Election Statements

Ticket Statements

POSTGRAD ACTION
Team Health
IMPACT
Change

Candidate Statements

DUNCAN, Connor (Team Health)
VAUGHAN, Michael
WILLIAMS, Jake
SEECHER, Nicole (Team Health)
BASSETT, Sam (Team Health)
JOHNSON, Bec (Change)
AVERY, Nic (POSTGRAD ACTION)
SHU, Yang Yang (Change)
HUANG, Olivia
EVANS, Rachel (POSTGRAD ACTION)
BARKER, Seamus (Change)
CHARLES, Gareth (POSTGRAD ACTION)
PISARSKI, Konrad
ZHANG, Jessie (Team Health)
HARDING-EASSON, John
NIXON, Alexandra
PINKERTON, Todd
COCHRANE, Karen
D'SOUZA, Kenneth (Team Health)
GAVRANOVIC, Doris (Team Health)
SHEN, Jacson (Team Health)
UMBOH, Lucy (Change)
MOHAMMED, Mariam (Change)
CHEN, Lei
MORTH, Kiriti (Change)
HASHMI, Zushan (Change)
BUTLER, Mike (Change)
PARKER, Dylan
LEE, Casey
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MANOS, Aspasia
FREDMAN, Samantha (Team Health)
BASHIRZADEH, Toktam (Change)
LOVETT, Dean (IMPACT)
REZA PAUL, Manisha (Change)
ABOAGYE, Kaiya (Change)
HALDEN, Aleasha (Team Health)
GUIBORD, Alex (Change)
MOHSENI, Pedram
NOTTINGHAM, Cameron (Team Health)
YOUNUS, Mohammed (Team Health)
VINWYNN, Eila (POSTGRAD ACTION)
COOK, Patrick (Team Health)
ROMYCO, Irvin (Change)
STEVENSON, Melanie (Team Health)
DONG, Luoning (Change)
DRACAKIS, Jocelyn
EASSEY, Daniela (IMPACT)
DU, Jonathan (IMPACT)

Ticket Statements

POSTGRAD ACTION

Progressive and left, fighting for our community.

We stand for free, quality education.

Education is a right, not a privilege. We oppose the corporatisation of the University, particularly fee deregulation which discriminates against students from lower SES backgrounds; we stand with teachers and staff in the NTEU and CPSU; we are against the economic exploitation of international students; and we are opposed to gutting and moving the SCA.

We stand for an end to discrimination on campus.

Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism are devastating, divisive and must be abolished. We are working to end rape on campus by putting survivors’ needs first and call on the University to strike out their pride in genocide. We are for free childcare, radically improving campus accessibility, the fight against LGBTQIA+ discrimination, and support all Muslim students against racism.

We stand for a sustainable campus.

We call upon the University to divest from fossil fuels and move to 100% renewable energy, and to extricate itself from complicity in the dispossession of Aboriginal lands.

We stand for our community.

We demand student control over student affairs and we support student collectives that prove that grassroots action achieves social, environmental and economic justice.
Team Health

As medical students, we mediCARE about postgrads and are committed to advocating for the interests of all postgrads, and enacting policies that will keep you healthy now, and into the future. Health is determined by a variety of factors, including physical health, mental health, access to education, and having a supportive social network. Therefore, we stand for the continued funding of CAPS (Counselling and Psychological Services), increasing the diversity of our student network, and campaigns such as the Rainbow Campus, End Rape on Campus as well as free accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and paid leave for victims of domestic violence. We also stand against the decrease of semester length without a relative decrease in student fees, and the cuts to the visual arts courses at the SCA which contribute to a vibrant society.

We support providing postgrads with a variety of free social events to bring us all together in order to fight against social isolation. We will ensure that these events are held across all of USyd’s campuses because we know that many postgrads carry out their research, and attend classes, at satellite campuses.

If you’re passionate about keeping postgrads healthy, vote Team Health!

IMPACT

A group of independent students, IMPACT for SUPRA will shake things up on council. We’re research and coursework students, off-campus, full-time or part-time workers. Like you, our experiences and backgrounds are varied and so are our needs.

If elected, we’ll bring:

• Improved services – We’ll spend the $1.4mil of the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSA) on exactly that, SERVICES.
• Accessibility – Regardless of background, experience, study load, location, or time commitment, all students should have access to SUPRA council and participate in the decision making process. We’re listening, we’re your voice.
• Outreach – More people should know about and access the SUPRA services they pay for. Our candidates have experience in running inclusive events and campaigns to reach out to students.
• Advocacy – We’ll continue to represent postgraduate student interests through advocacy and activism, while also providing support through legal and advisory services.
• Transparency – Council should be accountable to students and make its finances available to its constituents.
• Reform – We’re for constitutional reform so that international students have more representation and positions are filled by only elected candidates.

Our ticket will CHANGE how SUPRA interacts with postgraduate students. We’re not politicians, we’re hard working students, and that’s our focus – you.
Change

SUPRA is a $1.4 million Association funded by all PG students. While it offers reliable advocacy and legal services to students, its real potential is utterly untapped!

Our 8 woman and 7 male candidates are international, domestic; research, coursework; queer, straight and represent different cultures and faiths across all faculties. While each of us has different experiences in community service, we stand together to CHANGE SUPRA and make an IMPACT!

Until now, the leadership of SUPRA has been dominated by one group of students who focus on issues that feed into the wider narrative of society; this comes at the cost of ignoring the very people that fund SUPRA. We will CHANGE this and realign SUPRA towards issues that directly face the entire student body and not prioritise the privileged few. How we’ll CHANGE things,

- Increase engagement with ALL students across ALL campuses, to ascertain priorities and issues
- Make University safe for everyone
- Effective communication with all stakeholders, so nothing ‘falls through the cracks’
- Strong lobbying for reforms that suit PG students (study spaces, affordable housing, course structures, conferences, etc.)
- Social events that engender a culture that is inclusive, exciting and forever memorable!
- Reforming governance to be efficient, accountable & transparent

Candidate Statements

Connor Duncan (Team Health)

No personal statement received.
Michael Vaughan

I am in my second year of a PhD in Government and International Relations. I’ve been involved in different student organisations for the (too many..) years that I’ve been a student at Sydney University and hope SUPRA is as active and effective as possible into the future. The student issues that I think deserve advocacy are:

- Resourcing – like the lack of desk space for research students (there aren’t even enough lockers in the hot-desking space for all of us using it!)
- Curriculum – the training and research tools HDR student need are changing, in particular with a greater focus on digital methods and programming-intensive software.
- Equity – making sure that SUPRA continues to advocate for support services which target HDR students likely to drop out because of circumstances outside their control.

As an NTEU member I’m also keen to see SUPRA support the union’s work on bargaining and broader issues of casualization.

Lastly I believe student organisations should engage with wider debates – first and foremost higher education policy but also other issues which impact students. SUPRA should continue engaging with those debates under progressive values of economic justice, social justice and environmental sustainability.

Jake Williams

No personal statement received.

Nicole Seebacher (Team Health)

No personal statement received.

Sam Bassett (Team Health)

No personal statement received.

Bec Johnson (Change)

Bec has been a dedicated Councillor of SUPRA since she was elected. Her commitment to better representation of student voice has been tireless and is the focus of her Masters Research thesis in Communications. She developed the pilot project, DIRECT VOICE, that will enable HDR students to express their opinion into elite University Executive decision making forums.

- Elected Councillor on SUPRA 2016/2017
- Elected Postgrad Student Member of Faculty - FASS (Arts & Social Sciences)
• Member Faculty Board of FASS
• Member University Executive Committee, Research & Education
• Founder of the PG networking social club “Soapbox.”

Bec represents positive CHANGE for SUPRA.

Nic Avery  (POSTGRAD ACTION)

I'm Nic Avery, an activist studying political economy and the current co-Vice President of SUPRA, where I work to ensure our policies are effective in advocating for student rights.

I’m left, I’m a feminist and I’m anti-racist. I stand with the Women’s Collective in the fight to end rape on campus, and with Students Support Aboriginal Communities to decolonise the University.

I am running with Postgrad Action, progressive students who advocate for free education; the end to discrimination on campus; divestment from fossil fuels; and building our community.

If re-elected, I will continue combat the corporatisation of the University.

Yang Yang Shu  (Change)

Coming from a background in business & now studying law, I have a solid grounding in executing goals & objectives. My legal education allows me to examine what is happening within the wider society & what is important for a diverse university community. I will stand to represent the rights & interests of ALL postgraduate students at this university.

Olivia Huang

I studied at the University of Sydney previously as an undergraduate student. I chose to return to the University of Sydney as I enjoyed my pervious experiences here. The University is filled with inspiring academics, motivated students and wonderful facilities.

By joining the SUPRA council, I wish to contribute to the wellbeing of postgraduate students at the University. Some of the activities I am interested in would be to organise social events for different students from the different faculties to join. Also, I hope to contribute to obtaining more sponsorship for the association from industry.

As a Chinese Australian, I find that the large numbers of Chinese international students in the business faculty enjoy speaking with me. Perhaps, SUPRA can assist in some ways towards enriching the student experiences of those students and I can contribute to that.

Ultimately, joining the SUPRA council would be a worthwhile experience.
Rachel Evans  (POSTGRAD ACTION)

Hi! I’m Rachel Evans and studying Masters of Research in Indigenous resistance. I’ve been the SUPRA Queer Officer-bearer in 2015-2016 and am the co-education officer bearer.

I’ve helped with various campaigns: Save SCA, the Rainbow Campus campaign, stop rape culture, Aboriginal rights battles (Wentworth Must Fall) and battles to stop staff cuts. I’m a Socialist Alliance member and active in the fight for marriage equality, for refugee and Aboriginal rights. I’m with the Postgraduate Action (PGA) ticket who stand against the corporate university.

If re-elected I aim to advance student empowerment and campaigns that request SUPRA’s help.

Seamus Barker  (Change)

Seamus Barker is a PhD candidate in the Dept of Sociology and Social Policy. While appreciative of the diverse needs of all postgraduate students, he will represent the HDRs and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, both of which are significantly underrepresented at SUPRA. In representing postgraduate students, Seamus will prioritise: ongoing engagement with the postgraduate student body – to establish students’ real concerns and priorities; establishing effective communication networks linking students to each other, and students to services and activities provided by SUPRA; establishing a significant postgraduate student space, as a sorely needed site for fostering community amongst postgraduates.

Gareth Charles  (POSTGRAD ACTION)

My name is Gareth Charles, I am studying a Master of Economics and am the current Disability Equity Officer at SUPRA. I have 3 years experience on Council and am keen to continue my work advocating for the rights of students and in particular the rights of students with a disability. I am running with POSTGRAD ACTION, a coalition of progressive left students who advocate for free quality education, for the end to discrimination on campus, divestment from fossil fuels, and for building the postgrad community. As a councillor I will continue to support the save the SCA campaign.

Konrad Pisarski

Hello! I’m Konrad and I am in my final year of the USYD JD. Previously I was also enrolled in the USYD MPH by external study (2015). I shall keep this brief: I am all about listening, hearing and learning the concerns of the postgrad community.
I want to engage with all groups be they International, domestic, on campus, external, research, coursework, or any other. I want to represent you all!
Make Postgrad Great Again #MPGA

**Jessie Zhang (Team Health)**

No personal statement received.

**John Harding-Easson**

No personal statement received.

**Alexandra Nixon**

No personal statement received.

**Todd Pinkerton**

No personal statement received.

**Karen Cochrane**

Karen Cochrane is currently in her 2nd year of her PhD program in the School of Architecture, Design + Planning. She is also currently the National Public Relations Officer of the Council of International Students Australia and the co-VP of SUPRA. She has spent the last year advocating for HDR students and international students. She also has a passion for advocating for mental health. This year she has worked on projects such as Supervisor of the Year, HDR collective as well as assisted with other social events including meditation classes, wine and cheese and a few other social events. She also represents SUPRA on the academic standards and policy committee and along with the co-VP, has experience working on policy documents for SUPRA. Along with academic publications, Karen also runs the Design@Duck lecture series and runs the academic conference in the school.

**Kenneth D’Souza (Team Health)**

No personal statement received.
Doris Gavranovic (Team Health)

As a second-year medical student, I believe that focussing on the well-being of postgraduate students is extremely important. I think that SUPRA plays a critical role in this in a multitude of ways, whether its mental health, developing activism, or working through the daily stressors of a postgraduate degree. As co-secretary, I would help to make sure that meetings ran smoothly and that the society was organised enough to focus its time on the needs of its members. I hope to not only contribute to SUPRA in a positive way, but to also open my eyes to a variety of

Jacson Shen (Team Health)

No personal statement received.

Lucy Umboh (Change)

No personal statement provided.

Mariam Mohammed (Change)

I want to a truer representation of the diversity of our student body. In my time as SUPRA Women's Officer; I have launched Survivors Network, rebirthed the Postgraduate Women's Collective and significantly raised its participation rates and demographic. Now, I want SUPRA to demand that the University have a no tolerance policy for racism on campus, better complaints procedures that protect the victim and deliver stern consequences to perpetrators. I want SUPRA to foster relationships with student leaders of marginalised communities on campus in order to mobilise those groups. That is why I support [1] CHANGE and [2] IMPACT.

Lei Chen

My name is Lei Chen, a student of IT and IT management. As an international student, I have the same personal experiences of the various difficulties and inconveniences as all the international students. I strongly believe the university should provide a fair environment on campus despite nationality, gender, religion and belief. There should be a voice that will stand for international students.

It’s vital for international students to get the information about the activities and services from SUPRA and other departments. I will improve the SUPRA’s e-newsletter to promote more useful information and services specialized for international students, including visa, legal and advocacy service. Additionally, alumni are very important resources for all the students, especially for international students to build network. When I first arrived to Sydney, I received a massive range of useful advices and help from them, not only for
studying and daily life, but also for internship and travel. I will organize activities for current students to communicate and interactive with alumni.

To achieve what I want to do for all international postgraduate students and create positive changes, please cast your vote for me, Lei Chen, to serve SUPRA and make sure that SUPRA will address the

**Kiriti Mortha (Change)**

SUPRA needs CHANGE!

Postgraduate student issues are grossly under-represented at SUPRA for a variety of reasons. There is very poor communication and engagement of the constituents. The yawning gap between the executive and the constituents needs to be fixed!

If elected, I will work towards ensuring that all voices, including voices of dissent, the marginalized are well represented! It’s time for CHANGE the way things currently work and ensure we have a union that is capable of making an IMPACT in our lives!

**Zushan Hashmi (Change)**

No personal statement received.

**Mike Butler (Change)**

In 2014 I became the only independent Aboriginal councillor at SUPRA and since then I’ve gone on to become the most disliked person there.

This means I’m doing my job.

That’s because SUPRA is a nest of deal-making ideal-compromising student politicians more concerned about their own interests than representing students.

Where you’re indigenous or not, a fair and fearless Aboriginal voice on council that sticks up for those who deserve it (overseas students, the disadvantaged, my people, humanity in general…) and sticks it up the others is something that’s not only a good thing, quite frankly, it’s needed.

**Dylan Parker**

No personal statement received.
Casey Lee

I am firmly progressive and will help fight for the rights of every individual (regardless of race, gender & sexual orientation, disability of any other attribute). I believe that everyone should have the right to fairness & equality. It is not right that someone should be discriminated against for any reason!

Furthermore, I believe that the SUPRA council deserves a greater international student voice. Where there is significant international student body in the postgraduate community, the amount of international student representation is limited. I want to change this, by helping to represent the international community, and providing international students with a voice!

I truly hope to make a difference in Usyd and ask for your vote to turn this goal into a reality!

Gayatri Kotnala (IMPACT)

I want a more inclusive and accessible SUPRA for you. A Master of Management student, I work full-time, and study part-time at the CBD campus. I am an off-campus student with competing priorities who wants to see more students like myself represented on council. That's why I want to be your voice on a fairer, more accountable, more balanced council. I want our student services and amenities fee contribution to be spent on improved support, services, and outreach for all postgraduate students.

I will shake things up. I will make an IMPACT.

Tash Heenan (POSTGRAD ACTION)

My name is Tash Heenan and I am running for re-election as a SUPRA General Councillor to provide a voice for progressive intersectional feminist researchers on council. I am running with Postgrad Action (PGA), a coalition of students fighting against all forms of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism on campus. As a research student I know how isolating postgraduate study can be, and I would like to make research courses more social, so that HDR students can access support. As a member of the Postgraduate Women’s Collective I will focus on reforming the universities sexual assault reporting structures.

Aspasia Manos

I am a first-year medical student from Canada, and am requesting election to SUPRA Council. I bring a wealth of student leadership experience and passion in international student issues, which I am confident with help me to make meaningful contributions on council and advocate on behalf of student issues. Throughout my undergraduate degree, I represented science students for 2 years on the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) and the University Senate. Throughout this time, I built a strong track record in engaging with students to gather their opinions and collaborate with other student groups and administration to meet their needs. As SRA representative, I led a referendum for the successful
implementation of Google software on the student email server, in addition to lobbying on academic and student experience issues, quality of education, and campus accessibility to the board of directors and provincial bodies. As an international student myself, I am also optimally positioned and motivated to recognize and address the unique needs and barriers that international students experience, in addition to all post-graduate students. I firmly believe that this skill set, complemented with my welcoming disposition and strong work ethic make me qualified to push the SUPRA agenda forward in 2017/2018.

**Samantha Fredman** (Team Health)

I have been a councillor for SUPRA since October 2016 and would love the opportunity to continue working with such a diverse association for the advocacy of Post Graduate Student Issues. As current Vice Chair of GlobalHOME and a second year medical student, I believe that I am perfectly aligned to promote the interests of PostGrad’s—particularly in the field of health and well-being as well as Global Health and advocacy. I hope to bring to the council my experience, perspective and passion for advocacy to help improve PostGrad’s experience at the University of Sydney.

**Toktam Bashirzadeh** (Change)

Toktam believes in positive CHANGE for SUPRA

**Dean Lovett** (IMPACT)

I am running for council on a platform of transparency, honesty, accountability, and equal representation. I currently represent the Faculty of Pharmacy on academic board and student proctorial board, voicing student opinions and concerns. I am also a vehement advocate of equal rights for women and LGBTIQ students. On council I will prioritise student interests through consultation with advocacy groups, university governance, and student bodies. I am for increased responsibility on council and accessibility of services for all postgraduates.

I will shake things up. I will make an IMPACT.

**Manisha Reza Paul** (Change)

Like a lot of you, I have started my postgraduate studies this year. Being an international student and new to Sydney comes with a lot of challenges. If you are one of them, don’t be disheartened YOU ARE NOT ALONE. The reason I want to join SUPRA as a council member is mainly because I want to see CHANGE. There has to be more tailored support for postgrads to help with affordable accommodation, to find jobs during and after the degree and connect with like-minded people to support throughout this journey. I’ve been extremely passionate to help people and have
done so with various roles in the past. As part of a diverse group of people aiming for the same goal, I hope you help us BE THE CHANGE AND MAKE THE CHANGE HAPPEN!

Kaiya Aboagye (Change)

No personal statement provided.

Aleasha Halden (Team Health)

Hi guys, I’m Aleasha and I’m running to be one of your SUPRA Councillors. I’m a current first year medical student, and completed my undergrad at the University of Western Australia (UWA). I was on a heap of clubs and faculty societies during my undergrad, so I know what it takes to be a voice for students and to put their interests first. I pride myself on tackling everything with an open mind and unbiased approach. As such, I would love to be one of your SUPRA councillors.

VOTE 1 ALEASHA HALDEN FOR 2017-18 SUPRA COUNCILLOR
VOTE 1 TEAM HEALTH

Alex Guibord (Change)

Alex Guibord is running with a diverse ticket of progressive changemakers to improve community relations and fight for student equity.

Before beginning his legal studies at Sydney Law School, Alex worked as a digital communications consultant for Canadian politicians and consumer brands. He also holds a master’s degree in public relations from Sydney University.

If elected, Alex commits to working constructively with the Council to:

1. Reform SUPRA to make it more open, accountable and responsive to members.
2. Revamp SUPRA’s digital communications, online campaign resources and stakeholder outreach.
3. Launch industry-focused events, including networking opportunities, for postgraduate students.

Pedram Mohseni

No personal statement received.
Cameron Nottingham (Team Health)

G’day – I’m Cameron, one of SUPRAs current secretaries. For the last year I have strived as a progressive member of SUPRA council to address student issues on campus and to support activism within our wider community. I have made transparency a priority over the last 12 months, ensuing accurate records of council and executive meetings are available to all our members. In the coming term I will continue to fight for what matters to students: saying no to a twelve week semester, access to adequate postgraduate study spaces, safe spaces on campus and more social events for postgraduates.

Mohammed Younus (Team Health)

My name is Mohammed S Younus and I am running for the position of General Councillor. As a General Councillor I think I would be in a great position to play an active role in improving our university and ensure that we all have a very fulfilling experience. I have a lot of experience working with faculties and different student groups as I was actively involved in student society throughout my undergraduate degree where I held many different positions and won many student leadership awards.

Eila Vinwynn (POSTGRAD ACTION)

My name is Eila Vinwynn. Currently, as a Masters student at Sydney College of the Arts, I am engaged in its vibrant and threatened community, which is fighting hard to stay alive. This engagement has brought me into direct opposition with the university’s corporatizing policies. I have been centrally engaged in this campaign and was one of the students who took over the administration building to start the Occupation. I have been on Council since February and currently am the Director of Student Publications. I have become a vocal advocate for students and believe in a strong, proactive, vigorous Council.

Patrick Cook (Team Health)

No personal statement received.

Irvin Romyco (Change)

No personal statement received.
Melanie Stevenson  (Team Health)

I am running to be a SUPRA councillor as I want to make a difference to postgraduate students. I have been a SUPRA councillor since March 2016 and the Co-Secretary of SUPRA in 2016-2017. I have been active within the social sphere of SUPRA, as well as within the equity groups that I identify with. As a medical student, I see firsthand the impacts of stress on mental health and better services for students, including expanded access to bulk billing services is something I would advocate for if successful.

Luoning Dong  (Change)

Hi,
I am Luoning. I want to run with our ticket “CHANGE”.
I am a first semester postgraduate student major in professional accounting.
I know how hard it is when international student deal with everything without representatives and support. I want to help people out and be a listener and problem solver for this community. So, I can do something to let more students know there is a great platform for them right here right now and find their “families” on campus.
I can help SUPRA in finance area. I will do my best to solve financial problems.

Thanks

Jocelyn Dracakis

Hi there! I’m Jocelyn, a Masters of Public Health student! I’m keen to get involved in SUPRA to contribute to an active and supportive representative body, and indeed community, for postgrads.

I want to ensure SUPRA effectively engages students from all backgrounds in its social and advocacy activities, and allocates SSAF funding and resources fairly to deliver positive benefits for all postgrad students, especially to support those most disadvantaged.

I’m committed to lobbying for equity in access to education and the best quality learning experience, such as by opposing university funding cuts, staff & course cuts, as well as through advocacy campaigns for marginalised students such as fighting for the Uni to take action on campus sexual assault & harassment.

I’ve spent years standing up for students in my roles as Women’s Officer of the UNSW SRC and for the National Union of Students in NSW, by establishing a Women in STEMM Network, as a student leader on various C&S Execs, and now on the Staff-Student Liaison committee for the USyd School of Public Health, affording me the necessary skills and experience to be a fantastic councillor on SUPRA!

Daniela Eassey  (IMPACT)
I am a HDR student in the Faculty of Pharmacy, excited about improving student experience. I am involved in the Intern Training Program course advisory committee where I represent the views and concerns of my peers. As a HDR student representative, I also organise events and activities in order to increase student involvement. Adept at liaising between professional and academic staff, students, and external stakeholders, I am ready to be the voice of HDR students in on SUPRA Council.

I will shake things up. I will make an IMPACT.

Jonathan Du (IMPACT)

Currently a HDR Student Representative in the Faculty of Pharmacy, I am keen to engage more research and coursework student in postgraduate student action. While carrying out my student representative duties over the past year, I noticed many postgraduate research students are unaware of SUPRA, which provides critical advice and assistance services to students. Together with the IMPACT team, I hope to increase postgraduate outreach. I want to foster a sense of community among the postgraduate students, with SUPRA as a focal point.

I will shake things up. I will make an IMPACT.