

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2006 AT 6.00 PM IN THE SUPRA OFFICES

**Present:** Jenny Leong (President and chair), Roozbeh Araghi, Richard Bailey, Mike Beggs, Jodie Coleman, Adrienne Jerram, Anthony Kachenko, Estelle Noonan, Will Noonan, Rosemary Whitecross

**Apologies:** Katherine Barnsley, Brian Doyle, Sophia Leon de la Barra, Kirsten Harley, Lian Jenvey, Leona Oliver, Julian Pinder, Jun Zhao

The President welcomed councillors and acknowledged that we were meeting on the land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

## **1. Minutes of the meetings of Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006.**

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Adrienne Jerram, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

## **2. President's Report**

- The President thanked the current Councillors for their hard work and support over the five month term of this Council. It will be a great loss not to have the continuing direct involvement of those people.
- Recommendation: *That, in recognition of the need for the President to concentrate on VSU negotiations, the maximum stipend rate of the Vice President (21 hours) and Secretary (14 hours) be approved until the first meeting of the 2006-7 Council to enable them to be present in the SUPRA offices from 10-5pm, Monday to Friday and to share the day-to-day management of the SUPRA office and coordinate the induction for the new Council.*
- Council authorises the Secretary to e-mail the former President attaching the letter sent to her by the President on 24<sup>th</sup> March with the decision of Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, explaining that the onus is on her to contact the President if she has further evidence of outstanding monies in relation to the case of Lee & Anor. v. Clegg & Ors., and that she should do so in writing to the SUPRA President.
- Council requested the Treasurer to prepare a draft letter for consideration by the AFC as a way of dealing with the questionable expenses in 2005, as recommended by the auditor.

Motion: *THAT the President's Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Estelle Noonan, seconded Roozbeh Araghi, carried.

## **3. Vice President's Report**

It was suggested that for future teleconferencing – we could consider using Skype or similar broadband telephone facilities.

Motion: *THAT the Vice President's Report be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Adrienne Jerram. Carried.

## **4. Secretary's Report**

Motion: *THAT the next meeting of Council, which will be the first meeting of the new Council, be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00 pm. Further meetings of Council for 2006-7 should be determined by the incoming Council.*

Motion: *THAT the Secretary's Report be accepted.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

A question was asked as to whether there were still outstanding group funding claims from last year. The paperwork available from 2005 was unclear about what was outstanding – if people contact us with details we can deal with it within a week.

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross, seconded Adrienne Jerram. Carried.

## **6. Publications Update**

The Survival Guide content will be edited by 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and the Director of Publications is meeting with the designer tomorrow. The Guide will probably only be in an on-line format initially, and will be printed next year if funding is available.

## **7. Staff**

Adrian Cardinali's staff report was circulated. The President suggested councillors read this to learn about the range of activities of our Student Advice and Advocacy Officers.

Interview for the replacement Administration Officer will be conducted tomorrow.

The Finance Manager will be on leave for two weeks from tomorrow so the Budget reports will be delayed. Motion: *THAT the Treasurer can claim up to maximum stipend of 14 hours per week during the Finance Manager's leave.* Moved Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

## **8. The Senate/Supra Liaison Committee Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July**

- Questions for this meeting are due on 4 July. The PAC meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June will try to finalise the questions. Please e-mail the PAC Officer even if it is only a topic area. We will also be asking the SAAOs if there are any issues they wish to have raised.
- We need to endorse delegates to the meeting. As the questions not yet formulated – the PAC meeting next week will make a decision on who should participate.

## **9. Meeting procedures**

- The draft SUPRA Meeting Procedures policy was discussed.
- A deliberate decision had been made in its drafting not to include too much formal meeting procedures.
- It doesn't have anything about how to deal with motions when there are counter-posed motions. PAC will write up a section on this.
- A councillor can request to have something they have said be put into the minutes.
- Modified consensus model – commitment to trying to approach discussion with a view to hearing everyone's point of view.
- The need for seconders for motions will be removed from the policy.
- Remember that the Chair can rule a motion out of order.
- Constitution (new changes) defers power to meeting procedures.
- Insert a section to read: "A Councillor may appoint another Councillor to be a proxy for their vote for any Council Meeting. Signed proxy forms must be received by the Secretary before the commencement of the meeting for which the proxy is appointed. A proxy may only be appointed for individual meetings and may not be a running proxy. Proxy votes will not be counted towards quorum. Any Councillor may hold a maximum of their own vote and two others."

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the Meeting Procedures with amendments and that PAC develop meeting procedures on conflicting motions to be brought by PAC to the first meeting of the next council.* Moved Will Noonan, seconded Anthony Kachenko. Carried

## **10. Minutes of the AFC meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the AFC meetings of 13<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

### **11. SUPRA Councillor Office Procedures Policy.**

Include a note at the beginning to say that this supports the current SUPRA policy on stipends and the current duty statements for office bearers.

Motion: *THAT the SUPRA Councillor Office Procedures Policy, with amendment as above, be accepted by Council.* Moved Will Noonan, seconded Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

### **12. Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

### **13. VSU Motions**

These have been amended from what was circulated, taking into account suggestions from councillors today.

The VSU Committee will have e-mail discussions as well as meetings.

We have still have not defined what we mean by full funding or membership

#### **Motions**

1. *That we establish a SUPRA Ongoing Sustainability (SOS) Committee to assist the President with VSU planning and negotiations, and that this committee:*
  - a. *Consist of the President, Vice President and five other councillors all of whom, if necessary, are equally voting members.*
  - b. *Be open to all SUPRA Councillors to attend.*
  - c. *Be empowered to make necessary decisions if required before a council meeting can be convened.*
2. *That SUPRA recognises that during 2004 and 2005 considerable changes to staff and activities have been made which have decreased our costs and in preparation for the introduction of VSU we have not re-established these staff and activities. Further, SUPRA recognises that these reductions have in places diminished our services and it is our hope that these services will be fully resumed once a funding agreement is in place.*
3. *That the SOS Committee prepare further information for the University VSU Working Party including:*
  - a) *Overview of the core aspects of what we do (advice, advocacy, representation and community; all supported by admin, finance and policy staff).*
  - b) *Information demonstrating the value, output and efficiencies of our organisation, including qualitative data from students and university staff.*
  - c) *Details the financial accountability mechanisms currently in place.*
4. *That the President of SUPRA investigate options for sharing certain resources with the SRC to be considered by the SOS Committee and that these options ensure NO cuts to the current services and activities offered to students by SUPRA and enable further benefits to students and our organisation.*
5. *That any discussion of funding from the University post-VSU include the provision for indexation (both for an increase in the number of students and due to inflation) and an additional surplus to our current operating budget to allow for the accumulation of reserves.*
6. *That the Presidents of SRC and SUPRA put a joint motion to the Academic Board asking for support and recognition of the essential role that our organisations play in shaping and developing University policy and procedures.*

Motion: *THAT the VSU motions listed above be accepted.* Moved Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

Motion: *THAT Richard Bailey, Katherine Barnsley, Jodie Coleman, Lian Jenvey, Anthony Kachenko (in as much of a capacity as he has time for), be accepted as members of the new VSU Committee, and that we will call for renominations once we have a new Council.* Moved Mike Beggs, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

#### **14. Other Business**

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer be delegated to investigate Oakland Property Holdings.* Moved Anthony Kachenko, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.