

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 6.00 PM ON
WEDNESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2006 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Jenny Leong, President
Minutes: Rosemary Whitecross, Secretary

Present: Jenny Leong (President & Chair), Roozbeh Araghi, Katherine Barnsley, Fleur Beaupert, Mal Botic, Jodie Coleman, Lian Jenvey, Anthony Kachenko, Hai Nguyen, Estelle Noonan, Leona Oliver, Viktor Pysmensky (from 7.00 pm) Rosemary Whitecross, Nelson Yin

Apologies and proxies: Richard Bailey (proxy to Jodie Coleman), Mike Beggs, Adrienne Jerram, Nick Kelly, Rita Lim

In attendance: from 6.50 pm Jack Clegg

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th September 2006

The correct spelling of the name Jack Munday was noted.

Motion: THAT the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th September 2006 be accepted. Moved: Kate Barnsley. Carried

3. Nominations for Councillors.

Nominations have been received for Fleur Beaupert and Hai Nguyen

Motion: THAT Fleur Beaupert and Hai Nguyen be accepted as SUPRA Councillors.

Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

4. Resignations from Council

Motion: THAT the resignation from Council of Wen Wen Liu and Aaron Qi be accepted. Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

5. Office Bearer Reports

a) President

- The Finance Manager is looking at Financial management and governance changes as a result of proposed constitutional changes. This will be sent to PAC for consideration.
- There has been no response yet from the university on in-kind support. We will keep requesting a response.
- University issues – if any councillors would like to become more involved in (e.g) reviewing university's policy etc. it would be very useful
- International Students' Travel concessions. Legislation has now passed through the Upper House. SUPRA has a new complaint with the Anti-Discrimination Board representing 28 students which was lodged before the legislation (which is not retrospective). There is a possibility the Federal Government could become involved.
- Recommendation: That Council approve a period of 3 months leave for the President of SUPRA from December 2006 until February 2007 and that a proposal for how the

responsibilities of President will be delegated during this time be brought to the November Council meeting.

Motion: *THAT the President's Report and recommendations be accepted (with the staffing report to be discussed later)* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

b) Vice President

- Social Sciences Review. If anyone is studying Social Sciences and has an interest in improving teaching, contact the President, Vice President or Mike Beggs
- 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 be accepted.* Moved Anthony Kachenko. Carried.

c) Secretary

- Outreach visits. We should consider having a lunch at the Veterinary Science lawns the Vice President and Secretary will talk to Adrian Cardinali.
- Committee attendance. Committee meetings need to have at a time when people can sometimes attend. PAC has already offered to try to hold some committee meetings outside office hours.
- We need to formulate a process that allows for us to deal with people who have not attended either Council or committee meetings in the future

Council and committee attendance

- Motion: *That the positions of Christine Li and Gary Yu be declared vacant. We will write to Christine and Gary and tell that if they have more time in the future we would be happy to have them reapply to be on Council.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT PAC recommends constitutional changes in relation to the question of committee attendance.* Moved Jenny Leong. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT the Secretary take responsibility for advertising the vacancies and receiving nominations as per the approved process.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.
- 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 recommendation be accepted.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

d) Treasurer

- It is pressing financially that details of the in-kind support from the university are finalised. It is anticipated that this will be completed before the President goes on leave.
- 2007 Pre-enrolments do not have any option for selecting to join or support SUPRA. We will be endeavouring to get something put on invoices at the enrolment stage.
- We will not get money from the university until we change the Constitution so that it fits with the VSU legislation.
- Recommendation: That the council maintains the Treasurer's stipend at the maximum of seven hours per week
Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's Report and recommendation be accepted.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

6. Equity Officer Reports and Updates

a) Indigenous

It was noted that there had been an issue with a distance student not being allowed to attend a block mode of the Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion when one local one was.

b) Women

- Childcare – the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate asked a question about this at the last Senate Meeting. The University indicated that they will not be instructing the Union how to spend its money. The Women's Officer will be meeting with Danielle Tuazon (Union Board member) and Katy Fernandez (Union President) in the next couple of weeks about childcare.
- SUN/SUPRA are considering having meetings out of office hours.
- We will try to have a stall in front of Fisher Library on Thursday 19th and Thursday 26th to try to raise awareness of Thursdays in Black and sell t-shirts.
- The President has asked the Administration Officer to set up a list-serve network e-mail for women. One of the Student Advisors will be on the list so if it is relevant for a caseworker to handle something off list they will be able to do so who choose to join.
- Recommendation: That council approve the maximum stipended hours of the Women's Officer at 7 per week until the next council meeting
Motion: *THAT the Women's Officer's report and recommendation be accepted.*
Moved: Mal Bozic. Carried.

The President asked everyone to send details of SUPRA events to all councillors.

c) Queer Officer

- Future projects to be undertaken will include Queer International Students matters (such as working out some way to organise events that appeal to those students and that they feel comfortable coming along to, possibly with an anonymous questionnaire that could be put on the website) and preparing for O-week.
- The President noted that she had requested the Queer Officer to assist with organising of other events rather than the Jack Munday forum this semester.
- Recommendation: That my stipend be maintained at the weekly maximum of seven hours a week.
Motion: *THAT the Queer Officer's Report and recommendation be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

Motion: *THAT SUPRA in principle supports the provision of facilities for writing Chinese and other scripts for the Resource Room once the question of in-kind support from the university has been resolved.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

Equity Officers

The Equity Officers were advised that from the next Council meeting stipends will go back to the maximum of 3 hours per week because students will not be around. However, equity officers can bring proposals for projects that they will undertake (e.g. for O-week the following year) for which they will be able to claim for a higher stipended hours.

The last Council Meeting asked for the CAPA policies in relation to equity officers to be considered in relation to formulating policies for equity officers for SUPRA. The President will request the Policy Adviser to send all equity officers the relevant parts of the CAPA policies..

7. Publications Officer's Report

The Stipend Policy maximum for Publications Officer is 14 hours per week. It was noted that the role of Publications Officer has changed since Richard has been doing the role – he lays out as well as editing, which has saved the cost of paying a professional graphic designer.

Motion: *THAT Richard Bailey as the Publications Officer be granted a stipend of 19 hours for this month.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

Motion: *THAT the Publications Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

8. Motion: *THAT the election of a PASC Convenor and items 12, 13, 14 and 15 on the agenda be deferred to the Special Council Meeting called for Thursday 26th October.* Moved Jenny Leong. Carried.

9. Revision of Financial Management Policy

The second sentence in the Policy Statement about the Executive Council should be removed.

Motion: *THAT the Revised Financial Management Policy, as amended, dated October 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

10. SUPRA Committees

Motion: *That Council appoints Fleur Beaupert to the Policy Advisory Committee, Hai Nguyen to the Publications, Activities & Services Committee and Leona Oliver to the Publications, Activities & Services Committee.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee Meetings held on 15th August, 13th September, 21st September, 27th September and 5th October 2006.*

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Policy Advisory Committee Meetings held on 8th September and 9th October 2006.* Moved: Jodie Coleman

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Publications, Activities & Services Committee Meetings held on 30th August and 10th October 2006 (10th October minutes are included in the Publications Officer's Report).*

Motion: *THAT the minutes of all committee meetings be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

11. Staffing (in camera)

12. Other Business

Motion: *That SUPRA congratulates the Green Power Now group on their overwhelming success in the passing of the Energy Referenda at the annual SRC elections, and that we affirm SUPRA's belief that:*

- 1) *The University of Sydney has a responsibility to take action on climate change.*

- 2) *The University of Sydney should commit to reducing its energy use, in order to reduce its impact on climate change.*
- 3) *The University of Sydney should commit to purchasing at least 20% Green Power.*
- 4) *The University of Sydney should publicly declare its existing partnerships with the fossil fuel and nuclear industries.*

Further, that SUPRA investigate creating a space on the SUPRA webpage where individual Postgraduates can 'sign on' to show their support for these statements and for Green Power

Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

It was noted that Alex Diment was the postgrad who had approached the Vice President about this.

Motion: *THAT the SUPRA Council condemns the intimidation of anti-war activity by campus security and demand University management cease using security to police activists.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

Motion: *We reaffirm our opposition to all forms of racism and prejudice, including Anti-Arab racism, Anti-Muslim prejudice and Anti-Semitism. Further, we condemn attempts by the mainstream media, and perpetuated by the Vice Chancellor, to portray anti-war activists at Sydney University as inherently anti-Semitic.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

Motion: *In the context of the Howard government's \$10 billion expansion of the army, and its ongoing participation in the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, we declare the University of Sydney a "military free zone" by demanding the following:*

- *That Defence Force representatives not be invited or allowed onto campus to promote or recruit to the armed forces;*
- *That University management publicly declare its contracts with the Department of Defence and refuse to take part in projects that will see military resources developed on our campus.*

Moved: Lian Jenvey. Carried.

The meeting closed at 9.15

Next Meeting: Thursday 26th October 2006 at 6.00 pm.