1. **Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country at 6:08 p.m.

2. **Governance**

2.1. **Apologies**

   - Kaitlin Tagg
   - Helen Chen
   - Guien Miao (arriving late)
   - Brigitte McFadden
   - Celeste Ellis (arriving late)
   - Nayeem Faisal Shaikh
   - Michael de Waal
   - Ensiyeh Kazerouni
   - Xiaoyi Sun
   - Kylee Hartman-Warren (arriving late)
   - Jessica Bloom
   - Vanessa Wells

2.2. **Proxies**

   - Kaitlin Tagg to Joseph Callingham (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Douglas King; 3\textsuperscript{rd} pref: Kieran Latty)
   - Guien Miao to Joanne Gad until her arrival (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Maral Hosseinpour; 3\textsuperscript{rd} pref: Douglas King)
   - Brendan McMonigal to Joseph Callingham
   - Brigitte McFadden to Michael de Waal (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Joanne Gad; 3\textsuperscript{rd} pref: Douglas King)
   - Helen Chen to Joanne Gad (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Douglas King; 3\textsuperscript{rd} pref: Timothy Scriven)
   - Celeste Ellis to Kieran Latty (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Kane Hardy; 3\textsuperscript{rd} pref: Kylee Hartman-Warren)
   - Michael de Waal to Brigitte McFadden (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Kane Hardy)
   - Ensiyeh Kazerouni to Joanne Gad (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Guien Miao)
   - Kylee Hartman Warren to Douglas King until her arrival (2\textsuperscript{nd} pref: Joanne Gad; 3\textsuperscript{rd} pref: Michael de Waal)
2.3. **Leaves of Absence**

*Maral Hosseinpour entered the room at 6:10 p.m.*

The following councillor has given notice of leave:

Brendan McMonigal, returning in February 2015

**Motion [SEP14-01]:** That Council approves the requested leave of absence.

**Moved:** Joseph Callingham  **Seconded:** Alexander Dore

*Carried (consensus).*

2.4. **Starring of Items**

The Council was invited to star any items not currently scheduled for discussion. An additional item was starred.

**Motion [SEP14-02]:** That Council approves all un-starred items.

**Moved:** Douglas King  **Seconded:** Paul Stewart

*Carried (consensus).*

3. **Minutes and Reports of Meetings**

3.1. **Minutes of the previous month’s meetings**

3.1.1. **Council Meeting, 14th August 2014**

3.1.2. **Finance Committee, 18th August 2014**

3.1.3. **Management Committee, 26th August 2014**

**Recommendation:** That Council approves the minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

**Attached documentation:** Minutes of the abovementioned meetings.

3.2. **Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from minutes.

4. **Officer Reports**

4.1. **President**

Timothy Scriven

*The President tabled his report at the meeting.*

A councillor inquired over the substance of the President’s letter to Clive Palmer, and the President explained that he had made an inquiry over the fees for PhD’s and requested Mr Palmer’s party stance on this issue.

The Treasurer inquired whether the University Senate had made a decision over SUPRA’s incorporation, and the President replied that he has not yet heard back from the Senate. The President also noted that he has not
put in a bid for SUPRA's incorporation, but has made inquiries with the Senate to see what the options are should SUPRA Council wish to pursue this.

A councillor asked about the President's meeting with Mr Greg Robinson from CIS, and the President reported that the meeting has not been set. The President explained that scheduling this meeting is taking some time, and that the meeting is for a discussion around SUPRA's permanent space.

A councillor inquired whether there has been any progress in SUPRA's Funding agreement, and the President replied that there has not. Another councillor asked about the nature of the President's work regarding the Macquarie University Postgraduate Representative Association (MUPRA), and the President reported that he has been talking to some news sources such as New Matilda, and that he has also been talking with Macquarie University students. The councillor also inquired who will be funding any work regarding MUPRA, and the President said he believes the University of Technology, Sydney student union is fronting up resources and funding.

A councillor asked about the results of the SSAF survey, and the President replied saying that responses were an odd spread; there were a lot of surprising results, but they were not unfavourable to SUPRA. The President also declared that he wishes not to make too many comments at the moment, and that he will table the full results when they are available.

**Motion [SEP14-03]:** *That Council approves the President's Report.*

Moved: Joanne Gad  
Seconded: Maral Hosseinpour  

**Carried (consensus).**

4.2. **Vice-President**  
Kylee Hartman-Warren

4.3. **Education Officer**  
Brigitte McFadden

4.4. **Treasurer**  
Douglas King

4.5. **Secretary & Director of Student Publications**  
Joanne Gad

4.6. **Equity Officers**

4.6.1. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer**  
Michael Butler  
*No report was submitted.*

4.6.2. **Disabilities Officer**  
Nayeem Faisal Shaikh  
*No hours claimed.*

4.6.3. **International Officer**  
Maral Hosseinpour  
*The International Officer tabled her report at the meeting*

The International Officer spoke to her report noting that she has held some information sessions including an ATO Tax Seminar. She has also been representing international students at a number of different rallies and events on campus as detailed in her report. She invited questions regarding her written report, and there were none.

**Motion [SEP14-04]:** *That Council approves the International Officer's Report.*
Moved: Douglas King  Seconded: Alexander Dore

Carried (consensus).

4.6.4. **QUEER OFFICER**
Grace Sharkey

*No hours claimed.*

4.6.5. **WOMEN’S OFFICER**
Ensiyeh Ghanizadeh Kazerouni

4.6.6. **RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER**

*Position currently vacant*

**Recommendation** SUPRA Council approves the tabled reports of Officers.

**Attached documentation:** Reports of Officers.

**★ 4.7. Business Arising from Reports**

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications announced that she is gathering photographs to be used for SUPRA publications. She will be making periodical callouts for images, and is filing these on the office server. She also requested that councillors take pictures at events, seminars, and so on.

**★ 5. Workplace Health and Safety**

The Treasurer reported back that as Council HSR he recently had to investigate the lights going off early in the courtyard. He said that he has been in contact, through Admin, with CIS and that we now have access to the light box and can change the light timers at our leisure.

The President asked whether there were any WHS matters to raise, and there were none.

**★ 6. Verbal Report from a Member of Staff**

Francine Seeto presented a verbal report from staff. She noted that in the next two months, about half of all staff are going on various bits of leave, and that Council should be mindful of this. The SAAO team will be on a lot of staggered leave in September and October, as this is traditionally a quiet time with regard to casework. The SUPRA Admin Coordinator is also away for virtually all of October. In addition to this, Staff are hoping to move around office spaces in preparation for the commencement of the 5th SAAO. By the end of October SUPRA will have five SAAO’s, and adjustments must be made to the office spaces and arrangements. Francine Seeto also stated that it is likely that two SAAO’s will be situated in the Council wing. The reason for this is that a lone SAAO may be a bit isolated, as SAAO’s often need to work together.

*Gareth Charles entered the room at 6:21 p.m.*

Francine Seeto also reported that casework has been unusually busy with tenancy problems. The SAAO team has been looking at creating a 'slumlord' database listing landlords who are known for breaching tenancy laws. This database would be particularly useful for International students who may not be aware of signs to watch out for, however there are a few legal things to look at before this database can go ahead.

A councillor inquired whether International students have made the majority of the recent spike in tenancy casework, and Francine Seeto responded that the increase seems to include both International and Domestic students. The councillor said that the development of such a database should be priority; if these people are breaking the law, we should not shy away from publicising it. The President asked whether the SAAO team are seeking legal advice, and Francine Seeto replied that this is the case, Francine Seeto continued, explaining that many students are very cautious and do not want to be personally identified. She also added that most of the problems have been about returning bond money.
The President signalled his support for the councillor's comments, stating that as long as SUPRA is not being put at risk he thinks this is a very worthwhile project, and he commended Francine Seeto in her efforts.

A councillor asked whether it would be possible to get a short report from the SUPRA solicitor on the above issue, and the President said that should be possible, and that he would organise one.

**Motion [SEP14-05]:** That Council thanks Francine Seeto for her report from staff.

**Moved:** Joseph Callingham **Seconded:** Douglas King

Carried (consensus).

7. **Disability Awareness Week**

Council was invited to consider participation in the University's first ever Disability Awareness Week, which commences on Tuesday 23 September.

SUPRA has been invited to host an information stall (free of charge) on Eastern Avenue.

The President said he sees no issue with taking part in this, provided we have enough person-power at the time.

Francine Seeto noted that this is the first time Sydney University is running this. She also explained a number of ways that SUPRA can help publicise issues and information that is relevant to students with a disability. She added that students with disabilities are often unaware of adjustments or concessions that are available to them, and so it is important for them to know what support is available for them.

Francine Seeto also noted that SUPRA could make a few small adjustments such as font increases to highlight that students are not all the same.

The President noted that since there was no cost associated with this stall, a motion was not required.

8. **Electoral Reforms**

*Attached documentation:* i. Proposed amendments to the Electoral Regulations

ii. Electoral changes cheat-sheet

The President introduced this item, and summarised the proposed changes based on the Vice-President's documentation:

1. That the Electoral Organiser be allowed to organise a forum where candidates can speak to their nominations.
2. That election notices be required to include reference to Office Bearer stipends.
3. That spoken statements be allowed at Equity Elections and Supplementary Elections.
4. Various grammatical corrections as tabled.

A councillor asked about the procedure by which these regulations may be altered, and the President explained that this meeting needs a majority vote to make a regulatory change.

Another councillor asked about the Rural and Regional Officer election requirements, especially as the network had failed to reach quorum several times. The President suggested that members of the network meet to discuss the nature and future of this position.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications proposed additional changes to the Electoral Regulations so that requirements for publicising stipends were also listed under section 5.02: 03). This was agreeable to the room.

**Motion [SEP14-06]:** That Council approves the changes to the Electoral Regulations with noted amendments.

**Moved:** Philip Roberts **Seconded:** Alexander Dore

Carried (consensus).
9. University Response to Consultation

The President gave an outline of the recent University Town Hall meeting regarding fee deregulation, and said the University has made some media statements regarding that consultation process. He said that the University's media statements are not reflective of what was expressed at the Town Hall meeting, and hence are probably not reflective of the general view around the University.

One councillor asked whether there are any statistics indicating the general views around the University. Another councillor replied saying that short of specific survey, there is lots of evidence to suggest the general view. Some of this evidence includes the overwhelming number of speakers opposed to fee deregulation, and so on.

A prospective motion was discussed, based on calling on the University management to recognise the university body's opposition to fee deregulation.

A councillor argued that the speakers at the Town Hall meeting were not necessarily reflective of the lay perspective. Many of the speakers are known for being politically involved.

The President countered that the NTEU had recently released a poll indicating that the majority of the general Australian population is opposed to fee deregulation. He conceded that the Sydney University Postgraduate community may be quite different, but it is doubtful it is so different from the general population as to contradict the poll. The President also noted that many speakers at the Town Hall meeting were elected representatives from a number of representative bodies such as the USU, and various faculty societies. The representatives largely voiced opposition or a lack of support for fee deregulation. The President offered that there is significant evidence that the University body is opposed to fee deregulation, and that even if specific survey results are not available the University should suspend its advocacy of fee deregulation based on what is suggested so far.

One councillor voiced the opinion that if SUPRA is going to support the use of polls, then attention should also be given to the issue of VSU as well as SSAF itself. He added that since protests have gotten smaller over the years, he doesn't believe that the meeting was representative of student views on fee deregulation.

Guien Miao entered the room at 6:45 p.m.

The President briefly clarified the nature of the SSAF fee stating that it was a fee collected by the University to provide services to students, and not a union membership fee per se.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications stated that in her opinion it was reasonable for the SUPRA Council to comment on the University's position with regard to fee deregulation for a number of reasons: the SUPRA Council is a representative body and should seek to represent and advocate for postgraduate students as best it can, even in the absence of specific statistics; and the University's Town Hall meeting was intended to be a consultation, and so should be acknowledged as such by University management. She added that she believes it is reasonable for student representatives to ask University management to be accountable and explain why its official position seems to contradict that of the University community.

Motion [SEP14-07]: That SUPRA condemns the University of Sydney Management's failure to acknowledge the clear majority against de-regulation found in its own consultative processes and calls upon the University to change its stance on deregulation to one of clear opposition.

Moved: Kane Hardy Seconded: Grace Sharkey
Carried (16 for, 4 against, 0 abstain).

10. Other Business

- Sydney University Senate Elections

A councillor informed the Council that the University Senate election is underway and that a Postgraduate Senator is to be elected. He noted that a councillor, Alexander Dore, has nominated, and he suggested that SUPRA Council may wish to support his endeavours.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications expressed her concern and requested that endorsement of any candidates at all should be considered separate of any particular candidates for this election. Another councillor agreed, noting that the Council comprised a plurality of opinions and that endorsing any particular candidate could give an impression of a more homogenous Council than SUPRA really is.
The President offered that while a single candidate might not be likely to gain SUPRA's endorsement, the Council could facilitate a process by which statements from candidates were publicised to our members.

One councillor stated that the Council should not seek to tie itself to one particular candidate, noting that a number of nominees have been SUPRA councillors in the past.

Kylee Hartman-Warren entered the room at 6:56 p.m.

The International Officer voiced her support for the councillor's opinion: SUPRA Council should not aim to tell Postgraduate students how to vote, but rather the Council should provide easy access to information so that students can make up their own minds.

The President stated that while SUPRA has in the past endorsed candidates, the issue did not seem to be of endorsing a candidate who is politically aligned with the majority of SUPRA councillors. If it was, he would nominate a candidate that he favoured; however, he does not think this would be useful to SUPRA or to Postgraduate students.

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications added that endorsing a particular candidate may unintentionally alienate other candidates in the election. The Treasurer also added that SUPRA Council is not bound by past practice nor by the practices of the SRC.

The President suggested that SUPRA could run a questionnaire instead, and he called for any motions.

Joseph Callingham moved that SUPRA Council endorse Alexander Dore's nomination for the Sydney University Senate, however the motion failed for a lack of a seconder.

One councillor then said that it would be good for SUPRA to have a stronger involvement in the University Senate elections, and perhaps some flyers could be organised in future, along with hosting a debate.

The President said that while it was too late to plan around the upcoming election, a debate could be held around the issue of fee deregulation. The Vice-President voiced her support for SUPRA hosting a debate on the Senate election.

The particulars of hosting a debate were briefly discussed, and it was decided that because there are nine candidates and the polling ends shortly, it would be extremely difficult to organise within the available timeframe.

There was general consensus that SUPRA-run debates would encourage students to be more involved in student affairs, and one councillor cautioned that any debates may need to be moderated to avoid alienating students from SUPRA by, for example, giving a platform to xenophobic or homophobic views which may possibly emerge. The Treasurer noted that debates could be designed to explore topics within a narrow scope, as required.

Motion [SEP14-08]: That SUPRA Council approve $400 toward hosting a debate.

Moved: Kylee Hartman-Warren Seconded: Paul Stewart

Carried (Consensus).

• Councillor Publicity

The Secretary & Director of Student Publications said that she has been thinking about putting a notice in eGrad listing the SUPRA representatives and their faculties. She wanted to see if councillors had any objections to being listed in eGrad in this way. There was strong support for this idea, and the Secretary & Director of Student Publications said she would follow this up.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:06 p.m.