

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT 6PM, THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

**Chair:** Jodie Coleman, Acting President

**Minutes:** Rosemary Whitecross, Secretary

**Present:** Jodie Coleman (Acting President & Chair), Richard Bailey, Katherine Barnsley, Fleur Beaupert, Suzanne Derok, Lian Jenvey (to 7.00 pm), Anthony Kachenko, Abdul Majeed, Estelle Noonan, Katy O'Connor, 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 offered our respects to them and their elders.

**2. Apologies and proxies:** Mike Beggs, Jack Clegg (Leave of Absence), Adrienne Jerram, Jenny Leong (Leave of absence), Rita Lin, Hai Nguyen (Leave of absence), Emily Stewart. Motion: *THAT apologies be accepted.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

**3. Nominations for Councillors.**

Nominations have been received for Suzanne Derok and Abdul Majeed.

Motion: *THAT Suzanne Derok be accepted as a Councillor.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

Motion: *THAT Abdul Majeed be accepted as a Councillor.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

**4. Resignations from Council**

Motion: *THAT the resignation from Council of Roozbeh Araghi be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

**5. Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

**6. Office Bearer Reports**

**a) Acting President**

- Stipend rates. The Acting President explained the current situation. Motion: *THAT Council approve costs associated with seeking legal advice on the issue of stipend payments to ensure that we meet our legal obligations.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried. Actual costs of the legal advice will be passed to the Management Committee for ratification.
- The Funding Agreement with the University should be GST neutral.
- Travel concessions for international students. A press release was issued last week. The Federal Education Minister has asked the NSW Transport Minister to give travel concessions to international students.
- Motion: *THAT the student representatives on the Workplace Consultative Committee respond to staff, reaffirming that the intention is to reduce the workload of the Student*

*Advice and Advocacy Officers and will ensure that this process does not lead to an increase in the workload of the SAAOs, and confirming that we intend to proceed with the restructure and make the Policy Adviser position redundant. THAT this letter respond to the issues raised by staff and propose a further WCC meeting to discuss this as soon as possible.* Moved: Richard Bailey. Carried.

- Motion: *THAT Council acknowledge that people who were enrolled (including second semester enrolments) in 2006 are to be treated as SUPRA Subscribers until the end of March 2007, in keeping with the approach to membership in previous years.* Moved: Katy O'Connor. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT Jenny Leong officially resumes the office of President again on 5 March and be granted an additional week's leave of absence from March 5 to 12. That in Jenny's absence, Katherine Barnsley and Rosemary Whitecross attend any necessary meetings or inductions and are able to claim the stipend hours associated with this work.* Moved Estelle Noonan. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT the Acting President's Report be accepted:* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

#### **b) Secretary**

Motion: *THAT the Secretary's Report be accepted.* Moved: Kate Barnsley Carried.

#### **c) Treasurer**

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

### **7. Equity Officer Reports and Updates**

#### **a) Queer Officer (see also the O-week report)**

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

#### **b) Women's Officer**

Include the Equity O-week tea party in 'events being organised'.

Meetings attended:

- Research and Research Training Committee – SUPRA's proposal for changes to PRSS to establish a more equitable delivery of money and some feedback process was not accepted. There was an undertaking from Research Office that they would review the selection criteria so people would have a better understanding of it.
- Learning & Teaching Committee. The University looking at plagiarism detection software to use across the university. SUPRA does not consider this a good way to deal with plagiarism. Only a small number are wilful – many are because they do not understand – we support education about plagiarism. The terms of reference of the Plagiarism sub-committee will be expanded and we will try to get a representative from SUPRA on that committee.

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

#### **c) International Officer**

- Motion: *THAT the International Officer be asked to discuss with the SRC if they are interested in joining in on the campaign and prepare a budget and campaign project to take to Management Committee.* Moved Sacha van Albada. Carried.
- The Women's Officer will help the International Officer with using the international students network. Needs to check with ISSU etc. to see what resources they have.
- Motion: *THAT Council allocates up to \$50 for food for the international students network meeting on 23/3/07.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT the International Officer's report be accepted.* Moved Anthony Kachenko. Carried.

#### **8. Publications Officer's Report**

The Survival manual is proving to be a larger job than anticipated. Ann Turner has done a wonderful job in updating it.

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

#### **9. Council vacancies**

Motion: *That, in accordance with Section 5.18 (b) of the SUPRA Constitution:*

- *Nominations for 2 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, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 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.

#### **10. Discussions with SRC and USU including terms of reference**

The Acting President reported that meeting with SRC and Union have been held fortnightly since early January and will continue until end March. Getting information together to compare things and see where possibilities for more cooperation. All wanting to protect integrity of organizations but also make what we can of cooperation. No recommendations or decisions yet being made. Once they are, they will be brought to Council.

Motion *THAT Council endorses the terms of reference for the Working Party (USU, SRC & SUPRA).* Moved: Fleur Beaupert. Carried.

#### **11. Staffing update**

Tyrone Lynch's 6 week contract ends tomorrow.

#### **12. SAAO Policy**

Developed by caseworkers – a policy they wanted to govern/conduct their business.

Motion *THAT Council accepts the SUPRA SAAO policy with the exclusion of section 7 (Record Keeping) which will be considered after the University training session next week.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

#### **13. O-week Update**

- Thanks to all those who helped in enrolments – particularly Sacha van Albada.
- O-week will only be as successful as the efforts we put in.
- We will have a stall in the SRC tent next to their membership stall. We can consider setting up direction signs to the SUPRA stall.
- 2 key events – a barbecue with nice food and wholesome salads and no alcohol on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and a joint equity tea party on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3.00 pm
- The Union's postgrad party apparently does not happen any more.
- Motion THAT the Queer Officer's and O-week report be accepted. Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

#### **14. SUPRA Committees**

- (a) Motion: *THAT the allocation of new Councillors to committees be deferred to the Management Committee.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried
- (b) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Management Committee Meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.
- (c) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Policy Committee Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007.* Moved: Nelson Yin. Carried.
- (d) Motion: *THAT Council notes that the Publications committee was convened on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007 but abandoned because of lack of attendance.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.
- (e) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Activities Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

**Next Meeting: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6.00 pm at the SUPRA Offices.**

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.