



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN SYDNEY NANOSCIENCE HUB SEMINAR ROOM 4001 ON THE 12TH OF JULY 2017 AT 6PM

Chair: Kiriti Mortha

Minutes: Nic Avery

Attendance: Mariam Mohammed; Kiriti Mortha; Nic Avery; Rachel Evans; Gareth Charles (*left 7:51pm*); Dean Lovett; Jocelyn Dracakis; Natasha Heenan; Zushan Hashmi (*arrived 6:05pm*); Samay Sabharwal (*arrived 6:06pm*); Mohammed Younus (*arrived 6:06pm, left 7:30pm*); Marguerite Biasatti.

Staff: Margaret Kirkby

Guests: None

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

Kiriti Mortha (K.M.) opened the meeting at 6:07pm, with an acknowledgement of country.

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

Jennifer Nicholson

Mike Butler

Oliver Moore

Natasha Chaudhary

Luoning Dong

Karen Cochrane

Rebecca Johnson

Cameron Nottingham

Ratified by Council 10/08/17.

Daniella Eassey
Manisha Reza Paul
Cathy Eatock
Gayatri Kotnala
Melanie Stevenson
Patrick Cook

2.2. Proxies

Oliver Moore proxies to Nic Avery

Natasha Chaudhary proxies to Mariam Mohammed (1st, Gayatri Kotnala 2nd, Cathy Eatock 3rd)

Mike Butler proxies to Cathy Eatock (1st, Samay Sabharwal 2nd, Gayatri Kotnala 3rd)

Karen Cochrane proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Rachel Evans 2nd, and Gareth Charles 3rd)

Rebecca Johnson proxies to Samay Sabharwal (1st, Mariam Mohammed 2nd, Manisha Reza Paul 3rd, and Kiriti Mortha 4th)

Cameron Nottingham proxies to Mohammed Younus (1st, Nic Avery 2nd, Rachel Evans 3rd)

Daniella Eassey proxies to Dean Lovett

Luoning Dong proxies to Zushan Hashmi

Manisha Reza Paul proxies to Zushan Hashmi (1st, Jocelyn Dracakis 2nd)

Cathy Eatock proxies to Mariam Mohammed

Melanie Stevenson proxies to Mohammed Younus

Gayatri Kotnala proxies to Dean Lovett (1st, Mariam Mohammed 2nd, Kiriti Mortha 3rd)

Patrick Cook proxies to Mohammed Younus.

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Recommendation: That council approves all unstarred items.

Items 2.4 Resignations and 3 Minutes and Reports of Meetings were both starred for discussion.



2.4. Resignations

2.4.1 Connor Duncan resigns his position to Jessie Zhang.

2.4.2 Michael Vaughn resigns his position to Jocelyn Dracakis.

Motion [170712-01]: To accept both resignations, and Connor Duncan's on the basis that Jessie Zhang provides written consent to the Secretary or the Presidents.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Dean Lovett

Carried.

There was a discussion on the appropriate time to hear about reports. K.M. stated that the Presidents did submit their report to Oliver late, but it has not been circulated. K.M. asked Council if we defer

approving all Office Bearer reports until the next Management Committee. Rachel Evans (R.E.) expressed the desire to speak to her report. Gareth Charles (G.C.) expressed the desire to hear all reports tonight at Council, especially the President and Vice President reports. From here, the meeting moved on to item 3.

★ 3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF SUPRA COUNCIL, 13TH JUNE 2017

Mariam Mohammed (M.M.) expressed that the word “predatory” found in the discussion of item 6 in the previous Council meeting should be removed from the minutes as she considered it inappropriate for minutes. G.C. questioned whether we should remove it from the minutes, or rather whether it would be better to ask Cameron Nottingham to retract the comment, or whether this conversation should be deferred to the Secretary, Oliver Moore. M.M. argued that ideally people should be asked to withdraw inappropriate comments at the meeting, but that regardless it should be withdrawn from the minutes now. Nic Avery (N.A.) argued for leaving the word “predatory” in the minutes as he considered it to be an accurate reflection of the intended meaning of the speaker. Margaret Kirkby (M.K.) states that it would be a good idea for Council to seek training in minute taking, and that better protocols would avoid this kind of discussion regarding minutes. K.M. noted that discussion of seeking out minute training for Council is underway. Dean Lovett (D.L.) agreed with M.K., and mentioned that Matthew Charet from Graduate Studies Committee is a very good minute taker and might be someone we can seek out for advice on the topic. G.C. noted that we could have an action point where the President or someone else could clarify with the person concerned (Cameron Nottingham) whether or not they should have used different language in the previous meeting. G.C. also further noted that there should be another amendment to the previous meeting, where it should be clear that when Cameron Nottingham said “as minutes can be corrupted easily” that he was being sarcastic, or ironic. G.C. noted that at present the minutes reflect this comment as being literal, which he deems was clearly not the case. G.C. also commented that it is desirable that minutes should be as accurate as possible. Jocelyn Dracakis (J.D.) agreed with M.K. and D.L. in regards to establishing standards around minute taking. J.D. further commented that on the point that M.M. raised regarding the word “predatory”, J.D. noted that this language is inappropriate for minutes and should be removed.

Motion [170712-02]: To remove the whole sentence “C.N. stated Mike’s behaviour was predatory and intimidatory and shows he is misogynistic.” from the previous Council’s minutes.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Samay Sabharwal

Carried.

Gareth Charles voted against (with proxies), Rachel Evans voted against (with proxies), Nic Avery voted against (with proxies).

G.C. stated that he would like it noted that inappropriate language or language that is claimed to be inappropriate should not be removed if it was an accurate rendering of what was said and what was said was not swear words, or the like.

Motion [170712-03]: To approve the minutes as amended of the previous Council meeting.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Zushan Hashmi

Carried.

Gareth Charles voted against.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Motion [170712-04]: For the meeting to move to items 6 through 15.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:**

Carried.

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

★ 4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Kiriti Mortha *[report not submitted]*

Mariam Mohammed *[report not submitted]*

Ahmed bin Suhaib *[report not submitted]*

Lily Matchett *[report not submitted]*

★ 4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Gayatri Kotnala *[report not submitted]*

Nic Avery

Karen Cochrane *[report not submitted]*

★ 4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Rachel Evans *[report submitted late]*

★ 4.1.4. TREASURER

Luoning Dong *[report not submitted]*

Kevin Dong *[report not submitted]*

★ 4.1.5. SECRETARY

Oliver Moore

Cameron Nottingham *[report not submitted]*

Melanie Stevenson *[report not submitted]*

★ 4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Zushan Ahmad Hashmi *[report submitted late]*

Eila Douglass *[report not submitted]*

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

★ 4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Cathryn Eatock *[report not submitted]*

★ 4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti *[report submitted late]*

Gareth Charles *[report not submitted]*

★ 4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Samay Sabharwal *[report not submitted]*

Dhaval Sanath Shukla *[report not submitted]*

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Oliver Moore

★ 4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Natasha Chaudhary *[report submitted late]*

4.2.6. SATELLITE CAMPUS OFFICER

Vacant

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**

★ 6. **Verbal report from staff member**

M.K. reported that we have inductions coming up for the beginning of semester 2. She encouraged Councillors to volunteer to build speaking skills and engage with the student community. She stated that it is a good way to hear from students who are unaware of SUPRA. M.K. further reported that despite various staff being on leave, nevertheless a lot of work is still in motion. She added that the supra office is always busy, people are always coming in.

Motion [170712-05]: On behalf of Council, to thank Margaret Kirkby for coming and presenting and to thank all of staff for their work.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Jocelyn Dracakis

Carried.

★ 7. **Request for Support: SUMS Marie Bashir Dinner \$2500**

K.M. stated that all supporting documents for the SUMS request have been submitted. D.L. raised a concern regarding a discrepancy in the figure requested, where sometimes it states \$1000 and other

times \$2500. He further stated that there should be more transparency in the request with regards to quotes from catering vendors. M.K. noted that the request asks for “cash”, which is concerning as she said it is not a good idea to hand over cash. M.M. noted that since SUMS is a society with its own resources and that it is seeking other support also, perhaps it would be better to approve \$500 once receipts are submitted to John Fell (Finance Manager). R.E. noted that Marie Bashir was a very progressive and notable person. R.E. stated that \$2500 is too much to ask, and proposed \$400 instead. R.E. added that SUMS should address Council in their request and report back with a verbal or written report afterwards, and further that SUPRA should be able to hand out materials or speak at the event itself. K.M. showed concern that SUMS is a USU society which is very rich and has a lot of resources for these kind of things. K.M. also stated that the SUMS request is not economically sound or efficient, given the low numbers of people proposed to attend, which is fewer than 100. M.K. questioned whether SUMS gets money from the SRC, as they might have done historically. K.M. clarified that this does happen, but that it happens through the USU, not the SRC. D.L. supported R.E.’s point about SUMS reporting back and justifying the net benefit to the student body that their event would engender. K.M. clarified that this is a part of our policy, and that it needs to be enforced. M.K. noted that professional degrees are somewhat intense and that getting to the function itself might be an accessibility issue as they are short for time.

Motion [170712-06]: SUPRA Council approves \$500 on the condition that SUMS promotes SUPRA and reports back to Council.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Samay Sabharwal
Carried.

★ 8. Request for Support: GlobalHOME \$155

K.M. noted that there is no representative present to speak to this request.

Motion [170712-07]: To defer the GlobalHOME request for support to the next relevant SUPRA meeting.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Marguerite Biasatti
Carried.

★ 9. Make Renting Fair Campaign

M.K. noted that SUPRA SAAOs receive advice on tenancy law by the tenants union of NSW, who help SUPRA a great deal by telephone in addressing students concerns regarding unfair evictions, particularly of international students. M.K. noted that there are a lot of outstanding issues with NSW residential tenancy law, and that she would endorse SUPRA endorsing this campaign, as they have been very helpful for SUPRA and it is a good campaign. J.D. stated that it is a great campaign and that SUPRA should support it.

Motion [170712-08]: That SUPRA endorses the Make Renting Fair campaign.

Moved: Dean Lovett **Seconded:** Jocelyn Dracakis
Carried.



10. **\$200 for a welcome event for postgraduate women during O-day 5 mins**

M.M. stated that the postgraduate Women's Collective wants to put on a start of semester meet and greet, and that this may possibly be combined with the International Students Collective.

Motion [170712-09]: That SUPRA provides \$200 funding to the postgraduate Women's Collective for a semester 2 welcome event.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Jocelyn Dracakis

Carried.

★ 11. **CAPA ACM**

K.M. stated that SUPRA hosted the CAPA ACM last year. S.S. questioned whether or not this would be a volunteer effort by Councillors. K.M. answered that it would be. S.S. endorsed good relations with CAPA, who he said have been very supportive of international students. Z.H. sought clarification as to the role of CAPA. M.K. clarified the role and history of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations and endorsed SUPRA offering continued support to CAPA and that Council should make time to speak to Vanessa, who is very knowledgeable about the body. M.K. further encouraged student representatives to attend the CAPA ACM if they can. M.M. stated that whilst there is merit in attending, there may not be merit in hosting the conference. Z.H. questioned if there were people on Council who are interested devoting time to this, and they noted that S.S. had expressed some interest. M.B. raised a concern about what CAPA is doing for SUPRA and how SUPRA is benefiting. Z.H. questioned about the costs of hosting and that given a lot of Council is new to the role it may be realistically difficult to host the event.

Motion [170712-10]: To defer the question of whether or not to show interest in hosting the CAPA ACM to the next Management Committee.

Moved: Samay Sabharwal **Seconded:** Zushan Hashmi

Carried.

Mohammed Younus left at 7.30pm.

★ 12. **NOWSA Conference**

M.M. stated that the Women's Officer has reached out to the Women's Collective to send a delegation to NOWSA, and that there has been a lot of interest. M.M. that they would like to send 11 delegates, comprised of research and coursework students and 7 women of colour. M.M. said that the collective is requesting up to \$1000 from Council, which includes registration, travel to and from Sydney and Canberra, and that food and accommodation would not be covered by this funding. M.M. stated that it is a five day conference, with many valuable workshops like campaigning workshops. J.D. fully endorsed this request for funding, stating that they were a previous organiser of the conference and it is exceptional. J.D. added that it is good for the Women's Collective in that it will aid them in organising and running productive campaigns for the future, and that it would be beneficial for SUPRA as an organisation.

Motion [170712-11]: That SUPRA approves up to \$1000 for the postgraduate Women's Collective to send 11 delegates to the NOWSA conference.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Jocelyn Dracakis

Carried.

★ 13. WHS Officer

N.A. put forward his own nomination, saying that he has the time, energy, skills and desire to be Council's Workplace Health and Safety Officer. D.L. also put forward his nomination, but removed it considering that he would be too busy to fulfil the role. M.M. noted that Cathy Eatock had expressed interest in the position. J.D. questioned whether or not the WHS Officer can be a shared position, and stated that it would be good to consider that some issues faced in this role would be gender sensitive. N.A. responded that he is aware that insofar as he is a cis man his perspective is limited, and he stated that despite this he would be very good at the role. M.K. noted that the WHS Officer is an important position regarding the terms and conditions of work that Councillors do, and that the Council WHS Officer should liaise actively with the Staff WHS Officer.

Council conducted a vote by hand on who of the two nominees – Nic Avery (self-nominated) and Cathy Eatock (nominated by Mariam Mohammed) – would be the 2017-2018 Council WHS Officer. Cathy Eatock received 12 votes and Nic Avery received 8 votes. Cathy Eatock was nominated into the role of WHS Officer.

★ 14. Slack

Motion [170712-12]: That the discussion of Slack be deferred to the next Management Committee.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Samay Sabharwal

Carried.

★ 15. Election of Co-Vice President

N.A. raised concerns about D.L. taking the office of co-Vice President. N.A. said that insofar as the role is second in charge to the Presidents, there may be a time when the Vice President acts as the spokesperson for SUPRA. N.A. stated that in the past D.L. had contributed to denigrating the reputation of the previous SUPRA Executive, the SUPRA Finance Manager and SUPRA itself, which he deemed important insofar as students may be turned away from SUPRA services if they think it has a reputation of corruption. D.L. responded that he disagreed with N.A.'s reading of the situation, and that in the instance that N.A. is referring to D.L. did not actually personally raise allegations of corruption and maladministration, but that he was raising them on behalf of others and that he had a duty to raise them on behalf of the people concerned insofar as he was a student representative on Graduate Studies Committee and a Councillor-elect to SUPRA. D.L. stated that he is very appropriate and professional with respect to the office of Vice President, and that he is massive advocate of SUPRA. G.C. stated that this is an ongoing issue that D.L. has not directly addressed, and that he would like more forthcoming answers with respect to this. G.C. added that we need to correct the record regarding unsubstantiated accusations.

Gareth Charles left at 7:51pm.

Kiriti closed this meeting at 7:52pm because it had fallen inquorate and stated that all unresolved items will be deferred to Management Committee or the next Council meeting, whichever is earlier.

16. Other Business