



# Students' Representative Council University of Sydney

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**MINUTES** of the **8th** meeting of the Executive Committee, 89th SRC, held on 20th April 2017 in the Gosper Room, SRC Offices.

**PRESENT:** Isabella Brook (Chair), Bella Pytka\*, Daniel Ergas\*, Iman Farrar^, and Patrick Ryan.

Apologies: Samuel Chu, Ella Bickley, Iman Farrar, James Gibson, Liam Donohoe

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance: Thomas McLoughlin, Melissa de Silva

Meeting Opened: 11:10am

\*^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 Samuel Chu, Ella Bickley, Iman Farrar, James Gibson, Liam Donohoe

The apologies were noted.

## **3. Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be accepted.

Moved: Irene Oh

Seconded: Daniel Ergas

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **5. Correspondence**

*There was not correspondence.*

*The meeting moved to 14.3.*

### **14.3. Report of the Student Housing Officers**

*Ricardo Wu tabled a report.*

### **SRC's Representation on WeChat**

SRC is representing the interest of more than 33000 undergraduate students on campus. Authorized statistics show that international students take up more than 50% of undergraduate students. Furthermore, Asian students occupy a substantial proportion of international students. At present stage, SRC campaigns mainly via social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, as well as Honi Soit, which have a surprisingly low popularity among Asian international students. Instead, they are more willing to use social media platforms such as WeChat, Kakaotalk or WhatsApp. Therefore, this considerable amount of undergraduate students on campus have poor access to SRC and hence barely know anything about it and have little involvement in any campaign.

As the most popular social media platform which has a billion users and 800 million everyday users, WeChat is able to extend the incident of SRC to a substantial number of Asian international students, which will make unprecedented impacts as to the awareness and involvement of SRC's campaigns. By way of building bridges with this part of students, a WeChat official account will manage to clear the language barrier between Asian international students who are looking for assistance and SRC and make various services more accessible to them. Consequently, a survey was conducted and the necessity of establishment of the WeChat official account was shown.

#### **Results and necessity:**

1. According to our survey, more than 60% of respondents said they did not understand SRC, nor did they understand the main services provided by SRC, as well as the specific functions and responsibilities of each department. According to the respondents, the main reason is that they do not know where to get information about SRC. In addition, Facebook and other SRC main media have a surprising low popularity among Chinese students, which also directly affected our survey results.

It is undeniable that the publicity of the SRC during the O-Week period was very successful, but for most Chinese students, it was difficult to participate in the SRC's Collective, as well as solve problems through the SRC due to other factors such as language and culture barrier.

2. At present, information regarding events is usually published in the relevant collective by officers in each department. As mentioned above, international students, especially Chinese students' low Facebook utilization rate, seriously hindered their participations in these activities, and to understand the release of various types of information (such as sexual harassment, Women's and other rights protection activity)
3. In addition, the WeChat coverage rate among Chinese students at the University of Sydney is 100%, and our survey shows that almost all WeChat users are relying on direct viewing, or the public number of friends to share, to understand all kinds of activities and related information.

#### **Survey result (Sampling Survey):**

<https://michael512.typeform.com/report/PTEReT/on5R>

#### **Elaboration:**

Through the establishment of SRC official WeChat account, and through the use of push (100% reaching rate), quick service button and other functions, SRC services, information of each department can be quickly and effectively delivered to the user.

At the same time, the official account can help departments create its characteristics of the dissemination of content to meet the needs of different groups. For example, students can use the WeChat official account to discover subleasing information; quick access to Caseworker or legal aid, fill out the relevant forms by pressing the quick service button, etc.

In addition, as a new media, WeChat official account can be included in a single push audio, video, GIF, text and other aspects of the content is more user-friendly, and more attractive.

**Specific plan:**

**1. Management:**

a. Program Coordinators

- i. One International Student Officer for operational management
- ii. One/Two Officer from other department (e.g. Student Housing), for funding management, and departmental liaison.
- iii. Publication or Honi Soit Officer, for content quality control

Responsibility:

- Designing operational strategy for promoting SRC's WeChat account
- Coordinate daily account operations
- Management of funds
- Reporting to the Council

b. Content Editors

- i. Two to three volunteers selected from undergraduate students.

Responsibility:

- Developing original content in Chinese
- Communicating with other officers and translating contents (officer reports )provided
- Researching on content topics
- Promoting SRC through WeChat
- Producing reports to the management

**2. Content Source:**

SRC department officers can choose to publish the content on a regular basis (events, articles, etc.), self-produced (or can also be employed separately), to the WeChat public administrator. Both Chinese and English versions are included, and the SRC department reports can at the same time posted on Honi Soit.

**3. Featured Function**

a. "Quick Service Button":

In the WeChat public number main interface, set 'Caseworkers Help', 'Legal Service', 'Secondhand Books', 'Honi Soit', and 'Student Collectives' as a direct option.

Specific examples: such as 'Caseworks help', opening the button will automatically connect to the relevant form, students can fill out without having to send mail or form alone

b. Quickly receive users' comments, and reply:

In the WeChat official account, users can directly reflect the question you want to express in the background sent to the administrator, transferred by the administrator to the department officer

c. Post SRC events details, Honi Soit articles and reports etc.

The WeChat official account allows account users to push its post directly to each account subscriber, at a set point of time, and the receive rate will be 100% as the push notification will be shown on the main screen.

**4. Funding application**

The demand of fund regarding to the launch of SRC Official Account and daily operation, including articles posting, account maintaining and managing is deemed to be uncertain at this point. Hence, we are looking forward to discussing the fund application and distribution later.

## Similar success examples

### University of Melbourne WeChat official account

#### USU:

It is worth mentioning that, in the USU's WeChat official account, USU is translated into University of Sydney Students' Union, rather than its original idea which is University of Sydney Union (Union of Sydney University).

SRC's Chinese translation is in essence the students' union of the University of Sydney. In terms of both functions, USU is more like a traditional Chinese Association of Colleges and Universities, to provide students with living services.

And SRC is the representative of the interests of students, the organization of the rights of students, which is consistent with the traditional Chinese sense of the students' union. Therefore, I think it is necessary for SRC to communicate with the relevant person who is in charge of the USU to reach a solution.

Ricardo Wu spoke on the report, emphasising the lack of engagement with international students. He mentioned that WeChat is basically, Facebook, Messenger and Instagram all rolled into one, and that it was used by almost all Chinese international students, as well as by some Korean and Japanese students. Ricardo Wu also expressed a desire to see an expansion in the casework services.

Isabella Brook asked if Ricardo had spoken to the International Student Officers?

Ricardo said he had and they were looking for volunteers to assist with the development of the page.

Isabella Brook inquired if there was going to be a cost.

Ricardo said not for now as he has begun to set up a personal account, saying that we can't open a business account without paying and may have to register as a business and was unsure of the cost of doing so. Ricardo mentioned he would like to look into translating some of the Honi articles into Mandarin.

Daniel Ergas expressed support for the idea, assuming there is no cost.

Isabella Brook thought it was a good idea but that the publications managers will need to be consulted.

Motion: that the report of the Student Housing Officer be accepted.

Moved: Daniel Ergas

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The meeting returned to the standing order.*

*Ricardo Wu left the meeting at 11:22*

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

*Melissa de Silva entered the meeting at 11:23*

### DURESS ALARMS & SAFETY DOOR

We're still waiting on information about the duress alarms and the door for the corridor. When Chits returns to work I will liaise with her and Izzy to determine what we need to do next.

### SAFETY TRAINING

Casework and Front Office staff have nearly completed safety training. All other SRC staff and students have not started. Could you please set a date (equivalent of 2 full days that can be set across 4 half days if needed) for exec and

honi to do training? I'll also see if the other staff members could attend on those days. I'll also arrange for the others to complete their training sometime in May.

#### MAKING A COMPLAINT / NOTING A CONCERN

I have been informally approached by a couple of OBs about a specific WHS concern they had about another person. I have informed them that WHS complaints would need to be emailed to me. If you have friends or comrades that would like to make a complaint about any WHS matters could you please ask them to email them to me.

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

Moved: Bella Pytka

Seconded: Patrick Ryan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

#### Request for Shorter Fortnight

I've accumulated some TIL and will be taking a few days off over the next couple of months. However I wanted to have a more formalised arrangement from the second half of the year, when I return to my regular caseworker role.

Motion to move the meeting in camera:

Moved: Daniel Ergas

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The meeting moved in camera at 11:27

The meeting moved ex camera at 11:30

Motion: that the report of the Casework and Policy Manager be accepted.

Moved: Irene Oh

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### 7. Report of the President

Isabella Brook resigned the chair to Patrick Ryan

#### 1. SSAF

SSAF allocations have come in. Not as much as we hoped, there won't be much left over for extra things this year. If it was a fair system we would have got a 3.5% increase, we got a 2.7% increase, that said SUPRA got a 17% increase, their budget is normally much smaller than ours. When Chitra is back we can go over the budget in more detail and plan for the future.

#### 2. NUS Education Conference

EdCon might have to be at Usyd again this year, South Australia have backed out of hosting and no one wants to go to Perth as it's too expensive. I don't think we are too keen to host and people don't seem keen on Perth because of the cost of travel. Also last time there were rats in the hostels.

Motion to move in camera

Moved: Bella Pytka

Seconded: Irene Oh

The meeting moved in camera at 11:38  
The meeting moved ex-camera at 11:48

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Bella Pytko

Seconded: Daniel Ergas

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Isabella Brook resumed the chair.

**8. Report of the Vice Presidents**

There was no report from the Vice Presidents

**9. Report of the General Secretaries**

1. More on SSAF – as you know we got 2.7%, SUPRA 17%, assuming Cumbo Students Guild probably remain the same then SUSF, USU and Student Services probably got around 3%. It's not great for us but it was fine, I'm happy for SUPRA as they have expanded, they are still at less than our total budget.
2. We are still following up on the Co-Op Bookshop and their behaviour at their AGM.

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

Moved: Patrick Ryan

Seconded: Irene Oh

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**10. Report of the Administration Manager**

*There was nothing to report*

**12. SRC Legal Service Report**

Thomas McLoughlin entered the meeting at 11:54am

Motion: to move in camera

Moved: Bella Pytko

Seconded: Daniel Ergas

The meeting moved in camera at 11:55am  
The meeting moved ex camera at 12:14pm

Motion: that the report of the SRC Legal Service be noted.

Moved: Irene Oh

Seconded: Patrick Ryan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

**13. Approval of Payments**

There were no payments to approve

## **14. Any Other Reports**

### **14.1. Report of the Educaiton Officer**

#### **1.1 Report of the Education Officers**

First of all, apologies on the lack of report from me during the year. I thought it was fine if one education officer gave a report!

Below is what I've been up to *outside* of my involvement in **organising the NDA** which is an activity that will continue in collaboration with the EAG and its members:

#### **Creating the SRC Counter Course book in collaboration with general secretaries**

#### **Creating the Comprehensive High School Network (CHSN)**

The program has seen a change in direction since week 4 of semester as it became clear that it is an almost impossible task to get in contact with enough comprehensive high school students to see events run successfully.

Looking forward the CHSN will;

1. link interested first years with appropriate mentors and set up one on one meetings
2. Lobby the university to run CHSN in 2018 as I believe it will increase participation (the university has access to the contact information of comprehensive high school students and so can more directly market the program to them and parents)
3. Begin the planned outreach program that will see mentors give free HSC preparation courses to interested comprehensive high schools. This will happen in semester two and is a program I hope the SRC will run in 2018 as the university has already made clear their disinterest in this aspect of the program

#### **Creating the Women in Political Economy Scholarship (WECOP scholarship)**

Looking forward WECOP and myself, with support from WOCO will;

1. Write the scholarship proposal and liaise with the arts faculty to see the scholarship included in USYD's fundraising drive later this year (and if not this year, then next)
2. Run a fundraising drive to encourage the establishment of the WECOP scholarship as I have been told by the arts faculty that bringing funds to the table will increase the chances of having the scholarship approved.

#### **Supporting the Save SCA campaign**

The Save SCA campaign is complex and has a long "time frame", spanning from 2016 to 2019/20 when the uni currently postulates SCA at OTC will be finished (though this is still under negotiation). The campaign is slowly building again as it was exhausted from 2016's campaign. As such, monetary support from the SRC is the only thing SCA has asked for (keeping in mind SUPRA is very active in the Save SCA campaign).

Representatives from the campaign and myself expect the campaign to require more SRC attention in semester 2 but meetings have been held between myself and Save SCA campaigners throughout semester.

#### **Organising the Con "Save student support services" campaign**

In collaboration with CSA president, a petition will be circulated at the Con to keep their student support services on site. This campaign is supported by SUPRA and, though far less active in support, Con staff who have previously fought for services to stay on-site.

Looking forward we will;

1. Be further circulating the petition to get as many student signatures as possible

We will be taking the petition to the next SCC meeting to begin discussions with university admin (if the outcome is unfavourable we will plan the next steps in the campaign).

Motion: that the report of the Education Officer be accepted.

Moved: Daniel Ergas

Seconded: Irene Oh

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

There was no report from the women's Officers

#### **14.4. Report of the Ethno Cultural Officers**

The ACAR Officers would like to request \$40 for the new logo we have organised for ACAR. We commissioned a wonderful artist to design a new full logo, as well as a small one, that we'd like to debut as the cover of this year's ACAR Honi Soit Edition. We hope this can be approved by the President and the executive.

Motion: that the report of the Ethno Cultural Officers be accepted once it's confirmed that the designer has an ABN.

Moved: Daniel Ergas

Seconded: Irene Oh

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **15. Other Business**

#### **15.1 Staff Leave**

Breda Dee:	Annual, 13/04/17, 1 day, 7 hours Annual, 24/04/17, 1 day, 7 hours
Heather Mabry:	TIL, 24/04/17, 1 day, 7 hours
Sharon Maher:	TIL, 11/04/17, 1 day, 7 hours TIL, 12/05/17 – 15/05/17, 2 days, 14 hours
Vanessa Sim:	Annual, 24/04/2017, 1 days, 7 hours
Julia Robins:	Annual, 27/04/17, 1 day, 5 hours
Julie Harrison:	Annual, 24.04/17

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Daniel Ergas

Seconded: Bella Pytka

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

#### **15.2 Window Sticker**



That the exec approve \$599.50 for the front window sticker to be replaced with the new logo.

Motion: that the exec approve \$599.50 for a new window sticker.

Moved: Patrick Ryan

Seconded: Daniel Ergas

*The meeting was declared closed at 12:25pm*