

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
HELD AT 6PM, WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2006 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Roozbeh Araghi, Acting President

Minutes: Rosemary Whitecross, Secretary

Present: Roozbeh Araghi (Acting President & Chair), Richard Bailey, Katherine Barnsley (from 6.45 pm), Mike Beggs, Mal Bozic (to 6.30 pm), Jack Clegg, Jodie Coleman, Lian Jenvey (to 7.00 pm), Anthony Kackenko, Estelle Noonan, Katy O'Connor, Emily Stewart, Sacha van Albada, Rosemary Whitecross, Nelson Yin

1. Acknowledgement of Country

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

2. Apologies and proxies: Fleur Beaupert (leave of absence, proxy to Roozbeh Araghi), Roni Demirbag, Adrienne Jerram, Jenny Leong, Rita Lin, Hai Nguyen (leave of absence)

3. Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 9th and 29th November 2006

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 9th and 29th November 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Mal Botic. Carried.

4. Resignation from Council and appointment of a new Councillor.

Motion: *THAT the resignation of Mal Botic from Council be accepted and that Sacha van Albada be accepted as his replacement under Section 6.18 (a) of the SUPRA Constitution.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried

5. Office Bearer Reports

a) Acting President

- The new Membership Model is slightly behind schedule.
- CAPA affiliation fees. The new affiliation fees are based on a complicated model which means we will pay about \$1 a student, and the total is likely to be about \$13,000 for 2007. We can pay in instalments and can also pay the following year's affiliation fees in advance if we choose to.
- Recommendation: That Council delegate decision making authority to the Management Committee in the instance that a January Council Meeting is inquorate.
- Recommendation: THAT the President's maximum stipended hours be maintained at 35 per week for the next month.
- Recommendation: That the Vice President's maximum stipended hours be maintained at 21 hours a week for the next month.

Motion: *THAT the Acting President's report and the recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

b) Acting Vice President (verbal update)

- Held the fort last week while the Acting President was at the CAPA ACM.
- Has been following up on the funding agreement with the University

- Meeting with the SRC and the Union about membership, etc.
- Also working on staffing issues.

It was noted that the Acting Vice President had written several of the reports for tonight.

c) 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 (excluding the section on Council and Committee attendance) and the recommendation contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

d) Treasurer

- The end of year surplus will probably be about \$140,000, which should leave us in a good position.
- The revised Draft Budget for 2007 was tabled. This does not include any money carried over from 2006 or any level of supporter donations.
- The selection of a suitable fund for staff entitlements money is being looked at. The money is currently on a term deposit with the National Australia Bank and we have asked NEST for further suggestions. CAPA uses NEST and suggested we could ask the NTEU what they recommend.
- 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 contained be in be accepted, and the draft budget noted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

6. Equity Officer Reports and Updates

University Diversity Plan – The Acting President has asked equity officers to look it at this week.

a) Women' Officer

- Eva Cox (UTS Academic) is interested in a forum on how to bring women back to feminism and collective action.
- International Women's Day in March – looking to have some activity. SUN usually organises something and wants SUPRA to be involved.
- Possibly relaunching Thursdays in Black next year at O-week.
- Has set up women's e-list, and will put this in e-grad.
- The Women's Officer will be away 19th to 28th December, but will be available on e-mail.
- In January, will be working on the above, also on childcare
- Recommendation: That council approve my maximum stipend until the next council meeting, obviously on the proviso that I will not be claiming for work that I have not done.

Motion: *THAT the Women's officer's report and the recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

b) International Officer

- Suggestion was made at the Planning Meeting on December 11 to have a drop in afternoon type event(s) for international and other students over the break.
- It was decided that it might be better to wait until the new year to hold a big event, and advertise it through e-grad.

Motion *THAT the International Officer's report be accepted, and the with stipend dealt with separately.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

Stipend for International Officer

Motion: *THAT the recommendation be amended to set the maximum stipend at 3 hours a week for the next month with the ability to appeal to the Management Committee if she wishes to. The Secretary will advise the International Officer of this.*

Moved: Jack Clegg. 3 abstentions. Carried.

c) Queer Officer

- Queer International Student Survey. The Queer Officer has found a number of gay and lesbian organisations operating in Indonesia, and is also looking at China, Korea and Malaysia, to provide resources to include in the Queer International Student booklet.
- It was noted that the Queer Officer's report was in a good clear format.
- Recommendation: That SUPRA formally endorse the campaign to free David Hicks and bring him home to Australia. This support should extend to offering the campaign some photocopying resources for their next action.
- Recommendation: That my hours be maintained at the maximum until the next council meeting

Motion: *THAT the Queer Officer's report and recommendation on hours be accepted.*

Moved Jodie Coleman. Carried.

Procedural motion: *THAT the recommendation in relation to the campaign to free David Hicks should be moved to other business.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

7. Publications Officer's Report

- There are now more tasks following the Planning Meeting. We will be going ahead with print run of eXpress and the Survival Manual.
- Plan for merchandising – SUPRA bookmark etc. for O-week. We could get it printed by the University Copy Centre.
- Membership form - joint publication with SRC.
- Conference edition of eXpress – it has not yet been decided whether we should edit the articles or send them back to the authors for editing, and we could convene a Publications Committee meeting to discuss this. The deadline was originally the end of year for the Connect eXpress– now it will be O-week 2007.
- Layout from previous eXpress will be used for the next one. However, we are still at the stage of preparing the text for layout. If we can't get a quote from Spot Press we will approach Print & Mail.
- Recommendation: I would like to request that my stipend be continued at 19 hours a week max. The actual hours will most likely be lower than this for most of the month, but we'll need to get cracking in January

Motion: *THAT the Publications Officer's report and recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

8. Council vacancies

Motion: *THAT the position of Philip Vahn be declared vacant in accordance with Section 6.16(a) of the SUPRA Constitution, and that the position of Viktor Pysmensky be declared vacant in accordance with Section 7.9 (a) of the SUPRA Constitution.*

Moved: Richard Bailey. Carried.

Motion: *THAT we instruct the Acting President to liaise with Leona Oliver as to how to proceed with Brian Doyle's position.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

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

- *Nominations for 3 Council vacancies be declared opened.*
- *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, Monday 8th January 2007.*
- *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

8. Funding Agreement with the University

Motion: *THAT we move in Camera.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

(motion out of camera)

Motion: *THAT Council approves the signing of the Funding Agreement dated 18 December 2006 and that we send with it a letter detailing the points raised in previous correspondence with Professor Coats to which we do not receive a written response from him or Marian Theobald by 12 noon on Monday 18th December and that we indicate a wish to have an amended contract signed in the New Year which clarifies those items.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

9. Staffing issues (in camera)

Motion: *THAT Council approve the proposed restructure timeline, redrafted Student Advice and Advocacy Officer position description and restructure explanation circulated to the meeting. THAT the Council representatives on the Workplace Consultative Committee be authorised to offer redundancy to the Policy Adviser as a consequence of this restructure. THAT Council recognises that funding restrictions will only allow the creation of 3 combined Student Advice and Advocacy Officer/Researcher positions rather than the 4 positions previously agreed to.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

10. Office Bearers' reports and stipends

This will be referred to the Management Committee

11. Postgraduate Entitlements Policy

Councillors were asked to read the report already circulated.

The Policy Committee will evaluate the next step.

12. SUPRA Committees

- (a) Motion: *THAT Sacha van Albada be appointed to the Activities Committee.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

The Secretary will send an e-mail to councillors clarifying what committees they are on or wish to be on in line with the revised Constitution accepted by the Senate on 4 December 2006.

(b) Election of an Activities Committee Convenor

A nomination was received for Nelson Yin.

Motion: *THAT Nelson Yin be appointed as Activities Committee Convenor.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

- (c) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee Meetings held on 7th November, 15th November, 28 November and Management Committee of 12 December 2006.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Policy Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20th November 2006.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Publications, Activities & Services Committee Meeting held on 22nd November 2006.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

13. Leave of absence

Motion: *THAT Hai Nguyen be granted leave of absence from 13 December 2006 to 2nd March 2007.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

Motion: *THAT Jack Clegg be granted leave of absence from 11 January to 10th March 2007.* Moved Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

14. Council and Committee Meeting Times

Council will adopt 16 January 2007 as the date for the next meeting of Council. It endorse in principle the suggestion of non-Council meeting weeks being days for committee meetings. This subject will be discussed at the January 2007 Council Meeting.

15. Other Business

Motion: *THAT SUPRA formally endorse the campaign to bring David Hicks back to Australia. It endorses the use of the photocopier to produce 1000 (pieces of papers) double sided A6 black and white leaflets. Lian Jenvey to investigate holding a forum in the New Year without any commitments. Estelle Noonan to contact the Centre for Peace and Conflict studies or similar university organisation in relation to this.*

Moved: Jodie Coleman. 1 abstention. Carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th January 2007 at 6.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.