



Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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MINUTES of the 19th meeting of the Executive Committee, 88th SRC, held on 29th November 2016 in the Office Bearers Room, SRC Offices.

PRESENT: Chloe Smith (Chair), Anna Hush-Egerton*, Isabella Brook and Sean Tingcombe.

Apologies: Georgia Mantle, Lachlan Ward, Siobhan Ryan, and Michael Sun

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance: Chitra Narayanan

Meeting Opened: 11:45

*^Joint position holders, counted together towards quorum.

1. Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Sydney Students Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present of the Eora nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Georgia Mantle, Lachlan Ward, Siobhan Ryan, and Michael Sun.

Motion: That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Isabella Brook

Seconded: Anna Hush-Egerton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

5. Other Business

5.1 Staff Leave

Vanessa Sim: Annual, 6/02/17 – 14/02/17, 4 days 28 hours

Chitra Narayanan: TIL, 27/01/17-30/01/17, 2 days, 14 hours.

TIL, 12/12/16, 1day, 7 hours.

TIL, 5/12/16, ½ day, 3 hours.

Julia Robins: Annual, 06/01/17 – 10/01/17, 3 days, 15 hours.

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Sean Tingcombe

Seconded: Anna Hush-Egerton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

3. Report of the Casework and Policy Manager

Melissa de Silva gave a written report:

Obituary

For those of you who do not yet know Roozi Araghi was tragically killed in an accident at Dreamworld. Roozi was an SRC activist (1999-2000), an Honi editor (2000), and a caseworker (2002-2004). He was also one of the “supra five” who were appointed to the executive of SUPRA in the shadow of allegations of misappropriation of funds from the then president. Thank you for sending flowers to his family, and for posting his obituary on Facebook and Honi. His parents were pleased to hear so many people say nice things about him.

Changeover Drinks

I’ve booked a room at the Rose of Australia in ERSKINEVILLE (don’t go to the wrong one!). Tuesday 29th November starting at 6pm and going until close. There is no cost for venue hire. We’re in the room with the big red phone box. I’ve booked it for 40 people but the room is big enough to comfortably take 60 people. I’ve ordered some food to offset the alcohol. Please tell your people that there will be free food so they will come. Total cost is \$395.

Safety Training

I’ll be completing the safety training course on 28th Nov to 2nd Dec. I’d like to set a date for training staff and students shortly after that. We would probably be best to do it in batches. I was thinking casework staff; other staff; honi eds; then activists (broken into smaller groups if need be). I’ll advise y’all of dates as I figure them out.

Induction

This is scheduled for Friday 25th November with the program still being finalised. It will focus on the administrative needs of student representatives, with an activist focused training program available to students in the new year. We have found in the past that attendance at induction makes life at the SRC so much better. Could you please have the talk in your factions about coming along? We will entice you with free food, soft drink and snacks, and this year I will try to have air conditioning that actually works. It is difficult to know how many people to cater for. Chits has given me a cheque for \$400, but I would like to ask for up to \$20 per person. There’s an economy of scale, so if 50 people attend it will probably work out closer to \$12.50 per person, or if 20 people it will probably be \$20 per person.

Vicarious Trauma Training

You may remember from previous meetings that I asked for \$1000 to spend on vicarious trauma training. In order to offset the course I invited people from other organisations, charging \$145 (including \$20 for lunch and snacks), and predicted that we’d get 3 extra people. Hilariously we have 11 people attending from other organisations, plus Annie from legal. Without charging legal, we will get $11 \times \$145 = \1595 . If we spent \$20 per person (11 extras + 1 legal + 1 facilitator + 4 SRC = 17 people) on food that would be \$340 minus the \$1000 for the course, we have a profit of \$255.

Casual Caseworker

We have hired Jessica Richards as a casual caseworker to allow us to complete some projects. She’ll start training 5th December. There may be some opportunity for her to take up some casual work at SUPRA too. Thanks so much to Chloe and Izzy for taking on the task of selection committee.

Potential Safety Threat

Shalindra Singh, an applicant for the temporary caseworker position that Heather currently holds and the casual caseworker position that Jessica will hold, has emailed Chloe and people from other NGOs with recent job vacancies expressing a great anger that he feels around some issues of racial discrimination. His writing does not suggest he has a stable or reasonable point of view. I have notified Newtown Police and spoke to Constable Maja Andersson who has logged this as an incident with an event number E62676012.

Daryl McCredie from Security has written a report about the SRC office safety, which is being discussed at a meeting with the vice chancellor tomorrow. I will ask for a copy of the report and some feedback on what happened at the meeting. In the meantime security are issuing Shalindra with a “termination or address by other means” notice,

which will mean that he needs to stop contacting us (in person, on the phone, or by email). If he breaches that notice we have the option of asking the police to speak to him about his breach, or if we have more pressing concerns we can apply for Apprehended Personal Violence Orders that will make it illegal for him to come onto the SRC property.

Domestic Violence Training

All caseworkers attended Domestic Violence Training, hosted by NSW Health. There is a new reporting system that seems to be working significantly better than before. We will be looking at doing some further training that is more university student focused in the new year.

TaxHelp

We partnered with the Australian Tax Office and ran TaxHelp for students. Initially we ran it for undergraduates through the SRC and postgraduates through SUPRA. However, SUPRA were only offering a half day a week so we extended the service to be for any student of USYD. All up we helped about 50 undergraduate students from Late July- end October (and probably another 50 postgraduate students). It was our first time running this program, so we have some ideas on how to improve it for next year. We welcome any ideas on how to reduce the number of people who did not show to their appointment. Please note that they received an email a few days before their appointment and a text message the day before their appointment. Apparently other providers (e.g., UNSW Arc) have experienced high volumes of students who did not honour their appointments too, and are a bit stumped on how to avoid them. We will also need to review our promotions and booking program for this service.

Marsha Linehan Training

Heather has requested that she attend a workshop run by Marsha Linehan, the founder of Dialectical Behavioural Therapy. This is a technique used by health care professionals treating people who experience suicidal ideation, self-harm, eating disorders, borderline and antisocial personality disorders. I do not think this training would be suitable for SRC caseworkers as our access to students with those conditions is only to give casework advice and then refer to health care professionals. However, I believe it is up to the executive to ultimately make this decision. The workshop is for 3 days in April and the "early bird" cost is \$990. This amount increased on Friday this week.

MOTIONS:

1. That \$395 be spent on food for the SRC changeover night.
2. That lunch and snacks be provided for attendees of induction of up to \$20 per person.
3. That Heather attend the workshop by Marsha Linehan for \$990.

Motion: To accept the report of the Casework and Policy Manager including motions one and two on bloc but rejecting motion 3.

Moved: Sean Tingcombe

Seconded: Anna Hush-Egerton

4. Approval of Payments

4.1 Reimbursements

Melissa de Silva: \$51.74 over provided amount for training, induction and changeover drinks.

Motion: that reimbursements be approved en bloc.

Moved: Sean Tingcombe

Seconded: Anna Hush-Egerton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

4.2 Approval of Payments

Approval of Payments began at 11:50

Approval of Payments was completed at 12:38

Motion: that Approval of Payments be accepted.

Moved: Sean Tingcombe

Seconded: Anna Hush-Egerton

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting was declared closed at 12:39