



## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN SNH4001 ON THE 15TH OF MAY 2017 AT 18:00**

**Chair:** Lily Matchett  
**Minutes:** Cameron Nottingham  
**Attendance:** Oliver Moore, Karen Cochrane, Dhuval Sanath Shukla, Nicholas Avery, Rachel Evans, Eila Douglass, Natasha Heenan, Kevin Dong, Ahmed Suhaib, Melanie Stevenson, Cameron Nottingham, Gareth Charles, Reza Kahlaee  
**Staff:** Louise Corney, Francine Seeto, Margaret Kirkby, Anthea Fitzgerald, Emma Davidson

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

The chair made acknowledgement of of country and opened the meeting at 18:01

### **2. Governance & Declaration of COI**

#### **2.1. Apologies**

Natasha Chaudhary  
Rebecca Johnson  
Alexandra Nixon  
Kevin Dong (leaving 19:30)  
Kiriti Mortha

#### **2.2. Proxies**

Natasha Chaudhary to Kiriti Mortha

#### **2.3. Starring of Items**

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

**Motion[170515-01]:** That council approves all unstarred items.

**Moved:** Eila Douglass      **Seconded:** Natasha Heenan  
**Carried**

#### **2.4. Resignations (if relevant)**

None received



#### **2.5. Casual vacancy election**

Applications received  
Jennifer Nicholson

Marguerite Biasatti

Both parties were given a brief chance to speak of themselves to council, with Dhuval Sanath Shukla speaking on behalf of Marguerite Biasatti.

**Motion[170515-02]:** The council endorsed Ahmed as returning officer for the casual vacancy election

**Moved:** Karen Cochrane      **Seconded:** Dhuval Sanath Shukla  
Carried

The returning officer conducted the election by raise of hands from the council. The council by vote of majority elected Marguerite Biasatti.

### **3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings**

#### **3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings**

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

3.1.2. MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

3.1.3. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2017

3.1.4. MEETING OF POLICY COMMITTEE, 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017

#### **3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Motion[170515-03]:** That discussion move to item 6

**Moved:** Karen Cochrane  
Carried

*Discussion moved to item 6*

### **4. Officer Reports**

#### **4.1. Executive Reports**

4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Lily Matchett  
Ahmed Suhaib

4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Nicholas Avery  
Karen Cochrane

4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER



Rachel Evans

RE is giving 3.5 hours to NA and ED each for respective work into the education portfolio. NA has not yet claimed any of these hours. RE spoke to the new budget changes facing postgraduates and the bus trip to Canberra. DSS said that they want council to be told what's happening with hours and that John should know. MK says that while this is a good thing to be able to share hours when others are doing work for a portfolio we need to ensure we document it all and notes that it does make the job of finance officer a little harder.

**Motion[170515-05]:** That SUPRA council reimburse Rachel Evans \$300 for the bus trip to Canberra.

**Moved:** Nicholas Avery      **Seconded:** Eila Douglass  
Carried

**Motion[170515-06]:** Protest against uni fee increases rally on Wednesday afternoon for SUPRA councillors to drive support, to have people doing flyer drops and to have councillor s lecture bash.

**Moved:** Nicholas Avery      **Seconded:** Rachel Evans  
Carried

RE distributed the SUPRA log of claims that was raised from the Education committee meeting. And painted a plan to drive support for the campaign and to have management endorse the demands. The education officer is seeking for council to give feedback to education committee.

#### 4.1.4. TREASURER

Kevin Dong

#### 4.1.5. SECRETARY

Melanie Stevenson  
Cameron Nottingham

#### 4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Eila Douglass

### **4.2. Equity Officer Reports**

#### 4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Connor Duncan

#### 4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Gareth Charles [Report not submitted]

GC has submitted during the start of the meeting and will raise this at management committee.

#### 4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Dhaval Sanath Shukla

#### 4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans  
Oliver Moore

#### 4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Natasha Chaudhary

#### 4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Elizabeth Millar [March and April reports included]

### **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

KC says there a number of issues with the Business school centralization, saying this is an issue that needs to be taken to management. There is generalised help available rather than specific help in niche issues within courses and subjects. Currently the school is requesting feedback and there is the opportunity for hearing about those issues.

#### ★ 4.3.5. UNCOLLECTED HOURS FROM EDUCATION OFFICERS ROLE

The portfolio of Education officer is 21 hours, the previous officer due to ill health was unable to claim the hours fully. RE would like for an investigation into the number of hours left unclaimed and that these be allocated to the production of the counter course handbook.

AS said that the stipend may have been moved to another line item in our budget. AS is happy to look in to and to see how many hours can be claimed without putting to much of a dent into our final budget. CN asked if the university can take back unspent money from the various areas of our budget. AS said that there can be spending in other areas of the budget and that as long it isn't a new line item that we should be able to move items of money around. GC said that if there is work needed to be done we should have the council move the items.

**Motion[170515-06]:** That SUPRA council approve the recommendation from the Education office-bearer to find out how many hours have not been claimed within the Education portfolio and to delegate these paid hours back to the Education portfolio to finish work on the counter course handbook and the other campaigns that present themselves in the anti-fees campaign.

**Moved:** Rachel Evans                      **Seconded:** Eila Douglass

Carried

#### ★ 4.3.6. ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILORS AT MEETINGS

The number of meeting of people that have attended meetings,

### ★ 5. Postgraduate issues

### ★ 6. Verbal report from staff member

Louise Corney read a statement from SUPRA staff.

*Discussion was moved in camera.*

*Discussion was moved ex camera.*

*Discussion returned to item 4*

### ★ 7. Policy Changes

KC has had help with the policy work from OM and NA, although feedback from council is encouraged. NA says that there many holes in our policy, particularly there is no provision for blocking a previously banned councillor from re-election. Looking at constitution item 9.04, change to add the provision that there will be a ban for being elected for a minimum of 12 months and maximum of 2 years. RK clarified the definition of the election. CN asked if SUPRA staff would be happy with someone coming back after maybe 2 years away. DSS has issue with being able to

remove people from council as a independent, being able to be moved from the council just for not having a majority. MK requested that the constitution be forwarded to staff for feedback. KC presented the suggested amendments to the constitution, the tracking changes are available in the council pack. ED asked about the HRD equity group and the ability for councillors be part of the collective, KC said the specific spot is for research degree students only, they said there are a lot of holes in the coverage of services for HDR students.

**Motion[170515-07]:** That council approve the presented changes to the constitution for presentation at the AGM

**Moved:** Karen Cochrane                      **Seconded:** Nicholas Avery  
Carried

FS replying to CN that we can't ban people forever and that this is a good way for council to show that we take these issues seriously. That having an HDR equity officer will make a more streamlined approach to engaging HDR student and make it easier when trying to find a contact person on council from the HDR collective.

### 7.1. Safe spaces policy

Major changes made:

- Edited the preamble.
- Introduced victimisation policy (in line with iHR recommendation).
- Introduced survivors of sexual assault as group potentially discriminated against (to ensure against victim blaming).

**Motion[170515-08]:** That council accept and endorse the safe spaces policy.

**Moved:** Nicholas Avery                      **Seconded** Rachel Evans  
Carried

### 7.2. Constitution Amendments

### 7.3. Policy Drafts

### 7.4. Duty Statements

The Vice Presidents have been working hard on the office bearer duty statements and is after feedback from council with the final drafts to be circulated for the AGM next week.

**Motion[170515-09]** That council endorse the duty statements.

**Moved:** Nicholas Avery                      **Seconded:** Oliver Moore  
Carried

## ★ 8. CISA Conference

Membership fee is 400 for CISA and gives access to voting and to have role for advocating for international post-graduate students.

**Motion[170515-10]** Approval of \$400 for CISA Membership

**Moved:** Dhaval Sanath Shukla                      **Seconded:** Ahmed Suhaib  
Carried

Last year only one person attended the conference, this year they plan to take four students, the outgoing and incoming and to have two nomination positions for people aiming to run for positions on CISA, prompted by the lack of engagement with CISA over the last few years. The conference is 3-7<sup>th</sup> July in Canberra at ANU and CIT. Budget is \$400 for conference attendance, \$900 for accommodation, and \$400 for travel costs with a small allowance for buffer. KC reiterated the need

for representation on CISA. KD stated that this will consume almost the entire budget for conferences and accommodation. OM says that the cost are large and maybe SUPRA should be paying for some of the costs and asked if there are other ways to cut the cost down. ED said that there are plenty of opportunities for the reduction of costs, a bus to Canberra is \$35 each way. MS asked about the large cost for accommodation, looking at hostels in the area are much cheaper than quoted. CN said that each person asking for conference sponsorship should be present at the meeting and should make guarantees to report back to council. RE said that when they attended the CISA conference they made good progress on campaigns, the CISA conference is a good way to get good intel on international student issues, they said that there should be a method for people to force people to actually report back to council. RE continued to say that there are many other conferences that would have people asking for sponsorship. MS that we have no idea of the students that may end up attending, no way to guarantee their ability to carry SUPRAs mandate at the conference. AS said that the costs are too high and that we just need to find ways to make it cheaper. GC that we could pay half now and half at a later stage.

**Motion[170515-11]** That council approve \$3200 for sending 4 international students at the CISA conference (this amount will included accommodation, conference fees and travel allowance

**Moved:** Dhaval Sanath Shukla                      **Seconded:** Kiriti Mortha  
Failed

**Motion[170515-12]:** That council approve \$988 for Dhuval Sanath Shukla and the incoming international student to attend the CISA Conference 2017.

**Moved:** Oliver Moore                      **Seconded:** Nick Avery  
Carried

## ★ 9. CAPA Funding

[Invoice attached]

Discussion: Should we pay CAPA the full amount this year?

From the discussions council has last year with CAPA AS is eager to see SUPRA pay this year. CN said we need to see CAPA work effectively in the National realm to provide information relevant to our SSAOs. AS said with they have been providing information on budget and visa changes to our staff. OM said CAPA has been lobbying the government.

**Motion[170515-13]:** That SUPRA to pay the total of the CAPA invoice

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib                      **Seconded:** Natasha Heenan  
Carried

## ★ 10. CAPA SCM

<http://www.capa.edu.au/scm/>

Karen Cochrane nominate to go. For KC to get quotes and present at details at management committee.

## ★ 11. PhD Graduate Qualities

[Paper attached]

The qualities the university is after in their doctorate graduates and are seeking feedback from postgraduates. The vice president will do disseminate through the HDR collective and eGrad. OM says the biggest thing missing is that people will achieve teaching experience during the degree without making that a requirement.

★ **12. Open Learning Space Environment – OLE 2018**

[Paper attached]

To note that the university is offering these courses for free.

★ **13. End of Semester Party**

Kirit Mortha tabled this item for an end of semester party to our members, to have party for post-graduates, thought to be a USU paid party with SUPRA promotion. To be sent to management committee.

★ **14. ASEN**

Motion to approve \$200 funding for Lily Matchett to attend the Australian Student Environment Network's Annual "Student's of Sustainability" Conference in July. The Conference goes for 6 days and includes postgraduate and undergraduate students from across the country. The conference is taking place in Newcastle and is an opportunity for students to plan, strategize and attend workshops on climate change and climate action in the Australian context. The cost for 6 days = \$200, which includes food and accommodation for all days

**Motion[170515-14]** That council approve \$200 for Lily Matchett to attend the ASEN annual students of sustainability conference.

**Moved:** Lily Matchett                      **Seconded:** Gareth Charles  
**Carried**

★ **15. Coop Legal action**

Request for funding to underwrite a legal challenge to the Co-op Bookshop by students.

Details: Following the launch of a student-led campaign, "Take Back Our Co-op", members of SUPRA, the SRC and students from Newcastle, Western Sydney and Melbourne Universities attended the recent AGM of the Co-op seeking clarity about the financial position of the Co-op, the activities of the board members and the exclusion of students and rank-and-file members from the decision-making processes of the Co-op. Students are concerned about the high cost of textbooks, large non-member discounts to corporates, and a general lack of transparency which has led to a consolidation of power within the Co-op, to the detriment of members. At the AGM, students were advised that their proxies were invalid without explanation or supporting documentation, at the same time as numerous proxies allocated to the board members were unexplained but accepted as valid. Students were unable to get clear answers from the directors in relation to the volume of non-member discounts, risky investment decisions such as the purchase of ailing 'Australian Geographic' franchise stores, and directors' remuneration.

Four students, including Tash Heenan have since submitted a Notice of Grievances to the Co-op in regard to their failure to observe due process at the AGM. They have responded with a particularly nasty letter from their lawyers, which was also sent to the University of Sydney, essentially attempting to scare students out of taking legal action, with threats to bankrupt them. The students involved now need to come up with roughly \$17,000 - \$22,000 to cover their potential legal costs, as estimated by a lawyer who is working pro-bono for them. The Take Back Our Co-op organising committee is asking student unions across Australia to contribute \$3000 each to underwrite this legal challenge, and support students in their attempt to reform the Co-op. The organisers will also seek aid from larger unions if necessary.

RE suggests a more offensive attitude, to use media and promotion to fight back and to get up a hardcopy petition with other promotional material. TH there is the ability for taking back of the board in the next year and making a substation reduction in the

**Motion[170515-15]:** That council approve \$3000 to underwrite the legal challenge against the Co-op board members.

**Moved:** Tash Heenan                    **Seconded:** ED  
**Carried** (2 abstentions KC, AS)

**Motion[170515-16]:** That supra endorse the save coop campaign and provide printing resources when required.

**Moved** Rachel Evans                    **Seconded** ED  
**Carried**

★ **16. Mental Health First Aid**

**Motion[170515-17]** That council approve \$147.29 for Karen Cochrane to attend a Mental Health First Aid for Suicidal Person on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**Moved:** Karen Cochrane                    **Seconded:** Gareth Charles  
**Carried** (1 abstention Karen Cochrane)

*LM took a bathroom break and handed the chair to AS*

★ **17. West Papuan forum update**

Has been cancelled.

★ **18. Anti-West Connex Forum request**

Anti-westconnex crew have asked for support from SUPRA, with the new plan for Newtown and King street. They need for SUPRA to help with the cost of security for a booked room on campus. Currently a \$184 fee for security. There is the need to host the town hall forum at Sydney Uni due to the proximity of the effect of construction. KC asked how does this affect post-graduates. RE stated the health effects on students, the accessibility of the university to students and the changes that could be imposed on the campus.

**Motion[170515-18]:** That council approve \$184 for security fee for the Anti-westconnex town hall forum at Camperdown campus

**Moved:** Rachel Evans                    **Seconded:** Natasha Heenaa

**19. Other Business**

**Motion[170515-19]:** That council appoint Marguerite Biasatti to be deputy disability equity officer

**Moved** Gareth Charles                    **Seconded** Natasha Heenan

Sancta Sofia wants to host a second wine and cheese event at the roof top for 1<sup>st</sup> week of June either the Tuesday or Thursday

**Motion[170515-20]:** That council endorse the Wine and Cheese event to be hosted at Sancta Sofia College

**Moved:** Kevin Dong                    **Seconded:** Karen Cochrane

Meeting closed 20:30