



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5.00 PM ON
TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Rashmi Kumar

Minutes: John Nowakowski

Present: Sophia Barnes (Acting Women's Officer, to 7.02pm), Rashmi Kumar (Co-President), Jasmine Tan, Kerwin Liang (to 7.02pm), Lian Jenvey (Vice President, to 6.20pm), Heidi Claus (Policy Convenor, to 6.13pm), Richard Bailey, John Nowakowski (Secretary), Nick Irving (Co-President), Chihong Choi (Treasurer and International Officer, to 8.17pm), Rosemary Whitecross, Kathryn Stachyra (Acting Disabilities Officer, from 5.45pm)

Apologies: Heidi Claus (to 6pm), Sid De (Activities Co-Convenor), Tim Dunstone, Kathryn Stachyra (Late), Lian Jenvey (to 6.30pm), Fiona Curran (Publications Convenor), Kayla Ren, Jason Judge (Queer Officer)

Leaves of Absence: Bram Hertasing, Mimi Zhang

Meeting opened, 5.20pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The Secretary accepted Ms Curran's proxy

2. Mr Alden's passing

Council extended their sympathies to Rosemary Whitecross and her family at this time, due to the loss of her father.

[FEB10-01] Motion: That Council send flowers to Rosemary Whitecross

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[FEB10-02] Motion: That Council authorise a leave of absence for Rosemary, with her to provide specific details to the next Management Committee.

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

3. Associate Professor Howard See's passing

Council extended their sympathies to John Nowakowski at the passing of his supervisor, as well as to the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and the See family.

[FEB10-03] Motion: That Council send flowers to John Nowakowski and the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

4. Minutes

- SUPRA Council, January 21, 2010 (Attachment A)

[FEB10-04] Motion: That these minutes be accepted, with the correction of Fiona Curran's name on page 2

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

- Management Committee:
 - January 25, 2010 (Attachment B)
 - February 2, 2010 (Attachment C)
 - February 9, 2010 (Attachment D)
 - February 15, 2010 (Attachment E)

[FEB10-05] Motion: That these minutes be accepted, with the correction to include Lian Jenvey as present on February 9, 2010

Moved: Mr Choi

Result: Carried

5. Business arising from these minutes not addressed elsewhere

a. Induction Schedule

The Co-President informed council that there were several "blanks" in the induction schedule, and passed a sign-up sheet around for completion.

b. Communications between the Policy Convenor and Executive regarding funding for the Equal Love poster campaign

Item struck from the minutes

Kathryn Stachyra arrived, 5.45pm

Rosemary Whitecross and Chihong Choi leave, 6.07pm

Chihong Choi returns, 6.11pm

6. Office Bearer, Equity Officer, and Convenor Reports

a. Co-Presidents

The Co-Presidents delivered a verbal report

Heidi Claus left, 6.13pm

In the report, the Co-Presidents included a discussion paper on the Juris Doctorate (Attachment H), and requested any changes be sent to Ms Kumar. The Chair highlighted changes that are being made to communication with the Senate, including that the Senate/Student Association Liaison Committee has been disbanded, and that SUPRA have been invited to present at retreats, though not the next retreat, but rather an afternoon tea. They also highlighted flaws that had occurred in the enrolments process, a fault of USU.

Rosemary Whitecross returns, 6.15pm, with food

The Chair mentioned that next year the enrolment process is moving online, and discussed some issues around Inductions and O-Week

b. Vice-President

Read report (Attachment I)
Lian Jenvey left, 6.20pm

c. Secretary
Delivered a verbal report

Richard Bailey left, 6.23pm

d. Treasurer
Delivered a verbal report

Richard Bailey returns, 6.25pm

e. International Officer
Delivered a verbal report

The International Officer raised some issues surrounding the changing Immigration Policy, which were deferred to the end of the meeting.

[FEB10-06] Motion: That SUPRA oppose the application of the new policy to current students

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Deferred

f. Acting Women's Officer
Provided a written report (Attachment J)

Ms Whitecross raised the need to popularise the eLists. The Chair also commented that the Acting Women's Officer had written for *Growing Strong*, as had the Chair herself.

g. Acting Disabilities Officer
Provided a written report (Attachments K and L).

The Acting Disabilities Officer raised a suggestion to rename the role Health and Wellness Officer, as the title is more encouraging and inclusive. Ms Whitecross reminded council that such a motion would need to go to an AGM or EGM as it is constitutionally provided for.

The Chair asked if this would also re-define who could be able to vote for and run for the position, though the Acting Disabilities Officer did not feel it would. Mr Bailey raised concerns that the title detracted from the needs of students with a disability, as "disabled" is a universally-recognised word. Ms Whitecross agreed with Mr Bailey.

The Secretary raised two concerns with this, first that identity is not a limiting term to only those people with an oppression, but often to people who are allies. This often leads to allies identifying as part of an oppressed group, but not actually oppressed. He also feels that the term "disabled" is a limiting factor in people's minds to those with mobility issues, when many disabilities can be related to mental health.

The Chair commented that the removal of people who identify with, but are not part of, an oppressed group will not achieve anything. Mr Bailey suggested the title Welfare Officer. The Co-President said that there is more harm in limiting who can stand for and vote for

Officers than good. The Acting Disabilities Officer responded by saying that the University of Sydney uses the word “disability” as an umbrella term, and assists all persons with both physical and mental disabilities. She also stated that research showed younger people were less likely to access systems with the word “Disabilities” in the title.

Procedural Motion: That the speaking list be closed

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

Procedural Motion: That discussion be limited to 2 minutes per speaker for the rest of the item

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

The Chair stated that access and representation is important, and commented that the title of “Welfare” is usually used for a breadth of requirements beyond the scope of the current Disabilities Officer.

[FEB10-07a] Motion to Amend: That the date be February 26th, 2010

Moved from the Chair

Result: Carried

[FEB10-07] Motion: That the Vice President be implored by Council to provide the minutes of the AGM to the Secretary by the 26th of February, 2010

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

h. Policy Convenor

Report and minutes provided (Attachments M, N, and O)

i. Publications Convenor

Report provided (Attachment P)

[FEB10-08] Motion: That Reports be accepted on bloc

Moved: Mr Liang

Result: Carried

7. Addition and removal of councillors from committees

[FEB10-09] Motion: That Tim Dunstone be added to the Policy Committee

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

Meeting adjourned, 7.02pm

Kerwin Liang and Sophia Barnes leave

Meeting resumed, 7.22pm

8. Request for Support

None provided

9. Three-Minute Thesis and CONNECT

The Co-President outlined the details of the proposed conference

[FEB10-10] Motion: That the Council support the proposed CONNECT Conference and Three-Minute Thesis competition

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

[FEB10-11] Motion: That Council create a committee to overview and develop CONNECT and a Three Minute Thesis competition, with the terms of reference:

- Develop a conference that will allow for the inclusion of as many students as possible, including both research and coursework students
- Work with the GSO in the development of the conference, accessing support from them where possible

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

[FEB10-12] Motion: That the committee consist of Fiona Curran, John Nowakowski, Nick Irving, and Rashmi Kumar

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

10. Continuation of a Budget Committee

[FEB10-13] Motion: That Council extend the terms of reference of the Budget Committee meet at least once every 3 months and review the current state of the budget, making recommendations to Council. The Committee will continue to be chaired by Richard Bailey.

Moved: Ms Stachyra

Result: Carried

11. Budget

The Secretary spoke to the new budget (Attachment Q)

[FEB10-14] Motion: That Council accepts the budget as presented.

Moved: Mr Choi

Result: Carried (7 for, 1 against)

Procedural Motion: That discussion be move *in camera*

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[IN CAMERA]

- a. Stipended hours
- b. Payment for councilors

12. Appointment of Selection Committee for SAAO

Procedural Motion: That Council remain *in camera* for this item

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[IN CAMERA]

[EX CAMERA]

13. Electoral Regulation Committee Report

Procedural Motion: That Council defer this matter to the next meeting

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

14. Constitutional Amendments and Electoral Reform

The Secretary outlined that he had made a number of proposed revisions to the Constitution (Attachment S) and that these were in several sections:

- a. Movement of the Council Term to align with the Financial Year
- b. Changes to the Electoral Regulations

- c. Proposed changes to the Constitution
 - i. General amendments for the improved and clarified operation on SUPRA
 - ii. Amendments for the creation of the roles of VP (Policy) and VP (Outreach)
 - iii. Amendments to coincide with electoral reform
 - iv. Amendments dealing with Conflict of Interest
 - v. Amendments for due process in the operations of the Council regarding the lapsing or removal of Councillors, Office Bearers, or Council
 - vi. Amendments for the clarified operation of the Standing Committees and formation of a Finance Standing Committee

The Co-President felt that these should be prioritised and broken down.

[FEB10-19] Motion: That Nick Irving and John Nowakowski write a discussion paper for the next meeting on the Constitutional Changes and Electoral Reform

Moved: Mr Bailey

Result: Carried

15. General Business

a. Privacy Policy for Website

Procedural Motion: That Council delegate authority to the next Management Committee for approval

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

b. New Student Cards

The Chair reviewed the current situation with the new cards, and stated that, since circulating an item in eGrad, SUPRA had received several complaints regarding the matter from students, also praising SUPRA for opposing the cards. The Co-President commented that, further to discussion in Management Committee, February 15, the co-branding was raised while he was on a leave of absence, and this was only notified in late December.

[FEB10-20a] Motion: That the sentence “SUPRA recognises that the card is part of the changing nature of sales in the world, but that insufficient consultation with a wide range of students has presented a product that, ultimately, will not benefit anyone other than those parties listed on the card” be deleted.

Moved: Mr Bailey

Result: Carried

[FEB10-20] Motion: That SUPRA present a unified front with the SRC against the new student card design, recognising the branding of the card as blatant presentation of sponsorship. SUPRA strongly urges all students to apply for a non-branded card as part of a push to force the University to cease this effort. SUPRA refutes the University’s claims that it supports the card.

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

c. Student Survey

The Chair advised that the Secretary, Office Manager, and herself had been working on the survey (Attachment T)

[FEB10-21] Motion: That the survey be accepted and passed to Fiona Curran for implementation.

Moved: Mr Bailey

Result: Carried

[FEB10-22] Motion: That the prizes as recommended be approved

Moved: Mr Nowakowski

Result: Carried

Chihong Choi leaves, 8.17pm

d. *Honi Soit* Columns

The Secretary reminded Council to write articles for and provide them to the Publications Officer.

16. Other Business not otherwise listed

a. Photocopy and Printing Policy

The Co-President provided a copy of the Policy he had been compiling (Attachment U).

[FEB10-23] Motion: That the policy be accepted and implemented immediately, and collected into the SUPRA Policy Book.

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

b. Changes to Immigration Laws

The Secretary provided copies of emails on behalf of the International Officer (Attachments V and W). The Co-President advised that SUPRA Council does not have enough information at this time for a firm decision.

[FEB10-24] Motion: That SUPRA condemns the Federal Government for their removal of the MODL list. SUPRA calls on the Federal Government for restitution of these rules for current student. SUPRA feels that the Federal Government made a tacit promise to these students it needs to uphold.

Moved: Mr Irving

Result: Carried

Meeting closed, 8.24pm