

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 6.30 PM ON
THURSDAY 14th AUGUST 2008 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Sam Greenland, Co-President

Minutes: Rosemary Whitecross

Present: Sam Greenland (Co-President and Chair), Katherine Barnsley, Tahrid Chowdhury, Heidi Claus, Thomas Huang, Rashmi Kumar, Kathryn Morgan, Dora Son, Rosemary Whitecross, Nicholas Wilson

Apologies Lian Jenvey, Richard Keep, Nicholas Scott (Leave of absence), Peter Stephens, Emily Stewart, Nelson Yin (Leave of absence)

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The Co-Presidents 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, past, present and future.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10th July 2008

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 10th July 2008 be accepted.* Moved: Kate Barnsley. Carried

3. Office Bearer Reports

a) Co-Presidents – verbal report

- Redfern Legal Centre – following up contract for legal services 2.5 days per week – Redfern Legal Centre are reviewing their services and we are reviewing our Strategic Plan – we may get extra services in future in lieu of past shortfalls.
- Second semester Inductions – many new members have signed up
- Funding proposal with the University seems to be on track, hopefully for three years.
- Account opened with Translation and Interpretation Services – the SAAOs and the solicitor can use it if they feel interpreting is necessary when assisting a student.
- Keys and alarm codes for 2008 office bearers, etc. have now been ordered
- Press release has been issued in response to Julia Gillard saying USU will not come back – also welcoming report from Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relation that showed that VSU has cost universities money which would otherwise have been available for teaching and research.
- Intellectual property – The University is planning to change the framework. The introduction has been delayed for 6 weeks. Dr. Isaac Shariv from Sydnovate has agreed to come and speak to postgrads before 17 September so that he can receive feedback.
- It was noted that we have had no accountability for money Council has allocated for spending on copying, Risograph use etc. or of individual organisations/people paying to use our resources. We will ask the Treasurer to bring to Management Committee ideas on how to keep track of the costs of such use.
- Short-term position description discussed by Management Committee on 4th August – Motion: *THAT Council mandates Management Committee to create a position description, defining a number of specific tasks with person-hour guidelines attached – once agreed to this will be circulated to Councillors as*

stipended opportunities. Those tasks that remain unfilled within a week to be advertised in accordance with the Enterprise Agreement.

b) Co-Vice-Presidents

- Nick has taken over responsibility for this year's Connect Conference organisation from Nelson. So far not many abstracts have been received.
- Nick has been participating in the Assessment Working Party Workshops – The University is looking at Standards-based assessment. Nick will circulate the report to the Policy Committee for further consideration

c) Secretary

d) Treasurer

- Council asks the Treasurer to provide a Budget with spending to date to the Management Committee so we can see the detail of spending vs budget.

Motion: *THAT Council accept the Office Bearer reports and the recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

4. Equity Officer Reports and Updates

a) Queer Officer

- If we are going to invite undergraduates to events, it would be good to work with the SRC equity officers and have a joint event/joint funding. We can only advertise through e-grad and posters, and it was suggested we discuss with the Queer Convenors at SRC and USU about using their mailing lists.

b) Women's Officer

- We have the data from surveys the previous Women's Officer did with Security on safe spaces for women. The SRC Women's Officers are keen to do a larger audit. This will be a lengthy process – Rashmi will be working with them.
- Carer's Guide – Rashmi is getting data from our previous surveys and will submit it to the Publications Committee when ready

c) International Officer

- Will e-mail Nigel Palmer at CAPA to get contacts for other universities' International Officers re NLC matters and then report back to Council after discussions with them.

Motion: *THAT Council accept the Equity Officers reports and the recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

5. Research and Liaison Officer (previously called the Committee Liaison Officer)

- Kate wrote the Bradley Review submission for SUPRA and for SUPRA's contribution to the University's submission. It was noted that the Chancellor had rung SUPRA to commend the quality of our contribution to the University's submission. The Co-Presidents expressed their gratitude for Kate's time and effort in preparing the submissions. This was accepted with acclamation.
- Appeared as a witness at Innovation and Enquiry

- The office is really project based, as need arises, deal with things like attendance at committees or other things that arise.
- Motion: *THAT SUPRA accepts the position description for Research and Liaison Officer (previously called the Committee Liaison Officer) with a maximum of 14 hours stipend per week, to be agreed for each project.* Moved Heidi Claus

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the Research and Liaison Officer's report.* Moved Cipi Morgan. Carried.

6. Nominations for Council membership

- Motion: *THAT Council accepts the nominations of Sishir Kumar Kamalapuram, Quraissy Muhammad, Jing Wen, Xiao Lin and Jinjia Zhan and appoints them all to the SUPRA Council.* Moved: Heidi Claus. Carried.
- Sam will contact them to see if they would like to be on the Activities or Publications Committees.
- Motion: *THAT we open nominations for the remaining vacant place on Council.* Moved: Kate Barnsley. Carried.

7. Policy Officer's Report

- NDA 12 pm Eastern Avenue on 20th August – proposed that all Councillors try to take part.
- Sam noted that Heidi has been doing a lot this month to help get Councillors participating in activities

8. Publications Officer Report

- We need to ensure that we make good use of Honi Soit pages – next week following up the NDA – following week on Education. Encouraging councillors to write things for Honi Soit – let Cipi know. 1200 words each week. And we may be able to get more articles in (usually have to submit 2 weeks in advance). Can work with someone else if necessary.
- Sam noted that The Bull has themed editions – will be a Queer edition this semester – we may be able to get some postgrad issues in this.
- Nick has been working on a timeline for the Counter Course Handbook this year.

Motion: *THAT the Publications Officer's and the Policy Committee Officer's Reports be accepted.* Moved: Kate Barnsley. Carried.

9. SUPRA Committees

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the Management Committee held on 4th August 2008, the minutes of the Policy Committee held on 21st July and 11th August 2008 and the minutes of the Publications Committee held on 12th August 2008 be accepted.* Moved: Kate Barnsley. Carried.

10. Election of Activities Convenor

Motion: *THAT Dora Sun be appointed as Activities Convenor.* Moved: Heidi Claus. Carried.

11. Coffee machine

- The question of whether it was feasible to repair the old machine or desirable to purchase a new machine was deferred to the Management Committee.

12. University of Sydney Union

- It was reported that the USU Postgraduate Convenor wants to engage with postgrads more – we can use their resources – they want to use our e-grad mailing list for co-badged events from time to time.

13. Election for Postgraduate Fellow of Senate

- A candidate has asked our policy on supporting candidates. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Close of nominations is 20th August.
- Sam will ask all candidates for their policy positions.

14. Next Meeting Monday 15th September 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.