MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE SEMINAR ROOM 427 ON THE 14TH OF JANUARY AT 6:00PM

Chair: Christian Jones
Minutes: Kane Hardy
Attendance: Christian Jones, Kane Hardy, Ahmed Suhaib, Douglas King, Thomas Greenwell, Carlos Monteverde (left at 7:33pm), Angelica Fernandez (left at 7:31pm), Gareth Charles, Mike Butler, Kieran Latty, Aaron Moye, Joshua Preece (via Skype), Kylee Hartman-Warren (arrived at 6:08pm), Forough Ghanizadeh (arrived at 6:32pm), Rashmi Dixit (arrived at 6:32pm), Guien Miao (arrived at 6:32pm)

Guests: James Hammerton (arrived at 6:32pm, left at 7:53pm)

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 6:07pm and the ATSI Officer gave an acknowledgement of country.

Kylee Hartman-Warren arrived at 6:08pm.

★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

Elizabeth Gatens
Anna Sanders-Robinson
Syed Atif
Myriarm Song

Guien Miao (running late)
Joseph Callingham
Fatima Rauf

2.2. Proxies

Elizabeth Gatens to Joshua Preece (2nd preference Myriarm Song, 3rd preference Ellen Weekes)
Anna Sanders-Robinson to Angelica Fernandez (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Douglas King, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Mike Butler)
Myriarm Song to Christian Jones (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference James Hammerton, 3\textsuperscript{rd} preference Kylee Hartman-Warren)
Guien Miao to Bhagaban Acharya
Joseph Callingham to Guien Miao (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Mike Butler)
Syed Atif to Forough Ghanizadeh (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Mike Butler)
Fatima Rauf to Ahmed Suhaib (2\textsuperscript{nd} preference Rafi Alam)

2.3. **Starring of Items**
Council is invited to star any agenda items they would like discussed.

**Motion [JAN14-01]:** That council approves all unstarred items.

*Moved:* Kane Hardy  *Seconded:* Thomas Greenwell
*Carried.*

2.4. **Resignations**
Shaikh Nayeem Faisal has resigned from the position of International Officer.
Kaitlin Tagg has resigned from the position of councillor, nominating Aaron Moye as her replacement.

**Motion [JAN14-02]:** That SUPRA council accepts the resignation of Kaitlin Tagg and appoints Aaron Moye to council under section 05.08: 1) of the SUPRA constitution.

*Moved:* Kane Hardy  *Seconded:* Mike Butler
*Carried.*

Rafi Alam has resigned from the position of councillor, nominating Nicholas Rowbotham as his replacement.

**Motion [JAN14-03]:** That SUPRA council accepts the resignation of Rafi Alam and appoints Nicholas Rowbotham to council under section 05.08: 1) of the SUPRA constitution.

*Moved:* Kane Hardy  *Seconded:* Mike Butler
*Carried.*
2.5. **Leaves of Absence**

Rachel Evans is going to Bolivia between the dates of the 13th of January to the 12th of February.

**Motion [JAN14-04]:** That Council approves the leave of absence for Rachel Evans for the period of the 14th of January to the 12th of February, inclusive.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy  **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell  
**Carried.**

The fire alarm sounded at 6:14pm.

**Motion [JAN14-05]:** That the meeting adjourn until it is safe to return.

**Moved:** Christian Jones  
**Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.  
Meeting reconvened at 6:32pm.  
*Forough Ghanizadeh, James Hammerton, Rashmi Dixit and Guien Miao arrived at 6:32pm.*

3. **Minutes and Reports of Meetings**

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

3.1.1. **Council Meeting, 10th December 2015**

A councillor said that, in regards to **Motion [DEC10-02]** of the previous council meeting, “impeachment” is a technical term. It involves a formal proceeding, which SUPRA doesn’t have. He said that he did not want to contradict the original motion but wants to note that any proceedings are not impeachment proceedings.

Another councillor said that “censure” would have been a more appropriate word to use. The Secretary said that, in hindsight, “censure” would have been more appropriate and less ambiguous.

A councillor said that, in Australia, it has a specific meaning which is appropriate. Councillors shouldn’t be questioning the Australian meaning of the word and they shouldn’t deviate from the motion that was voted on.

A councillor said that council already spoke about the meaning and it was clarified at the last meeting.

A councillor said that it is not only about the definition but it is a formal process. If SUPRA already had a formal process it would have to follow it but it doesn’t have a policy for these matters.

A councillor asked why council was debating the wording of a motion that has already been passed. Another councillor said that it undermines council to amend a previously carried motion.
Motion [JAN14-06]: That discussion cease and council move onto the next item.
Moved: Kane Hardy
Carried.

Motion [JAN14-07]: That council approves the minutes of the council meeting held on the 10th of December 2015.
Moved: Thomas Greenwell  Seconded: Forough Ghanizadeh
Carried.

3.1.2. Education Committee Meeting, 6th December 2015
3.1.3. Finance Committee Meeting, 7th December 2015
3.1.4. Management Committee Meeting, 7th December 2015

Motion [JAN14-08]: That Item 4 (staffing matter) be made in camera.
Moved: Kane Hardy  Seconded: Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

Motion [JAN14-09]: That council approves the amended minutes of the meeting of Management Committee held on the 7th of December 2015.
Moved: Thomas Greenwell  Seconded: Kane Hardy
Carried.

Motion [JAN14-10]: That council moves to discuss item 9 before proceeding to other starred items.
Moved: Gareth Charles
Carried.

4. Officer Reports
4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. Co-President & Director of Student Publications

Christian Jones
The Co-President mentioned that he had been impeached. He is currently organising with the Finance Manager to have the money taken out of his stipend.

Motion [JAN14-22]: That council approves the report of the Co-President and Director of Student Publications.
Moved: Kane Hardy  Seconded: Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

4.1.2. **Co-President**
Kylee Hartman-Warren

4.1.3. **Vice President**
Thomas Greenwell

4.1.4. **Co-Education Officer**
Fatima Rauf

4.1.5. **Co-Education Officer**
Ahmed Suhaib

4.1.6. **Treasurer**
Joshua Preece
The Treasurer said that he tabled a more detailed report and will continue to do so in future. He has been collaborating with the Finance Manager on the deficit. He said that he doesn’t currently have the 2016 actuals.
He reported that the last meeting of Finance Committee went well and that he will hold them more regularly.

**Motion [JAN14-23]:** That council approves the report of the Treasurer.
**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell  **Seconded:** Gareth Charles
Carried.

A councillor asked why the Treasurer was repeating the Yabun festival motion that the Indigenous Officer was already working on and was already advertised in eGrad. The Treasurer said that he should have read eGrad more closely and that it could be scrapped.

4.1.7. **Secretary**
Kane Hardy

4.2. **Equity Officer Reports**

4.2.1. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer**
Mike Butler

**Motion [JAN14-24]:** That discussion on and certain contents of the report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer be redacted.
**Moved:** Christian Jones  **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

**Motion [JAN14-25]:** That the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Officer be allowed to over unused hours from December.

Moved: Mike Butler  
Seconded: Kylee Hartman-Warren  
Carried.

Two counterposed motions were proposed:

**Motion [JAN14-26]:** That the report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer be amended with the fifth and sixth lines removed and resubmitted to Management Committee.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell  
Seconded: Kieran Latty

**Motion [JAN14-27]:** That council approve the report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander with the fifth and sixth lines removed.

Moved: Forough Ghanizadeh  
Seconded: Guien Miao

**Motion [JAN14-26]** received 9 votes, **Motion [JAN14-27]** received 10 votes.  
**Motion [JAN14-27] carried.**

4.2.2. **Disabilities Officer**

Marguerite Biasatti  

*No hours claimed.*

4.2.3. **International Officer**

*Position currently vacant*

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**

**Motion [JAN14-28]:** That eGrad be sent out on a fortnightly basis until the end of March.

Moved: Joshua Preece  
Seconded: Mike Butler
There was discussion around the motion.

**Motion [JAN14-29]:** That discussion be ceased and the motion be voted on.
**Moved:** Guien Miao

**Motion [JAN14-30]:** That Motion [JAN14-29] be rescinded.
**Moved:** Gareth Charles
No seconder. Motion not voted on.

**Motion [JAN14-31]:**
1. That SUPRA endorse the March 9 forum on the University restructure with the NTEU and SRC.
2. That SUPRA endorse the March 16 student protest against the University restructure and approve up to $200 for the production of banners and signs.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib  **Seconded:** Forough Ghanizadeh
Carried.

5. **Verbal Report from Staff Member**
Staff send their apologies as no one can make tonight’s meeting.

6. **Attendance**
The Secretary presented the attendance spreadsheet and noted that some councillors have only attended two of the seven council meetings so far, including this meeting. Some others have only attended three. He noted that, under the constitution, council may remove councillors who attend less than fifty per cent of the council meetings that have occurred since their term commenced, unless fewer than three meetings have occurred. Three councillors fulfilled these requirements. He asked council how council would like to approach this issue.

A councillor said that some people who don’t show up don’t want to go anymore and may have well have resigned. He said that they can reapply at a later time. Another councillor said that, in the past, people have not attended meetings because of work. She said that never in the past can she remember council having voted to remove councillors. She said that it creates bad blood by deliberately kicking someone off. If they decided not meet requirements we can’t argue against that but it is problematic to simply remove councillors.

A councillor asked if the people who were removed were warned first. The Secretary said that they were. The Vice-President said that instead of removing the councillors, they should be afforded opportunity to resign.

The Secretary said that although he is unaware of personal circumstances, little to no attempt was made to inform the executive that they wouldn’t be able to attend and no leaves of absence were requested. He said that these positions have basically been wasted.
and could have gone to other people who would have attended the meetings and contributed to the organisation.

A Co-President said that the wellbeing of the councillors in question should be checked. A councillor said that she agrees that people should reassess if they can make the commitment but one warning is not enough. A councillor said that they should be asked to resign or make a commitment to attending future meetings.

A councillor said that a lot of stuff in SUPRA is complicated and that it is hard to get a grasp of the processes. She said that it is easy to get lost and remember what the requirements are. She said that councillors should have mentors.

A councillor said that there was a lot of trouble with this last year. Council doesn’t want to be too harsh or too lenient. These positions are wasted when SUPRA could have someone more enthusiastic who can participate more.

A councillor said that notifications should be sent out before committee and council meetings. People forget a lot.

**Motion [JAN14-32]:** That Elizabeth, Ellen and Bhagaban be afforded the opportunity to resign and reconsider whether they wish to continue on SUPRA or be afforded the opportunity to commit to coming to further meetings.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy  **Seconded:** Guien Miao

**Carried.**

7. **Motions by Circulation**

*See attached documentation.*

A councillor asked how many votes are required to carry a motion by circulation. The Vice-President said and absolute majority of all councillors.

A Co-President said that council should reconsider how it does motions by circulation so that it is more democratic and transparent. A councillor raised concerns with being bombarded by emails. A councillor said that he doesn’t like the idea of using motions by circulations to subvert the decisions made at council meetings.

8. **InDesign training/Workshop**

*See attached documentation.*

**Recommendation:** That Council redirects the $900 approved for the “Councillor Development Day” to organising the InDesign training for all the councillors in April and light refreshments for the councillors, and the co-Presidents may be directed to make proper arrangements in the month.

**Moved:** Syed Atif  **Seconded:** ?
This motion was already passed as a motion by circulation. The Vice-President will organise this before O-Week.

9. **Grievance Committee Report**

The chair of the Grievance Committee began to speak about that which was written in the report.

**Motion [JAN14-11]:** That item 9 move in camera.
**Moved:** Gareth Charles
**Carried.**

(Content removed. See Secretary’s copy for in camera section.)

Discussion then returned to item 4.

10. **ResBaz**

290 Postgrads have registered for ResBaz and 70% of them are form the University of Sydney. This is a great opportunity for SUPRA to promote itself to the postgraduate community.

**Motion [JAN14-33]:** That SUPRA approve $1000 for ResBaz to be used from catering purposes on the Nerd Night and Hacky Hour that will take place at 5:00pm on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} of February, respectively, during the ResBaz.
**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib  
**Seconded:** Guien Miao
**Carried.**

A Co-Education Officer said that the event organisers are looking for enthusiastic postgraduate research student who could manage the Hacky Hour for the month of February. Hack Hour will be a weekly hour when research students can get together and talk about their thesis.

11. **University Restructure**

The Vice-President said that he wants to cooperate with the SRC to draw up a terms of reference and charter to counter the committee appointees by the deans of faculties. He also wants to create a working party with SUPRA and the SRC to see this through.
Motion [JAN14-34]: That SUPRA create a working party with the SRC to draw up a terms of reference to counter the committee appointees by the deans of faculties of the University of Sydney.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell  Seconded: Kylee Hartman-Warren
Carried.

12. Volunteer Stipend

Motion [JAN14-35]: That items 12 and 13 be deferred to next council meeting.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

13. Federal Election Campaign

Education committee recommended making a report card on issues relevant to Postgraduate students.

14. Other Business

Meeting closed at 9:34pm.