



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION  
6 PM, THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2007 AT THE SUPRA OFFICES

Chair: Katherine Barnsley, Co-President

Minutes: Sacha van Albada, Co-Secretary

**Present:** Katherine Barnsley, Jack Clegg, Thomas Huang, Sacha van Albada, Rosemary Whitecross, Emily Stewart, Lian Jenvey, Yunnan Tang, Nelson Yin, Tahrid Chowdhury

**Apologies:** Cath Davies (leave of absence), Jenny Leong (leave of absence), Sridhar Pulikanti, Nicholas Wilson, Estelle Noonan

**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 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Motion: *THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007 be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

**3. Resignation of Jodie Coleman**

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

Jodie was thanked with acclamation for her important contribution to SUPRA.

**4. Election of Vice President**

Emily Stewart nominated for the position of Vice President and was elected unopposed. She was approved for up to 14 hours a week in this position.

Motion: *THAT the resignation of Emily Stewart from the position of Treasurer be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

The position of Treasurer hereby became vacant. The 7 hours a week normally allocated to the Treasurer will be divided among the Co-Presidents and Vice President for the coming period.

**5. Office Bearer Updates**

a) Co-Presidents

The Co-Presidents have worked to ensure that every new course that is approved will contain a reference to the Students at Risk Policy, which should promote the proper implementation of this policy.

Funding agreement (in camera)

The CAPA Annual Council Meeting (ACM) will be held in Melbourne during a three-day conference in the first week of December. Nelson and Kate, who are CAPA office bearers, will attend with accommodation and travel costs paid by CAPA.

Motion: *THAT SUPRA send a third person to the CAPA ACM, with as first choice Estelle Noonan.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

Motion: *THAT SUPRA pay the registration for all three delegates to the CAPA ACM, and accommodation and travel for the third delegate.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

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

b) Co-Secretaries

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

c) Treasurer

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

d) Campaigns and Policy Officer

Lian Jenvey drafted policy surrounding academic casuals, for instance to ensure that students do not have to do unpaid work, which was passed by the Policy Committee and will be quite an important campaign in the coming years.

The Campaigns and Policy Officer's report contained a recommendation that SUPRA endorse the December 9<sup>th</sup> Stop the War Coalition demonstration to pressure the government to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Motion: *THAT the Campaigns and Policy Officer's report and the recommendation contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Jack Clegg. Carried.

e) Publications Committee Convenor

The Publications Committee Convenor's report contained a recommendation that his hours be increased to up to 10 hours a week for the coming period.

Motion: *THAT the Publications Committee Convenor's report and the recommendation contained therein be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

## **6. Equity Officer Updates**

a) Women

Estelle Noonan apologised for not preparing a report since she spent relatively little time on SUPRA during the past month. However, she started inspecting postgraduate spaces on campus with a member of the security staff, and is already writing up some of the results. She is also adding a section for international students who are parents to the Parent's Guide.

#### b) International Officer

Nelson will send out a timetable of O-Week when it becomes available, to allot Councillors to slots. He has been involved in planning an International Students Handbook, which will contain sections on language support, housing, education, casual employment, etc., and on which he will work together with Nicholas Wilson. Lian suggested launching the Handbook at the international party which is in the planning for next year. Jack suggested organising a meeting to set dates for the main activities of next year.

Motion: *THAT the International Officer's report be accepted.* Moved: Sacha van Albada. Carried.

### **7. Stipends Policy**

The Co-Presidents presented an amended Stipends Policy which proposed that office bearers be paid their stipends over the Christmas closure without having to hand in time sheets. The office will close on 21 December 2007 and reopen on 2 January 2008. Upon Lian's suggestion, the clause concerning the need to present a medical certificate for sick leave of any duration will be reviewed at a later date.

Motion: *THAT the amended Stipends Policy be accepted.* Moved: Rosemary Whitecross. Carried.

### **8. SAAO Work reports**

Rosemary enquired about the correspondence that turned up between Minister Hockey and Minister Bishop, on which Kate will report at the next meeting.

### **9. Activities early 2008**

A rough timeline and proposed division of tasks for organising activities surrounding O-Week in early 2008 was circulated to Councillors.

### **10. SUPRA Committees**

The Policy Committee minutes of 23 October 2007 contained the recommendation that Council endorse the Casual Employment Policy as SUPRA's official policy on the issue.

Motion: *THAT Council accept the minutes of the Management Committee meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the Policy Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007, the Publications Committee meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007, and the Activities Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007, as well as the recommendations contained therein.* Moved en bloc: Jack Clegg. Carried.

### **11. Participation of Councillors**

Since Liang Chang has not attended any Council meetings since becoming a SUPRA Councillor, one of the Co-Secretaries will send him an e-mail to inform him that he is at risk of losing his position on the SUPRA Council.

### **12. Council Nomination**

Motion: *THAT the nomination of Richard Keep to the SUPRA Council be accepted.*

Moved: Emily Stewart. Carried.

### **13. Leave of absence**

Motion: *THAT Tahrid Chowdhury be granted a leave of absence from 2 December 2007 to 8 February 2008.* Moved: Tahrid Chowdhury. Carried.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

**Next Meeting:**