



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INCORPORATED**

ABN 49 844 560 526

**23 October 2023 6PM AEDT
LEVEL 4 LAW COMMON ROOM & ZOOM**

Minutes of the Special General Meeting Meeting held on **23/10/2023**

Chair: Naz Sharifi

Minute taker: Julia Lim

Meeting opened: 6:07pm

Present:

Naz Sharifi	President	2044826
Vaughan Marega	Vice President (Careers)	2205814
Charmaine Lui	Vice President (Social Justice)	1716595
Mahmoud Al Rifai	Treasurer	1959961
Julia Lim	Secretary	1938867
Vivien Lu	Sponsorship Director	2015758
Christine Aung	Competitions Director	2120575
Priya Mehra	Socials Director	2218098
Niveditha Sethumadhavan	Socials Director	2113003
Kaela Goldsmith	Campus Director	2220497
Nicholas Leavenworth	Sports Director	2125648
Lea Nguyen	International Student Officer	2191919
Maeve Cairns	Equity Officer	2007425
Lucas Kao	Disabilities Officer	2103639
Miesha Binta Noor	Ethnocultural Officer	2205098
Emily Wooding	First Nations Officer	2042860
Rohan Shankar	Queer Officer	2154648
Annika Lee	Marketing Director	2208006



Alice Shan	Design Director	2237723
Jack Wang	Member	2277415
Ben Cullen	Member	2309093
Brandon Velleley	Member	1926888
Ryan Huynh	Member	2233879
Cole Scott-Curwood	Electoral Officer (Observer)	1856673

Late:

Danielle Tweedale (6:14pm)	Competitions Director	2091172
Victoria Yan (6:31pm)	Member	2235224

Apologies:

Arasa Hardie	Vice President (Education)
Charis Chiu	Publications Director

Early Departures:

Chanel Tattler	Member	1950613 (6:18pm)
Edward Ellis	Member	2303787 (6:35pm)
Victoria Yan	Member	2235224 (6:39pm)
Brianna Ho	Women's Officer	2116684 (6:48pm)
Kierem Usta	Member	2081463 (7:32pm)



MINUTES

1 Opening and acknowledgement of country

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 Apologies and leaves of absence

Apologies were received from Charis Chiu and Arasa Hardie.

Motion: That the apologies be accepted and a leave of absence granted for those members.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Vaughan Marega

The motion was carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

Naz notified the meeting that two members, Charis Chiu and Arasa Hardie, whose apologies had been approved and were not present, had submitted to the Chair compliant and signed proxy forms [**Appendix A**].

- Charis Chiu appointed Naz Sharifi as her proxy, with authority to vote on all matters.
- Arasa Hardie appointed Priya Mehra as his proxy, with authority to vote on all matters.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (Annual General Meeting, 29 April 2023) were made available [online](#) on the Society's website.

Motion: That the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held 29 April 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Julia Lim

Seconded: Naz Sharifi

The motion was carried unanimously with seven abstentions.

4 Business arising from the minutes

No business was raised from the previous meeting minutes.

5 Correspondence

Naz noted that SULLS had received a bequest of \$5000, communicated via telephone call. The bequest was to be left to the society by an anonymous donor and will be fulfilled at the time of the donor's passing.

6 Motions on notice

Julia screenshared the motions on notice for online attendees, which had been distributed to members via email and SULLS' social media channels 14 days prior on Monday 9 October 2023. All motions in the form they were passed may be viewed under **Appendix B**.



Constitutional Amendments

(1) SULLS Annual Election Timeline Variation

Naz explained that due to the delayed appointment of the Electoral Officer this year, Cole Scott-Curwood, it is proposed to amend the Constitution for 2023 only to enable a fair, legitimate, and slightly condensed Annual Elections. Cole and Naz noted the extended context and rationale provided with the Motions on Notice on 9 October 2023. Brandon asked whether it was confirmed that this provision would not apply for future SULLS Annual Elections, which Cole confirmed.

Motion: To add a new subclause 2(j) under Appendix 1 of the Constitution.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Vaughan Marega

The motion was carried unanimously with four abstentions.

(2) Early Appointment of Electoral Officer

Naz explained that this amendment was proposed to avoid a similar situation occurring in future as a result of delayed Electoral Officer appointment. Brandon asked for clarification on the notion of 'ample' time. Naz and Cole first noted that this was part of the rationale rather than the motion itself, but clarified the amendment's goal of ensuring the SULLS executives gave themselves enough time to account for unexpected appointment delays.

Danielle asked how the proposed clauses would work together, and whether it would be worth having clarification regarding the date that was being referred to by 'close of nominations'. Naz said that the clauses would operate similarly to how the current nomination process is for appointed executives, where the deadline is extended where no applications are received. Julia clarified that the amendment also gave executives flexibility in choosing their desired deadline for nominations at their discretion. Danielle suggested the wording be amended, and Naz noted her hesitation in restricting the open-endedness of the clause.

Cole explained that the proposed clause is designed to ensure that a suitable candidate for Electoral Officer can be appointed by the Executive and then have sufficient time to provide a Constitutionally-compliant election. Cole confirmed for Brandon that the clause about extending the deadline was not about whether there was a 'suitable candidate' but rather would apply if no applications were received.

Danielle suggested that the clause uses the word 'should' rather than 'shall'. Naz and Cole explained that the word 'shall' was cohesively in line with various other clauses of the SULLS Constitution, such as clause 5(c). Vaughan said that changing the word 'shall' would only set precedent for changing to 'should' in all other cases.

Julia added that although she understood it was tempting to focus on modality or strength of the word, noting it is already in use across the Constitution, she could not imagine any executives would be using the 'shall' or 'should' distinction as an excuse not to appoint an Electoral Officer. Julia noted that it would be best to avoid opening to the question of whether the Constitution stands any less firm in cases where 'shall' is used. Brandon noted that 'should' is used in clauses



74 and 75. Danielle moved an amendment to the motion from the floor to now include paragraphs (i) and (ii) [**Appendix B**].

Motion: To amend clause 14(a) under Appendix 1 of the Constitution by adding paragraphs (i)-(ii).

Moved: Danielle Tweedale

Seconded: Priya Mehra

The motion was carried unanimously with one abstention.

(3) Early Appointment of Electoral Officer

Naz explained that this motion was seeking to allow the Electoral Officer to give effect to the condensed timeline that had been proposed. Ben asked whether these could be struck out at a later date without repercussions for the 2023 elections. Naz confirmed that any constitutional amendments would be passed by the membership and would not operate retrospectively to strike out or invalidate past conduct.

Cole noted that the inclusion of the clause at the end to say 'irrespective of the rest of this clause' pertained to how the rest of the regulations operate, subject to the endorsement of the timeline. Cole noted the entrenched protection meant that the Electoral Officer could not simply do as they please. Brandon noted that there was no written rationale for this motion. Naz noted the inclusion of a rationale or context description is discretionary and drew Brandon's attention to the associated motion where a substantial rationale had been provided.

Brandon also asked whether there was a hypothetical timeline of events where the EO cannot provide an election compliant with Appendix 1. Cole confirmed that presently we are in a situation where the EO is unable to provide one, given that the EO did not have the full ten weeks to facilitate an election. Cole noted a reasonable compression was possible to allow this election to fall within the Semester 2 teaching period, and noted that the proposed constitutional amendment was enabling that timeline compression to occur in line with the first constitutional amendment that had already passed.

Brandon asked as a follow up whether 'if' was appropriate if it was presently the case. Cole noted that it spoke to the uncertainty of the situation, and Naz noted that it was also accounting for if there is no election at all, or if an Extraordinary General Meeting occurs instead per the Constitution. Cole noted there could be plenty of reasons why an election could not proceed.

Motion: To add subclause (h) to clause 73 of the Constitution.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Vaughan Marega

The motion was carried unanimously with seven abstentions.

General Motions on Notice

Cole introduced himself as the Electoral Officer and offered to briefly speak through the rationale and motion itself. Ben and Priya asked about whether ticket formation would happen from the release of Presidential or Executive Expressions of Interest (EOIs). After discussion on the ticket



formation period, Cole confirmed that members may form tickets after Executive EOIs are released. Julia confirmed this fell under clause 1B of the Electoral Regulations. Julia and Cole emphasised that more detailed communications would go out for any potential candidates, and welcomed members to reach out with any questions.

Cole emphasised the caveat that ticket nominations cannot formally be submitted to the EO until 2 November, though conversations for ticket formation can occur before then. Ben asked what the benefit was of having the Executive EOIs released later. Cole and Naz clarified that the timeline was designed to follow constitutional requirements before the amended timeline could be presented to and approved by the membership at the SGM. Naz noted that per precedent, the Presidential EOIs were released first and members have the right to read through those EOIs, scrutinise and consider whether or not they would like to be part of the executive.

Brandon asked what would happen if a ticket nomination was received before 2 November. Cole confirmed he would ask for them to send the nomination later. Cole noted he would consult the Constitution to confirm whether any consequences apply but that if in genuine error, he would treat this with compassion particularly given the condensed timeline.

Brandon asked for clarification on the reason for later appointment of the EO this year. Naz explained that the executive had endeavoured to exercise due diligence to ensure the most suitable candidate was appointed. Brandon asked for clarification on 'due diligence', to which Naz explained there were questions and issues of completing the role remotely, differing time zones, potential conflicts of interest and whether these could be mitigated. Naz apologised on behalf of the SULLS executives for the delay, and noted that any further details could not be disclosed as discussion about the candidates' circumstances had been in camera.

Cole again clarified the timeline and process of ticket formation, confirming that candidates could form tickets from after the notice is given of Executive EOIs, and that they could be submitted from 2 November. Naz emphasised the importance of refraining from ticket formation until then, and Priya asked for that to be confirmed in communications.

Cole noted that the "Change" column in the proposed timeline table was added with the intention of comparing to the time periods set out in the electoral regulations, but perhaps was bringing more confusion. Cole added that it was positive and enthusing to see that members were engaged in these discussions.

Brandon asked for clarification on when assessment of the SULLS Constitution had occurred, to which Cole confirmed he had commenced on the evening of appointment. Cole explained it had been an extremely rapid process since then in order to provide members with 21 days' notice for the Special General Meeting, and then 14 days' notice for the motions on notice. Cole noted the goal had been and continues to be delivering a workable plan so that members could have a fair and legitimate election and exercise democratic rights, albeit in a slightly condensed time frame.



Cole clarified that the timeline presented in this motion was what the motion was seeking approval of, and explained that the motion passed before was to prevent any sweeping changes being made by the EO.

Motion: To approve the shortened electoral timeline as outlined above and to allow for the abridged election timeline.

Moved: Naz Sharifi

Seconded: Vaughan Marega

The motion was carried unanimously with five abstentions.

7 Reports of Executive Members

No executive member reports were given.

8 General Business

No general business was raised.

Meeting closed: **7:40pm.**



SYDNEY
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LAW SOCIETY

MINUTES

APPENDIX A - PROXY FORMS



ASSIGNING OF EXECUTIVE VOTE BY PROXY

23 October 2023

I, **Charis Chiu**, Publications Director, appoint **Naz Sharifi**, President, as my proxy for the purposes of the Sydney University Law Society Inc. Special General Meeting to be held on 23 October 2023.

[Cross out the option which does not apply]

1. This form authorises the proxy to vote on my behalf on all matters.

OR

- ~~2. This form authorises the proxy to vote on my behalf for the following matters only:~~

Charis Chiu
Publications Director

Signed 23/10/2023

Naz Sharifi
President

Signed 23/10/2023



ASSIGNING OF EXECUTIVE VOTE BY PROXY

23 October 2023

I, **Arasa Hardie**, Vice President (Education), appoint **Priya Mehra**, Socials Director, as my proxy for the purposes of the Sydney University Law Society Inc. Special General Meeting to be held on 23 October 2023.

This form authorises the proxy to vote on my behalf on all matters.

Arasa Hardie
Vice President (Education)

Signed 23 October 2023

Priya Mehra
Socials Director

Signed 23 October 2023



SYDNEY
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MINUTES

APPENDIX B - MOTIONS AS PASSED



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. SULS Annual Election Timeline Variation

Background/Rationale:

This motion seeks to enable the facilitation of a potentially contested SULS Annual Election under extenuating circumstances in light of the delayed appointment of the 2023 Electoral Officer. Further background information may be viewed in the 2023 Election Summary Document or under the motion below.

Motion: To add a new subclause 2(j) under Appendix 1 of the Constitution.

Summary of the proposed change:

Old Clause	New Clause
	2. ... j) For the 2023 Annual Elections, if the Electoral Officer is unable to provide an election compliant with Appendix 1, they may make variations to the timeline requirements stipulated in clauses 1A and 2. The Electoral Officer must submit the electoral timeline with justifications for amendment to a Special General Meeting for members' endorsement.



2. Early Appointment of Electoral Officer

Background/Rationale:

This motion seeks to ensure that future executives have ample time to appoint an Electoral Officer and commence the election preparation process at an earlier stage of the year.

Motion: To amend clause 14(a) under Appendix 1 of the Constitution.

Summary of the proposed change:

Old Clause	New Clause
14. a) The SULLS Executive shall appoint an Electoral Officer to conduct the Annual Elections of the Society.	14. (a) The SULLS Executive shall appoint an Electoral Officer before Semester 2 commences to conduct the Annual Elections of the Society. (i) The date for the close of nominations for the Electoral Officer role shall be at the discretion of the Executive. (ii) If no applications are received at the close of nominations, the Executive must extend applications for a further two weeks until there has been an appointment.



3. SULS Annual Election Timeline Variation

Motion: To add subclause (h) to clause 73 of the Constitution.

Summary of the proposed change: This exists to give effect to the 'SULS Annual Election Timeline Variation' motion.

Old Clause	New Clause
	73. ... h) For the 2023 Annual Elections, if the Electoral Officer is unable to provide an election compliant with Appendix 1, they may make variations to the timeline requirements to deliver a fair and legitimate election, irrespective of the rest of this clause.



GENERAL MOTIONS

1. Motion to approve the shortened electoral timeline

The full shortened electoral timeline, designed in order to prevent constitutional breaches and maintain members' rights, is proposed as follows:

Week	Date	Item	Change
W12	26/10/23	Presidential Expressions of Interest Close	No change
W12	26/10/23	Notice of Presidential Expression/s of Interest issued	No change
W13	29/10/23	Executive Candidate Expressions of Interest Close	Brought forward 4 days
W13	29/10/23	Notice of Executive Candidate Expression/s of Interest	No change
W13	2/11/23	Notice of Election issued	Brought forward 4 days
STUVAC	2/11/23	Ticket Nominations Open	Brought forward 4 days
STUVAC	9/11/23	Ticket Nominations Close	Brought forward 6 days
Exams W1	16/11/23	Campaigning Period Commences	No change
Exams W2	23/11/23	Voting Day 1 Opens	No change
Exams W2	25/11/23	Voting Day 2 Closes	No change
Exams W2	25/11/23	Results declared	No change

Motion: To approve the shortened electoral timeline as outlined above and to allow for the abridged election timeline.



Confirmation of Minutes

Chair: Naz Sharifi

Minute taker: Julia Lim

Signed 25 October 2023

Naz Sharifi
President, Sydney University Law Society Incorporated

Julia Lim
Secretary, Sydney University Law Society Incorporated