



# AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 5:00PM ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

<b>Chair:</b>	John Nowakowski
<b>Minutes:</b>	Angelus Morningstar
<b>Present:</b>	Richard Bailey, Sophia Barnes, Chihong Choi, Heidi Claus (departed 6:00pm), Rashmi Kumar, David Latimer, Hanrui Li, Angelus Morningstar, John Nowakowski, David Robertson, Alex Rosser (departed 7:36pm), Elizabeth Scally, Bradley Wells (departed 7:06pm), Rosemary Whitecross, Lynne Xie
<b>Meeting Opened:</b>	5:10pm

## 1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country conducted by the Chair.

## 2. Apologies, Absentees, Leave and Proxies

### 2.1. Apologies

<b>Apologies:</b>	Fiona Curran, Andrew Elder, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Nick Irving, Lian Jenvey Pip Muratore
<b>Absent:</b>	Ahmed Surobbhi Nusrat, Katherine Petersen, Simone White

### 2.2. Proxies

<b>Proxies:</b>	Heidi Claus carried Lian Jenvey's vote. Rashmi Kumar carried Nick Irving's vote. Richard Bailey carried Heidi Claus and Lian Jenvey's votes after Heidi Claus left.
<b>Procedural:</b>	That SUPRA Council accept the proxy received via e-mail of Richard Bailey to be Carried by Heidi Claus.
<i>Proposed:</i> Richard Bailey	<i>Results:</i> Carried (+6, 8a)
<b>Procedural:</b>	That SUPRA Council accept, from the floor, that Rashmi Kumar carry the proxy of Nick Irving.
<i>Proposed:</i> Rashmi Kumar	<i>Result:</i> Carried (+8, -6)
<b>Procedural:</b>	That the floor accept Richard Bailey to carry the proxies for Heidi Claus and Lian Jenvey.
<i>Proposed:</i> Richard Bailey	<i>Result:</i> Carried (+7, -6)

Due to the unusual nature of this procedure, Council was reminded that this procedure was potentially out of order as there is a protocol regarding proxies.

The Chair advised Council that it was an exceptional circumstance, and that the motion was carried by the floor.

In response, it was recommended that the protocol on proxies should be made more flexible due to absences occurring through adversity and that presenting a hard copy on the day might be difficult.

### 3. Review and Approval of Minutes

#### 3.1. SUPRA Council, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

#### 3.2. Management Committee, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Copies of the minutes were circulated electronically. Decisions regarding the size of council packages and reducing photocopying meant that this was now the norm. Councillors were reminded that it is part of their obligation as Councillors to have read the Council pack before Council.

It was recognised that there were difficulties regarding the soft copies as they were received within 24 hours of Council. Since the provision of a proper soft-copy Council pack requires a bit of time to produce the Secretary stated that he would commit to ensuring that Council packs would be out three days prior to Council, and in a downloadable pdf form to ensure greatest reception of format. However, two hard copies would be provided at Council for reference.

The Secretary stated that motions received after the deadline would not be included in the proper agenda, but could be raised as other business. Significant documents, such as Executive and Office Bearer Reports would be accepted, but circulated as an addendum. The Chair requested of Council that documents submitted be according to the Style Guide.

[Motion 01/100720]

That SUPRA Council accept the minutes of SUPRA Council, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, and the Management Committee, 13th July 2010.

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar *Result:* Carried (+16)

### 4. Reports from the Executive

#### 4.1. President

#### 4.2. Co-Vice-Presidents

##### **Rashmi Kumar provided a verbal report**

Prior to her departure, Rashmi noted she was co-President and that she has compiled a 5000 word handover document. She had also prepared a submission regarding the Immigration Act Bill.

She noted she had been away at NOWSA in Newcastle, and spoke at the conference. She stated that there was a document of this speech that would be circulated.



#### 4.3. Co-Treasurers

**Richard Bailey commented on no written report having been submitted.**

Written report not tendered as the Budget Committee has not convened, and Management Committee had not occurred. Consequently, there was little to report.

#### 4.4. Secretary

### 5. Reports from Office Bearers

- 5.1. Women's Officer
- 5.2. Queer Officer
- 5.3. International Student Officer
- 5.4. Disabilities Officer

Rosemary White observed that no written report had been submitted as it had yet to be a full month of her concurrent position.

Rosemary commented that a submission would be going out from SUPRA, regarding mental health.

### 6. Motions Raised in Reports

#### [IN CAMERA]

These discussions were held In Camera.

#### [EX CAMERA]

##### [Motion 02/100720]

That ergonomic assessments be performed on the SUPRA Councillor Work Spaces to reduce potential injury and stress.

*Proposed:* John Nowakowski

*Results:* Withdrawn by mover

##### [Motion 03/100720]

That SUPRA Council condemns the racism being whipped up by the Federal Government against refugees and opposes the deplorable treatment of refugees by the government, especially those from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. SUPRA recognises that racism from the top such as this has a direct impact on the lives and experiences of many SUPRA members who experience racism first hand in Australia. SUPRA will continue support for the Refugee Action Collective and the campaign in support of refugee rights by donating money to help with printing costs or by helping with in-kind support to print posters and leaflets for the next RAC rally, whichever is requested by RAC

##### **Amendment:**

SUPRA condemns the Gillard Labour government's proposal to continue off-shore processing of asylum seekers and its continued use of the racist notion of border protection to frame refugee policy.

Off shore processing, whether on Christmas Island, in East Timor or on Nauru avoids Australia meeting its obligations under the Refugee Convention by leaning on impoverished regional neighbours. SUPRA affirms its call for an immediate move to process all asylum seekers on the Australian mainland. Further we affirm our call for all asylum seekers to be released into the Australian community and



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provided with access to basic services and support, while their asylum claims are assessed.

The couching of refugee policy in terms of border protection promotes the racist myth that asylum seekers arriving by boat represent a security, health or cultural threat to Australia. Such an approach plays on and promotes racism, particularly anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia. SUPRA rejects all such notions and calls for all refugee policy to be couched in terms of protection and human rights.

SUPRA reaffirms its support for activist groups campaigning for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, such as the Sydney Refugee Action Coalition and will seek to provide support where possible for their activities.

*Proposed:* Heidi Claus

*Amendment:* Heidi Claus

**Support to motion:**

*Results:* Carried (+12, -4)

*Results:* Accepted by the mover

SUPRA should be considered a political entity.

That refugees and asylum seekers were Constituents of the student body.

Though a motherhood statement, it is relevant in the broader political context of the upcoming elections.

That as a socially progressive organisation SUPRA held a duty to advocate on relevant issues.

There were better ways to reduce spending, outside of political services, existed.

That only 5% of the budget is being spent on campaigning.

That issues about refugees have proven to be relevant to international students.

**Objection to motion:**

That the motion was a motherhood statement.

That the motion was overtly political, and that political action was costly and expensive.

That SUPRA should focus on taking care of its constituents.

The motion implies that the government is being racist, rather than taking a stance on a sustainable refugee policy.

That this motion contributed to an irrational debate on the issue.

**Corollary:**

Considered that SUPRA should hold forums to allow students about these issues.

That the issue should be addressed in planning day.

## **7. Nominations of Councillors to Standing Committees**

**Alex Rosser** has self-nominated to join the **Policy Committee**.

[**Motion 04/100720**]

That SUPRA Council approve the nomination of Alex Rosser to the Policy Committee.

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar

*Results:* Carried: (+15, a1)

## **8. Queer Brochure**

The Queer Officer has developed a new brochure for the postgraduate queer student network. It is tended for circulation and requesting approval.

Copies of the brochure have been circulated to Council.



[Motion 05/100720]

That SUPRA Council approve the design and content of the Queer Postgraduate brochure, and that 300 copies are printed for circulation.

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar

*Results:* Withdrawn

Angelus Morningstar observed that due to a problem with the soft copy of the brochure, the item would have to be withdrawn.

## 9. Planning Day

SUPRA will be organising a Planning Day on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. The purpose of this day will be to develop year-long strategic stances for the 10/11 Council. Some of the issues that will be addressed during this Planning Day include an overarching vision of action and activity, discussions regarding priorities of constituency, campaigning and advocacy, discussions concerning financial priorities and student support.

## 10. Budget Committee

[IN CAMERA]

These discussions were held In Camera.

[EX CAMERA]

## 11. WCC Membership

The Workplace Consultative Committee has a purpose to negotiate between staff and Council. Due to a recent departure from the Committee, a replacement will be necessary to satisfy quorum, however more than one person may nominate themselves to sit on this committee.

Council will be seeking nominations for two positions from the floor during the meeting.

Nominations were received from the floor for **Rashmi Kumar** and **Rosemary Whitecross**.

[Motion 07/100720]

That SUPRA Council accept the nominations of Rashmi Kumar and Rosemary Whitecross to the Workplace Consultative Committee.

*Proposed:* John Nowakowski

*Result:* Carried (+16)

## 12. Stipends Policy

Over the past few weeks, there has been growing concern within the organisation about stipends, and a need for resolution. Several proposals have been made, and the President has tabled two items for consideration by the Council.

In presenting his response to the motion, John Nowakowski recognised that there was a motion regarding stipends that was deferred from previous Council meetings that had not been tabled.

[Motion 08/100720]

That SUPRA retains the stipend rate as it current is for all roles, and in future only consider consistent rates across all roles rather than move to a differential system.

*Proposed:* John Nowakowski

*Result:* Withdrawn

**Support to motion:**

That the policy was to encourage people to announce a need for overtime to Council before hand.



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That the stipend policy was intended to allow the President to take issues of Office Bearers not working according to their hours to Management Committee.

That the proposed practice reflected an increasing claimed workload.

That Council should ensure they stay under the stipended hours to not go over budget, but also to ensure that the system be more democratic.

That the role of Councillors should be sustainable within their workload.

**Objections to motion:**

That deferring payment until a Council meeting occurs would be unworkable as the stipends are the livelihood for some Councillors.

*Direct Response:*

*Such a system would not deny payments, but only the maximum hours would be paid and any additional would require approval by Council.*

That part of the reason additional claims had been made was due to Office Bearers taking up the workload of unfilled duties.

That flexibility be used regarding the stipend policy.

**Corollary:**

That the President should not have the power to withhold pay, and should always sign off on the standard hours.

*Direct Response:*

*The Chair agreed that it is not the role of the President to withhold money, but to bring these issues to Council based on reported work.*

That the procedure should be interpreted as a maximum cap on hours of what should be paid, and further payments should be brought to Council.

That non-approved hours and maximum possible hours were never corrected.

### **13. Election of Director of Student Publications**

This item is a deferral from the previous Council, as one of the nominees was unable to speak to her nomination, and because a substantive discussion regarding publications was needed and conducted at previous Council. Currently Sophia Barnes was asked to continue acting as Director of Student Publications until this Council election.

The current nominees are:

**Sophia Barnes - Kylee Hartman-Warren (joint)**

**[Motion 09/100720]**

That SUPRA Council accept the joint nomination of Sophia Barnes and Kylee Hartman-Warren to the role of Director of Student Publications.

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar

*Result:* Carried (+14, -0, a1)

### **14. Tender of new Officer Bearer positions**

This item has been deferred twice, once in the last meeting of the 09/10 Council as it was held that this should be a decision by the 10/11 Council, and by the last meeting as Rashmi Kumar was unable to speak to the proposal.

The proposal offers the introduction of three new Office Bearer positions designed to address three areas of representation that Rashmi will argue requires specific support. Some substantial discussion of the benefits and problems concerning these roles occurred in Council Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010.

Copies of drafts of these roles' duty statements have been circulated.

The three roles are:



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**Education Officer (Coursework)**

**Education Officer (Research)**

**Welfare Officer**

[**Motion 10/100720**]

*Proposed:* Rashmi Kumar

**Counter-motion**

*Proposed:* John Nowakowski

**Procedural**

*Proposed:* Angelus Morningstar

Support to motion:

Objection to motion:

*Direct Response:*

Corollary:

That SUPRA Council consider and endorse the positions as drafted.

*Result:* Deferred

That SUPRA is not currently in a financial position to support further stipends or activities outside those which may help raise money for the organisation, and that the proposal, while sound, must be overturned in favour of supporting Publications.

*Result:* Deferred

That the motions be deferred until after planning day.

*Result:* Carried (+16)

That the roles proposed are to support the roles of Vice-President (Policy) and (Community).

That while the roles overlapped, they would be distinct in responsibilities as outlined by the duty statements.

That the concept was to diversify expertise across Council, and to give newer Councillors opportunities to become involved in the Office Bearer roles of Council.

That the item sends a poor statement to staff, if Council include new stipended positions in favour of supporting staff.

Noted that once this was committed to, it amounted to a large chunk of money, and the workload is currently covered by staff.

*That staff and Councillors do a duplication of workload. That the duty statements were circulated with staff, who were supportive, and saw it as an opportunity to relieve the workload of the SAAOs.*

That these roles should be pursued when fiscally balanced.

Concern was raised over growing disquiet on campaign expenditures, and that there should not be an increasing pressure on how budget expenditures.

## **15. OHS Policy**

Council has been provided with a copy of the updated OHS Policy. This is for noting and requires no motions.

## **16. STUCCO**

David Robertson reported on issues affecting students in STUCCO, regarding negotiations about their financial stability and support.

It was requested by Council that David Robertson and Chihong Choi collaborate on a written submission concerning these issues and tender them to John Nowakowski and Rashmi Kumar.

## **17. UNSW, SRC, NTEU**

[**Motion 11/100720**]

That SUPRA supports the striking staff at UNSW and the actions endorsed by the UNSW SRC and NTEU for remuneration of staff.



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**Amendment1:** That SUPRA supports the striking staff at UNSW and the actions endorsed by the UNSW SRC and NTEU for remuneration of staff and that SUPRA does not endorse withholding marks as a tactic.

**Ammendment2:** That amendment 1 be removed.

*Proposed:* John Nowakowski *Result:* Carried (+10, -1, a2)

*Amendment1:* Rashmi Kumar *Result:* Accepted by mover

*Amendment2:* Richard Bailey *Result:* Accepted by mover

## **18. Induction Information**

There was a call for people from the floor to fill gaps in induction days.

**Meeting Closed:** 7:40pm