



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5.00 PM ON
THURSDAY 27 MAY 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Nick Irving

Minutes: John Nowakowski

Present: Nick Irving, Richard Bailey, Bram Hertasing, Rashmi Kumar, John Nowakowski, Kathryn Stachyra, Rosemary Whitecross, Daniel Robertson (Subscriber), Heidi Claus (from 5.35pm)

Apologies: Sophia Barnes, Jasmine Tan, Lynne Xie, Surya Setiyaputra, Fiona Curran, Sid De, Lian Jenvey, Heidi Claus (Late)

*John Nowakowski was given proxy for Fiona Curran and Sid De
Heidi Claus was given proxy for Lian Jenvey*

Meeting Opened, 5.16pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

Procedural: That there be a limit of 10 minutes' discussion on items 8 and 10, a limit of 20 minutes' discussion on item 9, and 5 minutes' reading time provided.

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

2. Minutes

a. SUPRA Council, April 27, 2010

Noted corrections:

Change "nepotism" to "appearance of cronyism"

Spelling of acclamation

b. Management Committee Minutes, May 12, 2010

Management Committee Minutes, May 19, 2010

Management Committee Minutes, May 26, 2010

[MAY10-09] MOTION: That the minutes be accepted with changes as noted

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

3. Business arising from these minutes

In following up on results from the AGM leading to filling vacancies being needed, the Returning Officer is happy with the current plan for elections at the AGM. Confirmation is being sought from the Electoral Arbiters. Rashmi requested that the advice be chased up to be back in time. John to check up if it's not back by Friday.

Procedural: Hold all [IN CAMERA] items over until David leaves the meeting

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

4. Reports

a. Co-Presidents

The Chair apologised for the lack of written report. They outlined items from their report as below:

- 1) The white paper will be released soon, with very limited consultation involved (3 days)
- 2) <deferred>
- 3)
 - a. There have been problems with the proposed Economics and Business policy with the acceleration of instances of plagiarism to higher levels. SUPRA has issues and concerns with this and is following it up.

Heidi Claus arrives, 5.35pm

- b. Academic Board has changed the Students at Risk (Stages 3 and 4), but a lack of support in ICT has meant this has been unable to change as yet. It is believed that Automatic exclusion at Stage 4 will extend into late 2010.
- c. There are continuing concerns regarding the running of joint Undergrad/Postgrad classes, which was fought in the JD.
- d. Many faculties looking for Grad Entry into postgrad degrees, which has been put onto a working group. The Uni needs to examine attributes and outcomes.

David Robertson leaves, 5.41pm

[IN CAMERA]

- 4) A rally against General Skilled Migration Changes has been arranged, and an email sent. VET and TAFE students are most likely to be affected.
- 5) Nick attended a meeting in Nursing regarding their Student Representative meeting. It's a good system, and a great model, which should be held up as Best Practice.
- 6) The Cumberland Security Review has been finalised and collated, and shall be put on the website
- 7) Three Minute Thesis shall be run this year from July 28-29, but not in conjunction with CONNECT. Almost the full cost for the competition shall come out of the Graduate Student Office. Richard queried whether there was a cost concern for not running CONNECT. The Chair confirmed that the reason was due to a combination of cost, time, and staff need. It is strongly recommended to the next Council.
- 8) Noted events of the Asian Women At Work Forum and Sydney Writers Festival Panel
- 9) Publications in Honi Soit, Learning@Sydney and New Matilda all noted.

[MAY10-10] MOTION: That a letter of support be sent to New Matilda

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

b. Vice-President

- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Women's Officer
- f. Queer Officer
- g. International Officer
- h. Disabilities Officer
- i. Policy Officer
- j. Publications Officer
- k. Activities Officer

[MAY10-11] MOTION: That the reports be accepted

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

5. Disability Officer Duty Statement

Kathryn spoke to the new Duty Statement. She noted the only major change to previous versions was the inclusion of 'disability-friendly' people, particularly carers.

[MAY10-12] MOTION: That the Duty Statement be accepted

Moved: Kathryn Stachyra

Result: Carried

6. Request for Support

a. Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH)

[MAY10-13] MOTION: That SUPRA provide \$300 to CAAH for poster printing

Moved: Heidi Claus

Result: Carried (6 for, 3 against)

Chihong Choi arrives, 6.04pm

b. Stop The War Coalition

[MAY10-14] MOTION: That SUPRA approve a request for 5000 A5 leaflets for a rally coinciding with Obama's Visit

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried (6 for, 3 opp., 1 abs.)

c. St George Domestic Violence Counselling Service

[MAY10-15] MOTION: That SUPRA provide \$250 to the Counselling Service for "Angel Blankets" programme

Moved: Kathryn Stachyra

DEFERRED

Heidi questioned whether this was support for a charity. Kathryn responded that this is a group starting up and needed support. John brought up the inherent issue of denying a request such as this following on from two requests specifically for activism, when there are several specific needs behind a request such as this. Richard feels that the issue is complicated, especially if this is a charity, to which Government support should be given. He feels there should be investigation as to whether this should be supported by the Government and if this is ongoing or one-off. Kathryn identified some social work students are associated. Rashmi feels there is a distinction between political and social support. Rosemary commented that she agreed with John.

[MAY10-16] MOTION: That Motion [MAY10-15] be deferred to Management Committee.
Moved: Rashmi Kumar *Result:* Carried

7. SUPRA Communication Survey and Honi Soit

Procedural: That 5 minutes' reading time begin
Moved: from the Chair *Result:* Carried

The Chair leaves, 6.16pm
The Chair returns, 6.19pm

Rashmi put forward that student newspapers are not easily accessed by all students, and that what is done needs to be related to current news and activities of SUPRA. Most printed material is not easily accessed for political and economical reasons. New media is more relevant to students, and online delivery suits many of these needs. Richard feels there is a history in Honi, and feels an important legacy in maintaining the connection.

John brought up an unrelated point specifically that some Councillors had responded to the survey, and that SUPRA Councillors should avoid doing this in future for such surveys.

Kathryn questioned the issue from the point of view of staff time and hours, and Bram continued this, with the identified \$4500 per semester with little payoff or additional members gained. Rosemary also pointed out the additional staff hours required. Chihong asked whether it would be possible to bring this back in the future, to which the Chair stated it may be, though would be unlikely. The Chair went on to discuss the need for political vs. community communication of the association, and that subscribers seem to like the political aspects, so better communication will be needed for these. Rashmi felt that the decision on this was interlinked with the next two items of the agenda, and any decision should be left until after those were discussed. She also highlighted the need for better linkage, and that the website could be a waste of money if we don't use it properly. There is still inherent value in our publications, though.

Procedural: That item 10 from the agenda be considered next
Moved: from the Chair *Result:* Carried

8. Staff Memo to Presidents

Procedural: That the item be IN CAMERA
Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried

[IN CAMERA]

9. Budget

Procedural: That the item be IN CAMERA
Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried

[IN CAMERA]

Procedural: That discussion of specific publications be moved to a publications meeting
Moved: from the Chair *Result:* Carried

Heidi Claus leaves, 6.50pm
Heidi Claus returns, 6.52pm
Richard Bailey leaves, 6.53pm
Richard Bailey returns, 6.57pm

[MAY10-17] MOTION: That SUPRA discontinue the Honi Postgrad Pages
Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried (8 for, 3 opposed)

[MAY10-18] MOTION: That SUPRA produce regular (preferably weekly) online content
Moved: Rashmi Kumar

[MAY10-18a] MOTION to Amend: That content go to the website on some schedule, with one from each of Council and the SAAOs, and this be discussed with staff
Moved: Richard Bailey *Result:* Accepted by mover

[MAY10-18] MOTION: That SUPRA produce regular (preferably weekly) online content for the website, on some from of schedule, with weekly contributions from SAAOs and Council during semester, to be discussed with staff.
Moved: Rashmi Kumar *Result:* Carried

[EX CAMERA]

10. Other Business

a. Honi Soit

Investigations should happen as to whether advertising is a viable solution for Honi Soit.

b. Annual Report

John reported that the Annual Report is almost done, with just Lian Jenvey's contribution missing.

c. Indigenous Equity Officer Election

Rashmi commented that she feels this may not happen due to sensitivities not properly considered in the running of such an election, particularly that advertising is not an appropriate method, being tokenistic and offensive to some.

d. International Equity Officer Election

Chihong queried when the election was going to happen as he had friends who wished to attend but could not make the whole meeting. Heidi expressed concern over having people in just to vote. The Chair commented this was likely to occur at about 6pm.

Rashmi returned to the Indigenous Officer Election, commenting on the lack of appropriate methods. Rosemary said she was going to invite the indigenous members the following day. Kathryn felt that advertising at least showed attempts to draw in candidates. Richard suggested looking to the Indigenous Liaison with the Koori Centre. Chihong proposed tying it in with the next induction. Rosemary said it can be done, but is not always the best option

11. Next Meeting – AGM, May 31, 5.30pm

Meeting Closed, 7.19pm