



Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

**Minutes of a meeting of the Sydney University
Postgraduate Representative Association Council to
be held in VSCC Seminar Room 115 on the 23rd of July
2018 at 6:00PM**

Chair:	Weihong Liang
Minutes:	Azhar Saeed
Attendance:	Nicholas Avery (N.A.), Geena George (G.G.), Weiyi Hu (W.H.), Junke Li (J.L.), Menglin Li (M.Li.), Minran Liu (M.L.), Zirui Lui (Z.L.), Oliver Moore (O.M.), Azhar Saeed (A.S.), Shuai Wang (S.W.), Llewellyn Williams-Brooks (L.W.), Yiqi Wu (Y.W.), Kim Yoo (K.Y.), Marguerite Biasatti (M.B.), Sara Evison-Rose (S.E-R.), Divya Mansingka (D.V.) Karishma Rajan Menon (K.R.), Carolyn Zhou (C.Z.)
Staff:	TBC
Guests:	TBC

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land. We acknowledge that the land upon which we meet is stolen land, and that sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to all First Nations persons here. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1 Apologies

Weihong Liang
Yunlin Ye
Matilda Grace
Jinghan Feng
Patrick James Cook
Fangyuan Wang
Juhao Lu
Zilan Huang
James Leeder
Desiree Battre
Rong Cheng
YiFang Du

Zijun Gu
Domi Johnson
Juhao Lu

2.2 Proxies

Yunlin Ye proxies to Junke Li
Mike Butler proxies to Nic Avery
Hallie Feng proxies to Junke Li
Patrick Cook proxies to Nic Avery, (2nd Geena George)
Fangyuan Wang proxies to Yiqi Wu
Juhao Lu proxies to Yiqi Wu
Weihong Liang proxies to Azhar Saeed
James Leeder proxies to Geena George
Desiree Battre proxies to Azhar Saeed
Rong Cheng proxies to Divya Mansingka
YiFang Du proxies to Shuai Wang
Zijun Gu proxies to Divya Mansingka
Zilan Huang proxies to Shuai Wang
Domi Johnson proxies to Karishma Menon
Juhao Lu proxies to Karishma Menon

2.3 Starring of items

Council is invited to star any agenda items they would like discussed.

Recommendation: That the Council approves all unstarred items.

4.1.1 Nicholas Avery (N.A.) asks to star Secretaries Report

[180723-1]: Approve all unstarred items

Moved: Nick **Seconded:** Oliver

Motion carried.

2.4 Resignations (if relevant)

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1 Minutes of the previous month's meeting

3.2 Business arising from the minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1 Executive Reports

4.1.1 PRESIDENT

Weihong Liang

4.1.2 VICE PRESIDENT

Junki Li

Jinghan Feng

4.1.3 EDUCATION OFFICER

Minran Lu

Domi Dana Johnson

4.1.4 TREASURER

Shuai Wang

4.1.5 SECRETARY ★

Azhar Saeed

Fangyuan Wang

N.A. asks details regarding SUPRA video. A.S. informs the council that he along with D.M. worked on a short cover video for SUPRA. A.S. says that the length of the video is 15 seconds and has been uploaded on the SUPRA Facebook page for everyone to see.

[180723-2]: To approve the secretaries' report

Moved: Nick **Seconded:** Divya

Motion approved.

4.1.6 DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Yiqi Wu

4.2 Equity Reports

4.2.1 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Cathy Eatock *[no report received]*

4.2.2 DISABILITIES OFFICER ★

Marguerite Biassetti

M.B. reports that she worked on occupation, health and safety issues. She worked on the review of communications. She says that there is a need to discuss more on who will set up computers and software's that we need and Cleaning up of the council room.

[180723-3]: To approve the Disabilities Officer's report

Moved: Nick **Seconded:** Divya

Motion approved.

4.2.3 INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Divya Mansingka

4.2.4 QUEER OFFICER

Carolyn Zhou

4.2.5 WOMEN'S OFFICER

Sara Evison-Rose

4.2.6 SATELLITE CAMPUS OFFICER

4.3 Motion from reports

5. Staff Report

6. \$2000 for Supra welcome party

D.M. notes that the new council is having its first event on Friday, August 3, 2018 called "SUPRA Welcome Party". She along with S.E-R. are responsible to organise the event. They are expecting a crowd of more than 200 people and that is why they want the council to approve this amount that will be used to buy drinks and snacks. S.E-R. notes that this event is a collaboration of international and women officer and will attract lots of new postgraduate students. D.M. also distributed posters for the event to the council members.

[180723-4]: To approve \$2000 for SUPRA welcome party

Moved: Divya **Seconded:** Sara

Motion approved.

7. \$15992.10 for legal expenses by previous council

M.L. reads the legal report and informs the council regarding an upcoming deadline to pay the last instalment of the legal fee which amounts to \$15992.10. A.S. notes that the previous council was involved in a legal case against the staff on which the previous council agreed upon. N.A. says that discussing any matters concerning staff should be in camera. He says that he is interested if the whole council is sent that email from Dean Lovett including the legal report. He says that it is a serious matter. He understands that SUPRA counsellors have access to a free lawyer then why was there a need to hire external lawyers. M.B notes that this is not a confidential information and says that the issue has been discussed in previous meeting and was sorted. She says that we need to go to previous meeting minutes if need any clarification. J.L. notes that he has been given a receipt of the legal expenses by Dean Lovett. K.R. notes that there was a motion passed in the previous meeting to approve a certain amount which she thinks is \$5000 so we need to approve the extra money only. N.A. suggests to move the motion to approve \$10,000 now and to approve to \$5000 later if need be. He suggests that an email should be sent to Dean Lovett seeking explanation on hiring external lawyers considering that we have a free legal advice. S.E-R. notes that we have to pay bill in the next eight days regardless of anything, so why not just approve the amount now and do our research later. N.A agrees with her suggestion.

[180723-5]: To approve \$15992.10 for legal expenses done by previous council

Moved: Sara **Seconded:** Azhar

Motion approved.

Action: Ask Dean Lovett to email council executives legal expense sheets/email

8. **\$1500 for O-Week merchandize**

N.A. asks if the money will be used for the O-Day stall rent also. O.M. informs the council that the money has been used for merchandise and rent in the past. A.S. notes that the money will be used to order calendars and other merchandise for SUPRA bags.

[180723-5]: To approve \$1500 for O-week merchandize

Moved: Azhar **Seconded:** Sara

Motion approved.

9. **Mandarin speaking intern**

A.S. notes that since the postgraduate community of USyd includes a lot of Mandarin speaking students and SUPRA office is witnessing a number of Chinese students coming in for legal assistance it is a better idea to hire an intern for a short time who could help our legal caseworker. He says that getting an experience in legal matters are beneficial for a law student and since SUPRA also has financial limitations therefore having an intern without pay would be a best step forward. D.M. suggests if we could give the intern an experience letter for their work. N.A. questions if we have financial capacity and says that SUPRA should pay them even if they are working one day a week. He says that it is not fair to get work done for free. S.E-R. says that she agrees that the intern should be paid but we would need an extra funding for that. A.S. notes that in order to hire someone we need to pay them the SUPRA rates which are too high and cannot afford. He says that since we are a an organisation that serves students our first priority should be to deal with student matters in every way possible. He says that at this point there is an increase in students coming in and we have limited resources so we have to find a way to deal with increasing cases within our capacity. D.M. says that if we hire someone, we will have to pay them rates according to NTEU agreement. S.E-R. suggests that we can have an intern for eight weeks as a pilot to see if it works and that we can discuss the future steps. A.S agrees that having an intern for eight weeks is a good time. N.A. says that we should pay the intern whatever amount we have to according to the agreement even if it is expensive. M.B says that social work students don't get paid for their placement, it will open a Pandora's box then. G.G. says that we should not perpetuate the same oppression that is outside. M.B. says that why can't we hire a fully mandarin speaking lawyer instead of getting an intern? N.A. says that this will only be a trial period. S.E-R. says that to get a lawyer it will cost us an extra \$50,000. She says that we should see how trial period goes and may be after eight weeks we can apply for an extra funding from the university.

Action: W.L. should discuss matters related to intern with Admin Coordinator Louise.

10. **Nominate Claire to Health and Safety Role**

M.B. says that there exists lack of clarity of who does what. She says that she has never seen anything in process in this committee. She says that we are not aware of due processes and works of this committee needs to be made black in white. N.A. says that he somewhat agrees with M.B. He says that he

has met Claire a couple of times and the council can her to give a report back. O.M. says that they would like to become a member of this committee too.

[180723-6]: To make Claire and Oliver representatives in Health and Safety Role

Moved: Azhar **Seconded:** Divya

Motion approved.

11. Other Business

11.1 SUPRA Members Report from Students of Sustainability 2018 Conference

N.A. presents a verbal report on the conference he and other SUPRA members attended in July 2018.

N.A. says that SUPRA in past has endorsed several rallies and actions and protests on campus. He wants SUPRA to endorse this action too. A.S. says that since the president is the spokesperson of the association, it would be better if we have his opinion on the matter. N.A. says that we as a council have the right to discuss what actions SUPRA should support and what it should not. M.B. says that this is an outside action group. She says that we are not aware if this action group represents any political party or not. N.A. says that Refugee Action is not a political party, it is a group of people doing that. M.B. asks if this group is from USyd? N.A. says it is a group of students with similar ideology and there is no harm if SUPRA supports publicly states its ideology. A.S. suggests that N.A. should send details regarding the campaign to council members.

[180723-7]: SUPRA to endorse an action by Refugee Action Coalition; stop deportation of Priya and Nadir

Moved: Nick **Seconded:** Geena

Motion approved.

Action: N.A. to send details regarding Refugee Action Coalition; stop deportation of Priya and Nadir to council members.

11.2 International student concession Campaign

G.G. says that there is an ongoing international student concession campaign going on. She says that we are submitting all the petition to MPs.

[180723-8]: SUPRA to endorse international student concession campaign and provide PA system for support

Moved: Geena **Seconded:** Nick

Motion approved.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.