



# Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association

## Summary of Changes to the SUPRA Constitution & Office Duty Statements AGM 13 May 2024

### Background

The following changes to the SUPRA Constitution and Officer position statements are proposed with the aims of increasing active stakeholder involvement, providing more diversity in representation, and meeting regulatory requirements in the required timeframes.

### A. Constitutional changes

1. Increase in the number of General Councillors to reflect the increasing size of the postgraduate student body and to align with the SRC governing body.
2. Integration of the Higher Degree Research Student Equity Officer role into Council executive as the renamed Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer
  - a) Clause 6.3.1 is amended to reflect the move of the HDR Officer role from an Equity to a General Council position and the increase in the number of General Councillors to a total of 37 (31 General Councillors; 6 Equity Officers).
  - b) Clause 6.3.2 is amended to reflect the increase to 31 General Councillors.
  - c) Former clause 6.3.4 (c) is deleted to remove the Higher Degree by Research Student Equity Officer position with a correction in subsequent numbering of 6.3.4(c) to (f).
  - d) Former clause 7.1.6 (now 7.1.8) is amended to reflect the increase to 31 General Councillors.
  - e) Former clause 7.1.7 (now 7.1.9) is amended to reflect 6 rather than 7 Equity officers.
  - f) Former clause 7.4.5 (c) (now 7.4.7) is deleted to remove the equity officer election of the Higher Degree by Research Student Equity

- Officer position with a correction in the subsequent numbering of 7.4.5 (c) to (f).
- g) Clause 7.8.6 is amended to provide for the Meeting of Council-Elect to elect the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer with a correction in the subsequent numbering of 7.8.6 (h) to (j).
  - h) Clause 7.8.7 is amended to provide that the Council-elect candidate for the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Office must be an HDR student with a correction in the subsequent numbering of 7.8.7 (c) to (g).
  - i) Clause 8.2.1 is amended to increase the quorum from 18 to 19 to ensure the quorum is greater than 50% of the increased Council size of 37.
  - j) Clause 8.3.1 & 8.3.2 are amended to increase the number required for the Council to have full authority from 18 to 19 to reflect the quorum increase.
  - k) Clause 8.4.5 (d) is amended to include the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer with a correction in subsequent numbering of 8.4.5(e).
  - l) Clause 10.2.3 is amended to include the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer in the Executive.
  - m) Clause 10.3.1(f) is amended to include the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer with a correction in subsequent numbering of 10.3.1(g) & (h).
  - n) Clause 11.2.6 is amended to provide for the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Committee as a SUPRA standing working committee.
  - o) A new Clause 11.2.9 is inserted to outline the business matters of the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Committee with a correction in the subsequent numbering of 11.2.10 & 11.2.11.
  - p) Clause 11.3.1 is amended to limit attendance at the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Committee.
  - q) Clause 11.3.2 is amended to permit the President to attend all meetings and to remove the inconsistency with newly renumbered 11.3.6.
  - r) A new clause 11.3.3 is inserted to provide that only HDR students may attend the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Committee with a correction in the subsequent numbering of 11.3.4 to 11.3.15.
  - s) Newly re-numbered clauses 11.3.4 & 11.3.5 are amended to reflect the inclusion of the new 11.3.3.
  - t) Clauses 11.3.8(e) & 11.3.9(d) are amended to include the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Committee with a correction in subsequent numbering to 11.3.8(f) & (g), and 11.3.9 (e) & (f)
  - u) Clause 11.7.2(e) provides for the Chair of the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Committee to be the Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer with a correction in subsequent numbering to 11.7.2(f) to (h).

3. Changes to provide for more diverse representation.
  - a) Clause 6.3.2 is amended to include at 6.3.2(g) a reserved position on General Council for one (1) student who identifies as a carer.
4. Changes to enable SUPRA to meet regulatory reporting requirements.
  - a) Clauses 7.1.4 & 7.1.5 are amended to separate out the requirements for electors and Candidates. This change is to require General Election candidates to additionally provide the Returning Officer with the personal information that SUPRA is required to submit to government agencies (eg ACNC) and/or the University should they be elected.
  - b) Clause 7.1.7 is included to specify the retention periods applicable for personal information provided by Candidates.
  - c) Clauses 7.4.3 & 7.4.4 are amended to separate out the requirements for Equity Officer electors and Candidates. This change is to require Equity Office Election candidates to additionally provide the Equity Returning Officer with the personal information that SUPRA is required to submit to government agencies (eg ACNC) and/or the University should they be elected.
  - d) Clause 7.4.6 is included to specify the retention periods applicable for personal information provided by Candidates.

## B. Office Duty Statement changes

1. Changes to the Higher Degree by Research Student Officer Duty Statement
  - a) Change to the name of the position to Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Officer.
  - b) Changes to all sections of the duty statement to reflect the move of the position from being an equity officer role to a Council elected executive position with responsibility for a SUPRA Standing working committee rather than an equity group.