MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD AT NEW LAW BUILDING 104 AT 6:00PM AT 19TH APRIL 2012.

Chair: Angelus Morningstar
Minutes: Thomas Munro
The meeting started at 6:03 pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome *

2. Housekeeping
2.1. Present
Alice BRANDLI, James FLYNN (arrived 7pm), Joanne GAD, Marie GERMA, Katherine HARPER (arrived 6:17), Maria Elena INDELICATO, Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN, Angelus MORNINGSTAR, Thomas MUNRO, John NOWAKOWSKI, Sivaraman PURUSHOTHUMAN, Timothy SCRIVEN, Bradley WELLS (arrived 7:35), Rosemary WHITECROSS, Guest: Sharangan MAHESWARAN

2.2. Apologies
Hye Ryun KIM, Pip MURATORE, Alex THOMAS, Felicity WILSON, Khawaja ALMAS

2.3. Proxies
Maria INDELICATO carries the proxy for Pip MURATORE
Rosemary WHITECROSS carries the proxy for Alex THOMAS and Hye Ryun KIM
Thomas MUNRO carries the proxy for Khawaja ALMAS

2.4. Notifications

2.5. Leave
[Motion 01/120419] That Council accept all non-starred items
Moved from the chair
Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI
Result: CONSENSUS

3. Elections *
Council has received three nominations to the two casual vacancies from:
Joanne GAD
Peter MENDIS
Kylie MAK
Timothy SCRIVEN and John NOWAKOWSKI were elected Returning Officers
Maria INDELICATO was appointed scrutineer to the ballot count

Result
Joanne GAD and Peter MENDIS were elected to council.

4. Minutes of Meetings
4.1. Minutes of the meeting of Council, 21st March 2012
4.2. Minutes of the meeting of Budget Committee, 30th March 2012
4.3. Minutes of the meeting of Budget Committee, 6th April 2012
4.4. Minutes of the meeting of Management Committee, 13th April 2012
4.5. Business Arising From Minutes
[Motion 02/120419] That Council accepts the tabled minutes, with noted amendments.
Moved from the chair
Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI
Result: CONSENSUS

5. Reports of Meetings
5.1. Reports of Community Engagement Committees, Friday 30th March
5.2. Reports of Equity Committee, 16th April 2012
5.3. Business Arising From Reports
[Motion 03/120419] That Council accepts the tabled reports
Moved from the chair
Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI
Result: CONSENSUS

6. Officer Reports*
6.1. President Report*
6.2. Vice-President (Policy)
6.3. Vice-President (Community)
6.4. Secretary
6.5. Treasurer*
Funding arrangement with the university has some issues around student autonomy. There will be a redraft of 10th of May.
6.6. Director of Student Publications

6.7. International Student Officer

6.8. Queer Officer*

A Queer Officer election was held and Thomas Munro was elected to the role of Queer Officer for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

6.9. Disability Officer

No report received.

6.10. Women’s Officer

6.11. Business Arising From Reports

[Motion 04/120419] That Council accepts the tabled reports of Officers

Moved from the chair

Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI

Result: CONSENSUS

7. Verbal Report from Postgraduate Fellow of Senate*

James FLYNN had not arrived, so this was delayed.

8. Verbal Report from member of Staff *

Adrian CARDINALI spoke to council. The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) survey came back. Casework was flagged as a major concern for students in the funding allocation surveys. SUPRA casework has been very busy. There seems to be growth in need for services above the growth of student numbers. This may be due to policy in the university or the better publication and awareness of our services. Adrian commended Angelus and council for helping to make services provided commensurate with need and student demand.

9. Education Officer *

The Treasurer has proposed the instatement of an Education Officer as a non-Executive Office. This role is being proposed as a non-stipended position in order to develop the role and test its merit.

Please see attached duty statement.

There was a suggestion that all of council should be doing this anyway, though it couldn’t hurt to have somebody to take greater responsibility for it. It was also suggested the role should have some sort of stipend, though no motion to this effect was put for consideration. Stipend consideration will be deferred until the next meeting of council and the election of this position will be given proper notice.

[Motion 05/120419] That Council approve the creation of the Education Officer position with the duty statement as outlined.

Moved from the chair

Seconder: Maria INDELICATO

Result: CONSENSUS

[Motion 06/120419] That Timothy SCRIVEN be elected acting Education Officer until an election can be held.

Moved from the chair
10. General and Equity Elections *

We have received more than 20 nominations for the General Elections, meaning that we will have a contested election. Equity Officers that haven’t already done so must organise their Equity Elections.

There are 3 options for the election; Electronic, Postal or Physical Ballot Boxes. Some sort of combination of these options is also possible. Things for consideration in regards to these options include cost, access and fairness of the election.

Tim SCRIVEN gave an overview of the options. The cost of electronic ballots has been estimated at between $10-30,000 from the university. Physical ballots favour daytime coursework students over research students and those who are not on campus, so this has been considered an unfair option. However, only using a postal ballot would disadvantage international students who may move around more, and those who don’t update their address. Online elections have a number of concerns for the fairness of the elections, with a number of problems with this system occurring at USYD and at other universities. It would take time to develop a system that fit our needs if we decided on this option.

Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest was declared by everyone present at council who were re-running in the next round of elections, including Sharangan MAHESWARAN.

Suggestion for discussion

That we have a postal ballot with voting forms mailed to subscribers with a physical ballot box in the SUPRA office for those subscribers that wished to vote in person. The Returning Officer has approved this as a feasible option.

The cost of the postal ballot needs to be finalised and the cost for having two staff members looking after the ballot box for three days at eight hours a day to be about $1,200.

The total estimated cost of this option, including the staff, is $17,000. This figure came from the returning officer.

Council must appoint an electoral arbiter to oversee the election.

[Motion 07/120419] That Council appoint Piggot Stinson be offered the position of Electoral Arbiter for the 2012 General Election of SUPRA

Moved from the chair
Seconder: Maria INDELICATO
Result: CONSENSUS

There was a suggestion that we send out an all-postgrad announcement clarifying the elections and that people are not automatically subscribers.

James FLYNN arrived (7pm)

James FLYNN spoke to his preferred option of online voting. He suggested that creating an online voting system would be a wise investment for SUPRA and would be more cost effective. It was discussed that this research would take time and so would probably not be possible for this election, but could be investigated for the future.
[Motion 08/120419] That Council approves research into employing an alternate online voting method for this election.

Mover: James FLYNN
Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI

Amendment: That we amend “this election” to “for the 2013 elections.”
Mover: John NOWAKOWSKI

This was not acceptable to the Mover and so was voted upon.

Result: CARRIED (with amendment) with 10 For, 3 Against and 4 Abstentions.

Sharangan MAHESWARAN spoke to his preferred option of sending a postal vote to all postgraduate students, both subscribers and non-subscribers.

Maria Elena INDELICATO left (7:15pm), she gave her proxy to Tim.
Procedural moved from the Chair to close the speaking list. (7:20pm)
Procedural to reopen the speaking list. (7:25pm)
Mover: James FLYNN
Result: CARRIED
Procedural to close the speaking list. (7:30pm)
Mover: John Nowakowski
Result: CARRIED

[Motion 09/120419] That Council seek legal advice regarding the requirement to give ballots to all postgraduate students and act according to their advice

Mover: Tim SCRIVEN
Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI

Result: CARRIED with 12 for, 4 against and 1 abstention

A straw poll was conducted to see who would be in favour of sending postal ballots to all postgraduate students if it was an option.

Result: Tie. 6 For, 6 Against (5 did not vote.)

It was decided that further discussion around this issue would be needed. It could possibly be decided by a Motion by Circulation, if we are given the option.

[Motion 10/120419] That Council approve a ballot method of a postal ballot to subscribers and a ballot box in the office of SUPRA, staffed by an independent member of staff provided by the returning officer with a budget of $17,000.

Mover: John NOWAKOWSKI
Seconder: Tim SCRIVEN

Amendment: That we amend “subscribers” to “all constituents.”
Mover: Bradley WELLS

This was not acceptable to the Mover and so was voted upon.

Result: FAILED with 3 For, 10 Against and 4 Abstentions.

Vote on the original motion (without the proposed amendment.)

Result: CARRIED 13 For, 3 Against, 1 Abstention.

James FLYNN wished for it to be noted in the minutes that he is frustrated.

[Motion 11/120419] That Council directs the Secretary to send an email to all Postgraduate students informing them of the upcoming elections and how to subscribe.

Mover: Bradley WELLS
Seconder: Timothy SCRIVEN
Result: CARRIED 15 For, 2 Abstentions.

Sivaruman PURUSHOTHUMAN left (7:50 pm), He gave his proxy to Alice BRANDLI.

[Motion 12/120419] That the total budget for the postal ballot and the ballot box in the office not exceed $20,000.
Mover: James FLYNN
Seconder: John NOWAKOWSKI
Counterposed Motion: That the total budget for the postal ballot and the ballot box in the office not exceed $30,000.
Mover: Tim SCRIVEN
Seconder: Thomas MUNRO
Result: CARRIED ($20, 000) 7 For, 5 Against, 5 Abstentions.

11. AGM and Annual Report *

Our Annual Report is due 15th May, Officers are required to provide a contribution. A call is being put out for a Deputy Director of Student Publications.
Our AGM is 22nd May. A call is being put out for a member of Council to take the lead in organising this event.
John NOWAKOWSKI has nominated for deputy DSP

[Motion 13/120419] That Council elect John NOWAKOWSKI to the role of Deputy Director of Student Publications.
Moved from the chair.
Seconder: Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN
Result: CARRIED 15 For, 2 Abstentions.

Bradley WELLS left, he passed his proxy to Katherine HARPER (8 pm)
Alice BRANDLI has Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN’s proxy while she’s out of the room (8 pm)

12. Council Model [In Camera] *

13. Staff Position Description Review [In Camera]*

[Motion 14/120419] That Council adopt in principle support for the proposed Position Description Review.
Moved from the Chair.
Seconder: Katherine HARPER
Result: CARRIED 16 FOR, 1 abstention.

James FLYNN wished to have his abstention noted in the minutes.
Kylee HARTMAN-WARREN returned (8:10 pm)
14. SSAF Budget Strategy [In Camera]*

15. Other Business

Any item that has not been tabled in the call for agenda items in the normal recourse of its drafting may be tabled for discussion here.

*The meeting closed 8:13pm