



AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL EDUCATION SEMINAR ROOM 452 6.00 PM ON 19TH FEBRUARY, 2015

Chair: Timothy Scriven

Minutes: Douglas King

Attendance: Brigitte McFadden, Kane Hardy, Paul Stewart, Joseph Callingham, Alex Dore, Brendan McMonigal, Ensiyeh Kazerarni (to 8.02 pm), Armen Aghazarian, Mike Butler, Kaitlin Tagg, Gareth Charles, Thomas Greenwell (arr. 6.13 pm), Zachary Thompson (arr. 6.20 pm, to 7.59 pm), Kylee Hartman Warren (arr. 6.45 pm)

Visitors: Thomas Greenwell (to 6.13 pm)

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country at 6.10 pm.

★ 2. Governance

2.1. Apologies

Guien Miao

Phillip Roberts

Jessica Bloom

Celeste Ellis

Kylee Hartman Warren

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal

Zachary Thompson

Joanne Gad

Vanessa Wells (*due to unavailability of Skype*)

2.2. Proxies

Guien Miao to Joanne Gad (2nd pref: Ensiyeh Kazerarni; 3rd pref: Kaitlin Tagg)

Phillip Roberts to Brigitte McFadden (2nd pref: Kieran Latty; 3rd pref: Kylee Hartman Warren)

Jessica Bloom to Joseph Callingham

Celeste Ellis to Brigitte McFadden (2nd pref: Kane Hardy; 3rd pref: Kieran Latty)

Kylee Hartman Warren to Guien Miao (2nd pref: Douglas King; 3rd pref: Joanne Gad)

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal to Guien Miao (2nd pref: Douglas King)

Zachary Thompson to Joseph Callingham (2nd pref: Alex Dore)

Joanne Gad to Guien Miao (2nd pref: Kaitlin Tagg; 3rd pref: Gareth Charles)

2.3. Resignations

It was noted by the President that Ella Factor had resigned, nominating Thomas Greenwell as her successor.

Motion [FEB19-01]: *that SUPRA Council accepts the above resignation, and appoints Thomas Greenwell to Council under section 05.08:1) of the SUPRA Constitution.*

Moved: Brigitte McFadden **Seconded:** Armen Aghazarian

Carried (2 abstentions).

2.4. Leaves of Absence

Helen Chen, returning in March 2015.

2.5. Starring of Items

The Council was invited to identify any items not currently scheduled for discussion.

Motion [FEB19-02]: *that SUPRA Council accepts all un-starred items.*

Moved: Brigitte McFadden **Seconded:** Paul Stewart

Carried (consensus).

A general discussion arose as to whether this meeting of Council was a prudent idea, due to uncertainty as to who was on Council. A Councillor pointed out that the meeting could potentially be inquorate due to Councillor removals. A request was made by a Councillor for monthly reports from office-bearers; after some discussion, the President agreed that oral reports would be presented by those office-bearers present.

The President reported that he had been occupied since the last meeting with preparation for O-week, preparation for and performing faculty inductions, overseeing SUPRA's SSAF negotiations and submission, and with other matters of general management.

The Education Officer reported that she had been occupied with O-week preparation: particularly, designing and printing of forms, leaflets and merchandise. A call was made for Councillors to assist at the working bee for the next day at 12pm, and also to put themselves on the roster for the stall.

The Treasurer reported that he had taken on Secretarial duties in preparing for this meeting of Council. Within his own portfolio, he reported that he had helped prepare the SSAF acquittal for 2014, and had gone over the 2014 financial statements with the Finance Manager and the Auditor.

The Women's Officer reported that she had hosted a Coffee and Cake afternoon, had been organising for International Women's Day and had been assisting with a matter before the tribunals.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer reported that he had been meeting with indigenous postgraduate students, and was working on building bridges. He mentioned that an indigenous postgrad, Zac Wone, was working with Brendan Nelson, Chairman of the Australian War Memorial, to promote recognition of the Frontier Wars. The ATSI Officer suggested SUPRA should support this. A general discussion of the nature of the Frontier Wars occurred, with the current focus on recognition of both sides as fighters and uncovering the full history. A Councillor asked if financial support was sought, to which the ATSI Officer responded in the negative.

Motion [FEB19-03]: *that SUPRA Council supports recognition of the Frontier Wars by the Australian War Memorial.*

Moved: Mike Butler **Seconded:** Brigitte McFadden

Carried (consensus).

Other office-bearers were not present.

A discussion as to the nature of motions being declared carried followed. The President clarified that where the margin of success was close, it would be recounted on the assumption any affected Councillors vote were

invalid and, if ayes were no longer in majority, the motion would be considered to fail. A discussion as to whether this meeting of Council was a continuation of the previous meeting or a new meeting under our Constitution was had, with a consensus arising that this was a new meeting.

The Chair moved procedurally to item 5.

★ 3. **Workplace Health and Safety**

The Treasurer noted, as Council WHS representative, that no WHS matters had come to his attention.

The Chair moved procedurally to agenda item 11.

★ 4. **Elections to Office-Bearing Positions**

- Co-Vice President
- Secretary

★ 5. **Council Membership**

The President reported the process of determining who was a Councillor, as per the email to Councillors. Details of attendance and the Constitution were forwarded to the arbiter, SRC Legal Services, who would determine who they thought were no longer Councillors and report back to us. Councillors so named would have an opportunity to challenge this decision and present evidence. If there were further disagreements over interpretation, Councillors would have access to a barrister, at a cost to SUPRA of \$250 per hour. The President clarified that if the arbiter was not satisfied with the record keeping by SUPRA, presumably there would be no change to Council, although the President did not wish to prejudge.

A Councillor raised the question of who is on Management Committee. Investigation of the relevant portions of the Constitution led to a general discussion by Council as to whether a discussion with the secretary counted as assignation to a committee by Council. A Councillor suggested that the Constitution indicated a motion by Council was required, to which the President answered that a motion was only required for formation of a subcommittee.

Whether all Councillors could vote and count towards quorum on subcommittees was discussed by Council, with arguments both ways presented. The President stated that the historical interpretation by SUPRA was that any Councillor could attend, count towards quorum and vote at subcommittees. A Councillor raised that the removal clauses were inconsistent with this interpretation, to which the President agreed and stated he would argue that none should be removed by these clauses. A Councillor raised that both interpretations – either Councillors self-assign subcommittees, or they are assigned by Council – were problematic as there was no constitutional means to control numbers on committees or to refuse assignment.

The Treasurer spoke to need to move on to other business, as this matter was time-consuming, divisive and already before an independent arbiter.

A Councillor asked if we could have a guarantee of an Extraordinary General Meeting. The relative merits of clarifying the constitution through either an EGM or a meeting of Council were discussed, with an agreement that the Constitution needed review. The President raised that we could not wait for an EGM to solve the impasse as any Constitutional changes could not be retrospective and would take two months to be ratified by Senate.

A Councillor asked if we should continue as a Council whilst our status was uncertain. The President agreed this was a fair point, but countered there was important business that needed Council oversight. Various Councillors raised concern as to whether our motions and approved expenditure would remain valid and, if not, whether it was ethical to continue and if we would be opened to legal action. The President responded that, assuming the usual interpretation of SUPRA's Constitution held, along with the mechanism for determining if motions carried described earlier, Council could continue to administer the business of SUPRA.

The Treasurer reiterated the need to move on to other business in the interests of our subscribers.

Zachary Thompson joined the meeting at 6.20 pm.

A Councillor asked how many hours and how much money the President had spent on this matter. The President stated he had spent 6 to 7 hours on this in legal discussions and communications with the University, at no cost currently.

★ 10. O-Week

The Vice-President thanked the Education Officer for overseeing the roster for O-week labour. The Education Officer spoke to the need to obtain more t-shirts for O-week, and put forward a motion to cover these. A discussion as to why smaller sizes were needed followed, along with a discussion as to design of the t-shirts. A Councillor suggested amending the motion such that shirts could only be supplied for free to SUPRA subscribers. The President suggested to non-subscribed postgrads in addition. The Education Officer suggested cost price supply to undergrads.

Motion [FEB19-07]: *that SUPRA Council approve \$3069.50 for 351 t-shirts for postgraduates, with any supply of these shirts to undergraduates to be via sale at cost-price*

Moved: Brigitte McFadden **Seconded:** Douglas King

Carried (1 abstention).

The President briefly spoke to the negotiations and eventual cost to SUPRA for hiring a stall from the Union.

The Vice-President confirmed and assigned various Councillors to various events for O-week.

Zachary Thompson left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

Ensiyeh Kazerarni left the meeting at 8.02 pm.

The President agreed to perform an example faculty induction at the O-week working bee, and to circulate an induction guide.

Procedural: That SUPRA Council move agenda item 9 to the next meeting of Council, as early in the agenda as practicable.

Moved: Brigitte McFadden **Carried (consensus).**

The Chair moved procedurally to agenda item 3.

★ 11. *Honi Soit*

The President spoke to this, mentioning that very cheap pages in *Honi Soit* for \$4,500 for up to 4 pages per issue for the year had been negotiated, to ideally be filled with content promoting SUPRA and its activities, approved by the President on a weekly basis as per *eGrad*. A Councillor suggested using the space to freely publish content by Councillors, without editing apart from those required for legal reasons. The President replied he would prefer to see running advertisements and officer reports, with only one per week being necessary, stating that as SUPRA's spokesperson he can only approve non-controversial positions. A Councillor disagreed, noting Council input should be encouraged. The Education Officer stated content guidance was a decision for Publications Committee, and Council should focus on approving the pages at this stage. General disagreement to this followed. The ATSI Officer, mentioning his publishing background, noted this was a very good value deal. A Councillor countered it was not good value if SUPRA had nothing to say, and suggested a speaking-list publishing schedule, assuming no pieces were defamatory. The Vice-President suggested that Publications Committee should create a calendar of actions to ensure consistency of guidelines. The President stressed that advertising SUPRA was the most important thing in the first few weeks; that we should approve now, in view of the tight timeline, and review by Publications Committee later, with the President approving content in the interim. The President stated his concerns with an open speaking list: *Honi Soit* was already open to all to submit content, and our pages should represent SUPRA as a whole entity. A Councillor suggested that whatever is approved over the next few weeks should be approved by Management Committee, so there could be Councillor input. The Education Officer reiterated the President's concern's with open speaking lists, stressing personal views may not be indicative of, or supported by, SUPRA. A general agreement on the SUPRA pages being of an advisory nature until a policy was determined was arrived at. The President stated he would provide a précis of 'what SUPRA is' for the first edition, but stressed it would not be a President's Report.

Motion [FEB19-08]: *that SUPRA Council approve \$4500 for Honi Soit pages, publishing only descriptions of events and operations until a policy is formulated at the next meeting of Publications Committee.*

Moved: Brigitte McFadden **Seconded:** Mike Butler

Carried (1 abstention).

12. Other Business

A Councillor asked when the next Management Committee would be called. The President stated he was reluctant to call one until circumstances had settled. A Councillor mentioned that Management Committee used to be hosted every 2 weeks. A general discussion as to the scheduling of Management Committee followed.

A Councillor requested of the President a weekly update to Council of the Council membership issue, and also, with regards to the *Honi Soit* pages, the decisions of Publications Committee.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.24pm.