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MINUTES of the 17th meeting of the Executive, 91st SRC, held on Thursday 5 September 2019 in the President's Office, SRC Offices.

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

Apologies: Josie Jakovac, Caitlyn Chu, Vonnie Li and Prudence Wilkins-Wheat.

Absences: Alex Yang.

Minutes: Dane Luo.

In attendance: Melissa de Silva and Amanda LeMay.

Meeting Opened: 3:02pm.

**[^]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, Caitlyn Chu, Vonnie Li and Prudence Wilkins-Wheat.

Discussion:

Dane Luo said that he will vote against accepting the apologies of Prudence Wilkins-Wheat. She has not attended an Executive meeting since May this year, almost four months. She has not been present for the past six consecutive meetings.

Motion: To accept the apologies and note the absences.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The apologies were accepted. Dane Luo dissented.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 22nd August 2019 were distributed.

The spelling of the names of Jacky He and Josie Jakovac were corrected. The mover and seconder of item 3 was added. Jacky He's abstention was noted.

Motion: that the minutes of the 22nd August 2019, as amended, be accepted.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Procedural motion: That we move to the Report of the Publications Managers.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Dane Luo

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Amanda LeMay entered the meeting at 3:07pm.

14. 2. Report of the Publications Managers

We are seeking clarification on the following publishing issues:

1. Honi Soit Publishing online without DSP Approval

It has been brought to our attention that Honi Soit has once again published online articles without DSP approval. Publications staff would like the SRC Executive to clarify and/or be directed to any action you would like us to take.

2. An Li on leave

In An Li's absence, please clarify what you wish to do about the Legal report each week for Honi Soit from the solicitor while An is away on leave? Appointing a qualified replacement to do the report is advisable.

3. DSP's participating in the election

There are a number of DSP's participating in the 2019 elections. DSP's are required to declare any conflict of interest and sign a confidentiality agreement. Honi Soit editors participating in the election are not permitted to work on the election edition of Honi Soit however in the past this has not extended to DSP's. Please clarify, in reference to the Constitution and Regs, if there are any further restrictions on DSPs checking and approving the publication of Honi Soit during the election period. If there are restrictions, please clarify alternative checking and approval procedure and inform Publications and Communications staff.

Discussion:

Amanda spoke to the report. On the first issue, she noted that the current Honi editors appear believe the DSP process does not apply to online articles, only print, and have published without following the procedure. This is very worrying and has not happened before to this extent. The Executive should respond and get back to Mickie to clarify some action because if an issue becomes problematic, it can become a

bigger problem. On the second issue, getting a legal report from An has been helpful and provides support to the DSPs. She suggests the Executive contact Maggie or someone else. On the third issue, something may need to be raised and there needs to be greater clarity on the process.

Yuxuan Yang entered the meeting at 3:14pm. Amanda LeMay left the meeting at 3:19pm.

Niamh said that she will speak to Maggie Hayes for the second issue to check whilst An is away.

Jacky asked about a procedure document that he was working on with Amanda. Amanda responded that she believes the President can act as a DSP when the DSPs don't attend so to expediate the procedure. Jacky said that, for the third issue, he believed that if DSPs are candidates, they should not be permitted to check Honi.

Dane said that there are existing procedures about the third issue. Part 8 section 9(e) of the *Regulations*, which says 'For the Special Election Issue of Honi Soit the Directors of Student Publications (DSPs) elected by Council shall act within their duties as prescribed in the Regulations. Where the DSPs are candidates in the election, Council may appoint DSPs to act for the Special Election Issue of Honi Soit.' The last ordinary Council meeting that could have appointed DSPs under this clause was last night, which was not done. There is not enough time for notice and preparation for a special meeting before Monday's check. To his knowledge, the only DSPs who are not candidates in the 2019 elections are Jinwei Luan and Brandon Hale, and he will contact them to see if they can come on Monday.

Jacky He passed the Chair to Yuxuan Yang to speak on the matter.

Jacky said that all articles need to be approved by the DSPs no matter if they are breaking news or not. The DSPs are quite inactive each year and Honi may go and publish breaking material but this is not appropriate. Honi may feel dissatisfied if they can not get breaking material out in time.

Xiaoyu Jin suggested that we contact the DSPs. Dane highlighted the difficulty of contacting the DSPs so far this year and highlighted the fact that Abbey Shi, Sean Perry and Brandon Hale still have not completed media law training. Also, despite sending many reminder emails, many don't show up to rostered checking sessions.

Niamh Callinan said that the DSPs need to be more active and Honi also needs to be active in contacting DSPs. Since Honi has gone ahead without DSP approval, there has to be consequences for not following procedure if there is such a high risk. It has been suggested that we can take off their online publishing rights for a month as a consequence. Xiaoyu Jin agrees.

Yuxuan Yang said that most factions have DSPs and said that Honi Soit Editors can contact factional headkickers to get in touch with DSPs.

Jacky He said that he made an agreement with Honi Soit that Honi Soit would send a breaking article via email and Facebook messenger to him. And if he does not reply within 20 minutes, Honi can go ahead and publish. Reflecting on that agreement now and given the many defamation and legal battles going on this year, he does not think it is safe at all.

Dane Luo proposed that the Executive nominate interested members to meet directly with Honi Soit and DSPs to address the issue and get back to the Executive within two weeks. All Executive members said that was a good idea. The interested members were Jacky He, Yuxuan Yang and Xiaoyu Jin.

Jacky He said he will contact the SUPRA Legal Service if Maggie Hayes is not available.

Dane Luo said that there are essentially three editions of Honi Soit from the commencement of online campaigning and last day for scrutinies. The week 6 edition is the Special Election Issue and, under part 8 section 9(b) of the *Regulations*, all candidates can inspect a final copy. Usually, if they see something, they'll say something, and can follow it up with the Electoral Officer as the supervisor and editor of that special issue. The weeks 7 and 8 edition fall during the physical campaigning and polling days. During that period, the Electoral Officer has DSP-like powers for election commentary and needs to ensure there is no defamation and the edition does not endorse a candidate. It has also been the accepted practice for the last few years that Honi Soit editors also send election-related online articles to the Electoral Officer to check before publishing, and hopes it continues this year. If the Electoral Officer can look after the election commentary, then there should be no problem with DSPs doing the rest of the paper, which they do not usually have factional issues there. Also the *Regulations* make very clear that all a DSP does is find issues under part 6 section 1(a) – that's all they do and nothing more. Dane said he will send an email to the DSPs and remind them of this again.

The Executive resolved to answer the questions as follows:

Question 1: Jacky He, Yuxuan Yang and Xiaoyu Jin will meet with Honi Soit and DSPs to resolve the issue and come back to the Executive and Publications Managers in two weeks.

Question 2: Niamh Callinan will contact Maggie Hayes. If she is not available, Jacky He will contact SUPRA Legal Service.

Question 3: Dane Luo will contact Brandon Hale and Jinwei Luan to be DSPs for the week 6 edition and will also email DSPs with the *Regulations* requirements again.

Motion: that the report of the Publications Managers be accepted and the Executive note the answers.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

The meeting resumed the agenda. Yuxuan Yang passed the Chair to Jacky He.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Melissa de Silva entered the meeting at 3:41pm.

6. Workplace Health and Safety Report

As you may have been aware we have locked the bathrooms due to a breach in WHS. Could you please discuss possible long term solutions? We can arrange to install a lock on one of the stalls as per the suggestion from the Vice President. Please advise me as soon as possible of what action you would like to take.

It would probably cost \$250 including locks and spare keys, its a rough quote but should be around that. I would suggest that if we want to do 2 [cubicles] we do it at the same time, this is because the call out and installation fee is the bulk of the cost with the locks being around \$30. We would also need to get about 10 keys so either all staff can have one or at least the ones that want them can have one.

Discussion:

Mel de Silva spoke to her report. There has been urine on toilet seats, back of the seat, floor, toilet paper holder and all the way around the cubicle. It was very excessive and disgusting. This can't happen because if there is blood or faecal matter, it becomes dangerous. It only started happening this year and we think it is someone in this cohort. Liaised with Dane for a solution is to put a lock on one or two cubicle for staff. Whilst it solves the problem for staff, it doesn't solve it for others. The lock itself is \$35 but the total cost is up to \$250 for one lock to be purchased and installed but hopefully cheaper. Happy to hear any solutions suggested by the Executive.

Dane Luo said that originally there was a suggestion by Mel to close the bathrooms to staff only. And this was inappropriate because the SRC is a student-led organisation with many students using the office space and it would be absurd if students could not use bathrooms of their very own organisation. This is especially because many Honi Soit Editors and OBs work at the office late into the night and going elsewhere to use a bathrooms upstairs can be unsafe. So making a cubicle or two staff only is a good compromise because there can still be a cubicle for students. But \$250 seems like a hefty amount.

Jacky He passed the Chair to Yuxuan Yang.

Jacky He agreed that there are lots of students who work here. Two staff only cubicles is too much because the staff can still use the non-staff toilets. But we should try our best and find the cheapest price.

Melissa de Silva said that one cubicle is fine and she will take direction from the Executive.

Jacky He said that we should get one lock for one cubicle. We should get people together to talk about hygiene and proper conduct.

Melissa de Silva said that getting people together is really hard. But this behaviour shouldn't happen in the first place. Two year olds can do it properly. We should give Honi Soit Editors special access on the weekends so that it they can be safe but we probably don't need a meeting. We should resolve this quickly and get a lock but currently only staff can access it with a key.

Niamh Callinan agreed that this behaviour should not be happening at all. Happy to approve \$200.

Motion: that the report of the Workplace Health & Safety Officer be accepted and approve \$200 for one cubicle to have a lock installed at the lowest price.

Moved: Jacky He

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Yuxuan Yang passed the Chair to Jacky He. Melissa de Silva left the meeting at 3:57pm.

Jacky He said that he needed to attend an important meeting about Honi Soit.

Dane Luo said that we will lose quorum so the meeting needs to adjourn. A poll for an Executive meeting next week to complete the agenda will be sent out later today.

Procedural Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved: Niamh Callinan

Seconded: Xiaoyu Jin

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm.