



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup>  
SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 6.00 PM**

**Present:** Jenny Leong (President and Chair), Roozbeh Araghi, Richard Bailey, Kate Barnsley, Lian Jenvey, Estelle Noonan, Anthony Kachenko, Nick Kelly, Rita Lin, Rosemary Whitecross, Nelson (Yue) Yin

**Apologies:** Mike Beggs, Mal Bozic, Jodie Coleman, Adrienne Jerram, Viktor Pysmensky

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

The President acknowledged that we were meeting on the land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and paid respects to their elders.

**2. Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

**4. Resignation from Council:** Xue Yang Li (Leeyon)

Motion: *THAT the resignation Xue Yang Li from Council be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried. A vote of thanks was expressed to Leeyon for the time he spent on the SUPRA Council, particularly his help with the Travel Concession Case.

**5. Nominations for Councillors.**

Motion: *THAT Yue Yin (Nelson) be accepted as SUPRA Councillors.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

**6 a) Council vacancies**

Motion: *That, in accordance with Section 6.18 (b) of the SUPRA Constitution:*

- *Nominations for two council vacancies be declared opened and be advertised on the SUPRA website and in e-grad.*
- *That the Secretary be appointed as the Returning Officer for the conduct of these elections and that the Council meeting appoint an assistant Returning Officer to assist with the ballot count.*
- *Nominations be received by the Secretary in writing from a Councillor, citing the nominee's name and student number, which is seconded in writing by another Councillor and accepted in writing by the nominee by 5pm, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006.*
- *That the election for these vacancies be conducted by secret ballot at the next SUPRA Council meeting and counted in accordance with Schedule 1 of the SUPRA Constitution.*

Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

**6 b) Council attendance**

- It was noted that some councillors have not participated in any activities to date. A list has already been prepared for attendance at or apologies offered for Council meetings and the Secretary will also prepare one for committees.

Motion: *THAT the President and Secretary will look at the list and contact those who have not yet participated and ask if they still want to be involved – if so, they will be asked to come to the next Council meeting.* Moved: Richard Bailey. Carried.

- Kate Barnsley and Estelle Noonan will draft responsibilities statement for councillors for PAC
- The May 2006 amendments to the Constitution (not yet approved by the Senate) included provision for offering apologies for Council meeting non-attendance, but we didn't amend the committee rule.

- It was noted that the Connect Conference may be an opportunity to get interest from possible new councillors.

## 7. Equity Officers' reports

### Women's Officer

- It appears that the Union child care services are under serious threat – something drastic may happen by November. They allocated \$200,000 in 2004 and \$86,000 this year, and may remove all subsidies as an income stream. We may need to make a proposal to the union. The President will ask the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate to ask a question about this at the Senate Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- The Safety on Campus cards could be extended to posters with security bus stops, emergency numbers, etc.
- The SRC Womens collective are happy to have postgraduate women as part of their collective.
- The Women's Officer thanked the Publications Officer for his help in designing badges and Tor White of White with One Sugar who donated time to design the t-shirts for the Thursdays in Black campaign.
- Recommendation: *That council approve the Women's Officer maximum stipend of 7 hours per week until the next council meeting*  
Motion: *THAT the Women's Officer's Report and recommendation therein be accepted.*  
Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

### Queer Officer

- It was suggested that Jack Munday event should be a bigger event later in the semester because of the conference.
- The postgrad Queer collective can be included in the SRC Queer collective. This will be publicised.
- Recommendation: *That council maintains the Queer Officer's stipend at the maximum of 7 hours per week until the next council meeting*  
Motion: *THAT the Queer Officer report and recommendation therein be accepted.* Moved Richard Bailey. Carried.

It was suggested that we should write Queer Policy and Women's Policy. We could adapt the CAPA policies.

### International Officer

- In the coming month the International Officer will focus on travel concessions and may do something with the Women's Officer.
- Feedback from international students from rally re transport concessions. Not sure if parliamentarians were aware of our campaign. About 60 people attended, including 10 who came on a bus from Newcastle. Others e-mailed to enquire about it.
- International students network. The internet forum has been used, but not so many international students know they can log in.
- Tuesday night talks have included events for international students like migration and travel concessions.
- Planning an International students barbecue at the end of semester.
- The Planning Day suggested something like an international fair, and the International Officer will contact the SRC International Officer to see if there is something that can be planned later in semester like an international students fair for all students.
- Stipend. It was agreed that this will be set at a maximum of three hours per week. The President will meet with the International Officer and the SRC International Officer to see what can be planned and then put a submission to the Administration & Finance Committee to consider higher stipend.

Motion: *That the International Officer's report be accepted.* Moved Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

The President noted that at beginning of year the idea was that equity officers would have networks. We may have to drop the idea because they are not working. It was suggested that it may be unrealistic to think networks are going to be more than electronic networks.

## 8. Office Bearers reports

### President

- VSU – Vice Chancellor said that we would get \$636,000 plus in kind support. A list of suggested in kind support sent to the university was tabled.
- A memorandum with a possible future membership model was tabled. We will need to get legal advice on the constituent model. If people don't 'subscribe' in some way, even if not a paying subscription, we will have no contact details and no way of contacting them. It was pointed out that some people don't want to receive e-mails, so we may need to have a box for being a subscriber without receiving e-mails. There was discussion on the membership model and on who would be entitled to vote and stand for Council. We need to maximise opportunities for postgrads to engage with SUPRA. All SUPRA subscribers should be able to stand for and hold elected positions on the SUPRA Council. All categories should be able to vote, and it was felt that by voting a person would be engaging with SUPRA, thereby effectively becoming a subscriber. It was suggested that we should have three duration options, annual, Masters and PhD. Life membership may require some limitation on the types of events that can be accessed. The President will propose Constitutional changes in line with the tabled model and changes suggested at the meeting.
- NSW International Students Travel Concessions. It was suggested that local students can log on to the NSW Parliament site and e-mail Barry O'Farrell (Opposition Transport Spokesperson) and John Watkins (Transport Minister) to say that they are students who vote and that they and other voting students are appalled that the government is intending to continue discrimination against international students.
- The Vice Chancellor's Response to SUPRA's question relating to the all student e-mail of 23<sup>rd</sup> August titled Code of Conduct was tabled. The letter from the Council of Jewish Students has been reprinted in Honi Soit.
- Proposed Senate Resolutions for Reserve Powers for certain Student Organisations (tabled). It was proposed that the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate should be asked to put the proposed amendments which have not been included from the floor of the Senate meeting.
- Postgraduate Fellow of Senate Election.  
Motion: *THAT SUPRA circulate a special reminder to postgraduate students to vote and that SUPRA endorses Michael Beggs based on questions sent to both candidates. Currently there has been only one response, which is available on the website. And that the President will e-mail both candidates to inform them of this process and to inform Norman Chan that if he wishes to put his comments on the website he should forward them.* Moved Jenny Leong. Carried.

Motion: *THAT the President's Report be accepted.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried

### Vice President

- CAPA have been talking to the NUS about developing a more detailed plan about how two bodies might work together. We need to get people to the CAPA conference at the end of the year and undertake to put some of its resources to help some of the organizations that have not received funding.
- Social Sciences Review –taking on board some things that the Acting Policy Officer has already written in order to send off a submission tomorrow.

- Recommendation: *THAT the Vice President's maximum stipended hours be maintained at 21 per week for the next month*

Motion: *THAT the Vice President's Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

### **Secretary**

- Recommendation: *THAT the Secretary's maximum stipended hours be maintained at 14 per week for the next month.*

Motion: *THAT the Secretary's report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved Kate Barnsley. Carried.

### **Treasurer**

It was requested that under State of Finances, it should read: Bank balance at the end of August (rather than actual surplus).

Recommendation: *THAT the Council maintains the Treasurer's stipend at the maximum of seven hours per week.*

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's Report, with the above amendment and recommendations, be accepted.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried

### **Publications Officer/SAAC Convenor**

The Publications Officer reported that the Administration Officer has done a great job in terms of e-grad and getting it out to all 14,000 members. Motion: *THAT a vote of thanks be expressed to Anne Coates for her help.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried

We will need to consider whether we want a conference publication of eXpress with just conference papers or a more general publication.

The President mentioned that at present Richard's role as SAAC convenor is more to help us out with the conference.

Motion: *THAT the Publications Officer/SAAC Convenor's report be accepted.* Moved Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

## **9. Membership of Committees.**

- Motion: *THAT Nelson Yin be appointed to the Administration & Finance Committee.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT Rita Lin be confirmed as a member of the Publications, Activities & Services Committee.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

10. Motion: *THAT Council defers appointment of a PASC convenor to the next PASC meeting.* Moved Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

Motion: *THAT the balance of item 12 and item 14 on the agenda be deferred to the next meeting of Council.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at 6.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.