Agenda

Committee: Council Meeting
Location: Zoom
Date: 30 April 2026
Time: 6:30 pm AEST

Chair:	**Yiman Wu (Y.W.)**
Minutes:	Abishek Ilangovan (A.I.)
Attendance:	**Abishek Ilangovan (A.I.), Brieanna Watson (B.W.), Damilola Kareem (D.K.), Dihao (Amper) Zhu (D.Z.), Emily Boxall (E.B.), Francine Perrine-Walker (F.P.), Haolong (Fryderyk) Liao (H.L.), Hayden Huang (H.H.), Irene Lee (I.L.), Jenny Zhang (J.Z.), Kejun Liu (K.L.), Lucian Zheng (L.Z.), Luka Guo (L.G.), Niana Chen Yan (N.Y.), Rafael (Anzhe) Li (R.L.), Sarah M. Huffman (S.H.), Terry (Zhihao) Yu (T.Y.), Weihong Liang (W.L.), Will (Cong) Zhang (W.Z.), Yang Yang (Y.Y.), Yiman Wu (Y.W.), Qiuming Zhang (Q.Z.)**
Staff:	**Ingrid van Tongeren (I.T.), Francine Seeto (F.S.)**
Guests:	

1 Acknowledgement of Country

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 Conflicts of Interest

2.1 Apologies

Yuhan Huang (Y.H.)

Jeremy Masalo (J.M.)

2.2 Proxies

2.3 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest (if any)

★ 2.4 Starring of Items

Councillors are invited to star any agenda items they would like to discuss.
Recommendation: That the Council approves all unstarred items.

2.5 Resignations

3 Minutes and Reports of Meetings

3.1 Minutes of previous month's meetings

3.1.1 Council, 26th March 2026

Moved: Haolong (Fryderyk) Liao (H.L.)
Seconded: Zhiyang (Lucian) Zheng (L.Z.)

4 Officer Reports

4.1 Executive Reports

4.1.1 Co-PRESIDENTS

Yiman Wu and Qiuming Zhang

4.1.2 Co-VICE PRESIDENTS

Anzhe (Rafael) Li and Kejun Liu

4.1.3 CO-SECRETARIES

Yuhan Huang and Abishek Ilangovan

4.1.4 Co-TREASURERS

Haolong (Fryderyk) Liao and Jiahao Huang

4.1.5 EDUCATION OFFICER

Weihong Liang

4.1.6 HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH (HDR) STUDENT OFFICER

Xiaoyun (Vivian) Bai

4.2 Equity Reports

4.2.1 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER AND DEPUTY ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OFFICER [Not submitted]

Brieanna Watson and Lindsay McCabe

4.2.2 DISABILITY OFFICER

Sarah M Huffman

4.2.3 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICER AND DEPUTY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OFFICER

Dihao (Amper) Zhu and Zhiyang (Lucian) Zheng

4.2.4 QUEER OFFICER

Zhihao (Terry) Yu

4.2.5 SATELLITE CAMPUS OFFICER

Irene (Da Eun) Lee

4.2.6 WOMEN'S OFFICER AND DEPUTY WOMEN'S OFFICER

Yang Yang and Chen (Niana) Yan

4.3 Other Officers' Reports

4.3.1 CO-DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATION

Luka Guo and Anne Ailina Li

4.3.2 CO-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICERS

Emily Boxall and Cong (Will) Zhang

4.3.3 INTERIM CARER OFFICER

Eva Midtgaard

4.4 Business Arising from Reports

5 Reports by Staff Members

5.1 Staff report for January to March 2026

F.S. said that the Casework and Legal Team presented their first quarterly report covering January to March 2026. She noted that there was a 13% increase in new casework matters compared to the same period in 2025. The most common case types remained tenancy, academic appeals, and academic integrity matters. She highlighted an unexpected increase in academic integrity matters, likely linked to students being unclear about acceptable AI use in

assessments, and stated that SUPRA was updating its Get Help resources to provide clearer guidance.

F.S. said there was a significant increase in financial hardship cases, including students struggling with tuition payments and requesting support measures. She also noted an increase in HDR matters, particularly supervision issues, which often required substantial time and multiple consultations due to their complexity. In addition, enrolment-related concerns among postgraduate students increased despite broader university reports suggesting fewer issues.

F.S. said that SUPRA had expanded tenancy and accommodation advocacy through Welcome Week engagement and student housing research initiatives. She noted that survey collection for the student housing project had concluded, with a report expected by July or August and a Student Housing Symposium planned for September. She also outlined ongoing advocacy work with the University regarding financial support, including discussions around student loans, bursaries, and Opal card assistance for students experiencing hardship.

F.S. further noted that international students affected by the conflict in the Middle East had experienced financial and visa-related difficulties. She stated that SUPRA had successfully advocated for fee payment extensions for affected students, allowing them to continue studies without sanctions.

I.T. said that while the Legal Service experienced a reduction in total matters, there had been a substantial increase in complex and multi-issue cases, rising from 11% to 28% compared to the previous year. She noted increased demand relating to credit and debt issues, employment concerns, and financial hardship-related legal matters.

I.T. said that migration webinars continued to be highly successful, with approximately 170 attendees during the quarter. She noted that additional migration initiatives, including skilled migration workshops and WeChat legal awareness posts, were being developed. She also highlighted increasing levels of student financial distress and exploitation concerns, including unpaid workplace entitlements and rising legal complexities associated with financial hardship.

I.T. also informed Council that recruitment for the third solicitor position had been completed and extended, but no appointable applicants had been identified due to market conditions and applicant qualifications. Recruitment would be revisited at a later stage.

6 Matters for Discussion

6.1 SUPRA x UNSW PGC Joint BBQ Event

Proposed by Dihao (Amper) Zhu (D.Z.)

(Please find attached SUPRA_UNSW_PGC_BBQ_Motion.docx for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves expenditure of up to 600 AUD to deliver a joint BBQ event with UNSW PGC on 24 May 2026 at Level 1, SUPRA.

Background:
The proposed event is intended to provide a friendly and informal social opportunity for postgraduate students from the University of Sydney and UNSW to connect, build friendships, and strengthen relationships between the two postgraduate communities.

By creating a relaxed environment with food and refreshments, the event will support student wellbeing, encourage broader student engagement, and promote a stronger sense of community across universities.

The proposed budget of up to 600 AUD will be used to purchase BBQ meat, snacks and drinks for attendees. Approximately 50 participants are expected to attend.

Purpose:
To foster inter-university postgraduate engagement, strengthen community connections, and support student wellbeing through a collaborative social event.

6.2 Carer Network Semester 1 2026 Remaining Budget Allocation

Proposed by Eva Midtgaard (E.M.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves allocation of the remaining Semester 1 2026 Carer Network budget, being 1,960.65 AUD, across three additional events to be held in May and June 2026, and permits transfer of any unused funds between these events as required, provided total Semester 1 expenditure remains within the approved 5,000 AUD budget.

Background:
SUPRA has allocated 10,000 AUD for Carer Network events in 2026, with 5,000 AUD intended for Semester 1. To date, three events have been delivered:

- Dinosaur and Spy Party, 15 March 2026 – 1,750.35 AUD
- Movie Screening, 11 April 2026 – 289 AUD
- Photo Day, 18 April 2026 – 1,000 AUD

Total spent to date is 3,039.35 AUD, leaving 1,960.65 AUD remaining for Semester 1.

It is proposed that the remaining funds be allocated across the following events:

- Activity based event (TBC) – 1,460.65 AUD

- Movie Screening, Super Mario – 250 AUD
- Additional Movie Screening (TBC) – 250 AUD

The activity based event is proposed as a family focused event with external entertainment centred around children. The movie screenings will be covered under the existing SUPRA screening licence.

Purpose:
To utilise the remaining Semester 1 Carer Network budget to deliver additional family oriented programming, respond to student demand, and maintain total spending within the approved Semester 1 budget allocation.

6.3 Free Flu Vaccine Voucher Campaign for Postgraduate Students

Proposed by Sarah Huffman (S.H.)

(Please refer to How to Order a Voucher.pdf for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves expenditure of up to 2,223.28 AUD from the Disability Equity Network budget to support a Free Flu Vaccine Voucher Campaign for postgraduate students.

Background:
The proposed campaign seeks to provide up to 75 flu vaccine vouchers for SUPRA members, particularly supporting students whose studies require vaccination and improving access for students who may face cost barriers to immunisation.

The initiative aims to promote student wellbeing, support herd immunity, and improve access for disabled and immunocompromised students.

It is proposed that vouchers be distributed through a registration process using Humantix, capped at 100 registrants, with eligibility limited to SUPRA postgraduate members and subject to verification.

The proposed cost of 75 vouchers through Australian Vaccine Services is 2,223.28 AUD. It is proposed this expenditure be funded from the Disability Equity Network semester budget.

Purpose:
To improve equitable access to flu vaccination for postgraduate students, support student wellbeing, and deliver a preventative health initiative ahead of flu season.

6.4 SUPRA May Grill and Chill Event

Proposed by Cong Zhang

(Please find attached 5.21 Grill and Chill Event Proposal.docx for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves expenditure of up to 400 AUD to host the SUPRA May Grill and Chill Event on 21 May 2026 from 16:00 to 19:00 at Level 1, SUPRA.

Background:
The proposed event aims to provide postgraduate and HDR students with an opportunity to relax, enjoy a shared meal, and connect with fellow students in a friendly and welcoming environment. Approximately 40 students are expected to attend.

The event will include BBQ catering and informal board games to encourage social interaction and networking among students.

Budget: Up to 400 AUD, covering:

- Meat (chicken, lamb, beef) – 250 AUD
- Vegetarian options – 50 AUD
- Bread – 50 AUD
- Supplies (plates and tissues) – 50 AUD

Purpose:
To strengthen connections among postgraduate and HDR students, gather student feedback, and increase awareness and engagement with SUPRA.

6.5 Semester 1 2026 Satellite Sponsorship Plan – PReSS x SSC HDR/ECR Research Forum

Proposed by Irene (Da Eun) Lee (I.L.)

(Please find attached 2026 April Satellite Campus proposals.pdf for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves funding of 500 AUD to support the PReSS x SSC HDR/ECR Research Forum 2026 as part of the Semester 1 2026 Satellite Sponsorship Plan.

Background:
The Satellite Campus Officer has continued exploring collaboration opportunities with satellite campus student groups, including the Postgraduate Research Students' Society (PReSS), SUDA and WestSoc.

The proposed event requiring funding is:

PReSS x SSC HDR/ECR Research Forum 2026

- Date: Monday 11 May 2026
- Location: Norman Nock Room, Level 5, Kolling Institute, Royal North Shore Hospital
- Expected attendees: 60+
- Funding requested: 500 AUD (catering subsidy)

The annual forum provides HDR students and early career researchers with opportunities to present research, strengthen science communication skills, build academic networks, and engage with an expert panel discussion.

The Scientific Staff Council has committed co-funding towards catering and award costs, while SUPRA's contribution will support catering for participants. In return, SUPRA will receive speaking opportunities at future PReSS events and logo inclusion on promotional materials.

Purpose:
To support HDR student engagement at satellite campuses, strengthen research community connections, and increase SUPRA's visibility and collaboration at the Northern Clinical School precinct.

6.6 SUPRA 2026 Fitness Program

Proposed by Jiahao (Hayden) Huang (H.H.)

(Please find attached SUPRA_Fitness_Program_Proposal_2026.docx for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves expenditure of up to 12,000 AUD (including GST) to deliver the SUPRA 2026 Fitness Program in partnership with Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness.

Background:
The proposed program builds on previous SUPRA fitness initiatives and seeks to support postgraduate student wellbeing, social connection and campus engagement through accessible fitness opportunities.

The program will run from March to May 2026 and will be available to SUPRA members and USYD postgraduate students. Proposed activities include:

- Body Combat
- Rock Climbing
- Squash
- Reformer Pilates

Sessions will be delivered primarily on weekends, with registration controls and capacity limits to support fair and organised participation.

Budget: Up to 12,000 AUD, comprising:

- Course delivery fees – 10,506 AUD
- Program support / contingency – 1,494 AUD

The contingency allocation may support first aid kit purchases, volunteer training, minor operational expenses, and final availability adjustments. Final arrangements remain

subject to venue availability, instructor scheduling and confirmation from Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness.

Purpose:
To promote postgraduate wellbeing, provide inclusive fitness opportunities, strengthen student connections, and continue a well-supported SUPRA initiative.

6.7 SUPRA Queer Equity Network Afternoon Tea – Games Social

Proposed by Terry (Zhihao) Yu (T.Y.)

(Please find attached Proposal - Queer Afternoon Tea - Games Social.docx for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves expenditure of up to 1,700 AUD to deliver the SUPRA Queer Equity Network Afternoon Tea – Games Social on 8 May 2026.

Background:
As the workshop originally planned for May will no longer proceed, this event is proposed as an alternative community engagement activity for the Queer Equity Network.

The event will provide a relaxed, inclusive and welcoming space for LGBTQIA+ postgraduate students to unwind after the mid-semester period, connect with one another, and strengthen their sense of belonging within the SUPRA Queer Network.

The event will be held at Gardener's Lodge Café, with an anticipated attendance of approximately 40 students, and will include afternoon tea, board games, card games and informal socialising.

Budget: Up to 1,700 AUD, comprising:

- Food and drinks – 1,200 AUD
- Venue and board games costs – 500 AUD

Purpose:
To promote inclusion and wellbeing, strengthen peer connections within the queer postgraduate community, and provide an accessible social space for engagement and community building.

S.H. noted that the proposed Queer Network Afternoon Tea conflicted with the Graduation Party and suggested moving the Afternoon Tea to avoid the clash. T.Y. acknowledged the conflict and proposed moving the event to the following Friday, 15 May, noting that the revised timing would also align closely with Anti Homophobia Day. Council agreed to update the event date accordingly.

Moved: Haolong (Fryderyk) Liao (H.L.)
Seconded: Will (Cong) Zhang (W.Z.)
In favor: 19
Not in favor: 0
Abstention: 0
H.L., X.W., Y.H., A.L., E.B., J.E., J.M., E.M., M.P., Y.S., I.S., H.W., Y.Z., R.Z., I.L., N.K. did not vote
Motion carried.

6.8 Deaf Awareness Trainings – SSAF Disability Confidence Initiative

Proposed by Sarah Huffman (S.H.)

(Please refer to 2026 SSAF Funding Application_SUPRA Disabilities Officer_Disability Awareness Training (DAT) Disability Confidence Training (DCT).pdf for more details.)

Motion:
That SUPRA Council approves expenditure of up to 1,600 AUD plus GST from the SSAF Disability Confidence Training grant to deliver two Deaf Awareness Trainings on 12 May and 13 May 2026.

Background:
The proposed trainings form part of the SUPRA Disabilities Equity Network initiative funded through a 10,000 AUD SSAF grant for Disability Awareness Training and Disability Confidence Training in 2026.

Two sessions will be delivered by Signpedia:

- One Deaf Awareness Training tailored for students in allied health disciplines
- One general Deaf Awareness Training for the broader student body

Each training is quoted at 800 AUD plus GST, totalling 1,600 AUD plus GST.

These trainings aim to improve understanding of deafness and hearing loss, challenge stigma and stereotypes, and build practical skills for respectful and effective communication with people with disability. They also support broader goals of fostering inclusive, accessible and disability supportive environments across the University.

Purpose:
To deliver targeted disability awareness training, improve inclusion and accessibility on campus, and implement the SSAF funded Disability Confidence Training initiative.

7. Matters for Noting

8. Other Business