



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN SNH 3001 ON THE 12TH OF APRIL 2018 AT 6:00PM

Chair:	Kiriti Mortha
Minutes:	Oliver Moore
Attendance:	Rachel Evans, Sam Bassett, Jessie Zhang, Yang Fu, Riya Brahma, Natasha Chaudhary, Mariam Mohammed, Nic Avery, Jeevan Jagnam, Marguerite Biasseti, Luoning Dong (<i>entered 7:53pm</i>)
Staff:	Francine Seeto, Louise Corney
Guests:	Sandra Buol

★ 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

Samay Sabharwal
Mike Butler
Jennifer Nicholson
Daniella Eassey
Luoning Dong
Manisha Reza Paul
Julia McConnochie
Eila Vinwyn
James Leeder
Dean Lovett

Ratified by Council 8/5/18.

Patrick Cook
Jocelyn Drakakis
Bec Johnson

2.2. Proxies

Mike Butler proxies to Cathy Eatock (1st, Riya Brahma 2nd)
Jennifer Nicholson proxies to Oliver Moore
Daniella Eassey proxies to Natasha Chaudhary (1st, Yang Fu 2nd, Riya Brahma 3rd)
Luoning Dong proxies to Yang Fu (1st, Natasha Chaudhary 2nd, Riya Brahma 3rd)
Julia McConnochie proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Rachel Evans 2nd, Sam Bassett 3rd)
Manisha Reza Paul proxies to Natasha Chaudhary (1st, Yang Fu 2nd, Riya Brahma 3rd)
Eila Vinwyn proxies to Rachel Evans (1st, Nic Avery 2nd)
James Leeder proxies to Sam Bassett (1st, Nic Avery 2nd, Oliver Moore 3rd, Rachel Evans 4th)
Jeevan Jagnam proxies to Oliver Moore
Dean Lovett proxies to Riya Brahma (1st, Marguerite Biasetti 2nd, Natasha Chaudhary 3rd)
Samay Sabharwal proxies to Yang Fu (1st, Natasha Chaudhary 2nd, Riya Brahma 3rd)
Patrick Cook proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Rachel Evans 2nd)
Bec Johnson proxies to Mariam Mohammed (1st, Kiriti Mortha 2nd, Yang Fu 3rd)
Jocelyn Drakakis proxies to Mariam Mohammed (1st, Kiriti Mortha 2nd, Yang Fu 3rd)

2.3. Starring of Items

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

[180412-1]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Natasha

Motion carried.

2.4. Resignations (if relevant)

Gareth Charles resigns to Sam Bassett.

Gayatri Kotnala resigns to Riya Brahma.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 6TH FEBRUARY 2018

Kiriti Mortha (K.M.) notes that there needs to be a correction to the minutes. Kirti was the chair and not Mariam.

[180412-2]: To accept the minutes

Moved: Jeevan **Seconded:** Mariam



Motion carried.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. PRESIDENT

4.1.1.1 March Report

4.1.1.2 April Report

Mariam Mohammed

Kiriti Mortha

Procedural: Move the meeting in camera

Moved: Mariam

Motion carried.

Procedural: to move the meeting ex camera

Moved: Mariam

Motion carried.

N.A. notes that they have had \$64000 spent on legal fees which is student's money and has been wasted. M.M. notes that it is legal advice that this be discussed between the individuals. K.M. notes that this money has been spent over the 16-17 council term and the 17-18 council term. N.A. asks how much money has been spent on legal fees in this council term. N.A. notes that he has seen the VP in these meetings as well. K.M. notes that they have spent \$20000 on legal fees so far and he does not anticipate that this will increase, and this is because there are severe and structural issues which prevent us from functioning. N.A. notes that he is advocating for the council to be informed about the issues which have been discussed. M.M. notes that the presidents have a legal obligation to get legal advice. N.A. notes that both of the president's conduct has not been above board and has been in breach of the duty statements. M.M. does not wish to respond to that. K.M. rejects this view and asserts that this has all been above board. If anyone wants to find out the information about these issues they need to contact the relevant people. R.E. notes that we are elected by the student body to improve the student experience. We have been advocating for better treatment of staff. Natasha Chaudhary (N.C.) notes that we started the meeting saying that we will follow the. She notes that there has been greater engagement with SUPRA at high level meetings in the universities. She believes they are pro staff and pro SUPRA.

4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

4.1.2.1 March Report *[no report received]*

4.1.2.2 April Report

Gayatri Kotnala

Dean Lovett

[180412-5]: To approve the VP's report.

Moved: Natasha **Seconded:** Marguerite

N.A. asks for clarification on the process of choosing the graphic designer who did this. He alleges that the designer chosen was a friend of Dean's and asks if he conflicted himself off any meetings. He declared that he was responsible for the rebranding in his candidate statement. M.M. notes that the equity officers were all on the working group, we saw a whole pile of designers and saw their work, the top three and then top one was chosen. N.A. asks if Dean conflicted himself off the decision to hire his friend. K.M. notes that it was a unanimous decision.

ACTION: Dean to respond to this.

R.E. asks if it was clarified in the emails of Dean's that he was a friend. K.M. is not in a position to answer this.

[180412-6]: for a ManCom to be called

Moved: Rachel **Seconded:** Nic

Motion carried.

ACTION: Presidents to call a ManCom



4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

4.1.3.1 March Report

4.1.3.2 April Report

Rachel Evans

4.1.4. TREASURER

4.1.4.1 March Report

4.1.4.2 April Report

Luoning Dong

4.1.5. SECRETARY

4.1.5.1 March Report

4.1.5.1 April Report

Oliver Moore

4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Vacant

4.2. Equity Officer Reports



4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

4.2.1.1 March Report *[no report received]*

4.2.1.2 April Report *[no report received]*

Cathryn Eatock

ACTION: Secretary and Presidents to follow up with this.

R.E. asks if we're paying people who don't write reports. Marguerite Biasetti (M.B.) asks that we follow due process. K.M. responds to whether people are being paid, and asks that she speak to John through himself or Mariam. K.M. notes that Office Bearers get paid regardless of whether they've submitted a report or not. If

we were to not pay people who did not submit reports, this would impact our council's functioning. They would not get their stipends. These people are getting paid.

ACTION: Presidents to get Cathy to submit this report.



4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

4.2.2.1 March Report *[no report received]*

4.2.2.2 April Report

Marguerite Biasatti

ACTION: Presidents to circulate the March report.

M.B. notes that she went to the CAPA SCM and presented on the work that she's been doing. She notes that the coffee breaks have been going really well. She also reported at CAPA about her meetings with the Disability Services as there had been some self-led questions in the disability services surveys.

[180412-7]: to approve the April report, and the March report will be referred to ManCom

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Yang

Motion carried.



4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

4.2.3.1 March Report *[no report received]*

4.2.3.2 April Report

Samay Sabharwal

[180412-8]: To approve the reports

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Natasha

Motion carried.

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

4.2.4.1 March Report

4.2.4.2 April Report

Oliver Moore

4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

4.2.5.1 March Report

4.2.5.2 April Report

Natasha Chaudhary

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

4.3.3.1 [180412-9]: The council thank Emma and Anthea for their work on the rebrand.

Moved: Dean **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

4.3.3.2 [180412-10]: Council to approve \$360 (\$30 per woman for 12 women in total) for the Women on the Move event to be held on 23rd April, 2018

Moved: Natasha **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

This is a networking event with Guide Next Door. They are having a guest speaker. All the spots were booked in a day's time, this is in high demand. R.E. thinks it's really important to have feminist events, however she's not sure that a venture capitalist analyst is a person that we should be prioritising. N.C. finds this offensive as she comes from a business background. She notes the work she's been doing to discuss the issues that deal with ending rape on campus. She notes that this is a social event which will allow an opportunity to bring recruiters into the university. She notes that she's been working on the women's conference which celebrates people in all kinds of spaces.

K.M. notes that the rules of order state that any item brought as an agenda item needs to come to the presidents. There is need for greater communication. N.A. notes that this is one of many times they've had the floor taken from someone. N.C. notes that N.A. is not letting other people speak, and not to speak on anyone else's behalf.

4.3.3.3 Proposal: SUPRA Education portfolio organise a special Sydney University student banner for al'Nakba (the Catastrophe - the day Palestine was invaded by Israel in 1948 and Israel expelled 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland). (May 15)

Preamble: Attacks on Palestinians on the Gazan border are escalating. At a peaceful protest of 30,000 Palestinians and supporters Israel killed 15 unarmed Palestinians on March 31, 2018 and wounded over 1000. They killed another 7 in another round of attacks a few days later.

A specific Sydney University SUPRA banner would show our ongoing support for the Palestinian community.

[180412-11]: That SUPRA supports the May 15 rally for Palestine

Moved: Rachel **Seconded:** Nic

Motion carried.

M.M. notes that this is not in the purview of SUPRA and is not within our SSAF purview. This does not fall under any of the categories outlined by SSAF. N.A. notes that SUPRA produces campaign materials all the time, and notes that this is an important campaign to get behind. R.E. notes that there is a Palestinian student bloc on campus. She notes that we've taken up other anti-war, anti-racist issues and notes that students are interested in issues all around the world. K.M. notes that charity begins at home and thinks we should stand up for racism in our own backyard. N.C. notes that while she stands with Rachel on this issue she doesn't think this falls within the council's purview, or whether this benefits students. M.M.

she thinks council stands behind this in principle but this is not possible to support on the basis of our SSAF rules.

4.3.3.4 Proposal: That SUPRA Council endorse the next 'Stop Black Deaths in Custody protest' on May 12, 1pm @ Sydney Town Hall

Preamble: After years of campaigning in the 1980s - the Hawke government was forced to acknowledge the appalling rate at which Aboriginal people were being killed by police and prisons. Yet that government and all subsequent ones then ignored almost all the 339 recommendations made by that Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. Proof of this lies in the tragic fact that the rate of deaths in custody has increased since the Royal Commission. <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/.../indigenous-deaths-custody>
So we continue the struggle for justice.

[180412-12]: That SUPRA endorse this important protest, subject to the Indigenous Officer's approval.

Moved: Rachel **Seconded:** Sam

Motion carried.

M.M. wants to know if this was put forward in consultation with the Indigenous officer. N.A. notes that Cathy has her own political position, as does the group putting on this rally. R.E. notes that Cathy is not here for consultation. This group has organised vigils in three major cities. Cathy was not consulted before this was tabled at SUPRA. M.M. notes that consultation needs to be sought before Council and notes that Council has been supportive of combatting racism. N.C. notes that everyone supports this, however this should be conditional on Cathy's approval.

4.3.3.5 Proposal: that SUPRA endorse the May Day protest-rally on Sunday May 6

Preamble: May Day is the day workers unite to celebrate our achievements, recognise the struggle of all workers around the world and fight against the erosion of pay and conditions under the neoliberal offensive.

What we've achieved:

- Sick Leave
- Annual Leave
- Superannuation
- Paid Maternity Leave
- Medicare

But they keep being taken from us and there still more work to be done!

- Wage growth is at a 70 year low
- Rising income inequality, housing and rental affordability
- Casualisation of work and underemployment is at epidemic levels
- Closing the Gender Pay Gap

[180412-13]: That SUPRA endorse the Sydney May Day Rally & Family Fun Day hosted by Unions NSW on May 6, 11-late

Moved: Rachel **Seconded:** Nic

Motion carried.

Procedural: To move to the Verbal Report from staff members

Moved: Nic

Motion carried.

★ 5. **Postgraduate issues**

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

Louise Corney (L.C.) notes that we're beginning the rollout of the branding, we now have the style guide done. There is also a lot of work to be done for elections, and SSAF is a looming task. It's been quite busy in the Admin team working on the website and the membership database. Francine Seeto (F.S.) notes that most of their work is casework. New cases from the 1st of March is 111, which is 20% increase from last year. They've revised and sent off some internal policies – staff code of conduct and working from home policy. They've been briefing and providing support to councillors on different committees and working parties – there are 13 at the moment. The SAAOs had a really productive meeting with the women's officer a couple of weeks ago, and out of that there was a strong encouragement to provide childcare. Sydney is the only Go8 university which does not have an on site childcare. The SAAOs had a strategic planning day to talk about system advocacy, which helps them set goals for the next year or so. Out of this meeting came the idea of SAAOs having a social media policy, which will be taken up at some point. SSAF is taking up some time as they'd like to put in a good one. Tenancy is coming up again and again as an issue. More postgrads are coming to us unable to pay their fees, however the university is tightening up its fee payment policy. In April a lot of the SAAOs are taking leave, as this is supposed to be a quiet time in the year. N.A. asks what a campaign for childcare might look like. F.S. is not sure, but if we want to be a leading university this is essential for us to put together. She notes the mass building taking place on campus and that this would be a relatively small project. R.E. asks about being able to pay tuition fees. When did this issue start and how many cases are we looking at? F.S. is unsure but knows that this is increasing. She notes that when they contact fees and scholarships they are often given extensions, but students are always turned away. There are very harsh penalties for not paying fees on time and it's causing a lot of stress. M.M. notes that the fee office has hardened their stance. The policy around notifying students has been changed, which means students get the notices more regularly. The first notice is very harshly worded and students assume their visas are in jeopardy. They have sent an email to the Deputy Registrar, as either the policy is tokenistic or it has not been translated fairly to the students by the staff. They are hoping to set up a meeting with him soon. K.M. notes that the messaging around this is really bad, and it causes distress for a lot of students. He notes that it's important to change the wording around this. Jeevan Jagnam (J.J.) asks for greater transparency and for the inclusion of information about fee payment plans to be included in the email. L.C. asks if they're saying that their Visa is going to be cancelled. K.M. notes that they phrase it very clearly that this might impact your visa and they send you to a link to the office of compliance. M.B. agrees on the childcare issue, notes that they closed the centre next to the Margaret Telfer building. F.S. notes that this is not run by the university, it's just close. J.J. notes that UQ has two childcare centres. On fees, she notes that this is because different staff are not applying policy correctly. She also notes that there are a lot of bursaries that are now allowed access to postgraduate students.

Proposal: Move the meeting in camera and that staff are allowed to stay

Moved: Rachel

Motion carried.

Meeting closed 8:17pm

- ★ 7. **Request for Support: SUMS Event**
- ★ 8. **Request for Support: SVSS Journal Club**
- ★ 9. **Request for Support: “What If?” Conference**
- ★ 10. **Request for Support: GlobalHOME Sponsorship**
- ★ 11. **CAPA Affiliation Fee**
- ★ 12. **Cumberland Bus for Postgraduate Ball**
- ★ 13. **Postgraduate Ball Budget**
- 14. **Other Business**