



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5.00 PM ON
THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Nick Irving

Minutes: John Nowakowski

Present: Kerwin Liang, Mimi Zhang, Rashmi Kumar, Surya Setiyaputra, Rosemary Whitecross, John Nowakowski, Lian Jenvey, Heidi Claus, Tim Dunstone, Fiona Curran, Nick Irving, Kathryn Stachyra, Bram Hertasning, Paolo Mazzi, Richard Bailey, Sid De, Mark (Subscriber), Tony (Subscriber), Gavin (Subscriber), Chihong Choi

Apologies: Jasmine Tan, Sophia Barnes, Richard Bailey (From 6.42pm), Kayla Ren, Kerwin Liang (Until 6.26pm), Bram Hertasning, Paolo Mazzi (From 6.07pm, Until 7.05pm), Sid De (Until 7.38pm), Jason Judge, Ming Tang

Meeting Opened, 5.15pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

2. Minutes

- SUPRA Council, February 16, 2010
- Management Committee:
 - February 22, 2010
 - March 8, 2010
 - March 15, 2010

[MAR10-01] MOTION: That the secretary strike item 5(b) from the draft minutes of February 16.

Moved: Lian Jenvey

Result: Carried

Discussion was had on the appropriateness of the minutes of SUPRA.

Chihong Choi arrives, 5.21pm

[MAR10-02] MOTION: That discussion in the minutes not be attributed, that discursive points are noted, and that, should the meeting wish, they may ask the Secretary to read back the minutes taken.

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

[MAR10-03] MOTION: That the minutes be accepted with corrections where noted

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

3. Business arising from these minutes not addressed elsewhere

None

Tony and Gavin Leave 5.31pm

Bram Hertasing and Kathryn Stachyra arrive, 5.34pm

4. Office Bearer Reports, Officer Reports, and Updates

- a. Co-Presidents
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. International Officer
- f. Queer Officer
- g. Women's Officer
- h. Disabilities Officer
- i. Activities Convenor
- j. Policy Convenor
- k. Publications Convenor
- l. Website Update and ERWG

Concerns were again raised over the corporate sponsorship of O-Week and it was reported that the USU Board of Directors were displeased

The Presidents were asked to expand on items 9(b) [Scholarships] and (c) [Research Misconduct and Revocation of Degrees] in their reports. On 9(b), they stated that, at the current rate, the University will be unable to pay Undergraduate Scholarships by 2012. On 9(c), they mentioned the lobbying they are undertaking through committees and communications with persons related to the matter.

[MAR10-04] MOTION: That all reports be accepted, except 4(l)

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[MAR10-05] MOTION: That item 4(l) be deferred until Paolo arrives

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

5. Resignation of Yuan Jie Shen

[MAR10-06] MOTION: That Council accept the resignation of Yuan Jie Shen

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

As Yuan Jie was one of the Activities Co-Convenors, Sid De was asked whether he would like to take on the position full-time or request a co-convenor. Sid requested that a co-convenor be appointed if any person desired this position. An election shall be called for next Council meeting

6. Requests and Motions for Support

a. UNSW Muslim Prayer Rooms

The background behind the prayer rooms being closed was identified and expanded upon.

Procedural: That the speaking list be closed

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

The council saw the opportunity to express solidarity with the Islamic Students at UNSW, and will do so through writing a letter.

[MAR10-07] MOTION: That Council write to the students at UNSW with the following message:

To Muslim students and staff of UNSW

SUPRA wishes to communicate its support for your campaign to the University for a prayer room. SUPRA believes that the university's refusal to allocate space to a Muslim prayer room is a clear cut case of discrimination and racism.

*SUPRA wishes you every success in your campaign
In solidarity, SUPRA 2009-10 Council*

Moved: Lian Jenvey

Result: Carried

b. Iranian Student Meeting Rooms

The nature of concerns were still unresolved, and this matter was deferred to Management Committee

7. Windows in the Council Offices

The email from Anne was noted and deferred to Management Committee

8. Baird Review final report and IPRS Program Evaluation

The attachments were for noting only and deferred to Policy Committee

Heidi Claus leaves, 5.47pm

9. WCC Membership

Membership of the WCC was raised. Staff requested a second councillor to attend along with Bram Hertasing. Rosemary Whitecross nominated for the position.

Heidi Claus returns, 5.50pm

[MAR10-08] MOTION: That Council accept the nomination of Rosemary Whitecross to WCC.

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

10. Inductions

The induction process now having finished, several issues were raised, including ensuring better communication of when sessions are on and accessibility to the roster, and access for all inductees to the powerpoint presentation as well as the speech. There shall be a debrief meeting. The Presidents thanked all those who took induction sessions. It was requested that the Administration Manager book a time for a debrief meeting.

11. Briefing Policy

The SAAOs have been updating the briefing policy, and have made several suggestions for things to add to the item, including "rating" committees to ensure even distribution of workload, and for the policy to be amended to allow for individual negotiation of the form the briefings take.

[MAR10-09] MOTION: That Council defer the approval and editing of the Briefing policy to Management Committee.

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

Nick Irving removes himself as Chair

Rashmi Kumar appointed Chair

Nick Irving leaves, 6.02pm

12. Senate Fellow

Due to an upcoming conflict of interest whereby he is becoming a member of staff at the University, the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate, Sam Greenland, is resigning. There are three nominees: Anne Hanley (PhD History), Jurjen van Geenen (PhD Music), and Nick Irving (PhD History). SUPRA generally endorses candidates, and can endorse multiple candidates.

[MAR10-10] MOTION: That John write to the candidates, and Council defer endorsement to Management Committee

Moved: John Nowakowski

Paolo Mazzi arrives, 6.07pm

[MAR10-10a] MOTION to Amend: That John circulate these statements to Council when he receives them.

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Accepted by the Mover

[MAR10-10b] MOTION to Amend: That John take comments back from the Council about the candidates statements

Moved: Rosemary Whitecross

Accepted by the Mover

[MAR10-10] MOTION: That John write to the candidates, circulate their responses to Council, accept feedback from the Councillors regarding their stance on the candidates, and Council defer endorsement to Management Committee.

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

13. Elections and AGM Programme

Phillip Binns has been appointed as Returning Officer for SUPRA Council Elections 2010. There were concerns raised over the new timeline, which were clarified.

14. Constitutional Amendments and Electoral Reform

a. Changes to the Electoral Regulations

[MAR10-11] MOTION: That Council accept the new Electoral Regulations

Moved: Nick Irving

Kerwin Liang and Mark leave, 6.26pm

[MAR10-12] MOTION: That Council strike the clause "except international students" from item 6) f)

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[MAR10-13] MOTION: That Council strike Item 6) f)
Moved: Lian Jenvey *Result:* Carried

Discussion was had regarding the form electoral arbitration should take

[MAR10-14] MOTION: That Council strike Item 21)
Moved: Lian Jenvey *Result:* Defeated

[MAR10-15] MOTION: That the Electoral Arbiter may refer to an EGM
Moved: Rosemary Whitecross *Result:* Withdrawn

Any arbitration would occur before an AGM where electoral results are confirmed, making [MAR10-15] unnecessary

Procedural: To move to a vote
Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried

Richard Bailey arrives, 6.42pm

[MAR10-16] MOTION: That Council pass all parts of the document except Item 21), referring this item back to the Electoral Reform Committee regarding the Annual General Meeting confirming Electoral Arbitration
Moved: Rashmi Kumar

[MAR10-16a] MOTION to Amend: That Council pass all parts of the document including 21), with a clause be added at 21) b) that requires the Electoral Arbiter, if used, reports to the AGM, meaning that action must be upheld by the Association
Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried

[MAR10-16b] MOTION: That "or EGM" also be included
Moved: Rosemary Whitecross *Result:* Carried

[MAR10-16] MOTION: That Council pass all parts of the document including 21), with a clause be added at 21) b) that requires the Electoral Arbiter, if used, reports to the AGM or EGM, meaning that action must be upheld by the Association
Moved: Rashmi Kumar *Result:* Carried

[MAR10-17] MOTION: That Council strike Items 21) b) v)-vi) and refer back to the Electoral Regulations Committee, asking for terms of reference for the Electoral Arbiter
Moved: Fiona Curran *Result:* Carried

John Nowakowski leaves, 6.52

Council requires more clarification on their responsibilities and permissions granted to the Electoral Arbiter, especially in Items 21) b) v)-vi).

John Nowakowski returns, 6.58

Procedural: That the speaking list be closed
Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried

[MAR10-17a] MOTION to Amend: That items 5) b) v)-vi) not be removed, and that “subject to terms of reference and confirmation by SUPRA” be added

Moved: Richard Bailey

Result: Withdrawn

Procedural: That item 4(l) be deferred to Management Committee

Moved: Paolo Mazzi

Result: Carried

Paolo Mazzi leaves, 7.05pm

Procedural: That Council vote on [MAR10-17]

Moved: Fiona Curran

Result: Carried

[MAR10-17] MOTION: That Council strike Items 21) b) v)-vi) and refer back to the Electoral Regulations Committee, asking for terms of reference for the Electoral Arbiter

Moved: Fiona Curran

Result: Carried

[MAR10-18] MOTION: That Council suspends Item 21) for redrafting

Moved: Lian Jenvey

Result: Carried

Rashmi Kumar relinquished the Chair, 7.12pm

Nick Irving resumed as Chair of the meeting, 7.12pm

b. Proposed changes to the Constitution

John Nowakowski and Nick Irving presented a discussion paper about some proposed constitutional changes. There were concerns raised over having a smaller executive, especially if Council is less active than it is currently. There were concerns over limitations of the newer executive structure. Campaigns were identified as the major component of the Policy Committee’s Responsibilities. There was an identified need to separate Policy and Campaigns, with more focus on Campaigns stemming from each Councillor. The roles of the new VP positions were also to not focus solely on Committee responsibilities. There was a feeling that the Policy Committee had an unclear role and consideration should be given to workload. There should also be the opportunity to provide supporting roles.

Sid De leaves, 7.38pm

Procedural: That the speaking list be closed

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[MAR10-19] MOTION: That the new duty statements be given to Heidi Claus and Sid De for commenting, that changes to the constitution be finalised, and that the item be raised again next Council

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

c. New Duty Statements

Deferred to next meeting

d. Updated Standing Orders

Deferred to next meeting

15. Green Paper

Feedback on the Green Paper is due on April 19, which will then be considered as the White Paper is formed. There will be a meeting with the SAAOs on March 22 from 12-1pm. There will be a SUPRA submission, but SUPRA also implores individual submissions. There is a proposal to have a forum with the Vice Chancellor (similar to previous Q&A sessions). Concerns were raised over giving the VC a forum in case he is presented in a good light. The whole system is somewhat opaque.

A proposal was made to campaign on the Green Paper rather than have a forum. It is likely that the USU and SRC will go ahead with the forum without our support.

Procedural: That the speaking list be closed

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

Concerns were also raised that the VC might view a forum such as this as “student consultation” and ignore other inputs.

[MAR10-19] MOTION: That SUPRA supports a Q&A forum about the Green Paper

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[MAR10-19] MOTION: That the Vice Chancellor be at the forum

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

16. Other Business not otherwise listed

None

17. Next Meeting – April 15, 5pm

All items for the Agenda due to secretary@supra.usyd.edu.au by 5pm, April 12.