

MINUTES of the 10th meeting of the Executive Committee, 93rd SRC, held on 7th June 2021 via Zoom.

PRESENT: Swapnik Sanagavarapu (Chair), Priya Gupta*, Roisin Murphy^, Lauran Lancaster, Oscar Chaffey, Victor Liang and Cole Scott-Curwood.

Apologies: Anne Zhao and Maria Ge

Absent: Grace Fei

Minutes: Julia Robins

Meeting Opened: 12:16pm

*^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 and Maria Ge

The apologies were noted.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on the 12th May 2021 were distributed.

Motion: that the minutes of the 12 May 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

Motion to move in camera

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Roisin Murphy

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

The meeting moved in camera at 12:21pm

The meeting moved ex camera at 12:56pm

Reimbursement of costs for treatment of RSI in December

I obtained urgent physio treatments in December for work related RSI. I was advised by then SRC WHS Officer Mel de Silva that submitting a worker's compensation claim can be not worth it for small claims as the claim needs to be declared to future employers. I ask instead that the SRC reimburse me for the 3 sessions that fixed me right up. Receipts are attached for the total of \$300.

Sit-Stand desk purchase request

I ask that the SRC invest in a sit stand desk as recommended by my Physiotherapist. I suggest a small one that will fit in my home now for working-from-home and will fit at the end of our office upon return to working from the office. There is some EOFY discounts at the moment, I propose Desky Dual Designer Ply Sit Stand Desk for \$838.95 (\$150 off EOFY deal) or Zen Stand Up Desk with Melamine Desktop for \$755 (\$100 off and EOFY free delivery)

Kind regards,
Mickie

Motion: that the report of the Workplace Health & Safety Officer with all included expenditure be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

6. Correspondence

N/A

7. Report of the President

Policy Register

- Building a policy book
 - o Building templates
- Cole Scott-Curwood asked about the Honi website
- Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted the while he that the funding for the SRC website included the Honi website, it wasn't, so will apply for the next round of SSAF for Honi
- Looking at creating policy for particular areas to take to council
- Party for Food hub volunteers, possibly after exams – any ideas?
 - o Potentially at Hermann's
- International Student hub by City of Sydney helped set up
 - o Khanh Tran has been helping with that, and there are 2 things they would like the SRC to do
 - Promotional work – boost what they do in linking up international student with services, but also helping them know their rights, lots of things on anti-discrimination etc.
 - Try to get them some volunteers, people who are willing to do research on particular issues, mapping support services for international students, also people who are willing to attend events at the hub and people who have campaign skills lobbying and events, could be a good place to engage with volunteers in new and different ways,
 - o Reach out for this though international student societies and other networks to engage,

- Got asked if we want a stall for open day on the 28th Aug, should be relaxed day of hand out leaflets etc.
- Welcome day Semester 2
 - o Going to be a 2 day event, we will get 2 days again with our own space
 - o Do we want to get new things from stick with left overs from semester 1?

Motion: That the report of the President be accepted.

Moved: Priya Gupta

Seconded: Lauren Lancaster

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

8. Report of the Vice Presidents

Roisin Murphy gave a verbals reports

- Suggested returning to in person council for better engagement with students
 - o Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted that Zoom we're almost always online and we would still need an online component for Officers and Representatives still stuck overseas
- Wanted to know about the process for EAG funding
 - o Talked about the need to funding support to help students to get down there
- NUS Affiliation fees should be due soon
- Issy Edwards who is the SLAM representative are still talking hoping to work more on that campaign after exams

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 gave a verbal report

- Since last meeting have submitted SSAF applications
- Working with the women's officers and the USU about radical Sex and Consent Week
- Also Working on Radical Education Week
 - o Julia Robins noted that venues is very slow and unclear in their responses
- Anne Zhao is working on some other things but Priya Gupta was not on top of them enough to be able to report on them properly
- Swapnik Sanagavarapu also noted that SUPRA and the SRC applied for a disabilities space together. The SRC mold cleaning and removing all the carpet in the SRC and OB renovations to try and get the space renovated from the infrastructure funding

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Cole Scott-Curwood

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

10. Report of the Administration Manager

Dear Executive,

Over the last few months Julia has put in quite a few hours into running the food hub. Over this time she has been vital in ensuring that there is no disruption to the service provided by the food hub. During this time we have established a good number of reliable volunteers but Wednesdays seem to be a day in which Julia is having to do more. To mitigate this I am requesting that Julia work for the food hub for 1.5 hours every Wednesday from 12pm-1.30pm. Paid at casual rate level 1 which is \$36.24 per hour. This will give Julia more time to continue to do her work while still having a small amount of dedicated time towards the food hub.

This request is till 28th of July and would cost the SRC a total of 10.5 hours and \$445.20 (incl super)

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

TL:DR

Can we have \$670 for suicide awareness training?

Max is going well.

The long version

We've been continuing in our conversations with the Uni about the terrible way in which they communicate with students, especially in emails. We hope to make some small progress that we will continue to build on.

Further to this we are talking to the uni about their use of students' pronouns and hoping that they will live up to their public supportive position.

Committee work continues to be big. Much better than 2020 when many committees just didn't meet, allowing for changes to be brought in without scrutiny. Great job to Swap for attending so many.

We are still getting lots of unusual casework. This year more than ever the complexity of cases is higher than before, meaning the same number of cases, but a bigger time commitment from staff. We are thinking about ways that we can more accurately report this to the Uni when applying for funding.

A very large misconduct set of cases is happening at the moment. We would urge people to not discuss any details of the case so as to not compromise the investigation process. Caseworkers are working on individual responses for students with allegations as well as sending an overall comment about the way these cases are being handled.

We would like to do some training on how to support students who are experiencing suicidal thoughts. It is a half day in person course called Safe Talk, and they will do a separate SRC session for \$500 plus \$17 per

person for the course materials. We are trying to get SUPRA staff to attend as well, and if they do that we will ask them for \$250 plus \$17 per person. I would like to request approval for up to (\$500 plus 10x\$17) \$670 be approved for this.

We are working on some department policy for casework practices

A large group of students have received misconduct allegations for their behaviour in an on campus protest. Sharon and Mel are working with the students to give their responses to the Uni. We may need Jahan's help if we need to appeal. Lorna is working on a statement to the registrar about the bad way that this is all being handled.

Students are having difficulty getting special consideration for IT and Proctor U problems with their online exams. We are trying to get some idea from the special con team about what they think we should do, because we're following their rules and that doesn't seem to be working.

There was a big hiccup with another misconduct matter with the Uni getting procedure wrong. Hopefully this will end well for the student if the uni wants to avoid scrutiny and criticism on their mistake.

Max is settling well and is now taking appointments.

We had informal information that the fees office were being bad in the way that they cancelled 350 international students enrolments; but it was actually that the students have not paid their fees or responded to the numerous requests from the fees office (since January). Caseworkers understand that there is often a delay in getting a response and will raise at the Student Consultative Committee that timely responses are needed, particularly in the case of special consideration appeals. See comment about uni communications above.

We are hosting a webinar from the Police for international students, primarily to tell them about domestic violence, but veiled with other stuff, like scams and accommodation rights. Ironically we will not be talking about police violence.

We thought the Learning Centre was being stripped of its resources, but it turns out they've had a name change and are reinvigorating their online presence. With online classes, rather than the old classroom style workshops, they can have anyone attend, overcoming the problems of the in person classes, where workshops were booked out within half an hour of registrations being opened. They are currently hosting 14,000 workshop places, but they hope to increase their reach.

Lorna is getting some quotes to get leaflets translated. At the moment we are doing Chinese, Hindi and Korean for Special Consideration, Show Good Cause, Academic Honesty, and some other leaflet that I can't remember right now. Hopefully it will be affordable, but if not, we will reduce the variety we get done.

Mickie is working on a downloadable wallplanner for semester 2. More succulents.

We will be working with UNSW (Charlotte) on providing a training program for students who are going to be representatives on committees. Training students for committees. I'm hoping this is a new year project because we're just a little busy at the moment.

Sharon teamed up with Swap to bring home a victory over the stupid proposal to reduce the semester to 12 weeks. The DVC (Education) who was pushing it is going to retire this semester so hopefully this will be the end of it.

The changes to HECS where poor folk will be forced to pay fees (as in tens of thousands of dollars) or drop out if they fail subjects, are coming in for next year. The Uni is trying to work out ways of supporting students who are at risk of being kicked off HECS.

We worked with some Medical Science honours students who were being forced to choose a new research topic because the heads of faculty did not like some supervisors. We won. They lost. Hurray. Again a great win with tons of help from the trade unions and Swap.

Casework is still pumping, even without the mammoth misconduct cases there are lots of other stuff happening. I think that will settle down this week and no doubt pick up again in the middle of the first exam week with spec cons leading the way. We are still lining up a meeting with Spec Con to talk about their extremely high workload and slow responses, and how we can help to support students better.

Discussion:

Victor Liang asked if we could ask students to assist with language translations for one more niche language

Swapnik Sanagavarapu noted we've gotten funding for a translations in a number of the main languages spoken by international students. Another concern with having students translate is there is no way for us to verify the translation.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

12. SRC Legal Service Report

Swapnik Sanagavarapu gave a verbal report on behalf of the SRC legal Service Board

- Paralegals have been inducted
 - o Catching up and talking about what they're going to be doing this week
 - o Once we figure out in person office time how to have the paralegals in the office to work

The report of the SRC Legal Service was noted.

13. Approval of Payments

14. Any Other Reports

14.1. Report of the Education Officers

We were hoping to purchase 9 Indigenous flags for a rally on Sunday - is it possible to use the ed budget for this, and do we need to put in a form? It will be split between welfare and ed, with \$250 spent from ed budget and \$200 from welfare.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

14.2. Report of the Women's Officers

Just wanted to please request about \$250 of our budget to provide some snacks and drinks for an end of semester social event at a local cafe in Newtown. We are able to cover the costs and have them reimbursed if this is approved.

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

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

14.3. Report of the Welfare Officers

Could I please request \$450 funding for 8 Aboriginal Flags for a performance at the Gadigal to Gaza rally on the weekend. The flags will belong to the SRC once used at the performance and can be used for other things. They cost this much because of the copyright on the flag.

Importantly, could \$200 come out of the welfare budget and \$250 come out of the education budget? Tom (education officer) will send an email about this too.

Noted – Approved on Education Officers Report.

14.3. Report of the Publications Managers

Guidelines for working fairly with Publications staff.

Recent experience with Embers Environment Handbook and Autonomous editions

There have been a number of situations in which students have not worked fairly with publications staff and we would like to set some clear guidelines about how special publications and autonomous editions should be managed. First some recent examples of what should not happen.

1. EMBERS

This publication was given to Mickie on a Honi Monday without any notice. There was no approval of costs by Exec and no prior warning that it was happening. It is unreasonable to expect this of any worker without notice when they clearly have other deadlines and responsibilities that day.

- Costs and projects like this also need pre-approval and pre-warning

"Honi only let me know on Monday morning that there was an Enviro supplement to be inserted in this week's edition which is absolutely impossible with zero notice. Enviro need it before the school strike this Friday so I leaned on Paul at Spotpress to add it to their schedule for ASAP printing! The files were also a dog's breakfast technically, no bleed etc. Got it off, not sure when it will be ready. I told Paul that Wed morn

would be great! Enviro to distribute it themselves.”

2. Autonomous editions

We have been finding it very hard to get OBs to attend even basic training for autonomous editions of Honi Soit, and this had a knock-on effect of creating a lot of extra work on the Monday deadline cleaning up problems in the publication that could be easily avoided.

With the ACAR edition (week 12), after much effort to schedule an info session, one was eventually set at the very last minute on Friday 21st at 2.30pm prior to their Monday deadline. However, we were then informed without warning that the SRC would be shut for the climate strike, thus cancelling this last minute session or needing to come in despite the closure (Mickie did the latter).

We need to set some clear boundaries around how students work with our department and what students need to do to prepare for their autonomous edition or publication.

We ask:

1. Student OBs and autonomous editors must attend at minimum an info/training session for their edition (at the latest: one week prior to their deadline). In the case of non-attendance to the session a week prior (or earlier) their edition deadline, we will assume the edition is cancelled and Honi editors can choose to edit it as a standard edition.
2. This includes training sessions cancelled as a result of the SRC shutting without notice or any other unforeseen interruption.
3. We suggest that autonomous editions **proceed on the basis of OBs booking/ applying to have an edition AND booking and attending a training/info session** with Publications Managers. In essence we need to know that the autonomous editors are prepared, interested and responsible for what is required to publish the edition.

NOTE: Over the years the list of autonomous editions has grown from what it used to be and what is mentioned in the regulations- which are also a bit out of date. If an edition gets produced one year it's been added to the list and has grown over the years. However, sometimes departments/collectives are not active or organised enough to warrant producing an edition - or it's not a bit priority, thus it may be best we ask that the edition be booked in by the OBs so it's clear they are prepared to put in the effort to make it happen, rather than simply assuming it will go ahead?

Here is the current [Autonomous edition list](#)

Women's is always a definite, but the other two in Semester two will need some pre-involvement by OBs

4. **Additional special publications** that required external printing need to be pre-approved by exec, and publications staff need to be given reasonable prior notice - a minimum of one week. If not the publication will be delayed or cancelled

Mickie will be taking leave July and August and i'd like to have time covered as additional paid hours as I think our department will be quite busy in those times. I am expecting there to be quite a bit of work preparing for SRC Elections in July and the Honi Soit Writing Competition event also falls during those times.

The dates I'd like to cover are his hours that fall: 2nd - 12th July and 6th to 14th August.

I won't be able to cover the dates in the last week of June as we are both away for school holidays.

Motion: that the report of the Publications Managers be accepted.

Moved: Swapnik Sanagavarapu

Seconded: Priya Gupta

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

15. Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting was declared closed at 1:40pm