



Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

Agenda for a meeting of the Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association Council to be held in [Footbridge Theatre](#) on the [7th of June 2019](#) at [6:00PM](#)

Chair:	Weihong Liang
Minutes:	Azhar Saeed
Attendance:	Nicholas Avery (N.A.), Patrick Cook (P.C.), Geena George (G.G.), James Leeder (J.L.), Weihong Liang (W.L.), Oliver Moore (O.M.), Azhar Saeed (A.S.), Yunhe Wang (F.W.), Shuai Wang (S.W.), Yiqi Wu (Y.W.), Yunlin Ye (Y.Y.), Kim Yoo (K.Y.), Carolyn Zhou (C.Z.), Xiner Yuan (X.Y.)
Staff:	TBC
Guests:	TBC

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

Matilda Grace Surtees
Rong Cheng
Yanning Bai
Huan Zheng
Mucong Li
Junke Li
Zirui Liu
David Elías

2.2 Proxies

Matilda Grace Surtees proxies to Nic Avery
Rong Cheng proxies to Xiner Yuan
Yanning Bai proxies to Minran Liu
Huan Zheng proxies to Luhua Li
Mucong Li proxies to Shuai Wang
Junke Li proxies to Azhar Saeed
Zirui Liu proxies to Yunhe Wang
David Elías proxies to 1st Nic Avery, 2nd Geena George

2.3 Starring of Items ★

The council is invited to star items.

[190607-1]: Approve all unstarred items
Moved: Azhar **Seconded:** Weihong
Motion carried.

2.4 Resignations (if relevant)

3. Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1 Minutes of the previous month's meeting

- 3.1.1 Meeting of Council, 28th Jan 2019
- 3.1.2 Meeting of Council, 5th March 2019
- 3.1.3 Meeting of Council, 17th April 2019

[190607-2]: The council approves the above meeting minutes
Moved: Azhar **Seconded:** Marguerite
Motion carried.

3.2 Business arising from the minutes

- 3.2.1

4. Officer Reports

4.1 Executive Reports

- 4.1.1 PRESIDENT

Weihong Liang

- 4.1.2 VICE PRESIDENTS *[no report received]*

Junke Li

Jinghan Feng

- 4.1.3 EDUCATION OFFICERS

Minran Liu

Domi Johnson

4.1.4 SECRETARIES

Azhar Saeed
Yunhe Wang

4.1.5 TREASURER

Shuai Wang

4.1.6 DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Yiqi Wu

4.2 Equity Reports

4.2.1 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER

4.2.2 DISABILITIES OFFICER

Marguerite Biassatti

4.2.3 INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Divya Mansingka *[no report received]*

4.2.4 QUEER OFFICER

Carolyn Zhou

4.2.5 WOMEN'S OFFICER

Sara Evison-Rose

4.2.6 SATELLITE CAMPUS OFFICER

Karishma Menon *[no report received]*

4.3 Business arising from reports

4.3.1

4.3.2

5. Reports by Staff Members

6. Peer Connect Proposal ★

A motion that no more than \$20,000 for consulting and \$30,000 for implementation.

Weihong presents the Peer Connect Proposal to the council. He says that we have \$50,000 available from the university to spend on this project which will be used to figure out student issues in the business school. He says that \$30,000

will be used on reports and the rest of 20,000 will be used on consultation services.

He says that we applied for the contestable funding last week and we have the money which we have to use on the project till the end of this year. He says that we did not get a chance to discuss this project since April's council meeting. The proposal has been prepared by Pru who had worked in SUPRA as a coordinator and now is working in the Western Sydney University. He says that Francine recommended her as Pru is aware of SUPRA, its work and policies. There are three stages. 1) observation, 2) making strategy and 3) implementation.

He says that through peer connect project, we want to unite different department like accomodation, schools etc. We will write a strategy for supra in peer connect. Also, we will do a SUPRA policy review till end of December.

Sara asks if we will be doing consulting for the business school? Weihong says that when this proposal was written, it was just for business school, now we have expanded it to FASS and other schools including accomodation.

Sara asks what outcome do you want from \$30,000 and how will you monitor? who will we be supervising? Weihong replies that Francine will make a full 3 year strategy.

Nic asks to clarify 1) what is the purpose of connect, 2) what goals of SUPRA does this address 3) what is the genesis of the project? Who came up, when and how?

Weihongs says that it's my idea with discussion with Francine. People ask me questions about students needs, what business students want to improve. we don't have any connection with people so in order to know students and their problems, this project is required. Last August to September, SUPRA found 20 students in business school as volunteers who want to work with business school and network. Now through connect we will have reports. He says the goal is that we can have a strategy for SUPRA to build connect in different departments and schools.

Motion for hire. she says she wants to do 140 hours. 30,000 for PRU.

Nic says that if you had an issue with consulting committee with university, its difficult to answer that this is why you developed the business school network. Do you think it is a SUPRA issue? Is SUPRA facing a problem, or is it an individual problem?

Weihong says that it is a structure issue of the university, and we want to know the problems that is why we need consultants.

Sara says that I am still unclear in the project as \$50,000 is a lot of money and may be Francine and Louise can come in and present so that the council is more clear on the project.

James says that in the last 11 months, we have done good things but the details on these projects were missing. We don't disagree and we want to represent issues of the postgraduate, where I think its hard as its huge amount of money and we only have 600 words in front of me. We should do our due diligence before making any decision.

[190607-3]: SUPRA to set aside \$20,000 for consultancy and strategy planning for the peer connect project.

Moved: Azhar **Seconded:** Marguerite
Motion carried.

Procedural motion: To move to item 9.

Moved: Nic
Motion Approved

7. Funding Proposal for Medical Society Graduation Ball ★

The funding proposal is attached in the council pack for details.

Patrick says that we got the cost down to \$4,000. We have 380 medical students for this event. Possible sponsors are insurance agencies, pathology labs, and other local agencies. We are about to hear back from AMA.

[190607-5]: SUPRA to pay the direct cost of the AV hire till \$4,000 for the Medical Society Graduation Ball 2019

Moved: Patrick **Seconded:** James
Motion carried.

8. Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH) at USyd ★

Geena says that June is the month of pride. Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH) is organising an event that is a panel celebrating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall Riots and the start of the Gay Liberation Movement. CAAH is a completely community run organisation that has a long history of auctioning change. We've previously had support from SUPRA, namely during the marriage equality campaign and historically before as well.

CAAH is trying to get some amazing speakers to be at the event that is held at the University of Sydney on the 29th of June. One of these speakers is Elytta Manton (Lilly). She's an Indigenous Trans elder who had been an amazing activist and a great queer organiser. She is coming to speak at this event from Lismore. We want to help support her getting to Sydney and staying here, but also giving her a little money for speaking too.

We are writing to ask SUPRA to again help our community organisation this pride month and help us celebrate 50 years of love and inclusivity.

She says that this money will specifically go towards:

- 1- Speaking cost for Lilly: \$350
- 2- Flights approx \$200
- 3- Accommodation for Lilly approx \$200

Any left over amount will go towards further printing and advertising for the event.

[190607-6]: SUPRA assists Community action against homophobia with their Stonewall event. As part of this, SUPRA will donate \$750 to Community Action Against Homophobia.

Moved: Geena **Seconded:** James

Motion carried.

9. Walgett water crisis: SUPRA to donate \$1000 to Fighting In Resistance Equally (FIRE) to support Indigenous communities in rural New South Wales ★

Nic presents his proposal to the council. Information of crisis can be read in the following articles:

<https://honisoit.com/2019/01/water-mismanagement-leaves-walgett-without-safe-drinking-water/>

<https://honisoit.com/2019/05/driving-water-to-collarenebri/>

Weihong says if we can do more to help them in any way. Geena suggests that maybe we can donate \$1,000 for the whole year. Minran says that he has heard about the issue, and has read the articles, it is a very serious issue. It was large mismanagement of government and corruption. If we donate \$1000 to this, it gives more space for the government for corruption. He asks if we can use our institutional power to help for the cause. Nic suggests a public statement from SUPRA council in support of the community on Egrad, and social media would be efficient. FIRE is always looking for volunteers and drive up there.

[190607-7]: In recognition of the water crisis in North-Western New South Wales and in solidarity with communities in these regions, SUPRA commits \$1000 in financial support to Fighting in Resistance Equally (FIRE) for the purpose of providing direct support to these communities and raising awareness about the water crisis and supra to use institutional power to create awareness of the issue.

Moved: Nic **Seconded:** Azhar

Motion carried.

10. Funding Proposal for SUPRA Graduation Cocktail Event ★

The funding proposal plan is presented to the Council by Weihong which asks for \$11,115 for SUPRA Graduation Cocktail Event 2019. He says that we will be charging \$15 per student. He says that it was the postgraduate ball, with USU last year and they sold tickets for \$50 per person. This year we will be doing it on our own and will be charging \$15 per person. Sara says that she thinks its a good idea but that she has seen the advertisement running out. She asks if

Weihong has already put this on sale and if it was in the last council meeting? Weihong replies that they have started the sale as we don't have enough time and the semester is ending already.

[190607-4]: The council approve funding of \$11,115 for SUPRA Graduation Cocktail Event 2019

Moved: Weihong **Seconded:** Xiner
Motion carried.

11. SUSF and SUPRA proposal ★

To approve the fitness and Sport project, \$48,000 for SUSF & SUPRA proposal.

A sports plan is presented to the council for which the university has agreed to provide funding though contestable funding earlier this year. There is a discussion around it. Nic says that sports is not in our constitution so why bother spending this much money on sports. Weihong says that sports in an important area for students and due to it being expensive, SUPRA will help them set activities in a discounted budget. Sara says that if we accept the funding to pick sports and make health of students a priority that we are going to promote, then how it is different from SUSF? Azhar says that health and fitness is an important aspect which is promoted through sports. He says that though sports is not in the constitution but the constitution doesn't stop us from promoting sports and health.

Marguerite says that gyming and stuff are all expensive here for students. She says if SUPRA can help students in giving them a discount, then what is the harm? James says that there are 25,000 postgraduates but the proposal only targets 280 students and a lot of the proposed plans are at an insanely inconvenient times. He says that let us think about where we are going. He adds in this council, we are spending for free food, shitload of money in sports. He says what will happen in the next three years, the university is going to think that we have a food provider, and a sports provider, lets miss out SUPRA. He says that we can do a lot of things like hire a lawyer, hire a GP.

Weihong says that for legal service we have just started SUPRAL. The students need events, sports is one of the events. It will help us create an awareness about SUPRA. This is a way to approach thousands of postgraduate students who are missing out on SUPRA and its services. Free lunch is there because students can approach us, also same is the case with wine and cheese. Thus, fitness training. He says that I am very optimistic for this change for SUPRA. In three years, if we have all 25,000 postgraduates as member, we can show the university our importance and value.

Nic and James say that we need to have a proper plan for sports and the proposal needs to be revised.

ACTION ITEM: SUPRA needs to sit with SUSF and SAAO and revisit with a better proposal.

12. Other Business

Patrick points out that he has received a lot of complaints from the students that the university is charging \$60 as the cost for transcripts from the students. He says that this is a lot of money and SUPRA should raise voice on appropriate platforms.

[190607-8]:SUPRA supports \$0 for official transcripts.

Moved: Patrick

Seconded: Nic

Motion carried.