



MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE ROOM 427 ON THE 16TH OF JANUARY 2017 AT 6:00PM

Chair: Thomas Greenwell

Minutes: Melanie Stevenson

Attendance: Thomas Greenwell, Melanie Stevenson, Connor Duncan, Elizabeth Millar, Ahmed Suhaib, Dhaval Shukla, Karen Cochrane, Nick Avery, Rachel Evans, Gareth Charles, Blythe Worthy (*left 7:10pm*), Oliver Moore, Alexandra Nixon (*electronically*), Brandon Munn, Lily Matchett

Staff: Francine Seeto

Guests: Adriana Rey (*left 6:48pm*), Prachi Paliwal (*left 6:48pm*), Marguerite Biasatti, Laura Tramonte, Teesta Prakash (*walked in 6:34pm*), Marco Avena (*entered 7:40pm*)

★ 1. **Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome**

The meeting was opened at 6:06pm; Thomas Greenwell (T. G.) performed an acknowledgment of country.

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We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land. We acknowledge that the land upon which we meet is stolen land, and that sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to all First Nations persons here. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

2. **Governance & Declaration of COI**

2.1. **Apologies**

Samantha Fredman

Rebecca Johnson

Kevin Dong

vJoshua Preece

Cecilia Castro

Nick Rowbotham

Mike Butler

Cameron Nottingham

Alex Trussell

Ratified by council 14 February 2017



2.2. Proxies

Samantha Freedman to Connor Duncan (2nd to Melanie Stevenson, 3rd to Cameron Nottingham)

Rebecca Johnson to Mariam Mohammed (2nd to Kiriti Mortha, 3rd to Mike Butler, 4th to Blythe Worthy)

Kevin Dong to Ahmed Suhaib (2nd to Lily Matchett, 3rd to Joshua Preece)

Alexandra Nixon (if unable to video link) to Rachel Evans (2nd to Gareth Charles)

Blythe Worthy to Oliver Moore (2nd to Maliha Aqueel, 3rd Rebecca Johnson, 4th to Kiriti Mortha)

Joshua Preece to Melanie Stevenson, (2nd Cameron Nottingham, 3rd to Connor Duncan, 4th to Alex Trussell)

Nick Rowbotham to Nick Avery (2nd to Gareth Charles, 3rd to Rachel Evans, 4th to Lily Matchett, 5th to Ahmed Suhaib)

Mike Butler to Reza Kahlaee (2nd to Blythe Worthy, 3rd to Cecilia Castro)

Cameron Nottingham to Melanie Stevenson, (2nd to Connor Duncan, 3rd to Alex Trussell, 4th to Elizabeth Millar)

Alex Trussell to Connor Duncan (2nd to Melanie Stevenson)

Cecilia Castro to Rachel Evans

2.3. Starring of Items

Council is invited to star any agenda items they would like discussed.

Recommendation: That council approves all unstarred items.

Motion [170116-01]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Motioned: Lily Matchett

Seconded: Oliver Moore

Carried.

2.4. Resignations and requests for leave

Motion [170116-02]: Blythe Worthy is request a leave of absence due to an academic commitment from 10th of February to 6th of March.

Motioned: Blythe Worthy

Seconded: Oliver Moore

Carried.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE 27TH OCTOBER 2016

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3.1.2. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 6TH DECEMBER 2016

3.1.3. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 7TH DECEMBER 2016

3.1.4. MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 13TH DECEMBER 2016

3.1.5. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 9TH JANUARY 2017

3.1.6. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 13TH JANUARY 2017

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Thomas Greenwell (inc. Annual Report)

4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Lilly Matchett

Alexandra Nixon

4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Ahmed Suhaib

4.1.4. TREASURER

Kevin Dong

4.1.5. SECRETARY

Melanie Stevenson

Cameron Nottingham

4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Nick Rowbotham

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Connor Duncan

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Gareth Charles



4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Dhaval Sanath Shukla

Portfolio update

Dhaval Shukla (D. S.) stated that he might be leaving SUPRA on the 31st of March, due to both medical issues and a job offer. He currently has 2 options: to either resign and do an election early or to do the election for both the rest of this term and the next term. He also stated that he could elect a deputy for the rest of this term. He

doesn't want a current councillor to take this on, he believes a new student could take on this role. He is still looking into the cricket match, O-week and spaces for postgraduate students. He is also hoping to grill CISA, who have not submitted their half yearly report yet. Melanie Stevenson (M. S.) enquired about the new electoral regulations. T. G. stated that the equity officer elections are still the same. D. S. asked if he could appoint the incoming as his deputy. As it stands, this would have to be a member of council.

Motion [170116-03]: To approve the international officer report and portfolio update

Motioned: Karen Cochrane

Seconded: Lily Matchett

Carried.

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4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans [No report submitted]

Rachel Evans (R. E.) stated that she had submitted her report, however it had not gone out in the pack. Melanie Stevenson (M. S.) apologised on the secretary's behalf. She spoke to the rallies that she attended at the end of 2016, including an NTEU meeting, save SCA and an end of year party that VC Spence was hosting. She has also set up the Facebook page for queer beers in O-week and is organising mardi gras events.

Motion [170116-04]: To approve the queer officer report

Motioned: Lily Matchett

Seconded: Dhaval Shukla

Carried.

4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Mariam Mohammed

★

4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Elizabeth Millar [Late report submitted]

Elizabeth Millar (E. M.) said that she is going through changes at the moment, including a fulltime job. She hopes the reform to the portfolio will include more students, and hopefully at an O-week event.

Motion [170116-05]: To approve the rural and regional officer report

Motioned: Blythe Worthy

Seconded: Oliver Moore

Carried.

4.3. Business Arising from officer reports

4.3.1. ACTION SCHEDULE UPDATE

4.3.2. MOTIONS FROM REPORTS

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Motion [170116-06]: That SUPRA recognises 26/01/17 as Invasion day instead of Australia Day and endorse the Invasion Day rally in the CBD

Motioned: Connor Duncan

Seconded: Nick Avery

Carried.

4.3.3. OTHER BUSINESS FROM REPORTS

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★ 5. Postgraduate issues

5.1. Master of Marketing

Adriana Rey (A. R.) and Prachi Paliwal (P. P) spoke to the matter. They are international students who had issues with the website of their degree, and has encountered difficulties in the content of the website, especially regarding fees. They also spoke that the degree is outdated (they have learnt this in their undergraduate) and they have issues with networking and the possibility of employment. Many of the networking events have not occurred or have been lacklustre (some were only hiring domestic students). The website states \$42,000 for 48 credit points, however, they need to take 12 credit points as a summer and winter course. This is \$10,500 more than they believed they should pay. They only found out at the end of October for payment in December 2016 and July 2017. She stated that international students need to plan in advance and this has changed many plans. She stated that more than 10 students feel similar to her. They haven't found a solution with the head of the program or the dean.

Teesta Prakash entered 6:34pm

Karen Cochrane (K. C.) asked if they have gone to the NSW ombudsman, who may be able to help with this complaint. A. R. stated that they have presented the case to SUPRA SAAOs. Oliver Moore (O. M.) stated that they potentially have a case action lawsuit, similar to the business school case. Francine Seeto (F. S.) asked if they have considered changing to a different university. She also suggested taking a screenshot of the website. The students stated that they thought they'd provide a similar course, with similar prices. They had researched other universities, but USyd had a clear advantage with links to companies, however, this has not occurred.

F. S. stated that there are two issues here. One is consumer law (what the university states they are delivering vs what they actually are delivering). The second issue is whether or not it is fair to give short notice for the fees payable. The students state there has been no return communication from the university. F. S. suggested speaking to the SUPRA lawyer, as well as the registrar. T. G. stated that SUPRA has had some communication with the registrar regarding the business school. Rachel Evans (R. E.) stated that this is gross behaviour from a corporate university, she suggested getting people to speak at a rally, making it clear that the university can't do this to international students. The two students stated that they needed to find a company to do the summer/winter courses and that the class is only on the weekend. R. E. stated that her, Dhaval, Ahmed and Karen will help the students liaise. Marguerite Biasatti (M. B.) suggested that the school thinks they'll network with local students and use those contacts for companies. T. G. has stated he and Ahmed Suhaib (A. S.) have had 4-5 meetings regarding this topic.

Adriana Rey, Prachi Paliwal left 6:48pm

T. G. stated that from the fees perspective, the outlook is not so great, but that USyd should move to the way UNSW has their website, with total fees, fees per unit and number of units stated for a degree. He stated he will communicate with the registrar. In terms of teaching and learning materials, F. S. stated the biggest issue is not getting timely feedback. The students are also not eligible for a post-study visa due to the shorter length of the course. D. S. and A. S. will broaden this issue of residency/employment of international students to the university to begin a conversation. K. C. stated that CISA will help, with a focus on postgraduate students. They will investigate who the CAPA international officer is.

★ 6. Verbal report from staff member

F. S. spoke, stating that a lot more appeals are coming through. Jessica is a locum working with the SAAOs at the moment. The survival guide is progressing nicely (Emma is laying it

up). D. S. suggested a document to show students how to use the drop in service, as sometimes he receives enquiries and he should not be handling this confidential information. M. S. asked how the office is coping with Adrian's leave. F. S. stated that it is fine, however, there are just a huge number of cases, with a number due on the same day. A. S. suggested the Facebook page with the drop in hours. F. S. suggested when the website is running that students would be able to help themselves. O. M. asked when they are looking for a new staff member, F. S. stated when Adrian is back. F. S. also mentioned they trialled doing workshops, however, this did not work for a number of reasons. T. G. stated that postgraduate numbers are increasing and that we are requesting for another staff member in our SSAF agreement. F. S. also noted that generally students now come in with a draft, rather than starting from nothing.

Motion [170116-07]: To thank Francine, Marg and Jessica for their hard work, especially this month.

Motioned: Dhaval Shukla

Seconded: Karen Cochrane

Carried.

Blythe Worthy left 7:10pm

★ **7. EBA Negotiations**

Motion [170116-08]: To move the meeting in camera

Motioned: Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

Motion [170116-10]: To move the meeting ex camera

Motioned: Ahmed Suhaib

Carried.

★ **8. New Draft Schedule 1 & Electoral Rules**

T. G. spoke to the draft in the council pack, along with flow charts. He stated that at this stage we are endorsing this draft to go to an EGM.

Motion [170116-11]: To endorse the new draft schedule 1 & electoral rules

Motioned: Ahmed Suhaib

Seconded: Oliver Moore

Carried.

★ **9. Nominations of vacant office bearer positions**

T. G. is leaving on the 31st January. He stated there needed to be an election for the president role and that a returning officer needs to be appointed for this election.

A. S. nominated T. G.

Motion [170116-12]: To appoint Thomas Greenwell as the returning officer

Motioned: Lily Matchett

Seconded: Gareth Charles

Carried.

T. G. called for nominations from the floor. He received one nomination, a joint nomination from Ahmed Suhaib (A. S.) and Lily Matchett (L. M.).

A. S. and L. M. spoke. They have come to care a lot about SUPRA in other executive roles and hope to continue in the presidency. They hope to have relationship building within council, as well as increasing SUPRA's visibility. They are also hoping to become involved in more hard hitting campaigns. They would seek input from all councillors to see their

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wishes. A. S. stated he has worked with almost everyone in the room and hopes to work together for postgraduate interests, despite the previous disdain within councillors.

An election was conducted. There were 2 options (Lily Matchett & Ahmed Suhaib; no candidate).

T. G. declared Ahmed Suhaib and Lily Matchett the successful candidate.

As of the 31st of January, A. S. and L. M. cannot hold their current positions, hence their positions will become vacated. T. G. asked Alexandra Nixon (A. N.), the co-VP with L. M. if she wished to continue fully in this role, or if there should be an election for half of the role. A. N. stated that she would like to nominate for half of education officer. M. S. suggested A. N. remain at the VP for now, then conduct an education officer election. Should A. N. then need to vacate her VP role, an election could occur after the education officer election.

T. G. called for nominations from the floor. He received one nomination from Alexandra Nixon (A. N.) and Rachel Evans (R. E.). A. N. stated that she has been involved in the education movement from 2010 at USyd. She is a left wing anti-racist, pro-worker and suffers a disability. She has mostly been involved in educational initiative (SCA campaign). She stated she has a great relationship with Rachel. R. E. stated that she has an activist role and has been the queer office bearer 2015-2016 – she did the rainbow campus and was also involved in save SCA> She has been involved since 2012 against the closure of Koori centre and the sacking of 320+ staff. In 2013, she had 6 strikes with the NTEU. She is an anti-racist feminist and a part of the socialist alliance. They hope to continue the SCA campaign. They spoke to VC Spence amalgamating 122 faculties into 22. R. E. stated that we are all being tested with the rise of Trump and Hanson and we should stop the tide of reaction. They are prepared to help SUPRA play a role in the upcoming battles.

M. S. stated that R. E. had missed more management committee meetings than she had attended, and that neither R. E. nor A. N. had been to either an educational committee meeting or a community & engagement meeting. She asked how they are planning to make extra time to commit to those. She also asked if they were planning on spending any time on social events, as these are equally as important in order to allow our students to network with other students in a non-politicised environment.

A. N. stated that it is important to galvanise the postgraduate community and we do this by social events. She has previously helped out with wine & cheers and also co-chaired policy committee and worked 3 jobs. She is currently only working 2. R. E. stated that whilst social events are important, she hopes to have a forum at these events to pitch campaigns as otherwise we are not doing our jobs as OBs. She stated that she was active with the SCA occupation.

Marco Avena entered 7:40pm

Alex spoke: in the duty statement – of equal importance – galvanising the postgraduate community and within the equity groups. In her role – wine & cheese (familiar with that), co-chairing policy committee and working 3 jobs – has 2 now. Had only scheduled for policy and ManComm, as well as WCC and academic board. Rachel: social events wine and cheese is important, our education committee meetings can host some coffee and cake to bring things in, could look at a forum/speakers/beers – free pizza, beer and a speaker – can do that to start off the beginning of the year. Unless we pitch a campaign to our constituency, free coffee is okay but we are not really doing our job as OBs. Can't argue that they haven't done community & engagement or the education committee. Remind us 6:40am at the SCA – occupying this place and the 65 days it took of which SUPRA has a better name than the SRC in supporting that battle

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Marco Avena entered 7:40pm

An election was conducted. There were 2 options (Alexandra Nixon & Rachel Evans; no candidate).

T. G. declared Alexandra Nixon & Rachel Evans the successful candidate.

A. N. will be vacating her role as Vice-President. T. G. called for nominations from the floor. He received one nomination from Nick Avery and Karen Cochrane. K. C. stated that she was interested in policy and working with the government to change policy (she sits on CISA). She also hopes to work on the social events and work towards stress reduction in our students, as opposed to being on the campaign side of things. She things her and Nick would work well together. Nick Avery (N. A.) stated he was a political economy student and a recent councillor. He is an activist, feminist and a socialist. He is keen to make the most of their mutual skills. He would like to put the resources in support to activist groups (aboriginal communities), unconditional support for women's collectives, as well as the university teaching/other staff in NTEU EBA.

An election was conducted. There were 2 options (Nick Avery & Karen Cochrane; no candidate).

T. G. declared Nick Avery & Karen Cochrane the successful candidate.

R. E. is requesting O. M. to be elected a deputy queer officer. O. M. stated they have been involved in queer activism for a while, including as the secretary for AQSN. They hope to work with all equity groups. M. S. stated she is excited to see what O. M. can bring to the portfolio.

Motion [170116-13]: To appoint Oliver Moore as the deputy queer officer

Motioned: Rachel Evans

Seconded: Karen Cochrane

Carried.

10. Other Business

E. M. stated she was hoping to get \$200 for an O-week event (drinks at courtyard at 5pm on the Thursday)

Motion [170116-14]: To approve up to \$200 for the satellite campus event in O-week

Motioned: Elizabeth Millar

Seconded: Connor Duncan

Carried.

O. M. gave a CAPA update, stating that they are planning on being much more active in 2017 and that they will be involved with CAPA campaigns (the presumptive queer officer).

G. C. spoke about the Sydney festival bannering and that Cecilia Castro is speaking.

A. S suggested a motion:

Motion [170116-15]: To thank Thomas Greenwell for his work over the past 2 years as the Vice-President and then President, and to wish him well in the future

Motioned: Ahmed Suhaib

Seconded: Lily Matchett

Carried.

The meeting was finished at 8:20pm