



**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL  
CIVIL ENGINEERING ROOM 311  
6:00 PM ON 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2014  
EX CAMERA**

**Chair:** Joanne Gad

**Minutes:** Guien Miao

**Attendance:** Timothy Scriven, Joseph Callingham, Kieran Latty (*entered at 6:53 p.m.*), Kaitlin Tagg, Vanessa Wells (*entered at 6:21 p.m.*), Arunan Sriravindrajah, Joss McCay (*departed at 7:26 p.m.*), Michael de Waal (*departed at 7:26 p.m.*), Shaikh Nayeem Faisal, Wen Chen (*departed at 8:10 p.m.*), Vaivi Mase (*departed at 8:11 p.m.*), Ensiyeh Kazerarni (*entered at 6:12 p.m.*), Andrew Fraser (*entered at 7:08 p.m.*)

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

*The Chair opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.*

★ **2. Governance**

**2.1. Apologies**

Douglas King

Tanveer Sohal

Tuba Omer

Maral Hosseinpour

Anette Hansen

Michael Butler

Thomas O'Connor

Kylee Hartman-Warren

Callum Forbes

**2.2. Proxies**

Douglas King to Guien Miao (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Vanessa Wells; 3<sup>rd</sup> pref: Gareth Charles)

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

Tuba Omer to Guien Miao

Maral Hosseinpour to Joanne Gad

Anette Hansen to Kylee Hartman-Warren

Thomas O'Connor to Timothy Scriven (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Kieran Latty)

Kylee Hartman-Warren to Anette Hansen (2<sup>nd</sup> pref: Tuba Omer; 3<sup>rd</sup> pref: Timothy Scriven)

Callum Forbes to Joseph Callingham

### **2.3. Starring of Items**

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

**Motion [APR17-01]:**     *SUPRA Council accepts all un-starred items.*

**Moved:**                     Joanne Gad                     **Seconded:**                     Joseph Callingham

**Consensus.**

## **3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings**

### **3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings**

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

3.1.2. FINANCE COMMITTEE, 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

3.1.3. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2014

### **★ 3.2. Business Arising from Minutes**

## **4. Officer Reports**

### **4.1. President**

Joanne Gad

### **4.2. Vice-President**

Kylee Hartman-Warren

### **4.3. Education Officer**

Timothy Scriven

### **4.4. Treasurer**

Douglas King

### **4.5. Secretary**

Guien Miao

### **4.6. Director of Student Publications**

Guien Miao (Acting)

### **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**

★ 4.7.4. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerarni

The Education Officer asked to check whether or not the Women's Officer had meant 7 hours per week, instead of the 7 hours per month in her report.

*Ensiyeh Kazerarni entered at 6:12 p.m.*

The Education Officer posed the question to the Women's Officer and she agreed that it should say 7 hours per week.

**Motion [APR17-02]:** *SUPRA Council approves the Women's Officer's report, noting the amendment to the hours.*

**Moved:** Guien Miao

**Seconded:** Timothy Scriven

**Consensus.**

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.*

★ 4.8. **Business Arising from Reports**

The Education Officer noted that he will be holding an Education Committee meeting next Wednesday; he also pointed out that the meeting would set the tone for the upcoming year.

The Disabilities Officer noted that he is currently on a university committee working on the Disability Action Plan and that he is running a Disability Coffee Afternoon. He asked whether there are any issues that he can take along; the President noted that Faculty planning around inductions for students with disabilities is poor and recommended discussion with councillors and SSAOs.

The President noted that the SSFA submission is to be approved and that the capital works prioritisation is starting up again soon. She also reported that there have been no issues with the election, noting that ballots have been packed and will be arriving soon. The Women's Officer asked when Election Day will be. The President noted that ballots would arrive soon, but that the polling days would be on May 30<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. A councillor noted that three Equity elections are still to take place and asked whether they had been called. The Education Officer (as Queer Officer) pointed out that he would call the Queer Election after the mid-semester break. Another councillor asked how much notice would be necessary. The Secretary noted that 7 days notice is required.

★ 5. **Verbal Report from a Member of Staff**

No staff member was present to speak to this item.

★ 6. **Workplace Health and Safety**

The President pointed out that the anti-slip mats have been installed at the SUPRA Offices.

★ 7. **Budget 2014 [In Camera]**

*Procedural motion to move in camera. Consensus.*

**Motion [APR17-03]:** *SUPRA Council approves the Budget.*

**Moved:** Michael de Waal                      **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerarni

**Carried.**

## ★ 8. SSAF Submission [In Camera]

**Motion [APR17-04]:** *SUPRA Council endorses the SSAF submission.*

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

**Consensus.**

## ★ 9. Staffing [In Camera]

**Motion [APR17-05]:** *SUPRA Council approves the extension of Hayley Stone's contract to the end of the year.*

**Moved:** Michael de Waal                      **Seconded:** Arunan Sriravindrarah

**Carried.**

*Procedural motion to move ex camera. Consensus.*

## ★ 10. Capital Projects Prioritisation Process

The President noted that this could potentially refer to improvements in the current space or seeking a new building. She added that, this year, they have included IT resources into this process.

*Andrew Fraser entered at 7:08 p.m.*

The President went through the amounts allocated to capital projects. The Education Officer noted that, during the SSAF negotiation process, many of the other organisations have gained substantially from the capital sinking fund on top of SSAF, but they consider it as a separate cost, so SUPRA should try to get as much as we can.

A councillor suggested putting a request for the website, given that the capital sinking fund now covers IT resources. The President noted that we may need to consider the time, pointing out that money was in the process of being distributed this time last year and we are only getting the works done now. Another councillor asked whether the money could be spent and then SUPRA could ask for a reimbursement. The Education Officer noted that this would be unlikely and that the university is trying to stimulate capital investment. The President noted that suggestions would be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting.

## 11. Camden Bus

A councillor noted that she had moved into Camden this week and that many of the postgraduate students there are unaware of SUPRA; in fact, some had not visited the main campus before going to Camden. She added that they haven't got the chance to travel much and currently have a bus to Campbelltown station and various places on campus. She added that it's a very long way to travel by taxi and that, during the public holiday, the bus service is being shut down, so the students don't have an opportunity to leave campus to see the rest of Sydney. She suggested asking the university to run the service during the breaks.

Another councillor asked whether this was occurring during the public holidays or throughout the entire break. The councillor noted that she was unsure about other times, but affirmed that it was during the public holidays.

The Education Officer noted some issues with Camden: it is quite dangerous for people to ride bikes up and down the highway; there are no paths; there are snakes in the grass; there is poor lighting. He added that some students have been abused and have had stones thrown at them whilst walking along road. The President

noted that SUPRA is drafting a letter at the moment about this and that a car had followed a student and yelled abuse at this student. She added that safety is a major concern for students, in light of the student who recently died in Brisbane.

The Education Officer noted that it would need to be brought up again as there is no guarantee of change without a large student movement at that campus. He suggested petitions, a sit-in for a bus and other things that could potentially be done. The councillor notes that Margaret Kirkby goes to Camden for outreach, but that she may not be able to get to everyone as the people at Camden are very insular. The President suggested building a greater sense of community. The councillor suggested holding a barbecue. The Education Officer noted that SUPRA could contribute some money to help out.

*Michael de Waal departed at 7:26 p.m., passing his proxy to Timothy Scriven.*

*Joss McCay departed at 7:26 p.m., passing his proxy to Vaivi Mase.*

*Joseph Callingham departed at 7:26 p.m.*

**Motion [APR17-06]:** *SUPRA Council urges the university to continue the Camden bus service during semester breaks and holidays in the interest of student safety and improving access to public services. SUPRA Council also urges the university to expand the bus service to include late night buses.*

**Moved:**

Vanessa Wells

**Seconded:**

Guien Miao

**Consensus.**

*Joseph Callingham entered at 7:28 p.m.*

## 12. March in May

The Education Officer noted that SUPRA had endorsed March in March, which, from an educational perspective, was a positive development for education. He added that, this time, there will be more done towards education issues and that there is little discussion about education in the media currently. He suggested SUPRA Council endorse it so we can continue to promote it and that SUPRA councillors who can attend should attend. He added that March in May is in line with a number of other stances that SUPRA has taken, e.g. support for Medicare and refugee policy.

A councillor noted a few reservations, as he had attended March in March and that he was concerned about the vitriolic language used and pointed out that this was dumbing down the debate. He added that mainstream media did not cover the march at all despite good numbers, because those attacking Tony Abbott personally were no better than those attacking Julia Gillard in the past. He added that the level of debate needed to be brought up so that the march would get it into the media.

The Education Officer gave a reminder that social movements are not media performances and that they are expressions of a gathering, so control over how people express themselves is difficult. He added that most of the media did not have many reporters there, but that the media had covered the “Juliar” protests. He added that we need to recognise it as an expression of social sentiment, rather than try to control it.

A councillor noted that the issue with endorsing these events is that it tends to swing this organisation one way or the other. She added that we are supposed to be representing all students, but that there is a political tone to the marches. Another councillor noted that we should be clearer on what SUPRA supports.

A councillor voiced his concerns that this is a highly political stance. Another councillor pointed out that he has been in education campaigning for a while and that student organisations at Sydney University have taken similar stances previously, for example, the SRC had taken a stance against John Howard. He added that we already have a position against cuts, so supporting the rally is consistent with our existing stance.

The councillor suggested endorsing the education aspect of March in May. Another councillor noted that VSU was very education-oriented and that this does not seem to be the main issue in March in May. He asked whether we have to take a stance on non-education issues.

The President noted that the list of issues that March in May is concerned with is generally in line with SUPRA’s stance. The Education Officer noted that we are more focused on education issues rather than equity issues, but we have certainly taken stances on refugees, etc. in the past. He added that, students generally don’t often have much say on these issues, with very few voicing their concerns on a systemic basis. He also noted that the reality is that the majority of what SUPRA does is around taking political stances, e.g. how money should be distributed across the university, federal policy, etc. He noted that, because we have this sort of role, we don’t necessarily agree with every student, but we provide an opportunity for students to have their voice heard.

The Education Officer proposed the following motion: *SUPRA Council endorses the education, refugee, same sex marriage and healthcare stances of March in May and encourages postgrad students to attend in order to promote education issues.*

A councillor suggested that this seems to be putting words in other people's mouths. The President noted that we already have precedents in supporting these points and we, as councillors, are democratically elected to take a stance. Another councillor pointed out that we can't always rely on our historical position as the makeup of the student body means it is not a given that a Council will agree with the previous Council. Another councillor noted that we did not endorse the March on Canberra, even though it was a major education issue.

Another councillor noted that we should be primarily concerned with educational representation and that we don't stand for anything if we try to stand for a heap of issues. He pointed out that all the other issues are being supported by other groups and, so, suggested that the motion be amended to focus on education.

The Education Officer acknowledged that a councillor had listed issues that are education related but SUPRA didn't endorse. He noted that this was a matter of proposing items for the SUPRA agenda. He added that we can't just say we can get away from political issues and pointed out that there will always be contesting ideas of what we should be supporting. He noted that, if SUPRA did not support various issues, it would not be clear whether or not we should be making submissions which affect students but are unrelated to educational issues, e.g. the affordable housing submission. He added that the nature of representation is that the views of representation will not always align and that it should be a question of councillors asking themselves whether we as individuals support or not this position. He noted that, this would be what we, as a representative body, think, but that the process should also include consultation; he added that we can't shy away from taking stances and that, even if a councillor doesn't agree, that's fine, but this and similar motions should not be voted down because councillors feel that we shouldn't take stances. He pointed out that 99% of our activities are related to education and 95% of those would be in relation to this university, so spreading our support does not seem to be an issue.

***Procedural motion to vote on the proposed motion. Carried.***

**Motion [APR17-07]:** *SUPRA Council endorses the education, refugee, same sex marriage and healthcare stances of March in May and encourages postgrad students to attend in order to promote education issues.*

**Moved:** Timothy Scriven                      **Seconded:** Ensiyeh Kazerarni

**Carried (12 for; 7 against).**

The President noted that it might be good to continue having further discussions and pointed out that any councillor can put items on the agenda for SUPRA to express a stance on.

*Wen Chen departed at 8:10 p.m.*

*Vaivi Mase departed at 8:11 p.m., passing his proxy to Joseph Callingham.*

### **13. Affordable Housing Submission**

The President noted that this had been circulated in the Council Pack and that this item was for noting.

### **14. Other Business**

The Education Officer noted that there would have been an item on the library restructuring; however, he had been unable to obtain sufficient information on it. He asked that councillors who have views on the library restructuring to bring it to his attention. The President noted that there are currently plans to close Badham and Bosch libraries.

*The Chair closed the meeting at 8:12 p.m.*