



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 6:00PM ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: John Nowakowski
Minutes: Angelus Morningstar
Present: Richard Bailey (departed 8:03pm), Sophia Barnes, Heidi Claus, Andrew Elder, Kylee Hartman-Warren (departed 7:00pm), Lian Jenvey, Rashmi Kumar, David Latimer, Angelus Morningstar, John Nowakowski, David Robertson (departed 7:52pm), Elizabeth Scally (departed 7:37pm), Simone White, Rosemary Whitecross, Lynne Xie (departed 7:42pm)

Meeting Opened: 6:00pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

Conducted by the Chair.

2. Apologies, Absentees, Leave and Proxies

2.1. Vacancies

As per 5.16 (a) of the Constitution, two Councillor positions have been declared vacant. The vacancies were formally held by Katherine PETERSEN and Ahmed Surobhi NUSRAT.

Council expressed a position that it was a problem to lose a rural Councillor due of tight protocol.

The Secretary noted that a number of options were explored with them about reapplying, to ensure that protocol was met.

It was also observed that some of the nominations received may be more adequate for a volunteer position. The declaration of vacancy should not be constituted as the end of their relationship with SUPRA.

Procedural: That SUPRA to delay nominations till next council meeting. Re-open nominations.

Moved from the Chair **Result:** (10+, 1-)

2.2. Apologies

Fiona CURRAN and Pip MURATORE have continuing Leave of Absence.

Apologies have been received from Chihong Choi, Nick Irving, Hanrui Li, Bradley Wells.

2.3. Leave

Chihong Choi has requested a leave of absence from the role of Co-Treasurer for two weeks.

[Motion 01/100906]

That SUPRA Council grant Chihong Choi a leave of absence from the role of Co-Treasurer until 18th of September, 2010.

Proposed: Chihong Choi

Result: Carried (13+)

2.4. Proxies

Elizabeth SCALLEY declared upon departure that her proxy would be carried by Heidi CLAUS.

Lynne XIA declared upon departure that her proxy would be carried by Rosemary WHITECROSS.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

3.1. SUPRA Council, 23rd August 2010

3.2. Management Committee, 31st August 2010

3.3. Policy Committee, 31st August 2010

Amendment: To change the titling from Agenda to Minutes.

Amendment: To list Item 4 as In Camera.

It was noted that in light of any difficulties experienced in accessing electronic copies of Council Packs, Councillors could request a printed copy if they are unable to print one themselves.

Council committed to the preparation of a Council Pack five days in advance of Council.

4. Motions Proposed by Standing Committees

[Motion 02/100906]

That SUPRA Council accept the tendered minutes for SUPRA Council, and Management Committee with amendments.

Proposed: Angelus Morningstar

Result: Carried (13+)

4.1. Policy Committee

4.1.1. Proxies

As per the request of Council 23rd August 2010, Policy Committee was directed to convene and review the policies regarding proxies.

It was determined in this meeting that while greater flexibility would ensure greater enfranchisement, a minimum accountability of a paper trail must exist, but that a provision for exceptional circumstances should exist.

Policy Committee amended the SUPRA Meeting Procedure, point 4 to read:

4) A Councillor may appoint another Councillor to be a proxy for their vote for any Council Meeting.

a) ~~Signed proxy forms~~ A verifiable written statement from the Councillor must be received by the Secretary or the Chair before the commencement of the meeting for which the proxy is appointed.

b) A proxy may only be appointed for individual meetings and may not be a running proxy.

c) Proxy votes will not be counted towards quorum.

d) Any Councillor may hold a maximum of their own vote and two others.



e) In exceptional circumstances, Council may accept a verbal proxy from the floor with a two thirds majority.

f) Should a Councillor depart a meeting early, they may pass their proxy to an attending Councillor.

[Motion 03/100902] That SUPRA Council ratify the changes proposed by Policy Committee to the SUPRA Office Bearer Stipends Policy.

Proposed: Rashmi Kumar *Result:* Carried (13+)

Amendment: a) ...verifiable written statement (including email)...

Proposed: Richard Bailey *Result:* Carried (10+, 0-, 2a)

Amendment: e) ... from the floor with a simple majority.

Proposed: Richard Bailey *Result:* Carried (6+, 4-, 2a)

Discussion to motion

The change in protocol was designed to increase accessibility to the process.

Clarification was sought on what written statement meant. The Secretary responded that it was intended to be ambiguous to enable each Executive to interpret.

Clarification was sought on proxies given on the floor, such as in the case of early departure, that the person leaving should be able to transfer their vote.

Direct Response: If Council members need to leave a meeting, this was already covered by existing protocol as you could sign a proxy form.

4.1.2. Convention Stipends

It is noted that all Equity Officers have a Conflict of Interest regarding this item.

One of the items for substantive discussion was what amount of stipending should be given to Councillors who attend student conventions in their capacity as a SUPRA Officer.

[Motion 04/100902] That SUPRA approve a position on stipends to remunerate Equity Officers' attendance at relevant equity student conferences up to 35 hours for a week.

Proposed: Angelus Morningstar *Result:* Lost (0, -11, 1)

Foreshadowed That SUPRA approve a position on stipends to remunerate Equity Officers' attendance at relevant equity student conferences up to 21 hours for a week.

Proposed: Angelus Morningstar *Result:* (2, -9, 1)

Discussion to motion

The proposal explained to be relevant to the surplus of workload for Equity Officers that occurred during these periods.

One concern raised regarded budget limitations and the existing practice of volunteered attendance.

In order to account for the workload, Equity Officers would need to submit a report to account for their hours. It was argued that there existed a number of types of work that might be non-obvious and hard to quantify. The issues raised during the Policy Committee concerned the work done at workshops or as representatives including supporting other Constituents attending.

It was considered that though there is some support to send representatives to the conferences as much as possible, but due to the financial constraints it would be better to consider these things *ad hoc*.

4.1.3. Policy Statement on Islamic dress prohibitions

[Motion 04/100902]

That SUPRA opposes any efforts to prohibit Islamic women's dress, particularly *hijab, abaya, burqa* and *niqab*. SUPRA recognises that prohibition of Islamic women's dress in public spaces has the effect of criminalising Muslim women and restricting their ability to move around in public. SUPRA is particularly concerned that prohibitions on Islamic women's dress in public places will restrict the access of Muslim women to education. SUPRA finds these efforts to be ~~informed by racism and xenophobia~~ racist and xenophobic, and is therefore opposed to them.

Proposed: Rashmi Kumar

Result: (11, -0, 3a)

Amendment 1:

That SUPRA reaffirms a woman's right to chose what to wear and not what to wear for herself.

Proposed: Andrew Elder

Result: Carried (4+, 6-, 3a)

Amendment 2:

...be informed by racism and xenophobia racist...

Proposed: David Robertson

Accepted by mover

Discussion to motion

Clarification was sought on the University's policy regarding exams, in terms of proving their identity and whether room existed for a woman in Islamic dress to reveal their identity to other women.

Direct Response:

Not sure whether there was relevance regarding SUPRA's position in asking what process existed to verify identity.

It was suggested that the motion should refer to traditional headgear rather than Islamic, and that the motion should affirm general rights for what women can wear.

It was asked whether contact could be made with SUMSA to see if it was viable to support any statements or actions released by them.

Council was cautioned to be careful on making statements on reverse racism, as this doesn't account for exclusive discrimination/affirmative action. Be careful not to allow the setting apart of person. There are some arguments made that are intellectually viable.

It was argued that the context of this debate needs to be affirmed as part of an international hostility towards Islamic culture inflamed by ideas of terrorism, which is particularly aggravated through criminalisation.

Discussion to Amendment 1

It was responded by the mover that motion is trying to recognise various cultural practices. The specific dress references respond to the particular types of dress that have been banned. The motion is informed by an impassioned speech given by a Muslim woman at NOWSA and targeted at students and teachers who have been oppressed in learning environments.

The amendment was argued as unnecessary due to the context of the debate, thereby making it incumbent upon Council to affirming the right of traditional dress.

The response was that because of the current debate it should be about enabling women wearing any kind of head dress.

Some disagreement was raised about including statements of choice, as it has been used to justify military intervention.

It was also noted that the practices of dress are intertwined with experiences of comfort, dignity, and identity in relation with their faith and upbringing.

5. Reports

5.1. Budget Committee, 3rd September 2010

5.2. Work Report, John Fell, Finance Officer

5.3. Redfern Legal Centre Report

6. Motions from Reports

[IN CAMERA]

Discussion to the Budget Report

[EX CAMERA]

7. Constitution of a Budget Committee

A draft Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee have been drafted by Andrew Elder and John Nowakowski and circulated.

[Motion 07/100902]

Proposed: John Nowakowski

That SUPRA Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee.

Result: Carried (10+, 3a)

There were a number of nominations to the Budget Committee: Richard BAILEY (*ex officio*), Chihong CHOI (*ex officio*), Nick IRVING, Rashmi KUMAR, Angelus MORNINGSTAR (*ex officio*), John NOWAKOWSKI (*ex officio*), Rosemary WHITECROSS

Two nominations were tendered from the floor: Heidi CLAUS, Andrew ELDER

[Motion 08/100902]

Proposed: Angelus Morningstar

That SUPRA Council accept the nominations to the Budget Committee.

Result: Carried (13+)

8. Nominations to Council

There are a number of nominees to the Council. Their nomination statements have been circulated. Two positions are to be elected: Andrew CLAYPHAN, Ben FERRIS, Xiu Tao LI, Thomas MUNROE, Li Juan TANG, & Felicity WILSON.

Council felt that insufficient time for nominations had passed and that more could have been done to follow up with the lapsed Councillors.

Procedural:

That Council defers this item until next Council.

Proposed: Angelus Morningstar

Result: Carried (13+)



9. Report from Planning Day

[IN CAMERA]

Discussions regarding staff.

[EX CAMERA]

10. Constitutional Changes

This is to note that the Senate has finally received the Constitutional changes voted on at the AGM and should be resolved at the next Senate meeting.

11. Other Business

A small discussion occurred on SUPRA's position on representing students in light of the new government.

12. Next Council

The next Council was announced for be September 27, 2010 for a 6pm meeting.

Meeting closed: 8:17pm