



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN OLD TEACHERS COLLEGE LECTURE THEATRE 306 ON THE 3RD OF NOVEMBER 2016 AT 1800

Chair: Thomas Greenwell

Minutes: Cameron Nottingham

Attendance: Melanie Stevenson, Maliha Aqueel (left 1849), Sam Fredman, Nick Rowbotham, Ahmed Suhaib, Alexandra Nixon, Elizabeth Miller, Rebecca Johnson, Connor Duncan, Michael Butler, Mariam Mohammed, Kiriti Mortha, Alex Trussell, Blythe Worthy (left 1949), Brandon Munn (arrive 1807), Oliver Moore, Dhuval Sanath Shukla (arrived 1811), Susan Nelson (arrived 1811), Cecilia Castro (arrived 1811), Gareth Charles (arrived 1822), Karen Cochrane (arrived 1940)

Staff: None

Guests: None

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

The chair opened the meeting with Acknowledgement of Country at 1805

1.2. Minute of silence in memory of Roozi Araghi

The chair spoke of the time Roozie Araghi spent at SUPRA, his contribution to the organisation and the profound sadness felt by all who worked with him on hearing of his passing.

A minute of silence was observed.

★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

Lily Matchett

Kevin Dong

Reza Kahlaee

Rachel Evans

Joshua Preece

Karen Cochrane



2.2. Proxies

Lily Matchett to Rachel Evans, (2nd to Alex Nixon, 3rd to Gareth Charles) Kevin Dong to Joshua Preece (2nd to Ahmed Suhaib) Reza Kahlaee to Ahmed Suhaib (2nd to Elizabeth Millar, 3rd to Mariam Mohammed) Rachel Evans to Alex Nixon (2nd Lily Matchett, 3rd Thomas Greenwell) Joshua Preece to Melanie Stevenson (2nd to Cameron Nottingham, 3rd to Connor Duncan) Maliha Aqueel to Blythe Worthy Karren Cochrane to Ahmed Suhaib (2nd to Dhuval Sanath Shukla) Blythe Worthy to Oliver Moore

2.3. Starring of Items

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

Motion [161103-01]: That council approves all unstarred items.

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

Motion [161103-03]: To move discussion to item 9

Moved: Michael Butler
Carried

Discussion moved to item 9

2.4. Resignations

Connor Duncan is resigning his general council position to Samantha Fredman

Motion [161103-06]: To accept the resignation

Moved: Melanie Stevenson **Seconded:** Alexandra Nixon
Carried
Abstained MM

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF COUNCIL, 12TH OCTOBER 2016

3.1.2. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 16TH OCTOBER 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

Lily Matchett

Alexandra Nixon

4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Ahmed Suhaib

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

Connor Duncan

Michael Butler (MB) wanted to speak to this, he congratulated Connor Duncan (CD) on his election. He wanted to know the turn out for the event. CD clarified that only three people voted in the election. MB has issue with the validity of the election and that the president said he would laise with indigenous groups to schedule the election. Thomas Greenwell said that the decision to hold the election was taken from his hands by council. MB said we need to be working to have more people turn up to the elections and that SUPRA should be working to better representation. MB noted that TG should have followed up with Indigenous groups to find a time for the election as he had promised to do.

Motion [161103-07]: To pass the report provided by Connor Duncan

Motioned: Melanie Stevenson **Seconded:** Ahmed Suhaib

Carried:

Abstained: Connor Duncan



4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Gareth Charles distributed a printed copy of his report to council and spoke to it.

Rebecca Johnson (RJ) said that there has been change to the way disability students have to create their plans, now going to once per year. Mariam Mohammed (MM) asked if Marguerite was involved in the meetings, GC said he is yet to meet Dagmar but Marguerite has been involved in trying to set up the meeting and has been involved with other aspects of the equity office. MB asked where the coffee afternoon was to occur and if it was accessible to students. MB has also asked that GC include his hours on his report. MB also asked to clarify who was checking the disability email account, GC said he will follow up after the meeting. DSS asked that GC submit his reports on time

Motion: To accept the report provided by Gareth Charles and to thank Marguerite Biasatti for her work in the portfolio.

Motioned: Blyth Worthy **Seconded:** Oliver Moore

Carried:

4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Dhaval Sanath Shukla

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

★

Rachel Evans [report late]

Motion [161103-08]: That Rachel Evans' report is deferred to management committee

Moved: Dhaval Sanath Shukla

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

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4.3.1. ACTION SCHEDULE UPDATE

TG spoke of the action schedule and listed items that have been completed.

See the action schedule for further detail

Kiriti Mortha (KM) asked how much the capital grants we are after for the downstairs development, AS said we want \$100,000, that SUPA is thinking big with a large wish list. KM wants to know if they have drawn plans and how they plan on selling it to the university. AS said they asking for a lot and the benefit to the postgraduate student body is the main selling point.

4.3.2. PRESIDENT QUESTION TIME

KM asked what's happening with the constitutional amendments and the plan for follow up. TG said that council will have a week to review it, it will then be sent to the office of general council (OGC) for approval, then a SUPRA EGM, then senate approval. MM wants to know why have a January EGM when you could hold off to the AGM. MM wants to know how much representation we can expect if we try to hold the EGM in the middle of summer, that we should be aiming for as much representation as possible. RJ asked how feedback should be sent, saying that there should be a more open forum for discussion. TG said forward issues to him and then any substantive issues will be sent to policy committee

where most of this discussion has already been taking place. MM said we should wait until good representation on campus can be had, when they have started studying, MM also called that councillors should avoid condescension in discussion.

4.3.3. OFFICE BEARER SUMMARY

4.3.4. MOTIONS FROM REPORTS

Motion[161103-09]: Council approves Alexandra Nixon's request for leave from the December and January council meetings on compassionate grounds.

Moved: Alexandra Nixon **Seconded:** Cameron Nottingham Carried.

Motion[161103-10]: That Council resolve to hold the final Council meeting for 2016 on December 6th, noting that this will conclude the duties of Councillors at the earliest possible date, is nearly one month after the November Council meeting, and that the proposed date is not a Friday night.

Moved: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Cameron Nottingham Carried.

Motion[161103-11]: To thank Blythe Worthy, Brandon Munn, and Kiriti Mortha for all their work to set up and Host the SUPRA Pub Crawl. Congratulations to the three of you for hosting a successful event.

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

Motion [161103-12]: To approve up to \$650 for a council end of semester dinner.

Moved: Melanie Stevenson **Seconded:** Cameron Nottingham Carried.

Motion [161103-13]: That discussion move to item 10 after item 7.

Moved: Blythe Worthy

Carried.

★ 5. Verbal report from staff member

No staff member available at the meeting.

★ 6. SCA Update

Cecilia Castro (CC) introduced herself to the meeting. CC said at an event last month the University censored an exhibition, removing the works and disposing of them, it is rescheduled to begin again tomorrow night for a single night exhibition. Permission for display of the work had to be approved and shown to security before removal. MB said that we should demand a response from the university. CC said this isn't the only time the campaign has been censored. CC reported back on the SCA move plan, that a new draft has Old Teachers College as the main space for SCA, with over 700 students and that only two levels will be provided as a major remaining issue, additionally ceramics and glass will not be available at the new site. Staff are now to be reduced by 40% not 60% as previously described.

CC reported that the occupation of SCA was ended by violence with University Security and Police forcing occupiers from the building. CC thanked SUPRA for the support of the SCA stay campaign, storage, printing and food provision.

★ 7.YARN gathering at SCA 23^{r d} November

Susan Nelson asked SUPR to support a yarn session at SCA, incorporating Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students to share stories relating to history of Australia. To be hosted by Warren Roberts from the Youth Awareness Raising Network (YARN).

Motion [161103-14]: That SUPRA provides \$500 for the YARN event at SCA on the 23rd of Novemebr

Moved: Blythe Worthy **Seconded:** Dhuval Sanath Shukla Carried.

Karren Cochrane arrived 1940

Discussion moved to item 10

★ 8.Events in 2017

The education officer has tabled a list of events that SUPA could hold in the new year, he is after input from council on how many we wish to host.

DSS has approached SUSF to get funding for some sport programs for postgraduates, at the moment cricket and soccer. Alex Nixon takes her cricket very seriously. KM would like to incorporate events at the start of the semester that teach international students about sports more prevalent in Australia. Two sports events to be held each semester, with sports to be determined. Trivia was well received from postgrads year, one to be hosted again. One BBQ, one movie night. A few different coffee events, to have 3 next semester, with priority focus on trying to incorporate mature age and HDR targeted events as suggested by RJ. Two rights forums to be hosted, it was clarified that these are in addition to equity events and are aimed at all postgraduate students. Bushwalking, beach trip and ball each to be hosted once during the semester. Council decided against hosting a karaoke night. There was indication that council would like to have around 6 3MT events held next year.

★ 9.Motion of Censure against Michael Butler

Motion [161103-04]: Mr. Butler has been given plenty of opportunities to follow the council directive. Mr. Butler has not responded to any emails sent to him and did not follow with the instructions given to him. Since the directive was initially given to him early this year, and it is being implemented for the past month and a half, I'll move a motion of censure against Michael Butler for not following council directive and not even showing any initiative to resolve previous grievance.

Moved: Ahmed Suhaib

Withdrawn.

Item moved to debate and was subsequently withdrawn

Ahmed Suhaib (AS) spoke to the the decision that council made at a previous meeting regarding the staff grievance against Michael Butler (MB), AS said he has given MB plenty of notice about the directive that council required he complete before a censure motion would be made. AS said at least three emails have been sent to MB with no reply or following of directive

MB said he isn't clear of the council directive saying it has not been appropriately told of the directive, and hasn't received any of the said emails. MB said he is happy to follow the council directive if he is told what the directive is. He said he hasn't seen any email and says the motion of censure is factually incorrect.

Mariam Mohammed (MM) questioned the introduction of a censure policy, saying at the September meeting there was no such censure policy. Thomas Greenwell (TG) clarified that the censure policy as part of the constitution has become ratified by the University Senate since the September council meeting.

Kiriti Mortha (KM) asked about the approval process of the constitution, drawing attention to the December 2014 date on the document, TG clarified the process of approving the constitution and said the issue of the date was an oversight. TG then presented council the approval letter dated September 9th 2016 from the university senate.

Dhaval Sanath Shukla (DSS) said he, AS and TG had been given the role of following up the council directive, he said each of the three emails had been sent.

MM asked for the new ratified constitution to be sent around. TG said it is available on the council server and the new SUPRA website.

MB looked to his computer, he said he has found two emails, not three, unopened in a random folder. MB asked if email was the most appropriate method of communication given the gravity of the motion, asking if maybe a phone call or letter would also have been appropriate.

Cameron Nottingham (CM) reiterated the need for this issue to be resolved, that SUPRA staff have indicated a desire for workplace action if the directive is not followed CN said that it is a mea culpa and letter of apology was essentially all that is required. AS said the process of contacting councillors is via email, he followed procedure, he said that the details have also been in council minutes. AS said that somehow MB knew the motion of censure was in this meeting agenda and claims MB obviously knows how to use his emails.

MB asks that now he has had a chance to find and read the emails to be given a chance to respond to the council's directive. Alexandra Nixon said this is an issue that has gone for over 12 months and there is discomfort from the staff in the SUPRA office. MB said this is dirty politics that has been headed by a stacked grievance group headed by AS. NR said council should give MB a further week to follow up on the council directive.

Motion [161103-05]: That Michael Butler follows the council's September meeting directive and sends an apology to the grievance committee for approval before being forwarded to the respective parties. To be complete within one week.

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

Motion of censure is withdrawn

KM said that council should have a clear communications process. Rebecca Johnson (RJ) said we should have read receipts, MM said its important. GC said that it is often to use read receipts due to different mail servers. NR said that we should just remember to check our emails. MB said it was an innocent mistake, he said he receives 100s of emails every day and things slip through.

The discussion of read receipts and email policy is to be tabled at policy committee

Discussion returned to item 2.4

★ 10. RISOGRAPH

Blythe Worthy (BW) spoke the issue of the RISOGRAPH located in the level 1 space The treasurer had considered to sell it, however we do have a new staff member than is aware

how to fix it and use it. BW has done some research as to what's required for repair and has started to make inquiry as to its cost. MB requested clarification of what the device is. BW gave an overview of the process of printing off the RISOGRAPH and its benefits. CN suggested that using it for printing of flyers would actually be cheaper to keep it given the efficiency that can be achieved. AT wanted to know the cost and if it is actually worth keeping. BW will budget for repair. Council agreed that we should have more information before looking to sell the RISOGRAPH

Motion [161103-15]: That SUPRA will not privatise the RISOGRAPH without approval from council.

Moved Nick Rowbotham **Seconded:** Blythe Worthy Carried.

Abstained: MM

Discussion returned to item 8

★ 11. CAPA Delegates

Delegate fee is \$254.00, postgraduate associations can send up to eight delegates, but each association must vote as a block. TG suggested 3 or 4, CD asked for ease of voting it should be an uneven number, either 3 or 5. Council voted in a straw poll to have 3. KM wants to have people look at the agenda before we send people, TG said it has been made available on the CAPA website and via link on the council Facebook group.

The chair gave people an opportunity to highlight issues we would like to raise at CAPA conference. MB says one issue to be raised is to disperse the power around, that CAPA is very Melbourne and Canberra centric. KC says she would like to see more being done for international students. RJ said a working group at UTS is working to use technology to engage more students, that Sydney is not a part of it and that we are being left behind. AT says they should have more media output and circulation of media should be improved. NR would like to have CAPA actually organise events and actions. AS would like to have people from the University of Sydney to run for spots.

In summary, council is charging our delegate with four main focus points for CAPA conference.

1. Improve CAPAs work in NSW
2. CAPA involvement and initiation of campaigns
3. Increased media output with improved circulation
4. To have University of Sydney Student represent on CAPA

Motion [161103-16]: For SUPRA to pay the CAPA conference registration fee for Rebecca Johnson, Rachel Evans (pending acceptance) and Alexandra Nixon

Moved: Kiriti Mortha **Seconded:** Nick Rowbotham

Carried

Abstention: Mariam Mohammed

12. Staff Matters

Motion[161103-02]: That council endorses the recommendation of Emma Davidson's probation review to continue employment.

Motioned: Thomas Greenwell **Seconded:** Cameron Nottingham

Carried

★ **13. Call to Endorse North Dakota Solidarity Action**

AN spoke to the motion. It is a protest organised by Indigenous students on the 10th of November at the US consulate. Relevant to postgraduates as many of the people we represent are part of these communities. For SUPRA involvement to have our flags, T-shirts and maybe use some banner material that is down stairs. KM asked what we are funding, TG said it is not financial support

Motion [161103-17]: That SUPRA endorses the protest action being held in Sydney on Thursday November 10 - a few days after the US elections - in solidarity with the Native American led action in North Dakota.

Moved: Alex Nixon **Seconded:** Nick Rowbotham Carried

★ **14. Other Business**

14.1. Inductions for 2017

CN flagged with councillors the need for help with induction packs for 2017. He said we will need help pack, carrying and lecture bashing.

14.2. John Fell away 19th to 28th November

John Fell is taking time off; any petty cash or financial matters should be dealt with before his break.

14.3. Door chocking

Issue with doors being chocked open in the office, doors must remain locked, please do not leave doors chocked open. Also people being in the office late please always be aware of your safety and if in the office space alone please let someone know your whereabouts.

14.4. Supervisor of the Year

KC and OM have had 115 nominations, announcement on the 15th November to be held at courtyard.

14.5. Saturday Rally for Refugees

Motion [161103-18]: That SUPRA endorses the Refugee rally on Saturday

Moved Mariam Mohammed **Seconded:** Nick Rowbotham

Carried

14.6. Content for Survival guide

NR has sent an email to councillors, a call for people to support and write, check the list and see what you can do. Deadline is December 1st.

2036 meeting closed.