



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE HELD AT 6 PM ON THURSDAY 29TH JAN
AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Rashmi Kumar

Minutes: Lian Jenvey

Apologies Sam Greenland, Nick Scott, Lulu Stewart

Present: Rashmi Kumar, Peter Stephens, Cipi Morgan, Paolo Mazzi (left at 6.30pm),
Heidi Claus, Lian Jenvey, Nicholas Wilson, Tahhrid Chowdery

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th August and the 17th December 2008

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 14th August 2008 be accepted.

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 17^h Dec 2008 be accepted.

2.a THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of management committee held 22nd Jan 09. be accepted.

M. Lian Jenvey CARRIED

3. Office Bearer Reports

- a) President
- b) Co-Vice-Presidents
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer

4. Equity Officer Reports and Updates

- a) Queer Officer

Organising social outing and film night to see new film "Milk"

- b) Women's Officer

Working on the Childcare handbook.

- c) International Officer

- d) Campaigns and Policy

Mardi Gras float and Gaza Defence Committee key areas of work.

- e) Publications

Completed Survival manual

That the reports be accepted by council M Rosemary Whitecross CARRIED

5. Gaza motion

In light of recent atrocities committed by Israel in the Palestinian Gaza strip, SUPRA council feels compelled to invoke our sense of duty as compassionate global citizens, and express our solidarity with the Palestinian people through the following resolution:

The Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association strongly condemns Israel's recent war on the Palestinian people of the Gaza strip. SUPRA mourns the death of over 1400 Palestinians who have fallen victim to the violence of the Israeli Defence Forces, and expresses particular outrage at the use of the chemical white phosphorous on civilian populations. SUPRA calls for an immediate withdrawal of all IDF personnel from the Gaza strip, and an end to the 2-year blockade of Gaza's borders to allow the passage of all food, fuel and medical supplies. SUPRA offers its solidarity to those in Palestine suffering from Israel's alleged war crimes, and to all concerned students in Australia affected by Israel's war.

SUPRA condemns the despicable role of the Mubarak government in backing Israeli aggression and closing the Rafah border crossing thereby imprisoning the Palestinian population of Gaza.

SUPRA expresses grave concern at the stance taken by the Australian Federal Government, and calls on the Prime Minister to immediately condemn Israel's hostilities towards Gaza.

SUPRA is particularly appalled at what appears to be the indiscriminate bombing of the Islamic University in Gaza and numerous other educational institutions, many operated by the UN. SUPRA supports the call for an imposition of an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions issued on December 29 by the Palestinian Federation of Unions of University Professors and Employees.

SUPRA further asserts that any legitimate ceasefire must include provision for opening the borders into Gaza, a complete withdrawal of Israeli military forces, and a complete cessation of Israeli military aggression.

Accordingly, SUPRA resolves to take the following action:

1. SUPRA endorses the formation of the student group 'Cross Campus Gaza Defence Committee' which was inaugurated at a meeting of student organization representatives on Tuesday 13th January 2009. SUPRA encourages sympathetic office bearers, councilors and SUPRA members to participate in this coalition.
2. SUPRA endorses protest actions called by Gaza Defence Committee and the coalition group Justice for Palestine, in particular the protest on Saturday 31st January

3. SUPRA calls on our research student members to participate in the academic boycott cited above, and to take whatever measures are within their power to isolate the Israeli academy in international forums, associations of academics, publications, conferences or other international fora.

M. Lian Jenvey CARRIED with two abstentions noted Rosemary Whitecross and Nicholas Wilson

6.Enrolments and O'week

7. Canberra convergence

That SUPRA donate \$500 to the costs of the Canberra convergence to protest the Northern Territory intervention and that Rashmi Kumar is authorised to release another \$500 in the event that it is needed. M Peter Stephens CARRIED

8. Redfern booklet

9. Global week of action for emancipating education

10.Other Business

a) Emmissions Reduction Working Party

That Paolo Mazzi be SUPRA's representative M Peter Stephens CARRIED

b) IWD

That SUPRA donate \$500 towards making a banner and also offer in kind support M Heidi Claus CARRIED

11. Next Meeting