



## MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE SEMINAR ROOM 427 ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY AT 6:00PM

**Chair:** Christian Jones

**Minutes:** Kane Hardy

**Attendance:** Christian Jones, Kane Hardy, Dhaval Sanath Shukla, Ahmed Suhaib, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Anna Sanders-Robinson (*left at 7:40pm*), Angelica Alvarez (*left at 7:19pm*), Elizabeth Millar, Marguerite Biasatti, Rachel Evans, Edward McMahon, Lily Matchett (*left at 6:58pm*), Thomas Greenwell (*left at 6:58pm*), Mike Butler (*arrived at 6:13pm*), Nick Rowbotham (*arrived at 6:22pm*), Gareth Charles (*arrived at 6:25pm*), Joshua Preece (*arrived at 6:42pm, left at 9:14pm*)

**Guests:** Kate Alway

**Staff:** Margaret Kirkby (*arrived at 6:30pm*)

### ★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The chair opened the meeting at 6:08pm with an acknowledgement of country.

### ★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

#### 2.1. Apologies

Fawn Cha

Melanie Stevenson

Tavenisa Diri

Carlos Monteverde

Anna Sanders-Robinson (late)

Fatima Rauf

Joseph Callingham

Aaron Moye

Rashmi Dixit

#### 2.2. Proxies

Carlos Monteverde to Syed Atif (2<sup>nd</sup> preference Ahmed Suhaib)

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

Aaron Moye to Mike Butler (2<sup>nd</sup> preference Thomas Greenwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> preference Kylee Hartman-Warren)

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

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

**Motion [MAY11-01]:** That council approve all unstarred items.

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

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAY11-02]:** That discussion move to item 7.

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAY11-03]:** That item 8 be discussed after item 7.

**Moved:** Rachel Evans

**Carried.**

*Discussion moved to items 7 and 8.*

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

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

3.1.1. COUNCIL MEETING, 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016, PAGES 5-20.

3.1.2. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING, 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016, PAGES 21-22.

3.1.3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING, 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2016, PAGES 23-25.

3.1.4. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2016, PAGES 27-29.

3.1.5. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING, 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2016, PAGES 31-32.

## **4. Officer Reports**

### **4.1. Executive Reports**

★ 4.1.1. CO-PRESIDENT

Christian Jones, pages 33-34.

C.J. said that SUPRA received its SSAF allocation. Funding has increased \$161,000, which is the biggest increase for any organisation this year.

*Dhaval Sanath Shukla, Angelica Fernandez and Kate Alway left at 7:19pm.*

He said that the ball happened, which was good.

**Motion [MAY11-09]:** That council accept the report of the Co-President, Christian Jones.

**Moved:** Joshua Preece                      **Seconded:** Marguerite Biasatti

**Carried.**

4.1.2. CO-PRESIDENT

Kylee Hartman-Warren, pages 35-36.

4.1.3. VICE PRESIDENT

Thomas Greenwell, pages 37-38.

4.1.4. CO-EDUCATION OFFICER

Fatima Rauf, pages 39-40.

4.1.5. CO-EDUCATION OFFICER

Ahmed Suhaib, pages 41-42.

4.1.6. TREASURER

Joshua Preece, pages 43-44.

4.1.7. SECRETARY

Kane Hardy, pages 45-46.

4.1.8. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Christian Jones, pages 33-34.

**4.2. Equity Officer Reports**

4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Mike Butler, pages 47-50.

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti, pages 51-52.

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Dhaval Sanath Shukla, pages 53-54.

★ 4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Rachel Evans, pages 55-56.

R.E. apologised for her report being late. She spoke about the Defend Safe Schools campaign. She also spoke about actions and Rainbow Campus Now stuff. She spoke about trans\* students being outed because the university doesn't recognise their gender.

Dhaval Sanath Shukla (D.S.) asked if management has given a reason for not supporting marriage equality. E.M. said that Michael Spence says that the university should not take a position on public issues.

**Motion [MAY11-10]:** That council accept the report of the Queer Officer.

**Moved:** Joshua Preece                      **Seconded:** Anna Sanders-Robinson

**Carried.**

#### 4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

*Position currently vacant.*

#### 4.2.6. RURAL AND REGIONAL OFFICER

Elizabeth Millar, pages 57-58.

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

M.K. said that the university has changed some policies recently and that the Thesis Guide needs to be updated. Staff have done the first review but need to do a student survey with a prize to get more information. She said that the Thesis Guide is highly valued by students and faculties. There are 16 faculties and they all have different rules for how theses should be written. It's hard for students to find out how to write them. One thing SUPRA can do is accumulate the rules and add them all to the one publication.

In term of casework there is new academic honesty casework coming through due to changes in university policy. Staff have accompanied students to meetings about academic honesty.

In terms of statistics, as of today had staff have had 270 cases, which is more than last period. M.K. said that the workload is very full-on.

*Dhaval Sanath Shukla returned at 7:31pm.*

M.K. said that a student drew to the attention of staff that research students are starting to receive notice that if they go over 4 years in their degree the university will apply fees. This is a new policy. Staff will be working on this issue.

Staff are also working to progress the international student travel concession campaign. The business school has been promoting the signing of the petition by students. Close to 5,000 signatures have been obtained. The petition will be presented to council at 10,000 signatures.

M.K. spoke about the federal budget and mentioned the discussion paper from the education minister. She said that there are nasties for postgrads. She also reminded people to tidy up if using the kitchen.

The admin team says that next week there will be a casual staff member so that admin can work on the website. Hopefully it will be ready to go live within a couple of weeks. M.K. also mentioned that the elections are coming up and that staff are working on that.

C.J. said that Adrian Cardinali (A.C.) is asking for volunteers for the Thesis Guide working group. M.Bi. and K.H.W. said that they are happy to help. C.J. said that the DVC registrar brought said that he hadn't heard of the new fees policy and is doing an investigation into it.

**Motion [MAY11-11]:** That Council thank Margaret Kirkby for her report and the rest of the SUPRA staff for their work over the past month.

**Moved:** Kylee Hartman-Warren **Seconded:** Mike Butler

**Carried.**

## ★ 6. **Email Signatures**

Staff have spoken to councillors to change the official signature in SUPRA emails to include an acknowledgement of country. C.J. wants to add that but also to standardise all email signatures. M.K. said that Management Committee and the Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) should work on a standardised signature later.

**Motion [MAY11-12]:** That official SUPRA email signatures be edited to add, "SUPRA acknowledges and pays respects to the traditional custodians of all the lands on which we work".

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded:** Marguerite Biasatti

**Carried.**

**Action:** Next meeting of Management Committee will discuss a standardised email signature.

*Discussion moved to item 9.*

## ★ 7. **Policy**

### 7.1. **Financial Regulations Amendment**

Thomas Greenwell (T.G.) explained that this is for when loved ones die and officers can't work.

**Motion [MAY11-04]:** That Council approve the following amendment to the *Financial Regulations* (2016): "Officers on stipends are entitled to two (2) days bereavement leave per annum."

**Moved:** Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Lily Matchett

**Carried.**

### 7.2. **Censure Motions**

*See attached documentation, pages 59-60.*

T.G. said that there is no clear procedure for serious misconduct. He said that the presented policy needs to be endorsed by council and sent to the annual general meeting (AGM).

*Mike Butler arrived at 6:13pm.*

T.G. called for reading time. The chair allowed 2 minutes reading time.

Christian Jones (C.J.) said that he thinks this is important. He said that he would discuss this with the officer of general council to make sure it is written properly and that SUPRA's constitution could be passed with this.

Marguerite Biasatti (M.Bi.) said that there are definitional problems with these concepts. She said that without examples it might be hard for people to understand. She asked how a serious breach is defined and suggested incorporating examples.

Edward McMahon (E.M.) said that a serious breach in law is quite often a term of art which refers to something that is more than a nominal breach. A serious breach is a clear breach. He added that “ideas of disapproval or opposition” might impinge on freedom of speech.

Thomas Greenwell (T.G.) said that he thinks that “serious breach” is adequate. He said that he is not sure that it is controversial to say “disapproval or opposition”. There is a clear list of things councillors cannot do. He said that this policy is supposed to pertain exclusively to that list and that the conditions are quite clear. It’s not about making political statements it’s about breaking rules.

Mike Butler (M.Bu.) said that he doesn’t understand purpose of this document. He said that SUPRA is now doing the same thing as the Baird Government, which is implementing more unnecessary laws to be broken. To him it seems the way of “suring up the oligarchy”. He said that the policy is just more rules to silence dissent against the executive. He said that there is already a power imbalance between the executive and council.

T.G. said that a motion of censure can be moved by any councillor. The councillors may not be over the rules.

*Nick Rowbotham arrived at 6:22pm.*

T.G. said that it is unclear how this policy gives power to the executive. The documents are clearly set out. It says council shall endeavour to do all else before moving a censure motion. He said there was not much substance to Mike’s claim. He said that it is unfortunate that councillors haven’t familiarised themselves with the rules; it is an expectation of councillors.

Ahmed Suhaib (A.S.) said that there is already a policy about attendance. T.G. said that that policy only says that council *may* remove a councillor if that councillor satisfies a specific criterion.

E.M. said that he sees where Mike is coming from. He asked how an executive member is removed under the current policy. He said that this provision seeks to give clarity to the way in which executives may be removed for serious misconduct. It makes it much easier for councillors to understand what pathway to take.

*Gareth Charles arrived at 6:25pm.*

M.Bu. said that the executive is voted on popularity, so if someone decides that an executive should be removed the person will have the numbers to prevent it. T.G. said that all executives are councillors. When an office bearer is in clear breach of the constitution or regulations council is expected to act appropriately. A second censure motion removes an office bearer and three for councillor.

**Motion [MAY11-05]:** That council endorse and recommend the censure policy to the annual general meeting, subject to approval from office of general council.

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

**Carried.**

### **7.3. Communications Procedures**

*See attached documentation, pages 61-63.*

T.G. said that there has been an unfortunate lack of capacity to communicate with members of staff. This policy sets out clear responsibilities when communicating with staff. This sets out timelines for documents, where they are to be presented and how they are communicated to staff. Eventually there will be amendments for the director of student publications; now this just pertains to the president acting efficiently after council.

Kylee Hartman-Warren (K.H.W.) commended Thomas for doing this.

*Margaret Kirkby arrived at 6:30pm.*

Margaret Kirkby (M.K.) said that sometimes it is difficult for staff to know what happened in council. This policy will help for clearer communication for staff. This is a common problem in student organisations. It is allied to issues around the responsibility around minutes and them being done. This organisation needs to look more into it in the future. SUPRA should have someone employed to type minutes; it is less pressure on one officer and is more efficient.

T.G. mentioned two small amendments; it should say three working days, not two, and a couple of other small changes.

A.S. said that actions from the meeting need to be dealt with the next morning.

T.G. said that he asked staff what they thought was a reasonable time period. He said they said 7 days, maybe 5.

M.Bu. said that it is a great idea and is needed. He said that, as brought up in a committee meeting, it should say working days. T.G. said that it is specifically meant to be university working days.

**Motion [MAY11-06]:** That council approve the Communications Procedure conditional on changes mentioned.

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

**Carried.**

#### **7.4. Update on Grievance Regulations**

*Edward McMahon left at 6:37pm.*

T.G. said that these regulations were previously were vague and unclear. He said that there was nothing to address someone dragging out a grievance process. This aims to make processes clear, efficient and procedurally fair. He said that he is still working on this with Ingrid Van Tongeren, SUPRA's solicitor. He said that he hadn't circulated it due to delays. It is mostly done and he will circulate an updated copy when he chats with Ingrid. Councillors commented on it in policy committee though. This sets out a clear hierarchy for conflicts of interest.

Gareth Charles (G.C.) asked if it had changed much from what was in the council pack last council meeting. T.G. said that it was just language tidying.

*Edward McMahon returned at 6:39pm.*

### **★ 8. UTSSA Dissolution of PRU**

Kate Always (K.A.) came to the front of the room to update council on the situation at UTS. She said that at UTS postgrads are not as fortunate as at USyd. She and others have had a lot of trouble with postgrad representation. The Postgrad Representative Union (PRU) at UTS was the postgraduate collective until nine days ago. There has been no

specific representation for postgrad students since voluntary student unionism (VSU) came in. Student representation is currently focused on undergrads and is very factional. PRU launched late in 2014 and maintained about 7-10 councillors since then. They have been having monthly meetings. They have a contact list of 100 emails, a website and a growing list of issues.

*Joshua Preece arrived at 6:42pm.*

K.A. said that she would have liked to do more, but PRU had no funding, no stipends and no staff. They were constantly undermined. Councillors didn't have support. The whole union started out with \$3,500 per year. The UTSSA changed it to \$1,500 last year, which they couldn't even access, leaving councillors with debts. They were not informed about what's happening in UTSSA. K.A. phoned into executive meetings to deal with funding requests, but they didn't pass them and didn't tell the postgrads. She said that the situation was already grim. Postgrads had no votes on council except for the postgrad officer.

She said that the UTSSA are the affiliate body for CAPA and they wouldn't pay the fees. PRU has come a long way but was suddenly stifled. PRU approached the university for funding to hire a postgrad-specific caseworker. The UTSSA only has 2 caseworkers for all students and they're overworked. The university gave them money for a third five years ago, but one was never hired. Instead, the money was given to the National Union of Students (NUS), an undergraduate national student organisation. PRU had already put together a draft position description. They wanted to hire staff themselves and pay CAPA fees but their submission was ignored.

K.A. found out that the council was going to put motions to abolish PRU, which they did. All material belonging to PRU was called to be disposed and all funding was removed. The UTSSA wanted a postgrad advisory committee in place for pushing postgrad issues in the UTSSA. They cut and disenfranchised all active postgraduate representatives.

She said that debate in the meeting was cut short and voices weren't heard. Security was called for intimidation. Some people's mental health suffered afterwards - overdoses happened.

The UTSSA said that they didn't want to lose delegates at NUS if postgrads split to form their own organisation. They said that one organisation was better than two. The current postgrad officer is from Student Unity, which is affiliated to the right-wing faction of the Australian Labor Party. He has been unresponsive to working on resolving the issues. He is from the same faction as the UTSSA president, who has facilitated the dissolution of PRU.

K.A. said that postgrad representation has been pushed back to nothing, to that which existed before PRU came along. The members of PRU are now forced to leave the UTSSA. The university is still unresponsive.

M.Bu. asked K.A. wants from SUPRA. K.A. said that she would like help to form an organisation like SUPRA and help talking to UTS management. She also requested any funding spare and a letter of solidarity.

C.J. said that Sammy Howse (UTSSA president) sent things to Christian to be read out at this council meeting. She said that she has never been spoken to with such disrespect as a woman in politics. She said that she was called a bitch, a slut and a bimbo. She said that she was hissed and screamed at. She had experienced a lot of sexism and misogyny from postgrad members. She was told to "shut the fuck up". She said that if postgrads were serious they would reconsider whom they chose to represent themselves. She said that sexism has no place in this space.

K.A. said that the accusation of sexism had no grounds. The meeting was a fiasco. She said that an indigenous woman with disabilities was denied her voice. The woman lashed out because she was sick of being silenced as in other aspects of life.

*Lily Matchett and Thomas Greenwell left at 6:58pm.*

K.A. said that the council manipulated and exacerbated the situation by silencing her. They called for a vote against the dissolution but it was cut short. They were just trying to assert power.

Kane Hardy (K.H.) said that, while not trying to dismiss any accusations of sexism and misogyny, the personal squabble has nothing to do with the issue at hand. The conduct of those present at the meeting is not an acceptable reason for dissolving PRU. He said that he is now more disgusted having heard the defence of UTSSA president Sammy Howse. He said that, having spent two years on the council of SUPRA, he understands very well the need for specific postgraduate representation. He is extremely angry that an organisation of mostly undergraduate students, having silenced the voices of postgraduate student, thinks that they know what is best for them. It is ridiculous that they have not given SUPRA an adequate reason for the dissolution of PRU and that they did not once try to consult with the council of SUPRA for their experience representing postgraduate students at the University of Sydney. He said that SUPRA should absolutely condemn this decision and work to re-establish PRU.

M.Bi. said that all of council would be in agreement that postgrad representation important. SUPRA should speak to CAPA about a strategy and have a meeting of different groups to discuss the issue.

M.Bu. said that council is not going to adjudicate the “he said, she said” spat. Council is here to address postgrad representation. It’s important. He applauded K.A. taking the initiative to support postgrads. He echoed what others said. SUPRA should support PRU to move forward.

M.K. agreed that SUPRA shouldn’t get involved in the “who said what” thing. The issue is student control over student affairs. Postgrads pay SSAF and that money should be made available to a postgrad representative association. A couple of strategy meetings should happen. SUPRA has influence. The management of USyd could meet with the management of UTS. She said that it is important that both undergrad and postgrad needs met through student control of student affairs.

M.K. said that SUPRA has had so much influence in USyd. The NSW ombudsmen had many complaints about postgrad supervision from USyd and the university has made a response to address the issue. She said that the culture at UTS is different to USyd. The structure is designed so that students are alienated.

C.J. said that he likes what M.Bi said about a meeting between all different groups including SUPRA, UTSSA, PRU, CAPA and university managements.

M.K said that the undergrads don’t seem to understand postgrad affairs at all. K.A. said that the undergrad councillors have often decided not to make decisions on postgrads issues because they are not postgrads, but since no one is able to educate them, there is never any progress.

Rachel Evans (R.E.) agreed with the sentiment of student control of student affairs. It should be a separate organisation, not a collective. Postgrads are now at a disadvantage, like MUPRA being dissolved. The postgrad sector is being attacked. Macquarie University, now UTS. Australia was just dealt a horror budget and postgrads need more representation. SUPRA needs to put out a statement condemning the deregistration of PRU. She said that it would be stronger coming from CAPA too, maybe as a separate statement. Council has to put on public record that SUPRA disagrees since university management could come for it. Council needs to take other steps to reinvigorate PRU.

K.H.W. said that SUPRA in the past has supported less fortunate student associations. The trend important because SUPRA is very lucky to have what it does. Councillors should be

talking to people in SUPRA and outside that this student representation is so important. Student leaders and student representation are important for student wellbeing. Council needs to find out whom it can drag in to help.

K.A. said that CAPA has been slow to react. She is able to speak at equity meeting on Monday though.

**Motion [MAY11-07]:** That council form a committee to handle a campaign to help PRU re-establish itself at the University of Technology, Sydney.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib                      **Seconded:** Dhaval Sanath Shukla

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAY11-08]:** That SUPRA write a press release condemning the UTSSA decision to deregister PRU.

**Moved:** Rachel Evans                      **Seconded:** Kane Hardy

**Carried.**

**Action:** Ahmed to create and chair aforementioned committee.

*Discussion returned to item 4.*

## ★ 9. **Supernumerary Claim**

*See attached documentation, page 65.*

*Anna Sanders-Robinson left at 7:40pm.*

D.S. said that he has had to learn the in and outs of the International Officer position. He had to deal with a lot of issues as well as learning the role. He always exceeded the 7 allocated hours. He said that this doesn't count the Wine & Cheese help.

E.M. said that there is money saved in the budget. Has to rebuild community from nothing. Council should consider approving additional hours for this.

K.H.W. said that D.S. has been very supportive and has jumped into the deep end. International students are 30% of all postgrads. It is important to acknowledge that SUPRA does a lot of work for international students and that the International Officer has a lot of people to represent.

E.M. said that the difference between 52 and 28 is 24 and that council should approve all hours that were worked. If he worked it should be able to claim them if there is room in budget.

**Motion [MAY11-12]:** That council approve 24 hours to be paid to Dhaval Sanath Shukla on top of the regular International Officer stipend.

**Moved:** Rachel Evans                      **Seconded:** Edward McMahon

**Carried.**

## ★ 10. Increase in Stipends

### 10.1. International Officer

D.S. said he that he wasn't meaning to criticise the old International Officer, but he came into the position with a lot of work to be done as well as a lot of future work to be done. He said that it is difficult to manage such a large student body in just 7 hours. There are a lot of things that have to be done for international students like events for building networks and running campaigns. He wants the stipend to be increased to 14 hours per week.

Joshua Preece (J.P.) said, in his capacity as Treasurer, that council shouldn't increase stipends for the next month. He said that the budget gives SUPRA a deficit of \$95,000. K.H. asked if the \$95,000 deficit is after the \$161,000 increase. J.P. said that it is. K.H. expressed disbelief that this is the first time that he is hearing that there was such a large deficit, especially after the increase in funding. J.P. said that there should be a more thorough discussion of this. He is going through savings ideas with staff and will host a finance committee meeting to pass the final budget.

A.S. said that there were three months where the stipend not claimed. He said that D.S. is basically covering work not claimed in those three months. He suggested approving an increase in the stipend for the next month, stating that there is a lot of work to do.

E.M. asked if council could approve an increase in the stipend up until the cap is reached. C.J. said that this would mean up to 88 extra hours. J.P. said that the lost hours are gone. N.R. said that this would have created more work for the next officer and isn't fair. E.M. said that money was put in the budget for that purpose and said that the officer should be able to claim those hours. J.P. said that there is a large deficit. He said that it is an unusual practice to hire someone for double time for a few months. He said that savings need to be made and it's not a good time to increase stipends right now.

K.H.W. said that SUPRA has allocated money for this position. If the time was not made up the officer should be able to claim that. If he's doing the work he should be paid. Gareth Charles (G.C.) said that he doesn't see why council wouldn't just approve a supernumerary claim for the next month. Either way it would be silly not to pay D.S. for the work that he will be doing.

D.S. said that he is going to keep working even if the stipended hours are not increased. He said that the number of students is increasing every semester and that there is a lot of work to do. The old International Officer argued that he didn't have enough hours.

M.K. said that she feels that the International Officer gets more approaches from individual students than other officers. This is a big campus, the university website is hard to navigate and enrolment is hard. A lack of familiarity makes everything take longer. The International Officer gets more individual approaches because people think he can help them. She agreed that there was a big gap that needs to be filled from the time when there was no International Officer.

D.S. agrees with J.P. because he knows about SUPRA's finances. He said that the portfolio handles thousands of students specifically, however. G.C. said that council should approve 14 hours per week til end of June.

**Motion [MAY11-13]:** That council approve 14 hours per week for the International officer until the end of June.

**Moved:** Rachel Evans                      **Seconded:** Joshua Preece

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAY11-14]:** That council recommend to Finance Committee to budget for an increase in the International Officer stipend to 14 hours per week.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib                      **Seconded:** Gareth Charles

**Carried.**

**Action:** The agenda item of an increase of stipend of the International Officer to go to Finance Committee.

## **10.2. Director of Student Publications**

C.J. said that this position was made before SUPRA had pages in Honi Soit. He said that it should be the job of the Director of Student Publication (DSP) to do the layout of the Honi Soit pages but staff do it because they have the training in InDesign. He also said that the Survival Guide is very time-consuming. He said, as the DSP, that he had to defer the layout of the Honi Soit pages to the Treasurer during that time.

K.H. said that this should be deferred to Finance Committee, for the same reasons as an increase in the International Officer stipend was deferred to Finance Committee. K.H.W. said that this year is going to be a big publications year and that this is something that council needs to take seriously.

D.S. said that council needs to increase the hours for DSP too. Given the budget constraints, Finance Committee should discuss this first. N.R. agreed.

A.S. said that student publications are a responsibility of all councillors. All councillors need to contribute to Honi Soit and the Survival Guide. Councillors need to take on some of that responsibility.

**Motion [MAY11-15]:** That council recommend to Finance Committee to budget for an increase in the Director of Student Publications stipend to 14 hours per week.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib                      **Seconded:** Marguerite Biasatti

**Carried.**

## ★ **11. Postgraduate Senate Vacancy Endorsement**

C.J. said that there are many who want to run for the vacancy and that SUPRA shouldn't endorse anyone. K.H. strongly disagreed, stating that SUPRA is an influential postgrad representative body within the University of Sydney and should endorse someone who will best carry out the aims of the organisation.

G.C. said that he doesn't have a big opinion whether or not SUPRA recommends someone, but he said that C.J., as the chair, shouldn't have started the discussion stating that SUPRA doesn't recommend anyone. No one has spoken.

C.J. pointed out that at least three councillors want to run: current councillors Lily Matchett, Edward McMahon, Joshua Preece and maybe former councillor Zachary Thompson.

N.R. suggested endorsing multiple councillors. E.M. said that it is important that candidates have history. The secretary to senate sent out to SCCs to make recommendations so that he could take them to senate appointments committees. E.M. said that was very interested, and that he has colleagues on the board of the University of Sydney Union whom he wanted to

nominate him. He said that SUPRA should endorse at least one person, a candidate who will serve its interests on senate, make student campaigns easier and effectively relate information.

K.H. said that endorsing multiple candidates is possible, but candidates should be endorsed separately and not on block. R.E. agreed, stating that it should also be conducted by a secret ballot. She suggested voting on that.

**Motion [MAY11-16]:** That the speaking list be exhausted before moving to vote on motions of endorsement.

**Moved:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

**Carried.**

G.C. said that council should ask if anyone else he is interested. The chair called for interest. No one else was interested.

A.S. said that students outside of SUPRA would be better. M.Bu. said that council couldn't endorse an outside candidate and that it should endorse a councillor who can represent SUPRA. He said that it divisive to endorse candidates separately. K.H. said that he doesn't think it's divisive to endorse each one individually. It's more democratic and holds more validity. They should be endorsed separately. N.R. said that former councillor Rafi Alam had expressed interest. Council agreed to only vote on current councillors.

Two counterposed motions were proposed:

**Motion [MAY11-17]:** That a secret ballot be held to endorse each candidate (Edward McMahon, Lily Matchett and Joshua Preece) separately through an expression of confidence or no confidence.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy                      **Seconded:** Rachel Evans

**Failed.**

**Motion [MAY11-18]:** That council endorse Edward McMahon, Lily Matchett and Joshua Preece as suitable candidates to fill the vacancy of the postgraduate fellow of the University of Sydney senate.

**Moved:** Marguerite Biasatti      **Seconded:** Joshua Preece

**Carried.**

**Action:** Christian Jones to send SUPRA's endorsement of Edward McMahon, Lily Matchett and Joshua Preece to the university senate appointment committee with candidates CC'ed in the email.

## ★ 12. **Presentation of the Draft 2016 Budget**

J.P., as the Treasurer, said that SUPRA had the biggest increase of all organisations. He is consulting with staff, executive and council around how SUPRA wants its budget to look for the rest of the year. There are some wish list items. He said that it is important to pay fees to the peak body CAPA, but since they didn't help PRU, it's not great. He said that

there is a big deficit that needs to be reduced (\$95,000). He said that he would be happy with a \$30,000 deficit.

K.H.W. asked if SUPRA is operating at a \$95,000 deficit. J.P. said yes, and it is untouched from the SSAF submission. He said that it is the biggest deficit that SUPRA has had in a while and it is an uncomfortable amount to be at.

E.M. said that there is nothing showing reserves in the budget and that it is hard to appreciate what a \$95,000 deficit means without context. He said that interest also needs to be clarified. It is not clear how to make up amounts without dates.

R.E. said that council needs more confidence in budget, but it is currently unable to interpret it. M.K. said that she is frustrated because staff don't get to see these documents. It makes her feel uncomfortable that she's not trusted to see budget. She said to make a decision council needs to have the complete information before it. She said that it should be organised in broader categories.

**Motion [MAY11-19]:** That this meeting of council go *in camera* and that council allows Margaret Kirkby to stay.

**Moved:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

**Carried (8:48pm).**

*[In camera section removed. See the Secretary's copy for in camera minutes.]*

**Motion [MAY11-20]:** That this meeting no longer be *in camera*.

**Moved:** Christian Jones

**Carried (8:58pm).**

### ★ 13. **Appointment of a Temporary Women's Officer**

C.J. said that council may appoint a replacement Women's Officer for the rest of the semester. He called for candidates.

Marguerite Biasatti nominated Melanie Stevenson. Joshua Preece seconded the nomination.

Kylee Hartman-Warren nominated herself. Rachel Evans seconded the nomination.

**Motion [MAY11-21]:** That the election be conducted by secret ballot.

**Moved:** Kane hardy                      **Seconded:** Edward McMahon

**Carried.**

C.J. called for a returning officer (RO).

Christian Jones nominated himself. Joshua Preece seconded the nomination.

**Motion [MAY11-22]:** That council appoint Christian Jones as the returning officer for the election to fill the Women's Officer vacancy.

**Moved:** Christian Jones                      **Seconded:** Joshua Preece

**Carried.**

Kylee spoke to her nomination. She said that she wants to bring back coffee, cake and chat. She said that the parents student handbook needs finishing. She is concerned about women failing to get networking and mentorship in academic spaces. She doesn't know if that can be addressed in 8 weeks but is passionate about it.

J.P. spoke to Melanie's nomination. He said that she was elected at the Women's Officer election even though it was challenged. He said as an incoming Women's Officer it could be a good learning curve.

R.E. said that J.P. shouldn't have mentioned that given that the election was challenged and a new election may be held.

The RO conducted a ballot.

10 votes for Kylee. 5 votes for Melanie. 3 votes for no candidate.

Kylee wins 11-7 after preferences distributed and is elected as the Women's Officer for the remainder of the 2015-16 term.

**Motion [MAY11-23]:** That council accept the report of the returning officer.

**Moved:** Joshua Preece                      **Seconded:** Dhaval Sanath Shukla

**Carried.**

*Joshua Preece left at 9:14pm, proxy to Marguerite.*

★ **14. International Student Travel Concessions**

A.S. said that the petition has 4500 signatures at the moment. He is going to lecture bash to get more signatures. He called for councillors to sign up. M.K. went to NCAT for a form. She said that there are attacks against students. She said that they have knocked off student concessions for taking tenancy issues to NCAT. E.M. suggested gathering signatures from USU candidates campaigning for elections. R.E. said that she would like to help. She said that councillors should go to UTS and lecture bash there too. D.S. said that all councillors should be concerned about this, not just A.S. Other people need to help out. K.H.W. said to get international students who stand in queues in libraries to sign the petition. Friday and Saturday night queues are very long.

★ **15. Events**

**15.1. Hot Chocolate and Movie Night**

A.S. asked for \$200 for this event. It will be held in week 12 on Wednesday. He will be screening Inside Out in Studio B.

**Motion [MAY11-24]:** That Council approve up to \$200 for the hot chocolate and movie night.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib                      **Seconded:** Dhaval Sanath Shukla

**Carried.**

## 15.2. End-of-Semester Party

A.S. said that SUPRA would be doing this with UNSW postgrads. They have approved \$500. The plan is to go to Glenmore Hotel at the Rocks with a bar tab, then move to Argyle. E.M. said that the USU will hold an end-of-semester party, but a postgrad-only one would also be good. He suggested speaking to the USU for sponsorship. K.H.W. said that SUPRA should include PRU and MUPRA. R.E. said that the event should reflect campaigns by council, such as the Rainbow Campus Now campaign, international student concession campaign and anti-deregulation and anti-restructure campaigns.

**Motion [MAY11-24]:** That Council approve up to \$600 for the end-of-semester party.

**Moved:** Ahmed Suhaib                      **Seconded:** Dhaval Sanath Shukla

**Carried.**

## ★ 16. Safety Officer's Report

A.S., the safety officer, said that the kitchen and office room are problems. There have been knives left on shelves. He said to make sure people wash them and put them away. There have also been complaints about people moving things and not bringing them back, like the toaster and coffee machine. This is a health and safety issue.

M.K. added that maybe council needs to recommend that a separate toaster and coffee machine be purchased for the downstairs area. M.Bu. said that on Wednesdays he hosts an Aboriginal elders group. He is the one moving it but says it's back by 9:00am.

**Motion [MAY11-25]:** That council approve \$50 for toaster for downstairs.

**Moved:** Edward McMahon                      **Seconded:** Mike Butler

**Carried.**

## ★ 17. Other Business

### 17.1. STUCCO

M.Bu. said that he wanted council to support a letter to STUCCO to stop discriminating against postgrad students and other equity groups. R.E. said that in housing co-ops there are strict guidelines for interviewing people.

E.M. said that there are claims in the letter without evidence. He suggested simply asking them to explain and stating that there are complaints. M.Bu. said that they are white middle class tertiary educated parent backgrounds.

K.H.W. had concerns about wording. She said that the sentiment behind it is good but the legality might be an issue.

**Action:** Mike Butler to take the letter to SUPRA solicitor Ingrid Van Tongeren to suss out legal issues before council approves it.

## 17.2. Equity Groups

M.Bu. said that the equity groups are doing reports for the annual report. He said that he doesn't want them to be censored. G.C. said that the language in the report has to be appropriate.

## 17.3. Bike Laws

M.Bu. said that there are new bike laws in NSW with huge fines. Police can come onto campus to fine students. He thinks it's ridiculous. He wants to approach Ingrid to discuss legalities.

## 17.4. Work Dynamic Employment

**Motion [MAY11-26]:** That this meeting of council move *in camera*.

**Moved:** Gareth Charles

**Carried (9:45pm).**

*Margaret Kirkby and Kylee Hartman-Warren left at 9:45pm.*

*Kylee Hartman-Warren returned at 9:46pm.*

*[In camera section removed. See the Secretary's copy for in camera minutes.]*

**Motion [MAY11-27]:** That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy

**Carried.**

**Motion [MAY11-28]:** That this meeting no longer be *in camera*.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy

**Carried (9:51pm).**

## 17.5. Internships and Placements Campaign

K.H. said that he is working on a campaign with M.K. to gather information on how each faculty gives assistance to students for conducting placements and internships which are a necessary part of their degrees. He won't be able to conduct a campaign like this by himself and asked council to get involved.

**Action:** Kane to make a working group for internships and placements.

## 17.6. CAPA SCM

K.H. mentioned that the CAPA special council meeting would be happening on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May. He mentioned that he attended the annual council meeting as a SUPRA delegate last year and strongly encouraged councillors to consider representing SUPRA at the special council meeting.

**Motion [MAY11-29]:** That council give Management Committee the ability to approve delegates for the CAPA SCM.

**Moved:** Kane Hardy                      **Seconded:** Kylee Hartman-Warren

### **17.7. Rural & Regional Officer**

Elizabeth Millar (E.M.), the current Rural & Regional Officer, said that she had a meeting with M.K. about this portfolio. She is suggesting a name change for the officer to better reflect the work that has to be done, such as the Regional & Outreach Officer. She asked for ideas from council to be sent to her via email.

Meeting closed at 9:55pm.