



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN SYDNEY NANOSCIENCE HUB SEMINAR ROOM 4001 ON THE 8TH OF NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6PM

Chair: Kiriti Mortha

Minutes: Oliver Moore

Attendance: Jennifer Nicholson, Siobhan Menzies, Rachel Evans (*left 6:43pm, returned 6:45pm,*) Nic Avery, Jocelyn Drakakis, Zushan Hashmi, Mariam Mohammed, Jeevan Jagnam, Samay Sabharwal, Luoning Dong, Dean Lovett (*entered 6:24*), Gayatri Kotnala (*entered 6:35pm*).

Staff: TBC

Guests: Lily Matchett

★ 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land. We acknowledge that the land upon which we meet is stolen land, and that sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to all First Nations persons here. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

★ 2. Governance & Declaration of COI

2.1. Apologies

Manisha Reza Paul

Daniela Eassey

Dean Lovett

James Leeder

Mike Butler

Bec Johnson

Cathy Eatock

Ratified by Council 7/12/17.

Patrick Cook
Nichole Seebacher
Gayatri Kotnala
Marguerite Biasetti
Gareth Charles
Natasha Chaudhary

2.2. Proxies

Manisha Reza Paul proxies to Samay Sabharwal (1st, Luoning Dong 2nd, Jocelyn Drakakis 3rd)
Daniela Eassey proxies to Mariam Mohammed (1st, Kiriti Mortha 2nd, Zushan Hashmi 3rd)
Dean Lovett proxies to Gayatri Kotnala (1st, Samay Sabharwal 2nd, Luoning Dong 3rd)
James Leeder proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Oliver Moore 2nd, Rachel Evans 3rd)
Mike Butler proxies to Mariam Mohammed (1st, Kiriti Mortha 2nd, Zushan Hashmi 3rd)
Bec Johnson proxies to Luoning Dong (1st, Jocelyn Drakakis 2nd, Gayatri Kotnala 3rd)
Cathy Eatock proxies to Nic Avery
Patrick Cook proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Rachel Evans 2nd, Jessie Zhang 3rd)
Gayatri Kotnala proxies to Luoning Dong (1st, Dean Lovett 2nd, Jocelyn Drakakis 3rd)
Gareth Charles proxies to Nic Avery (1st, Rachel Evans 2nd, Siobhan Menzies 3rd)
Jeevan Jagnam proxies to Oliver Moore
Natasha Chaudhary proxies to Jocelyn Drakakis (1st, Zushan Hashmi 2nd, Samay Sabharwal 3rd)

2.3. Starring of Items

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

[171108-1]: That council approves all unstarred items.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Jocelyn

Motion carried.

2.4. Resignations (if relevant)

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1. Minutes of the Previous Month's Meetings

3.1.1. MEETING OF SUPRA COUNCIL, 10TH OCTOBER 2017

3.1.2. MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 7TH NOVEMBER 2017

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Officer Reports

4.1. Executive Reports

4.1.1. PRESIDENT

Mariam Mohammed

Kiriti Mortha

★ 4.1.2. VICE PRESIDENT

Gayatri Kotnala

Dean Lovett

★ 4.1.3. EDUCATION OFFICER

Rachel Evans

Rachel Evans (R.E.) outlined the work that has been done for the Education portfolio over this month. She notes that the motion in the report has been withdrawn as there needs to be more time to collaborate. The unemployed workers union are using the office for two hours every Monday with the Education portfolio, so they can be reached at that time if they need to be.

[171108-2]: To approve the education report.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Samay

Motion carried.

4.1.4. TREASURER

Luoning Dong

4.1.5. SECRETARY

Oliver Moore

4.1.6. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Zushan Ahmad Hashmi

4.2. Equity Officer Reports

★ 4.2.1. ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

Cathryn Eatock *[no report received]*

K.M. notes that Cathy's work has been mostly related to the Long March.

ACTION: Refer to Management Committee.

4.2.2. DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biasatti

★ 4.2.3. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Samay Sabharwal *[no report received]*

S.S. notes that he and Manisha have been working on the travel concession which has proven difficult as they have not received any of the signatures on the petition from

the last council. There has been some work on the taskforce to ensure that all international students have a good experience, one of the main issues is accommodation. He has also spoken to the CISA working group and is in discussion with a number of people regarding better communication between professors and students as they don't necessarily want what the university is pushing.

[171108-3]: To approve the report.

Moved: Jocelyn **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

4.2.4. QUEER OFFICER

Oliver Moore

★ 4.2.5. WOMEN'S OFFICER

Natasha Chaudhary [*no report received*]

Mariam Mohammed (M.M.) notes that during the semester there have been collective meetings to see what the collective's plan for the year is. There is a group within the collective working on a conference for April next year. They've begun talking to partners. There will be a

ACTION: Move this to Management committee

4.2.6. SATELLITE CAMPUS OFFICER

Vacant

4.3. Business Arising from officer reports

4.3.1. PRESIDENT QUESTION TIME

4.3.2. ACTION SCHEDULE UPDATE

4.3.3. MOTIONS FROM REPORTS

4.3.4. OTHER BUSINESS FROM REPORTS

★ 5. Postgraduate issues

Women's Conference

M.M. moves a motion from the women's conference. The conference will be targeted towards postgraduate women across Australia and will be hosted by the Women's Collective. They are aiming for 200 attendees and the theme is what does it mean to be a woman and navigate corporate work places. They're aiming for a budget of \$15-20 thousand dollars. They're asking for \$10k of this to be earmarked from this year's budget and the rest to come from next year's. This is to pay designers and that kind of thing. Jennifer Nicholson (J.N.) asks if this covers assistance for people coming not from Sydney. There is still questions about whether or not it will be ticketed. They've accounted more for speakers they want to fly in. Bursaries is something to be considered. Nic Avery (N.A.) asks if they have speakers in mind. They have a wish list which includes some big names, including Julia Gillard and Helen Clark.

[171108-4]: To request the council set aside \$10k from this year's budget for the women's conference on the condition that a written proposal is provided at the December council meeting.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Jocelyn

Motion carried.

R.E. asks what month this will be in, noting that NOWSA happens in July and will be in Melbourne and that there have been a lot of attendees in the past. She requests more information and a greater breakdown about the funding and more information about the themes. Jocelyn Drakakis (J.D.) notes that she is very familiar with NOWSA, and the conference will be completely different in focus. NOWSA is based around educating women around campaigning and organising but the objectives for this conference are quite different and focus around things like entering the workplace, higher level academic issues and very different skills. She notes that at this point we're only asking for \$10000 as there will be fewer people around over the summer and they need the capital to put some things in place so work can be done over the summer. M.M. notes that they're just asking the council to earmark it, not an assurance that it will be spent. There will be a more detailed proposal coming at the end of this month as they will be pitching to the university. They're just asking for the money to be set aside. R.E. asks how long it will go for. J.D. says that it will be one day. R.E. asks for more information before they earmark they money, she notes that the amount of money is quite a lot without any kind of detailed request. She also notes that they need more unionists to be involved as well as student leaders. She recommends that the motion be withdrawn and come back in December. Samay Sabharwal thinks that waiting until December is too late, and that we should just trust them to spend the money wisely. J.N. asks if the movement to earmark the money be in light of something being produced for the December meeting with more information. M.M. says that we can amend the motion to say that the proposal will be submitted to the December council meeting.

HDR Student Initiative

Jeevan Jagnam (J.J.) notes that there are various issues that pertain to our careers and visions and it seems silly not to promote those. N.A. asks if this is a motion coming from Bec Johnson. It is. N.A. notes that motion would have to be a constitutional change and would need to be put to an AGM. He also notes that it is vague and that it draws a line between activist issues and postgraduate issues that does not exist, this is a false distinction which does not consider the way that these things affect members of our student community. He also supports J.J.'s note with there is a difficulty to setting aside money on the basis of four lines. Gayatri Kotnala (G.K.) notes that some people don't see those things as a postgraduate issues and we need to ask how you would draw students in and get students to attend. Secondly, sometimes issues are not presented in a way that makes sense to the postgraduate experience. N.A. asks for specifics. G.K. notes that this wasn't a specific example, it wasn't directed at anyone. S.S. notes that SUPRA changing the world is also change, he notes that there needs to be a feedback loop, he wants to know how we can be sure where money is going. He notes the difficulties faced by international students as one of our key constituencies. M.M. notes that Jenny Leong noted when they spoke to her is that the core function of SUPRA is to look out for postgraduate students however there are issues that affect the wider constituency, such as climate change and so on. She notes that SUPRA's place should be to advocate for the right people to be making changes and the core function of SUPRA should be postgraduate students and how we can support them. She notes that moving away from our core constituency causes people to lose engagement. J.J. notes that representing studnets is not just their current state but the future that we're sending them out into the world to experience. He also notes that labelling this as an activist thing is not the best way forward as it creates a division that doesn't exist. With regard to the difficulties faced by studnets, it is important to consider what matters to our constituents. He is sad to hear that people are disappointed that we spend money on things like combatting climate change – he notes that this is a good way to get people involved. Luoning Dong (L.D.) supports the first motion as she notes that she paid the SSAF fees and that people don't know what the money is for, she notes that Wine and Cheese has been a good way to get more

people to know about SUPRA's work. She would like the money to be spent on the students. G.K. clarifies that it's not that we find these issues to be unimportant, it's that we need to spend our money differently. The question is whether we can support every issue, which we cannot. They need to be able to pull more people in. She notes that we need to prioritise, and this needs to be moved to policy committee where we can determine what percentage of funds we spend on what. J.J. notes the question of our limited resources, if they take into account the amount of money needed to alleviate all the postgraduate students, we would be unable to care for all of them. He notes that it would be expensive to produce programs that support everyone. There should be more transparency of the SSAF fees. N.A. asks if SUPRA is a service or if it is a union. If it was a service they would sit down and think about how to spend the most financial value to each student, however that money together as a collective body that creates an enormous amount of power which can be used to campaign for a whole variety of issues that affects a huge number of students. This organisation should be proactive rather than reactive. There is a reason we should come together every month and decide whether we should spend money on an issue regardless of what it is. R.E. notes that postgraduates are interested in what adults are interested in and also what undergraduates are interested in. They're interested not just in economic issues but in the things which threaten our world. If we as postgraduate representatives don't support those issues we're letting us down. She notes that things take time and energy to be expended in order for movement to happen. She encourages everyone to vote down this. S.S. notes that students aren't happy with some things we spend our money on, not Adani in particular. He notes that these constituents are a sample size. No-one is saying that we divide the money and give it back. J.J. notes that he is speaking for a number of medical students who are concerned about the state of our world. J.N. speaks to the issue of taking these issues to Policy Committee and thinks that this would be a way to better address the motion rather than how we can speak about it tonight. K.M. reflects on the advice of Jenny Leong, who suggests that we use some of our money for campaigns in a more professional way. He notes that we don't do enough work to run campaigns in a sophisticated way. K.M. notes the vast numbers of international students enrolled at the university. M.M. would like to add a note to design a policy that would discuss a ratio. J.N. notes that this would be to determine things to do with the student community and the wider community.

ACTION: That policy committee determine a policy for the percentage of money to be spent on the student community and the wider community.

[171108-5]: That the Council recognise that it is looking after student money that has been collected from students with the clear intention to be used for students. Furthermore, that the Council not consider requests for monies that do not directly relate to the benefit of the Postgraduate Students currently enrolled at the University of Sydney.

We are caretakers of student money. We are not entrusted to save the world and fix all of our global problems. We are entrusted with providing a better academic environment for PG Students at the University of Sydney. Many students are suffering financially, academically, with mental health issues, and with isolation. The money we are entrusted with **MUST** be funnelled directly back to the needs of the students. It is immoral to syphon student money from SUPRA to fund external causes no matter how noble or just the cause; that is simply not what we are here for.

Moved: Bec **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

J.D. notes that this says recognise and is therefore a lot of room for Policy Committee to develop this further.

[171108-6]: That the Council approve that a working party and funds be set aside to develop a March 2018 HDR specific event aimed at reducing their isolation and connecting them with other HDRs and the academic community. \$20,000 to be set aside at the start of January 2018

for this student event aimed at facilitating a better academic environment for USyd HDR students.

Moved: Bec **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion failed.

[171108-7]: That this motion be deferred to next council and that a vastly more detailed proposal be presented.

Moved: Jocelyn **Seconded:** Jennifer

Motion carried.

J.N. notes that this is too broad to consider as it is, but that this motion cannot be discussed as is and suggests that it be returned to in December with a proposal.

ACTION: to include this in the budget for next year

★ 6. Verbal report from staff member

Oliver Moore read aloud the report supplied. M.M. notes that they are looking for a list of places of cheap eats to be updated and to send through any suggestions they have to the presidents.

[171108-8]: To thank Emma and all the staff for their hard work.

Moved: Mariam **Seconded:** Jocelyn

Motion carried.

★ 7. Pilliga Environment Group Donation

N.A. notes that this relates to the student welfare as there has recently been a trip across the country by student activists as the enviro collective, as they bring back skills to the community. This is also a major environmental issue and we could have a massive impact on saving the Pilliga forest. S.S. likes that they've come up with the details about how this has been laid out. J.D. asks if the group has asked for funding from other organisations or if they've sought to fundraise. N.A. notes that they've been in conversation regarding this equipment for a few months. They've failed to secure funding from the SRC. He cannot say if they've gone to other people for the funding, the Pilliga environment group is a small collective from a diverse range of backgrounds. G.K. thanks N.A. for the breakdown but notes that we need to keep in mind that we are a charity ourselves and that we need to keep that in mind when we ask for money for students. J.N. asks if this is for a small unit of time or if this is an ongoing thing so they could potentially hire this equipment for much less money. R.E. notes that we need to be concerned about CSG as we all eat and drink the food and water that comes out of these areas. She notes the importance of not ignoring runaway climate change.

[171108-9]: That SUPRA contribute up to \$500 with proof of purchase towards the Pilliga Environment Group for use purchasing scientific equipment for use in community-based monitoring of environmental conditions around the Narrabri Gas Project.

Moved: Nic **Seconded:** Samay

Motion carried.

★ **8. Motion to Endorse: Protest Milo in Sydney**

N.A. notes that a number of people have endorsed this rally including the NTEU.

[171108-10]: SUPRA endorse the counter-action organised by a number of Sydney community organisations, activist groups and unions against Milo Yiannopoulos's speaking events.

Moved: Nicholas Avery **Seconded:** Zushan

Motion carried.

★ **9. No War on Korea**

R.E. notes that ManCom has endorsed a No War in Korea rally which was organised by the Candlelight Alliance – they've reached out and asked for our endorsement. She notes that Trump is beating the nuclear war drums as if there is a nuclear device set off there would be widespread devastation. They're also calling on North Korea to desist and calling on the Australian government to assist with peace talks. We're lending them the PA for the rally.

★ **10. Bring Them Here**

Siobhan Menzies (S.M.) notes the situation on Manus island with the treatment of 600 asylum seekers. She's asking SUPRA to condemn the treatment of the refugees and to note that we echo the many many criticisms coming out of the United Nations. She'd also like SUPRA to endorse this action on Friday at 6pm to protest Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton.

[171108-11]: To condemn the treatment of refugees by the Australian government.

Moved: Siobhan **Seconded:** Mariam

Motion carried.

[171108-12]: To endorse the action on Friday at 6pm to protest Tony Abbott and Peter Dutton

Moved: Siobhan **Seconded:** Ollie

Motion carried.

G.K. would like some way to encourage students to get involved by creating some ways to reach out to students. N.A. notes that endorsement happens because it means that the event can be stronger on its own terms, so that there's a lot of logos on the banner for the event, so we lend the weight of our organisation on to smaller events. M.M. notes that somewhere in the office there is a massive banner with the SUPRA logo on it. J.N. asks of endorsements are included in the following eGrad and an enabling action. R.E. notes that we should include the numbers to call for all of these.

ACTION: Presidents to include all endorsements into all SUPRA communications

★ **11. Stop Attacks on Unions**

R.E. notes that there is a UnionsNSW rally that has been scheduled for 16th November. One in three 16-25yos are precariat workers. There has been low wage growth and the attacks on penalty rates. We need to show that we're allied with these unions, every union in NSW has endorsed this rally. J.N. thinks it is important to show resistance to negative change.

[171108-13]: To endorse the UnionsNSW rally on 16th November.

Moved: Rachel **Seconded:** Nic

Motion carried.

★ 12. #STOPADANI Student Travel Fund

S.M. notes that she is a Masters of Political Economy student and is studying this degree because environmental crisis is her main reason for wanting to do research. She has previously helped organise for ASEN and the SOS conference in Canberra. She's also campaigned with the Greens and the Wilderness society. She is extremely concerned with the proposed Adani mine. Construction on the Adani mine is very close to being underway, they're currently in a land rights battle. There's been direct action which has been successful in the past. It is necessary to stop the development of the railway in particular. There are 160 Stop Adani groups across Australia and we had 20000 people show up to a national day of action. With the semester drawing to a close there are some people who have time to spend but lack the funding. This is why we're asking for \$10000 to fund return flights for 33 students. The blockade will need to run for months, and there are a large number of students who would like to be involved but who don't have the funds. The benefits to postgrads include educational advantages, upskilling, and networking, as well as stopping the biggest environmental disaster we have ever seen. This is also an opportunity for people to spend time on Aboriginal land and learn about Aboriginal culture. It will build the SUPRA name and reputation and it will generate content for our communication channels.

[171108-14]: SUPRA Council to approve \$10000 donation to the ASEN to subsidise student travel to and from Central Queensland for the duration of the Stop Adani blockade.

Moved: Siobhan **Seconded:** Nic

Motion failed.

N.A. notes that Cathy Eatock is in full support of this as he has been communicating with her about this. If this project goes ahead we would directly be able to support people during this time period. Lily Machett (L.M.) is working on this campaign and would note that previously these resources could come from environmental NGO, however at the moment every sing NGO has had their DGR status threatened. The reason we're here is that everyone is struggling to make ends meet and to get this money. L.M. notes that she's been advertising this through SUPRA's resources and that she has 24 postgraduate students who want to go. She notes that importance of student contingents to every major environmental protest in history. She has been called by first nations people as there are not just one group of people but with five or six groups of first nations people who will be affected. M.M. notes that we have previously been supportive of this campaign. She questions whether this could be better dealt with by bringing in a community organiser. She asks if other organisations can get involved. J.N. asks if there are other places that they've asked for money and asks about crowdfunding. L.M. notes that this is already happening. N.A. asks what SUPRA's role is here and notes that there is an incredibly important part of this campaign which is direct action. They also have the ability to get a huge number of people involved in this campaign, it is comparable to a conference, as they would be upskilling and would be able to strengthen the activist movement. L.M. fleshes out what these skills are from pre-planning to post and notes that she has become a better organiser – phone banking, recruitment, power mapping, organising an action, getting media coverage, getting film and audio, legal work and so on, and all of this can be used for a huge range of campaigns and for SUPRA. R.E. notes that there are elections at the end of this year for the QLD elections and there is a campaign to get the government to come out against the mine. She notes that this is an important moment in the campaign. There is another deadline for March 2018 and we need to move before then.

This motion ended in a tie. K.M. notes that Adani is from India and he has seen the devastation it causes. However this is not the role of SUPRA and therefore he will vote against this motion.

N.A. notes that this is a really important issue and he would like to suggest that we support this at a lower rate. J.D. would be in support of this on a number of conditions – that the postgraduate experiences provide feedback to SUPRA on their experiences and do something productive such as running a workshop on campus so it has the potential to have a greater return. She also suggests that there been a fairness quotient be applied to this and that people who have a genuine need get this funding. R.E. commends the \$5000.

[171108-15]: SUPRA Council to approve up to \$5000 donation to the ASEN to subsidise student travel to and from Central Queensland for the duration of the Stop Adani blockade. This money will go to postgraduates.

Moved: Nic **Seconded:** Siobhan

Motion carried.

13. Other Business

M.M. notes that Cathy Eatock has asked for \$4700 more to pay indigenous students to work on the campaign. At the last council meeting we approved \$25000 and Management Committee discussed that the funding should be taken from that. The concern is that there was no money put aside for the website. N.A. notes that she wanted staff support and it transpired that no one was available. He thinks that in her mind she had already secured a full time campaign support worker, which at management committee we resolved for her to draw from the funds that she has. K.M. notes that SUPRA is always understaffed, which is why we couldn't commit a staff member for this. M.M. notes that when we told John that we had approved the money we would need to be answerable to the university for that amount of money. She stands by the decision made by ManCom yesterday. K.M. notes that we will need to account for this in the SSAF negotiations.

[171108-16]: The motion I put to Council is that the decision by Man Com made in my absence without the benefit of knowledge of the project be rescinded and the previous decision of Council be honoured to fund \$25,000 to the national Treaty Event and that the webpage design be funded to a total of \$2700, as a separate payment as agreed.

Moved: Cathy **Seconded:** Rachel

Motion failed.

[171108-17]: I request this payment of \$3000 to cover that casual staff placement for 7 hours a week be approved as a separate item.

Moved: Cathy **Seconded:** Nic

Motion failed.

Meeting closed at 8:49pm.