



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5.00 PM ON
TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Nick Irving

Minutes: John Nowakowski

Present: Nick Irving, Lynne Xie (Until 7pm), Kerwin Liang, Tim Dunstone, Rashmi Kumar (Until 5.49pm), Chihong Choi, John Nowakowski, Rosemary Whitecross, Richard Bailey (From 5.14pm), Fiona Curran (From 5.16pm), Heidi Claus (From 5.29pm, Until 5.49pm), Kathryn Stachyra (From 5.29pm), Bram Hertasning (From 5.34pm)

Apologies: Sophia Barnes, Rashmi Kumar (Until 6pm), Sid De, Tim Dunstone (Until 6pm), Paolo Mazzi, Bram Hertasning (Late), Heidi Claus (Late, Until 6pm), Lian Jenvey, Jasmine Tan

During the meeting, proxies were provided by Heidi Claus and Rashmi Kumar. Heidi Claus nominated Richard Bailey as her proxy, Rashmi Kumar nominated the Chair as her proxy.

Meeting Opened, 5pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

2. Minutes

a. April Council, April 15, 2010

b. Management Committee Minutes, April 21, 2010

[APR10-08] MOTION: That the minutes be accepted with corrections

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

3. Business arising from these minutes

a. Critical Incident

Procedural: That the item be moved In Camera

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

[IN CAMERA]

[EX CAMERA]

b. Minute Taking

John commented that he did not like the way he had been instructed to take minutes for the previous two meetings, feeling them to leave the minutes too vague and unable to follow arguments. Rashmi raised concerns over being misquoted and misrepresented, particularly as happens with minutes from general University meeting, but that the University does have an official minute-taking course that could be folded into the

induction to council. The issue raised from this being that the minutes would be more like those from the University.

The Chair commented that there exists a wide variation in minute forms, but that he believes attribution is necessary, and that there exists a possibility for confirmation before distribution and correction.

Richard Bailey arrives, 5.14pm

John echoed the Chair's comments. Rosemary suggested that people might request to not be attributed.

Fiona Curran arrives, 5.16pm

The Chair restated that minutes allow for following discussions and reasoning behind decisions made by Council. Richard commented his concerns over taking accurate minutes, and that decent minutes are hard to obtain, which may overwork the secretary. However, he recognised that discussion is important.

[APR10-09] MOTION: That there be minute-taking training made available

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

John commented that minutes are circulated before meetings, which allow for a period of time for editing and correcting mistakes. The Chair felt that minutes should be left to the secretary, which a procedure to retroactively modify minutes that had already been approved by Council. He commented that this allows for a more open and transparent system. He also suggested that a dictograph be purchased.

[APR10-10a] MOTION to Amend: That audio recording of minutes be at the discretion of the Secretary

Moved: Richard Bailey

Result: Approved by mover

[APR10-10] MOTION: That minute taking be left to the discretion of the Secretary, that revision be made available to every individual, and that there be the possibility to take audio recordings of the minutes

Moved: Nick Irving

Result: Carried

4. Reports from Executive

The Chair allowed for 5 minutes reading time.

Heidi Claus and Kathryn Stachyra arrive, 5.29pm

a. Co-Presidents

Rashmi spoke to the Security Forum at Cumberland. The forum was poorly attended, with only three students present, so consultation will continue "virtually". Submissions on the matter should be sent to Rashmi. She also reported on a new space offered by the University called "the Loft", and that SUPRA will be looking to have a brochure stand in the area.

The Chair spoke to the matters concerning Dentistry and their move to a Doctor of Dental Medicine. It is moving another Graduate-Entry degree to Postgraduate, dubbed a "Professional Doctorate". The Faculty is using the JD as president, and the University is

seeking advice from SEG and Academic Board. It has been commented that the basis for the move is increased funding.

Bram Hertasing arrives, 5.34pm

Rashmi commented that the occurrence is commonplace.

Tim raised a question regarding the accommodation section of the Green Paper submission, which Rashmi responded to stating there was a miscommunication with Staff and only one of the two revisions was included.

b. Vice President

c. Secretary

d. Treasurer

A verbal report was received

[APR10-11] MOTION: That the reports be accepted

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

5. Reports from Office Bearers

Heidi moved procedurally to have her report admitted first.

a. Policy Convenor

She commented on the Refugee rights rally at Town Hall on Friday, and the Same-sex Marriage rally in 2.5 weeks. There are only 1000 posters left for the latter, and Campus Equal Love is requesting more funds, specifically \$200 which will come from the Campaigns budget.

Rashmi raised the suggestion of a motion on the Rudd Government's changes to processing Sri Lankan and Afghan refugees, to which Heidi reminded Council of the Speak-Out at 1pm, outside Fisher library at 1pm on Thursday.

[APR10-12] MOTION: That SUPRA Condemns the Rudd Government's refugee policy, particularly with the suspension of Sri Lankan and Afghan refugee claims and the re-opening of the Curtin Detention Centre.

Moved: Heidi Claus

Result: Carried

Council directed Heidi and Richard to write a media release on the matter.

b. Director of Student Publications

John reported that he has been acting in the role of Director of Student Publications unofficially. There had been a minor hiccup with Honi Soit contributions, but that this was now fine, with this week's submission from Sophia, next week's from Chihong, and the following week from Kathryn. He also reminded Council that the Annual Report documents are due on May 4.

c. Women's Officer

d. International Officer

e. Disabilities Officer

f. Activities Convenor

[APR10-13] MOTION: That the reports be accepted

Moved: Rashmi Kumar

Result: Carried

Rashmi Kumar announced that she was providing a proxy to the Chair

Rashmi Kumar leaves, 5.49pm

6. Election for the roles of Director of Student Publications, Activities Co-convenor, and Acting Queer Officer

Nominations had been received for all roles.

Heidi Claus announced that she was providing a proxy to Richard Bailey

Richard Bailey leaves, 5.49pm

Heidi Claus leaves, 5.50pm

Fiona Curran was appointed Returning Officer for the elections

a. Director of Student Publications

Fiona spoke to Sophia's nomination, commenting that she is very motivated and up-to-speed with current plans.

Sophia Barnes was elected by ballot, unopposed

b. Acting Queer Officer

John Nowakowski spoke to his nomination

John Nowakowski was elected by ballot, unopposed

c. Activities Co-Convenor

Bram Hertasning spoke to his nomination

Lynne Xie spoke to her nomination

Richard Bailey returns, 6.01pm

Bram Hertasning was elected by ballot

7. Nominations of Councillors to Standing Committees

Richard Bailey to be appointed to the Management Committee

Lynne Xie to be appointed to the Activities Committee

[APR10-14] MOTION: That the nominations be accepted

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

8. Stipend Policy Review Committee Update

John introduced a proposed revised time sheet, including a column for "brief description of work". The Chair requested the removal of the Start/Finish columns due to multiple-shift days. Richard raised concerns over the description column. Fiona requested a date column be added, as "pay periods" are vague for casual workers. Rosemary commented that the column for description helped to add to accountability. Kathryn echoed the

concerns over the pay week. John commented that the description column could act as a diary, assisting with the report writing, and that it helps to add clarity.

The Chair commented about the unusual position the Council is in, being their own employers. Richard commented again that the column has no firm purpose to serve.

[APR10-15] MOTION: That there be a “Brief Overview of Work” column on the time sheet
Moved: from the Chair *Result:* Failed (3,7,1)

Rosemary questioned the Chair on how to provide for better accountability. The Chair commented that the time sheets should not be approved by the President(s), but should go to Management Committee. Rosemary suggested monthly approval by Management Committee. The Chair agreed to the idea and stated that problems should be deferred to Council for comment.

Fiona suggested a pro forma report for submission to Council. The Chair followed on the idea, commenting that concerns over work done should be raised through the Reports submitted to Council, not through withholding pay. Richard continued with the remark that there is no administrative way to deal with issues, that issues must be dealt with in council.

John reminded Council that reports are due prior to Council Meetings for distribution, and Fiona recommended that this practice be continued.

[APR10-16] MOTION: That all Council Meetings have two weeks’ notice of their date, and that 1 week prior to the meeting, the notice be repeated with the agenda for the meeting. Should reports be due for the meeting, they shall be sent one week before Council for distribution by the Secretary the following day

Moved: John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried

Communication of the changes to John Fell is essential. John nominated to discuss the changes with him.

9. Probation Committee

The Chair overviewed the probation process for new employees. Fiona Curran nominated to be on the panel.

10. Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

The Chair commented that the EBA is currently up for renegotiation, and overviewed what the EBA is. He stated that staff shall be providing amendments to the EBA on Friday, April 30. Staff have requested a committee be formed, and called for nominees from Council, as staff felt this was outside the realm of WCC.

John Nowakowski and Chihong Choi both nominated to be involved with the group. Richard suggested Lian Jenvey as well. The Chair shall discuss the matter with Rashmi and the nominees.

11. Non-Councillor attendance to Student Conferences

John Nowakowski provided an overview of the situation, stemming from two non-Councillor applicants applying for funding to go to Queer Collaboration 2010 in Wollongong. The Chair questioned whether the funding should be on a case-by-case approval or lump sum allocation, noting preference for the former. Rosemary suggested a call should be put out for Student Conferences, with en bloc application period. Lynne questioned the point of Student Conferences, to which John indentified the networking, idea sharing, and workshops that occur.

The Chair moved to change the budget line item from "Councillor Conf/Travel" to include non-Councillors. Chihong proposed publicising all conferences, calling for applications with a closing dating to receive funding. Richard feels it is important to attend these conferences, but that there should be a limited amount of funding.

The Chair noted that all bar one of the larger Student Conferences were part of Equity roles and that these should fall to the Officer. He noted preference for \$300 per person as an upper limit, by written request (as for a Request for Support).

[APR10-17a] MOTION to Amend: That all conferences be considered

Moved: Kathryn Stachyra

Result: accepted by Mover

[APR10-17] MOTION: That an announcement be placed in eGrad for Student Conferences, with a closing date to receive funding of May 15. Each application shall be assessed through Management Committee

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

[APR10-18] MOTION: That there be a nominal limit of \$150 with a Request for Support

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried (7,2,2)

12. Election and AGM Process

a. Waiver of Section 4 of the Electoral Regulations

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Section 4 of the Electoral Regulations are unable to be maintained as was hoped.

[APR10-19] MOTION: That, due to the adoption of the Electoral Regulations in 2010, which does not allow for the full timeframe as intended, Section 4 be waived for 2010.

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried

b. Disabilities Equity Officer Election

Due to the delay in providing the amended constitution from 2009 to the Senate for approval, Council has failed to provide for the election of a Disabilities Equity Officer for the incoming Council. All persons who wish to apply for the position shall have to do so by applying as a General Councillor.

Proposals were put forward as to how to rectify the situation, especially should a full Council be elected.

Lynne Xie leaves, 7pm

[APR10-20] MOTION: That there be an Office Bearer position put forward on the next Council for a person who identifies as having a disability or is associated with the field. Should no appropriate person be available, and there be no vacancies on Council, an ex-officio Disabilities Equity Officer may be elected from and by the Equity Group, providing preference to them should a vacancy be made on Council.

Moved: Richard Bailey

Result: Carried

13. Constitutional Changes

Speaking to the recommendation for two Vice Presidents, Richard Bailey was unsure. Questions were raised over the roles of the Outreach VP and Policy VP. The Chair commented that Outreach referred to both organising activities on campus and working with SAAOs for satellite campuses. He went on to identify that there is a poor internal policy for SUPRA, and that many are unsure of current policies, and that this would help form the basis of the Policy VP role.

Given negative feedback received at the Camden Campus to the word "Outreach", Kathryn proposed the name "Community", which was accepted by Council.

Questions were raised over whether Council should endorse motions, as Richard pointed out that any person can take Constitutional changes to the AGM, and raise them, not necessarily with the backing of Council. Fiona feels that the question is fundamental, and endorsement is necessary, given the ongoing discussions about Constitutional Changes for over a month.

Procedural: That discussion is limited to 5 minutes total

Moved: Kathryn Stachyra

Result: Carried

Richard stated that he feels Council is not at a point to decide, and that the arguments will be raised again at the AGM. Kathryn has no problems with the suggestion, and states that the arguments will happen again at the AGM.

[APR10-21] MOTION: That Council endorse the proposed Constitutional Change for two Vice Presidents and the provision for Co-officers

Moved: John Nowakowski

Result: Carried (8,2,0)

[APR10-22] MOTION: That Council endorse the changes as were proposed by the Electoral Regulation Review Committee

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

[APR10-23] MOTION: That Council endorse the proposed Constitutional Changes for the creation of a budget standing committee, and accompanying updates to committees.

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

[APR10-24] MOTION: That Council endorse the Conflict of Interest changes as proposed, directing John to discuss them further with one of the SAAOs

Moved: from the Chair

Result: Carried

14. Request for Support Process

Deferred to Management Committee by the Chair

15. Backlog of Council Minutes

Council directs that the Council Minutes from only the current Council Year be uploaded, with compressed files of previous years' minutes. All budget items are to remain *In Camera*.

16. Other Business

None

17. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 12, 5pm

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

Meeting Closed, 7.22pm