



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION  
5 PM, TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2007 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Jack Clegg, Co-President  
Minutes: Sacha van Albada, Co-Secretary

**Present:** Jack Clegg (President and Chair), Estelle Noonan, Richard Bailey, Wendy Huang, Yuna Tang, Thomas Huang, Sacha van Albada, Sridhar Pulikanti, Cath Davies, Nicholas Wilson

**Apologies:** Rosemary Whitecross, Shelly Le, Tehrid Chowdhury, Lian Jenvey, Hans van Leeuwen, Emily Stewart, Katherine Barnsley, Nelson Yin

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

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

**2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

**3. Publications Officer**

There were no nominations.

**4. Office Bearer Updates**

a) Co-Presidents

Jack Clegg reported that in future access to computers in the resource room will be through UniKey, with possibly some features such as electronic voting only accessible to subscribers.

Council members were notified that the USU is accepting applications for the position of Postgraduate Convenor.

The Co-Presidents are preparing a strategic planning document for negotiating a new funding agreement with the University. About \$65,000 is available for the rest of 2007, and the Management Committee will look into spending part of this on another SAAO. Jack Clegg asked to be approved for up to 35 hours a week until Katherine Barnsley's return.

Motion: *THAT the Co-President's report and the recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

b) Vice President

The Vice-President reported that SUPRA is looking to fill about two pages per fortnight in Honi Soit in order to reach a larger proportion of postgraduate students. In compensation for the extra publications in Honi Soit, only one edition of Express will

be printed a year. SUPRA is also planning to contribute a section to the SRC's CounterCourse Handbook. The Thesis Guide and Survival Manual need updating, preferably on a yearly basis. New versions should be available by O-Week 2008.

*Motion: THAT the Vice-President's report be accepted.* Moved: Richard Bailey. Carried.

c) Co-Secretaries

Since Rosemary Whitecross is overseas, Sacha van Albada asked to be approved for up to 14 hours a week until Rosemary's return.

*Motion: THAT the Co-Secretary's report and the recommendation contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

d) Treasurer

*Motion: THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

e) Campaigns and Policy Officer

In her report, the Campaigns and Policy Officer suggested that SUPRA shut down from 12-2 pm on Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup> to encourage more postgrads to attend the NUS National Day of Action, in keeping with the SRC and past practice.

*Motion: THAT the Campaigns and Policy Officer's report and the recommendation contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

## 5. Equity Officer Updates

a) Women

The Women's Officer reported that she has been involved in getting the Postgraduate Parents' Guide ready for publication. She has obtained a list of all postgraduate spaces at the University and will be investigating their safety in collaboration with campus Security and Building Services.

It was also noted that the Women's Officer sent a report detailing her work until 25 July 2007, which was not dealt with in the last Council meeting.

*Motion: THAT the Women's Officer's reports be accepted.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

b) International

*Motion: THAT the International Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

c) Queer

The minutes of the Queer Network meeting held on 19 July 2007 were noted and Cath Davies was congratulated on her election as Queer Officer.

The Queer Officer reported that she is planning to organise a queer performance night in mid October, with a tentative date 12 October. She will start advertising the fact that there is a Queer Officer, e.g. by sending posters for faculties to put up.

*Motion: THAT the Queer Officer's report be accepted with the recommendation that the Queer Officer be approved for up to 7 hours a week until the next Council meeting.*  
Moved: Cath Davies. Carried.

## **6. SAAO Work reports**

It was noted that the SAAOs are handling many new cases, suggesting that their services have been well advertised. The SAAOs are preparing a summary about the current status of the @Risk policy to present to Council.

## **7. SUPRA Committees**

(a) Allocation of new Councillors to committees

Yunnan (Yuna) Tang was appointed to the Activities and Management Committees.  
Nicholas Wilson was appointed to the Publications and Management Committees.  
Wenting (Wendy) Huang was appointed to the Activities Committee.  
Thomas Huang was appointed to the Policy and Management Committees.

(b) *Motion: THAT Council accept the minutes of the Management Committee Meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 and 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2007.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

## **8. Subscription**

Jack Clegg reported that Arlie Loughnan, a staff member based at the University of Sydney but enrolled in a PhD elsewhere, would like to subscribe to SUPRA.

*Motion: THAT Arlie Loughnan be allowed to subscribe to SUPRA.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

## **9. Election of new Councillors**

A nomination from F Abdul Majeed was noted, but since he has handed in his PhD thesis he is not an enrolled student and hence not eligible to Council. A constitutional change is needed to extend eligibility to include those students who have submitted their theses, until the thesis is sent to the library.

Three other nominations were considered, but in view of the apparent skill sets and interests of the nominees it was deemed more appropriate to ask them to be involved in SUPRA committees and activities rather than being on Council. This will keep the option open for SUPRA to look for councillors with an interest and experience in the areas of publications, campaigns, and University policy. In future, more concrete criteria should be set down and applied consistently to Council nominations, and it should be made clearer to students that they can be involved in SUPRA without being on Council.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm.