



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT NEW LAW BUILDING 026 AT 6:00PM AT 23RD JANUARY, 2012.

Chair: Angelus Morningstar

Minutes: Thomas Munro

Attendance: Cyrus ACHAEMENION, Heidi CLAUS, James FLYNN, Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN, Marie INDELICATO, Lian JENVEY Pip MURATORE, Timothy SCRIVEN, Angelus MORNINGSTAR, Thomas MUNRO, John NOWAKOWSKI, Alex THOMAS, Rosemary WHITECROSS, Felicity WILSON.

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

2. Housekeeping

2.1. Resignations

Heidi CLAUS, Ayu PUSPITA DEWI, Ben FERRIS, Lian JENVEY, Khanagharekha DEVDAS NAIDU, Christopher NEFF, Peter STEPHENS

2.2. Apologies

Katherine HARPER, Hye Ryun KIM, Sivarama PURUSHOTHUMAN
Marie GERMA, and Bradley WELLS are currently on leave.
Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN will be late (arrived 6:15 pm)

2.3. Proxies

Pip MURATORE carries the proxy for Katherine HARPER
Alex THOMAS carries the proxy for Hye Ryun KIM
Thomas MUNRO carries the proxy for Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN, until she arrives.
Felicity gave her proxy to Rosemary (left at 7:45)

2.4. Notifications

2.5. Leave

[Motion 01/120123] **That Council acknowledge the long service and dedication of Heidi CLAUS and Lian JENVEY, and give acclaim and applause in thanks.**

Moved from the chair

Seconder: Thomas MUNRO

Result: CONSENSUS

5. Reports of Meetings

5.1. Report from Operations Meeting; 9th January, 11; 17th January, 11

5.2. Business Arising From Reports

No reports were tabled.

6. Officer Reports

6.1. President Report

6.2. Vice-President (Policy)

6.3. Vice-President (Community)

6.4. Secretary

6.5. Treasurer

6.6. Director of Student Publications

6.7. International Student Officer

6.8. Queer Officer

6.9. Disability Officer

6.10. Business Arising From Reports

[Motion 06/120123] That we accept the tabled reports.

Moved from the chair

Seconded: Thomas MUNRO

Result: CONSENSUS

7. Report from Postgraduate Fellow *

Standing item for the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate to address Council.

James has been in communication with the university to ensure that Student Services and Amenities Fee funds go to student run organisations. He will be meeting with Jordie Armstrong to further discuss their position and student services. Undergraduate fellow of the Senate, Ben Veness, is wanting to run a campaign on mental health that James is also eager to participate in.

[Motion 07/120123] That Council note the report of the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate.

Moved: John NOWAKOWSKI

Seconded: Angelus MORNINGSTAR

Result: CONSENSUS

8. Governance

8.1. Staff Observer at Council

This item was IN CAMERA.

8.2. Councillor Stipends *

Council requested a recommendation from the Treasurer about the stipends for 2012.

It was recommended by the Treasurer that Council prioritises any increases to stipends should relate to an increase of available hours, rather than stipend rate.

[Motion 10/120123] That Council defer the matter of Officer Stipends until Council has a concluded budgetary discussions relative to SSAF negotiations.

Mover: Heidi CLAUS

Seconder: Rosemary WHITECROSS

Result: CONSENSUS

It was acknowledged that the treasurer is a seasonal role that has busy periods and quiet periods.

Procedural: That we cut the speaking list and go straight to a vote.

Result: CARRIED with 4 Against

[Motion 11/120123] That Council reduce the nominal hours of the Treasurer back to 7 hours a week, set to reduce on 29th January 2012.

Moved from the chair

Seconder: Tim SCRIVEN

Result: CARRIED with 2 against and 3 abstentions.

9. Community

9.1. O-Week and Inductions *

VPC to speak to this matter.

There was a general discussion about the value of O-week and the costs we are being charged this year. It was suggested that potential 'subscribers' are frightened off by the requests for donations and that they would be less likely to donate after the implementation of the Student Services and Amenities Fee.

[Motion 12/120123] That Council remove all reference to becoming a Supporter from our promotional leaflets and material.

Mover: Rosemary WHITECROSS

Seconder: James FLYNN

Result: CARRIED with 3 against and 2 abstentions.

10. Publications *

This was subsumed in the discussion around O-week.

11. Policy

11.1. Regulations

The following outlines the revised Personnel Regulations, as well as their impact on other policies.

This item was deferred to a time when Council could review it in full.

11.2. Policy Book *

This is a broad discussion around the CAPA Policy Book, Council have been directed to highlight areas of policy that they believe SUPRA should have in writing.

President and VPP to speak to this matter.

It was suggested that we have a policy in regard to the Student Services and Amenities Fee. It was suggested that SUPRA should demand that the SSAF fee be guaranteed to go towards student organisations. There were a number of other areas for consideration discussed. It was suggested that SUPRA further investigate exam weighting. Inclusivity for Intersex, Sex and/or Gender diverse terminology.

It was suggested that we not only outline our positions within the policy book but provide a coherent rationale as to how to proceed lobbying governments and acting on these policies. John responded, clarifying that action procedures within a policy book can become problematic as these actions change over time. As such they have to be reviewed constantly and updated. It was suggested that our primary focus should be within the university, and to leave much of the active lobbying to CAPA at a national level. Though we can have positions on these political issues.

There is an interfaith policy being written by Jordie Austin that was suggested could be adapted for the policy book. SUPRA should have a separate position on housing for international students and the policy book should look at Sydney University specific housing such as STUCCO. Scholarships are also a factor that should be considered. The policy book should highlight the autonomy and necessity of funding for student run organisations, this should have its own point to emphasise it as being of vital importance.

Recommendations for Policy Book

Investigation of exam weighting

To consider policy positions on interfaith issues

Impact on student housing for international students

Policies towards USYD-specific housing such as STUCCO

Scholarships as they relate for international students

Highlight the autonomy, necessity, access of student unionism/association (relation to funding)

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm