

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
6PM, WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Jenny Leong, President
Minutes: Rosemary Whitecross, Secretary

Present: Jenny Leong (President & Chair), Sacha van Albada, Katherine Barnsley, Mike Beggs, Jodie Coleman, Suzanne Derok, Lian Jenvey, Anthony Kachenko, F Abdul Majeed, Estelle Noonan, Emily Stewart, Nelson Yin, Rosemary Whitecross

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The 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. It was noted that the election for an Indigenous Officer for 2007-8 would be held tomorrow.

2. Apologies and proxies: Richard Bailey, Fleur Beaupert, Jack Clegg, Jessica Gerrard, Leona Oliver, Jakob Webster

3. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 11th April 2007

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 11th April 2007 be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

4. Postgrad week 28-31 May

- A draft poster was circulated. Lian Jenvey will get Anne Coates to buy a ream of fluoro paper for photocopying it.
- Councillors were asked to let as many people as possible know about it and get people to engage with activities that week.
- We are waiting to hear from Harvey Norman at Broadway whether they will donate an MP3 player for a prize.
- The SAAO stall will be inside Fisher Library if possible. People who suggest ideas for fact sheets will go in a draw for a prize.

5. VSU

CAPA Eastern Region meeting was held here – had a discussion about VSU and what we would want to see in election policies and government policy.

Counterposed motion: *THAT SUPRA's position is for the government (whoever gets elected) to repeal VSU.* Moved Lian Jenvey. Not carried.

Motion: *That SUPRA supports an end to VSU and a return to universal student unionism and That this ideally means the Government legislating and paying, or funding universities to pay, a per head cost per student to independent representation student organisations to ensure representation, advice, advocacy and services currently provided by SUPRA can continue.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

6. CAPA and the Federal Budget and Federal Election

- Selected Higher Education Items paper tabled following announcement of changes to education in the Budget last night. Universities can apply for Masters courses to be counted as eligible for income support – does not cover the 13% who study part-time and work full-time. Rent assistance – aimed at people with low levels of responsibilities.

- Rent assistance is something that student organisations have been campaigning for for many years – however, does not account for Sydney prices, etc.
- Government has cut the cap on full-fee paying places.
- \$5 billion is for 38 universities.

Motion: *THAT the President contacts the President of CAPA expressing our serious concern about the lack of critical support for the Coalition budget in their media release and THAT the President prepare a media release and summary paper on our response to the budget to be circulated to Council and to subscribers/supporters.*

Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried.

The National Liaison Committee (International representative body) has issued a press release because a visa requirement from 2002 has been repealed.

7. SUPRA Subscribers and Supporters

Aiming to get up to 3,000 before the elections.

Please send reminders to postgrad lists for people to sign up as subscribers.

We have not campaigned for supporters, if we had we would probably have got more.

It was noted that Lian Jenvey believes all councillors should be SUPRA supporters.

8. Office Bearer Reports

a) President

Options for voting for 2007-8 if required – some kind of postal ballot that people print out from website – put inside an envelope to send to the Returning Officer. There will also be two options for in person voting.

VSU (in camera)

The new SAO – David Mackenzie - starting on 22 May. 3 days a week until 25 June then 5 days. He has a lot of casework experience.

New Enterprise Agreement negotiations – agreed to what we will roll over. Still a few things to be discussed – no problems to report to date.

Recommendation: *THAT we increase to \$2000 amount to be spent for Council Induction and staff training day, looking at different skills etc. that it would be useful for new councillors to know about.*

Motion: *THAT the President's report and recommendation be accepted:* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

b) Co-Vice Presidents

Co-Vice President and Womens Officer (Katherine Barnsley)

Motion: *THAT SUPRA support NOWSA this year by providing photocopying, 300 calico bags and that the Women's Officer can sign off on up to \$500 for engaging a speaker or subsidising postgraduate women's attendance.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

Motion *THAT the Co-Vice President and Women's Officer's Report be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman. Carried.

Co-Vice President (Jack Clegg)

Motion *THAT the Co-Vice President's report be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman.
Carried

c) Secretary

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

d) Treasurer

- The Audit has been completed. Deficit is due to providing for staff entitlements.
- The Budget with actuals to end April was tabled. We have to date underspent on publications, campaigns and workshops. Computer upgrade will come out of in-kind budget. We will need publications software, scanner for desktop publishing and training. Lian Jenvey will investigate costs of a Risograph.
- Stipends are still being paid from SUPRA's account not the University funding account.

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's report be accepted.* Moved: F Abdul Majeed. Carried.

Motion: *THAT the Audit Report be accepted and presented to the AGM on 31 May 2007.* Moved Anthony Kachenko. Passed.

9. Equity Officer Reports and Updates

a) Queer

- 400-500 students attended National Day of Action. Next demonstration August 22nd around similar issues – in week 3 of second semester (better timing).
- Quorum for the Queer officer election was not reached and a new election will need to be held.

Motion: *THAT the Queer Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman.
Carried.

b) Women (combined with Co-Vice President's Report)

c) International

No report was submitted. Council recommends no stipend for next fortnight. Lian Jenvey will talk to Nelson Yin (International Officer elect) about the NLC conference and getting a representative to attend.

d) Indigenous

Nothing to report except election for 2007-8 Indigenous Officer will be held tomorrow.

10. Publications Officer's Report

- SUPRA 2007 Conference – we should consider stipending a councillor or a postgraduate or employing a staff member to organise this. \$15,000 budget for conference. The President will start using this to organise the conference as the conference organising committee decides.
- Selection of t-shirts of different colours with four different one-colour designs will be produced. Council approves spending up to \$1,000 on t-shirts.

Motion: *THAT the Publications Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Lian Jenvey. Carried.

11. Minutes of Women's Network meeting and election of Women's Officer for 2007 held on 1 May 2007

Estelle Noonan was elected as Women's Officer for 2007-8. Thanks were expressed to Katherine Barnsley for her hard work over the last year.

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the Women's Network meeting be accepted.* Moved: Katherine Barnsley. Carried.

12. Minutes of International Students Network Meeting and Election of International Officer for 2007 held on 2 May 2007

Nelson Yin was elected as International Officer for 2007

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the International Students Network meeting be accepted.* Moved: Nelson Yin. Carried.

12. Queer Network meeting and election of Queer Officer for 2007 held on 2 May 2007 See above.

13. Postgraduate Entitlements Policy

- Presentation to Senate moved to June. We will try to get volunteers to stand outside lectures and get students to sign as they go in and out of lectures. Also posters. Activities Committee will help.
- Response from the University and from the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research has been really positive. So far we have 190 on-line signatures and several sign-up sheets.
- Take posters and put them up around the campus.

14. Semester 1 activities

Motion: *THAT Council accepts the minutes of the Special Activities Planning Meeting held on 29th March 2007.* Moved: Nelson Yin. Carried.

15. Postgraduate legal representation (in camera)

Motion: *THAT the President is delegated to spend up to \$3000 for legal representation for a SUPRA subscriber in the exceptional circumstances of a Proctorial Board hearing. . We will get the SAAOs to investigate how we can get the University to contribute to these kinds of situations in future. The President will report back to the next meeting.* Moved: Jenny Leong. Carried

16. SUPRA Committees

- (a) Motion: *THAT Council accepts the minutes of the Management Committee Meetings held on 17th and 24th April.*
- (b) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Activities Committee Meeting held on 1st May 2007.*

Moved to accept en bloc: Sacha van Albada.

17. Student Conferences

Lian Jenvey will coordinate people wishing to attend the student conferences.

18. Terry Hicks

Terry Hicks will be speaking at the Cross-Campus Anti-War meeting on 1 June at UTS. SUPRA will contribute \$190.00. Our logo needs to be on the posters.

19. NTEU

The NTEU is having a recruitment drive for casual tutors, and is holding a conference at UTS on 18 June which is open to all tutors. Mike Beggs will send the Publications Officer details for e-grad and the website.

20. Postgraduates with disabilities

Estelle Noonan suggested reinvigorating the Health Care card campaign and sick leave available to postgraduates.

Next Meeting: 6.00 pm 13 June 2007

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.