



UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

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UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION SECRETARIAT

The attached minutes have been accepted by the Clubs & Societies Committee by resolution as a true and accurate record of the events of the meeting held on the 9 February 2010.

Chair: Melissa Brooks

09 / 03 / 10

Date



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLUBS & SOCIETIES COMMITTEE
HELD AT 1.00PM ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010
IN THE LOGGIA, MANNING HOUSE**

PRESENT

MEMBERS: Courtney Tight, Vice President (*ex-officio*)
Melissa Brooks, Chair
Michael Buckland, Deputy Chair
John 'Scott' Brownless, Chair of Faculty and Affiliated Sites Societies Committee (*ex-officio*)
Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne
James Flynn
Jehan Kanga
Marina Lauer
Ross Leedham
Justin Simon

VISITORS: Douglas Thompson, Honorary Treasurer
Toby Brennan, Project Manager of C&S Regulations Review
Sasha Uher, Secretary of SU Liberal Club 2008-2009
Adrian Pryke, Secretary of SU Liberal Club 2009-2010

UNION STAFF: Alistair Cowie, Director of Student Programmes
Pamela Wade, Clubs and Societies Officer (Appointee of the Clubs and Societies Manager)
Zinah Tam, Committee Secretary

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1.03pm.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

C&S 001/10 RESOLVED that the following be accepted:
Apologies received from Patrick Bateman, Joss Engebretsen, Winey Suen, and Angela Vogiatsoylou;
Request for late arrival from Alistair Cowie; and
Requests for early departure from John 'Scott' Brownless, Jehan Kanga and Alistair Cowie.

John 'Scott' Brownless / Michael Buckland

C&S 002/10 RESOLVED that Douglas Thompson and Toby Brennan be invited to remain as visitors.

John 'Scott' Brownless / Michael Buckland

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

C&S 003/10 RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held 24 November 2009 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Courtney Tight / Michael Buckland

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

C&S 004/10 RESOLVED that Sasha Uher and Adrian Pryke be invited to remain to speak to the Committee as per **C&S 230/09**.

Michael Buckland / John 'Scott' Brownless

[Sasha Uher and Adrian Pryke arrived at the meeting at 1.08pm]

3.1 **Liberal Club**

The Chair requested that Ms Sasha Uher and Mr Adrian Pryke speak on the events that occurred in relation to Liberal Club Constitutional changes as presented at the previous Committee meeting.

Ms Uher informed the Committee that the Constitution of the Liberal Club prior to the amendments presented at the previous meeting was not consistent with the most recent model Clubs and Societies Constitution, and centralised power with individuals that were not members of the USU or the University.

She continued that the proposed Constitutional amendments were disputed by members of the Liberal Club. These amendments included making the Constitution of the Liberal Club consistent with the model Clubs and Societies Constitution and to remove power from the individuals that were not members of the USU or the University. Amendments were not passed until the most recent meeting of the Liberal Club.

[Jehan Kanga arrived at the meeting at 1.09pm]

Mr Pryke informed the Committee that a meeting of the Club to decide on Constitutional amendments was to be held at 5.00pm. However, it was advertised on the USU website as being held at 4.30pm for unknown reasons. This resulted in the room of the meeting to be double-booked for 5.30pm. Mr Pryke claimed that he immediately notified the Clubs and Societies Office when he became aware of the situation. A room in the Woolley Building was subsequently booked for the meeting. An email was sent to members notifying them of this room change as well as directions to the room. People were also sent to redirect members from the original room.

Mr Pryke continued that the meeting commenced later than advertised and was well attended, with attendance exceeding all other meetings with the exception of the AGM.

Ms Uher expressed her belief that the controversy surrounded the concept that Liberal Club members must have attended three consecutive meetings in

order to vote at the AGM. This was intended to prevent the manipulation of votes.

The minutes of the most recent meeting of the Liberal Club were circulated. It was noted that these minutes had not been ratified by the Liberal Club.

Ms Uher commented that no members had notified her that the meeting time was inconvenient for them. The meeting was also held before Shabbat had begun.

[Justin Simon arrived at the meeting at 1.16pm]

James Flynn and Justin Simon declared conflicts of interest.

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne requested Mr Pryke and Ms Uher's opinion as to why Constitutional changes were approved at the most recent meeting, but rejected in the meetings that preceded it.

Ms Uher replied that it was a result of more members being able to attend the meeting.

Mr Pryke added that at each meeting, a large number of members had voted for the Constitutional amendments, albeit less than the two thirds majority required.

Marina Lauer requested more specific details on proposed Constitutional amendments.

Mr Pryke commented that as well as indicated in the minutes circulated, prior to the meetings, members were sent a copy of the Constitution as it would appear if Constitutional amendments were accepted.

Ms Uher informed the Committee that prior to meetings to approve of Constitutional amendments, proposed Constitutional changes were discussed amongst the executives of the Liberal Club, and subsequently with the Clubs and Societies Manager and members of the Liberal Club.

Ms Uher added that the Constitutional changes to be made at the AGM were different to those at other meetings, so it should be considered separately.

Jehan Kanga asked whether the Club's executives considered holding meetings at lunch time.

Mr Pryke replied that the executives had not considered holding meetings at lunch time.

The agenda of the most recent meeting of the Liberal Club was circulated.

Anshu asked Ms Uher and Mr Pryke to comment on the rumour that it appeared that the executives of the Liberal Club anticipated that Constitutional amendments would not be accepted at the first meeting.

Mr Pryke replied that since meetings require two week's notice, that subsequent meetings to be held close to the first meeting and each other, may be publicised before the result of the previous meeting(s) was known.

Ms Uher commented that members had opportunities to suggest and comment on Constitutional amendments.

Ross Leedham asked whether there was any indication that attendees of these meetings wished to manipulate votes by attending only to vote in a particular manner without having any interest in the proposed amendments.

Mr Pryke replied that there was no indication that this was the case.

[Sasha Uher, Adrian Pryke, James Flynn and Justin Simon departed from the meeting at 1.27pm]

[Alistair Cowie arrived at the meeting at 1.31pm]

The Committee discussed the ramifications if the application of the Liberal Club for Constitutional amendments was rejected. It was unknown whether the Liberal Club would be deregistered if they did not adopt the model Constitution. It was noted that the Clubs and Societies Office had recommended to the Liberal Club on numerous occasions that they adopt the model Constitution.

Anshu expressed his belief that whilst the Constitutional amendments would ensure that the Constitution of the Liberal Club was consistent with the model Constitution, these amendments should be made via a democratic process.

Ross commented that he was asked to attend the meeting to vote for a particular outcome, but he did not agree to do so.

The Chair informed the Committee that there were no formal complaints against the meetings and Constitutional amendments.

John 'Scott' Brownless expressed his belief that the Liberal Club did follow a democratic process and that there were no regulations that prohibited Club meetings to be held on Fridays. He communicated his opinion that the Constitutional amendments ensure that it is more difficult for members to manipulate the voting process.

The Chair commented that the members of the Liberal Club were aware of the formal procedure for lodging complaints.

The Deputy Chair added that he had informed those who had complained of the proper procedure.

C&S 005/10 RESOLVED that the application of the Liberal Club for Constitutional amendments be **accepted**.

*John 'Scott' Brownless / Michael Buckland
Ross Leedham abstained*

C&S 006/10 RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended.

Courtney Tight / Michael Buckland

[James Flynn and Justin Simon returned to the meeting at 1.48pm]

5.1 Changes to C&S Regulations

Mr Toby Brennan informed the Committee that he was unable to review audit and venues because of insufficient resources.

Mr Brennan spoke to the funding changes PowerPoint Presentation.

Marina asked whether completing paperwork with false information as a result of the changes to the C&S Regulations would be addressed; and what support was to be given to Treasurers of Clubs and Societies.

Ms Pamela Wade replied that weekly training sessions will be held for Treasurers.

The Chair replied that worksheets were also currently being created to support Treasurers.

Mr Brennan added that changes are intended to be implemented to technology to further support executives of Clubs and Societies.

Mr Alistair Cowie commented that the new point of sales system would easily allow executives to scan access cards and collect membership data.

Jehan commented that Clubs and Societies that are focused on performing arts would be disadvantaged.

The Chair replied that these Clubs and Societies (as well as other Clubs and Societies) could charge more at events and hold fundraising events.

It was noted that the criteria for cap extension requests and changes to funding for conferences were not included in the circulated C&S Regulations. The Committee requested that the most updated version of the C&S Regulations be presented at the next meeting.

C&S 007/10 RESOLVED that the meeting be extended by thirty minutes.

Marina Lauer / John 'Scott' Brownless

[Douglas Thompson, Alistair Cowie and Toby Brennan departed from the meeting at 3.01pm]

5.2 Rebranding

The Vice President informed the Committee that the USU was currently undergoing a rebranding of the USU. She encouraged the Committee to consider how Clubs and Societies could be integrated with the new visual identity of the USU.

C&S 008/10 RESOLVED that Standing Orders be resumed.

Michael Buckland / Courtney Tight

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 **Status of the Clubs and Societies Fund**

Ms Wade reported that no applications had been processed and thus the fund had not been used.

C&S 009/10 RESOLVED that the Chair be conferred to Michael Buckland.

John 'Scott' Brownless / Courtney Tight

4.2 **Clubs and Societies Manager's Report**

Ms Wade spoke to the report.

C&S 010/10 RESOLVED that the Chair be deferred to Melissa Brooks.

John 'Scott' Brownless / Courtney Tight

[Courtney Tight departed from the meeting at 3.05pm]

Marina asked whether it was possible for Committee members to become involved with training sessions and other initiatives of the C&S Office.

The Chair and Ms Wade replied that Committee members were welcome to become involved.

Jehan expressed his interest in becoming involved in a program related to presidential leadership.

C&S 011/10 RESOLVED that the report of the Clubs and Societies Manager be accepted.

Jehan Kanga / Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne

4.3 **Referred Applications from the Clubs and Societies Office**

4.3.1 **New Club Applications**

Ms Wade spoke to the report.

A typographic error was noted.

C&S 012/10 RESOLVED that the following recommendation contained in the Clubs and Societies Committee Report be accepted:

Recommendation 1: That the application of the United States Studies Society to become a new Club be **accepted on the provision** that the Club hold another IGM during the Semester period and advertise the meeting on the USU website.

John 'Scott' Brownless / Jehan Kanga

4.3.2 **Constitutional Amendments**

C&S 013/10 RESOLVED that the following recommendation contained in the Clubs and Societies Committee Report be accepted:

Recommendation 2: That the application of the Socialist Worker Student Club for Constitutional amendments be **accepted**.

*John 'Scott' Brownless / Jehan Kanga
Justin Simon abstained*

The Chair explained that the Creative Anachronists were a chapter of a larger organisation which may require the Creative Anachronists to be named a specific way for correspondence to and from particular individuals and organisations.

C&S 014/10 **RESOLVED** that the following recommendation contained in the Clubs and Societies Committee Report be accepted:

Recommendation 3: That the application of the Sydney University Creative Anachronists for Constitutional amendments be **accepted pending** clarification and reconsideration of their name change and proposed executive positions such that the Society has one formal name in their Constitution and the descriptions of executive positions other than the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Orientation Officer include a statement that roles would be shared amongst the aforementioned executives.

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne / Michael Buckland

4.3.4 Miscellaneous

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne, James Flynn and Ross Leedham declared conflicts of interest.

C&S 015/10 **RESOLVED** that the following recommendation contained in the Clubs and Societies Committee Report be accepted:

Recommendation 4: That the request of the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference for USU storage space be **accepted**.

Justin Simon / John 'Scott' Brownless

5.3 Storage spaces

Ms Wade informed the Committee that there are a total of ten storage spaces in the Holme Building, with five currently used by specific Clubs and Societies. The areas are 2 metres by 3 metres and a key must be obtained from and returned to the C&S Office to access the storage spaces.

5.4 Affiliated Sites O-Weeks

John 'Scott' Brownless informed the Committee that the Affiliated Sites O-Week is to be held on 24 February and the Sydney College of the Arts O-Day was to be held on 1 March. He invited Committee members to approach him if they had any queries or wished to book a space at these events.

5.5 "Peak" Korean Club on Campus

The Chair informed the Committee that the Korean Government assists Korean student clubs. As a result, KESU and KISSU wish to become the official "peak" Korean Club to receive such assistance. The Chair offered to provide an update on the status of this at the next meeting.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Clubs and Societies Committee is to be held on Tuesday 9 March 2010 in the Loggia, Manning House. The time of the meeting is not finalised. It is likely to be held at 1.00pm and if Committee members have tutorials at those times, the USU could assist in writing a letter for the University to excuse members or allow members to change tutorial times.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting at 3.25pm.

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