

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION  
11.30 AM, THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2007 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Katherine Barnsley, Co-President  
Minutes: Sacha van Albada, Co-Secretary

**Present:** Katherine Barnsley, Jack Clegg, Sacha van Albada, Rosemary Whitecross, Estelle Noonan, Nicholas Wilson, Yunnan Tang, Nelson Yin, Jenny Leong (from 11.52 am), Lian Jenvey (12.15 pm)

**Apologies:** Cath Davies (leave of absence), Sridhar Pulikanti, Emily Stewart, Tahrid Chowdhury (leave of absence), Thomas Huang, Richard Keep

**1. Acknowledgement of Country**

Kate Barnsley 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. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007**

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 be accepted.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

**3. Election of Treasurer**

SUPRA received a written nomination from Richard Keep, seconded by Emily Stewart.

Jack Clegg nominated Nelson Yin, who accepted the nomination.

Estelle Noonan nominated Jack Clegg as the returning officer. A secret proportional ballot was held with the possibility of a 'no candidate' vote, with the outcome that Nelson Yin was elected to the position of Treasurer.

Nelson was approved for up to 14 hours a week for his combined roles as International Officer, Activities Committee Convenor, and Treasurer.

**4. Office Bearer Updates**

a) Co-Presidents

Jack Clegg presented an oral Co-Presidents' update.

- The thesis guide has gone off to the designer.
- Jonathan Hulme has started as a new SAAO.
- The Co-Presidents had a meeting with the Redfern Legal Centre concerning a final draft for a contract between the Centre and SUPRA for 2.5-3 days legal advice per week starting mid February, which will be freely available to all postgrads.
- The question of whether PhD students should continue to be considered students during the examination of their thesis is on the agenda for the next Academic Board meeting. SUPRA is of the opinion that PhD students should be able to continue to use the University's services until their degree is granted.

- The research section of the Postgraduate Entitlements Campaign will be discussed with the DVC Research and the coursework section with the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- Over 600 responses have already been received to the Countercourse survey. The print deadline for the Countercourse Handbook is 25 January.
- SUPRA will not have to give back any of the funding received from the University at the end of the funding period.
- SUPRA is hoping to advertise for a conference coordinator for next year's conference around mid January.
- The office will reopen on 2 January. Kate will be away until 7 January, but Jack will be there from the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion: *THAT the Co-Presidents' report be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

#### b) Vice President

The Vice President didn't have much to report, having just started in the position.

Motion: *THAT the Vice President's report be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

#### c) Co-Secretaries

Motion: *THAT the Co-Secretaries' report be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

#### d) Publications Officer

Motion: *THAT Nicholas Wilson be assigned the role of Publications Officer (rather than Publications Committee Convenor) retrospectively to 22 November 2007.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

Motion: *THAT 5,000 copies of the Thesis Guide be printed by SOS Print & Media and up to \$12,000 be approved for the combined costs of design, layout, and printing, to be signed off by the Co-Presidents and the Publications Officer.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

- The cover of the Thesis Guide will be glossy, with matte inside pages.
- Jenny proposed that the Thesis Guide mention that students should always check with SUPRA for the most up-to-date information, to increase the guide's shelf-life.

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

#### e) Campaigns and Policy Officer

- Lian Jenvey attended Bernie Banton's funeral as part of the Union contingent on behalf of SUPRA. SUPRA has made a donation to sufferers from disease caused by asbestos.
- The December 9<sup>th</sup> Stop the War Coalition rally was relatively small.

Motion: *THAT the Campaigns and Policy Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

### 6. Equity Officer Updates

#### a) Women

Motion: *THAT the Women's Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

#### b) International Officer

Motion: *THAT the International Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

### 7. Report from CAPA conference

The CAPA conference was a success, with policy being passed to allow SUPRA campaigns to be formally endorsed by CAPA, as well as a new equity policy requiring at least two women on the executive committee. Kate Barnsley was elected as the Vice President of CAPA for 2008.

Motion: *THAT Council congratulate Kate with her election as Vice President of CAPA.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

### 8. SAAO Work reports

The Redfern Legal Centre will not give migration advice because they are not registered migration agents. Jenny proposed we contact Aristotle Paipetis to perhaps work in conjunction with the legal centre and complement their work with advice on migration issues.

### 9. Casual Employment Policy

- The Casuals Policy proposed by the Policy Committee is aimed at greater uniformity of treatment of academic casuals across faculties.
- Some amendments were made to clarify that SUPRA encourages academic casuals to be offered contracts, and hence to be employed as 'permanent' staff rather than casual staff.

Motion: *THAT the amended Casual Employment Policy be accepted as SUPRA's policy on the matter.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

## **10. O-Week**

SUPRA's general theme for O-week will be 'We are students, not customers.'  
Showbags will be ordered.

## **11. SUPRA Committees**

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Management Committee meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007, and of the Publications Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Moved to accept en bloc: Jack Clegg. Carried.*

## **11. Payment over Christmas break**

The average number of hours per week worked over the last two months (or if the position has been held for less than two months, over the period worked) will be paid to office bearer's over the Christmas break.

## **12. Resignation of Liang Chang**

Motion: *THAT the resignation of Liang Chang from the SUPRA Council be accepted.*  
Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

**Next Meeting: mid January**