



UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION

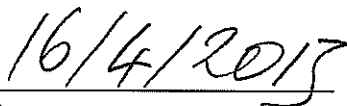
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UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION SECRETARIAT

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 26th of March 2013.


Chair: Zachary Thompson


Date



Meeting of the Clubs and Societies Committee
3.00pm, 26 March 2013, The Faculty Presidents' Meeting Room
Manning House, Manning Road, University of Sydney.
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Committee Members	Zachary Thompson (Chair), Karen Chau (Deputy Chair), Aaren Cristini, Alexandra Brown, Angus Knoblanche, Ian Chan, Joshua Sprake, Kanika Batra, Peta Blundell
USU Staff	Angela Vogiatoglou (Clubs and Societies Manager), Louise Anthony (Director of Student Programs), Pamela Wade (Clubs and Societies Coordinator), Shakil Khan (Affiliated Sites Officer), Zeinab Zein (Committee Secretary)
Visitors	Matthew Hill, Michael Cross, Alex Desmond, Suzanne Asad, Amie Liebowitz

Resolution No#	Details
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The Chair opened the meeting at 3:00pm.

1. Apologies and Leaves of Absence

C&S 022/13	Resolved to accept apologies from Aaren Cristini and a late arrival request from Astha Rajvanshi.
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Joshua Sprake/ Angus Knoblanche

2. Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the Meeting Held 12 February 2013

Mr. Joshua Sprake says he believes committee members were more firm about the resolutions pertaining to the controversy surrounding the Small Government Society. He says we agreed that if a third IGM was to be held that a video camera would record the proceedings, that student Access ID's will be checked, that C&S Regulations will be required to be signed and that the Chair would have the power to remove members that were not there for the correct purposes. He says he would like this to be included in the C&S Minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. Angus Knoblanche says towards the bottom of page two he was referred to as Mr. Ian Knoblanche.

C&S	Resolved to accept the regular minutes from 12 February 2013 as a
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023/13 **true and accurate record of proceedings.**

Joshua Sprake/ Angus Knoblanche

4. General Business

4.1 Clubs and Societies' Manager's Report

Ms. Angela Vogiatoglou spoke to the report. She says the Board approved for the C&S Office to have a newly appointed Affiliated Sites Officer who reports directly to Pamela Wade. She says the newly appointed officer is Shakil Khan and together their focus will be to extend the hand of the USU out to affiliated sites, such as the medical sites which have not worked with the USU since the VSU. She says the response has been terrific and many people have been approaching Ms. Wade and Mr. Khan instead of the affiliated sites.

Ian Chan enters the meeting room at 3:06pm.

Ms. Vogiatoglou says a new initiative that the C&S Office will be undertaking following O-Week is to publicly name clubs and societies that were found to be spruiking or leaving stalls unmanned during the event. She says they have made a recommendation that in the upcoming year, inappropriate behaviour will attract a warning letter and penalties if the behaviour continues. Mr. Sprake says the Solidarity Club was named in the report and would prefer that penalties are issued immediately for this club considering that in the past they have been found to follow C&S Regulations laxly. He recommends suspending their ability to book rooms considering they have been warned previously not to spruik. Ms. Alexandra Brown says clubs are usually penalised by taking away their photocopying privileges.

Ms. Vogiatoglou says those involved in the O-Week activities of the Solidarity Club and found to be not following C&S Regulations were not the same people who appeared before the C&S Committee last month. Mr. Sprake says they should have ensured that representatives of the club during O-Week were aware of the proper procedures and rules they are bound by.

C&S **Resolved to accept the recommendation that the Solidarity Club have**
024/13 **their photocopying privileges suspended immediately until a member**
 of the Executive appears before the next C&S Committee to review the
 decision.

Joshua Sprake/ Ian Chan

Against: Peta Blundell
Abstain: Alexandra Brown

Ms. Vogiatoglou says she would also like to draw the committees' attention to the Socialist Alternative club as they were also found to be hijacking stalls and spruiking during O-Week. She says the club ignored USU staff requests to cease operations during O-Week because the club has been



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unregistered since September 2012. Ms. Vogiatoglou says they will be trying to re-register their club soon and under normal circumstances she would not bring a re-registration application to committee. She says she is recommending that the club appears before the next C&S Committee and explain their behaviour. She says re-registering a club usually occurs automatically but given the circumstances it will be better if their application be considered. She says she witnessed Patrick Langosch tearing down posters from other clubs herself and on two separate occasions she notified security of what was happening.

Mr. Zachary Thompson asks if the USU will be liable to insurance claims if someone is injured as a result of their actions. Mr. Sprake says the university will be responsible for their actions as they are not affiliated with the USU.

Ms. Peta Blundell asks if other clubs found to not be following C&S Regulations during O-Week 2013 have been warned. Ms. Vogiatoglou says because this is a new initiative which is yet to be sanctioned by the committee, she could not proceed with this until then.

C&S
025/13

Resolved to accept item 4.1 Clubs and Societies' Manager's Report.

Alexandra Brown/ Joshua Sprake

Pamela Wade leaves the room at 3:17pm.

4.2 New Club Applications

Arabic and Islamic Studies Society

Ms. Blundell asks if the previous Arabic and Islamic Studies Society was disbanded from the C&S program for a particular reason. Ms. Vogiatoglou says the club was no longer part of the program due to inactivity, she says the society is now required to submit an application because it has been inactive for more than a period of one year and previous bank accounts have been closed.

C&S
026/13

Resolved that the new club application of the Arabic and Islamic Studies Society be accepted.

Joshua Sprake/ Peta Blundell

Women in Agriculture Society

Mr. Angus Knoblanche says in s.4.4 of the constitution of the Women in Agriculture Society (WAGSOC) it says all members of the executive must be enrolled in a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics or a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He says he understands why this has been included but he is not sure that this is in line with USU requirements that all clubs be equally accessible. Ms. Blundell says accessibility is a requirement in the C&S regulations but restrictions can be placed on the executive. Mr. Sprake says he would prefer that certain courses are not stipulated but rather this section of the constitution be amended to read that the executive need to be



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members of the Agriculture Faculty. He says the reason for this preference is because the academic board have approved a new agricultural degree which is not accounted for in the constitution. He says the females who will form part of the new degree can be effectively excluded from joining. Ms. Brown says she does not think that the club can be forced to make this amendment to the constitution but that it should be strongly recommended by the C&S Committee.

Mr. Sprake says he thinks the new club application for the society should be rejected because they only have 19 members despite needing to have 20. He says in particular, their Honorary Alumni and Staff Membership are not in line with the constitution of the USU and C&S Regulations. He says as it stands, the executive has the power to potentially grant honorary membership to people to stop them from voting or being elected as a member of the executive even though they qualify for ordinary membership. Mr. Knoblanche and Ms. Brown agree that they do not think that the WAGSOC have included this clause for sinister purposes. Mr. Sprake says the rules should be applied evenly across the board, as if this was included in the constitution of other contentious clubs we would request that it be amended.

Kanika Batra enters the meeting room at 3:24pm.

Mr. Sprake says another issue is that their constitution stipulates that alumni and staff membership cannot be ordinary members of the club but alumni and staff are ordinary members of the union as according to its constitution. He says there should be no reason that an alumni or staff Access card holder is not an ordinary member. He says another issue is that there are different membership costs for Access card holders and those who do not hold one. Ms. Blundell says she was also concerned about s.3.3 as this means that people can be classified as ordinary memberships dispute not having an Access card though this is not possible as per the C&S regulations. Mr. Sprake says he recommends that the WAGSOC re-hold their IGM. He says the C&S Committee should accept in principle their application but formally reject it at this stage. Ms. Blundell says we should accept their application but also ensure that they liaise with the C&S Office to make the required amendments to their constitution. Mr. Knoblanche says if they do not follow through on our recommendations then we do not have to release them from probationary status.

**C&S
027/13**

Resolved that the C&S Committee accepts in principle the new club application of the Sydney University Women in Agriculture Society pending the following changes to their constitution: bringing membership clauses in line with C&S Regulations and the USU Constitution, removing allowances for non-USU members to be ordinary members, changing eligibility requirements of their membership to allow any member of the Agricultural Faculty rather than only allowing those enrolled in specific degrees and to change their AGM away from the month of October.

Joshua Sprake/ Angus Knoblanche

Self Improvement Society



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Ms. Brown says she was confused about the society's aims as it would function as a meta-society by encouraging other clubs to work closely with them and vice-versa to deliver services to their membership. Mr. Sprake says he thinks the way they have structured their executive will result in a lot of control being placed with the president and treasurer. He says there are seven members of the executive and these two roles will have entire control over the funds of the society. Mr. Knoblanche says their constitution effectively allows the executive to exclude and grant membership to whom they want to.

Alex Desmond and Michael Cross from the Self Improvement Society enter the meeting room at 3:30pm.

Mr. Thompson welcomes Mr. Cross and Mr. Desmond and asks them to speak to their application. He says the C&S Committee have concerns about the purpose of the club and the roles and responsibilities of the executive. Mr. Desmond says after being involved in the Engineering Revue they decided to gather a group of people together to train regularly and this is how the idea of the Self Improvement Society was born. He says the main aim is to help people improve academically by providing emotional support to them and engage in physical activity with them.

Mr. Sprake asks the representatives of the Self Improvement Society what they will use funds for. Mr. Desmond says funds will go towards subsidising sporting events for their membership and to help pay for guest speakers such as those who are learned in the field of emotional intelligence. He says the funding will also be used for equipment such as swimming goggles, he says increasing opportunities for members to partake in their events is important and subsidising some of the costs involved will help with this.

Ms. Brown says the SU Health and Lifestyle Society offer some of the services proposed by the Self Improvement Society, she asks if the club has had any contact with them. Mr. Desmond says he was in contact with them before the constitution was written, he says he was also in contact with other societies to ascertain that they will be contributing to the diversity of the Clubs & Societies program. He says the aim of their proposed society is to offer a more holistic approach to improving the self physically, mentally and emotionally.

Ms. Vogiatoglou leaves the room at 3:36pm.

Ms. Blundell says responding to the needs of the membership may be difficult because each individual may request something different. She says this could potentially mean that the funds will need to be split amongst people who do not have the same interests. Mr. Cross says they have general programs in mind such as general fitness and motivational talks, they will then be cataloguing the requests of their membership and working from there in the future. Ms. Blundell asks if the society has been in contact with Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness considering they currently hold a range of activities such as public speaking, training and confidence boosting. Mr. Desmond says they have not yet spoken to them but will liaise with them in the future. He says a lot of interest was shown when they held their IGM.



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Mr. Thompson thanks Mr. Desmond and Mr. Cross for their time.

Alex Desmond and Michael Cross leave the C&S Committee meeting at 3:38pm.

Ms. Vogiatzoglou re-enters the meeting room at 3:38pm.

Ms. Brown says she does not think that they can be incorporated in the Clubs & Societies program without re-working their aims and goals. Mr. Knoblanche says they will also need to amend aspects of their constitution. He says the proposed society is essentially a hybrid of a variety of already existing clubs. Ms. Blundell says one of the problems is that their proposed society has broad aims which overlap with existing clubs and societies.

**C&S
028/13** **Resolved that the new club application of the Self Improvement Society be rejected because it does not contribute to the diversity of the Clubs & Societies program.**

Joshua Sprake/ Alexandra Brown

4.3 Capital Expenditure Requests

**C&S
029/13** **Resolved that the following Capital Expenditure recommendations made by the C&S Office be accepted *en bloc* on the condition that the equipment be placed on the premises of the USU once the space is available to the clubs on campus:**

SU Business School Society:

Recommendation 1: That the capital expenditure request for \$1259.00 be approved.

SU Chinese Law Society:

Recommendation 2: That the capital expenditure request for \$139.00 be approved.

SU Mathematics Society:

Recommendation 3: That the capital expenditure request for \$100.00 be approved.

SU Quidditch Society:

Recommendation 4: That the capital expenditure request for \$173.00 be rejected but that the Quidditch Society be approved \$163.87 as this is the remaining amount of the \$500.00 CAPEX limit.

SU Veterinary Society:

Recommendation 5: That the capital expenditure request for \$370.00 be approved.

Joshua Sprake/ Angus Knoblanche

4.4 Constitutional Amendments



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SU Evangelical Union

Mr. Sprake says that the membership clause in the constitution of the SU Evangelical Union (SUEU) that you have to be nominated by an existing member and you can be removed for not agreeing with the Christian doctrine is problematic. He says these clauses mean that the society is not accessible to all members of the USU because it affects ordinary membership. Ms. Blundell says the club is acceptable to the point that people are interested. Mr. Chan says this could be an anti-branch stacking measure and that this clause is reasonable for any religious society. Mr. Sprake says their constitution will hinder him from becoming a member and this works against the C&S Regulations.

Mr. Sprake says the role of the General Council also seems to restrict the Executive because they have the oversight of all the affairs of the SUEU, including the delegation of finances. He says this too conflicts with C&S Regulations that state that the executive have the entire power over the society. He says the USU does not want external actors controlling a society, he says the executive should have financial management of the SUEU as per the C&S Regulations.

Matthew Hill from the Sydney University Evangelical Union enters the meeting room at 3:48pm.

Mr. Thompson welcomes Mr. Hill and asks him to speak to his clubs application for proposed constitutional amendments. He says members of the committee have expressed concerns about the accessibility of the clubs membership and clause 3.2 which requires that students sign a paper agreeing to the Christian doctrine. He says there were also concerns about the roles and responsibilities of the General Council.

Mr. Hill says the main change that has been made to the constitution involves the role and responsibility of the General Council (GC). He says faculty leaders use to form a body called the GC which the executive would go to for advice. He says because this body consisted of 35 people it meant that many conflicting views were expressed when they were approached for advice and the SUEU wanted to change this as it was stalling progress. He says the GC is now comprised of faculty members, the executive and ordinary members.

Mr. Sprake asks about the role of the GC in financial matters. Mr. Hill says the Treasurer is often a member of the GC and this means they have an important role to play. He says all the GC is required to do is to ensure that the executive does not financially jeopardise the club, he says in this way they are more of a governance board than a management system.

Mr. Knoblanche asks about the power invested in the executive and general council to remove the ordinary membership of somebody who has been found not to agree with the doctrine basis of the requirements for membership. Mr. Hill says while they endeavour to ensure that the SUEU is accessible to everyone, those who are in positions of leadership and those who vote for them need to share the same objectives. Mr. Sprake asks if an individual of the Islamic faith will be able to join the SUEU. Mr. Hill says a



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Muslim can join the mailing list and attend all events they run but they will not be allowed to become a member of the society and this means that they would not be able to vote at the AGM or run for leadership positions. He says the rationale behind this is to void off branch stacking and ensuring that only those who share their beliefs are able to engage on a vital level with the club.

Mr. Thompson says an important part of the C&S Regulations pertain to acting within democratic principles. He asks if the inclusion of the doctrine clause is democratic. Mr. Hill says he believes the clause is democratic because those who are onboard with the aims of the society can become voting members and therefore decide the direction of how the society will run. Ms. Brown says the executive can use this clause as an abuse of power to remove those from the club whom they do not want onboard by arbitrarily challenging the nature of their beliefs. Mr. Hill says the clause can be used in this way but it will also be handled in an open process and this will ensure transparency and accountability.

Mr. Thompson thanks Mr. Hill for his time.

Michael Hill leaves the C&S Committee meeting at 3:58pm.

Mr. Thompson says the SUEU is a special society because it has a huge membership base and is very wealthy. He says Mr. Hill seems eager to move forward and their constitution has improved dramatically since their previous one. Mr. Sprake says his biggest concern is in relation to the General Council as it is invested with an immense amount of power and control. Ms. Blundell says the council will be acting as a second check and balance on the society along with the executive and this seems like a responsible way to run the SUEU. Mr. Knoblanche says it seems like the executive is answerable to a body that has not been elected and this means they may not be able to act in the best interests of members. Ms. Batra says what they are proposing is undemocratic. Ms. Brown says she supports the existence of the GC due to the sheer size of the society and its wealth.

**C&S
030/13**

Resolved that the proposed constitutional amendments of the Sydney University Evangelical Union be accepted on the condition that members of the Executive meet with a C&S Committee Member and the C&S Manager to further clarify clauses 3.2, 3.4, 5.6 and 6.

Alexandra Brown/ Kanika Batra

SU Photographic Society

Mr. Sprake says as per the guidelines in the constitution of the SU Photographic Society (Photo Soc), they are required to submit amendments made to their constitution within 14 days. He says their AGM occurred in May and the C&S Office received the documentation in February. Ms. Brown says we should accept their constitutional amendments but also notify the society that they have violated their own guidelines as per clause 10.1.4.

Ms. Blundell says clause 6.1 of their constitution says the society should



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hold an ordinary meeting at least once every two weeks during semester but they have not held an ordinary meeting since the first semester of 2012.

Ms. Vogiatoglou says all these issues pertain to past members of the executive who have resigned. Mr. Sprake says if we continue to not penalise current executives for the actions of previous executives then no executive will be held fully accountable for their actions.

Ms. Blundell says another technical issue with their proposed constitutional amendments is that they have signed it in the future, the date that appears is May 2013.

Mr. Sprake recommends that the constitutional amendments of the Photographic Society be rejected. The recommendation fails, three committee members were in favour and three were against.

For: Joshua Sprake, Ian Chan and Kanika Batra

Against: Angus Knoblanche, Alexandra Brown and Peta Blundell

Ms. Brown recommends that the proposed constitutional amendments of the SU Photographic Society are accepted and that the society be informed that they did not submit their changes in time to the C&S Office.

**C&S
031/13**

Resolved to accept the constitutional amendments of the SU Photographic Society on the condition that the society is informed that according to their own constitutional guidelines they should have submitted the amendments in May to the C&S Office.

Alexandra Brown/ Angus Knoblanche

For: Angus Knoblanche, Alexandra Brown and Peta Blundell

Against: Ian Chan, Joshua Sprake and Kanika Batra

Mr. Thompson uses his casting vote to support the resolution moved by Alexandra Brown and seconded by Angus Knoblanche.

SU Science Society

Mr. Knoblanche says the SU Science Society (Sci Soc) has locked themselves into holding a number of events such as a barbeque every two weeks.

Mr. Sprake says the unaudited financial statements were provided to the AGM to be approved by the Executive. He says the membership should be the ones to determine their past financial statements as this is the normal process at every AGM. He says another issue pertaining to Sci Soc is that they have never given notice in relation to proposed amendments to their constitution.

**C&S
032/13**

Resolved to reject the proposed constitutional amendments of the SU Science Society due to failing to give notice of their proposed changes and having their financial statements not approved by the their membership within 14 days of their AGM.



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Joshua Sprake/ Alexandra Brown

Vegetarian Society

Ms. Blundell says they have three types of memberships stipulated in clause 3.3 of their constitution, these are Ordinary, Associate and Lifetime membership. She says two of these membership classifications attract a fee of \$3.00 while the other attracts a fee of \$5.00. Ms Brown says they do not explain the conditions attached to Lifetime Membership.

Mr. Sprake says an issue he has with the Vegetarian Society is that their agenda and online submission do not contain any mention of their proposed constitutional amendments. He says throughout the constitution there is also constant reference made to Honorary Membership although this has been removed.

**C&S
033/13**

Resolved to reject the proposed constitutional amendments of the Vegetarian Society because no notice was given of the amendments, the constitution is inconsistent in and of itself and membership classifications are unclear.

Joshua Sprake/ Angus Knoblanche

5. Other Business

5.1 SU Quidditch Society Storage Space Request and Probationary Status

SU Quidditch Society

Ms. Blundell says the SU Quidditch Society is requesting to share the cage space of the Sydney University Association of Malaysian Students (SUAMS). She says she would like to confirm that no pressure was placed on the SUAMS before the request is approved. Ms. Louise Anthony confirms that the SUAMS offered to let them use their storage area.

**C&S
034/13**

Resolved that the application for the SU Quidditch Society to share storage space with the Sydney University Association of Malaysian Students be approved.

Angus Knoblanche/ Kanika Batra

**C&S
035/13**

Resolved that the probationary status of the SU Quidditch Society be lifted.

Peta Blundell/ Alexandra Brown

**C&S
036/13**

Resolved that the meeting move *in camera*.

Angus Knoblanche/ Kanika Batra



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C&S 037/13	Resolved to extend the meeting until 5pm. <i>Alexandra Brown/ Angus Knoblanche</i>
C&S 038/13	Resolved that an email be sent to both the Australasian Union of Jewish Students and the Students for Palestine which invites representatives from both clubs to speak to the C&S Manager Angela Vogiatoglou together to discuss what has transpired during the Israel Apartheid Week and the inadvertent racial discrimination. The C&S Committee will be addressing the other complaints made by the SUAUIJS but not with the SFP club as it involves third parties. The C&S Committee is also recommending that the correct symbol for the Israel Apartheid Week event be used on posters advertising the event as opposed to the Israeli flag. <i>Peta Blundell/ Joshua Sprake</i>
C&S 039/13	Resolved that the meeting move out of <i>camera</i>. <i>Angus Knoblanche/ Kanika Batra</i>

5.3 President's Report – Complaint Against SUSMA

Mr. Thompson says a complaint has been made by the Sydney University Atheist Society against the Sydney University Muslim Students Association. He says this complaint has gone directly to the President of the USU Astha Rajvanshi because the Atheist Society approached the media about this issue. Ms. Rajvanshi says the barbeque event held by SUMSA was segregated by gender, she says after reviewing the complaint she has found that it did not contravene the regulations of the USU and SUMSA was well within their rights to cater to the cultural and religious needs of their membership.

Ms. Anthony says she has contacted the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board to get their input on this scenario and the representative she spoke to did not classify this as sex discrimination because no bias was shown towards either sex.

Mr. Sprake says the Atheist Society should not be allowed to impose their views upon the Muslim Students Association. He says no complaints were received from members of SUMSA about the event and to hold an event with designated areas for males and females to socialise is in line with their right to religious freedom.

**C&S
040/13** **Resolved to accept the recommendation made by the President that the event held by the Sydney University Muslim Student Association was held in such a way that does not contravene USU regulations.**

Joshua Sprake/ Peta Blundell



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Astha Rajvanshi leaves the C&S Committee Meeting at 4:50pm.

6. Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th of April at 3pm in the Faculty Presidents' Room, Level 1
Manning House.

7. Close of Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:55pm.
