



# MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 6:00PM ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

**Chair:** John Nowakowski  
**Minutes:** Angelus Morningstar  
**Present:** Chihong Choi (arrived 6:09pm), Heidi Claus, Andrew Elder, Rashmi Kumar, Angelus Morningstar, Pip Muratore, John Nowakowski, Rosemary Whitecross.

*Opened: 6:04pm*

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The Chair conducted the acknowledgement of Country.

## 2. Apologies, Absentees, Leave and Proxies

### 2.1. Apologies

Sophia BARNES, Nick IRVING, Lian JENVEY, Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN, David LATIMER, David ROBERTSON, Elizabeth SCALLY, Bradley WELLS, Simone WHITE, and Lynne XIE have tendered their apologies.

### 2.2. Leave

Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN will be overseas until 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2010.

[Motion 01/100927]

That Council grant Kylee Hartman-Warren a leave of absence until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010.

*Proposed:* Rashmi Kumar

*Result:* Carried (10+)

*Chihong arrived.*

### 2.3. Proxies

Persons struck through were given a proxy via email, but were not in attendance.

Chihong CHOI carries the proxy for Lynne XIE.

Heidi CLAUS carries the proxy for Lian JENVEY and Simone WHITE.

Rashmi KUMAR carries the proxy for David ROBERSTON.

Angelus MORNINGSTAR carries the proxy for Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN.

### **3. Review and Approval of Minutes**

#### **3.1. SUPRA Council, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

#### **3.2. Management Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

#### **3.3. Management Committee, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010**

#### **3.4. Community Engagement Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

#### **3.5. Community Engagement Committee, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

These will be circulated electronically.

[Motion 01/100927]

That SUPRA Council approve the minutes of the meetings with amendments.

*Moved from the Chair*

*Result: Carried (12+)*

### **4. Reports from Council and Staff**

#### **4.1. Presidents Report**

John spoke to items in his report, most of which was considered In Camera due to discussions over budget and staffing.

##### **[IN CAMERA]**

The Funding Agreement and Staff issues were discussed.

##### **[EX CAMERA]**

##### **Follow up on plagiarism**

Council queried in response to the report, about what kinds of recourse that SUPRA has to follow up on poor practice of plagiarism from particular faculties. The response being that SUPRA can liaise and negotiate with faculties to try and improve particular practices to encourage good academic standards from students.

SAAOs have highlighted how significant this issue is that one of them is dedicating their entire working day to review essays to attempt to discern whether they're dishonest or negligent plagiarism.

#### **4.2. Vice-President (Policy) Report**

Rashmi noted she would also be working on a response to the Residential Tenancies Act NSW legislation, which is due on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

As Senate has passed the Constitutional amendments nominations to Policy Committee no longer a standing committee will be accepted by circulation.

Question was raised by International Officer regarding policy on accommodation. With the response being that one of the people from Campus Universities is now working on the Sydney University Village.

##### **Item 5 of the report**

The president responded to item 5 of the report and stated that the issue was not an act of sexism but miscommunication. Rashmi responded that she felt that the issue was not miscommunication but non-communication, and felt that the statement could still stand.

Clarification was sought as to ask why this should be considered an act of sexism. The response was that it a report of a subjective experience that was creating a culture of a boys club.

Clarification as to why the issue needs to be submitted in a formal report to Council. The response was that the action being asked is only to note, and that she is justified in reporting personal sentiments in her reports.

One concern raised that an 8 pages response by the President was excessive.

Rashmi remarked that it was not Council's place to assess whether sexism has or had not happened, but that she has a right to highlight an experience of sexism. This should be given recognition as an experience of sexism is a subjective matter.

The Chair concluded to request that Council take this issue on board to work more inclusively rather than exclusively.

**4.3. Vice President (Community) Report**

**4.4. Secretary Report**

**4.5. Treasurer Report**

Due to a miscommunication between the co-Treasurers, there has been no report from the Treasurer.

In light of Richard's resignation, it was requested that Chihong consider whether he'd like to take on the role of full Treasurer.

It was queried whether, because the Council vacancy was held in abeyance whether this would include his Office Bearer role too.

**4.6. Director of Student Publications Report**

It was noted that DSP report was submitted on the day and was tabled at the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> October is a deadline for the postgraduate survival guide, so Councillors are urged to contact DSP by this date.

**4.7. Women's Officer Report**

**4.8. International Officer Report**

Chihong apologised for not submitting a report and gave a verbal report.

The International Officer portfolio is focusing on social life and support for International Students. Looking at creating a program of support to allow intercultural socialising between various international students and help them adjust to Australian culture.

Chihong had organised an employment rights seminar, which had an attendance of only 4 students. He suggested some work was put into trying to discover why this was not a popular seminar.

Chihong noted that he has been attempting to set up online polling webpage to invite students to advise their preferable times and dates for seminars in the future.

It was noted that there is a desire for many international students to overstay their visa due to the government change to qualifications frameworks. There was also an observation that international students are being drastically underpaid, such as \$7-8 per hour.

**4.9. Queer Officer Report**

**4.9.1. Queer Symposium Report (4<sup>th</sup> September)**

**4.10. Disabilities Officer Report**

**4.11. Staff Work Reports**

These will be circulated electronically.

**5. Motions Proposed by Reports**

Heidi tabled a motion at the meeting.

**[Motion 02/100927]**

SUPRA offers our support and solidarity to the refugees and asylum seekers who continue their protests at Villawood and other detention centres. The suicide of a Fijian Democracy Activist, Josefa Rauluni and the ongoing dry hunger strike of 16

Iranian and stateless Kurdish refugees highlight the horror of Australia's regime of mandatory detention and deportation of refugees. SUPRA calls on the Gillard Labor government to end mandatory detention, close the detention centres, and stop all deportations. People who come here seeking asylum should be treated with respect and decency, given suitable accommodation and given support within the community, not treated as criminals and demonised by both the government and media.

*Proposed:* Heidi Claus

*Result:* Deferred to Policy Committee

**Amendment:**

That SUPRA offers support and solidarity to the refugees and asylum seekers who continue their protests at Villawood and other detention centres.

That SUPRA recognises that five of the asylum seekers are former international students and that the suicide of a Fijian Democracy Activist, Josefa Rauluni and the ongoing dry hunger strike of 16 Iranian and stateless Kurdish refugees highlight the horror of Australia's regime of mandatory detention and deportation of refugees.

That people who come here seeking asylum should be treated with respect and decency, given suitable accommodation and given support within the community, not treated as criminals and demonised by both the government and media.

That SUPRA calls on the Gillard Labor government to end mandatory detention, close the detention centres, and stop all deportations.

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar

*Result:* Accepted by mover

It was noted that a number of these asylum seekers are international students.

Significant discussion occurred over the particular verbiage to be used in the motion, and Chihong expressed a desire to have a more involved consultation over the motion.

**The Chair procedurally delegated the motion to Policy Committee**

[Motion 03/100927]

That SUPRA Council accept the reports from Council and SUPRA staff.

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar

*Result:* Carried (12+)

## 6. Appointment of a Chair to the Budget Committee

Council will accept nominations for Chair from the floor.

Chihong CHOI has nominated to Chair the Budget Committee.

[Motion 04/100927]

That SUPRA Council approve of the nomination of Chihong Choi as Chair of the Budget Committee.

*Moved from the Chair*

*Result:* Carried (12+)

## 7. Declaration of Vacancies

Richard BAILEY has tendered his formal resignation from Council in order to apply for employment with SUPRA. As per 8.2 of the Constitution, his Council position will not be declared vacant until the selection process has been completed. If Richard is unsuccessful in his application he may reapply for his Council position.

Councillors Ahmed Surobhi NUSRAT and Katherine PETERSEN were again contacted regarding their positions. Ahmed failed to respond to all forms of communication. Katherine noted that she is completing her thesis but has no scholarship and is unable to attend council meetings. As such, she is happy to volunteer her time, but will not reapply to Council.

[Motion 03/100927]

That the positions of Fiona CURRAN, Ahmed Surobhi NUSRAT, Katherine PETERSEN and Alex ROSSER be declared vacant. That the position of Richard

BAILEY be declared vacant, but not to be filled until his employment application has been finalised.

*Proposed:* John Nowakowski

Result: Carried (12+)

## 8. Nominations to Council

There are a number of nominees to the Council. Their nomination statements have been circulated. Two positions are to be elected.

**Andrew CLAYPHAN**

**Ben FERRIS**

**Xiu Tao LI**

**Thomas MUNROE**

**Li Juan TANG**

**Felicity WILSON**

Pip was made Returning Officer.

Andrew, CLAYPHAN, Ben FERRIS, and Felicity WILSON were declared elected.

The fourth position was declared no Candidate, and so another period of nominations will be announced.

## 9. Stipend Policy

In August a meeting was held over the SUPRA Stipend policy and a number of significant amendments were proposed. The attached document outlines the proposed changes.

It was noted that only two people in the room don't receive stipends, contributing to a conflict of interest.

[**Motion 04/100927**]

That Council defer the stipend policy to Policy Committee for review and to return to Council for ratification.

*Moved by Chair*

*Result:* Carried (12+)

A recommendation was drafted by Andrew Elder, which was circulated. It was responding to the proposal to set to reduce the stipend rate, the amendment proposed to make a range of stipend rates to be 'up to 1.5' the APAI rate to allow flexibility on a year by year basis as determined by Council.

The Chair noted that since originally being drafted, that a lot of things have changed in relation to this proposal.

## 10. Proposed Policies from Staff

In light of certain recent security issues, staff have submitted some proposed policies for security and OHS concerns.

[**Motion 05/100927**]

That Council ratify the draft Duress Alarm Policy and Procedure, and Incident and Accident Reporting and Investigation Policy.

*Moved from the Chair*

*Result:* Carried (12+)

[**Motion 05/100927**]

That Council defer the SUPRA Services Policy to Policy Committee for review and then to return to Council for ratification/

*Moved from the Chair*

*Result:* Carried (12+)

## 11. Notifications

### 11.1. Staff Selection Appointments

Two employment panels have been established.

For the employment of a part-time Administration & Publications Officer: Angelus MORNINGSTAR.

For the employment of a full-time Student Advice & Advocacy Officer: Sophia BARNES

### **11.2. Constitutional Changes**

Constitutional Changes from the 2009 and 2010 AGM were passed by Senate on September 20, 2010.

### **12.Help Pakistan Week**

The organising committee has contacted SUPRA regarding support for Pakistan following the significant flooding. A communication has been attached for discussion.

It was considered that the SUPRA President could chase up with the South Asia society, AVAAZ, to see if they would be interested in initiating an event supported by SUPRA, Chihong to be copied in.

### **13.Other Business**

### **14.Next Council**

The next Council shall be October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Please arrive at 5.30 for a 6pm meeting.