

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 6.30 PM ON
WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER 2008 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Rashmi Kumar
Minutes: Rosemary Whitecross

Present: Tahrid Chowdhury, Rashmi Kumar, Paolo Mazzi, Kathryn Morgan,
Nichollas Scott, Emily Stewart, Rosemary Whitecross, Nicholas Wilson

Apologies: Katherine Barnsley, Heidi Claus (Leave of absence) Sam Greenland,
Thomas Huang, Lian Jenvey, Muhammad Quraisy

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.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 19th November.

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 19th November 2008 be accepted.*

It was noted that Lian Jenvey and Heidi Claus were also present.

Moved (with amendment as above): Paolo Mazzi. Carried

3. Resignations and Election of Office Bearers

Motion: *THAT Council accept the resignations of Richard Keep, Treasurer and Yoni Meinrath from the SUPRA Council.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

Motion: *THAT nominations for vacant council places be opened, with a closing date of one week before the next Council Meeting.* . Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried

Motion: *That Tahrid Chowdhury be elected as treasurer.* Moved Emily Stewart. Carried.

4. Office Bearer Reports

a) President:

CAPA Conference: Good discussion on impact of VSU changes. CAPA in danger of becoming insolvent because many affiliates cannot afford the fees.

Motion: *THAT Council approve payment of CAPA affiliation fees of \$14,050 for 2009.*

Moved: Rashmi Kumar. Carried.

Motion: *THAT SUPRA notes the actions of the Melbourne University Student Housing Action Collective (hereafter known as SHAC) in occupying and taking up residence in the vacant Melbourne University-owned building at 272-278 Faraday Street Melbourne. SUPRA recognises that the lack of appropriate, affordable student housing is an issue of pressing concern for student organisation and endorses the work of student groups to take productive action in addressing this issue. SUPRA acknowledges the hard work of the SHAC's campaign at the University of Melbourne to provide affordable accessible student housing.* Moved Rosemary Whitecross. Passed.

Assessment Working Party Ethical Principles regarding Special Consideration. Councillors were asked to take this away and read it – if any problems are seen, to contact the President.

Academic Board sub-committees on which SUPRA is not represented – the Chairs of these committees have suggested we take this up with Bruce Sutton, Chair of the Academic Board. We will be co-signing a letter with the SRC. We will also consider sending this to the Dean of Graduate Studies as well.

Vice Chancellor's Work Slates – Councillors were asked to log in (with student log-ins) and have a look and make a comment or let the President know if we need to make a SUPRA comment.

In 2006, SUPRA passed a motion recommending that the University should buy 100% clean energy. This has not yet happened, but a new Emissions Working Party has been set up. SUPRA is considering recommending to the university that it buys 100% clean energy from 2009, and also do research to find out which provider is more effective. SUPRA also recommends that the university invests in infrastructure to provide clean energy itself. Paolo Mazzi will provide information to the President on these matters.

Funding agreement – will get the confirmation letter this week.

Planning Day 2009 – the President to circulate possible dates.

Intellectual Property rule – we have not yet had an opportunity to discuss with our members. We will circulate discussion issues before the beginning of next semester to get student feedback on it.

Orthodontic students' pay issues – SUPRA will work with whichever union covers the agreement.

- b) Vice-President
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer

Motion: *That the Executive Office Bearer reports and recommendations contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

5. Staffing

SAAO positions. It was noted that Ann Turner will be returning on 5 January and Patricia Quinn will be leaving at the end of her contract on 19 December 2008..

Other matters were deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.