



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD AT 6:00PM ON 21ST OCTOBER 2010 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: John Nowakowski

Minutes: Angelus Morningstar

Present: Chihong Choi (departed 6:56pm), Heidi Claus, Andrew Clayphan, Andrew Elder, Ben Ferris, David Latimer, Angelus Morningstar, Pip Muratore, John Nowakowski, Bradley Wells, Rosemary Whitecross (arrived 6:18 – departed 6:51pm), Lynne Xie (arrived 6:22 – departed 7:10pm).

Meeting Opened at 5:59pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

The Chair conducted the acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies, Absentees, Leave and Proxies

2.1. Apologies

Sophia Barnes, Kylee Hartman-Warren, Nick Irving, Lian Jenvey, Hanrui Li, David Robertson, Elizabeth Scally, and Simone White have tendered their apologies.

2.2. Proxies

Heidi Claus carries the proxy for Lian Jenvey and Simone White.

John Nowakowski carries the proxy for Sophia Barnes and Rosemary Whitecross.

Upon her departure Bradley Wells carries the proxy for Lynne Xie.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

3.1. SUPRA Council, 27th September 2010

3.2. Management Committee, 10th October 2010

3.3. Policy Committee, 6th October 2010

3.4. Publications Committee, 15th October 2010

These were circulated electronically.

[Motion 01/101021] That SUPRA Council accept the minutes of Council and Standing Meetings.

Moved from the Chair Result: Carried (13+)

4. Reports from Council and Staff

4.1. President's Report

A query was raised regarding the ECU graduate research school program, SoAR, as to whether this might undermine the teacher's union ability to be employed competitively. President to follow up on information.

The SCA event was well attended, and there was a good response. The Camden event was less well attended.

An objection was raised about whether SUPRA should be assuming the role to investigate claims regarding academic plagiarism from an anonymous letter complaint. It was suggested that SUPRA should not pursue as there is insufficient evidence from the complaint to verify the issue.

In regards to the issues of student accommodation, there is a concern about the discrepancy between Australian and international university supplies of student housing. President to hold a meeting.

Best practice of housing for the University would be to provide accommodation for 12.5% of the total student body.

4.2. Vice-President (Policy) Report

4.3. Vice President (Community) Report

4.4. Secretary Report

4.5. Treasurer Report

A Budget Committee Meeting to be arranged and circulated by email over the next week.

4.6. Director of Student Publications Report

A query was raised as to what our online presence is. It was suggested that the co-Director of Student Publications liaise with persons interested in developing SUPRA's online presence.

4.7. Women's Officer Report

4.8. International Officer Report

4.9. Queer Officer Report

4.10. Acting Disabilities Officer Report

4.11. Staff Work Reports

These will be circulated electronically.

[Motion 02/101021]

SUPRA offers our support and solidarity to the refugees and asylum seekers who continue their protests at Villawood and other detention centres. The suicide of a Fijian Democracy Activist, Josefa Rauluni and the ongoing dry hunger strike of 16 Iranian and stateless Kurdish refugees highlight the horror of Australia's regime of mandatory detention and deportation of refugees.

The five former international students from China amongst the rooftop protesters indicates the absurdity and unworkability of the punitive immigration changes that were passed earlier this year. The policy of Exclusion for three years of those students in breach of the conditions of their visas, and detention and deportation of those in breach, is unnecessarily punitive, and has similarly devastating effects on the mental health of detainees.

SUPRA calls on the Gillard Labor government to end mandatory detention, close the detention centres and stop all deportations. People who come here seeking asylum should be treated with respect and decency, found suitable accommodation and given support within the community, not treated as criminals and demonised by both the government and the media.

Moved: Heidi Claus

Result: Carried (14+, 1-)

[Motion 03/101021]

Moved from the Chair

That SUPRA Council accept the reports of the Executive and Equity Officers.

Result: Carried (14+)

5. Nominations to Council

There are a number of nominees to the Council. Their nomination statements have been circulated. One position is to be elected.

Xiu Tao LI

Thomas MUNROE

Li Juan TANG

Shayne SHEPHERD

Pip Muratore nominated to returning officer.

Some concern was raised regarding whether SUPRA Councillors should be able to second nominees unless they were actually vouching for them.

It was responded that this was common practice to ensure that as many interested Candidates as possible would be able to run for election.

Thomas MUNROE was elected to fill the casual vacancy.

6. Peak Periods

Council held a discussion to define what constitutes Peak Period for the purpose of **[Motion 05/100823]**, which contained a clause to increase the hiring of a new Administration and Publications Officer to 3 days in a peak period.

Proposed timetable for Peak Period was put forth by the staff, because the person in the role will be definitely doing 1 day on admin and one day on publications.

[Motion 03/101021]

That SUPRA Council recommends the Peak Period be defined as September to February for a pilot program for 2010/2011, to be reassessed in 2011.

Moved from the Chair

Result: Carried (14+)

7. CAPA Annual Council Meeting

SUPRA needs to determine who is going to attend. It will be held on 1st - 3rd of December, and will be held in Melbourne.

Council members should indicate to the President whether they wish to attend.

The agenda is being developed to be distributed in the next few days; John to circulate agenda and receive interest for attendance via email.

8. Budget

Some discussion about the Budget must happen as there has been no Budget Committee called since the last Council meeting.

9. Notifications

9.1. Staff Hiring

10. Other Business

A question was raised regarding communication from SUPRA to Constituents, as to how aware are the Constituents about the work that SUPRA does.

It was suggested that our means of publicity and public relations be reviewed.

11. Next Council

The next Council shall be November 23rd 2010.

Meeting Closed at 7:41pm