Chair: Thomas Greenwell
Minutes: Cameron Nottingham
Attendance: Alex Trussell, Melanie Stevenson, Connor Duncan, Rachel Evans, Alexandra Nixon, Rebecca Johnson, Ahmed Suhaib, Dhaval Shukla, Karen Cochrane, Lily Matchett, Joshua Preece (entered 1808), Kiriti Mortha, Mariam Mohammed, Mike Butler, Susan Nelson, Cecilia Castro, Oliver Moore (entered 1820), Gareth Charles (entered 1808), Elizabeth Millar, Nick Rowbotham
Staff: Francine Seeto
Guests: Tamara Voninski, Jim Smith (CAPA National President), Michael Thomson (Branch President, Sydney University), Christian Jones (Immediate Past Co-President), Zhen Hu, Zushan Hashmi, Maddison Kingston, Madhi Mishra, Ke Ma, Kirsten Wu, Zixiao Liu, Tranyi Zhang Sheu, Riki Scanlan, Robyn Bryson, Laura Webster

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome
The chair opened the meeting at 1806 and performed an acknowledgement of country.

2. Governance & Declaration of COI
2.1. Apologies
Kevin Dong                    Mike Butler
Blythe Worthy                 Maliha Aqueel
Evelyn Corr

2.2. Proxies
Blythe Worthy to Rebecca Johnson (2\textsuperscript{nd} to Kiriti Mortha)
Kevin Dong to Thomas Greenwell (2\textsuperscript{nd} to Joshua Preece)
Mike Butler to Kiriti Mortha (2\textsuperscript{nd} to Rebecca Johnson)
Maliha Aqueel to Kiriti Mortha (2nd Mariam Mohammed)

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Recommendation: That council approves all unstarred items. Motion

[160913-01]: That council approve all unstarred items.

Moved: Melanie Stevenson  Seconded: Lily Matchett
Carried.

2.4. Resignations

Claudia Brennan is resigning, to be replaced by Oliver Moore.

Gareth Charles is resigning his general councillor position, to be replaced by Cecilia Castro.

Emmet Gillespie is resigning, to be replaced by Connor Duncan.

Motion [160913-02]: That council accepts these resignations and their replacements.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib  Seconded: Joshua Preece
Carried.

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month’s Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 8TH AUGUST 2016

3.1.2. MEETING OF EQUITY OFFICERS, 8TH AUGUST 2016

3.1.3. MEETING OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 9TH AUGUST 2016

3.1.4. MEETING OF POLICY COMMITTEE, 12TH AUGUST 2016

3.1.5. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 17TH AUGUST 2016

3.1.6. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 2ND SEPTEMBER 2016

3.1.7. MEETING OF POLICY COMMITTEE, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2016

3.1.8. MEETING OF PUBLICATION COMMITTEE, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2016

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. President

Thomas Greenwell

4.1.2. Vice President

Lilly Matchett

Ratified by council 12 October 2016
Alexandra Nixon

4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Ahmed Suhaib [report updated]

A description about some of the events has been updated, there was no change to the total number of hours and only a description change.

Motion [160913-03]: Council approves the updated report

Moved: Dhaval Shukla  Seconded: Lily Matchett
Carried.

4.1.4. TREASURER

Kevin Dong

4.1.5. SECRETARY

Melanie Stevenson
Cameron Nottingham

4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Nick Rowbotham

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

[position vacant]

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Gareth Charles [no report submitted]

The disability officer has held a meeting with the health and wellness committee, he had concern about the survey about sexual assault on campus, there had been no critical inquiry into the with respect to disability portfolio. Disability awareness week stall was good, there had been the opportunity for people to address concerns, one that arose was the ability to help someone who was a student and a carer of someone with a disability. There is a duty statement in development, with consultation from other equity groups required.

The disability read out the current duty statement draft, which will be included in a written report.

The accessibility of the Footbridge foyer is still a concern. Alexandra Nixon has sent a letter without reply, this will be followed up in due course.

Motion [160913-04]: That council accepts the disability officer’s report, on submission of a written report submitted to the secretaries in a timely manner.

Moved: Kiriti Mortha  Seconded: Dhaval Shukla
Carried.

Gareth Charles abstained

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER
Dhaval Sanath Shukla

4.2.4. Queer Officer

Rachel Evans [report late]

The queer officer has a positive report regarding the Big Rainbow wedding. The campaign is underway for the university to endorse the 6th steps to the university becoming and rainbow friendly campus. There has been poor response from the university. The queer collective glitter bombed an office and the only response they received was to clean it up.

Motion [160913-05]: That council accepts the late report of the queer officer.

Moved: Kiriti Mortha Seconded: Alexandra Nixon

Carried.

4.2.5. Women’s Officer

Mariam Mohammed

4.2.6. Rural and Regional Officer

Elizabeth Millar

4.3. Business Arising from officer reports

4.3.1. President’s Question Time

Karen Cochrane (K. C.) has requested the president to log particular hours in his reports; Thomas Greenwell (T. G.) accepted this request and will do so in the future.

Oliver Moore entered at 1820

Mike Butler (M. B.) asked about his email that he sent to the Vice-Presidents requesting the censure policy. He claimed that Alexandra Nixon (A. N.) had denied this request. T. G. stated that this is only a draft policy and is seeking advice as to whether it is an enforceable policy. He stated that this should be available in emails from previous minutes and council packs. M. B. requested that all councillors have access to draft documents, especially given that there have been ICT problems with the general council computer. M. B. said the Vice-President had denied his request and this was a breach of duty. Alexandra Nixon (A. N.) stated that the email she received was poorly worded and constituted harassment, bordering on bullying and with her current ailments, the email has caused her great distress. She stated that the email was aggressive and left her feeling uncomfortable and afraid. She also wished to read the email out so that council could understand how she felt. Mariam Mohammed (M. M.) wanted to know the current censure policy; T. G. stated that we do not have one. M. M. also wanted the emails to be read out as long as M. B. had no objections. T. G. wanted to move this item further down, noting that we had a number of guests in the room, here for specific items and he did not wish to waste their time on what could be a long discussion. T. G. asked M. B. to move this discussion, M. B. was welcome to the idea.

Kiriti Mortha (K. M.) stated that he is a new councillor and is not aware of how the executive functions and asked if the president monitors the secretary’s work. T. G. stated that he doesn’t watch over their shoulder and that the minutes are the responsibility of the secretary. K. M. also asked the president if he reads the minutes and the report of the secretary. T. G. stated that he reads the reports, although he often runs out of time to cover all the minutes. Gareth Charles (G. C.) added that it
is the responsibility of the entire council to read the minutes that are subsequently passed at each council meeting.

4.3.2. ACTIONSCHEDULEUPDATE

We are aiming to fix the website link when the new website goes live in October. Policy committee is in the final stages of working on the endorsement of rallies. The event responsibility delegation hasn’t been organised, but will be soon. A roster has been set up for writing for Honi Soit. K. M. was asked to follow up on textbook resourcing. He stated that he was sending out feelers and asked if any other councillors were keen on taking on this campaign. This will be sent to education committee. The SRC is currently unreachable due to the current campaign. E-grad has had issues with ICT so it isn’t going out at the moment.

4.3.3. OFFICEBEARERSUMMARY

No support required.

4.3.4. MOTIONSFROMREPORTS

The wine and cheese had previously been alternating and the Vice-Presidents wish for it to be moved to alternating days to help diversify the people that attend, given that some people may have class always on a Thursday evening.

Motion [160913-06]: To change the wine & cheese schedule in 2017 to alternating between Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Moved: Alexandra Nixon Seconded: Ahmed Suhaib

Carried.

4.3.5. OTHERBUSINESSFROMREPORTS

Accessibility Letter has been covered in disability officers report.

Motion [160913-07]: That council move to items 10 and 17 after item 5.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed

Failed.

5. CAPA

Jim Smith (J. S.), the President from CAPA (Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations) spoke to the council. He thanked SUPRA for giving him the time to speak. He spoke about CAPA, being the peak representative body for postgraduate students and that SUPRA has always been a participant since CAPA began. He noted that SUPRA also pays one of the larger affiliation fees to the group. He stated that CAPA lobbies around issues specific to postgraduate students, running campaigns around both state and national issues. CAPA is keen to help SUPRA with our current campaigns. CAPA is made up of an executive committee, of numerous people. It also has two other committees, equity and regional committees. The aim is to have active branches to be the most efficient at representing postgraduate students. The eastern branch unfortunately has been inactive resulting in the reduced activity with SUPRA, however, they are wanting to keep us as an affiliate and keen to work with SUPRA to improve the relationship. They acknowledge that there may be a reduction in the affiliation fee as a result of the inactivity.

K. C. stated that she is also on CISA (Council of international Students Australia) and that she had concerns around communication from CAPA, especially in regards to the travel concession campaign. J. S. admitted that this has been a problem, especially with the lack of engagement in the Eastern branch, and a strong Victorian representation on CAPA. In terms of the Eastern branch President, he has not been renumerated and he has been asked to resign. Rachel Evans (R. E.) believes we should support CAPA and asked J. S. how CAPA would support us with our own
campaigns. J. S. reiterated that they had wanted to support the campaign and wants to focus on SCAR. M. B. acknowledges there has been an issue with the relationship, however, given that the University of Sydney is intent on increasing postgraduate numbers and that there is a need to affiliate in light of this. J. S. also stated that he is keen on SUPRA hosting the CAPA conference in late November.

K. C. asked for details on how they engage with the government. J. S. said there has been difficulty around how the government has released policy with only hints of what they want to do. Internally, they haven’t had too much disagreement in executive, because there has been predominantly opposition to policy.

Dhaval Shukla left 1851

J. S. stated that meetings have been occurring with cross benchers, however, they have had difficulties meeting with the current education minister, although they have been forming relationships. Joshua Preece (J. P.) said that communication has been the sore point with SUPRA and wanted to know the plan to improve this, particularly with the President of SUPRA. J. S. is keen to improve this and happy to send regular updates to either the President or the council. He has stated there has been development of a regular newsletter. Cecile Castro (C. C.) wanted to know if CAPA supports the SCAR occupation and what they can give to support them. J. S. said that CAPA has passed motions to support SCAR and is looking to visit the Rozelle campus and is unaware of the full concerns with the government.

Dhaval Shukla returned 1855

Alex Trussell (A. T.) hadn’t heard of CAPA before becoming a councillor, he has asked their top achievements of the last year. J. S. says that the focus has been providing input in to policy, putting out press releases about issues with a large contact of media personal. Other actions include a higher education discussion paper inputs, and an election score card, noting that CAPA should have worked with SUPRA to do this. Furthermore, they are working on a mental health campaign and also a travel concession campaign in Victoria for postgraduate students.

T. G. stated that we should vote on three things: if we should affiliate, if yes, then what amount we should affiliate and whether we should host the CAPA conference.

Motion [160913-08]: To end the speaking list and move to a vote on whether we affiliate with CAPA.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell

Carried.

Motion [160913-09]: That SUPRA should affiliate with CAPA.

Moved: Mike Butler Seconded: Rebecca Johnson

Carried.

Jim Smith left 1902

T. G. discussed SUPRA’s financial situation, stating that we are heading for a $50,000 deficit. A. T. stated that $26,000 is a large amount for what we have been given and whilst a peak body is good, they haven’t been present, only producing 6 press releases this year. He stated CAPA seems very Victorian dominant and has had poor responses on key issues. He stated this money could be better spent on SUPRA events that we are actually accountable for. Melanie Stevenson (M. S.) echoed similar sentiments and wanted the fee to be reduced to as low as possible without putting CAPA in a dire position. She spoke about how low some of the budgets are, noting that the Women’s collective funding is only $700 and $26,000 could go a long way to any event such as SCAR or wine & cheese.

Lily Matchett enters 1904
Oliver Moore (O. M.) stated that we are giving them more than $2000 a month, a large sum of money for an organisation that does nothing at present. K. M. responded to Alex Trussell’s question, stating that his classmates haven’t heard about SUPRA either. He said we should still pay the affiliation body and wanted to know if anything would change if we reduce the payment. T. G. clarified that it wouldn’t. Rebecca Johnson (R. J.) proposed that we reduce the payment to $20,000 and to pay it in two instalments of $10,000 and base this on performance in the form of reports. M. B. stated that it is really important to have a peak body.

J. P. supported Rebecca Johnson’s proposal and stated his main annoyance has been as a member of the executive last year and CAPA provided very little, especially given we are one of their largest providers. J. P. suggested to reduce the payment with the option to return to the regular fee in the future. K. C. felt John Smith didn’t answer her initial question properly and wanted to work out steps for CAPA to be accountable to SUPRA.

Motion [160913-10]: That SUPRA will pay a $15,000 affiliation fee to CAPA in total, to be made in two payments (6-monthly), to be paid on delivery of a progress report.

Moved: Rachel Evans Seconded: Dhaval Shukla
Carried.

T. G. spoke about how hosting the CAPA conference would not cost SUPRA any money, but may require the hiring of rooms.

Motion [160913-11]: To move to a vote on whether or not SUPRA will host the 2016 CAPA conference.

Moved: Cameron Nottingham
Carried.

The dates of the conference were noted as the 23rd-25th of November, the week after the final exams. It will require a large room for approximately 70 people, with smaller breakout rooms as well.

Motion [160913-12]: That SUPRA will host the 2016 CAPA conference from the 23rd-25th of November, and assist with organisation of the conference.

Moved: Rachel Evans Seconded: Oliver Moore
Carried.

John Smith returned 1917
Connor Duncan left 1919
John Smith left 1920

Motion [160913-13]: To move to items 10 and 19 after item 7.

Moved: Mariam Mohammed
Failed.

Motion [160913-14]: To move to item 7.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

★ 6. Senate Election

Karen Cochrane left 1953

Tamara Voninski (T. V.) gave an update on the SCAR campaign and spoke of the history of the issue. They are fighting to save 60% of the staff, the kilns, the HDRs, and other services provides at SCA. SUPRA was thanked for the support of the SCAR campaign, all the printing, logistics,
food and other things. Today is day 23 of the occupation, it is the longest occupation around management matters in the history of Sydney University. The dean has today resigned. Many people have visited the occupation and they also have events and rallies coming up in the future.

Vanessa entered the room 1955

**Motion [160913-18]**: That council endorses the SCAR occupation at the Sydney College of the Arts.

**Moved**: Tamara Voninski

**Carried**.

T. V. stated there is a current petition for issues regarding the state government, aiming to achieve 10,000 signatures to move it in parliament. T. V. asked for people to vote for her, to represent SCA, a group that often lacks a voice at higher levels of the university. T. V. is asking SUPRA to endorse her and Joshua Preece to humbly represent the postgraduate student body. J. P. and T. V. had come together to approach SUPRA for a joint endorsement. This involves an endorsement, emails to postgraduate students and a Facebook post.

J. P. has had a lengthy passion for student service and Indigenous students, with experience previously in both. Previously, he has been the SUPRA Treasurer and was elected to the role of postgraduate senator until November 30. He says that as SUPRA is a progressive organisation, it is important for SUPRA to endorse progressive candidates. T. V. says that it is a very important time for postgraduates, with staff cuts and cuts to facilities. She said it is important for a postgraduate to gain access to the senate to advocate for postgraduate students.

R. E. said that given Michael Spence’s plan to reduces staff and cut services, it is very important to have allied students on senate. She calls them to support the SCA and commit to the SCAR campaign. J. P. admits that he isn’t the most up to date on the SCA campaign but is keen to push the activist line and support students. T. V. is already pushing for the SCA plan, taking the issues to meetings providing and is clear on transparency. Discussion was to have a function to report back to council if either was elected, either by letters to the president or a regular reports at meetings.

**Motion [160913-19]**: That we move to a vote on endorsing candidates for the senate

**Moved**: Dhaval Shukla

**Carried**.

**Motion [160913-20]**: That SUPRA endorses both Joshua Preece and Tamara Voninski for the role of postgraduate senate fellow.

**Moved**: Ahmed Suhaib **Seconded**: Melanie Stevenson

**Carried**.

★ 7. **NTEU - SUPRA's Obligations as Employers**

Michael Thomson (current NSW branch president and the incoming president) (M. T.) gave an introduction to the NTEU and said that SUPRA has had a good relationship with the NTEU. He also noted that the CAPA conference may coincide with the NTEU lecture (Dennis Ultro, speaking about rejuvenating civic society). The NTEU values the work with SUPRA. SUPRA is an employer and NTEU represents the people who work for us. We have responsibilities to our staff about how we conduct ourselves. It is important the we are aware of this. Staff are on an enterprise bargaining agreement, which is currently in discussion. The NTEU represents the staff and has reminded us of how we conduct ourselves with staff. There have been some disagreements with other student organisation, but never with SUPRA. (M. T.) is happy to run a session to take us through the new agreement.
Motion [160913-15]: To move the meeting in camera and to allow Michael Thomson and Christian Jones to remain.
Moved: Ahmed Suhaib
Carried.
All non-councillors left from the room at 1930, Mike Butler left 1932
The meeting moved in camera
The chair moved the meeting ex camera and allowed the guests to return.
Discussion returned to item 6.

8. Verbal report from staff member

Joshua Preece left the meeting 2014

Francine Seeto (F. S.) gave the staff report, a written report from staff will be circulated at a later date. She spoke about the issues with E-grad, our new staff member (Emma), the dates for the survival guide and that Hailey is working part time at the moment. Adrian is on short term leave at the moment. The case workers had their busiest time in July and August and are now slowing down. There have been more misconduct cases than usual, F. S. has worked on 3 cases already this year. Other issues include show cause, and tenancy remains in the top three, due to poor market and lack of information for particularly international students. This was especially an issue with early termination (due to withdrawal from university) in university-owned accommodation. She also spoke about how international students are also treated differently with regards to withdrawal from courses after the census date, however, she had also had success with a student writing a letter to the registrar. She also spoke about work health and safety, noting that the Holme building has many smokers near our entrance to the SUPRA landing, directly ignoring the no smoking zone. She asked for all councillors if they see people smoking to tell them to move to the closest smoking area, the botany lawns.

Motion [160913-21]: SUPRA Council thanks Francine for her continued hard work and contribution to the organisation.
Moved: Ahmed Suhaib Seconded: Karen Cochrane
Carried.
Motion [160913-22]: To move to item 19
Moved: Elizabeth Millar
Carried.

9. Publications

Motion [160913-38]: To cover items 10, 11 and 12 and to defer all other items to the next council or to management committee.
Moved: Lily Matchett
Carried.

9.1. Survival Guide
9.2. Calendar

See above motion from report (wine & cheese will alternate between Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2017).
10. **Funding Requests**

10.1. **Mental Health and Exam Funding**

Motion to move

**Motion [160913-39]:** That council approves $150 for a mental health and de-stressing event for exam time

**Moved:** Karen Cochrane  
**Seconded:** Lily Matchett

Carried.

Karen Cochrane abstained

*Alex Trussell left 2140*

10.2. **SASG India Summit Funding**

Zushan Hashmi (Z. H.) is a representative of the SASG. He informed us of the SASG and the events the group organised. As they grow they are becoming involved with many other organisations, including the NSW safe project, the socialist alliance, policy makers, and politicians. The India summit will be held on the 7th of October, they are expecting 150-200 people, print media is on board, including the ABC, however, there has been difficulty approaching the university for support. They are asking for money for food and other such things.

The USU has been asked for money, however they only fund student societies as a research group. O. M. said the issue is that SUPRA doesn’t have $2000 and that the faculty of Arts and Social sciences may have funding abilities. T. G. offered to help write letters of support as the SUPRA President or the faculty board representative. M. S. requested that more of a budget be presented. D. S. wants support for packs and food. Z. H. said they have previously had a summit where they had outside funding for 100 people and spent around $1000 on food. O. M. asked what would happen if we didn’t give them money. Z. H. said they are in a tough spot; they need the money. R. E. said her portfolio would be interested in looking at the political representation that would be present and may allocate some of her budget. A. S. wants a more substantive number, how many packs they want and to be shown a budget with decision to be made at management committee. K. M. said they have a variety of speakers that represent different groups, having ensured female representation before seeking male speakers. Z. H. said they have a large mailing list and are happy to share the SUPRA logo on a mailout.

**Motion [160913-40]:** To endorse the event and refer the issue of financial aid to management committee, on the condition that more information of the event to be provided.

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

Carried.

*Rachel Evans, Lily Matchett left 2157*
11. **PhD Research Council – Supervisor of the Year Committee**

We are looking for people to help choose the supervisor of the year, needs to be a postgraduate student. O. M. has volunteered, there will be a callout in Facebook, E-grad and Honi Soit.

12. **NCCC Cultural Competency Training**

M. M. update on the program. Hailey (the provider) will not charge us for the event, it is to be held in the Old Teachers College with one full day of training on general cultural training, with the Indigenous cultural training to be done at a separate half day with a member of the community. The 19th of October is the suggested date. M. M. wants council to provide catering, and to have a full room with number confirmed. Hailey wants to have people bring case studies. They need to lock in a date: this will be sent out in an email to all of council.

*Rachel Evans returned 2200*

*Discussion moved to item 20 (Other Business)*

13. **SUPRA Election Data**

14. **Campaign for Research Student Spaces**

15. **History of SUPRA personnel and compilation of SUPRAs history**

16. **Events**

   16.1. Movie Night
   16.2. Bush Walking

17. **New Level 1 SUPRA Office Plan – Report**

18. **Academic Governance Representation**

19. **International students issue and Women’s office issue**

   19.1. International student issue

   Motion [160913-23]: To move the chair to Ahmed
   Moved: Alexandra Nixon
   Carried.

   *Ahmed Suhaib took the chair*

   Motion [160913-24]: To move the meeting in camera
   Moved: Dhaval Shukla
   Carried.

Ratified by council 12 October 2016
Motion [160913-25]: To allow Christian Jones and Laura Webster to stay in the room, as this item pertains to Christian Jones and for Laura as a support person.
Moved: Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

Motion [160913-26]: To allow Mariam’s guests to stay in the room
Moved: Mariam Mohammed
Carried.

Motion [160913-26]: To keep Riki Scanlan in the room
Moved: Nick Rowbotham
Failed.

Francine Seeto left the meeting at 20:26, Joshua Preece returned at 20:26
Riki Scanlan left the room
The meeting move in camera
Documentation relating to this matter was circulated.

Motion [160913-36]: To return Thomas Greenwell to the chair
Moved: Thomas Greenwell
Carried.

Motion [160913-37]: To move the meeting ex camera
Moved: Melanie Stevenson
Carried.

Discussion returned to item 9

20. Other Business
J. P. called for an interest from council to appoint an acting Indigenous officer. A. S. supported the role, give it has been empty for the last 3 months, there has been a neglect for the equity group. J. P. wished to nominate Connor Duncan (C. D.), an Indigenous medical student, who is a progressive vegan and has filled a similar role on the Sydney University Medical Society. C. D. has approached J. P. about the role and he is keen to see new people have a go at the role. G. C. says that the interim officer has a role in organising the election, he is concerned with the surrounding procedure. Elizabeth Millar (E. M.) asked for clarification of the role and why the role hasn’t been filled. T. G. has felt uncomfortable calling the election. J. P. said the last elections have had difficulty with them being inquorate or not having a returning officer. A. N. is concerned of appointing an interim officer given the current situation with the equity group. T. G. asked for the input from the Indigenous people in the room, who expressed support of appointing an interim officer.

Motion [160913-41]: For council to appoint Connor Duncan as the acting Indigenous Equity Officer, until the position is filled by election from the equity group or until the next council meeting.
Moved: Ahmed Suhaib   Seconded: Joshua Preece
Carried.
Dhaval Shukla abstained

*Alexandra Nixon left 2213*

*The meeting was closed at 2214*