



src activism
advocacy
representation

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

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MINUTES of the **8th** meeting of the Executive Committee, 93rd SRC, held on 13th April 2021 via Zoom.

PRESENT: Swapnik Sanagavarapu (Chair), Priya Gupta*, Yue (Maria) Ge^, Roisin Murphy^, Lauran Lancaster, Oscar Chaffey, Iris Yao and Cole Scott-Curwood, and Grace Fei

Apologies: Anne Zhao

Absent:

Minutes: Julia Robins

In attendance: Melissa de Silva

Meeting Opened: 12:11pm

*^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 Anne Zhao

The apologies were accepted.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 15th March 2021 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 15th March 2021 be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

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

There was no report from the WHS officer

6. Correspondence

7. Report of the President

- Most issues have been covered extensively in Honi and Council reports so not much to add
- It's been mentioned to me way may want to talk to 180 degrees consulting to assist about some of the issues we are having with shared roles and other structural issues we have as a not-for-profit and this could really help us.

Cole Scott-Curwood said he knew someone at 180degrees that used to work in Not-for-Profits and could be a good contact

Swapnik Sanagavarapu there are many things we don't know and could be doing better and more efficiently without changing the core and culture of the place

Lauren Lancaster this sounds like it would grow to a much larger project

Swapnik Sanagavarapu with constitutional reform happening we have a unique opportunity to look as these sorts of reforms

Roisin Murphy expressed concerns with bringing in a consulting firm because of the culture of consultants and would like to make sure that this is something staff would also be comfortable with

Swapnik Sanagavarapu said this would be taken to a staff committee meeting and discussed with them before any decisions were made.

Motion to move the meeting in camera

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Meeting moved in camera at 12:25pm

meeting moved ex camera at 12:34pm

- Swapnik Sanagavarapu proposed the exec approve \$2000 for Beverley Fosters' Mediations
- Adding that the SRC needs to look into hiring and finding volunteers Practical Legal Training students and paralegals

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted with all included expenditure.

Moved: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Oscar Chaffey

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

8. Report of the Vice Presidents

The Vice Presidents gave verbal reports

Roisin Murphy

- Been unwell so behind on work at present
- Met with Indigenous Student's Officers

Maria Ge

- Looking into setting up the parameters of the official volunteer program such as
 - o Type of events
 - o Frequency

- Student's will receive formal certificate for their time

Cole Scott-Curwood noted the DVC Student Life wasn't to more formally recognise the extracurricular activities of student and their volunteer work withing student orgs on campus too, as part of their student leaders programs.

Maria said that the certificate is good for active members of collectives and those who are involved in our events who are not officers, and if the Uni also wants to offer a certificate that would be even better

Grace Fei said it would be really good to give volunteers a certificate for the work do there is some kind of reward for their work..

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

9. Report of the General Secretaries

Priya Gupta gave a verbal report

- Noted that the report to Council covered most of what has happened lately
- Heard there was going to be a proposal to University Executive Education committee (UE-Ed) to go with the current 12 week semesters proposal and it was one that was for one with an integrated week
- Selection committee for appointment of a new caseworker is wrapping up
- orientation hand book international version pushed to sem 2

Lauren Lancaster asked what an integrated week would be.

Priya Gupta clarified it meant a 13 week semester but one week would be no new content, not a physical teaching week, like a revision week

Cole Scott-Curwood noted that this was already fairly common in many subjects with reading only weeks and stuvac where teachers are still contactable. Adding that this just seemed like a way for the uni to try and save money and push through a form of 12 week semesters.

Priya Gupta said she was not sure how much money it would save the uni as it would still be considered a teaching week. I think they are hoping they can improve orientation so that that this would be better done later in semester when student have learnt their content.

Cole Scott-Curwood noted that orientation is at the beginning of the semester to get returning students back into the rhythm of study and for new students to find out about the extra curriculars on offer, not so much for study.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that this seems like the current system but with less flexibility.

Lauren Lancaster agreed that these proposed changes seem disingenuous.

Cole Scott-Curwood said why not just have 13 full teaching weeks as that's what's wanted and needed.

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted he would like to see the full report when it comes out, and will be paying attention to when it will be discussed.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

10. Report of the Administration Manager

Apologies that I am not able to attend the meeting today. Please find my written report below if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Audit

The external financial audit is almost complete. We aim to have that done by the 30th of April and send that to the university along with our acquittal. We will submit the audited documents to the council by the May Council.

New Server

The new server was installed last Friday, it has been working well. We have made it more easily accessible for honi editors and people on different operating systems. Previously only those with Macs could remote into the server now anyone with a secure connection can do so.

Phones

On Friday our phone lines stopped working, the phone company told us that Telstra had upgraded the area to NBN and they did not inform us that this change was occurring. This meant that for all of Friday we didn't have a working phone line. We asked students to instead email us and we managed fine with this. As of yesterday, I have applied for NBN connection and for the restoration of our phone lines. The NBN installation is happening on Friday 16th with the hopes that the phones go back to normal by next week. In the meantime we have got calls forwarding on to our mobiles so that students can still call and make appointments. Anyone calling our number will be able to get through to us. Due to this inconvenience I have also asked them to credit one month worth of bills and give us 1 free phone line which they have agreed to.

Honi Soit Stipend

Honi Soit editors have requested that their stipend be paid on a fortnightly basis instead of a monthly one. Our practice has been to do them monthly but for this request Hani and I are happy to do this. We hope the Executive is ok with this change. The amount paid will not change over the year in the budget just a smaller amount more frequently.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

11. Report of the Casework and Policy Manager

We are slowing working through our TIL accumulations, but also trying to get everything into place before Max, the new caseworker, starts on Wed 28th April. I ask exec to allow caseworkers to carry two weeks worth of TIL, instead of the usual one week, until the week ending 14th May.

We're trying new ways of doing things, which seems to be going well. E.g., new structure of our team meetings, including a fairly comprehensive note keeping system, and an agenda ahead of time. We are also looking at the way we take casework coversheets and storage of additional casework documents. We are also considering how to record complex cases to accurately reflect the workload for those cases.

We are working on a probation assessment form that we can use at the end of Max's probation period, but can also be used for existing caseworkers to self-reflect on their performance. We will also work on one for me, to use when my probation ends on 7th May. I will also update the job description by then. I worked with Chits to write a recruitment guide for when the SRC hires a new staff person, outlining each of the steps necessary.

We're currently working with the staff from the Safer Communities team on a large case.

I am writing a confidentiality agreement to codify our confidentiality practice.

Our Google reviews are bad, which is very concerning considering how happy students are with the service. In a year, we might have 3 - 5 students not happy with the casework service, because they did not get the outcome that they wanted, e.g., received a penalty for academic dishonesty; or they wanted the caseworker to do more than we were willing to do, e.g., write their letter for them; or they didn't understand what our service did, e.g., we did not grant their special consideration. Based on 2020 figures that leaves 1558 – 1560 students, or more than 99.5%, who were happy with the service. We are consulting the Pubs department to see if we can interact more with the Google reviews. This is bearing in mind that those reviews are for the whole of the SRC, e.g., activists, legal, pubs, emergency loans, etc., not just the casework service.

Lorna is doing some training in responding to suicide ideation, especially for LGBTQI+ students.

The Uni has a draft for a new policy on academic appeals. We would like to oppose some of their proposal, especially the part that allows faculties to simply ignore an appeal and send it to the Student Affairs Unit instead. We are going to push for appeals to be upheld (won) if it takes the faculty more than 20 working days. We feel this will motivate faculties to respond to students. It doesn't at all seem fair that students have very strict deadlines to apply for anything, but the Uni does not seem to have any deadlines. Swap is taking this to Academic Standards and Policy Committee, and it will need some follow up work from him at some other committees as well.

The DVC (education) Pip Patterson, is super keen to bring in a 12 week semester before she retires this year. We continue to oppose it, as does most of the Uni, but that will keep coming up in future committees at least for the next few months.

We are also asking the Uni about why so many SAU and SDAC (discipline committee) appeals are not successful. Similarly, the Ombudsman is largely useless for student appeals, but we have limited ability to affect this. We've also provided briefings to Swap on UE Ed, Admissions and other committees (that I can't remember).

We are meeting with the Uni about contract cheating websites, e.g., CHEGG, CourseHero, Git Hub, etc. The penalties for using these sites, even if a student has no intention of cheating, is very high.

The draft change proposal for the Student Services is continuing. We will continue working with Swap on this.

We are working with the Uni on getting better communications to students, especially around the topic of exclusion appeals. Currently the wording of these letters is intimidating and misleading, i.e., implying that a student cannot enrol in the semester while the appeal is being considered, and does not have the ability to lodge an appeal, and incorrect due dates for appeals.

Hank (SUPRA) and I met with the managers of the student services to ask about the very high number of “critical incidents” that students had in the final quarter of 2020. They say it was just because of better reporting systems.

We worked with the Uni to support students from Myanmar who had difficulty accessing their money to pay their fees, due to the coup.

I’m working with the International Students officers on a webinar around academic appeals, special consideration, enrolment, etc.

The Uni invited us to work with them on RUOK Day. We declined, and will do our own promo – maybe something like “UROK even if you feel unwell Day” or “of course you feel unwell, the uni admin treats you like you’re just a number and not a person, and we live under capitalism day”. We will work with activists on this.

We’ve been working with the FMH faculty and oral health (Westmead) to promote the service.

There is a chronic mould problem in the office. Chits will probably report on this.

Melissa de Silva spoke to her report and covered its main points, and expanded on the issues with the mould on the walls of the SRC caseworkers’ offices, and throughout the SRC.

Cole Scott-Curwood added that he hoped some of the mould issues could be fixed with SSAF funding in the second half of the year if it becomes available

Swapnik Sanagavarapu spoke to the building and mold issues saying that there was the potential to get a new space for the SRC, the best scenario would be if OBs could keep the current space as it is a little further away from the prying eyes of the University, and the staff/services side of the SRC would get a nicer more sunlit, airy space.

Cole Scott-Curwood typed the following message for Melissa de Silva:

Heya Mel I've flagged the issue of student leaders not having adequate training to respond to complex issues from suicide ideation to sexual harassment with the Mental Health Working Group. All of the staff there seemed receptive to the idea of getting more free training happening for student leaders. I'm working to get training on sexual assault response through Rape and Domestic Violence NSW (paid for by USYD) for a number of engineering society execs. Is there scope for casework team to help facilitate training for student leaders (from SRC to student organisations to peer mentors)? This would support the work of student leaders and the wellbeing of students while also helping to introduce student leaders to the casework team.

Melissa de Silva said casework are not in the positions to provide training and that responding with compassion training is expensive, but we can see if the university will supply that training

Cole Scott-Curwood said that the Mental Health Working Group and seemed to be supportive of getting students this training. Adding he thought this might be something the SRC could get a student life grant, if there is any money after census date.

Priya Gupta said that the women's collective was about to get that training that was funded by the student liaison officers.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

12. SRC Legal Service Report

No report was received

13. Approval of Payments

13.1. Invoices

Wo.Co: \$300 Ellie Wilson for 2021 logo/Growing Strong cover design.

13.2 Reimbursements

Wo.Co:	\$101.50	6 pizzas for meeting/welcome week event of the semester.
	\$44.75	Supplies for Day of the Unborn Child pro-choice counter rally.
	\$ 87.23	Pizzas for mid-sem break working bee/meeting
	\$119.6	External printing (officeworks) A4 x 184 = \$119.60 (March)

Motion: that reimbursements and invoices be approved en bloc.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

14. Any Other Reports

14.1. Report of the publication's managers

Please approve the binding of 13 editions of 2020 Honi Soit

10 for each editor

1 for 92nd SRC President

2 for Pubs Archive

Supplier: Allbook Bindery

Cost: \$1755 (including GST and courier pick-up and drop-off)

Other quote from World of Print is for \$2274 (incl GST)

Regards,
Mickie

Sent at 12:46 so that's why it's not in the agenda!

Re: Honi Soit Writing comp - 10th Year!

This is underway and we open Week 7 or 8 in Sem 1 2021. TBC

We have met with Cecelia from the Alumni Office who is coordinating the prize donation and the catering and venue expenses. The SRC's contribution is in the form of admin support from Pubs and Honi. The following minor expenses are what we allocate each year to the competition and some expenses* are only relevant if a physical event can go ahead this year. It's probably best we approve all of it with the understanding that it depends on the event running.

SRC contribution (\$650 max)	
Sponsored Posts x2	\$70
Judge Stipends	2 x \$100
Photographer stipend*	\$100
Judge and Donor gifts (3 x \$20 wines)*	\$60
Decor/other incidentals*	\$120
Additional 4 pages in Honi	\$287

Please approve the above budget

Motion: that the report of the Publications Mangers be accepted with all included expenditure.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

15. Other Business

15.1 Staff Leave

Amanda Lemay:	TIL, 25/03/21, ¼ day, 2 hours
Amanda Lemay	Annual, 06/04/21 – 08/04/21, 3 days, 17.5 hours
Breda Dee	TIL, 16/03/21, ¼ day, 2.5 hours
Breda Dee	SL, 23/03/21, ¼ day, 2.5 hours
Breda Dee	SL, 25/03/21, ½ day, 4 hours
Breda Dee	SL, 26/03/21, ½ day, 4 hours
Cade Badawi	Annual/TIL, 26/03/21, 1 day, 7 hours
Hani Bawazir	Annual, 07/04/21, ¼ day, 2.5 hours

Julia Robins	TIL, 16/03/21, 1 day, 5 hours
Julia Robins	Annual, 23/03/21, 1 day, 4 hours
Melissa De Silva	TIL, 06/04/21, ¼ day, 1.5 hours
Melissa De Silva	TIL, 09/04/21, ¼ day, 2 hours
Melissa De Silva	TIL, 15/04/21, 1 day, 7 hours
Sharon Maher	TIL, 24/03/21 – 26/3/21, 3days, 21 hours
Sharon Maher	TIL, 12/03/21 and 13/04/21, 2days, 14 hours

Motion: that the staff leave be approved en bloc.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

1.1 **Swipe Access**

Siyao (Melaine) Liu	Councillor
Ellie Stephenson	Collective member
Alana Ramshaw	Councillor
Ella Colville	Collective member
Callie Sabrina Dibble	Collective member
Tiresi Kirby	Collective member
Anukriti Kandya	Collective member

Motion: to approve swipe access to those listed above

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting was declared closed at 1:29pm