually with such costs, they do not make them retrospective; however the Education Officer noted that there would be changes to the HECS/HELP interest rates retrospectively. He added that there has been some talk of a High Court challenge against this and that, if we want to try to get the Vice-Chancellor on board, we need to let him know that the uncertainty is potentially putting off students from enrolling.

★ 5. Verbal Report from a Member of Staff

Francine Seeto noted it has been a busy period for staff and, with the AGM and the Council elections now over, staff are looking forward to returning to SUPRA's core business of servicing the community of students. She noted that staff have been doing quite a bit of training and that two of SSAOs will be in Melbourne at an accommodation conference to protest the state of student accommodation in Sydney.

The President asked whether there is any new or unusual casework to be watching out for. Francine Seeto noted that there are students concerned about the libraries; she pointed out that the university plans to reduce the opening hours of the libraries and that there is a need for some postgraduate-only spaces for postgraduate students who work outside of normal hours. She added that other campuses, particularly Camden, would like SUPRA to come out more and suggested holding a meeting out there, especially as they are not well-connected to main campus.

Gareth Charles entered at 6:28 p.m.

Francine Seeto also noted that there has been a lot of casework regarding supervision. She added that SUPRA wrote a letter to Deans asking them how they justify academics having more than 5 students to supervise and that the response from some faculties has been good, but some (e.g. Sydney College of the Arts) have been dismissive. She noted that we could publish the responses or summarise them. The Treasurer asked which faculties were good at compliance. Francine Seeto replied that Medicine and Pharmacy were good; however, there are some faculties where there are up to 14 students under a single supervisor and that faculties are getting around it by saying that there aren't enough academics or that a number of supervisors are only in auxiliary positions or that the supervisors have good track record of supervision. The Education Officer noted that we could put it on the agenda of Academic Board and that, since it would be in front of the most senior people in the university, it may make faculties feel more nervous. The President noted that she has raised this issue previously, but it is a prickly subject.

Francine Seeto added that an even pricklier subject is bullying. The Education Officer suggested giving a presentation on problems in a supervisory relationship at Academic Board; Francine Seeto suggested that it could also go to SEG Research and Training. The Education Officer noted that Academic Board would be a more visible platform, but SEG would be a more appropriate platform. Francine Seeto noted that it is an ongoing issue and that the university policy doesn't cover it, so bullied students have little recourse except through the complaints policy. The President noted that it would be an unwieldy issue to tackle at Council, but we could discuss strategies at a different meeting, such as Management Committee, and that it would be good to have a SSAO present at the meeting too. Francine Seeto added that we could put out a call for people who have been involved in a bullying incident to let us know their story anonymously. She noted that the bullying policy is overall still quite weak even though it is currently being worked on.

Francine Seeto added that staff wanted to extend their congratulations to the President-elect and new office-bearers, as well as thank the current President for the excellent year.

Motion [JUN10-04]: *SUPRA Council thanks Francine Seeto for her report.*

Motion [JUN10-07]: *SUPRA Council delegates to Finance Committee the task of drafting a document on requests for support.*

Moved: Timothy Scriven

Seconded: Douglas King

Consensus.

★ 8. Campus Bans

The Education Officer noted that a number of people, including a student, have been given a campus ban – some for a year, some for a lifetime. He added that this has occurred without a hearing and without a clear appeals process and pointed out that this gives tremendous power to the university bureaucracy to disrupt student life. He also noted that the only route of appeal seems to be through grassroots movements. He suggested a motion: *SUPRA Council unequivocally condemns the practice of banning students from campus without a hearing and without an appeals process. SUPRA Council also directs the President to bring the issue up at SCC.*

A councillor suggested that the university may have valid reasons for the ban and asked whether this is not the university simply creating a peaceful and safe campus for students. The President noted that the motion does not intend to tell the university not to ban people, but concerns the lack of process around how the university deals with the people that they ban. The Treasurer agreed that the university has the right to ban students from campus; but student must have the capacity somewhere to appeal against and pointed out that we have no forum for the act to be aired and judged.

The Education Officer noted that the latest student to be banned, Tom Raue, should not have been banned. Nevertheless, he pointed out that this is not about a particular case though and that it is not our job to evaluate whether or not he is innocent, but rather, we need to make a general procedural point that there needs to be an open hearing on disciplinary matters. He added that he is not arguing for not banning people ever, but there needs to be a process. He noted that, arguably, there may not be time for a hearing, but there needs to be an appeals process and, at least, we could use an appeals process to evaluate for ourselves what is occurring. He also pointed out that if this is about getting someone dangerous off campus, then there is no reason why it would be a short period like a month.

A councillor asked whether Tom Raue was arrested or charged by the police. The Education Officer answered in the negative. The President asked whether he was given a right of appeal; the Education Officer noted that it seems that his path of appeal is unclear. Another councillor pointed out that there needs to be some sort of procedural fairness, so there needs to be a hearing. He noted, however, that if there is a safety issue, then it could be handled with a ban pending a hearing and that the university must have some discretion regarding serious issues.

Francine Seeto noted that this is an exceptional case as, generally, campus bans are enforced due to a safety issue and they suspend students from a part or all of the campus, pending a hearing. She added that she has never heard of a student being banned for no reason and suggested that the student should be getting advice. The Education Officer noted that the student has gone to SRC.

Anette Hansen departed at 7:12 p.m.

The Education Officer noted that the student was involved in protest against Julie Bishop and has received a letter from the university regarding a one-month long ban. He added that a very large number of people have been banned regarding campaigns and strikes in this way, but they have mostly been community members, not students.

Anette Hansen entered at 7:14 p.m.

Michael de Waal departed at 7:15 p.m., passing his proxy to Timothy Scriven.

The Treasurer noted that, even if this is an exception, it is a worrying precedent.

The Education Officer amended the motion to: *SUPRA Council brings to the attention of the university our strenuous objection to students being banned from campus for a period of time without a hearing or, in exceptional case, where it appears that it is necessary to ban immediately owing to imminent danger, without a clear avenue of appeal.*

A councillor asked whether the ban can be legally enforced. Francine Seeto noted that the he university has the legal right to ban people from campus. The councillor noted that the problem is that, if there is a concern with safety, then there would be further steps like police charges, so the ban itself does not seem to be a real

threat, but more of an academic threat. The Treasurer pointed out that, even if it is an academic threat, the concept is still reprehensible.

Motion [JUN10-08]: *SUPRA Council brings to the attention of the university our strenuous objection to students being banned from campus for a period of time without a hearing or, in exceptional case, where it appears that it is necessary to ban immediately owing to imminent danger, without a clear avenue of appeal.*

Moved: Timothy Scriven **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

Consensus.

★ 9. National Day of Action

The Treasurer noted that there is another NDA coming up. He pointed out that, at the last NDA, there had been joint protest action from student organisations, they had marched from UTS to Town Hall and there had been a lot of media attention. He noted that the more that this happens, the more that student concerns will be voiced. He added that SUPRA has supported the last two NDAs and it is in our interest to support the next one.

Motion [JUN10-09]: *SUPRA Council supports the NUS's next National Day of Action in August.*

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

Consensus.

★ 10. Camden Bus Service

A councillor noted that she has been passing around a petition at Camden campus and has 23 signatures so far and generally a good response. She pointed out that she is not sure how many people are on the campus and asked whether there is any way to find out. The Education Officer noted that she could contact the accommodation people and ask what the total number of rooms on campus is.

The President asked whether she would like SUPRA to organise a petition on main campus to help support her efforts at Camden. The councillor was unsure of whether it would have the same impact and suggested that the petition, at the moment, stay focused on those who use the service.

The petition was read out by the Vice-President.

Motion [JUN10-10]: *SUPRA Council endorses the Camden bus petition.*

Moved: Vanessa Wells **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

Consensus.

The President asked whether wi-fi access at Camden had improved recently as she had recently sent off a letter regarding the poor wi-fi at the campus. The councillor was unsure, but added that the phone signal is terrible, which is a safety concern as you can't call campus security if there is an issue. The President noted that she would raise this issue at SCC.

★ 11. Other Business

A councillor pointed out that an article written by the Vice Chancellor commenting on deregulation of fees had noted that Sydney University would be a winner and could therefore charge higher fees. The councillor expressed concern that the increase in fees could hurt disadvantaged students and that the big winners from the budget seem to be richer students. He suggested taking this matter to SCC.

Another councillor pointed out that the CISA conference would be held between 7th and 10th July. She asked whether we would be sending delegates and emphasised the importance of SUPRA councillors attending. The President noted that she had sent through today an email regarding this and pointed out that, as far as approving the costs, it would be good to get an idea of the costs and deal with it at the next Management

Committee meeting. The councillor agreed to come up with costs for a few people to take to Management Committee.

Gareth Charles departed at 7:40 p.m.

Francine Seeto suggested that, at the SCC, it would be a good time to begin quietly agitating for a working group between SUPRA and the university in order to find a permanent home for SUPRA. She noted that it keeps slipping off the agenda and that the moves have been very disruptive for our work as we have to reorientate each time. A councillor noted that, if we had a permanent home, it would be harder for them to get rid of us. Francine Seeto added that we do not want to get too comfortable in the Demountable Village as we do not have sufficient space to offer our students a resource room amongst other things. The President pointed out that we have recently put in a capital sinking fund request for a permanent home and it could be good to continue agitating. A councillor asked where SUPRA sits in relation to the building plans of the university. The President noted that, in the context of long-term plans for the university, student organisations will be in the transient building in a few years' time. She noted that the director of CIS advised that we should write a submission that we be written into these plans and pointed out that our submission for the capital sinking fund should meet this, but we need to continue reminding them. The Education Officer added that, if they don't allocate us anything in this round of allocations, we need to send a letter noting that we need a response and certainty as it would be hard to brush off such a letter. The President noted that the decisions will happen at the end of July or August, so we would know by then.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:48 p.m.