

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY  
UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29 2006 AT 10.30 AM IN THE  
SUPRA OFFICES**

**Present:** Jenny Leong (President & Chair), Roozbeh Araghi, Richard Bailey, Katherine Barnsley, Lian Jenvey, Adrienne Jerram, Anthony Kachenko, Hai Nguyen, Leona Oliver, Rosemary Whitecross, Nelson Yin

**Apologies:** Fleur Beaupert (proxy to Roozbeh Araghi), Mal Botic, Jodie Coleman, Katy O'Connor, Viktor Pysmensky

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

**1. DRAFT FUNDING AGREEMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY FOR 2007**

The deadline for signing the agreement has been extended to 18 December. We hope to be able to finalise it this week or early next week.

The President highlighted three issues of concern: details in section 2 concerning GST, the absence of any in-kind support for printing and the issue of whether stipends can be paid from the funding. It was noted that the covering letter from the Vice Chancellor says that the agreement relies on our letter of August 8 (which included stipends and printing in in-kind support).

Council considered the draft agreement in detail. Points for special consideration were:

**Section 2.2.** Possible GST liability on funding from the university. In the past, subscriptions came from individual students and was liable for GST. The University has asked Tax Office for a ruling on whether when they give us \$636,000 it will be liable for GST. The letter implies that we will be liable for the GST until the ruling comes. The President has talked to several people who have GST knowledge – who all feel it is unlikely that the Tax Office will deem it GST liable. However, the decision could take a year.

We will get money in 9 instalments so we will actually get more money than we need in each of the first few months. If still didn't have a ruling from ATO by end of 2007 we would have difficulty.

As the University is GST exempt, if they paid us money for a service which included GST they would then get the GST back. We will seek to clarify this point.

**Section 3.4.** It was noted that if any of the University's money is not spent at end of year it will be returned to them, effectively penalising us for good financial management.

**Section 4.** The "in-kind" support doesn't include printing or a photocopier. The lack of in-kind support for printing will reduce available funding by about \$50,000.

We will need to check that mobiles are included (the university's billing system may not allow for exclusion). As some of our constituents live outside the Sydney telephone area and the Camden campus and rural medical schools are also outside it, we should push for STD to be included and only long distance international calls to be barred.

Printing – It was suggested that we should sign the agreement without it and report back to Senate for first meeting of next year advising that in view of the university not providing full in-kind support we will only be able to work with 2 caseworkers next year. If the Senate instructs the university to provide us with in-kind support or increase the cash it would cover cost of an additional caseworker.

**Section 4.2.** Provision of comparable premises if these are not available. There was discussion on whether we should we make this clause stronger.

**Section 4.4.4.** Provision of venues for free unless for "collective representation which would be characterized as protesting or rallying". We could add in "against the university or the university's administration" which might alleviate the university's concerns. If we want to hold a meeting that might contravene this clause we could still hold it on the lawns or at SUPRA etc.

**Section 5.4.** It was suggested we could ask to change the first sentence to read "SUPRA will in good faith discuss..."

The section needs clarification as to what "on a regular basis, but no less than fortnightly meetings to achieve an economic union... by 31 March 2007" means.

It was suggested we request the insertion "designed to form a report ..... by 31 March 2007" instead of "to achieve an ..... By 31 March 2007".

**Section 6.** Our university contact person will be a senior manager under the DVC Community.

**Section 12.** This needs a dispute resolution clause or a general clause saying that both parties will work towards a dispute resolution clause by 31 March 2007.

**Section 14.2.** Adrienne Jerram will check Senate guidelines on who can use the University's logo and when and where to see if we have to get special permission. If we are using our own reserves to produce publications, etc. then it might not be true – could be amended to "financed with support of the university" or similar.

The retiring SRC President and the new SRC President are away until 11 December. It was felt we should continue to work with them. Pending legal advice that nothing wrong with the wording of the agreement, we could sign off on it at the 13<sup>th</sup> December Council meeting

The following table sets out the issues to be pursued with the university and their importance to the finalisation of the agreement:

<b>Deal breakers</b>	<b>Pursue now</b>	<b>Pursue after signing</b>
(1) Stipends	** GST – clarify accrue not pay	GST - accrue not pay
(2) Economic union by 31 March 2007	STD phone calls	Printing
	** Space – Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- relocation costs</li> <li>- notification</li> </ul>	
	4.4.2 software licensing agreements and communication systems	
<b>Don't consider</b>	** Economic union (clarify)	
Space - tightening the clause	** 12.Termination – who is delegated authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Senate trigger</li> <li>- 12.3 – both parties will work to establish a dispute resolution process</li> <li>- Senate also provided with notice when we are</li> </ul>	12. if not clarified before
Section 4.4.4	Acknowledgement and logo clarification	

Motion: *THAT pending resolution of Section 5.5 and that the economic union does not have to be in place by 31 March and subject to the legal advice on the reasonableness of the contract that we sign the agreement. In addition to this the President will write to Elizabeth Evans about the “pursue now” issues and that following the signing of the agreement the SUPRA Ongoing Sustainability Committee will be delegated the authority to deal with any of the “pursue now” options and the “pursue after signing” options through the relevant avenues, in conjunction with the SRC.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

## **2. SUPRA ONGOING SUSTAINABILITY (SOS) COMMITTEE**

Motion: *THAT the SUPRA Ongoing Sustainability (SOS) Committee be re-established and delegated the authority to deal with VSU matters. THAT previous members Roozbeh Araghi, Richard Bailey, Katherine Barnsley, Jodie Coleman, Lian Jenvey, Anthony Kachenko and Rosemary Whitecross continue on the committee, with Jack Clegg to be coopted to the committee, and with all members to have votes. If the SOS committee has 3 votes against a motion, issues are to be circulated to Council and*

*other councillor' points of view should be considered 24 hours later, with the Acting President having a casting vote. Moved Jenny Leong. Carried.*

### **3. OPENING OF NEW BANK ACCOUNTS**

Motion: *THAT two new accounts be opened with the National Australia Bank, one for the University to put money into, one for our supporter fees to come into. Signatories will be the same as for the current bank account. Moved Jenny Leong. Carried.*

### **4. PLANNING MEETING FOR O-WEEK AND 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER 2007**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30 pm. Lian Jenvey will circulate an outline of suggestions.

### **5. 2007 DRAFT MEMBERSHIP PLAN (tabled).**

Anne Coates has designed a membership database. which has a first step where we will have constituent details. This may not work with the University collecting details.

Targets. It was noted that 100% of students enrolled in first semester had already paid for a USU Access card for 2006 but only 50% actually collected it.

The President has been talking to DVC Community with the SRC and the Union to have a link to the student organizations on the university's website. The University will be accepting payments for us at all enrolment sites.

The model on page 7 would change if we were using the university's website. A mock-up of our website will be circulated to all councillors before December 11.

Motion: *THAT the 2007 Draft Membership Plan be approved. Moved Jenny Leong. Carried.*

### **6. APPLICATION FOR DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT STATUS**

It was noted that form had been completed, using the Secondary Higher Education category.

### **7. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.