



**Minutes - COUNCIL MEETING #1:**  
Tuesday, 18th January, 2011

## 1. MEETING OPEN:

*Meeting opened by James Searle (The Chair), 7:20pm.*

*The SSU respectfully acknowledges that this meeting takes place within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and honours their elders past and present.*

## 2. ATTENDANCE:

### Present:

President - *James Searle*  
Education/Vice President - *Mark Briers*  
Secretary Treasurer - *Matthew Landolfo*  
Access and Equity Officer - *Conrad Corry*  
Hawthorn Campus Chair - *Vivian Farrelly*  
Croydon Campus Chair - *Peter Coates*  
Wantirna Campus Chair - *Keith Warburton* - left at 9:45pm  
Women's Representative - *Mia Anstee*  
Post-Graduate Representative - *Christian Tagle* - left at 9:15pm  
Part-Time Representative - *Langley Tay*  
Mature-Aged - *Aimee McCarten* - left at 9pm  
Tafe/Apprentices Representative - *James Cooper* - left at 9:20pm  
Disability Support Representative - *Noel Gardiner*  
Queer Representative - *Abigail Michell*

### Apologies:

Prahran Campus Chair - *Alexandra Ryrie-Golding*  
Lilydale Campus Chair - *Charis Goodwin*  
Undergraduate Representative - *Mehr Hussain*  
International Representative - *Vivek Sarode*

### Absent:

Hawthorn Campus Chair - *Vivian Farrelly*

### Observers:

*Liz Rowe.*

## 3. ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- Moved: *Searle*
- Seconded: *Tay*

*Carried Unanimously*

## 4. REPORTS:

- Handover & Clean-up Report – *Searle, Briers.*
- NUS Report – *Searle, Landolfo, Gardiner.*
- Constitution, Union Structure, Council procedures – *Landolfo*

## 5. NOTICES OF MOTION:

→ **Notice of Motion No. 1:**  
**NUS: TAFE REPRESENTATION.**

- Moved – *Landolfo*
- Seconded – *Corry*

### ***Preamble:***

This motion concerns the National Union of Students (NUS) Conference held in December 2010, particularly the successful motion 'Education 13' (Ed.13). Ed.13 was written by NUS Education Officer Rachael Durrant and sought to encourage greater cooperation between NUS Officers and the broader student body, raising questions of the NUS's declining relevancy to students. However, with regard to TAFE students, the motion failed to stipulate satisfactory Actions to do justice to claims made its Preamble and Platform.

Swinburne delegates Matthew Landolfo and Noel Gardiner proposed amendments to the motion reading: "NUS believes that TAFE Students deserve a standard of national representation" and "A proposal to insert provisions in the NUS constitution that would formalise NUS representation of TAFE students should be researched by the Education Officer and presented to the Education Conference non-binding resolution session".

Due to a lack of support from delegates in National Labor Students, Socialist Alternative, Liberal and Independent factions, including Swinburne Socialist Alternative delegates; Damian Ridgwell, Lucas Anderson and Danial Dadich. The amendments were voted down without formal debate, leaving TAFE students still largely unrepresented and overlooked by the NUS.

### ***Motion:***

The SSU joins with the RMIT University Student Union (RUSU) in condemning all delegates at the 2010 National Conference of the National Union of Students (NUS) that voted against allowing TAFE students more representation by the NUS.

The SSU will continue to lobby the NUS for greater representation of TAFE students and supports the Australian Education Union (AUE)'s 'TAFE4ALL' Campaign which seeks to cap unfair fee rises, protect students from cuts to concession rates and raises awareness about the privatisation of the TAFE sector.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 2:**  
**NOTICE BOARDS**

- Moved – *Coates*
- Seconded – *Warburton*

***Motion:***

The SSU will negotiate with the University to give the SSU stamp the same status as the SSAA stamp on University noticeboards and will aim to re-establish locked Union noticeboards in strategic positions on all Swinburne Campuses. Noticeboards will be the responsibility of, in the first instance the Campus Chairs and in the second instance the Secretary.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 3:**  
**POLITICAL ALLEGIANCES**

- Moved – *Gardiner*
- Seconded – *Corry*

***Preamble:***

In recent years political organisations, particularly Socialist Alternative, have used the SSU as a platform from which to address broad international political issues. While the SSU is indeed a political lobby group which must work with political groups to achieve aims for students, its primary focus should be on issues of Education and Welfare facing Students on campus. This year's Council should have a greater focus on the delivery of services and support on campus rather than the core campaigns of major, minor or fringe political groups.

***Motion:***

Though some SSU Council Members are personally aligned to political parties, the new SSU Council wishes to commit to the record, that the SSU as a whole is not aligned to any particular political party, organisation, philosophy or theology. The new SSU Council is a diverse group of students with many varying personal ideologies.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 4:**  
**FLOOD DISASTERS**

- Moved – *Anstee*
- Seconded – *Corry*

***Preamble:***

SSU Councillors have watched with sympathy and sadness, media coverage of the devastating loss of life and property caused to communities around the world, by flood events this season.

***Motion:***

The SSU will include \$80 in its Orientation Week (O-Week) budget for food items to be sold at the SSU O-Week table with all proceeds going directly to flood victims through a charitable organisation to be decided at a later date.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 5:**  
**NUS PRESIDENT'S SUMMIT**

- Moved – *Landolfo*
- Seconded – *Tay*

***Preamble:***

The National Union of Students President's summit is a three day conference attended by the presidents of student organisations from around Australia. It's held on campus at the University of Sydney and comprises of workshops on running a Union, running events, general campaign and lobbying skills, dealing with the media and Members of Parliament amongst other things. It's also a valuable opportunity to network with other campus president's and learn from their experiences.

There will also be briefings on the current state of the SSAF and TEQSA legislation as well as the Lomax-Smith review and the uncapping of student places. NUS will be providing president's with a handbook on how to get the most out of the Student Services Amenities Fee.

NUS will also be briefing Presidents on NUS's plans for the year.

***Motion:***

That the SSU fund the President's conference attendance to a total of \$304.30. This consists of the \$194.30 air fare and the \$110 accommodation on campus at the University of Sydney. The President will deliver a report to the next Council Meeting.

***Carried Unanimously***

*Break for 10mins*

→ **Notice of Motion No. 6:**  
**FREEZING HONORARIA**

- Moved – *Searle*
- Seconded – *Michell*

***Preamble:***

The Union has had no funding from the University since 2006. Despite this fact, successive Councils have paid themselves honoraria, sometimes totalling over \$100,000 a year. This practice has seen SSU capital reserves dwindle from over \$1.5 million to less than \$100,000.

Demanding honoraria from an organisation that is financially struggling could only be considered corrupt. In September 2010 a motion was successfully passed by the Council to freeze all honoraria for the remainder of the year.

***Motion:***

The SSU will continue last year's freeze on payment of all honoraria, pending income from funding or membership and subject to review by Council after the Annual General Meeting.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 8:****LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING UNION PROPERTY**

- Moved – *Corry*
- Seconded – *Briers*

***Preamble:***

It has come to the attention of the Council that a SSU Risograph photocopier to the value of somewhere in the region of \$2,500 to 3,500 was sold by the previous Secretary/Treasurer Damian Ridgwell for only \$1,385 in December last year. The sale was made after the election, without the Council's approval and for a price much less than its market value.

***Motion:***

The Council assigns that the Vice-President and President seek legal advice on the legality or otherwise of the sale of the photocopier and seek to recoup any and all losses by the Union from the sale of the capital item.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 9:****WHEREABOUTS OF TV SCREEN.**

- Moved – *Coates*
- Seconded – *Searle*

***Preamble:***

It has come to the attention of the Council that in 2009, the then Secretary/Treasurer Cheng Zong, purchased a TV of a significant monetary value for Student use. The TV doesn't appear to be in use at any Campus and it is currently unaccounted for.

***Motion:***

The Council asks that the Vice-President and President investigate the whereabouts of the TV and in the event that it cannot be located, legal advice is to be sought to recoup any and all losses by the Union from the loss of the capital item.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 10:**  
**LACK OF AUDIT & BUDGET.**

- Moved – *Landolfo*
- Seconded – *Tay*

***Preamble:***

On accessing the Union's records the Council has been left with no Budget and no Financial Statement for auditing this year. Constitutionally both should have been prepared by last year's Secretary/Treasurer Damian Ridgwell.

The previous leadership ignored most of the financial requirements set out in the constitution. In this instance, the Audit was to be prepared in December and the Budget to be prepared before November 30th last year.

***Motion:***

The Secretary/Treasurer will present a number of quotes and options for the appointment a book-keeper to be voted on at the next Council meeting. The book-keeper will prepare a Financial Statement to be independently audited in time for the Annual General Meeting to be held in April or March this year.

***Carried Unanimously***

→ **Notice of Motion No. 11:**  
**APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICER.**

- Moved – *Landolfo*
- Seconded – *Corry*

***Preamble:***

For purposes outlined in the Victorian Associations Act, the Council must elect a Public Officer. The Public Officer is usually the Executive Officer.

***Motion:***

Nominations were opened and a vote be taken to elect a Public Officer. Noel Gardiner and Matthew Landolfo were nominated. The result of the vote elected ***Noel Gardiner*** as the Public Officer. This will be updated on the Government Record within 14 days.

***Carried Unanimously***

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

→ **2011 MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE:**

The Council assigns the next Secretariat meeting the task of producing a budget and strategic plan for a membership package to be put to the next Council meeting.

→ **O-WEEK & Events:**

Welcome Back Event: Mexican Night, Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm – 12 midnight.  
The Council assigns the Secretariat meeting the task of producing a budget and plan for O-Week Events and 'Mexican Night', to be put to the next Council meeting.

→ **ESTABLISHING A SERVICES CHARTER:**

The Access and Equity officer and the Secretary will produce a Services Charter to be put to the next Education Board meeting, and in turn the Next Council meeting.

→ **MOVING THE UNION INTO THE 'UN' BUILDING:**

The President reiterates the Union's determination to regain office space in the UN building. The UN building was funded by an equal three way split between the University, the Bookshop and the Union. At the time there was an agreement that the Bookshop and the Union would be able to occupy the building in perpetuity.

## **7. OBSERVER QUESTIONS:**

→ *None received.*

## **8. SCHEDULED MEETINGS & EVENTS:**

→ O-Week, Secretariat, Education Board, SISA, AGM.

## **9. MEETING CLOSED:** *Meeting closed by The Chair, 10:15pm.*