



# Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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**MINUTES** of the **2nd** meeting of the Executive Committee, 89th SRC, held on 11/01/17 in the Gosper Room, SRC Offices.

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**PRESENT:** Isabella Brook (Chair), Bella Pytka\*, James Gibson^, Samuel Chu, and Liam Donohoe. Daniel Ergas\* phoned in.

Apologies: Iman Farrar^, Ella Bickley, Irene Oh, and Patrick Ryan.

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance: Chitra Narayanan and Melissa de Silva.

Meeting Opened: 2:35

\*^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 Iman Farrar, Ella Bickley, Irene Oh, and Patrick Ryan.

The Apologies were noted.

## **3. Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> December be accepted.

Moved: Samuel Chu

Seconded: James Gibson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **4. Business arising from the minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **5. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence

Liam Donohoe arrived at 2:40

## **6. Workplace Health and Safety Report**

We are transferring the role of WHS Officer back to Melissa de Silva as she has completed the safety-training course and is teaching it to others it makes sense for her to take but the role. Also Melissa is full time, which is important for the position.

We have organised for a number of safety training days for staff and office bearers, please do your best to attend these are really important and will make sure

Motion: that the report of the Workplace Health & Safety Officer be accepted.

Moved: James Gibson

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Isabella Brook resigned the chair to Bella Pytka for her report.*

## **7. Report of the President**

### Academic Board

First academic board meeting was towards the end of last year. There was nothing of too much interest to us in there. The main thing was some discussion around the changes to the science faculty. The Uni is restructuring the department and basically aiming to spill and fill a lot of the positions. Highlight was someone from management saying "we wont be getting rid of staff we will just be getting rid of jobs".

### Meeting with Tyrone

I met with DVC Registrar Tyrone Carlin, which was interesting. I talked to him about a broader vision for the SRC. I was able to follow up a few things with him like some of the security issues we've been having and SSAF.

### SSAF

We got our SSAF letters towards the end of last year. We have 90% of last years allocation guaranteed so that's about \$1.6 mil and the contestable pool is close to \$1.5 mil . I'll be working with Chits, Bella and Daniel on that and at the moment I'm sitting down with departments to talk over their proposals.

### Bookshop

We had another meeting with the USU in regards to the bookshop. Bella and Daniel will go into some more detail about that in their report.

### NUS

I spent a week at Natcon, which was an experience. I've written up a report to council on my experience as a delegate so stay tuned for that. Presidents summit will be held at UNSW from the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Registration is \$500.

### Info Day

I think Info day was a massive success all considering. We handed out close to 100 bags and had some really positive conversations with potential students about the SRC. Thanks to everyone who helped out and especially Bella and Imogen for packing bags.

Things in the Works:

### **Centrelink**

Been talking to Mel and our Welfare officers about the false centrelink debt notices that were issued over the holidays. Looking to do some work around that and hopefully write a letter to MPs.

### **OB Meetings**

I'm organising some time to sit down with all the OBs and discuss how I can support them in their roles and what their plans are for the year.

### **Science Faculty**

I've organised to meet with Tom Hubble who is an associate professor in the science faculty in regards to the changes in the science faculty and how these changes will affect students. I've been talking to Irene Oh and Mollie Galvin, who are science students and I'm going to get in contact with Marco Avena, who is the undergraduate science faculty rep on academic board.

### **NTEU**

I've been trying to get in contact with the NTEU to sit down with them in regards to the EBA. Yet to hear back from them.

### **Exec Planning Day**

Organising a day to sit down with exec and go over our goals for the year.

### **FOR APPROVAL**

I just have two things for approval

- \$500 – Registration for NUS Presidents Summit – hopefully this will be less as it includes accommodation and I don't need accommodation so I'm asking for a reduced rate.
- Two sessions of management training  
One of these was approved last year, I would like to add a second, they are \$150 each so I would like request \$300

Isabella Brook requested the meeting go in camera

Moved: James Gibson

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The meeting moved in camera at 2:53*

*The meeting moved ex camera at 3:06*

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted with all included expenditure.

Moved: Samuel Chu

Seconded: James Gibson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **8. Report of the Vice Presidents**

James Gibson: Nothing to report but I would like to note the good work of the Isabella-s for their quick last minute organisation for the open day stall. Which went really well.

## **9. Report of the General Secretaries**

The general secretaries gave written and verbal reports.

#### Organising O-Week:

Over the past month, Daniel has been sourcing quotes from Ali Baba and customs brokers in Sydney to get our O-Week merch and handbooks ready in time. He has also had chats with Nat and Tessa, the USU's O-Week directors, re: our SRC and collective stalls. You will see the fruits of all that labour later on in this meeting, hopefully! Bella has been contacting different brands to supply us with free merch (yay!) So far, U by Kotex, Four Seasons and Moxie have confirmed to be donating to us and we are awaiting response from Tampax.

Coordinating the merge of the Counter-Course and Orientation Handbook with Jenna. Daniel led the design on the handbook (it looks pretty \*extra\*) and worked with Jenna extensively (we've spent too long in the Honi editors office). Jenna is currently wrangling contributors, and Daniel is finishing off the shell design (and organising a printer through – you guessed it! – Ali Baba). We should have it ready for DSP and print by next week. Bella has been helping Jenna merge the results of the counter course survey into easy to read information to be added into the Counter Course.

Creating budget and SSAF documents for negotiations. I hope this can lead the SRC to a budgeting process that isn't just year-to-year – so we can start planning for two or three years in advance, and then set strategic guidelines and goals (eg. increased engagement with international students) that we can challenge ourselves to meet.

Daniel, Sam and Bella have all been collaborating on quite extensive regulation changes, specifically focusing on changes to Parts 1,6 and 8 of the regulations. We are hoping to have it prepared to be circulated for the February or March council meetings. If anyone is interested in seeing these regulations, please let one of us know.

Daniel Ergas: pretty much what is covered in the written section, looking into merchandise for O-Week, should have some cool stuff. Merger of counter course and O-Week handbook has been going well. It's going to be a challenge to get all the stalls and make sure there are no tensions between groups for O-Week without spending \$20 000 .

Were there any questions before I continue?

Ok well, the other projects have been Budget and SSAF documents, also working on a possible campaign with the University of Melbourne on the Co-Op bookshop as we know it is problematic at best.

Bella Pytka: Info day was a huge success considering the short notice we were given for it. We had lot wanting to get involved which was very exciting and also handed out just under 100 show bags to prospective students. Also been working on regulation changes, please get in touch if you are interested in helping out on these.

Wanting to do a 'campus crawl', there are a lot of satellite campuses, I'd like to go around and introduce ourselves to the campuses, would like to do this around O-Week. Looking at doing a similar campaign to the Insipid posters, looking for floor stickers like the university's for that.

James Gibson left the meeting due to a conflict of interest at 3:20.

Bella Pytka: We've been in negotiations with the USU over the bookshop, we came to an agreement to pay a reduced rent until we know about SSAF.

Motion to move the meeting in camera

Moved: Samuel Chu

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The meeting moved in camera at 3:24.*

*The meeting moved ex camera at 3:46*

Motion: To pay a reduced rent to the USU for the bookshop space until the SSAF allocations have been determined and to pay the normal rate for a year and back pay the reduced rate, depending on the SSAF allocation results.

Moved: Samuel Chu

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

James Gibson re-entered the meeting at 3:49

Bella Pytka: The first draft of the redesign came back we are requesting some changes of the sample designs.

Motion: that the report of the General Secretaries be accepted.

Moved: Samuel Chu

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **10. Report of the Administration Manager**

*Chitra Narayanan entered the meeting at 3:50*

Chitra Narayanan: I will be in Saturday as there are some work that need to be done, Will confirm with Mel that that is ok. I'm also working on some budget actuals for the General Secretaries.  
Could we please go in camera?

Motion: To move in camera.

Moved: Bella Pytka

Seconded: James Gibson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*Meeting moved in camera at 3:52*

*Meeting moved ex camera at 3:54*

Motion: that the report of the Administration Manager be accepted.

Moved: James Gibson

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **11. Report of the Casework and Policy Manager**

*Melissa de Silva entered the meeting at 3:55*

##### **GOSPER AND GRAVITY**

I moved the table in gosper and the leg sheared off. I found that quite disappointing. I've made an incident report. Chits and I also arranged to have it fixed. This was done on Tue 3rd Jan for about \$100.

## **CENTRALISING AND FACULTY MERGERS**

2017 will kick off the merger of faculties where smaller faculties will become schools or institutes within a larger faculty. Course specific information would be difficult to get in these circumstances. Centralising will take a closer step towards chaos with the closure of faculty administration in Arts, Business, and Engineering. Fortunately these aren't the largest faculties in the university so there'll be a chance to iron out any problems, right? It kind of makes the problems of the mergers pale into insignificance I reckon.

Part of this fun is that Show Good Cause (where the faculty tries to kick you out due to poor performance) will now come from the Student Affairs Unit (SAU), with a deadline for these appeals most likely on the same day for those 3 faculties. They already do nearly everything, so their workload is going to be ridiculous. Fortunately they are efficient and love us. Our workload is going to be equally ridiculous. Not only is the volume going to increase, but these changes in administration have also contributed to an increase in the intensity of each case. Fortunately we are efficient too!

## **TEA PARTY**

We want to have a tea party. Well two actually – one in January and one in February for those that couldn't attend the first one. We will invite people from the university who are potentially good allies, especially in the face of the centralising stuff, so we can show them where we work and what we do, and what a bunch of likeable chaps we are. If you folks could attend that'd be great too. We've pencilled in Monday 23rd Jan 10:30am, and Wed 22nd Feb 3pm.

## **SAFETY TRAINING**

Safety training is jam packed over two days. In order to hold people on time for the sessions I would like to provide food. I think \$5 for morning tea, \$10 for lunch, and \$5 for afternoon tea per person.

## **CASEWORKERS**

We are currently working very close to our capacity. Having the casual caseworker has allowed me to focus on WHS stuff. However, with the intensity of cases increasing we are finding that we are less able to be thorough and offer follow up. For some students this is not a problem, however, we are helping more distressed students, and more students with complex cases than ever before. Coupled with a projection of centralising of faculty offices being as effective and delightful as the centralising of special consideration I think we may find ourselves a bit stretched.

As a long-term plan it'd be super good if we could get an extra caseworker. I know this is a big ask, but the stuff we could do would be great. At the moment we are seeing around 1200 students per year and helping maybe (10 – 15 people a week) 500 more students on email. We know anecdotally that we are only accessing a slice of those being asked to show cause, making academic appeals, or questioned over academic honesty. We don't have any guide to how many students we are not reaching that have Centrelink and/or tenancy problems. If we could promote our service I think we would be able to access more students who need our service, who would in turn tell their friends which would further grow our student base. Even if we just extended Heather's contract until December 2017 I think we could do some pretty good things. So to be clear – I would like to ask for an additional full time caseworker to be employed. If that isn't possible can we extend Heather's contract to the end of the 2017.

Motion: to move the meeting in camera

Moved: Bella Pytka

Seconded: James Gibson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Meeting moved in camera at 4:08

Meeting moved ex camera at 4:10

Motion: that the report of the Casework and Policy Manager be accepted, will all included expenditure and that the request of the caseworker extension proposal.

Moved: Liam Donohoe

Seconded: Samuel Chu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **12. SRC Legal Service Report**

*There was nothing to report from the Legal Service Manager*

## **13. Approval of Payments**

### **13.1. Reimbursements**

Thandiwe Bethune (Inter campus):	\$228.89	SCA protest exhibition supplies
Chitra Narayanan (admin):	\$231.59	Business cards, database hosting, and Hostpapa renewal

Motion: that reimbursements be approved en bloc.

Moved: James Gibson

Seconded: Samuel Chu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **14. Any Other Reports**

### **14.1. Report of the Education's Officer**

*There was no report from the Education Officers*

### **14.2. Report of the Women's Officer**

Over the past month, we have been editing the annual Wom\*n's Collective publication, Growing Strong, which showcases the art, stories, and articles by wom\*n and non-binary people. Growing Strong will be distributed during O-Week, which is a critical recruitment time for collectives. We have been liaising with the USU O-Week Directors and will host four events during O-Week (panel discussion, empowering self-defence class, The Hunting Ground Screening + panel discussion, and a collective morning tea.) We have also been creating merchandise, gathering feminist resources, and collating information about the collective to distribute from our stalls.

Recently, WoCo has been consulting with SRC staff about hiring a specialist sexual assault solicitor. Thomas McLoughlin and Annie Zeng have been vocal supporters of hiring an additional solicitor and have previously stated that "demands on the SRC legal office are at saturation." The visibility of the sexual assault campaign has resulted in increased disclosures and a higher demand for specialist services. A specialist solicitor is required to both meet this demand and ensure that survivors are adequately supported in seeking justice

and are able to best recover from assault. In the interim, we are also arranging Responding with Compassion training from the RDVSA for all SRC and SUPRA caseworkers and solicitors. We will also be meeting with various people in the upcoming weeks to ensure the effective rollout of USyd's new reporting system 1800 SYDHELP.

As beneficiaries of stolen land, Aboriginal solidarity efforts must be prioritised in our activism. WoCo held a contingent to the Fighting in Resistance Equally (FIRE) rally on International Human Rights Day. It was fairly well attended and we hope to grow these contingents more so that WoCo members engage more with Aboriginal activism. WoCo will also host a contingent at FIRE's upcoming Invasion Day rally.

Lastly, we have begun discussions with the NUS Women's Officer, Abby Stapleton, about the potential for collaboration in upcoming NUS and sexual assault campaigns. We look forward to the coming year of activism and education within the Wom\*n's Collective.

Motion: that the report of the Women's Officer be accepted.

Moved: Bella Pytka

Seconded: James Gibson

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **15. Other Business**

### 15.1 Staff Leave

Julia Robins:	TIL, 15/12/16, 1 day, 5 hours Annual, 28/04/17, 1 day, 5 hours
Laura Kitsos:	Annual, 08/12/16, ¼ day, 1 hour
Hani Bawazir:	Carer leave, 09/12/16, 1 day, 7 hours
Julie Harrison:	Annual, 03/01/17 – 05/01/17, 3 days, 24 hours
Heather Mabry:	TIL, 09/01/17, 1 day, 7 hours
Mickie Quick:	Annual, 03/01/17 – 04/01/17, 2 days, 10.5 hours

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Samuel Chu

Seconded: Liam Donohoe

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### 15.2 Request for support

Julia Robins would like to know if the executive would support her application to become a JP as part of the SRSC staff to assist with Statutory Declarations when the solicitors are away and for Office Bearers when they are required to fill one in by the council.

Motion: To support the application of Julia Robins to become a JP to assist with her work.

Moved: James Gibson

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.



*The meeting was declared closed at 4:18*