



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

**Julia Robins**, Secretary to Council  
secretary.council@src.usyd.edu.au

**Students' Representative Council,  
University of Sydney**

Level 1, Wentworth Building (G01)  
University of Sydney NSW 2006  
PO Box 794 Broadway NSW 2007  
t: (02) 9660 5222 f: (02) 9660 4260  
int: 12871 www.src.usyd.edu.au  
ABN: 597 391 306 68

**MINUTES** of the **7th** meeting of the Executive Committee, 91st SRC, held on 4th April 2019 in the Gosper Room, SRC Offices.

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

Apologies: Josie Jakovac, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, and Alex Yang

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance:

Meeting Opened: 10:14

\*^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 Josie Jakovac, Prudence Wilkins-Wheat, and Alex Yang.

Dane Luo asked if Alex Yang had given a reason for not attending?

Secretary to Council confirmed none had.

Niamh Callinan noted that Alex Yang has missed 6 of the 7 meetings so far.

Dane Luo said that this is was the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the executive and for 3 meetings in a row Alex Yang didn't send apologies. Adding that the role of the Executive is important and needs to be taken seriously and missing 6 of 7 meetings is not acceptable.

Niamh Callinan noted that missing 2 meetings in a row without apologies is enough to have someone removed and asked if it should be raised at council.

Dane asked if anyone had an opinion.

Jacky He suggested that we note that Alex Yang has missed 6 meetings and discuss it at council.

Motion to accept the apologies

Moved: Xiaoyu Jin

Seconded: Yuxuan Yang

The apologies were accepted.

Dane Luo noted his dissent at accepting Alex Yang's apology.

### **3. Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Caitlyn Chu

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**

Security have visited and included us 3 number to be added to the 'ad-hoc' system which sends an SMS if there is a critical incident like an active shooter, bomb, etc.

They gave me some info on how to train SRC folks in 'lock in' and 'evacuate disperse'. I will be running drills soon.

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

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

##### **Since the 6th Executive meeting I have:**

- Been 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
- Working with the Casework and Policy Department on the selection committee for a new research and policy officer
- Working with the Legal Director to appoint another solicitor for the SRC Legal Service
- Booking the venue for fortnightly breakfasts for students
- Hosted a Beer and Pizza Party on Thursday 28 March 2019
- Hosted a Student Housing Seminar on Friday 29 March 2019
- Advised the university on the updated code of conduct policies and consent policies
- Caught up with Professor Peter McCallum to confirm details of OLE reform
- Raised issues about the student centre and suggesting solutions to improving student experiences at UE Student Life and UE Education Committees
- Helped to organise written article works on WeChat

##### **Upcoming Plans:**

- Continuing SSAF negotiations
- Negotiate a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
- Ongoing Fortnightly Breakfasts
- Ongoing presence on WeChat
- Reviewing the applications for 2019 electoral officer
- Host a consent matters seminar after mid-semester break
- Complete the OLE reform, which will take effect in 2020 the earliest
- Present a Code of Conduct review along with SUPRA at Academic Board
- Present at the Smart Campus Summit at the UNSW Roundhouse
- Attending the World University Network Presidents' Conference at Dublin around mid-May

Dane Luo asked if the Code of Conduct review was being done with anyone else if it was just SUPRA.

Jacky He said it would be SUPRA and the SRC caseworkers

Niamh Callinan inquired about the Smart Campus Summit

Jacky He said that it was a conference at UNSW and it is supposed to have representatives from each university

Niamh Callinan asked if Jacky knew what he intended to talk about

Jacky He said he did and that it would cover history of the SRC, student life and technology on campus.

Caitlyn Chu asked what the area reform was about

Jacky He said that it was to do with the University's OLEs (online learning environments), making them transferable and also expanding them to 6 credit point courses.

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Caitlyn Chu

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

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

After consulting with Julia (our wonderful Secretary to Council) and some Executive members, we are structuring our Executive reports slightly differently to the past so we can clearly and succinctly summarise what we have been doing, what we plan to do and explain any requests or reimbursements.

### **Executive Summary**

Since the 6<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting, we have:

- Continued working with the Publications Managers on updating and upgrading our website. A new template and an update of pages will be pushed next week;
- Held meetings regarding mental health programs and CAPS with University management, and planning to collaborate with other Faculty Societies to make a submission regarding mental health for the University's 5 year mental health plan;
- Held another round of meetings with most Faculty Society Presidents. From here, we provided briefings on faculty-specific issues to our caseworkers and President;
- Working through alterations to pts 8, 11 and 12 of the *Regulations*;
- Delivered reports to Council and in *Honi Soit*, and spoke to 5 students in consultation times;
- Helped out at the International Student Collective BBQ on Saturday 23 March 2019;
- Held a Beer and Pizza Party on Thursday 28 March 2019; and,
- Helped out at the HealthSoc Welcome Picnic on Saturday 30 March 2019 and handed out small bags with important information about student services and support.

Upcoming plans:

- Continue working on reviewing the *Regulations*;
- Continue working on updating and upgrading our website;
- Negotiating for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;

- Health Day at Mallet Street for Tuesday 16 April 2019;
- Health Day at Cumberland for Tuesday 30 April 2019;
- Satellite campus visits after mid-semester break (dates TBC);
- Welfare Week at Darlington/Camperdown for semester 2 week 3; and,
- Hosting 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion for late October or early November.

### **Progress on Health Days**

We are very delighted that preparation for Health Days at Mallet Street and Cumberland is coming together. Both the Sydney Nursing School and Faculty of Health Sciences are keen for us to go there. We have received so much support from NGOs and local support services who are extremely happy that we are promoting their services.

SUPRA has agreed to partner with us to hold both Health Days and they will be paying 50% of costs. Dane has been in contact with Karishma Menon (SUPRA's Satellite Campus Officer) and SUPRA caseworkers to coordinate a collaboration, which is fantastic as we can make the event bigger and engage more students.

As we are also catering for postgraduate students, we will be needing to spend more than the Executive's approved amount. We estimate the total amount will be approximately \$2000. However, as SUPRA will be paying us back, the net amount being spent by the SRC will not exceed \$1100.

The Casework and Policy Manager has reported that we are anticipating 230 students at the Mallet Street Health Day on Tuesday 16 April 2019. After liaising with SUPRA, we have ordered from Subway:

<b>Platters of 16</b>	<b>Quantity of platters</b>	<b>Total</b>
Classic Wraps	12	\$588.00
Veggie Wraps	2	\$90.00
Gluten-Free Wraps	1	\$56.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$734.00</b>

The amount being reimbursed by SUPRA is \$367.00. Thus, the net amount being paid by the SRC is \$367.00.

### **Satellite Campus Visits**

Dane will be joining our caseworkers for another round of satellite campus visits to Camden, Conservatorium, Rozelle (Sydney College of the Arts), Surry Hills (Sydney Dental Hospital) and Westmead before the end of semester 1.

In the past, the caseworkers have attended these campuses and handed out chocolate and flyers or business cards with information. This has been very effective. We very much support their efforts and help out wherever we can.

We would like to try a new approach for this round of visits. We believe that a balanced and nutritious diet is important for students and eating healthy food can even help with their concentration and studies. So we would like to try handing out fruit (eg apples, pears, mandarins, bananas or whatever is in season), fruit tubs and snack bars.

Request that the executive approve \$200 for nutritious food to be distributed at satellite campuses.  
Dane Luo covered the main points in the written report.

Yuxuan Yang asked how much the paper info bags cost.

Dane Luo said they come to around 50c per bag with the materials inside as it's all done on site

Jacky He noted that the \$360 for health day was less than approved

Dane Luo clarified that the \$360 was just for the Mallet street campus day.

Motion: that the report of the Vice Presidents be accepted with the \$200 for food.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Vonnie Li

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

### **Since the 6<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting we have:**

- Established a budget template for all department and collectives to fill out by the end of this month (April);
- Been taking part in ongoing SSAF negotiations;
- Working with the Vice Presidents on regulation changes to sections 8, 12 and 13;
- Working with the Casework and Policy Department on the selection committee for a new research and policy officer;
- Working with the Legal Director to appoint another solicitor for the SRC Legal Service;
- Organising the breakfasts for students;
- Held a Beer and Pizza Party on Thursday 28 March 2019.

### **Upcoming Plans:**

- Continuing SSAF negotiations;
- Budget planning;
- Meeting with Collectives and Departments to discuss their plans and projects and how the elective can assist;
- Negotiate a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement;
- Ongoing Fortnightly Breakfasts;
- Continue Regulations Review with the Vice President;
- Ongoing presence on WeChat;
- Organise the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion for late October or early November.

Dane Luo thanked the General Secretaries for their work.

Yuxuan Yang wanted to add to the report that there have been lots of inquiries as to the difference between SRC, the USU and SUPRA, and that they are working together on a collaborative article outlining the differences.

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

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Vonnie Li

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

There was nothing to report

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

- Casework are doing sexual health and tenancy training through Redfern Legal Centre today
- As always working on a number of committee and working group papers
- James Campbell has returned
- Louise's last day is today
- We are doing some collaboration with ISANA (International Student Advisor's Network Association) for international student's through Youth Week.
  - o Will meet with Jacky He about this.
- Mental Health stigma forum is happening on April 24<sup>th</sup>
  - o So far only Dane has responded. Please talk to your friends about it's an excellent opportunity.
- New Researcher interviews are happening Friday.

Dane Luo expressed that he was glad the SRC Casework team were getting access to the RLS training. Also that he was excited about ISANA and encouraged the Executive to get involved in the mental health and stigma training.

Niamh Callinan said she was sad to see Louise Stack leave, but excited to have James Campbell back.

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

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

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

Dane asked the Board how the interviews to find a new solicitor were going, and who was on the selection panel.

Niamh Callinan answered that they were ongoing and that the panel was going to have three people, a student rep from the board, and an external professional. Unfortunately, none of the external professional Thomas contacted was available.

The comments from the representatives of the SLS Board was noted.

## **13. Approval of Payments**

### **13.1 Reimbursements**

Melissa de Silva (Casework):	\$27.20	movie tickets for housing forum
Laura Kitsos (admin):	\$15.73	chain for A frame and straps for trolley

Motion: that reimbursements be approved en bloc.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **14. Any Other Reports**

### **14.1. Report of the Interfaith Officers**

As the Interfaith Officer, I helped the Sydney University Red Cross Society with the We Stand with Christchurch vigil held on Friday 22 March 2019. I organised for a banner for students to write messages. It was very well received and many students wrote lovely messages. I thought it would be a wonderful gesture if I sent the big banner with the students' messages on it from the vigil to the mosque in New Zealand itself. It would cost up to \$20 for postal stamps. Could the Executive please consider this request?

- Julia Kopic, Interfaith Officer

Dane Luo noted that he was excited that officers are giving reports and that he was in support of the request. Adding that he hoped in the future satellite campuses could be included as well.

Motion: that the report of the Interfaith Officers be accepted.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **15. Other Business**

### **15.1 Staff Leave**

James Campbell:	Sick, 22/03/19, 25/03/19 – 26/03/19, 29/03/19, 1/04/19 – 2/04/19, 05/04/19, total 8 days, 56 hours
Laura Kitsos:	Sick, 26/04/19, 1 day, 7 hours
Sharon Maher:	TIL, 15/04/19 – 18/04/19, 4 days, 28 hours Annual, 26/08/19 – 28/08/19, 3 days 21 hours

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Dane Luo

Seconded: Niamh Callinan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **15.2 Regulations Alterations**

*The opinions of Dane Luo can be found in appendix 1.*

Jacky He asked if this needed to be presented to the council

Dane Luo clarified that this was just an opinion and not a recommendation and therefore did not need to go to council.

The executive noted the opinions of Dane Luo.

### **15.3 Duties of the Executive**

Niamh Callinan noted that at council there was issues raised with the executive and their handling of the answer of why the women's collective funding request of the previous year had been rescinded. While Niamh Callinan noted this has been addressed in past meetings she would be writing up an answer for the Sexual Harassment Officers and would send it around to the executive first before delivering it to the Sexual Harassment Officers.

The executive noted Niamh Callinan's statement.

*The meeting was declared closed at 10:43*

## APPENDX 1.

### Opinion of Dane Luo (Vice President)

1. In January 2019, I emailed the then-Secretary to Council, Cameron Caccamo, regarding the procedure and rules relating to amendments to proposed alterations to the *Regulations*, that is, where a student wishes to amend a motion that contains alterations to the *Regulations*.
2. We both came to the conclusion that the *Regulations* themselves are not clear on the procedure and rules of such an action. As such, we decided to either bring the matter to the Executive's consideration, in its capacity as the Chairperson of the Standing Legal Committee whilst the position was vacant,<sup>1</sup> or seek an interpretation from the Chairperson when they were elected. As the matter was not urgent, we decided that Mr Caccamo would bring it to the Chairperson's attention when they were elected.
3. I am still waiting for the Chairperson's interpretation. Only they can provide a binding interpretation as they are the sole interpreter of the *Constitution and Regulations*.<sup>2</sup> In that time, I have looked at part 9 of the *Regulations* and past precedent, and received advice from the Secretary to Council, Julia Robins.<sup>3</sup> I provide my own opinion below.

### Preliminary matters

4. The ultimate duty of an interpreter is to give effect to what the student body or Council intended the provision to have.<sup>4</sup> The begins with an examination of the text itself because the Council's own words would give the most powerful indication of what it intended.
5. Part 9 of the *Regulations* provides:  
...  
6. [PROCEDURE] FOR ALTERATION OF THE REGULATIONS:  
Notwithstanding all else contained in these Regulations, the procedure for the alteration of these Regulations shall be as follows:
  - (a) The member of Council moving the alteration shall give the notice at least ten (10) working days before the next meeting of the Council;
  - (b) The Secretary to Council shall refer the alteration to the Legal Committee for its consideration;
  - (c) The General Secretary shall include the proposed alterations in the notice of the meeting sent to members of Council. For the purpose of this subsection it shall be sufficient for the Secretary to Council to give notice in terms in which they received the motion in the first instance;
  - (d) The Secretary to Council shall make available at the appropriate meeting of the Council the reports of the Legal Committee on the proposed alteration.
7. ALTERATION OF THE REGULATIONS:  
In connection with a proposed alteration of Regulations the Committee shall report on:
  - (a) Whether the proposed new Regulation (or amendment) is Constitutional;

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<sup>1</sup> See Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Meeting of the 91<sup>st</sup> SRC, 4 December 2018, item 15.2.

<sup>2</sup> *Regulations* pt 9 s 13.

<sup>3</sup> I am very grateful and thankful to Julia for her assistance on this matter.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Executive Meeting of the 91<sup>st</sup> SRC, 19 February 2019, app 4 para 4–6.

- (b) Whether it contradicts existing Regulations;
- (c) The text of the proposed alteration;
- (d) Any alterations to the motions which it considers desirable on account of its findings under sub-sections (a), (b) and (c) of this Section.

...

6. Part 9 section 6(b) envisages that the Standing Legal Committee would meet between the issuing of the notice and the Council meeting.
7. The plain and ordinary text in section 7(d) allows that Committee to propose alterations to the motion 'on account of its findings under sub-sections (a), (b) and (c)' in that section.
8. Therefore, the *Regulations* provide that amendments to *Regulations* alterations that are proposed by the Standing Legal Committee can be considered without the notice period being given. This is because the Standing Legal Committee's amendments are limited to only those that address issues of constitutionality, conflicts with other provisions and minor issues (such as spelling or wording issues) in the text of the alteration itself, rather than any substantive amendments.
9. This begs the question: what about amendments to *Regulations* alterations that are not proposed by the Standing Legal Committee?

#### Precedent and authority

10. Before I begin my consideration, I turn to three recent instances of attempts to amend motions that alter the *Regulations*.
11. On one instance, former President, Kyol Blakeney, agreed with a ruling proposed by Secretary to Council, Julia Robins, that changes to alterations to the *Regulations* need to also meet the notice provisions.<sup>5</sup>
12. On a second instance, Oliver Plunkett and Dylan Williams moved a foreshadowed motion to permit digital signatures for nominations in elections. It was recorded in the Minutes that '[a]s the foreshadowing motion would amend the regulations it will be able to be voted on until council is given two weeks notice of [its] content.'<sup>6</sup>
13. On a third instance, in a recent change to part 8 of the *Regulations*, the mover, Bella Pytka, at the Council meeting 'struck a some changes to the regulations including sections 13 (b) and (c) and 27 (i) from the motion. And renumbered accordingly.'<sup>7</sup> These amendments were made by the mover that removed parts of the proposed alterations and renumbered other sections. No objections were made. And the alteration to the *Regulations*, as amended, were carried.

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<sup>5</sup> Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Council Meeting of the 87<sup>th</sup> SRC, 15 April 2015, item Q, motion #2. The Minutes reads that the: Secretary has ruled that any change to the [alterations] to the regulations without two weeks notice is against the regulations, any change that is not already tabled in the amended versions giving to council will have to be given to council with at least two weeks notice to be considered. The chair agrees with this interpretation of the regulations.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting of the 88<sup>th</sup> SRC, 4 May 2016, item Q2.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting of the 89<sup>th</sup> SRC, 5 April 2017, item Q6.

## Consideration

14. Part 9 section 6(a) is unequivocal in mandating that proposed alterations require 10 working days notice to the Council.
15. The intent of this provision is to give time for deliberations and careful consideration of the alteration by Representatives and other members of Council.
16. It also allows time for the Standing Legal Committee, established as a purely advisory body,<sup>8</sup> to produce the report mandated under part 9 section 7. The report requires Standing Legal Committee members to diligently and carefully consider whether the proposed alteration is constitutional and whether it would contradict existing *Regulations*.
17. Falling short of such 'check' could lead to conflicting obligations and provisions, which may have consequences on the functioning of our organisation or place people in a situation where the compliance of one provision would constitute a breach of another.
18. Whilst nothing in the *Regulations* explicitly provides that amendments must undergo the same procedure and receive a Standing Legal Committee report, in my opinion, part 9 section 6 impliedly compels that procedure for amendments that introduce new information.
19. This is because an amendment with new information to an alteration, particularly a wide-ranging amendment, may transform an alteration that is constitutional to one that is unconstitutional. If moved at a late stage or even from the floor of the Council, there would hardly be any opportunity for the Standing Legal Committee to sufficiently consider the issues that it needs to report on. Furthermore, Representatives and proxies, charged with the task of voting on these amendments, would not have the same opportunity to review them, which would be very unfair.
20. However, not all amendments to an alteration introduces new information. For example, amendments that merely deletes a part of the alteration would not be introduce new information. Likewise, renumbering sections and subsections would not be introducing new information, unless the act of renumbering means that another provision has a new meaning.
21. In contrast, adding or substituting text would generally add new information.
22. The intent of the notice provisions in part 9 section 6 of the *Regulations* is so there is adequate time for all information to be conveyed to Representatives and checked by the Standing Legal Committee. If an amendment to an alteration introduces no new information, then the function of giving notice, as it was intended, is not served.
23. For these reasons, I have come to the conclusion that an amendment to a *Regulations* alteration with less than 10 working days notice must satisfy the 'no new information test'. If the amendment adds new information, it needs to be a separate *Regulations* alteration at a later meeting. If the amendment does not add new information, it can be considered under the ordinary rules of amendments to motions in Council meetings.
24. As I have noted, the no new information test does not apply to amendments proposed by the Standing Legal Committee.

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<sup>8</sup> *Regulations* pt 9 s 1.

25. I want to illustrate the no new information test using the above instances as examples.
26. The actions of Ms Pytka to strike out some clauses and renumber accordingly brought no new information for the Council's determination. All the information had already been supplied to Council with the requisite notice.
27. In contrast, the suggestion by Alisha Aitken-Radburn to add the USU President to the list of *ex-officio* members of Council added new information.<sup>9</sup> As there was insufficient notice, Mr Blakeney was correct to rule that the amendment could not be accepted.
28. Likewise, the foreshadowed motion by Mr Plunkett and Mr Williams amended clauses in the *Regulations*. This provides new information and the Council was correct to defer the motion to the next meeting, where they were carried.<sup>10</sup>
29. In summary, amendments to *Regulations* alterations without 10 working days' notice cannot be accepted under pt 9 of the *Regulations* unless:
  - a. The amendment is proposed by the Standing Legal Committee; or
  - b. The amendment satisfies the no new information test.

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<sup>9</sup> Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Council Meeting of the 87<sup>th</sup> SRC, 15 April 2015, item Q. Under the heading 'AMENDMENTS: Part 1.6', the following exchange was recorded:

Alisha Aitken-Radburn: What about USU president?

Kyol Blakeney: You can add that as a regulations change [if] you want.

<sup>10</sup> Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting of the 88<sup>th</sup> SRC, 1 June 2016, item Q1.