

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE 2006 AT 6.00 PM**

**Present:** Jenny Leong (President & Chair), Roozbeh Araghi, Richard Bailey, Mike Beggs, Jodie Coleman, Lian Jenvey, Anthony Kachenko, Bao Jun Lin, Estelle Noonan, Will Noonan, Rosemary Whitecross

**Apologies:** Kate Barnsley, Frances di Lauro, Alison Dorian, Kirsten Harley, Adrienne Jerram, Sophia Leon de la Barra, Xue Yang Li, Leona Oliver, Julian Pinder

In her acknowledgement that we were meeting on the land of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the President reported that she and the Secretary went to the launch of the University's Reconciliation Statement in the main quadrangle on 1 June. One of the co-Indigenous Officers, Leona Oliver, helped with the organization of this significant event.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006 be accepted.* Moved: Anthony Kachenko, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

**2. President's Update**

- VSU. As reported at the last meeting, Elizabeth Evans has been appointed as Manager Financial Projects – Student Associations Financial Stability Projects Coordinator and will work for the VSU Working Party. She has already asked SUPRA for information. The President has been discussing with the SRC President about a joint approach to senators on the VSU Working Party and the Senate. The President tabled a joint SUPRA/SRC supplementary submission and legal advice from Maurice Blackburn Cashman on the 'opt out' rather than 'opt in' option.
- The AFC has approved extended leave to November 13, 2006 for Ann Turner, one of the Student Advice & Advocacy Officers. We have also advertised for the fixed-term contract Administration Officer position.
- The AGM confirmed the results of the election. The price of the on-line election has been cut because of the small number of votes to about one-third of the quoted price. The electronic election had been considerably cheaper than having a postal ballot.
- We will need an induction for new Council members in early July. The President requested input from current Council members on what they needed to know when they became councillors.
- We will need a working party on how to negotiate membership, changing structures, constitution, etc. post VSU.
- The Dean of Graduate Studies has requested SUPRA's comments about future DOGS inductions for new postgrads – lots of money has previously been spent on them and very few people have attended.
- Travel concessions – ABC news radio on the weekend, Higher Education supplement in The Australian today. We have been working with other universities in NSW. 140 MPs have been written to. There is new material on the website. We were advised the Government solicitors want to put a hold on the Appeals Process in the Administrative Decisions Tribunal because they want to change the legislation – we had no choice but to agree. The Bill has not yet been put on the Parliamentary agenda. The President has been talking to the Shadow Minister for Transport – if the Bill is supported by Liberals and others it may appear tomorrow. The ADT has been told that the legislation should be finished and passed by 1<sup>st</sup> August. The Legislative Council sits

tonight/tomorrow and not again until 29<sup>th</sup> August. If has not gone through tomorrow we can go back to the ADT and say we should proceed with appeals process as per the original timeline. Motion: *THAT the President's Update be accepted.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

### **3. Treasurer's Update**

- Treasurer. Petty cash. We are looking at how we are handling it and new guidelines will be issued shortly. Talled up at \$1,398.05 for 3 months – it all adds up – all for valid expenses.
- March/April expenditure – March \$57,292.87 - largely BAS and other statements, April \$186,750.12 due to CAPA fees (more than \$100,000 for 2005 and 2006), audit fees, back paid BAS and a fine associated with it. Spending is in line with budget. The Finance Manager has worked on actual spending to the end of May - everything is in line with budget and the summary was presented to the AGM. The projected operating surplus at end of year looks healthy, but the effects of VSU are not yet known.
- The budget is below initial predictions and we have been spending frugally. Total income is under what was projected. Publications are down on projections. There have been no large campaigns.
- Lease for photocopier for next three months is \$1995.40.

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's update be accepted.* Moved: Mike Beggs, seconded Estelle Noonan. Carried.

### **4. Queer Officer's Report (to be circulated later)**

- The Queer Collaborations Conference is only a month away. The Queer Officer asked whether SUPRA was prepared to fund the registration (\$90) for people's admission to conference, as the SRC is doing so and it is a tradition of student unions to fund registration. Council agrees in principle that \$500 be allocated to the Queer Officer and the Vice President to negotiate with the network to decide on funding. The recommendation from the network should be referred to AFC. If councillors are interested in going they should contact the Queer Officer.
- Congratulations were offered to Lian for holding the largest network meeting.

Motion: *THAT the verbal report of the Queer Officer be accepted, and the written report will be distributed with the minutes of this meeting.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

### **5. Acting International Officer's update**

The Acting International officer will shortly be holding discussions with the President on how the role will work.

### **6. PAC Officer's update**

Motion: *THAT Council thanks the PAC Officer for preparation for and assistance during the AGM.* Moved: Will Noonan, seconded Roozbeh Araghi. Carried with acclamation.

### **7. Publications Report**

- Since the second edition of eXpress came out more than 2 weeks ago the Director of Publications has been doing less hours.
- The Admin Officer and the Director of Publications have contacted the university's 17 faculties, postgrad associations and postgrad coordinators – getting them to distribute eXpress. A list has been prepared for future distribution. The Admin Officer will keep the list.

- Content for the Survival Guide is being edited and should be finished by the end of the month. The design phase will be July. It was noted that it should be out before the beginning of Semester 2 otherwise deferred to 2007.
  - Calling for content for issue 3 of eXpress. 16 June deadline for eXpress content.
  - The question of the cost of eXpress post-VSU was raised. The President explained that we are not going to know if we will have money for next year for eXpress by the time we have to start planning on spending money. Rather than cut budget, we could stretch it out - e.g. have one more eXpress, not two this year. Or we could put it out as an HTML document, not print it.
- Motion: *THAT the Publications Report be accepted.* Moved Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

### **8. Staff matters.**

- Work reports from Jaclyn Booton and Tyrone Lynch were accepted. Adrian Cardinali's report will be circulated for the next Council meeting.
- The President was delegated to buy flowers or get a present for Jaclyn when she leaves.
- Ann Turner's extended leave. We will be short-staffed once Adrian Cardinali cuts down to 2.5 days a week when he goes on study leave. We would have had an extra 15 hours of SAAO time – will now have 15 hours less. Motion: *THAT Council authorises AFC to work out details to cover the SAAO position during this period.* Moved Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

### **9. Election**

Motion: *THAT PAC will formulate recommendations including a Returning Officer duty statement for future elections.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Jodie Coleman. Carried.

### **10. AFC Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

It was noted that Jaclyn Booton has now provided a written resignation.

Motion: *THAT the AFC Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June be accepted.* Moved: Mike Beggs, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.

### **11. PASC Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Proposed Postgraduate Conference. The Dean of Graduate Studies raised this today – The President told him it would go ahead if the university agreed to post-VSU funding.

Motion: *THAT the PASC minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> May be accepted.* Moved: Jodie Coleman, seconded Roozbeh Araghi. Carried.

### **12. PAC Minutes and motions**

- It was suggested that electoral regulations be amended so the new Council is able to elect other office-bearing positions and decide which positions they want. At least a week's notice should be given of the elections. An incoming Council might decide they want other office bearers. There are provisions if someone resigns but not for new positions. Motion: *THAT Council passes this matter to PAC to determine wording.* Moved: Jodie Coleman, seconded Will Noonan. Carried.
- PAC is widening its scope to look at university policy, etc. also, including restructuring of faculties.
- PAC will keep track of questions for the Senate/SUPRA Liaison Committee.
- The President has been asked to speak at the Academic Board forum on 14<sup>th</sup> June on the abolition of the Colleges and new faculty structures (not yet determined). Input is welcomed.

Motion: *THAT the minutes of the PAC meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May be accepted.* Moved Richard Bailey, seconded Anthony Kachenko. Carried.

### **13. Report from the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate**

- There have been useful discussions with other senators in relation to VSU.
- He has been nominated (as a representative of SUPRA) for the Committee which organizes the Templeton Lecture. He feels it would be more appropriate for a current SUPRA councillor, and will refer it on.

### **14. VSU Discussion**

- Elizabeth Evans – reports to the Chief Financial Officer – will be doing ground work, accounting, investigation for the VSU Working Party.
- The VSU working party has met again.
- The SRC and SUPRA had decided to work together where appropriate because our budgets are much smaller than other stakeholders. Neither have yet received a response to its submissions to the VSU Working Party.
- The legal advice on whether the university can request people to opt out rather than opt in is that it is not an issue as long as people are given an option. This has been used as a basis for lobbying Senate Fellows both on committee and generally.
- We have been advised to bring matters forward to the Senate – it has got to come from us – then the Senate can support it. So the tabled supplementary submission from the SRC and SUPRA was drawn up, suggesting 3 ways that the university could fund us. It has gone to the VSU Working Party members along with attached legal advice, also to the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor International and the Chair of the Academic Board.
- The legislation does allow academic service fees to be charged by universities.
- The SRC and SUPRA are planning a ‘fun’ targeted action, a mock fundraiser, outside the next Senate meeting, to draw the attention of the Senate and the university community to the urgency of making decisions and the provision of interim funding to student organizations.
- Motion: *THAT the position of the SUPRA Council regarding current post-VSU negotiations is that we prioritise mobilising students to demand full funding for the SRC and SUPRA. The next key mobilisation is the targeted action on June 19 outside the next Senate meeting.* Moved: Lian Jenvey, seconded Richard Bailey. 1 abstention. Carried.
- Motion: *THAT Council encourages the proposed action on 19<sup>th</sup> June, to be creative and employ media tactics, to demonstrate that interim funding is needed.* Moved: Roozbeh Araghi, seconded Rosemary Whitecross.
- As there were still many post-VSU issues to be discussed, it was decided to have a Special Council Meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00 pm.

Next Meetings:            Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June (VSU meeting) at 6.00 pm  
                                  Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 6.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm