

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY
5th APRIL 2006 AT 6.00 PM**

Present: Jenny Leong (President and Chair), Richard Bailey, Kate Barnsley, Mike Beggs, Jack Clegg, Jodie Coleman, Alison Doriean, Brian Doyle, Anthony Kachenko, Sophia Leon de la Barra, Will Noonan, Julian Pinder, Timotheos Roussos, Rosemary Whitecross, Jun Zhao

Apologies: Roozbeh Araghi, Frances di Lauro, Kirsten Harley, Lian Jenvey, Adrienne Jerram, Mark Kelly, Xue Yang Li, Zhen Yi Li, Estelle Noonan, Leona Oliver

1. Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan seconded Anthony Kachenko. Carried.

2 President's Report

- The President's thanked the Treasurer for getting funds transferred to our account and some information from the university on the disbursement.
- Will Noonan represented the President at the Academic Board Meeting today.
- Your rights at uni rally – the President is speaking – wear SUPRA tee shirts if you can.
- We need 25 people to reach quorum at the EGM on Wednesday 12th April – otherwise we can't change the constitution.
- The Auditor has suggested we get defamation insurance before we speak about the 2005 accounts.
- The President wrote to the former president about outstanding costs. This and the reply were tabled for information.
- The Industrial Relations case concerning the former Finance & Administration Manager, Mr. Ted Seng, has been settled on terms that the IRC Commissioner has decreed must be kept confidential. Legal costs to date are around \$10,000.

Motion: *THAT the President's report, with updates, be accepted.* Moved Jack Clegg, seconded Julian Pinder. Carried.

3. Motion: *THAT the Vice-President continue to be stipended for up to 14 hours for the period from 17 April-5 May.* Moved: Anthony Kachenko, seconded Julian Pinder. Carried.

4 Treasurer's Report

- Recommendation 1, that SUPRA Council endorse the 2006 budget, will be put to the next Council Meeting.
- Recommendation: THAT SUPRA Council gives the President authority to draft a letter to the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor requesting information outlining the position of the monies held for staff entitlements.
- Recommendation: *THAT SUPRA Council requests the Treasurer to find out the affiliations of the 40 K Home Foundation, and whether it is a registered charity.*

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's report, as amended, including the recommendations above, be accepted.* Moved: Alison Doriean, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

5 Secretary's Update

- a) Change of Meeting times

Motion: *THAT for the duration of this Council, Council meetings be held alternately on Wednesdays and Thursdays to enable coursework students with evening classes to attend at least one meeting a month.*

Proposed dates are: Wednesday 5th April, Thursday 27th April, Wednesday 10th May, Thursday 25th May, Wednesday 7th June, Thursday 22nd June. An EGM to consider constitutional changes will be held on Wednesday 12th April.

Moved: Rosemary Whitecross, seconded Kate Barnsley. Carried.

- b) Motion: *THAT the Secretary continue to be stipended for up to 14 hours for the period from 17 April-5 May.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.
- c) Motion: *THAT the Equity Officers can now apply for keys to the office bearers offices and building entry keys and codes through the Secretary. The Admin Officer should also have a key to the office bearers offices.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross, seconded Brian Doyle. Carried.

6. **International Officer's Report**

(President speaking to the report) – The Administrative Decisions Tribunal will be making orders on the international students travel concessions on Monday. We are hoping for compensation for the original three students who filed the claim. This would set a precedent for other international students to claim compensation. Already we have had about 300 enquiries and 25 students have come in to fill in forms. We have received good media coverage – the Australian Higher Education supplement, The Sydney Morning Herald, JJJ, etc. The Government may continue to stall, which allows time to build the campaign. Posters have been made to encourage international students to come to the rally on April 12. SRC endorsed poster also.

Motion: *THAT the International Officer's Report be accepted.* Moved Brian Doyle, seconded Kate Barnsley. Carried.

7. **Women's Officer's Report**

- Womens network meeting at 5.00 pm Thursday 13th. Motion: *THAT Council approves the spending of \$50 for food for the Women's Network meeting on 13th April.* Moved Kate Barnsley, seconded Jack Clegg. Carried.
- There are Rape Crisis Centre posters around campus and King Street area – Brian has worked in this area and advised that the level of nastiness is increasing – not only women, men are having drinks spiked, etc. Some international students have been robbed on the way to Redfern Station. It was suggested that we could find ways to let people know how not to look vulnerable. Be aware that Security will escort you. The Women's Officer will talk to Security and put something out on e-grad.
- The Women's Officer also requested to continue to be stipended for up to 7 hours a week. Motion: *THAT the Women's Officer's report (including request for stipended hours) be accepted.* Moved Kate Barnsley, seconded Jun Zhao. Carried.

8. **Publications Report**

Deadline for eXpress is Friday 14th April. 4 quotes have been requested, 1 received so far – 36 page x 3000 copies – roughly \$7,000 for printing and design. We may have some publishing software on the previous Finance Manager's computer. Motion: *THAT the Publications Report be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman, seconded Timotheos Roussos. Carried.

9. **Administration & Finance Committee**

Motion: *THAT the minutes and recommendations of meetings held on 29/3/06 and 3/4/06 be accepted.* Moved Jack Clegg, seconded Timotheos Roussos. Carried.

It was noted that the cheque request for CAPA fees has been signed.

10. **Policy Advisory Committee**

- a) Minutes of the meeting held on 31/3/06.
- b) Report from PAC Officer. The Secretary will circulate all councillors advising that the PAC officer position will soon be vacant, and calling for nominations for the role.

Motion: THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting held on 31/3/06 and the PAC Officer's Report be accepted. Moved: Kate Barnsley, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

11. Publications, Activities & Services Committee

- Minutes and recommendations of meeting 29/3/06. The eXpress timetable is very much a draft.
- The website is in the process of being updated and changed. All committee meetings and Council meetings will go on the calendar function on it.

Motion: *THAT the minutes and recommendations of the meeting held on 29th March 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg, seconded Kate Barnsley. Carried

12. EGM/AGM/Elections discussion

- EGM – it is important to get 25 people for a quorum,. *Motion: THAT Alison Doriean is authorised to organise food and drinks up to \$150.00.* Moved: Jack Clegg, seconded Kate Barnsley. Carried.
- The AFC decided the auditors report will have to go to the AGM because will not be ready for the EGM.
- AGM has to happen by May 31. The timeline is in place. - the EGM is the start of it.
- Elections. Constitutional changes allow for election by secret ballot at AGM or postal ballot of all members or electronic voting system to encourage more members to participate.
- Electronic voting – two quotes – one was recommended by the university (one of the staff is a Sydney graduate) and they have had some contact with uni IT. Quote \$11,000-\$15,000 for initial/early set up. After that it would probably cost \$1000 a year to update the returning officer, make changes etc. Potential to licence software to other unis to get some of the costs back. Paper postal ballot would be around \$15,000. There are two possible other quotes. The University's IT group cannot take it on. At the EGM we will put forward motions to allow for electronic voting, We have to be very confident that the system will work properly. This will be considered further by PAC.
- Motion: *THAT Council approves AFC to enter into an agreement for an electronic voting system for Council elections.* Moved: Jack Clegg, seconded Tim Roussos. Carried.

13. Post-VSU discussion

- The discussion meeting on 29th March was useful, productive and wide-ranging.
- SRC has a petition in Honi Soit asking the Vice Chancellor to guarantee funding.
- The Vice Chancellor has asked us to say what we want.
- Jack Clegg will sit on a committee of the Senate to look at the post-VSU situation.
- The President is meeting with SRC President to look into the idea of having a café/bar or some way of making money as well as a social network.

14. Academic Board Elections

SUPRA has one vote. Council agreed on voting order.

15. google-isation Forum April 6th

One of the speakers, Dr Gerard Goggin, is a former Secretary of SUPRA.

16. Next Meeting: Thursday April 27th at 6.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.15 pm.