



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY INC.
ABN 49 844 560 526

Minutes of Executive Meeting held on 18 October 2021
Chair: Wendy Hu
Minute taker: Alison Chen

Meeting opened: 9:11pm

Present:

Wendy Hu	President
Sinem Kirk	Vice President (Education)
Cameron Jordan	Vice President (Careers)
Sophia Semmler	Vice President (Social Justice)
Tiana Dumonovsky	Treasurer
Alison Chen	Secretary
Felix Wood	Competitions Director
Onor Nottle	Socials Director
Georgia Watson	Socials Director
Sofia Mendes	Campus Director
Calvin Kwong	Sports Director
Justin Lai	Publications Director
Eden McSheffrey	Equity Officer
Nora Takriti	Women's Officer
Mahmoud Al Rifai	Ethnocultural Officer
Arasa Hardie	Design Director

Absent:

Sissi Xi Chen	International Student Officer
Nathan Allen	First Nations Officer
Sarah Purvis	Marketing Director

Apologies:

Gretel Wilson	Sponsorship Director
Caroline Xu	Competitions Director
Bru Hammer	Queer Officer



MINUTES

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and Eden delivered an acknowledgement of country. Apologies were received from Gretel and Caroline.

2 Procedural matters

Motion: That the minutes from 11 October 2021 be approved.

Moved: Wendy Hu

Seconded: Mahmoud Al Rifai

The motion was carried unanimously with zero abstentions.

3 Last week updates/shoutouts

- Multilateral Client Interview - Felix and Caroline for coordinating, Sofia for winning, Wendy and Alison for feedback, Justin for being client

4 What's on this week

- All week - Wellbeing Week Strava challenge, a day in the life of a lawyer takeover
- **Mon:**
- **Tues:** Table Talks: CLCs and Govt Legal Services (6.00pm); Life & Uni Panel
- **Wed:** Evening Yoga, General Meeting
- **Thurs:** Women's Rights are Human Rights panel (NT); Games Night
- **Fri:**
- **Mon:**

5 Student Welfare Survey

Eden and Wendy shared the draft version of the SULLS wellbeing survey and asked Executive members for their feedback.

6 Clubs & Societies Awards

The Executive brainstormed the SULLS Initiatives to be entered for the USU's Clubs & Societies Awards.

7 Alumni community

Wendy mentioned that the Law School is planning on sending out an alumni survey to all graduating students for their assistance for events such as panels. Other suggestions included judging competitions and contributing to SULLS publications.

8 Constitutional Review Committee

Wendy raised three further issues from the Constitutional Review Committee for the Executive's consideration.

Clause 64



Members of the committee believed that the current wording (and current practice) requires the Executive's approval to grant concessions or discounted tickets (which is current practice). However, they also construed this provision as requiring the entire Executive to approve Equity grants. The Committee proposed changing the application process for Equity grants so that it is less arduous.

Eden noted that the grants are limited in terms of funding and speculated that the provisions were possibly designed as a failsafe to ensure the society's funds are spent appropriately. Mahmoud noted that if a student is deemed by the University to be an equity student at the beginning of the year, they are deemed to be an equity student for the entire academic year. Eden and Mahmoud see this as a matter for the Bylaws.

Code of conduct and procedure

The Committee noted that the Code of Conduct provisions in the Bylaws and Constitution are currently inconsistent, Alison noted that the Constitution requires that complaints be brought to the entire Executive whereas the Bylaws only require complaints to be made to any member of the Executive.

Misuse of SULLS resources

This is a continuation of the discussion on this issue in the Executive meetings held on 4 October 2021 and 11 October 2021.

Felix believed that ban should be for USU board members only and should not affect SRC or SUPRA councillors. Additionally, he believed that the Committee and SULLS Executives should take time to develop the appropriate Constitutional amendments, rather than rushing to pass this proposed amendment.

Georgia asked what would be done if this purported misuse of SULLS resources is identified as a potential problem, as opposed to a problem that is explicitly linked to the misuse of SULLS resources.

Justin noted that future Executives will probably have these discussions too and that the most significant harm in the status quo is putting committee members in awkward positions when being campaigned to, as opposed to 'CV stacking' by individuals. Historical examples illustrate that 'CV stacking' may be a problem but it is not necessarily severely chronic.

Mahmoud asked whether the Committee had proposed any alternative solutions other than an outright ban on people holding dual positions on the SULLS Executive and on the USU, SRC and/or SUPRA. Alison responded that they had not provided any.

Arasa believed that the impacts on both sides may have been blown out of proportion.

Justin noted people are quite critical about other societies which appear to be dominated by student politics, and that SULLS has a strong tradition of political independence that is stronger than the 'stupol' tradition and it would be unlikely for SULLS to be suddenly dominated by 'stupol' candidates if this amendment is not passed.



Felix noted that this is a matter of cultural change and that if there are more successful USU runs from the SULLS executives, then factions may take more of an interest in SULLS and get more involved. He believed that there time should be taken to draft a more well-considered motion rather than bringing a motion that is likely defeated in a General Meeting.

Onor believed that the problem posited by the Committee had been blown out of proportion, and even if people can't have dual positions, requiring people to delay their campaigns to be a part of other bodies does not necessarily mitigate the harms of campaigning to committee members, at Law Camp, etc.

Felix noted that if this clause was to be passed, that the effective date of the clause should be delayed to avoid unfairness to current Executive members who may be holding dual positions.

Meeting closed: 10:43pm