



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION
5 PM, TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2007 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Katherine Barnsley Co-President

Minutes: Sacha van Albada, Co-Secretary

Present: Katherine Barnsley, Jack Clegg, Nicholas Wilson, Thomas Huang, Sacha van Albada, Rosemary Whitecross, Estelle Noonan, Lian Jenvey (until 5.30 pm)

Apologies: Tahrid Chowdhury, Sridhar Pulikanti, Jodie Coleman, Jenny Leong, Yuna Tang, Wendy Huang, Amanda Li, Cath Davies, Nelson Yin, Emily Stewart

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Kate Barnsley acknowledged that we were meeting on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and offered our respects to them and their elders.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20th September 2007

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20th September 2007 be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

3. Resignation of Hans van Leeuwen

Motion: *THAT the resignation of Hans van Leeuwen from the SUPRA Council be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

Hans was thanked for his work for SUPRA to date.

4. Election of vacant office bearer positions

a) Publications Officer

Nicholas Wilson had previously expressed an interest in taking upon himself some of the tasks of Publications Officer. However, he was concerned that his experience with the relevant design software and his available time would be insufficient to take up the entire role. Therefore, Jack Clegg suggested an alternative solution.

Motion: *THAT Nicholas Wilson be appointed Convenor of the Publications Committee, stipended at up to 7 hours a week.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

Nicholas was congratulated with his election to the position of Publications Committee Convenor.

b) Vice President

Motion: *THAT the authority to appoint an acting Vice President be deferred to the Management Committee.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

The Co-Secretaries are to send out an e-mail to all Councillors about the vacant Vice President position.

5. Office Bearer Updates

a) Co-Presidents

The Co-Presidents suggested to Council that they ask someone from SRC to be on the selection panel for the new SAAO. This was met with approval from Councillors.

A debriefing concerning the Connect 07 conference will be held next Tuesday at 11 am, which will help in planning next year's conference.

The unofficial results of the Postgraduate Fellow of Senate elections indicate that Jenny Leong was elected to the position. SUPRA provisionally congratulated Jenny with her election.

Motion: *THAT the Co-Presidents' report to Council be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

b) Campaigns and Policy Officer

Lian Jenvey reported that she is organising a contingent to participate in the Walk Against Warming to be held on Sunday 11 November 2007.

She suggested that SUPRA support and draft policy surrounding the NTEU Casuals campaign. This will be further discussed in the Policy Committee.

According to Lian, CAPA's policy is somewhat weak on international student issues, especially compared to the detailed policy on other issues. She suggested that CAPA could possibly incorporate in their policy some of the points concerning international students from the Postgraduate Entitlements Policy developed by SUPRA.

Katherine Barnsley asked Lian to liaise with Nelson Yin in his role as Activities Committee Convenor about the upcoming O-Week. Rosemary Whitecross suggested sending out some information about SUPRA with the enrolment papers.

Motion: *THAT the Campaigns and Policy Officer's report to Council be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

c) Co-Secretaries

Motion: *THAT the Co-Secretaries' report to Council be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

d) Treasurer

The Treasurer's report commented that expenditure is still within budget, and that we are waiting on feedback from the University regarding funding for next year.

Motion: *THAT the Treasurer's report to Council be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

6. Equity Officer Updates

a) Women

Estelle Noonan reported that she gave a speech at a forum for the Union's Bluestocking Day on Wednesday 9 October, and ran a discussion panel for Postgraduate Women at the Connect conference, which was well received.

Rosemary Whitecross enquired about possible support from SUPRA for Reclaim the Night. Estelle offered the organisation the use of the risograph, but they still asked for the equivalent of a table at their fundraising event (initially reserved by SUPRA but not filled), which is \$180. Council was willing to support the organisation of Reclaim the Night, but either through in-kind support, or in case of a regular donation with some acknowledgement of SUPRA in their materials and/or website. In relation to this issue, Kate noted that the Policy Committee should develop policy on the use of the risograph and photocopier.

Motion: *THAT SUPRA donate \$180 to the organisation of Reclaim the Night, with the final authority on the conditions of the donation delegated to the Management Committee.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

b) International

In his report, the International Officer noted that he is considering organising a trip to Hunter Valley, for which some Councillors thought there would not be enough time.

Motion: *THAT the International Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Estelle Noonan. Carried.

c) Queer

In her report, the Queer Officer enquired about a leave of absence from mid November 2007 to late January 2008, for which she needs to apply separately.

Motion: *THAT the Queer Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

7. Running of committees

Jack Clegg raised the question of what would be the best way to get committees more active. In particular, SUPRA could try to attract more non-councillors to committees. Council suggested informing postgraduates about committee meetings through eGrad and on the website, as well as targeting postgraduate co-ordinators in each faculty. In this context it might be promising that the University is developing policy to officially credit extracurricular activities. Kate suggested that meeting times and dates be made less flexible, for instance by fixing Management Committee and Policy Committee meetings to be held in alternating weeks.

8. SAAO Work reports

The SAAOs reported that some tutors in the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme are not getting paid for prolonged periods of time. The work report comments were noted.

9. Connect 07 Conference

Angie Dunstan, Ya Chuleewatanakul, and Anne Coates were thanked with acclamation for making the conference a success, and all Councillors that were

involved were thanked for their help.

10. PETA event listing

SUPRA received an e-mail from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) asking for advertisement of a tour by Dan Mathews to promote his new book.

Motion: *THAT the Dan Mathews tour be listed in eGrad.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Not carried.

Councillors considered this inappropriate due to the commercial nature of the event.

11. SUPRA Committees

(a) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Management Committee meetings held on 24th September and 2nd and 9th October 2007, with the recommendations contained therein.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

(b) Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 9th October 2007.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

12. Leave of absence

Motion: *THAT Council grant a leave of absence to Jenny Leong for 7 weeks in relation to the upcoming federal election campaign.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

13. Other Business

a) Veterinary science barbecue

Peta Phillips from the Faculty of Veterinary Science asked SUPRA for \$300 towards organising a barbecue at their Annual Postgraduate Conference. The Co-Presidents suggested making it a SUPRA event, since otherwise there would be no reason for this particular event to obtain SUPRA support in preference to other events. SUPRA could for instance supply the food and the Veterinary Science Faculty the barbecues.

Motion: *THAT, if SUPRA supports the barbecue at the Veterinary Science conference, SUPRA organise the event.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

b) Thomas Huang asked Council about a request from someone who wanted to organise a free mortgage seminar. He will ask for a more detailed proposal, after which SUPRA can consider if the seminar could be part of next year's Connect conference.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.

Next Meeting: