



**src** activism  
advocacy  
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**Students' Representative Council,  
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**MINUTES** of the 8th meeting of the Executive Committee, 91st SRC, held on 15th April in the Gosper Room, SRC Offices.

**PRESENT:** Jacky He (Chair), Niamh Callinan\*, Yuxuan Yang\*, Dane Luo^, and Xiaoyu Jin.

Apologies: Caitlyn Chu^, Vonnie Li

Absent: Josie Jakovac, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, Alex Yang.

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance: Melissa de Silva

Meeting Opened: 4:03pm

\*^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 Caitlyn Chu^, Vonnie Li

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Yuxuan Yang

The apologies were accepted, and the absence of Alex Yang was noted.

### **3. Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

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

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

Flood of water this morning in the back doorway and Jacky's office. USU aqua vacuumed the floors, but I think the carpet is still very wet. We will need to make sure this dries so that it doesn't go moldy.

Ongoing issues with the sushi shop continue. It still stinks from them in our offices, and they are still obstructing the emergency evacuation pathway. I have reported this again to Clint at USU and also to Julia at WHS.

Security have agreed to add me, Chits and Laura to their AdHoc warning system. All students are already a part of this system which will send SMSs to warn of critical incidents, e.g., active shooter on campus. Cheryl (security) and another woman whose name is in my brain somewhere, also talked to me about procedures for "lock in" and "evacuate and disperse" protocols. I'd like to do a drill with staff, then with exec, then with Honi, then with everyone together. What date would work for exec? If it is difficult to get a date for exec we can set two dates and we can mix it with staff.

Motion: that the report of the Workplace Health & Safety Officer be accepted, and the Secretary to Council to organise training for before/after the next Executive meeting.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Executive agreed to suspend the standing orders to move to agenda item 11**

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

It's so great to have James [Campbell] back. We missed him. He will be doing 3 days a week in April, so I will stay as acting manager during that time.

We have hired two researchers, giving us a flying start on our 3 projects. Rafi Alam will be doing a research project about affordable housing, and Altin Gavranovic will be doing a project on student welfare and wellbeing. We still have one or two projects (depending on time spent on other projects) to go. Niamh, Lorna and I were on the selection committee and I am super confident that the processes we used were very fair. There was feedback from a number of candidates at each step of the selection process that commented on how grateful they were in the effort that we went to, to be courteous and respectful of their time. I would like it noted here that I think that both Niamh and Lorna did a fantastic job and I would be very happy to work with them in that role in the future.

Jacky is working with James and Julia on the Code of Conduct review.

We are working with Mandy Baric about the review of the Student Appeals Against Academic Decisions. This is certainly an area that we deal with a lot and have many opinions on. I know that Mandy is doing a separate review with Jacky as well, which will give a slightly different perspective.

In the event that the University declines to provide funding for a campus visit to Singapore I would like to ask for exec approval for 3 nights' accommodation in Singapore. This will cover the night before and the two days of their orientation program. Hotel prices will be around \$515 AUD, depending on the exchange rate. I'll self-fund my airfare, and stay for a holiday.

**Discussion:**

Jacky He noted he could not find some of the information on the review, Mel clarified that it would have been send by Sharon Maher.

Melissa de Silva asked for the executive to ask around if anyone would like to share their experiences with appeals as it would assist getting as many perspectives as possible.

Melissa de Silva added to her report that a number of academics have expressed interested and are keen to support health day coming up and there is a lot of excitement about our support for the Singapore students.

Dane Luo spoke to the report and noted he was happy to see James Campbell return. While he was interested in the work being done on the Student Appeal Board he will confit off that issue but will give what input he can without breaking confidentiality. Dane also added that the Singapore students pay SSAF fees as well and see very little for it and is pleased that we will be supporting them.

Jacky He asked if the expenditure was included in the SRC outreach project scope.

Niamh Callinan said she didn't believe so.

Motion: that the report of the Casework and Policy Manager be accepted including up to \$550 for the 3-nights' accommodation for Melissa de Silva to attend the Singapore campus welcome week.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**7. Report of the President**

*Jacky He provided a written report*

Since the 7th Executive meeting I have:

- Continued leading the ongoing SSAF negotiations, communicating with staff and other student organisations, aiming for an amount that will be adequate to support out student projects and caseworker projects;
- Interviewed all the short-listed solicitor candidates and circulated feedback and comment amongst members of the SRC Legal Service Board;
- Successfully booked the venue for our first breakfast initiative for students on 18<sup>th</sup> of April;
- Met with USU and SUPRA to present some ideas about reforming the Code of Conduct Policy;

- Worked to preliminarily pass the proposed changes to Open Learning Environment at the Board of Interdisciplinary Studies meeting;
- Revised and made suggestions to the University's admission scheme at the Admission Subcommittee meeting;
- Attended the Lord Mayor's International Students Welcome and formed mutually-friendly relationships with organisations such as Tenant's Union, ISANA, Redfern Legal Centre, Fairwork Ombudsman, City of Sydney Council, all of whom are passionate about empowering University students, especially international students;
- Presented at the Smart Campus Summit at the UNSW Roundhouse;
- Attended and represented student views at the Learning Centre Online Module Launch;
- Represented the SRC and students at the Student Experience Working Group, Parramatta/Westmead Campus Experience Steering Committee and the Admissions Subcommittee;
- Helped to organise written article works on WeChat.

#### Upcoming Plans:

- Continuing and finalising SSAF negotiations at the next Student Life committee meeting;
- Negotiate a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;
- Organise ongoing Fortnightly Breakfasts;
- Assist with the ongoing presence on WeChat;
- Reviewing the applications for 2019 Electoral Officer;
- Host a Consent Matters seminar after the mid-semester break;
- Fully complete the OLE reform, which will take effect in 2020 at the earliest;
- Present a Code of Conduct review along with SUPRA and USU at Academic Board;
- Attending the World University Network Presidents' Conference at Dublin around mid-May.

#### World University Network at University College Dublin

The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) is a leading global higher education and research network made up of 23 universities and their student unions, spanning 13 countries on six continents. WUN has invited student leaders from all affiliated campuses to its Presidents' Conference to discuss student issues that falls within four globally significant themes:

- Responding to Climate Change
- Maintaining Student Mental Health and Well-Being
- Global Higher Education and Research
- Understanding Cultures within Universities

The event will take place between 17th and 24th of May, and will be hosted by the University College Dublin Student Union. Along with myself from the University of Sydney Student Representatives' Council, there will be representatives from 22 other student unions worldwide, notably from the University of Western Australia Student Guild, Auckland University Students' Association, University of Sheffield Students' Union and University of Bristol Students' Union.

I will also be presenting at the event, representing the views of our University and its students.

My return flight ticket to and from Dublin costs \$1175.31. To save cost I have chosen an early flight on the 25th of May. However, given the financial state of the SRC as it stands, I will sacrifice a part of the President's stipend to bear most of the cost of the flight ticket, though I would like to ask for a \$400 reimbursement, which is 1/3 the cost of the flight to cover SOME of the flight expenses.

I nominate Dane Luo as Acting President between, and including, 17 and 26 May 2019.

**Motion:** That the Executive approve a \$400 reimbursement to the President to cover a part of flight expenses to the University College Dublin for World University Network Presidents' Conference. \*

\* This is also in the reimbursements section.

**Discussion:**

Jacky He added that he was working on the code of conduct review with the USU and SUPRA. Jacky He gave some more information on the World University Network adding that the university of Sydney have paid for his accommodation and the reimbursement is only for 1/3 of the flight costs.

Dane Luo noted that the SRC reimburses students to attend conferences such as NUS National Conference and the President Summit and that is it very reasonable to request \$400

Motion: That the report of the President and \$400 request be accepted.

Moved: Yuxuan Yang

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**8. Report of the Vice Presidents**

Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting, we have:

- Worked through alterations to pts 8, 12 and 13 of the *Regulations*, which has taken up most of Dane's time recently, and, after extensive work, legal research and consultation with the 2018 Electoral Officer, the proposed alterations are almost ready;
- Continued working with the Publications Managers on updating our website with stage 1 (new template and some updated content) launched on Thursday 11 April 2019;
- Been working with Jessie (our new Education Officer) on her campaigns and ideas;
- Been working on updating several pages on the website with new text and looking for images;

- Been organising another DSP media law training session for Sean Perry and other DSPs with Thomas, Amanda and Mickie;
- Been working with Julia on hosting a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion by going through archives and Honi to get names of alumni for invitations. Soon, we will be seeking support for venue hire, catering, auction items and others;
- Provided data to Michael (National General Secretary) regarding the University of Sydney undergraduate student population; and,
- Started preparing for Welfare Week by reaching out to the Welfare Officers, contacting local organisations and venue hire.

#### Upcoming plans

- Hosting the inaugural Health Day at Mallet Street tomorrow (Tuesday 16 April 2019) with SUPRA;
- And then Health Day at Cumberland for Tuesday 30 April 2019 with SUPRA;
- Attending the batyr@Uni presentation on Wednesday 24 April 2019;
- Continue working on reviewing the *Regulations*;
- Assisting the President and General Secretary with budgetary and SSAF preparation;
- Working on stages 2 and 3 of updating and upgrading our website;
- Negotiating for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
- Welfare Week at Darlington/Camperdown for semester 2 week 3; and,
- Hosting 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion for late October or early November.

#### **Health Days**

Tomorrow will our first Health Day at Mallet Street from 11am to 2pm. We are really excited and look forward to telling students about support services that can assist them in their studies. Between ourselves and the amazing Casework and Policy Department, we have arranged for headspace to speak about mental health services, a domestic violence specialist from the police, contacted the NSW Nursing and Midwives' Association, getting sexual health information, and organised games and prizes. Several Officers and volunteers have contacted me and would like to be part of it, which is exciting. We hope that members of the Executive can join us tomorrow.

It's looking like more organisations and groups will be joining us at Cumberland, including batyr, a student focused mental health organisation. The Faculty of Health Sciences have also been very supportive of this initiative.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the tremendous assistance from the entire Casework and Policy Department (Mel, Sharon, James, Lorna and Breda) for Health Days.

#### **Stipend of the Electoral Officer**

Part 8 section 3(b) of the *Regulations* provides:

The Electoral Officer (hereafter, EO):

...

- (b) Shall not necessarily be employed by the Council, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the pursuit of the duties of the position of the EO provided that these have been carried out with due diligence, and *shall be paid a stipend which shall be a quarter of the President's stipend*; (my emphasis in italics)

The President's stipend is provided for in part 2 section 7(a) of the *Regulations*. Calculated according to the National Minimum Wage Order 2018, this amounts to \$37,398.40. A quarter of the President's stipend is \$9349.60. The 2018 Electoral Officer was paid a stipend of \$10,000.

This amount is woefully inadequate for such an important position. The SRC has a history of tightly contested ballots with very few ethical indiscretions, which differentiates it from other student organisations around the country. This historical success is partly due to the presence of a fairly salaried Electoral Officer who is able to detect and prevent abuses of the electoral process by candidates and campaigners.

The Electoral Officer is expected to work above and beyond ordinary working hours, particularly in the week of voting and counting, to ensure that elections produce a democratically representative outcome where foul play and breaches to the *Regulations* are minimised or eliminated. Our model of student-led democracy is crucial to the function and identity of the SRC overall.

Also, as recommended in the 2018 Electoral Officer's Report, the Electoral Officer is being appointed in the May Council meeting, which is one month earlier than 2018.

We propose an increase to the stipend having regard to the organisation's financial circumstances, the amount of work that the position requires and recognising its importance.

**Motion:** That the Executive approves a stipend of \$12,000 plus superannuation to the 2019 Electoral Officer.

**Discussion:**

Dane spoke to the report adding that the Publications Managers raised that there has been an issue with DSP attendance, and that many had not been meeting their obligations set out in the regulations (Part 6 s 1) noting that 5 of 6 DSPs have missed their assigned sessions and that 2 have not attended a session so far, missing 3 consecutive sessions.

Dane Luo continued that this put all the pressure on Jacky and the Publications Managers especially considering that there is currently only one SRC solicitor and he has been on leave. Dane added he had been in contact with the DSPs reminding them of their responsibilities. There will be a new reminder system with Amanda LeMay to remind DSPs on the Thursdays and Dane Luo to follow that up on Sundays asked for attendance documents to be kept.

Niamh Callinan thanked Dane Luo for taking that on and reiterated how important the role of DSP was and that it was fair to raise the Electoral Officer's stipend.

Jacky He noted that raising the stipend was fair as with the current one and the amount of work it comes to about \$4 an hour.

Motion: that the report of the Vice Presidents be accepted.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Yuxuan Yang

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

### **Since 7<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting**

- Ongoing work with the Vice President regarding regulation changes to be presented at the next council meeting;
- Involved in the selection committee of the Research Officer alongside the Casework and Policy department;
- Working with all the collectives and departments to discuss their activities and projects for the year;
- Continuing SSAF negotiations alongside the President and Vice Presidents;
- Commencing work on the EBA;
- Working with the Legal Director to finalise a new Solicitor for the Legal Service.

### **Ongoing;**

- Breakfasts, which will commence this week;
- Continuing SSAF negotiations;
- Meeting with collectives and departments to have a further discussion
- Discussing with staff about annual plan with Vice president.
- Budget planning;
- Negotiate a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;
- Continue Regulations Review with the Vice President;
- Ongoing presence on WeChat; Joint article with USU, Supra
- Organise the 90th Anniversary Reunion for late October or early November.

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

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

There was nothing to report from the Administration Manager.

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

It was noted that the Legal services will give a report at next Executive meeting after the Legal Board meeting.

### **13. Approval of Payments**

#### **13.1. Reimbursements**

Jacky He (Exec):	\$400	partial cost of flights to World University Network
Mickie Quick (pubs):	\$49.01	Business cards for casework
Annie Zhang (Honi):	\$200	Food and drink for Honi Soit reporter training

Jacky He's reimbursement was previously approved during his report.

Motion: that reimbursements be approved en bloc.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **14. Any Other Reports**

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

##### **Budget:**

We are in the process of drafting a budget as requested.

##### **Female Alumnae Career Panel "In Conversation Event":**

We are in the process of confirming the list of female alumnae for our entrepreneurship and career mentoring panels scheduled for Semester 2. To deliver this event we have been working with Sophia Zeritis, from the Vice Chancellor's Office and the senior manager of diversity, leadership and inclusion department, Sarah Abbott. There will be one panel focused on women in STEM fields and one panel focusing on women in Humanities and Commerce fields. The event structure will be similar to a Q and A style workshop and will intend to foster strong bonds between USYD women past and present.

##### **Meeting with the Careers Centre:**

We also met with the Careers Centre to discuss student feedback about university career services from a small survey we conducted in previous weeks. We think that student survey information is quite valuable and something we would be willing to do more of in the future, and with the guidance of the executive, to ensure that we are representing actual student voices.

##### **Report back from the Safer Communities Advisory Group Meeting:**

The Safer Communities Advisory Group met on Thursday 4 April with main areas of discussion centred around the Safer Community Student Survey and the policy framework for consent education. Mel provided us with a briefing and some concerns which were

raised regarding suggested changes to wording of the Safer community student survey. We have been asked for any further suggestions or question submissions. If the executive is interested in looking at the current wording of the 2015 survey for reference, we have a hard copy version which can be provided to you. There was also a large discussion on the Consent Matters Module enabling student exemptions on 'religious, cultural or person groups or conscientious objection using the dorm designed for the process.' However, it should be noted a small number of students (around 22 students) are using this mechanism which is primarily designed to enable exemptions for those students for whom completing the survey would likely induce distress. More data and evaluative feedback on the consent matters course has been requested for the next meeting.

**Sanitary Item Project:**

We are considering adding another box in the Women's Room in Manning. Laura has reported seeing a notable increase in the number of students accessing the service. Promotion will continue with the USU advertising the poster in Week 8.

**USYD Walking Service and Security:**

It was brought to our attention that some students were concerned that the Student Walking Service is no longer available at USYD. We have asked for a full justification from Cheryl Wharton, the operations and security manager from Campus infrastructure and security. She is looking into it but cited a concern regarding the fact that advertising such walking services could 'attract predators to these areas.' As such, we have requested further clarification and a follow up meeting as we believe this service is important in promoting the safety and wellbeing of USYD students. This concern also raises the importance of advertising the Campus Security Shuttle Bus service. We have been also liaising with drivers to ascertain the peak times of use and how to best advertise the service.

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

Moved: Xiaoyu Jin

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**15. Other Business**

**15.1 Staff Leave**

Amanda LeMay	Annual, 24/04/19 -26/04/19, 2 days 14 hours
Mickie Quick	Annual, 23/04/19 – 24/04/19, 2 days, 10 hours

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Yuxuan Yang

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The meeting was declared closed at 4:39pm*