



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 15 March 2011.

Chair: Sibella Matthews

19. 4. 11

Date

Meeting of the Clubs and Societies Committee
3.00pm, 15 March 2011, The Loggia,
Manning House, Manning Road, University of Sydney.
MINUTES



Committee Members	Sibella Matthews (Chair), Cameron Creigh, Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne, Timothy Matthews, Mina Nada, Sarah Nguyen, Gabriel Perrottet, James Sin.
USU Staff	Angela Vogiatsoylou (Clubs and Societies Manager), Bryce Williams (Committee Secretary)
Visitors	Joss Engebretsen, Ben Peterson, Lian Jewey, Jacqui Munro.

No#	Details
	The Chair opened the meeting at 3.02pm.
	1. Apologies and Leaves of Absence
C&S 13/11	Resolved that apologies be accepted from Alistair Cowie and James Flynn and that a request for early departure be accepted from Mina Nada. <i>Cameron Creigh / Mina Nada</i>
	2. Minutes Of The Meeting Held 8 February 2011 Cameron Creigh noted a typographical error on page 5, and suggested that 'Commerce Revue Shakers Society' be replaced with 'Commerce Review Society'.
C&S 14/11	Resolved that the amended minutes of the previous meeting held 8 February 2011 be accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings. <i>Timothy Matthews / James Sin</i>
	3. Business Arising From The Minutes There was no business arising from the minutes.
C&S 15/11	Resolved that standing orders be suspended and that discussion move to agenda item 5. Other Business. <i>Cameron Creigh / Sarah Nguyen</i>
	5. Other Business Angela Vogiatsoylou (Clubs and Societies Manager), noted that there was a typographical error on the cover of the report, and that the recommendation for the SU Master of Management Society be ignored. <i>Beat the System Requests</i> Sibella Matthews (the Chair) invited Joss Engebretsen and Jacqui Munro, representatives of SU Beat the System, to address the committee.

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Mr. Engebretsen explained that the society was a contemporary music society and that its objective was to foster an indie rock culture on campus. He noted that the society had partaken in a number of events thus far, including a 'battle of the bands' event in O-Week and provided a Beat the System stage at Beachball. They had also provided DJs from the University of Sydney at these events.

Mr. Engebretsen added that the society had provided reviews for *The Bull*, and was expecting to provide a feature article for the second edition.

Mr. Engebretsen said that the society was organising weekly, Thursday night events at Hermann's. He said that the society had approximately 314 members, however they were awaiting proper Access card details from about 30 members. He noted that membership of the society was available for \$5, which contributed to the fundraising of the society.

Mr. Engebretsen noted that the society will reach the spending cap due to their probationary status. He requested that the committee provide an extension to \$4000 (premised on the removal of probationary status) and then a further extension to \$6000.

Ms. Matthews clarified that two separate items were to be discussed: the early end of the probationary status and the further extension to \$6000.

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne entered the meeting at 3.08pm

Sarah Nguyen noted the regulations concerning the removal of probationary status and asked Mr. Engebretsen to comment on the society's ability to operate effectively and achieve its objectives.

Mr. Engebretsen said that the society was not currently able to pay the bands that they had booked. Upon further establishment of the society, a fee could be charged and then bands could be recompensed for their time. He said that funding would be used for the hire of a sound technician, drinks and T-shirts as well as gifts for bands that had provided their time.

Timothy Matthews asked whether the society had drafted their O-Week budgets with the \$2000 cap in mind, or whether they were counting on an extension.

Mr. Engebretsen admitted that he was not aware of the probationary status at the time of budgeting and reminded the committee that an extension was required for the society to be able to keep holding events.

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne asked Mr. Engebretsen to confirm that the society had already spent two-thirds of the \$4000 allocation.

Mr. Engebretsen suggested that the society had spent closer to \$3000.

Ms. Munro added that a significant proportion of expenditure was initial expenditure.

Mr. Engebretsen clarified that this included T-shirts, a banner, the creation of a website, and the provision of bands for O-Week. He noted that the society

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had provided a \$1500 revenue stream for the Beachball event.

Ms. Matthews asked Mr. Engebretsen when their probationary status would otherwise end.

Mr. Engebretsen replied that it would otherwise end in June.

Ms. Matthews noted that the application was two-pronged and requested further information in regard to the further extension to \$6000.

Mr. Engebretsen said that the society had already spent beyond their \$2000 cap and that they were withholding the submission of non-time dependent funding (including capital expenditure). He said that the extension was to avoid having to re-apply later in the year and for budgeting purposes.

James Sin asked about the society's subsidisation of Beachball tickets.

Mr. Engebretsen clarified that the society had provided a \$5 subsidy, selling the tickets at the price of \$5.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne asked Mr. Engebretsen to clarify the proportion of actual expenditure which had been claimed.

Mr. Engebretsen referred to the documentation before the committee, and said that not all had been claimed as some expenditure had breached the caps for individual items.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne asked whether the subsidy of \$5 was to be funded by C&S.

Mr. Engebretsen confirmed that the subsidy was to be funded by C&S.

Mina Nada asked who was paying for the incurred expenditure, outside of C&S funding.

Mr. Engebretsen replied that the secretary and himself had invested their own money into the venture, as the society was needed on campus.

Mr. Nada requested clarification of the society's role at Beachball.

Mr. Engebretsen replied that the society had organised 50% of the entertainment at Beachball with the second stage, and with assistance from sound technicians, had provided DJs in the chillout room.

Ms. Munro noted that Richard Cuthbert would have been very supportive of the venture, as it saves the USU time and money overall, providing a service that the USU does not need to organise itself. She noted an analogous situation with the Jazz Society.

Mr. Nada noted that the Union was not necessarily able to attain those members by itself.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne said that there was a policy issue to consider – whether Beat the System should have subsidised those tickets or sold them

the executive were conscious of improving relations with the C&S office.

Mr. Nada asked whether the members of Resistance could be adequately served by other similar societies, considering their probationary status.

Mr. Peterson noted the group's affiliation with the Socialist Alternative.

Mr. Matthews asked about the club's total membership and the regularity of its meetings.

Mr. Peterson replied that the first meeting was to be held tomorrow and that there were a lot of members, though he was not sure of the exact number.

Ms. Matthews asked whether Mr. Peterson was a member of the club's executive.

Mr. Peterson replied that he was not, but he was acting on behalf of the executive.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne asked whether the club would be amenable to conditions in relation to the filing of documentation.

Mr. Peterson replied that conditions were not necessary or appropriate, and that the primary issue was conduct at O-Week.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne noted that the club's spruiking activity constituted active recruitment.

Mr. Nada added that corporate spruiking was allowed upon payment.

Mr. Peterson said that the Evangelical Union (EU) were treated inconsistently.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the focus of discussion was not SUSF or the EU, and that all Clubs and Societies were treated equally. She questioned whether the club was aware of the nature of conditions and noted that conditions could include attending workshops.

Mr. Peterson asked whether the conditions were imposed on every club and society in the program.

Mr. Matthews responded that not all clubs had breached previous conditions.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne added that disciplinary action was to be taken in response to a series of issues reflecting systematic problems.

Mr. Peterson noted that the club had been compliant with requests to move-on.

SU Socialist Alternative Disciplinary Action

Ms. Matthews thanked the representative of SU Resistance for their time and invited Lian Jewey, representative of Socialist Alternative, to address the committee in relation to its regulatory breach.

Ms. Jewey said that the right to spruik was enshrined in the rules of the University of Sydney and that the University upholds those rights, including the right to hand out leaflets.

Ms. Matthews responded that it was made very clear that O-Week was an exception and that handing out of leaflets was not permitted.

Ms. Jewey continued and said that the allegations of 'wet chalking' were not true. She noted her awareness of the seriousness of pressure on the USU in relation to 'wet chalking'. She said that members of the club had attended the introduction day and had thought that it was acceptable to be in front of the stall. She noted that the spruikers had desisted upon awareness of a breach. She added that the stall was staffed for the whole three days of O-Week and it was not their desire to break regulations.

Mr. Nada inquired as to why Ms. Jewey's recounting of events differed substantially from the reported version.

Ms. Jewey replied that she had not seen the report, but thought that it would be a requirement of natural justice to see it and thus be able to respond to the allegations.

Ms. Matthews read from the report.

Ms. Vogiatoglou said that it was clear from the Terms and Conditions that chalking was not permitted at all.

Mr. Matthews added that the Terms and Conditions were attached to every single stall.

Mr. Sin asked Ms. Jewey to respond to the report's allegations of scouts looking for USU staff.

Ms. Jewey responded that that allegation was false. She added that it was not how the club operates. She said that spruiking was a concern of many clubs and societies, evidenced by a petition signed by around 40 clubs in relation to corporate spruiking. She noted that other clubs had also engaged in spruiking.

Mr. Perrottet suggested that the conduct of the Socialist Alternative went further than other clubs, for example, the establishment of a desk in front of an elevator.

Ms. Jewey asked whether that conduct was prohibited by the terms and conditions.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that it was against OH+S regulations in every building.

Ms. Jewey replied that the club had been responsive to requests to move the table.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne added that Term 4 of the Terms and Conditions

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stipulated that promotions were to take place within stalls only, and as such, the conduct would have been prohibited even if not in front of an elevator.

Ms. Matthews expressed that it was unfortunate what had happened, but noted that neither club appeared entirely apologetic in relation to their breaches. She added that the C+S office wanted to work with clubs to rectify these problems.

Mr. Peterson reiterated that the conduct of the club on the day was similar to the general conduct of most of the clubs.

Ms. Jewey supported the point made by Mr. Peterson, and added that there was a lack of clarification in relation to the rules.

Mr. Peterson asked what the implications of the breach would be.

Ms. Matthews replied that the committee had a discretion to punish the clubs for the breaches.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne clarified that spruiking outside the stall had been prohibited since he had joined the program, for the reasons of promoting fair competition between stalls and allowing public movement through the space.

Mr. Peterson argued that the rule had been breached by every second club at O-Week.

Mr. Matthews responded that the distinction made in this case was that the clubs disciplined were openly denigrating others who had a right to be at O-Week, for example through offensive chalking.

Ms. Jewey questioned the accuracy of Mr. Matthew's claim.

Ms. Matthews clarified that the issue being discussed was not offensive chalking.

Ms. Jewey said that the disciplinary action concerns all students, particularly because only the left-wing political clubs were targeted.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the two clubs disciplined had to be consistently reprimanded, unlike other clubs.

Ms. Matthews asked whether the committee wanted to move in camera to discuss the recommendations in the C&S Manager's Report.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne said that he was generally happy with Recommendation 5, except that the last sentence should be amended (to be a recommendation, not a resolution of the committee) so that future committees decisions were not bound by that part.

Mr. Nada asked whether the discipline in the recommendation was a natural consequence of not performing the conditions.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne responded that in previous years, lenience had been shown towards clubs that did not perform the conditions. He added that

specifying these conditions would remove the potential for lenience.

Ms. Matthews affirmed Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne's comments.

Ms. Nguyen suggested that the term 'administration' should be more specific, such that both the committee and the club are fully aware of the obligations imposed.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne disagreed, and argued that the term should be left in broad terms to incorporate all aspects of administration. He suggested that a recommendation could be added to require meetings with the C&S Office.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the C&S Workshops were already serving that function.

Ms. Matthews reminded the committee that it should feel comfortable following up on the progress of the disciplinary action.

**C&S
17/11**

Resolved to amend and accept Recommendation 5 of the Clubs & Societies Manager's Report:

SU Resistance Club – Administration of the club must comply with all C&S guidelines, including an Unqualified Audit result; they must attend workshops in 2011. The probationary status remains for the duration of 2011.

Mina Nada / Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne

**C&S
*18/11**

The committee recommends to the 2012 Clubs & Societies Committee that failure of the SU Resistance Club to attend conferences will result in the club being excluded from O-Week 2012.

Mina Nada / Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne asked why only the photocopying privilege was targeted in relation to Recommendation 4.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the photocopying privilege was the most valuable to the Socialist Alternative.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne clarified that photocopying expenses could be claimed under event funding, and thus the disciplinary action would target the convenience of and credits granted under the privilege.

Mr. Nada asked how much of the club's credits were being used.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the full amount was being used.

Mr. Sin argued that a perverse incentive may be the result of the disciplinary action – in that the club will use up their other funding allowance to compensate for the lost credits.

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Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne suggested that the punishment may be excessive. He noted that photocopying is important to run events and that it will affect the club's members and undermine their operations.

Ms. Matthews asked why the recommendations for the clubs were different despite similar infringements.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the clubs were in different stages of their development.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne said that spruiking was a greater concern than the OH+S issue. He inquired about the prohibition on chalking.

Ms. Nguyen replied that it was a form of marketing outside the stalls and thus prohibited.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that she would be amenable to removing the chalking allegation.

Ms. Jewey said that dry chalking was only implicitly against the terms and conditions.

Ms. Vogiatoglou acknowledged that she had received complaints but was not certain as to the use of wet chalk.

Ms. Matthews clarified that, in light of the uncertainty regarding the wet chalking allegations that the disciplinary action be in response to the spruiking breaches only.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne noted that this would be an issue for the committee in future and suggested that a dialogue should be established with stakeholders to get all the facts in place before an action was taken.

Mr. Sin said that it was a matter of procedural fairness to give allegations to the clubs before committee.

Ms. Matthews responded that the breaches had been outlined to the clubs in a email over a week ago.

Ms. Jewey said that providing the report to the clubs was a requirement of natural justice.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne expressed his opposition to the recommendation, in light of the harshness of the proposed action and the absence of a problematic history.

Mr. Sin disagreed, and said that the disciplinary action matched the severity of the allegations.

Mr. Matthews proposed that photocopying privileges could be reduced, rather than removed.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne clarified that privileges were expressed in terms of credits, rather than in monetary terms.

Mr. Nada expressed his approval of the Recommendation in the Report, noting that society status was a privilege, not a right.

Ms. Nguyen clarified that the disciplinary action would be taken without consideration of the disputed 'wet chalking' allegations in Pt. 13 of the report.

**C&S
19/11**

**Resolved to accept Recommendation 4 of the Clubs & Societies
Manager's Report:**

**SU Socialist Alternative – Photocopying Privilege suspended for the
rest of the year.**

Sarah Nguyen / Mina Nada

**C&S
20/11**

**Resolved that standing orders be suspended and that discussion
move to agenda item 5. Other Business.**

Moved from the Chair.

5. Other Business

Beat The System Requests

Mina Nada left the meeting at 4.02pm

Ms. Matthews said that of the two issues to discuss, the main issue was the funding extension to \$6000.

Ms. Nguyen questioned why the club had probationary status.

Ms. Vogiatoglou replied that it was a new club.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne echoed Ms. Nguyen's question, and noted that regulations specify that probationary status may be imposed, but does not have to be.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that the regulations had been updated to include mandatory probationary status. She said that there were a number of issues to consider in respect of the club.

When the club was registered, the name of the club was spelt 'Beat the **System**', but had advertised as 'Beat the **System**'. There had been no constitutional change, despite reminders that this was required.

In respect of the Beachball event, the post-event form had been handed in yesterday. The form had claimed the entire attendance at Beachball.

Ms. Vogiatoglou noted that the C&S Office had previously had issues with the Captain Planet society, of which Mr. Engebretsen was an executive. She argued that Mr. Engebretsen needed to be educated as to the system of C&S funding. She expressed her complete support for the society in the C&S

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program.

Ms. Matthews noted that refusing the funding extension would affect both the club and its members. She suggested that the probationary status be lifted and the extension be reconsidered in 2 months time.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne disagreed, suggesting that both requests should be denied. He highlighted the lack of information presented to the committee and the dangerous precedent that such a decision would present.

Mr. Matthews said that the committee should lift probationary status, such that the society can become an integral part of the program without the executive members suffering financial difficulties. He noted that this issue potentially highlighted a failure in the regulations relating to performance-based societies.

Mr. Sin agreed with Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne, adding that the funding regulations were clearly stipulated in the Treasurer's handbook.

Ms. Matthews questioned whether the fact that they had to pay for the funding out of their own personal funds formed part of their plea.

Mr. Sin noted that in the last paragraph of their submission, use of personal funding to cover costs had been specified.

Ms. Nguyen suggested that weekly events could be funded by member contributions. She also suggested that a yearly budget must be presented before the grant of the extension.

Mr. Creigh noted that the club had met all requirements and a strong member base. The denial of the requests would have the effect of punishing the executive financially.

Ms. Vogiatoglou noted that the removal of the status would come only 3 months early. She suggested that the status be lifted such that Mr. Engebretsen can pay his debtors, and the membership will not suffer. She reiterated that Mr. Engebretsen required funding education and thus should be asked to return with a budget in a few months time and resubmit the extension request.

Ms. Nguyen noted the C&S Regulations which stipulate that payment of debtors should not be a factor influencing funding decisions.

Ms. Matthews noted that this situations was different in that it related to funding for events.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne suggested that funding should be extended to \$4000, but that the club should be kept in probationary status. He then rescinded this suggestion.

Mr. Sin noted that Clubs and Societies should not be in the practice of spending money that they do not have.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne noted a distinction in this case that the club was

spending money without any awareness of the cap.

**C&S
21/11** Resolved that the probationary status of SU Beat the System be removed (per 6.a.iv.b of the C&S Regulations), and that representatives of the society be invited to the May meeting of the C&S Committee to re-apply for a funding extension, conditional upon the attendance of the President and Treasurer of the society at a Treasurer's Training Session and the presentation of the society's full budget for 2011 at the May meeting.

Timothy Matthews / Cameron Creigh

**C&S
22/11** Resolved that the probationary status of the SU Atheist Society be removed (per 6.a.iv.b of the C&S Regulations).

James Sin / Timothy Matthews

Ms. Vogiatoglou noted that the Vegetarian Society's management had significantly improved through the use of gloves and utensils and checking membership status at events, as well as proper maintenance of financial records.

Mr. Sin asked what the previous problems of the society were.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that problems were associated with another club run under some of the same executive members that conducted yoga classes, which were eventually paid from the VegeSoc checkbook. She added that during lunch events, food would be distributed from takeaway containers, without gloves. She added that financial reporting was poor. The election of Andrew to the executive meant a greatly increased standard of conduct.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne asked about Recommendation 7 in Appendix C.

Ms. Vogiatoglou responded that six month reviews would be in respect of financial records only.

**C&S
23/11** Resolved that the probationary status of the SU Vegetarian Society be removed (per 6.a.iv.b of the C&S Regulations).

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne / Sarah Nguyen

**C&S
24/11** Resolved that standing orders be resumed and that discussion move to agenda item 4.1 Clubs & Societies Manager's Report.

Moved from the Chair.

4.1 Clubs and Societies Manager's Report

Ms. Vogiatoglou spoke to her attached report, as well as the tabled 'C&S Conference Evaluation Report'. She highlighted Recommendation 3, which recognised the improvement in the management of the Cuba Venezuela

Club.

Ms. Vogiatoglou added that an internship to a student in the accounting discipline was being established and that one candidate was being interviewed this week. She expressed her thanks to the Board in relation to this development and her hope that the program would increase its visibility in the future.

She noted that quantitative measurements would be forthcoming in respect of the change to online venue bookings.

**C&S
25/11** **Resolved that the Clubs & Societies Manager's Report (excluding Recommendations 4 and 5) be accepted.**

Cameron Creigh / Timothy Matthews

4.2 New Club Applications

There were no New Club Applications to consider.

4.3 Constitutional Amendments

There were no Constitutional Amendments to consider.

4.4 Miscellaneous

There were no Miscellaneous matters to consider.

4.5 Capital Expenditure Request

Mr. Creigh clarified the amount claimed by Beat the System for its banner did not cover the full amount, owing to the previous spending cap. He suggested that the full amount should be reimbursed.

Ms. Vogiatoglou suggested that the amount could be funded on the discretion of the club.

Mr. de Silva Wijeyeratne argued that there was no reason not to grant the full amount, considering that it had already been budgeted for.

**C&S
26/11** **Resolved to accept the Capital Expenditure Request of SU Beat the System for \$204.00.**

Anshu de Silva Wijeyeratne / Cameron Creigh

**C&S
27/11** **Resolved that the meeting be extended by half an hour.**

Timothy Matthews / Cameron Creigh

**C&S
28/11** **Resolved to accept the Capital Expenditure Request of SU French Society for \$137.50.**

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Gabriel Perrottet / Sarah Nguyen

5. Other Business

Bryce Williams (Committee Secretary) requested the committee's views on the feasibility of a paperless system, owing to the waste generated by committee documents.

**C&S
29/11**

Resolved to provide the Committee Secretary with 2 business days notice for papers to be printed for future C&S meetings.

Cameron Creigh / Sarah Nguyen

Mr. Williams noted that the portal system would be used concurrently with email notifications until all members were comfortable with the new system.

6. Date of the Next Meeting
– Tuesday 19th April, 3pm, The Loggia.

7. Close of Meeting
The Chair closed the meeting at 4.36pm.
