



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN SYDNEY NANOSCIENCE HUB SEMINAR ROOM 3001 ON THE 10TH OF AUGUST 2017 AT 6:00PM

Chair: Mariam Mohammed
Minutes: Oliver Moore
Attendance: Marguerite Biasseti, Patrick Cook, Nic Avery, Rachel Evans, Tash Heenan, Gareth Charles, Dean Lovett, Zushan Hashmi, Natasha Chaudhary, Luoning Dong, Jessie Zhang, Kiriti Mortha, Jocelyn Drakakis
Staff: Adrian Cardinali, Marg Kirkby
Guests: Raj Kumar

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

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
Rebecca Johnson
Mike Butler
Samay Sabharwal
Zushan Hashmi
Manisha Reza Paul
Daniella Eassey
Samay Sabharwal

Ratified by Council on 11/09/2017.

Cathy Eatock

Nichole Seebacher

2.2. Proxies

Jennifer Nicholson proxies to Oliver Moore

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

Mike Butler proxies to Luoning Dong (1st Mariam Mohammed 2nd, Kiriti Mortha 3rd)

Zushan Hashmi proxies to Luoning Dong (1st, Dean Lovett 2nd, Jocelyn Drakakis 3rd)

Gayatri Kotnala proxies to Dean Lovett (1st, Cathy Eatock 2nd, Manisha Reza Paul 3rd)

Manisha Reza Paul proxies to Samay Sabharwal (1st, Jocelyn Drakakis 2nd, Dean Lovett 3rd)

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

Samay Sabharwal proxies to Jocelyn Drakakis (1st, Natasha Chaudhary 2nd, Kiriti Mortha 3rd)

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

Nichole Seebacher proxies to Oliver Moore

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Recommendation: That council approves all unstarred items.

2.4. Resignations (if relevant)

Karen Cochrane resigns her position to Eila Vinwynn.

Melanie Stevenson resigns her position to James Leeder.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 20TH JULY 2017

3.1.2 MEETING OF COUNCIL, 12TH JULY 2017

★ **[170810-1]:** To amend the minutes of the July council meeting starting motion 170712-02. This motion is to be amended to remove “inappropriate language slandering a colleague in the July council meeting”

Moved: Kiriti

Seconded: Dean

Motion carried.

Nic Avery (N.A.) asks why this amendment needs to be made. Kiriti Mortha (K.M.) refers him to the minutes of the previous meeting. He does not feel that the essence of the conversation was not captured in the minutes as the purpose of the motion was not to slander a colleague. Including the exact wording is not in the spirit of the motion. G.C. recalls that at the meeting the whole contents of the sentence were not inappropriate and slandering at the meeting in which it was passed and it was not determined to be slanderous. K.M. notes that we had an entire discussion about this at the last council meeting. Gareth Charles (G.C.) asks whether a view is being expressed by K.M. that the

conduct being referred to was not intimidatory or misogynistic. Mariam Mohammed (M.M.) closed the speaking list.

3.1.3 MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 3RD JULY 2017

3.1.4 MEETING OF POLICY COMMITTEE, 9TH AUGUST 2017

3.1.5 MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 9TH AUGUST 2017

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

★ 4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Mariam Mohammed

Kiriti Mortha

G.C. notes that one item mentions meeting with a legal councillor and asks if there will be any costs associated. M.M. notes that this will be discussed later and referred it to then. G.C. asks if the University committee attendees were elected by the executive or if they were decided by the President. K.M. notes that this is a sensitive issue and notes that G.C. could have emailed him. K.M. states that the University committees were allocated based on interest. N.A. asks if the Presidents sent out an email to council asking if they were interested in the positions. M.M. states that it was discussed at instatements. K.M. notes that they were appointed by the presidents and attend these committees as the presidents' nominees. Rachel Evans (R.E.) asks for an email regarding these committees need to go to council as not everyone was able to attend instatements. K.M. notes that anyone can send an email regarding sitting on these committees.

[170810-2]: To accept the Presidents' report.

Moved: Jocelyn

Seconded: Natasha

Motion carried. G.C. voted against this motion.

★ 4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Gayatri Kotnala

[170810-3]: To accept the Vice President's report.

Moved: Jocelyn

Seconded: Kiriti

Motion carried.

★ 4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Rachel Evans

R.E. states that N.A. will give an NTEU update. N.A. states that the NTEU are currently negotiating with the university for the EBA over pay and working conditions. Management have been unfair negotiators and there have been five main

issues on which the university is yet to give a fair deal. Secure work, casualization and parental leave and sick leave, ensuring casual academics have pathways for progression, pay offer. There was a protected action ballot and the members have responded and 98% of the union affirmed taking industrial action, the dates of which have yet to be set, and there will be a meeting next week to decide this and the types of action. There is a student solidarity campaign and N.A. is keen for anyone who wants to be involved to reach out. R.E. notes that anyone from council can attend the NTEU meetings and the next one is Thursday 17th August. R.E. notes that there are two marriage equality rallies coming up and there will be actions on campus. One is heading to Canberra on the 14th.

[170810-4]: To endorse the marriage equality rally on the 14th and September the 10th

Moved: Rachel

Seconded: Patrick

Motion carried.

[170810-5]: That SUPRA supports the SRC AEC sign up with \$200 to spend on snacks.

Moved: Kiriti

Seconded: Ollie

Motion carried.

R.E. notes that there is a request from the Resistance Club for a Nathan Roberts, a UK activist who has been fighting for free education. They're asking SUPRA to endorse a forum in late August.

K.M. states that everyone in the room is a progressive but he is uncomfortable supporting something coming from a political body on campus.

[170810-6]: To endorse the Resistance Club forum on August 30th

Moved: Rachel

Seconded: Tash

Motion failed.

[170810-7]: To pass the Education officer report

Moved: Ollie

Seconded: Tash

Motion carried.

4.1.4. TREASURER

Luoning Dong

4.1.5. SECRETARY

Oliver Moore



4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Zushan Ahmad Hashmi [*report submitted late*]

R.E. asks if there will be one or two pages. Zushan Hashmi (Z.H.) clarified that there were two pages in Week 2 and none in week 1. G.C. asks how dealing with Honi has bee. Z.H. states that he will be sitting down with one of the editors next

week. N.A. notes that he has an article he'd like to be published. Z.H. says it's possible for it to be published.

[170810-8]: To approve the DSP report.

Moved: Jocelym

Seconded: Marguerite

Motion carried.

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

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4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Cathryn Eatock *[no report submitted]*

This item was deferred to Management Committee.

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Samay Sabharwal

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Oliver Moore

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4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Natasha Chaudhary *[report submitted late]*

[170810-9]: to congratulate Natasha for sending a delegation of eleven women to NOWSA

Moved: Jocelyn

Seconded: Marguerite

Motion carried.

[170810-10]: To approve the Women's officer report.

Moved: Jocelyn

Seconded: Marguerite

Motion carried.

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

[170810-11]: That the council accepts Dean Lovett's nomination as Co-Vice President given his portfolio work for the Vice President's office.

Moved: Gayatri

Seconded: Kiriti

Motion carried. G.C. voted against this motion.

4.3.4. OTHER BUSINESS FROM REPORTS

★ 5. Postgraduate issues

5.1 NARRIBRI STUDENT ISSUES

K.M. notes that USYD has a campus in Narrabri with a few research students and notes that the conditions are quite bad, they live a significant distance from the town so transport is an issue, as are licences. They have a range of concerns about bringing the services of main campus to remote campuses, particularly around CAPS. This is just to flag it to the council. D.L. states that it is a no brainer to support this as he is from a rural environment. Adrian Cardinali (A.C.) comments that there would be great to pay for a trip for the students to attend an international student taskforce meeting, or for the international officer to attend a number of rural campuses to visit international students. A.C. recommends that this happens, and notes that some of the SAAOs would be excited to attend this trip. J.D. echoes the importance of this issue and notes that she can take the CAPS issue to the next mental wellbeing committee meeting. K.M. thanks A.C. for the suggestion and notes that he has a soft spot for the Narrabri students.

5.2 UNIFORM LATE PENALTIES

M.M. notes that a uniform late penalty has been suggested for across the university and that is either 10% per day, noting that after ten days you will have 0 marks available. It will only apply to written assignments OR 5% per day and after ten days you will have a mark of 0. It is noted that this is per calendar day not per working day. N.A. states that we need to reject this proposal and that any measure to move in a more punitive direction with respect to assessing work should be condemned. He notes that this is particularly harsh on students facing structural inequality. He notes the importance of having faith that students are doing their best. M.M. notes that this will not apply to students on academic plans. Dean Lovett (D.L.) states that this is a massive oversight on the part of the university, particularly for students with mental health problems, and especially noting the difficulty of these students in seeking help through CAPS. Jocelyn Drakakis (J.D.) agrees with the floor. K.M. notes that for FASS the penalty is currently 2% per working day, whereas this is much higher for other faculties, and we should consider that they would be better off under this proposal. A.C. is aiming to channel the feedback from the SAAO staff. One line of thinking is that this inconsistency is deeply unfair and that it should be the same across the university. There is another view that whatever the reduction would look like it should be more principles based and that penalties will be determined on a series of reasonable principle and that lecturers can make some decisions within that. A.C. prefers this line of thinking. He also notes the importance of allowing academics having some autonomy to make decisions. He echo's D.L.'s sentiment. J.D. agrees with A.C. and thinks that a principle based regime would be ideal. We must reject these current models categorically. M.M. notes that suggestions can be made to an online forum, either Slack or email and that our response should be in line with the university's desire for a uniform model.

5.3 SCHOLARSHIP DISTRIBUTION MODEL

A.C. notes that whether or not you get a scholarship to do HDR work at the University is allocated by an algorithm with different items given different numbers of points. Previously they split you all up into different groups and clusters with some quotas to allow faculties to be treated fairly. Two or three years ago they moved to a single list where allocations were

no longer controlled for faculties to artificially control for fairness. Unbeknownst to SUPRA there has been a debate brewing between academics, some of whom think the single list has been a huge success and that it should be a permanent move, and there is another group who thinks the opposite and thinks there needs to be an independent review. The debate has been between Science and Engineering and the Health areas and the Humanities. One of the questions SUPRA will be faced with at the next academic board meeting is whether or not to take a position. The two issues are discipline distributions, that 20% of the funds have been removed and only accessible to a certain number of centres. A.C. notes that this is a very heated debate amongst academics but that students have had limited comment. M.M. notes that this came through from Graduate Studies Committee. J.D. asks where the 20% of strategic fund allocation goes to. A.C. will follow this up in writing but it was places like the USSC, the Confucius Centre. D.L. had a conversation with A.C. about this and does not support this, especially not the 20% strategic allocation. A.C. notes it came up in November 2016 and that the language used was game-changing and that it revolved around giving USYD a strategic edge with regard to research. M.B. notes that it has a pretence of transparency and notes a case from her school. M.M. notes that the general feel of the room is that the council is not supportive of this. A.C. thinks that this is a reasonable position to take and notes that we would be coming in 6-8 months after the decision has happened, and the debate will be mostly about how this 20% is distributed, not whether it is distributed at all. M.M. moved this discussion offline.

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

A.C. notes that it has been a busy time of year and notes that he will be coming to council in the next few months to ask for some assistance handling the busy period of the year. Since 17th July to today they have had 147 new cases come through the door. This is an 18.5% increase on the last year. There is not yet a huge increase overall in the year. This means there have been significant cases coming in through the drop in sessions and the admin staff have been doing an amazing job of pumping through cases. A.C. has started a review process already to see what kind of patterns will be emerging out of this as this is the second year in a row of this. There will be a recommendation to redo some work on how the SAAO team spends money to better handle this. There is also some work to be done on the publications. In good news for the second year we're offering tax help and have become a tax help centre. We're booked for four weeks in a row as of last week. If we could get more office space we could triple or quadruple this service. A.C. revised an emergency student accommodation paper with new data and comparison between Sydney and Melbourne that shows the need to improve the amount of housing that SUPRA has access to and to make it free in all situations. This paper will go to student consultative committee next week. K.M. notes that this was a project picked up by the previous presidents and the SAAO team together and we have finished it up. D.L. thinks this is great and is again a no brainer. He questions why the university has not tackled this sooner. With regard to finding more office space, we should step on that where possible.

[170810-12]: To thank Adrian and the team for their hard work.

Moved: Dean

Seconded: Jocelyn

Motion carried.

★ 7. **Finances update**

Luoning Dong (L.D.) notes that the total equity is in the positive and is an increased as we paid some account payables. She also compared the budget with the real income and

expenditure. The net surplus is more than the budget. This is good because we haven't spend money but bad because we haven't used the money up. There were also some admin savings as a position wasn't filled. However we spent much more on the election and on the AGM. L.D. notes the importance of using money for activities as we have a lot to use up. M.M. says that John says that collectives should use their funding. N.A. wonders if we should brainstorm some ideas for student projects that need funding. K.M. notes that we will be spending some money at the meeting today. L.D. notes that next month she will ready the budget with John but that we will not get an increase if we don't spend the money. A.C. says that this is best treasurer's report he's ever heard. A.C. notes that there are some SAAO position funding available as positions have not been filled and that he will be asking for some funding for relief at the end of the year and that he would love to spend some money on a data entry catch up as this helps all other projects and gets the quality data.

[170810-13]: To thank John for his services to SUPRA

Moved: Kiriti

Seconded: Dean

Motion carried.

Procedural: To move to item 12.

Moved: Kiriti

Motion carried.

★ **8. Staff workplace health and safety**

Procedural: To move the meeting in camera.

Moved: Ollie

Motion carried.

★ **9. USU and SUPRA Wine and Cheese 5 minutes**

★ **10. Sydney School of Veterinary Science (SVSS) Funding Request**

★ **11. Election of Council Vacancies**

★ **12. White Rakhi Endorsement**

Raj Kumar (R.K.) spoke about White Rakhi which started last year at UTS. This is based on a tradition about renewing bonds and relationships between brothers and sisters. This is connected to the White Ribbon foundation. They're looking to move it to USYD. It is already at a number of universities. They're hoping to have an event on the 21st where individuals exchange the White Ribbon pledge and buy a bracelet. It is focussed on men as they are largely the perpetrators of gender based violence. The event will have a number of speakers and will take about two hours. They're asking for the event to be endorsed by SUPRA.

T.H. thanks R.K. for bringing this to the event. She has some reservations about how a White Ribbon event would be received. R.K. states that they are a separate organisation even though a number of the board members are White Ribbon ambassadors. The funding goes to supporting a women's refuge in India. T.H. has concerns with one of the speakers at the event, as she does not agree with having pro-life speakers on campus. R.K. states that he didn't know about her pro-life views and is happy for her to be replaced with another speaker. J.D. thanks R.K. and thinks that it would be hasty for us to make decisions about this now, and believes this needs greater consultation with the women's collective and other autonomous collectives. N.C. agrees with J.D. and wants some more information to read up on and to run the event passed by a number of women working in this area as this can be a complicated issue.

[170810-20]: That the meeting defers this matter to the Women's and Queer officers.

Moved: Kiriti

Seconded: Jocelyn

Motion carried.

13. Other Business

Meeting closed at 9:03pm.