



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN NEW LAW 342 ON THE 15H OF MARCH 2017 AT 1800

Chair: Lily Matchett
Minutes: Cameron Nottingham
Attendance: Mike Butler (left 19:15), Kiriti Mortha, Mariam Mohammed (left 20:21), Connor Duncan, Melanie Stevenson, Karren Cochrane, Dhaval Sanath Shukla, Oliver Moore, Rachel Evans, Alex Nixon, Kevin Dong, Eila Douglass, Ahmed Suhaib, Natash Heenan
Staff: John Fell, Margaret Kirkby

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

Acknowledgement of country was made and the chair opened the meeting at 18:07

★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

Elizabeth Millar	Cecilia Castro	Gareth Charles
Reza Kahlaee	Rebeca Johnson	Nick Rowbotham
Blythe Worthy	Samantha Fredman	

2.2. Proxies

Elizabeth Millar to Josh Preece (2nd Dhaval Shukla, 3rd Karen Cochrane)
Reza Kahlaee to Ahmed Suhaib (2nd to Lily Matchett)
Rebeca Johnson to Kiriti Mortha (2nd to Mariam Mohammed, 3rd to Mike Butler)
Samantha Fredman to Connor Duncan (2nd to Melanie Stevenson, 3rd to Josh Preece)
Joshua Preece to Connor Duncan (2nd to Sam Freedman, 3rd Cameron Nottingham 4th Melanie Stevenson)
Cecilia Castro to Rachel Evans
Gareth Charles to Rachel Evans (2nd to Alexandra Nixon, 3rd to Nick Avery)

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Motion[170317-01]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Oliver Moore **Seconded:** Alex Nixon
Carried

2.4. Resignations

None reported.

2.5. Leave of absence

Motion[170317-02]: To extend a leave of absence for Blythe Worthy due to her academic commitments at UCLA – effective until March 25th 2017.

Moved: Cameron Nottingham **Seconded:** Oliver Moore

Carried

Motion[170317-03]: To approve a leave of absence for Cecilia Castro for the March Council meeting due to personal circumstances.

Moved: Cameron Nottingham **Seconded:** Nick Avery

Carried

Motion[170317-04]: To approve a leave of absence for Rebeca Johnson for the March council meeting and retrospectively for the December and January meetings due to personal circumstances.

Moved: Cameron Nottingham **Seconded:** Mariam Mohammed

Carried

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL 14TH FEBRUARY 2017

3.1.2. MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 17TH FEBRUARY 2017

3.1.3. MEETING OF POLICY COMMITTEE 21ST FEBRUARY 2017

3.1.4. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 23RD FEBRUARY 2017

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Lily Matchett

Ahmed Suhaib

Mike Butler (MB) discussed issue of the motion of circulation, stating the email was sent out to CISA secretary, they asked if this was in error and if then was this then invalid. It was noted that the motion by circulation will be discussed at a future point of the meeting, MB reserved comment until then.

4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Ratified by council 17 April 2017

Nicholas Avery
Karen Cochrane

4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Rachel Evans

Alexandra Nixon [Updated version included as print out]

There was an error in the hours, Alex has made a correction to the initial report and apologies for the error.

Motion[170317-05]: That council accept the report of Alex Nixon

Moved: Nick Avery **Seconded:** Connor Duncan

Carried

4.1.4. TREASURER

Kevin Dong

4.1.5. SECRETARY

Melanie Stevenson

Cameron Nottingham

4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Joshua Preece

Motion[170317-06]: That council accepts the written report of Josh Preece

Moved: Connor Duncan **Seconded** Kevin Dong

Carried

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Connor Duncan

MB asked Connor Duncan (CD) about the equity elections and if the block students would be included. CD stated that he has made the election for during semester to be distributed across the postgraduate student body via e-gad. MB says that the block student postgraduates are only on campus for one week each month and that should have been considered.

MB asked why the Indigenous Equity officer was at wine and cheese, MB stated they were at a Redfern meeting discussing the student building going over Indigenous land, stating that it was a meeting that was important for the Indigenous students, especially given that in this building there is no accommodation available for indigenous students. CD says he had compulsory classes during that meeting and had not been invited. Mariam Mohammed(MM) made comment that at the cultural competency training Margaret Kirkby (MK) claimed MB had been the most productive Indigenous equity officer, ever. Melanie Stevenson (MS) called point of order on relevance for this discussion about CDs report.

Motion[170317-07]: To accept the Indigenous officers report

Moved: Nick Avery **Seconded:** Rachel Evans

Carried (3 abstentions Dhuval Shukla, Kiriti Mortha, Mariam Mohammed)

Ratified by council 17 April 2017

Rachel Evans calls Connor to talk to those groups and present a report to council. MB says that he should be talking to the equity group, not the white councillors

Motion[170317-08]: That council requests the Indigenous Equity officer to speak with the group concerning the Redfern building and to report back to the equity.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded** Nick Avery
Carried (2 abstention MM AS)

CD stated that the email is a way for indigenous students to email him and that he is currently locked from FaceBook page with MB retaining the access.

Kiriti Mortha (KM) stated he would take offence if Dhaval Sanath Shukla (DS) expected him to contact him as international officer.

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Gareth Charles

Gareth Charles (GC) requests that he submit his next report at Management Committee. DS has issue with the how this late again and it is unfair on the other councillors. MB says that it is unacceptable for it to be sent to management committee and should be presented here.

Nicholas Avery (NA) says that we should have an acceptable policy to adjust expectations for people requiring assistance. DS says this is the 8th time in a row that the disability officer has failed to submit a report.

MM says that portfolio has had many problems, the council should never interfere with autonomy but should nudge it in the right direction adding that officers should submit reports in reasonable time for people to be able to attend a meeting that runs to an appropriate time. MB reflects what MM says, states that GC is a political appointment with another secrete worker behind the scenes and that he hasn't submitted a report for weeks.

MK as SSAO states all officers have the responsivity to submit reports and we campaign for assisted rights on campus and should be proactive in engaging people with needs to understand what adjustments are required for them to complete their roles.

MS says this is an ongoing issue and shouldn't be happening, officers are required to let the council and their portfolio know what is going on. MS added that there is a responsibility to council for reports to be in on time to allow council to run efficiently

Lily Matchett says they will work with MK and GC to implement supports to ensure reports are done in a timely fassion.

Motion[170317-09]: That the president sets up a support plan to help the Disability Officer with future reports and that they submit a report management committee ASAP.

Moved Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Melanie Stevenson
3 Abstentions (Dhuval Shukla, Gareth Charles, Mariam Mohammed)
Carried

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Ratified by council 17 April 2017

Dhaval Sanath Shukla

MB draws note to the inquorate EGM where a local elder gave the welcome and RE interrupted him; they stated a Canadian international student wrote the international officer regarding a complaint. DS has said to the student that grievance should be sent to the presidents. MB asked why the email wasn't forwarded given DS was the students representative. DS is unsure as to where the email has ended up and thinks he would have included the president

Motion[170317-10]: That council accept the International officers report.

Moved: Karen Cochrane **Seconded:** Kiriti Mortha

Carried (1 abstention Dhaval Shukla)

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans

Oliver Moore

4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Mariam Mohammed (February and March reports included)

This is MMs last report, she is leaving because the racial exclusion on council is taxing.

Included are the words MM read to council

"The next Women's report will come from a new women's officer. The last day of March will be my last day as SUPRA women's officer. And I want to make sure that this Council and my equity officially know that I am not leaving because this work is taxing. I am leaving because racial exclusion is taxing. If that makes you shift in your seat r break eye contact with me then perhaps that is because you know it comes from a place of truth.

This term is normally 12 months long. I would put in the job description- 12 months if you're a white woman, 6 if you're a WOC. Because the emotional labour that goes into constantly fighting back to ensure a space for women like myself is maintained, that our voices are heard means a woc in this position will be worn out faster than their white counterparts. Because we fight back, don't we. When we come across a person who is vocal about our unconscious racial bias – they make us question what we so staunchly stand for. So we fight back. But in that fight, this space has completely missed on practising solution oriented leadership.

This Council has let me down. As it has let Forough Ghanizadeh down. As it has let Fatima Rauf down. I have been spoken over, yelled at, had someone bang my table to display their annoyance with me, people have taken credit for my ideas/work, and I've been asked to apologise for calling out the most threateningly racist person I have ever come across in my life.

This space is governed by a “safe” space policy that is only invoked to exercise the privileged protection of the majority. But it has continually failed in providing woc a safe space, a voice, and a racially inclusive environment. I'm not leaving because woc don't deserve better because we do. I'm leaving, like the woc before me have because this Council is NOT an inclusive environment and has absolutely terrible leadership skills to address those needs."

Motion[170317-11]: That council accepts the Women Officers reports.

Moved: Karen Cochrane **Seconded:** Melanie Stevenson

Carried

Ratified by council 17 April 2017

Motion[170317-12]: That council thank Mariam Mohammed for all the good work she has done whilst on council and to congratulate her on the successful setting up the survival network.

Moved:

Kiriti Mortha

Seconded:

Oliver Moore

Carried

4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Elizabeth Millar

Joshua Preece

Report of Joshua Preece to be sent to management committee.

4.3. Business Arising from officer reports

4.3.1. PRESIDENT QUESTION TIME

4.3.2. ACTION SCHEDULE UPDATE

4.3.3. MOTIONS FROM REPORTS

4.3.4. OTHER BUSINESS FROM REPORTS

★ 5. Postgraduate issues

5.1. 12 Week Semesters

KC presented the details of the universities suggested new semester dates. AS says that dates are to be changed to extend the winter break to allow students the opportunity to participate in overseas exchange programs. Many questions have been asked with no concrete answers being given. AS wants to know councils point of view to generate an argument for academic board.

MM asks if they are going to charge less; if not that equals students are missing out on teaching, adding that not all summer internships apply to everybody, a very niche reason to affect many 1000s of student. KC says Registrar stated he had conducted many consultations but was unable to provide details to how these had been conducted, he says that fees will not be reduced and is keen to push this through.

KM is sceptical as to whether this all it is, if study abroad students and internships are the real reason what are the numbers of student that do this, assuming this to be a small proportion of the student body. KM asks when will this decision be made and how can be stop it from being implemented.

KC says that the registrar was pulling numbers from his head when questioned, none of this information was written down, he wants to align Sydney similarly to the USA and EU school semester to line up conferences and talks. AS stays the university aims to have by 2020 most student cohort going overseas for wider experiences, they stated time to stop the semester reduction is reducing, coming to academic board next then to senate, SUPRA already trying to push academic board members to vote in favour of students.

Eila Douglass (ED) is concerned about how the changes effect staff and how it will increase numbers of casual staff that will have reduced hours and be worked to the bone. MM raised issues of students with disabilities – 13 weeks is hard to manage already to condense may be alright for some but some will fail to cope with the workload. AS stated that staff are panicking about still having to maintain workload on the reduced semester. MM adding that if time is short we should delegate to councillors to speak with faculty. MB said they are a post-grad member on the law

facility board, AS says they are going through the list of academic board members to act fast with the people that actually have a vote

RE suggests that SUPRA should contact other groups and to have a statement to generate support and have a coherent action, they are questioning if this is a sneaky move to a trimester system.

Discussion lead to availabilities for a meeting and tactics for the most appropriate approach.

Motion[170317-13]: That council agrees that SUPRA is against the 12 week semester

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Karen Cochrane

Carried

5.2. Report from CAPA

Report included in the council pack.

Motion[170317-14]: To address items in order 6.0, 8.0, 13.0 and 19.0 before returning to 7.0

Moved: Connor Duncan

Carried

Discussion moved to item 6.0

6. Verbal report from staff member

MK has been unable to receive reports from each department, although has general comments. Admin have been through the production of publications for O-week and resources surrounding the start of the year and have been able to move forward on the elections earlier than last year. SAAO number of complicated cases has increased, with overall number remaining steady. Planning for a planning day is under way, little bit of a break from end of year is welcome, allowing team to catch up on work.

Motion[170317-15]: That council accept the verbal report of Margaret Kirkby and that council thank her and all the SUPRA staff for their work.

Moved: Connor Duncan **Seconded:** Oliver Moore

Carried

Discussion moved to item 8.0

7. Motion by circulation results

Noted below is the motion by circulation results:

Motion: SUPRA council approves the recommendation made by returning officer.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib Seconded: Karen Cochrane

16 Yay 2 Nay 1 Abstention

Motion has been passed.

This motion was passed based on the Returning Officer recommendations included with the motion:

BACKGROUND

In the past, SUPRA election rules have had the effect of not allowing anyone who becomes a SUPRA member after the close of nominations to vote in the election. I have been informed that several years ago the SUPRA council came to the conclusion that in an effort to increase participation in SUPRA these rules should be changed to allow anyone who registers up to the close of voting to participate in the election for that year.

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RECOMMENDATION

An effort to amend the rules took place in 2015. One remnant of the older regulations was however overlooked. In particular the following from section 9 of the electoral regulations:

9.02: Distribution of Ballots & Electronic Notification

...

1. a) eligible voters must be SUPRA Members by the close of nominations;

...

In last years election, when I became Returning Officer, I interpreted this rule, in conjunction with the constitution to mean that only members who had become members before the close of nominations could be eligible voters, and therefore have ballots issued to them.

If the wish of the council is still to increase participation and encourage members to sign up then I recommend that the council amend the Electoral regulations in regards to this specific section before this year's general election to avoid the confusion and disputes that arose as a result of this rule last year.

I would recommend section 9 changes be made. In particular:

09.02 Distribution of Ballots & Electronic Notification

...

1.a) eligible voters must be SUPRA Members prior to the close of polling;

...

1.e)any person eligible for membership of SUPRA who becomes a member prior to the close of polling in a General Election shall be eligible to receive a ballot in that election;

1.f)Postal ballots shall only be distributed to eligible voters who have that status at the time postal ballots are issued.

The full section with changes is in the attached document.

8. SUPRA Finances

8.1. Auditors Report

John Fell (JF) said the report should have been approved already this has been approved by finance officer and presidents. Already in the third month since, so little council can do to .

Motion[170317-16]: That council accept the auditor's report of financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

Moved: Kevin Dong **Seconded:** Dhuval Skula

Carried

Motion[170317-17]: To thank John Fell for his continued hard work at SUPRA.

Moved: Karen Cochrane **Seconded:** Oliver Moore

Carried

12. Sydney University's Continuing Education Team Leaders Course: Essential Skills

Motion[170317-25]: That council pay \$456 for Lily Matchett to addend the Sydney University's Continuing Education Team Leaders Course: Essential Skills.

Moved: Lily Matchett

Seconded: Cameron Nottingham

Carried

13. Action regarding Co-Op bookshop

Daniel the general secretary from SRC here to call to action. Co-Op functions as one of the largest co-operatives in the nation, up until the 90s the board was run by academics and students, after stacking a few meetings the co-op has been controlled by a select few. Illegality around hosting AGMs and giving notice of meetings.

Next AGM is to be hosted on the central coast, SRC is going to organise a bus to take as many people to the AGM to generate change. Calling for help for people to attend and to support.

MS official proxy form and when to be submitted, 31st March the last date to submit,

Motion[170317-18]: To thank Daniel of the SRC

Moved: Karen Cochrane

Seconded: Oliver Moore

Carried

Motion[170317-19]: That council endorses SUPRA to join the SRCs initiative to reclaim the co-op

Moved: Kiriti Mortha

Seconded: Connor Duncan

Carried

Discussion moved to item 19.0

14. International Equity officer Recognition

15. Postgraduate student appointment to the Student Appeals Panel

Students can nominate to be on the academic appeals panel, many appeals often don't have a student peers.

We must appoint a Postgraduate Student to the Student Appeals Panel and this is an opportunity for people to nominate for this position from the floor as we must appoint someone by Friday March 17. The Student Appeals Panel stated "*I am seeking your recommendations for postgraduate students to be appointed as members of the Student Appeals Panel. The Student Appeals Panel is established under the University of Sydney (Student Appeals against Academic Decisions) Rule 2006 (as amended). Nominees should be familiar with the appeals process and associated policies and be aware of the confidential nature of appeals. Nominees should also be committed to academic excellence, fair decision making and supportive of student welfare. Meetings of the Student Appeals Body (comprised of members of the Student Appeals Panel) are scheduled on a regular basis throughout the year and all members of the panel will be expected to attend at least four meetings per year.*"

Consensus of the council was to nominate Karen Cochrane as the representative.

16. Westmead Precinct Welcome Event

Details of the event have been circulated to council. The event is targeting postgraduate students at the Westmead Campus. HDR, Nursing, Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine. Expecting 150+

Ratified by council 17 April 2017

students attend. Requesting support for catering [See attached letter/budget]. In the past SUPRA has gone to this event and promoted SUPRA.

RE said that as a satellite campus event, this expenditure should come out of that budget. MS would like to ensure to have people there and to ensure students there become members. MK reminded us that it is often hard for students to get away from that campus and difficulty to get to these meetings; massive amount of isolation amongst them, it is good to support them and ensure that a community can exist amongst them.

Motion[170317-26]: To provide \$500 for the Westmead Precinct Welcome Event to be held on the 22nd March

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Kiriti Mortha
Carried

17. SCA Update

ED updated council, they are still campaigning for the campus, engaged in O-day based events, with some success as the campus will remain for an additional year. Structure of campus is changing as is the structure of teaching, with staff required to quit and reapply for jobs under new titles within the new faculty. ED wishes to thank SUPRA for their support and various contributions of resources.

There had been slight over expenditure from the O-week budget that had currently come from a student's pocket, so are hopeful to be reimbursed for the expenditure.

Motion[170317-27]: That SUPRA pay \$68 to reimburse SCA students for expenditure over the budget allocated O-week budget.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Dhuval Shukla
Carried

18. Postgraduate Ball

Motion[170317-28]: That Council approve expenditure of \$4000 for the postgraduate ball

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Cameron Nottingham
Carried.

19. Conference Sponsorship: World Conference of Public Health

Michael Wu (MW) spoke of the conference and opportunities it will provide. As a global conference it is often hosted across many locations a rare opportunity to attend in Melbourne. KM says MW should approach Adrian at supra first. OM says that faculty money should have been applied for a while ago to have any chance of receiving it in a timely fashion. AN said their is difficulty to get funding from faculty, and SUPRA should reward community based activities

Motion[170317-19]: That SUPRA sponsor up to \$385 for Michael Wu to attend the Conference of Public Health. With a report to be made to post-graduate students and to have an article written in Honi Soit, to give report to environment committee and to be available for equity.

Moved: Connor Duncan **Seconded:** Oliver Moore
Carried (2 Abstention, 3 Nay Mariam Mohammed)

Motion[170317-20]: SUPRA officers to investigate the available funds for conferences from faculty to be reported back to council and to be made public. For VPs to laisse with SAAOs.

Moved: Kiriti Mortha **Seconded:** Karen Cochrane

Carried

KM says money from student union is for supra to function. Dipping in to our pockets to fund others going to conferences. MM suggests to have policy of sponsoring events, how are we gaging sponsorships. AS thanked our college, saying he can leave now; they said that items that have been budgeted are for CAPA and CISA events. They reiterated the importance of giving money to societies that are not supported by USU. USU supported societies are predominantly undergraduate and on Sydney main campus.

OM said information on faculty conference scholarships are difficult to come by, the research support scheme is due to change and what information we get will be out of date relatively quickly. KC will have action item to follow up with the head SAAO. MK suggested a process of application especially where there is individual benefit over collective benefit.

Discussion moved to item 7.0

20. Other Business

20.1. Next Council meeting

Change of date to 12th of April (Due to feast of the Passover)
Council agrees.

20.2. Elections of staff members to University Senate

Oliver informed council of the items sent out for nominations, post-graduates that are employed by the university are welcome to run for election.

20.3. Wentworth must fall campaign

Update by NA: to change name of the Wentworth building. Campaign has gathered support, has been endorsed at man com and is getting numbers, 300-400 people already signed, to present at university senate. Timeframe for change is 1 to 3 years (when the building is due for demolition).

20.4. Disability portfolio

Issues have been flagged in the disability portfolio, these have been identified and early steps have been made to start working towards correction. DS wants an update on the arrangements of the portfolio. RE said these are issues for the presidents outside of council particularly help with the equity officer election

20.5. Feelings of racism in council

The co-president wants input about making this space more inclusive, to take serious action against this and have serious discussion

20.6. Filming of meeting

GC was told by MB that they had been filming the earlier stages of the meeting, he is questioning the legality of such a thing. MK says he most likely can film due this being a public space. GC says this is part of MB being a persistent bully and that he doesn't belong on council, GC says that if you have people intimidating other people how can expect people to contribute to these meetings. Something has to done. The presidents agreed and committed to speaking with GC after council.

Meeting closed at 2117.