



MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE SEMINAR ROOM 427 ON THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY AT 6:00PM

Chair: Kylee Hartman-Warren

Minutes: Kane Hardy

Attendance: Kane Hardy, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Christian Jones, Thomas Greenwell, Aaron Moye, Angelica Fernandez, Anna Sanders-Robinson, Ahmed Suhaib, Rachel Evans, Mike Butler (*arrived at 6:11pm*), Syed Atif (*arrived at 6:12pm, left at 7:02pm*), Marguerite Biasatti (*arrived at 6:19pm*), Joshua Preece (*arrived at 6:19pm*), Gareth Charles (*arrived at 6:28pm*)

Guests: Margaret Kirkby (*arrived at 6:11pm, left at 7:51pm*)

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 6:09pm with an acknowledgement of country.

★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

Forough Ghanizadeh

Fatima Rauf

Carlos Monteverde

Nick Rowbotham

2.2. Proxies

Forough Ghanizadeh to Syed Atif (2nd preference Mike Butler, 3rd preference Carlos Monteverde)

Fatima Rauf to Ahmed Suhaib (2nd preference Kane Hardy, 3rd preference Rachel Evans)

Carlos Monteverde to Forough Ghanizadeh (2nd preference Ahmed Suhaib, 3rd preference Guien Miao)

Nick Rowbotham to Thomas Greenwell (2nd preference Kane Hardy, 3rd preference Gareth Charles)

Mike Butler and Margaret Kirkby arrived at 6:11pm.

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Syed Atif arrived at 6:12pm.

Motion [FEB12-01]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

Carried.

Motion [FEB12-02]: That all starred officer reports be deferred to the end of the meeting.

Moved: Anna Sanders-Robinson

Carried.

2.4. Resignations

Douglas King has resigned from the position of Rural and Regional Officer.

Motion [FEB12-03]: That SUPRA formally thank Douglas King for his contributions to SUPRA over the last few years in both his capacity as a councillor and office bearer.

Moved: Kylee Hartman-Warren **Seconded:** Thomas Greenwell

A staff member wanted to acknowledge to council that Doug has always been a good councillor and colleague to talk to. He recently helped staff at Camden and other campuse. She said that she hopes that SUPRA can get another Rural and Regional Officer as good as Doug was.

Elizabeth Gatens, Ellen Weekes and Bhagaban Acharya have resigned from their positions as councillors. None of them have nominated a replacement and so SUPRA will hold an election to fill these positions at the next council meeting.

Marguerite Biasatti and Joshua Preece arrived at 6:19pm.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 14TH JANUARY 2015

3.1.2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING, 22ND JANUARY 2015

3.1.3. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, 29TH JANUARY 2015

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. CO-PRESIDENT

Christian Jones

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

4.1.7. SECRETARY

Kane Hardy

4.1.8. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Christian Jones

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Mike Butler

Motion [FEB12-15]: That the report of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer be deferred to be the last report discussed.

Moved: Mike Butler

Carried.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Officer said that last month marked first time SUPRA recognised the 26th of January as invasion day.

Motion [JAN12-19]: That item 4.2.1 move *in camera*.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

Margaret Kirkby left at 7:51pm.

[Content removed. See Secretary's copy for in camera section.]

★ 4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti

The Disabilities Officer said that she is basically starting the ball rolling again. She has been contacting disability support to get a meeting but they keep cancelling. On a positive note, she received an email about federal government policy in regards to disability support, meaning she has had some impact.

Motion [FEB12-16]: That council approve a leave of absence for Marguerite Biasatti for the period of the 27th of February to the 26th of March.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Christian Jones

Carried.

Motion [FEB12-17]: That council approve the report of the Disabilities Officer.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Ahmed Suhaib

Carried.

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Position currently vacant

★ 4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans

The Queer Officer said that she had spent last month in Bolivia and a little time in Chile with women's, queer and indigenous rights activists. She is yet to publish anything, but the camera stuff has gone up. She spoke about things written down in the report.

She encouraged people to march on different floats in Mardi Gras.

Motion [FEB12-18]: That council approved the report of the Queer Officer.

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

4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Forough Ghanizadeh

4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Douglas King

Position vacated after last pay period.

★ **5. Refugees in Australia**

See attached documentation.

A councillor said that in the last few weeks, the Liberals and Labor voted to send 52 refugees settled on Australia, including infants and children, back to Manus Island and Nauru. She said this is an abuse of human rights. She drew attention to the protest this weekend against the Labor party conference. She said that they have been complicit in the whole thing.

A councillor said that he totally supports this. He asked if there are refugees on campus that SUPRA could reach out to? The councillor who brought the motions said that she wasn't sure.

A councillor said that she commends the motion. She noted that SUPRA activists turned up to a snap photo-shoot called by the NTEU. She would also ask that the council endorse a push to put the March 20 leaflets in the induction packs. She also said that SUPRA should do something more active for March 20 like a banner drop.

The treasurer said that it would be good if SUPRA could get stats on constituents that are refugees.

Thomas Greenwell left at 6:26pm.

Thomas Greenwell and Gareth Charles arrived at 6:28pm.

A councillor wanted to add that SUPRA promote the March 20 action with banners and posters with SUPRA's logo on it and that SUPRA do a banner paint at O-Week for March 20. She also wanted to add a flier for that event to the induction packs.

Motion [FEB12-04]: That SUPRA:

1. oppose the offshore processing and mandatory detention of refugees,
2. call for the immediate release of all refugees from detention, the closure of detention centres on and off-shore, and the cessation of all refugee deportations,
3. call on the immediate granting of permanent residency, citizenship, employment and welfare rights to all refugees,
4. oppose the Border Force Act, and expresses its solidarity with the refugees and doctors and other workers who are continuing to organise and protest against the legislation both in and out of detention,

5. stand in solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons worldwide,
6. acknowledge the rights of these groups to seek refuge and asylum from persecution in accordance with international law,
7. stand against the racism and islamophobia which has been increasingly targeted at refugees and perpetuated by Australian governmental policy,
8. endorse the upcoming Palm Sunday rally for refugees on March 20th, and calls on all office bearers, councillors and collective members to attend.,
9. advertise the rally via its Facebook page, website and through an email to its members, and
10. promote the March 20 action with banners and fliers with SUPRA's logo

Moved: Anna Sanders-Robinson **Seconded:** Angelica Fernandez
Carried (consensus).

★ 6. Australian Healthcare

See attached documentation.

A councillor said that the government is attacking healthcare. They are pulling billions of dollars of funding and are also talking about privatising Medicare. She said Australia is moving towards a US healthcare model, which is inaccessible and unaffordable. Diagnostic services are under attack. There will be a rally on the 20th of February. SUPRA councillors should all be there.

The Vice-President noted that SUPRA's former Education Officer had been instrumental in starting petition and it would be in good faith to endorse this.

A councillor said that this is what we pay our taxes for as Australians. He said that it is bullshit that they're cutting these services. The Education Officer said that he would be able to write something for eGrad.

Motion [FEB12-05]: That SUPRA

1. stands for a completely free and universal healthcare system for every person, every medicine and every procedure.
2. condemn the Liberal government and its attempts to make further attacks on the affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare.
3. regard the MYEFO health budgets cuts as class warfare against the majority of poor and working-class people who are entitled to universal healthcare.
4. stand for mass action against the privatisation of healthcare, including street demonstrations and militant industrial struggle, especially amongst health workers.
5. endorse the upcoming "These Cuts Are Killing Us" rallies taking place on 20 February.
6. call on all office bearers, councillors and collective members to attend.
7. its office bearers and their collectives share the Facebook event for the rally through all the Facebook pages they administer.

8. advertise the rally on its website and through an email to its members.

Motion: Angelica Fernandez **Seconded:** Anna Sanders-Robinson
Carried.

★ 7. Verbal Report from Staff Member

The staff member said that the start of year was the first opportunity to take leave since the offices are always open, except for the closed period at the end of the year. She was asked to take accumulated leave and said that she had a good time.

Angelica Fernandez left at 6:36pm.

She reported that some writing for the Survival Guide was done. Both teams have been very busy. She said that the last layout bits under process. The final proof is in but there is no final date. It should be ready for O-Week.

She added that each faculty organises at least 1 induction and that it is important that SUPRA representatives go to as many of them as they can. She said that students love to hear from councillors and fellow postgrads. She encouraged councillors to go to inductions.

She has been going to remote locations get a abetter representation of who SUPRA is representing. This is important because they often can't get to the main campus.

She reported that Anthea has now come on board as permanent staff.

Motion [FEB12-06]: That Council thanks Margaret Kirkby for her report and contribution to SUPRA over the last month.

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

★ 8. Brighter Futures Campaign and CAPA

CAPA has contributed to this campaign. Honi Soit reported on it. The Vice-President said that Brighter Futures was set up as a split from NUS of which National Labor Students (NLS) have lost control. It was set up by NUS at LaTrobe and Melbourne graduates' associations. CAPA was headed by an NLS president who funnelled funding into this campaign. The president of the NTEU was called to come on board but called it dismal. Money was then put in the custody of a media corporation which had former NLS staffers. The campaign had one single conference, which the Vice-President called a joke. It is not clear where the money has gone. This campaign has not engaged any students and it hasn't had promotion by CAPA or NUS. It looks like a failed split from Labor party groupings.

A councillor said that the campaign was being discussed at the CAPA conference. There were no issues raised at the conference about its validity.

A councillor said that he knows the left faction of Labor supported it, but asked if CAPA as a whole supported it. The Vice-President said that originally CAPA had an NLS president. CAPA was in favour of this campaign, as was the president of NUS and the student associations at Latrobe and Melbourne. CAPA was then left with a non-aligned president. The campaign has been going on for two years, but there has been no promotion.

A councillor said that the real lesson of Brighter Futures is that student organisations shouldn't use these issues to create campaigns to fill pockets of Labor people. Students

can't fight these things through future Labor bureaucrats. Students need to organise concretely.

A councillor said that she hadn't read article but will. It seems like a very undemocratic campaign. She said that there needs to be a national campaign against the restructures and this doesn't seem to be it. She asked how much SUPRA pays to CAPA. She asked if at the last CAPA conference did SUPRA get a report back about Brighter Futures? She also asked if SUPRA contributed directly to the Brighter Futures campaign. A Co-President said that she doesn't know of any donations from SUPRA.

The Treasurer said that this serves as a reminder for SUPRA that all of its campaigns are above board.

A Co-Education Officer asked what will happen if SUPRA does not renew its affiliation and how it would affect CAPA and postgrads. The Secretary said that unless CAPA doesn't do anything about SUPRA's concerns it shouldn't affect them too much. A Co-President said that the affiliation is around \$24,000.

A staff member said that a national level of organisation is very important.

Syed Atif left at 6:58pm.

The staff member said that if it gets outside Honi Soit and to mainstream media it will have repercussions.

Gareth: we don't have anyone on the exec of CAPA? We will just have to send something to them?

Kylee:

Syed Atif returned at 7:01pm.

Syed left at 7:02pm, proxy to Mike Butler.

Motion [FEB12-07]: That the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA) request an explanation from the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) about how the \$4,000 donation to the "Bright Futures" campaign, as outlined in the Honi Soit article "Ghost Campaigns", was spent by the campaign and why such a donation was made on the behalf of postgraduate students.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Mike Butler

Carried.

Motion [FEB12-08]: That SUPRA does not renew its affiliation with CAPA until an adequate explanation of CAPA's expenditures, such as the donation to the "Bright Futures" campaign, is provided to Council.

Moved: Rachel Evans **Seconded:** Christian Jones

Carried (4 against).

★ 9. **Indigenous Student Justice Association**

Indigenous Student Justice Association, a long term Aboriginal rights group in Sydney that has been campaigning against black in custody and organised the recent January 26th Invasion Day rally, has requested funding for a flight for a black deaths in custody WA

activist Shaun Harris.

Shaun Harris is an uncle of 22-year-old Yamitji woman Julieka Dhu. Dhu who neglected to death by prison officials and died in custody, in agony and in pain from a severe medical condition, on August 4, 2014. Julieka Dhu described as 'happy' and a person who everyone liked, was placed in jail South Hedland for \$1,000 in unpaid fines.

Shaun Harris is traveling the nation, linking up with Aboriginal groups and trying to raise the profile of the issue surrounding his sister's death in custody.

ISJA is trying to bring Shaun Harris from WA for the Justice TJ Hickey rally on the 14th

Christian Jones left at 7:06pm.

The Treasurer said that the cause is good but he thinks the link between flying (presuming he's not a postgrad student) to Sydney is not the best use of SUPRA's resources. A councillor asked if there is any connection to Sydney University. The councillor said that she doesn't know, but can find out. She said that the link is that SUPRA has been in solidarity with Redfern, who have requested that SUPRA do this. SUPRA's giving back to postgrads would be with an interview to be published in Honi Soit.

Conversation went on a tangent and the Vice-President said that this motion shouldn't be used as a platform for personal issues.

Motion [FEB12-09]: That the speaking list be closed and the motion be voted on.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

Motion [FEB12-10]: That SUPRA pay the \$700 for Shaun Harris's return flights and conduct an interview with him about the campaign Justice for Julieka Dhu for Honi Soit and any other publication that will take the interview.

Moved: Rachel Evans

Seconded: Gareth Charles

Failed (3 for, 4 against, 9 abstentions).

★ 10. International Student Travel Concessions

SUPRA will be doing a campaign during O-Week and the Co-Education Officer wanted SUPRA to endorse the campaign and petition.

A Co-President said that SUPRA had been working on it in May last year. There has been no response from university yet, but they claim to be working on it.

The Vice-President said that this hasn't been successful so far. He said that lobbying is good, but there was no movement behind the campaign. SUPRA needs to move a campaign to mobilise students.

A staff member said that she endorses SUPRA running such a campaign. She said that international students don't get travel concessions on blatantly discriminatory and racial grounds.

Motion [FEB12-11]: That SUPRA endorse the International Student Travel Concession petition and the forum that will take place on the 23rd of March.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Mike Butler

Carried (consensus).

★ **11. Westmead Student Orientation BBQ**

The Student Research Society at Westmead (St.Res.S) is a peer-led social society for postgraduate research students who are based at or affiliated with Westmead Campus. St.Res.S engages with and connects the diverse array of research students at Westmead through a variety of social and educational events and aims to create an exciting and supportive student atmosphere on and around campus.

The orientation BBQ is the first major event in the societies calendar. Its timing is aligned with the arrival of new PhD, honours and masters students across the Westmead campus. The orientation BBQ provides a social setting for new students to meet their peers.

SUPRA funding will be acknowledged on advertising material. Pamphlets can also be made available for distribution on the day.

A councillor said that StResS is in its second year. He would just like SUPRA to help host that BBQ. Another councillor said that he would like to come out and help.

A staff member said that she and the Treasurer spoke at an induction for research students in dentistry. They put in a plug for StResS.

Motion [FEB12-12]: That council approve \$500 for the Westmead Student Society Orientation BBQ to be held on Friday 18th March 2016.

Moved: Aaron Moye **Seconded:** Christian Jones

Carried.

★ **12. SUPRA T-Shirts and Calico Bags**

The Secretary presented the design of the new T-shirts to council for noting. The Vice-President said that he thinks they're awesome and wanted that noted.

★ **13. Importance of observance of safer spaces and code of conduct**

Motion [FEB12-13]: That this item be deferred to be the second-last item defer to be discussed.

Moved: Gareth Charles

Carried.

Motion [FEB12-14]: That discussion move back to starred reports.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

There have been contentious emails recently. Not constructive or helpful. Just wants the meeting to recognise the importance of being aware of our code of conduct and safer spaces and being mindful of language.

Motion: That the meeting recognising the ongoing importance to council of councillors being familiar with the code of conduct and safer spaces charter and acting appropriately.

Gareth, Mike

Carried.

14. Misuse of Council List-Email

A Co-President said that it was unnecessary to discuss this.

Motion [FEB12-25]: That this item be skipped.

Moved: Christian Jones

Carried.

15. Grievance Report

There were no amendments made to the report.

Motion [FEB12-26]: That there be no discussion and that council move straight to a vote on approving the Grievance Report.

Moved: Christian Jones

Carried.

Motion [FEB12-27]: That the remainder of the Grievance Report be approved.

Moved: Christian Jones **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

Failed (6 for, 8 against).

★ 16. Other Business

16.1. 2015 Financial Statement

Motion [FEB12-28]: That council endorses the financial statements of the year ended 31 December 2015 relying on the advice of the independent audit report provided to council.

Moved: Joshua Preece **Seconded:** Ahmed Suhaib

Carried.

16.2. 16th of March Student Protest

Motion [FEB12-29]: That council endorse the student protest occurring on the 16th of March 2016.

Moved: Christian Jones

Seconded: Ahmed Suhaib

Carried.

Meeting closed at 8:57pm.