



src activism
advocacy
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**Students' Representative Council,
University of Sydney**

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MINUTES of the **4th** meeting of the Executive Committee, 93rd SRC, held on 4th February 2021 via Zoom.

PRESENT: Swapnik Sanagavarapu (Chair), Priya Gupta*, Anne Zhao*, Yue (Maria) Ge^, Roisin Murphy^, Lauran Lancaster, Oscar Chaffey, and Cole Scott-Curwood.

Absent: Iris Yao

Minutes: Julia Robins

Meeting Opened: 12:41pm

*^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

There were no apologies

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 11th and 18th January 2021 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 11th and 18th January 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

4. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Workplace Health and Safety Report

New WHS OFFICER – Mickie Quick

I have been selected by Staff Committee to take over from Mel as the WHS officer, and in order to also be the First Aid Officer I will need to do an Occupational First Aid Course.

The course offered by the Australian Red Cross on 6-9 April 2021 is the best priced at \$580 for the four-day course. Can you approve the course costs and overtime from the Staff Professional Development Fund so that I can complete this training?

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

7. Report of the President

Swapnik Sanagavarapu gave a verbal report

- Committees
 - o Some starting up in person
 - o Need to reach out to other student reps about working together
 - o Talking with other staff reps on Academic Board committee and building relationships
 - o Make sure if you are assigned to a committee you need to make sure you note when the meeting times are – check your calendar invites as well
 - o Reach out about briefing papers and making sure you're on top of the agendas
- Welcome Week
 - o Getting merch and supplies to hand out to
 - o Reaching out to Unions for things to put in out bags
 - o Working out COVID-19 safely plans
 - o Stalls final cost is \$3850 for the 5 Welcome Week stalls
 - o Should we do a Second SRC Welcome Week the next week
 - There was general consensus and approval to run stalls again the following week
- Other activities
 - o Following up the Legal Observers Network, raising using the March rally as a test run of the program
 - o Working on additional SSAF applications
 - o Looking into building relationships with the USU's Clubs and Societies
 - o Working on getting SRC volunteers together

Discussion:

Cole Scott-Curwood noted that last year the shortening semester proposal was only defeated by 51%. So talking to student reps is really important in making sure education is protected,

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

8. Report of the Vice Presidents

Maria Ge Roisin Murphy gave a verbal report

- Most information was in last nights council report
- Discussed expanding the SRC Facebook group to encourage engagement
 - o Anne asked if there could be a slack for that or of there was one already
 - o Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that it would be too expensive to have a Slack for that many people, Facebook was more affective
 - o There was discussion about the best platform and process
- Looking at sourcing some NUS material for O-week stalls
 - o Swapnik Sanagavarapu thought the more the better in terms of materials

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

9. Report of the General Secretaries

Priya Gupta and Anne Zhou gave a verbal report

- Most information was in the council report last night nothing new to add
- Just looking for things to put in packs
- Have completed orientation handbook and working on the international one which is just a translation

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Yue (Maria) Ge

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

10. Report of the Administration Manager

For Welcome Week does the Executive want us to order PPE for all the stalls, this is hand sanitiser, disinfectant wipes and face masks. Please let us know how many of each you would like.

Executive decided to allocate the following for O-Week stalls:

10 large hand sanitiser pump packs

2 masks

3 box (l each size) loves
2 packs disinfectant wipes

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

11. Report of the Casework and Policy Manager

There was no report from the Casework and Policy Manager

12. SRC Legal Service Report

There was no report from the SRC Legal Service

13. Approval of Payments

13.1. Invoices

Enviro:	\$332 for Stickers - 4 designs x 1000 x \$83 each set (2 square, 2 circle) \$516 for Tote bags – 100 tote bags - 1 side printed \$633.52 for Reusable masks – 300 masks \$500 for pizza and drinks – welcome week party
Edu:	\$591.25 for 250 units - \$2.15 each + gst Natural Calico Library carry bags \$1856 (or \$400 unclear) for 250 bumper stickers \$400 for 4 folding chairs
Honi:	\$77 for 1000 stickers \$352.75 for 125 bags

There was general discussion around the cost and need of items and the possibility of just an overall SRC welcome week party than individual collective ones and the risks associated due to the COVID-19 situation.

It was also noted that people need to remember to hand out stickers and there are so many left over each year so try to hand out what you already have.

Motion: that the invoices for Environment department all be approved. That the invoice Education department's for bags be approved. The invoice for Education department's stickers be rejected and a better price sought and that more information about the folding tables be provided before approval. The bags and stickers for Honi Soit be approved.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

13.2 Reimbursements

There were no reimbursements

14. Any Other Reports

14.1. Report of the Education Officers

The EAG and education officers have been working on a few projects over the summer break.

First of all, we were involved in building and logistics for Invasion Day. Members of the collective participated in flyering and other building, as well as helping with covid safety and marshalling.

We had our first meeting last week. We resolved to hold a protest in the fourth week of first semester. This will hopefully take the form of a march from USyd to UTS. Deaglan has made a poster and a flyer and the event is up on Facebook. We encourage everyone to come along. The next meeting we have decided to sort speakers and logistics. We will also be getting in contact with the UTS education officer Ellie.

We will be promoting this action at our welcome week stall, as well as building the collective. We have put in requests totebags, stickers and additional tables for stalling in the early weeks of semester. We are hoping to build the collective and the action using these funds over the first few weeks. Approve \$700 for tote bags, approve \$600 for stickers, and approve \$400 for four folding tables.

Inside the tote bags we will be including Counter Course and Welcome Week handbook, which was finished on Monday morning. A big thank you to the 15+ contributors and staff, as well as the general secretaries who were all crucial for making the publication come together. Counter Course is 8 pages longer than last year, and includes some great articles – give it a look at welcome week!

In the next month we'll be preparing for our first action and welcome week.

The report was noted.

14.2. Report of the Chair of the Standing Legal Committee

Max Vishney, Chair of the Standing Legal Committee submitted a written report

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS RE: CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Definitions and scope

The scope of this recommendation is:

- I. to suggest a workflow to the preparation of large constitutional reform proposals, in relation to which the current Constitution and Regulations do not prescribe a process.
- II. to bring to the Executive's attention deficiencies in the Constitution and Regulations to which it may wish to turn its attention in the coming year.

'Large constitutional reform proposals' refers to proposals to amend the Constitution, Regulations or Policy which

- I. significantly affect the operation of the SRC, and
- II. Ought to be prepared deliberatively so as to involve members of Council prior to those proposals being moved

Recommended workflow for large constitutional reform proposals

The first action that the Regulations prescribe in the procedure for altering the Constitution, Regulations and Policy is that the Council (in the case of Constitutional amendments) or the Council member moving the alteration (in the case of Regulation and Policy amendments) will give notice of the motion before the relevant meeting or referendum in which it will be voted on.¹ The draft alteration is then referred to the Standing Legal Committee to report on the proposal in the interim.

However this is not truly the first stage in the process of amending the SRC's constitutive documents because all of the proposals mentioned above must necessarily be conceived of, workshopped and made presentable to Council in the form of a valid motion before the mover can give notice and the Secretary to Council can refer the alteration to the Standing Legal Committee. The Constitution is silent on these preparatory stages by design.

In order to better coordinate the process of deliberating on and implementing large constitutional reform proposals, I recommend the Executive take an active role in the preparation of these projects to ensure they are adequately drafted. The Executive is best placed to coordinate these projects because its role concerns the day to day operation of the SRC.

This role is within the Executive's duties as stipulated in s 3 of the Constitution. Relevantly, the duties of the Executive include:

- (e) With the President and General Secretary, assist in the day-to-day operations of the SRC
- (f) Liaise with Officers of Council and to co-ordinate the work of the Council.

This recommendation does not propose that the Executive prepares all proposed alterations to the Constitution, Regulations or Policy, but rather that it should take responsibility for any large scale reform projects which are best served by the involvement of the resources of the SRC in their preparation (for example, those that require external legal advice) and which, by their nature, should be undertaken impartially and with the support of council.

This recommendation also does not displace the entitlement of members of Council under the constitutive documents to move alterations to the Constitution, Regulations and Policy. On the contrary, by tasking the Executive with overseeing the preparation of large constitutional reform proposals and serving as a point of contact for deliberation on these projects, councillors are more able to involve themselves with the preparatory stages than they would be if the proposed alterations were wholly prepared by individual councillors.

¹ For more precise detail see the relevant provisions extracted at the end of this document.

Potential large constitutional reform proposals

The SRC's legal status as an unincorporated not-for-profit association has the potential to expose councillors and office-bearers to significant personal liability which might be addressed by Constitutional reform. In my view, the Executive should seek legal advice as to the extent of councillors and OB's personal liability as well as how this can be addressed (for example, by incorporation or indemnification of councillors/OBs).

I am currently preparing a memo to supplement councillors' consideration of Constitutional reform projects in the coming year by providing some background information to the above issue, as well as other conspicuous omissions in the SRC's constitution. One significant omission which I personally believe should be added is a mechanism by which undergraduate students convey their choice to be part of the Student Body for the purposes of the Constitution pursuant to s 1(b) of the Constitution. In the absence of such a mechanism, there is considerable ambiguity as to who composes the membership of the SRC and my concern is that this ambiguity might make it impossible to determine the individual liability of SRC members.

EXTRACTED PROVISIONS

REGULATIONS

Pt 9 s 4 procedure for alteration of the Constitution

The Council shall give at least twenty-one (21) days notice of its intention to submit a proposed alteration to the Constitution to a General Meeting or a Referendum. Any student may submit to the General Meeting or the Referendum an amendment to the proposed alteration in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) The student may present to the General Secretary a petition setting out the proposed amendment to the Council's proposed alteration to the Constitution. The petition must be signed by at least 300 students and contain each student's name, signature and student identification number, and must be presented not less than eight (8) days before the proposed General Meeting or Referendum.
- (b) Upon receipt of the petition the General Secretary shall give notice of the proposed amendment, and shall submit the proposed amendment to the General Meeting along with the Council's proposed alteration.
- (c) Such actions of the General Secretary shall be deemed to be the actions of the Council.

Pt 9 s 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.

Pt 9 s 9 procedure for alteration of the Policy of the SRC

Notwithstanding all else contained in these Regulations, the procedure for the alteration of Policy 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 Standing Legal Committee for its consideration;
- (c) The Secretary to Council shall include the proposed alterations in the notice of the meeting sent to members of Council. For the purpose of this clause 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.

Discussion:

Anne Zhao asked if this was a report from the committee and a whole?

Max Vishney Clarified this was just a report from him at this stage and the SLC would meet later after there had been a chance to meet with and discuss the issues with Minter Ellison who are assisting in updating the SRC Constitution and Regulations.

Max discussed both the current legal structure and liabilities of the SRC and their potential risks to the SRC and it's members and individuals, as well as the risks and associated with incorporating for the structure and reach of the SRC.

Secretary to council noted that many of these issues and conflicts have been noted by Minter Ellison who are assisting with constitutional and regulatory reform.

Max Vishney noting also that the SRC's membership is very unclear and that incorporation could affect membership of the SRC as you can't have automatic membership. Max added that the SRC is in general currently in breach of the University's student association policy and will need to make

reforms to be in line with that to prevent loss of funding in the future and discussed some of the changes that may need to occur to bring the SRC in line and how that may affect collectives, including creating constitutions. Max recommended creating a template constitution that holds all the things they are required to, and for the collectives for them to then add their details to.

Lauren Lancaster mentioned that the Environment collective has created a constitution last year but that it probably doesn't make reference to align with the Student Associations Policy.

Max noted that there doesn't seem to be any consequences listed for not registering but sure that it would have some such as the university management oversight and intervention.

Motion: that the report of the Chair of SLC be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

15. Other Business

15.1 Staff Leave

<i>Breda Dee:</i>	<i>Sick, 14/01/21, ½ day, 3 hours</i> <i>Annual, 20/01/21, 1 day, 7 hours</i> <i>Annual, 27/01/21, 1 day, 7 hours</i>
<i>Hani Bawazir:</i>	<i>Annual, 19/01/21, ½ day, 4 hours</i> <i>Annual, 09/02/21, ½ day, 4 hours</i>
<i>Julia Robins:</i>	<i>Annual, 22/02/21 – 26/02/21, 5 days, 25 hours</i> <i>Annual, 29/03/21 – 01/04/21, 4 days, 20 hours</i>
<i>Laura Kitsos:</i>	<i>TIL, 29/01/21, 1 hour</i>
<i>Sharon Maher:</i>	<i>TIL, 25/01/21, 1 day, 7 hours</i>

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

14.3. Report of the Publications Managers

Handbook printing costs:

The best quote we have for Growing Strong is from Focus Print, (quote ref: 87358) for 500 copies, 32 pages 90gsm + 4 pages cover 250gsm for \$1835.46 (incl GST and delivery)

The quotes for the Orientation & Counter Course Handbook (WW/CC) are very expensive. It requires consideration:

The editors have requested Perfect binding with a cardstock divider between the 2 sections. The best quote we have for that, even for a reduced quantity of 1500, is \$6806.07 (incl GST and delivery) (quote ref: QUO_210014 /1 /1) for 56 pages on 90gsm + 6pages cover and divider on 250gsm.

That is \$2000 more than a similar stapled option: 56 pages on 90gsm + 4pages cover on 250gsm, at \$4809.38 (incl GST and delivery) (quote ref: QUO_210008 /1 /1) and that's for the higher quantity of 2000.

Quotes attached. I can join meeting to discuss if needed.

Discussion:

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that Growing Strong looked amazing and the extra cost was acceptable and not out of the ordinary.

Priya Gupta noted this seems like a miscommunication about the perfect bind and would be happier to go for the cheaper option.

Motion: that the report of the Publications Managers be accepted, to approve the cost growing strong and to note the cost of the other two until the Education Officers confirm if they have a preference.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 2:06pm