MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK SEMINAR ROOM 458 ON THE 13TH OF AUGUST AT 6:00PM

Chair: Kylee Hartman-Warren
Minutes: Kane Hardy
Attendance: Christian Jones, Kane Hardy, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Joshua Preece, Douglas King (left at 7:02pm), Fatima Rauf, Rafi Alam (arrived at 6:21pm), Carlos Monteverde (arrived at 6:23pm), Forough Ghanizadeh, Syed Atif, Rashmi Dixit, Kaitlin Tagg, Joseph Callingham, Mike Butler, Marguerite Biasatti, Ahmed Suhaib (arrived 7:07pm)
Staff: Adrian Cardinali
Guests: Aaron Moye, Ben, Jinyuan Li

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome
The chair opened the meeting at 6:17pm and Mike Butler gave an acknowledgement of country.

★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI
2.1. Apologies
Syed Atif Ahmed Suhaib
Elizabeth Gatens Rachel Evans
Thomas Greenwell Ellen Weekes
Myriarm Song Marguerite Biasatti (arriving late)
Anna Sanders-Robinson
Angelica Fernandez Shaikh Nayeem Faisal
Bhagaban Acharya Gareth Charles
2.2. Proxies

Syed Atif to Forough Ghanizadeh (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Guien Miao)

Elizabeth Gatens to Joshua Preece (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Christian Jones, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Thomas Greenwell)

Thomas Greenwell to Kieran Latty (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Rafi Alam, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Gareth Charles)

Myriarm Song to Joshua Preece (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Christian Jones, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Kane Hardy)

Anna Sanders-Robinson to Douglas King

Angelica Fernandez to Douglas King

Bhagaban Acharya to Christian Jones (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Thomas Greenwell, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Kane Hardy)

Ahmed Suhaib to Syed Atif (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Kaitlin Tagg, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Forough Ghanizadeh)

Rachel Evans to Kane Hardy (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Mike Butler)

Ellen Weekes to Joshua Preece (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Christian Jones, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Kane Hardy)

Marguerite Biasatti to Mike Butler

Guien Miao to Syed Atif (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Forough Ghanizadeh, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Kaitlin Tagg)

Shaikh Nayeem Faisal to Kane Hardy

Gareth Charles to Kieran Latty (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Douglas King, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Kaitlin Tagg)

2.3. Starring of Items

Council is invited to star any agenda items they would like discussed.

Motion [AUG13-01]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Joshua Preece Seconded: Kane Hardy

Carried.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month’s meetings

3.1.1. Council Meeting, 15\textsuperscript{th} July 2015

3.1.2. Publications and Media Committee, 29\textsuperscript{th} July 2015

3.1.3. Management Committee, 31\textsuperscript{st} July 2015

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. Co-President

Christian Jones
The Co-president gave a brief outline of the work he has done over the last week, citing attendance at the Hutchison pickets as contributing to the lateness of the report.

**Motion [AUG13-02]:** That council accepts the report of the Co-President

**Moved:** Douglas King  
**Seconded:** Mike Butler

**Carried.**

4.1.2. **CO-PRESIDENT**  
Kylee Hartman-Warren  
The Co-President, in addition to her report, wants to announce to council that the CAPA Conference application has been submitted.  
*Rafi Alam arrived at 6:21pm.*  
*Carlos Monteverde arrived at 6:23pm.*

4.1.3. **VICE PRESIDENT**  
Thomas Greenwell

4.1.4. **CO-EDUCATION OFFICER**  
Fatima Rauf

4.1.5. **CO-EDUCATION OFFICER**  
Rafi Alam

4.1.6. **TREASURER**  
Joshua Preece

4.1.7. **SECRETARY**  
Kane Hardy

4.1.8. **DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**  
Myriarm Song

4.2. **Equity Officer Reports**

4.2.1. **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER**  
Mike Butler

4.2.2. **DISABILITIES OFFICER**  
Marguerite Biasatti

4.2.3. **INTERNATIONAL OFFICER**  
Shaikh Naycem Faisal

4.2.4. **QUEER OFFICER**  
Rachel Evans
4.2.5. **Women's Officer**
Forough Ghanizadeh

4.2.6. **Rural and Regional Officer**
Douglas King

4.3. **Business Arising from Reports**
None.

5. **BUSS5000 and BUSS6000 Update**
(Deferred until after items 6 and 7, waiting for staff and guests to arrive).

A staff member began explaining the large-scale problem in the business school. He began with a brief rundown of the organisation of SUPRA.

*Mike Butler and Syed Atif left at 6:46pm.*
*Joseph Callingham left at 6:47pm.*

The staff member played an interview from the Co-President in Campus Review to council.

*Joseph Callingham returned at 6:49pm.*

He noted that he and the Co-President had prepared the speech in 10 minutes with very little notice, but it was well researched and had evidence to back it up.

*Mike Butler and Syed Atif returned at 6:53pm.*

He covered the key points; the Master of Commerce is the biggest postgraduate degree in the university, and the Business School also has the second biggest degree in the university. The school made a decision to change the curriculum substantially, introducing mandatory passing for all exams. This is not inherently wrong, but pedagogically this is not only route. The biggest problem is that there was an enormous change to curriculum but staff didn’t teach to it. The school didn’t offer adequate support for the different curriculum. Most students passed English exam standard of 7.0. Students have since swapped from the previous course to courses from Sydney University’s Centre for English Teaching. Diagnostic testing showed that 50% of the cohort didn’t have sufficient language skills, and still no adequate support was offered. After finding out these statistics the school streamed some of the students into mediation courses, but some students were turned away due to the maximum capacity being reached. As a result, almost 40% of the students failed the unit. $2.4 million has been collected from those students.

SUPRA has been overrun with enquiries from students affected. SUPRA usually has 700-900 cases over a year, but 350 students had approached SUPRA in two weeks. The Business School says it’s about academic integrity. SUPRA has asked them to reassess the failed students but they declined.

*Jinyuan Li left at 6:58pm.*

Media began to pick up on the event. The story has also been picked up in China. SUPRA has been told that the Chinese embassy has contacted the vice-chancellor to express displeasure.

**Motion [AUG13-03]:** That this meeting of council moves *in camera.*

**Moved:** Douglas King **Seconded:** Kane Hardy
Carried.

*The meeting moved in camera at 6:59pm.*

*Aaron Moye left at 6:59pm.*

**Motion [AUG13-04]:** That council allows Adrian Cardinali to stay during the *in camera* portion of this meeting.

Moved: Rafi Alam  
Seconded: Kane Hardy  
Carried.

**Motion [AUG13-05]:** That council allows Jinyuan Li and Ben to stay during the *in camera* portion of this meeting.

Moved: Douglas King  
Seconded: Mike Butler  
Carried.

*Jinyuan Li returned at 7:00pm.*

[discussion redacted, in camera discussion in original minutes]

**Motion [AUG13-07]:** That this meeting of council moves *ex camera.*

Moved: Joseph Callingham  
Seconded: Kane Hardy  
Carried.

*Adrian Cardinali, Ben and Jinyuan Li left at 7:53pm.*

*Aaron Moye returned at 7:53pm.*

*Rafi Alam returned at 7:55pm.*

6. **Councillor Feedback on Current Survival Guide**

SAAOs are looking for feedback into current survival guide.

7. **Website Quotes**

The Co-President noted that a hard copy of the website proposals had been circulated to this meeting and to have a read of them before making a decision. A councillor said that they should have been circulated earlier. He then asked the Co-President to summarise the proposals. The Co-President then gave a brief outline of the first proposal.

The councillor then said that Wordpress has a $10/year fee and that $8000 is an unreasonable proposal. Another councillor then said the price is that high because a lot of work goes into the creation of the website.

The other Co-President then summarised the second proposal. She stated that the user database needs to stay secure from public and a lot of time goes into making the website, that’s why the proposals are $8000-9000. She stated that the second proposal would give SUPRA a template and she with the website design done. Mechanisms for council to update content itself will be given also.
A councillor asked why Publications Committee chose the first proposal over the second one.

Adrian Cardinali, Ben and Jinyuan Li arrived at 6:30pm.

A councillor noted that this item has come to council for years. Money has been put away and it will be worth it to pay slightly more for a better website. The staff member then spoke about website quotes. He said that many have a preference for the first proposal because SUPRA’s administration team with expertise in web design the person putting the proposal forward. They have worked with him before, he is responsive and he has worked with community organisations before. Many staff worked with him on the redevelopment of the database and he was excellent and quite cheap.

A councillor asked if there are maintenance costs. A Co-President replied, stating that there is an ongoing cost of $2185 for the first quote and nothing is stated for the second quote.

The other Co-President stated that she thought it was very important for staff that one of the quotes is from someone already known to work well with the staff. Wordpress will have more longevity since the staff are more familiar with it. She said a rough estimate of pages would be 25-30, depending on how the menu bar is structured. The pages could be restructured to make it more like a blog.

One of the Co-Education Officers said that he is currently employed as a web designer. The best part of Wordpress is its usability and future-proofing. It is easy to manage and by that alone, SUPRA should go with the first quote. Every other platform is harder to upgrade.

A councillor said that he agrees but is uncomfortable voting on quotes since they were circulated so late.

Another councillor said that the most significant thing is how staff work with the employer. The quote is pretty cheap.

A councillor suggested sending this item to Management Committee to summarise and bring back to council. Another councillor said that this item has already gone to Management Committee and has been sent to council. The other councillor replied, saying that one month won’t make much of a difference. If a councillor is not comfortable it should be addressed.

One of the Co-Presidents recommended the first quote, due to Wordpress’ usability. She also stated that she got the feeling Management Committee already said they supported the first quote. The other Co-President said that Publications and Media Committee already passed a motion in support of the first quote.

A councillor said that council should now go to a vote.

Motion [AUG13-08]: That council approves the $6715 proposal for SUPRA’s website from Phillip Byrne.

Moved: Douglas King  Seconded: Rafi Alam
Abstentions: Joseph Callingham, Forough Ghanizadeh, Syed Atif

Carried.

Marguerite Biasatti arrived at 6:44pm.

8. Internal Administration
8.1. OH&S

Last council meeting, councillors wanted to know about time commitment. One of the Co-Presidents circulated times for council to look at. She encouraged council to take up the role.

*Rafi Alam left at 7:57pm.*

One of SUPRA’s councillor has already done the training and can provide better answers. A councillor said she would speak to him and get back to the Co-President.

*Rafi Alam returned at 7:59pm.*

**Action:** Kylee Hartman-Warren to compile all the OH&S information into an e-mail and circulate.

9. Changes to the Women’s Officer’s Stipend

**Motion [AUG13-09]:** That Kylee Hartman-Warren becomes the chair.

**Moved:** Forough Ghanizadeh  **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

**Carried.**

*Christian Jones left at 8:00pm.*

There was a recommendation at the last council meeting to change the women’s officer stipend from 7 to 14 hours per week. The Women’s Officer believes 7 hours is not enough to be able to address women’s issues on campus. She has spoken to the Treasurer to send this issue to Finance Committee to see if budget can cover it. Management Committee approved to send this issue to Finance Committee, but no meeting of Finance Committee was called. She spoke about it with SUPRA’s Finance Manager and he said that the budget can cover it. SUPRA has some savings in the equity officers’ section.

The Treasurer said that it depends on the interpretation of it in the budget. It won’t make a huge impact on the budget and since large parts of stipends have not been claimed for all equity officers it should be fine.

A councillor asked if it there would be enough work to double the stipend. The Women’s Officer said that she is always doing more work than she is claiming. This month doing events, campaigns on childcare, sexual harassment, postgrad mums and attending meetings with staff and executive, she has gone far over the allocated hours. A couple of years ago the Women’s and International Officer stipends reduced from 14 to 7 hours per week.

A councillor said that increasing the stipend to 14 just returns it to what it used to be. A Co-Education Officer said that the SRC Women’s Officer is paid more too, acknowledging that it is a large role.

A councillor asked if most of the roles have previously been 14 hours per week and reduced to 7, or just some of them. A Co-President replied, saying that International and Women’s Officers were 14, but then dropped to 7. The rest were just 7.

A councillor said that if an officer had a particularly busy time they could just make a supernumerary request. Another councillor said that it is important to adequately compensate officers, especially since some are of a low socio-economic status. Adequate compensation would allow them to contribute to SUPRA.

*Christian Jones and Adrian Cardinali returned at 8:08pm.*
One of the Co-Education Officers said that the stipend should be raised to 14 hours permanently. SUPRA should invest in this issue. It will be an issue that will be important for many years to come. People deserve a fair wage for fair work. Half of the population of this university is women, making women’s issues very significant.

The Treasurer said that he is for increasing the stipend. He added that the more fiscally responsible option would be to increase the stipend after SSAF negotiations.

The Women’s Officer said that SUPRA has more than $30,000 in savings from other officers’ stipends. There is already enough. She has spoken to John and there doesn’t seem to be a problem.

**Motion [AUG13-10]:** That council approves increasing the Women’s Officer stipend from 7 hours per week (14 hours per fortnight) to 14 hours per week (28 hours per fortnight) and recommends reassessing the feasibility in the new year.

Moved: Syed Atif

Seconded: Ahmed Suhaib

Against: Joe Callingham, Christian Jones (with 1 proxy)

Abstentions: Carlos Monteverde, Forough Ghanizadeh, Kaitlin Tagg

Carried.

10. **Hutchison Port Picket**

Co-President Christian Jones has approved $500 to support the picket (food, gas, firewood, etc.)

*See attached documentation.*

The other Co-President summarised that which was written in attached documentation. She says that she is in favour and says that what has happened to the workers is not fair. A councillor said that SUPRA doesn’t have a budget allocation for donations.

*Marguerite Biasatti left at 8:24pm.*

A staff member noted that it is important for council to know that, before the donation was made, the Co-President checked SSAF legislation to ensure that it was not in breach. Soon after, a councillor said that it is putting SUPRA in jeopardy because he believed the donation was in breach of SSAF legislation.

*Marguerite Biasatti returned at 8:26pm.*

The councillor said that the Co-President’s decisions reflect on all of the council. He said that he feels offended that he has donated money to something so politically charged. The staff member said that the decision is not ambiguous or problematic. It serves to support the workers. The councillor said that the MUA is a union affiliated to the Australian Labor Party. The staff member stated that the donation is supporting the workers on the picket, not the union.

A councillor said that the Co-President should have brought this to council. This money is not going to students. She asked how he could know that students would be happy with this money going to the picket. This issue didn’t even go to Management Committee, council, nothing. The Co-President said that it was an urgent decision.

A Co-Education Officer said that the Co-President probably should have taken it to council, because it would have given the argument more weight, not because it was inappropriate.
Also, SUPRA is a student union, this is relevant to a broader movement, providing solidarity with relevant campaigns.

A councillor asked how council could make the motion safer for SUPRA. The staff member said to make it more relevant to students e.g. “we don’t want our futures as students to be affected when we enter the workplace”. The Co-President said that he has other wording.

A councillor said that he is opposed because this is not relevant to students. It implicates SUPRA in politics, showing a tendency to a particular political party. He asked how he could disassociate himself from the $500 donation.

**Motion [AUG13-11]:** That this motion is sent to Management Committee for rewording and reworking.

Moved: Kaitlin Tagg  
Seconded: Joseph Callingham

Failed.

**Motion [AUG13-12]:** That the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association stands in solidarity with the wharfies and the Maritime Union of Australia.  
That the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association supports the ongoing pickets at Sydney’s Port Botany and the Port of Brisbane.

Moved: Douglas King  
Seconded: Anna Sanders-Robinson

Carried.

A councillor gave a suggestion that all motions in future should be explicitly related to students.

11. **University Strategic Plan & Cultural Workshop**

One of the Co-Presidents said that there would be a cultural workshop coming up soon. It will be useful to get more student insight.

*Mike Butler left at 8:51pm.*

12. **Other Business**

Staff asked to notify council that there is a working bee coming up and to please nominate to clean up and decorate the downstairs area.

The staff member said that the database, currently being used by advocacy staff, is pretty dysfunctional at the moment. The new one is nearing completion but it is just a test version at the moment. The staff hired has been great to work with. The Administration Officers are looking for photos from events, etc.

A councillor encouraged office bearers to specify how they are spending their time. He commended the Secretary on his report, stating that it was well set out and concise.
Mike Butler returned at 8:52pm.

A councillor said that he was offended by the Co-Education Officer’s article on the SUPRA pages of Honi Soit, stating that it is too left-wing and about unions. A Co-President replied, stating that SUPRA is a student union. A councillor suggested in future specifying that it is an opinion piece.

The other Co-Education Officer said that, as of next week, one full page will be written by a SAAO and the other page will be up to the Director of Student Publications. He said to email him or the Treasurer to contribute. The staff member said that the page that will be provided by the SAAOs each week to talk about difficult or unfashionable issues. The articles will be evidence-based and will promote helping students and SUPRA’s services.

The Co-Education Officer said that there was a motion passed in support of the NTEU at the previous council meeting, so the article was not inappropriate. The councillor said that right-wing people might feel threatened by the content of the article.

A councillor thanked one of the Co-Presidents for encouraging feedback.

*The meeting closed at 9:01pm.*