



## MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE SEMINAR ROOM 427 ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH AT 6:00PM

- Chair:** Christian Jones
- Minutes:** Kane Hardy
- Attendance:** Christian Jones, Kane Hardy, Gareth Charles (*left at 7:30pm*), Ahmed Suhaib, Aaron Moye, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Thomas Greenwell, Anna Sanders-Robinson (*left at 8:25pm*) Angelica Fernandez (*left at 8:25pm*), Syed Atif (*left at 7:18pm*), Joshua Preece, Mike Butler, Carlos Monteverde (*arrived at 6:51pm*), Nick Rowbotham (*arrived at 7:32pm*)
- Guests:** Blythe Worthy (*left at 8:25pm*), Lily Matchett (*left at 8:25pm*), Melanie Stevenson, Edward McMahon (*arrived at 6:44pm, left at 8:25pm*), Tavenisa Diri (*arrived at 7:20pm, left at 8:25pm*)
- Staff:** Adrian Cardinali (*arrived at 6:21pm*)

### ★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 6:12pm and the Treasurer gave an acknowledgement of country.

★

### 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

#### 2.1. Apologies

Kieran Latty	Rachel Evans
Fatima Rauf	Nick Rowbotham (arriving late)
Gareth Charles (leaving early)	Forough Ghanizadeh

#### 2.2. Proxies

Kieran Latty to Thomas Greenwell (2<sup>nd</sup> preference Gareth Charles, 3<sup>rd</sup> preference Kane Hardy)

Fatima Rauf to Kane Hardy (2<sup>nd</sup> preference Thomas Greenwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> preference Ahmed Suhaib)

Gareth Charles to Kieran Latty (2<sup>nd</sup> preference Nick Rowbotham, 3<sup>rd</sup> preference Thomas Greenwell)

Rachel Evans to Thomas Greenwell (2<sup>nd</sup> preference Kane Hardy, 3<sup>rd</sup> preference Ahmed Suhaib)

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

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

Syed Atif to Kane Hardy

### **2.3. Starring of Items**

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

**Motion [MAR07-01]:** That Council approves all unstarred items.

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

**Carried.**

### **2.4. Resignations**

Guien Miao has resigned from her position as councillor. She has not yet nominated a replacement and so an election will be held at the next council meeting.

**Motion [MAR07-02]:** That Council accepts the resignation of Guien Miao from her position of councillor.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell              **Seconded:** Joshua Preece

**Carried.**

## **3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings**

### **3.1. Minutes of the previous month's meetings**

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

## **4. Officer Reports**

### **4.1. Executive Reports**

4.1.1. CO-PRESIDENT

Christian Jones

4.1.2. CO-PRESIDENT



Kylee Hartman-Warren

The Co-President spoke about that which was outlined in her report and gave thanks to staff and councillors who helped out in O-Week. She said that the BBQ was a success and that she had participated in inductions, meetings, outreach and welfare.

**Motion [MAR07-03]:** That Council accepts the report of the Co-President.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy                      **Seconded:** Gareth Charles  
**Carried.**

**Motion [MAR07-04]:** That the rest of reports be moved to the end of the meeting.

**Moved:** Anna Sanders-Robinson  
**Carried.**

*Discussion moved to item 5.*

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 outlined that which was written in his report. He mentioned that he attended an induction with the Senior SAAO on Saturday.

A Co-Education Officer asked the Treasurer how much money SUPRA could expect from the SSAF negotiations. The Treasurer said it's not appropriate to discuss that yet.

**Motion [MAR07-23]:** That Council accept the report of the Treasurer.

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

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

*Carlos left at 8:38pm. Proxy to Ahmed Suhaib.*

A Co-Education Officer asked the ATSI Officer to speak about the motions in his report. The ATSI Officer said that they are for getting leadership advice from others. He also wants more freedom of speech in SUPRA. The Vice-president said that he is already working on motion 1. He said that motion 2 contradicts the regulations. He directed the ATSI Officer to go to Policy Committee with his concerns about policy. The ATSI Officer redacted his motions.

**Motion [MAR07-24]:** That council accept the report of the ATSI Officer with the motions removed.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib      **Seconded:** Aaron Moye

**Carried.**

### 4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti

### 4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

*Position currently vacant*

### 4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans



### 4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Forough Ghanizadeh

The Secretary said that the numbers don't equal 56. A councillor said that, in fact, they do. The Treasurer said that there is a lack of detail in the report though. A Co-President said that he would like to see evidence of progress on the Childcare Handbook. The other Co-President said that this should be deferred to Management Committee. The Vice-President agreed, saying that could should see the handbook and if it is okay, council can accept the report at Management Committee.

**Motion [MAR07-25]:** That Council request to see progress on the handbook before approving the report at the next meeting of Management Committee.

**Moved:** Christian Jones      **Seconded:** Nick Rowbotham

**Carried.**

*Discussion returned to item 12.*

### 4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

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

**Motion [MAR07-05]:** That items 5 and 6 be moved to the end of the meeting.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell

**Carried.**

*Discussion moved to item 7.*

The staff member began his report by outlining the three main teams in staff. He said that the admin team have had new staff. One new staff member is working three days a week and she has experience in publications and administration. The office coordinator is progressing the website. There was a meeting today between the office coordinator, the SAAO coordinator and the website contractor to talk about the website and the renewal of the database, which is almost done. He said that he would have more news by next meeting.

He continued, stating that early statistics are coming in about SUPRA's work in 2016. There has been a big spike in demand in services in 2015. SUPRA is on track for another spike in 2016, which is wonderful in a sense - SUPRA is being well utilised, but resources are a problem. He has been feeding the statistics to the Co-Presidents, Treasurer and Vice-President. He is mapping out the statistics over the last 8 years. If one looks at a graph, demand for SUPRA services over the past 3-4 years has increased significantly. This has been feeding into the SSAF negotiations. Over the last 8 years there has been a 63% increase in the postgrad population. This is a long-term strategic issue for SUPRA.

The staff member mentioned that the survival guide got out on time. He added that SUPRA will be the only office up-to-date on all policy changes in the university. He said that staff have been to 17 inductions so far with council members. He said that there are new publications on the way. A SAAO is currently producing brochures. He also said that a submission went to the NSW parliament on statutory review on tenancy in the state.

He mentioned that he had been working with the Vice-President, the Women's Officer and the Education Officers on international student travel concessions. SUPRA has 500 signatures to force the NSW Minister to give a written response.

The Treasurer asked if the spikes are seasonal or if they are external like the business school debacle. The staff member said that in the Business school 300+ students failed, all coming at once. He said that this is largely left out of the statistics. He said that open cases are only recorded in the statistics if they're helped individually. There are seasonal spikes, which are predictable. April and September are the quietest times. The periods right before and after enrolment are the busiest times. The increases are not specifically seasonal overall. There is a permanent increase in SUPRA services. He doesn't have statistics on him, but they would show that increases happened in academic dishonesty, misconduct, tenancy, appeals and show cause matters, mostly due to changes in university policy. They refer students on to SUPRA.

The Vice-President asked about special consideration and simple extensions. He said that there has been a policy overhaul and asked if SUPRA is likely to see more cases in the transition period. The SAAO Coordinator said that he was not sure and that he wouldn't be able to answer this for 2-3 months.

*Edward McMahon arrived at 6:44pm.*

A Co-Education Officer said that council should thank the Senior SAAO for her amazing work on inductions and thank the SAAO Coordinator for helping with international student inductions and helping with the travel concession campaign.

**Motion [MAR07-08]:** That council thanks the SAAO team for all of their hard work during inductions this year.

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

**Carried.**

A Co-President wanted to know about the numbers. She said that it would be good if SUPRA had a 5-year show of how casework has grown to use as an argument for future funding. She asked if there is a way to look at data to use for coming years. The SAAO Coordinator said that he could do that later. He said that he has statistics mapped out already from 2008 to today. He said that there has been a 103.4% increase over that 8-year period, on top of a 20% increase in staff capacity.

A Co-President asked if outreach has helped students to engage. The SAAO Coordinator said that he will have more statistics later. He said that data on satellite campus outreach is junk because it was poorly gathered, partly by the university. He said that his guess is yes but doesn't have data.

*Carlos Monteverde arrived at 6:51pm.*

The Vice-president asked if, based on statistics that SUPRA has and that the restructure will see more postgrads, there is a way SUPRA could model the increase in cases. The SAAO Coordinator said yes, but a lot of assumptions would have to be made. Changes in federal government policy are also partly to blame.

**Motion [MAR07-09]:** That council accepts the report of the SAAO Coordinator.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy                      **Seconded:** Ahmed Suhaib

**Carried.**

## ★ 6. Election of New Councillors

*See attached nomination forms, pages 37-52.*

Nominees:	Edward McMahon	Blythe Worthy
	Melanie Stevenson	Alexandra Nixon
	Lily Matchett	Tavenisa Diri
	Saqib Agt	Krystal Wong

**Motion [MAR07-10]:** That item 6 be discussed when Tavenisa Diri arrives.

**Moved:** Mike Butler

**Carried.**

*Discussion moved to item 8.*

**Motion [MAR07-14]:** That Christian Jones be appointed as the Returning Officer for this election.

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

**Carried.**

*Gareth Charles left at 7:30pm.*

*Nick Rowbotham arrived at 7:32pm.*

**Motion [MAR07-15]:** That Kylee Hartman-Warren become the chair.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAR07-16]:** That the proposed voting procedure be approved.

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

**Carried.**

Edward McMahon, Blythe Worthy, and Melanie Stevenson gave speeches. Alexandra Nixon was not present, so the Returning Officer read out her candidate statement. Lily Matchett and Tavenisa Diri gave speeches. Saqib Agt and Krystal Wong were not present, so the Returning Officer read out their candidate statements.

Five rounds of voting took place.

Melanie Stevenson was elected first 10-8 to Lily Matchett after preferences. Lily Matchett was elected second 10-8 to Tavenisa Diri after preferences. Edward McMahon and Tavenisa Diri tied on 9 votes each in the third round. The Returning Officer decided that the candidate with the highest primary vote would be elected. Both candidates received 6 primary votes. The Returning Officer decided that a coin toss would decide the outcome. Edward McMahon was elected on heads. Tavenisa Diri was elected fourth 14-4 to Alexandra Nixon. Alexandra Nixon was elected fifth to Blythe Worthy 9-7 after preferences with 2 exhausted votes.

**Motion [MAR07-17]:** That council accept the report of the Returning Officer.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell      **Seconded:** Mike Butler

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAR07-18]:** That Christian Jones become the chair.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAR07-19]:** That the meeting adjourn for five minutes.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy

**Carried.**

*Anna Sanders-Robinson, Angelica Fernandez, Lily Matchett, Tavenisa Diri, Blythe Worth and Edward McMahon left at 8:25pm.*

*Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.*

*Meeting reconvened at 8:32pm.*

*Discussion continues to item 10.*

## ★ 7. **Fighting Islamophobia on Campus**

*See attached documentation, pages 53-54.*

A councillor spoke about recent islamophobic attacks on campus and said that SUPRA needs to take a stand against them. She said that Michael Spence sent out an email to condemn the attacks, but it took too long and was only due to pressure from student organisations.

*Adrian Cardinali arrived at 6:21pm.*

A Co-President said that the chair of Academic Board sent an email to her saying that he is distressed about what has happened and it working internally to deal with it. The other Co-President said that SUPRA, the USU and the SRC issued a statement on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and SUPRA's press release was published in Honi Soit and Junkee.

A councillor asked what sorts of attacks have happened to the prayer rooms. A councillor said that had been trashed and rubbish was left strewn throughout the room. Another councillor said that he heard that an animal's head was left outside the room.

A councillor asked how \$1000 would help. Another councillor said that it would help to fix the room and provide solidarity and support. A guest said that the prayer space is tiny. The money will go further than fixing space. She said that SUPRA should let the autonomous collective decide what they want to do with the funds.

The Vice-President asked if someone could elaborate on posters being torn down. A councillor said that racist slurs were written on posters. A USU staff member took them down following that. The posters were advertising pro-refugee rallies.

A councillor said that organisations can't make amendments to the place and that he didn't understand the \$1000 justification. Another councillor said that she doesn't know exact budgetary things they will do, but it will go to cleaning up the space. The other councillor said that they can't change the space and that the university will do it. He said that SUPRA can't pay the university to do it for us. He said that SUPRA should give emotional support, not monetary support.

A Co-Education Officer said that he had been in touch with SUMSA. They just want to get together and discuss the best way SUPRA and SRC can help them. For now SUPRA should have a motion that says SUPRA is against Islamophobia. SUPRA can have a set amount of money for SUMSA to figure out how to use. Renovations shouldn't be included in this because University will take care of it. The monetary assistance could help them to move to a bigger room.

A Co-President suggested changing the motion to say that SUPRA will give \$1000 to SUMSA from central funds to combat Islamophobia. A councillor asked who SUMSA are and how big they are. A Co-Education Officer said that they represent all Muslims on campus. SUPRA needs to let them lead the way. SUPRA can talk to SUMSA to see how it

can help them combat Islamophobia. He said that the SUPRA space downstairs is not being used and that SUPRA could make it a prayer space for now.

**Motion [MAR07-06]:** That SUPRA:

1. recognise that Islamophobia in particular has been actively constructed and promoted by leading figures across Australian society for cynical political ends,
2. recognise that management campaigns against racism are little more than token attempts at PR, and reflect no genuine desire to challenge structural racism,
3. condemn the attacks on the Muslim Prayer room as motivated by racism,
4. Presidents write a letter to the University demanding that it send a global email about Islamophobia on and off campus, and encourage students to stand with our Muslim sisters and brothers,
5. donate one thousand dollars to SUMSA from central funds in order to facilitate the renovation/refurnishing of the room in an act of solidarity,
6. establish lines of communication with SUMSA and all other relevant collectives in order to respond rapidly to such attacks in the future, and
7. consult with SUMSA and all other relevant collectives about further action that can be taken to assist them in defending their prayer room and fighting Islamophobia on and off campus.

**Moved:** Angelica Fernandez    **Seconded:** Anna Sanders-Robinson

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAR07-07]:** That the meeting return to items 5 and 6.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy

**Carried.**

*Discussion moved to item 5.*

## ★ 8. **Let Them Stay Campaign**

*See attached documentation, pages 55-56.*

A councillor spoke about the refugee situation in Australia, which has gotten a lot worse in the last month. She mentioned that the Australian Government wanted to move refugees back to Manus Island and Nauru, which have terrible conditions and where refugees suffer from physical and mental health issues. She wants SUPRA to support the Let Them Stay Campaign against the transfer of refugees to offshore detention camps.

A Co-Education Officer said that a photo has already been done. The Vice-President noted that one of the nominees for council helped organise a float around this issue.

A councillor asked how SUPRA would provide refuge. Another councillor said that many places have provided sanctuary like churches and that SUPRA could too. She doesn't know exactly how. She said that it's more of a show of support to show the government. The other councillor asked if, in theory, someone wanted refuge from SUPRA, what would it do? The councillor said that she's not sure and that it's more of a show of support. Another councillor said that if churches can do it, SUPRA could do it too. The other councillor asked if SUPRA would be breaking any laws. A councillor said probably, but the government is breaking laws by enforcing their refugee policies.

A councillor said that he thought it was a great idea. He said that he would welcome refugees in our space. He said that it's good to actually act on supporting refugees, rather than just offering talking about it. A councillor said that she agreed. She said that councillors should be activists and do things like that. She said that SUPRA should actually defy governments. She mentioned the "No Pride in Detention" float, saying that refugee advocates should heckle anyone who supports the torture of refugees.

*The closed speaking list exhausted.*

**Motion [MAR07-11]:** That the speaking list be extended by 5 speakers.

**Moved:** Syed Atif

**Carried.**

A councillor said that SUPRA could show solidarity but it cannot say that it will provide accommodation. He asked if the by-laws allow council to do that. A Co-President said that this issue has never come up. The councillor said that councillors aren't allowed access to the offices, but council is debating giving access to refugees. The Co-President said that others are already allowed if accompanied by councillors.

A Co-Education Officer suggested an amendment to change "refuge" to "help".

A councillor said that he could understand people wanted to cover their arses, but the intention is for councillors to stick out their necks out and be principled. He said that he doesn't see why it needs to be amended and that he likes it as it is.

A CO-President said that she wants to support refugees but she is concerned about the organisation. She said that there are legally binding things that councillors have to look out for. She said that council needs to do it in a way that wouldn't put SUPRA at risk of losing funding, staff and resources. She said that council should investigate its proposal first.

A councillor said that it is one thing to move this motion, but SUPRA does not actually automatically provide refuge to people. He said that councillors are overthinking it. He said that council is not committing an illegal act by voting on it.

A councillor said that changing "refuge" to "help" is a cop-out and that it is too vague. She said that civil disobedience is the way to change things. She said that people in Nazi Germany helped keep people out of concentration camps and that it is bullshit not provide people with refuge in this instance. A Co-Education officer argued that "refuge" is a cop-out. He suggested changing it to "help/refuge". The mover of the motion was okay with that. A Co-President said that the comparison to Nazi Germany point was a valid point.

A staff member said that, in general, he thinks that most staff would be proud to work for an association that would take a principled stand on refugees. He said that a motion in support of refugees has a similar status to declaring the association an LGBTQI safe space. He said that it is partly symbolic, but could involve action. As an association that cares

about this issues he said that this seems like the right thing to do. This is a form of civil disobedience, but quite a mild one. He said that councillors shouldn't be worried about motion.

A councillor asked what SUPRA would do if, hypothetically, someone comes with no paperwork or documentation and they are seeking refuge. A councillor said SUPRA would give them refuge.

**Motion [MAR07-12]:** That SUPRA:

1. endorse the Let Them Stay Campaign,
2. reaffirm its commitment for refugee rights and the call for the cessation of deportation, the release of all refugees from detention and their immediate settlement in Australia,
3. provide help/refuge to any asylum seeker facing deportation or harassment from authorities, and
4. immediately upon passing this motion take a "Let Them Stay" solidarity photo and share the photo through social media.

**Moved:** Anna Sanders-Robinson **Seconded:** Angelica Fernandez

**Abstentions:** Aaron Moye, Syed Atif, and Carlos Monteverde

**Carried.**

## ★ 9. Safer Schools Program

*See attached documentation, page 57.*

**Motion [MAR07-13]:** That SUPRA:

1. recognise that the Safe Schools Coalition is necessary and effective in helping combat the bullying and discrimination of LGBTI people,
2. oppose Malcolm Turnbull's decision to investigate the Safe Schools Coalition,
3. oppose and rejects the comments of Corey Bernardi and the Australia Christian Lobby regarding the Safe Schools Coalition,
4. support the Safe Schools Coalition and will endorse appropriate events to support it that may occur, and
5. councillors show support for the Safe Schools Coalition by attending any of these events.

**Moved:** Anna Sanders-Robinson **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

*Syed Atif left at 7:18pm, proxy to Kane Hardy.*

*Tavenisa Diri arrived at 7:20pm.*

*Discussion moved back to item 6.*

★ **10. Support for Sydney Medical School Students Event**

*See attached documentation, page 59.*

The Treasurer said that mental health is important. He said that this event would be labelled as a SUPRA-sponsored event. He said that it would be a good beginning of a relationship with the Medical School. The SAAO Coordinator said that a staff member could come to add something to the event.

**Motion [MAR07-20]:** That council approve \$500 funding assistance for the annual Sydney University Medical Society swimming carnival event.

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

**Carried.**

★ **11. Universities Australia**

A Co-President said that SUPRA could send two people. It would cost \$470 plus accommodation each. This is the peak conference for universities of Australia. She said that usually student organisations from other universities go.

**Motion [MAR07-21]:** That SUPRA provide funding for two people to attend the universities Australia conference and call for interest in attending on behalf of SUPRA.

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

**Carried.**

★ **12. Brighter Futures Campaign and CAPA**

*See attached documentation, pages 61-62.*

**Motion [MAR07-22]:** That discussion move back to item 4.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell

**Carried.**

*Discussion moved back to item 4.1.6.*

*Mike Butler left at 8:46pm.*

A Co-President said that CAPA gave SUPRA an explanation. They said that \$4600 was spent to cover costs of a forum after the Universities of Australia conference last year.

★ **13. SSAF Update**

*See attached documentation, pages 63-64.*

*The chair moved to item 17.*

★ 14. **Student Requests on Facebook Posts**

★ 15. **Resource Room**

★ 16. **Education Working Bee**

★ 17. **Payment of Grievance Lawyer**

*See attached documentation, pages 65-66.*

A Co-President said that Management Committee approved \$5000 for this, but the costs blew out to \$6215 due to extra advice being needed on risk mitigation. He said that extra money needs to be approved.

**Motion [MAR07-26]:** That council rescind the original motion and to approve \$6215 for the grievance lawyer.

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

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAR07-27]:** That the rest of the items be deferred to the next meeting of Management Committee.

**Moved:** Joshua      **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

**Carried.**

★ 18. **Repayment of Funds by Co-President**

★ 19. **Other Business**

**Motion [MAR07-28]:** That Council congratulates the Secretary, Kane Hardy for his graduation from a Master of Pharmacy.

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

**Abstentions:** Kane Hardy

**Carried.**

Meeting closed at 8:53pm.