



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5.30 PM ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Nick Irving

Minutes: John Nowakowski

Present: Rashmi Kumar (Co-President), Richard Bailey, Rosemary Whitecross, Chihong Choi (Treasurer, from 6.30pm), John Nowakowski (Secretary), Fiona Curren, Sophia Barnes, Siddhanth De, Jasmine Tan, Nick Irving (Co-President), Kayla Ren, Surya Setiyaputra, Kathryn Stachyra, Jason Judge (from 7.45pm), Kerwin Liang

Apologies: Heidi Claus, Lian Jenvey (Vice-President), Paolo Mizzi, Yuan Jie Shen

Leaves of Absence: Mimi Zhang (Granted to February 28, 2010), Bram Hertasing (Granted to February 22, 2010)

Meeting Opened: 5.30pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

2. Applications for Leaves of Absence

[JAN10-01] Motion: That Xinran (Mimi) Zhang be given a leave of absence from January 21, 2010 until February 28, 2010.

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Passed

[JAN10-02] Motion: That Bram Hertasing be given a leave of absence from January 21, 2010, until February 22, 2010

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Passed

3. Resignation of Councillor

Rashmi thanked Kathryn on behalf of council for her hard work and efforts with SUPRA in the past and wished her the best for the future.

[JAN10-03] Motion: That SUPRA accept the resignation of Kathryn (Cipi) Morgan.

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Passed

4. Appointment of new Councillors to fill vacancies

Council accepted a nomination for general councillor from Tim Dunstone. Tim was elected with unanimous support.

5. Nominations for and Election of Acting Women's Officer

Council accepted a nomination for Acting Women's Officer from Sophia Barnes. Sophia was elected with unanimous support.

Chihong Choi arrived, 6.30pm

6. Minutes

Richard raised concern over context, and requested that minutes be more concise, listing less discussion that might be misinterpreted. Rosemary queried the practice of distributing *in camera* minutes, fearing distribution to staff, constituents, or otherwise. John explained the need for ensuring an accurate reflection of all parts of the meeting and implored the council to treat all meeting documents with the utmost confidence. All meeting documents for the current council were considered *in camera* and were set to be destroyed after the meeting.

- SUPRA Council:
 - October 16, 2009
 - December 12, 2009

[JAN10-04] Motion: That these minutes be accepted

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Passed

- Management Committee
 - January 11, 2010
 - January 18, 2010

[JAN10-05] Motion: That these minutes be accepted

Moved: Fiona Curran

Result: Passed

7. Business arising from these minutes

None considered

8. Office Bearer Reports

- a. Co-Presidents
[IN CAMERA]
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer

[JAN10-06] Motion: That the Office Bearer Reports be accepted on block

Moved: Kathryn Stachyra

Result: Passed

9. Officer Reports and Updates

- a. Queer Officer

John provided a verbal report on behalf of the Queer Officer that the Queer Network was supporting the Cross-Campus Mardi Gras float with \$200 and providing a meeting space. All queer-identifying postgrads are invited to join.

- b. International Officer
- c. Activities Convenor

None received

Rashmi drew the convenors' attention to several upcoming activities. A meeting of the committee is planned for January 29, 2010

- d. Policy Convenor
- e. Publications Convenor

Acclamation

The council expressed its sincere gratitude for the tireless efforts of Fiona, the Publications Officer, and the Publications Committee in the Counter Course Handbook, Thesis Guide, and Postgraduate Survival guide.

- f. Disabilities Officer

Kathryn reported that she is finalising her duty statement, but expressed concern over the limiting word, “disability”, which has some negative connotations. She has also been building a list of groups to network with.

[JAN10-07] Motion: That the Officer and Convenor Reports be accepted on block
Moved: Rashmi Kumar *Result:* Passed

10. Addition and removal of councillors from committees

[JAN10-08] Motion: That the following changes be made to the committees lists:

Kerwin Liang wishes to join the Management and Activities Committees

Richard Bailey wishes to leave the Policy Committee

Chihong Choi wishes to leave the Policy Committee

Bram Hertasing wishes to join the Activities Committee

Xinran (Mimi) Zhang wishes to join the Activities Committee

Sophia Barnes wishes to join the Publications Committee

Xiaoxi (Kayla) Ren wishes to join the Management Committee

Ming Juan (Jasmine) Tan wishes to join the Activities Committee

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Passed

11. Juris Doctor Update

Rashmi updated council as to the Sydney Law School’s quest to replace the Graduate Entry LLB with a JD programme. JDs allow for higher fees and more full-fee paying places. Both the SRC and SULLS (the law society) are opposed. It is seen as a cosmetic and financial gain for the University. Rashmi wishes for this to spur a campaign with the SRC and SUPRA before it goes to Academic Board in February. Academic board is currently split on whether to approve or deny the change.

12. Electoral Regulation Committee Update

John spoke to the report submitted by the committee, and provided a discussion paper on First-Past-the-Post against Single Transferable Vote. Discussion was had. The Council appeared unanimously opposed to paper ballots but understood the need for them in the regulations. Concern was had over raising the funding limit to \$200.

[JAN10-09] Motion: That SUPRA accept Recommendation 2 of the report and the ERC make changes as necessary to the Electoral Regulations, noting where changes need to be made to the Constitution, with the change of “\$200 indexed to CPI” to “\$100 indexed to CPI”

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Passed

The electoral committee were divided on the issue of ticketed ballots. Discussion ensued as to whether to allow for this provision. The Council decided that a grouped system would be counter-productive and difficult to count, and was generally in favour of allowing group names to be listed on a simple ballot, and on campaigning material.

[JAN10-10] Motion: That SUPRA accepts Recommendation 3, permitting Grouped Tickets for the elections, and that changes are made to the Electoral Regulations as necessary, noting where changes need to be made to the constitution, and applying the same principles as in [JAN10-14]

Moved:

Result: Rejected before being put

A long discussion was had regarding an FPTP, STV, or OPPR voting system (OPPR is the existing system). A straw poll suggested council was in favour of an STV system. This was sent to committee to design as necessary

Jason arrived 7.45pm

[JAN10-11] Motion: That the ERC develop a change to Schedule 1 of the Constitution towards an EGM to be held before the next AGM, and that this change be from Optional Proportional Preferential Voting to First-Past-the-Post

Moved:

Result: Rejected before being put

Council adjourned 7.55pm

Council reconvened 8.10pm

13. Grievance Committee Report Back

[IN CAMERA]

14. Probation Review for Rachel Engdahl

[IN CAMERA]

15. Request for Support

Through her report, Lian put forward a request for \$500 towards the Equal Love campaign so as to produce posters for the rally on March 20.

[JAN10-14] Motion: That SUPRA provide \$500 towards the Equal Love campaign

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Passed (1 opp, 4 abs.)

Richard raised the question of a limited amount of funding to campaigns each year given the current fiscal state of SUPRA. Rashmi spoke for this proposal, and Fiona suggested making it a quarterly limit, due to the changing nature of campaigns over the year.

Jason proposed that rather than providing \$500 to Equal Love, SUPRA provide \$500 worth of printing posters in in kind support, making the posters A4 and non-glossy.

Fiona proposed approaching CAAH to suggest an in kind support arrangement.

[JAN10-14a] Motion to Amend [JAN10-14]: That SUPRA provide \$500 towards the Equal Love campaign with a preference towards in kind support with CAAH.

Moved: Rosemary Whitecross

Result: Passed

[JAN10-15] Motion: That the Policy Committee be directed to consider a policy or procedure for the Requests for Support, and compile a report, whereby:

- a. Requests for Support be done with a preference to in kind support over monetary contributions
- b. SUPRA will pursue debts with other organizations when they had promised money
- c. The committee consider the institution of a monetary cap

Moved: Richard Bailey

Result: Passed

John Nowakowski and Sid De left, 8.30pm

[JAN10-16] Motion: That SUPRA endorses the Stop The Intervention Rally to be held on February 13, 2010

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Passed

[JAN10-17] Motion: That SUPRA provides \$200 in direct funding to the Stop The Intervention collective to provide for flights for a representative to come.

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Passed

16. Budget for 2010

[IN CAMERA]

John Nowakowski and Sid De returned, 8.50pm

Council Adjourned: 8.55pm

Council Reconvened: 9pm

17. Supporter Drive for 2010

Deferred to Policy Committee

Richard Bailey leaves, 10.10pm

18. Other Business

- a. Electronic Communications between Councillors
Rosemary is to draft something to council to remind them that communication should be to the Secretary for distribution and otherwise to avoid Reply-All unless necessary
- b. Training Courses run by Centre for Continuing Education
Council were advised of courses being offered, as in kind support
- c. Returning Officer discussion
Rashmi to investigate
- d. Service Survey
Council to review and consider